



### The False Purity Paradigm: Unmasking the Ecological and Ethical Debt of Cobalt-Dependent Electric Vehicles

The prevailing narrative surrounding electric vehicles positions them as an unequivocal environmental triumph, promising liberation from fossil fuel dependence while obscuring the profound ecological debt incurred during their production.

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Wednesday, May 14, 2025

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# Enthusiastic Nyeri Residents Await Wamunyoro's Party

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The residents who voted for the Kenya Kwanza government almost to a man with the hope that they would reap commensurately have been downcast since the impeachment of their son late last year have been waiting for an opportune time to hit back at the ruling class.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

STORY ON PAGE 9



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Noo Wanguku



# President Ruto Meets Ukambani Leaders

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes

## Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto yesterday held a consultative meeting with a section of leaders from Machakos, Kitui and Makueni counties. The aim of the meeting was to discuss and align development agenda with the priorities of the people of a particular region. During the meeting, President Ruto noted that his administration's objective was to deliver inclusive growth from the bottom going up. The meeting discussed critical infrastructure projects, including roads, water, education, affordable housing, and markets that are essential to the region's transformation.



Editor's Desk



**The Mt. Kenya Times**

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

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# NEWS IN BRIEF



Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), in collaboration with the Organic Fertilizers Input Manufacturers Association Kenya (OFIMAK), the Fertilizer Association of Kenya (FAK), and other development partners, convened a Status Report and Policy Brief Review Workshop at the KALRO Headquarters. The objective of the workshop was to provide a stakeholder forum and receive feedback on the Status Report and Policy Brief on the integration of organic and inorganic fertilizers to enhance soil health and fertility in Kenya. The workshop underscored the best ways of engaging with the key stakeholders to forge the best ways of integrating both inorganic and organic fertilizers, recognizing that both play vital roles in improving agricultural productivity. KALRO reaffirmed its commitment to providing credible, science-based research to guide policy and decision-making in fertilizer integration and sustainable soil management.



Kenyatta National Hospital recently held productive discussions with PATH to explore possible partnerships in maternal and newborn health, chaired by Dr. Juliana Muiva (HOD Paediatrics). Areas of interest include: Strengthening Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), Developing human milk banking solutions and Integrated malnutrition prevention programs. The PATH team visited KNH Newborn Unit, Laboratory and Postnatal Wards to understand the current services and needs. While no formal partnership has been established, the institution appreciate Dr. Muiva's leadership and all teams who contributed insights. Such dialogues help in exploring ways to potentially advance the Mother-Baby Friendly Initiative Plus (MBFI+).



Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale yesterday convened a consultative meeting with officials from various Universal Health Coverage (UHC) health workers' unions to deliberate on the ongoing industrial action and address the growing concerns among union members as efforts continue to find an amicable way forward. The CS reaffirmed the government's commitment to the welfare of healthcare workers and reiterated his earlier pledge to fully implement agreements reached with unions representing UHC staff. He underscored the Ministry's recognition of healthcare unions as key partners in advocating for workers' rights and enhancing service delivery. The CS further emphasized that collaborative dialogue remains central to the success of UHC in Kenya. The meeting brought together union leaders, including Dr. Patrick Amoth, Director of Medical Services; Seth Panyako, Secretary General of the Kenya National Union of Nurses (KNUN); George Gibore, Secretary General of the Kenya Union of Clinical Officers (KUCO); Brown Ashira, Secretary General of the Kenya Environmental Health and Public Health Practitioners Union (KEHPHU); Peterson Wachira, Chair of KUCO; and Pius Nyakundi, Secretary General of the Kenya National Union of Medical Laboratory Officers (KNUMLO).



The National Development Implementation Sub-Committee of the Social Sector convened for its 11th meeting which was hybrid. The primary objective of the meeting was to take stock of and track the progress of flagship projects outlined in the Medium Term Plan IV (MTPIV). During the session, members addressed key implementation challenges that have arisen and engaged in constructive discussions to identify mitigation measures aimed at overcoming these obstacles. In a notable development, Principal Secretary Shadrack Mwadime, who oversees Labour and Skills Development, was unanimously elected as the new Chairman of the Committee. He takes over from PS Belio Kipsang, who has recently been transferred to the State Department for Immigration Services.

Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, Eric Mugaa and the Principal Secretary for Irrigation, Ephantus Kimotho yesterday appeared before the Blue Economy, Water, and Irrigation Committee chaired by Kangongo Bowen to present the State Department's estimates of revenue and expenditures for the next financial year. They outlined the Department's continued focus on key areas despite the challenges faced during budget rationalization. The State Department emphasized its commitment to implementing Presidential Directives and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda. Among the key targets are the expansion of major irrigation schemes such as Bura, Mwea, and Lower Kuja, increasing land under irrigation through national programmes, equipping public schools with irrigation infrastructure, enhancing water storage through dam construction, and advancing strategic dam and irrigation projects across the country. Committee members sought clarification on several issues, including the completion and monitoring of previous projects, sustainability of school-based micro-irrigation, and the impact of government support on public-private partnerships.





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# Teacher Vows To Solve Period Poverty Ahead Of World Menstrual Health Day

By: Lauryn Nailantei  
@themkenyaintimes

## Worth Noting:

- It is for this reason that the deputy headteacher Iseuri Comprehensive School, Peter Wanjala Namasaka, took it upon himself to make an impact by organizing a Menstrual Hygiene Outreach Programme targeting over 5000 girls in Kajiado Central during this year's World Menstrual Hygiene Day.
- Namasaka noted that the initiative was aimed at restoring the dignity of the girls and empowering them to remain healthy, confident and focused on their education.

Over one million girls in Kenya skip school three to four days every month due to lack of access to safe and sustainable supply of sanitary pads.

Research conducted by the Ministry of Health, shows that 54 per cent of girls in Kenya experience challenges in accessing menstrual Management Products; with 65 per cent still lacking sustainable access to safe menstrual products.

It is for this reason that the deputy headteacher Iseuri Comprehensive School, Peter Wanjala Namasaka, took it upon himself to make an impact by organizing a Menstrual Hygiene Outreach Programme targeting over 5000 girls in Kajiado Central during this year's World Menstrual Hygiene Day. Namasaka noted that the initiative was aimed at restoring the dignity of the girls and empowering them to remain healthy, confident and focused on their education.

As a father and an active member of the community, Namasaka refuses to sit back and ignore the challenges facing menstrual health in his community and this forced him to take a bold step to curb period poverty.

"I cannot stand by and watch our daughters suffer. This year, I am organizing a Menstrual Hygiene Outreach Program Campaign aimed at donating sanitary and Menstrual Health education towels to at least 5000 school going girls in Kajiado Central Sub County," Namasaka said.

He said for many of the girls, a monthly period was not just a natural biological process but a source of anxiety, stigma, absenteeism from school leading to lost dreams due to lack of access to sanitary towels.

In an effort to normalize menstruation



Peter Wanjala Namasaka.

and open conversations on it, Namasaka states that menstrual hygiene was a basic human right and not a luxury.

"Period poverty culminates to both health and psychological problems causing the stagnation of women and girls. When girls are denied access to sanitary products, they are denied equal opportunities in education, growth and self-actualization," Namasaka said.

Namasaka acknowledged the effectiveness of joint efforts in tackling period poverty and menstrual hygiene education.

While urging everyone to make Menstrual Hygiene Day more than just a day on the calendar, he called for financial support for logistics and publicity including donations such as sanitary towels.

He invited partners, donors and

well-wishers to join the cause by restoring dignity, supporting dreams and empowering futures, one sanitary towel at a time.

"Every pad donated is not just a product, it is a gift of dignity, a ticket to uninterrupted learning and a tool for empowerment," Namasaka said.

World Menstrual Hygiene Day, celebrated on the 28th of May, provides a platform to celebrate and empower women by bringing together individuals, organizations, social businesses and the media as a strong voice for women and girls.

Marking the day also unites stakeholders in a joined effort to contribute in solving the challenges facing women and girls during their menstrual cycle.

It examines the role of the media in perpetuating and challenging stereo-

types about menstruation.

This year's theme is to make menstruation a normal part of life by 2030, focusing on normalizing menstruation, ensuring that it doesn't hold anyone back, allowing everyone to menstruate hygienically with pride and dignity.

According to the World Health Organization, (WHO) more than 300 million women worldwide are menstruating each day while an estimated 500 million lack access to menstrual products and adequate facilities for menstrual hygiene management.

Menstrual Hygiene education and sensitization is a gap that needs bridging especially in normalizing menstruation and lack of it thereof leads to health risks because girls and women resort to the use of alternative, improvised, less effective materials, causing immense discomfort.

The

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# Gov't Steps Up Human-Wildlife Conflict Compensation With KSh 3.8B

By: MKT Correspondent  
@themkenyatimes

The Government has intensified its efforts to address human-wildlife conflict by disbursing Kshs 3.8 billion in compensation to affected victims from 2023 to date, signaling a significant investment in safeguarding livelihoods and reinforcing national conservation goals.

A total of KSh64,126,000 was disbursed in Kajiado on Monday.

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) joined the State Department for Wildlife at the second public engagement forum on Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) mitigation and compensation, held in Isara, Kajiado County.

The forum was attended by KWS Board Chairman Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Walter Raria Koipaton and KWS Director General Prof. Erustus Kanga, among other key stakeholders.

Prof. Kanga emphasized that HWC is no longer merely a conservation issue but now a national priority, es-



pecially in biodiversity-rich regions like Kajiado where human settlements intersect with critical wildlife corridors. He acknowledged the sacrifices made by communities and emphasized the importance of the Amboseli-Kilimanjaro ecosystem in sustaining Kenya's natural heritage. The key HWC hotspots in the country include Taita Taveta, Kajiado, Narok, Laikipia, Meru, Kwale, Baringo, Kitui and Isiolo.

He further highlighted KWS roles

in providing comprehensive interventions such as deploying rapid response teams with tracking technology, promoting locally-led measures like predator-proof bomas, translocations, erection of fences, provision of predator deterrent lights and numerous CSR programs in the community landscapes such as water pans, bursaries for pupils and construction of class rooms and fencing schools.

HWC in Kenya is primarily driven by rapid population growth, climate



change, habitat fragmentation, and illegal activities. Its consequences - ranging from loss of crops and livestock to injury and loss of human life - have contributed to rising tensions between communities and conservation stakeholders.

Prof. Kanga reaffirmed KWS's commitment to its mandate of conserving and protecting Kenya's wildlife. He urged all stakeholders to work together to co-create lasting, inclusive, and community-driven solutions that will secure both human and wildlife well-being.

It was noted that in the year 2023, the government released KSh908 million to State Department for Wild-



life for payment HWC compensation while in 2024 KSh960 million was released and in 2025 KSh1.95 billion has been provided for compensating victims of HWC. This amount totals to KSh3.8 billion being the single largest amount for money released by government to pay HWC compensation.

Therefore, victims of human-wildlife conflict are encouraged to reach out to the State Department for Wildlife to follow up on their compensation claims and receive the support available under the ongoing national program.

# A Murang'a Based University Takes Part In Training Divinity Related Courses

By: Bernard Munyao and Purity Mugo  
@themkenyatimes

Church leaders and members of the clergy from Murang'a and surrounding counties with interest to pursue theology related courses have a reason to smile after Pioneer International University launched a school of divinity faculty.

The school that was launched yesterday will commence with offering a postgraduate diploma in transformational church administration and leaders aiming to enhance effective management of religious institutions and groups.

The University's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Gideon Maina, underscored the programme saying it an innovative course designed to integrate principles of synodality which include shared decision making, collaboration and inclusivity with effective church leadership and management.

The programme, Maina observed, will impact knowledge to members of the clergy and church leaders who are presently overwhelmed by

emerging needs.

"In an era characterized by rapid technological advancements, shifting cultural paradigms, and complex global challenges, the role of theology and spiritual reflection in higher education has never been more critical," he said.

"The establishment of the School of Divinity at PIU is our response to this pressing need, a space where faith meets reason, tradition engages with innovation, and spirituality dialogues with contemporary issues." He added.

Maina averred that the programme is rooted in the teachings of the church and will equip individuals with a transformational way of fostering community, spiritual growth and social justice.

"The programme will provide members of the clergy with leadership skills that will help them resolve conflict brought in by the faithful and the general community," noted the Vice Chancellor.

He added the programme emphasizes collaborative leadership, shared governance and application of principles that honour the dignity and



contributions of every member of the church.

"Today, while the academic landscape has diversified, the essence of theological inquiry remains vital. Divinity schools serve as custodians of moral and ethical discourse, offering insights that transcend empirical data and delve into the human condition's deeper questions," he stated.

The university's Chancellor Peter Munga underscored the need for members of the clergy to further their

studies so as they can effectively handle the emerging issues.

The divinity school, he noted, will be of great help to local church leaders and members of the clergy who want to further their studies without traveling far from the areas they serve.

Munga said through transformational leadership the nation can grow to greater heights in church administration and leadership.

On his part, the Mt Kenya Central

ACK Diocese, Bishop Dr Timothy Gichere, who was the chief guest, observed that the postgraduate diploma will greatly assist in ushering members of the clergy into a new management level.

"This is a milestone for the country as the church leaders will have the capacity and strength to handle the majority of the conflicts and challenges brought to their attention by their congregants and members of the community in general," Gichere said.

# Enthusiastic Nyeri Residents Await Wamunyoro's Party

By: Charles Kinyua  
@themkenyatimes



Wanyaga Gathaka (left) and Elijah Karonji (2nd left) with some of the leaders who received the vehicle. Photo/Courtesy.

## Worth Noting:

- Earlier in the week, a resident who sought anonymity donated a four wheel vehicle for mobilisation in the county that had six constituencies and thirty wards.
- The vehicle was received by Wanyaga Gathaka who is the former chairman of Tana Water Works Development Agency, a position he was ejected after his benefactor-Gachagua was impeached.
- Speaking to Mt Kenya Times in Nyeri town, Gathaka vowed to spare no resources and energy in ensuring that the party becomes an instant success in the county.
- “When UDA was launched, I took upon myself to popularised it in Nyeri Town constituency and registered close to 20,000 members single handedly. This time I will ensure all registered voters in the county become members of the party and whitewash any opposition,” declared the former Nyeri Municipality Mayor.

Residents of second Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's home county, Nyeri are highly upbeat as they await the unveiling of his party tomorrow.

The residents who voted for the Kenya Kwanza government almost to a man with the hope that they would reap commensurately have been downcast since the impeachment of their son late last year have been waiting for an opportune time to hit back at the ruling class.

Gachagua has pledged to join hands with other opposition leaders led by former Vice President and Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka to oust the William Ruto regime in the 2027 General Elections.

Other leaders in the budding coalition include Martha Karua, Eugene Wamalwa, Fred Matiang'i and George Nitembea and have held several meetings, the latest at Gachagua's Wamunyoro rural home a fortnight ago.

Countless aspirants for various seats have declared their interest in

capturing the yet to be unveiled party's ticket.

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Tetu constituency grassroots mobiliser Elijah Karonji Murimi urged the former DP to allow all aspirants to square it out when time for nominations come.

“Many political parties lose taste when their top leaders hand nomination certificates to preferred candidates but Riggy G being the truthful man he professes to be is likely to avoid that pitfall,” noted Murimi who is eying the Tetu Parliamentary seat.

During the Wamunyoro meeting attended by over 4,000 residents and scores of leaders from across the country on May 4, it was resolved that the leaders shall remain united to the end as any split would give incumbent William Ruto a smooth ride to state house for a second term.

Residents were particularly amused by Matiangi's statement to the effect that he would be willing to sacrifice his ambitions if he was not picked as the candidate and would support whoever would be agreed upon.

His sentiment was echoed by all

the other leaders present, all vowing to remain united to the end.

Nyeri governor Mutahi Kahiga has remained as one of the most loyal supporters and defender of the former second in command.

Among elected leaders who have not deserted Gachagua include Mukurweini MP John Kaguchia, his Tetu colleague Geoffrey Wandeto and most of Members of County Assembly led by Majority Leader James Kanyugo.

Mathira legislator Eric Wamumbi and Nyeri senator Wahome Wamatinga who have been leading troops that declared war on the former DP were instrumental in his impeachment with other legislators from the Mt Kenya region.

Gachagua has vowed to ensure that all of them are whitewashed at the polls for betraying the community.

# Kenyan Medic Nominated For Global Nursing Award

By: Shamim Musa  
@themtkenyatimes

A registered nurse at Tudor Sub County Hospital and founder of the Red Splash Organisation, has been named one of the top 10 global finalists for a prestigious international nursing award selected from over 100,000 nominations worldwide.

At just 29 years old, Khadija Mohamed Juma, is redefining healthcare leadership in Kenya.

The Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award, now in its fourth edition, celebrates outstanding nurses from around the world for their dedication, skill, and impact in healthcare.

The award raises the profile of nursing in Kenya, cementing its place as a leader in innovation and a health care change agent.

The winner will be announced in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on May 26, and will take home a grand prize of USD 250000.

For Juma, the recognition is deeply personal. "I was elated and truly humbled by the nominations," she says, reflecting on the moment she received the news. "It shows that the

work we do often quietly, behind the scenes, truly matters."

Born and raised in Mombasa, Juma has always felt the need to care for others. "Even as a child, I knew I wanted to be in a profession that made a difference," she said.

However, her path to leadership and health care was not without obstacles and as a young woman in healthcare, she faced uncertainty regarding her age, her vision, and her role in shaping change.

"I had to prove myself constantly, but I stayed focused on my purpose and let the quality of my work speak for itself," she noted.

Juma's recognition as a global finalist stems from a story she submitted about her community-based blood drive initiative through Red Splash, a grassroots platform she founded after her friend lost her loved one due to a lack of timely blood access.

While the project has grown to become one of East Africa's most impactful blood donation movements, Juma's story is about more than the blood drive. It is about human connection, community action, and the often-invisible power of nursing.

She recounts key turning points in her career, including helping a wom-

an survive a complicated childbirth through emergency blood mobilisation.

"Her husband told me, 'You gave my wife her life back.' That's the kind of impact nursing can have," she added.

For her, being named among the top 10 globally isn't just a personal milestone; it's a national recognition. Juma sees it as a spotlight on Kenyan nurses and a wake-up call to the world: that nurses are more than bedside caregivers; they are leaders, innovators, and agents of change.

"If I win the prize, I want to use it to create long-term systems like a state-of-the-art blood bank and mobile units to expand access and save more lives. But even without it, this moment is already a victory for every nurse who has ever felt unseen," she said.

She hopes her recognition will inspire the next generation, especially young girls in Kenya. "Nursing is leadership. It's a service to humanity, and we always need another beautiful heart to carry that forward," she said.

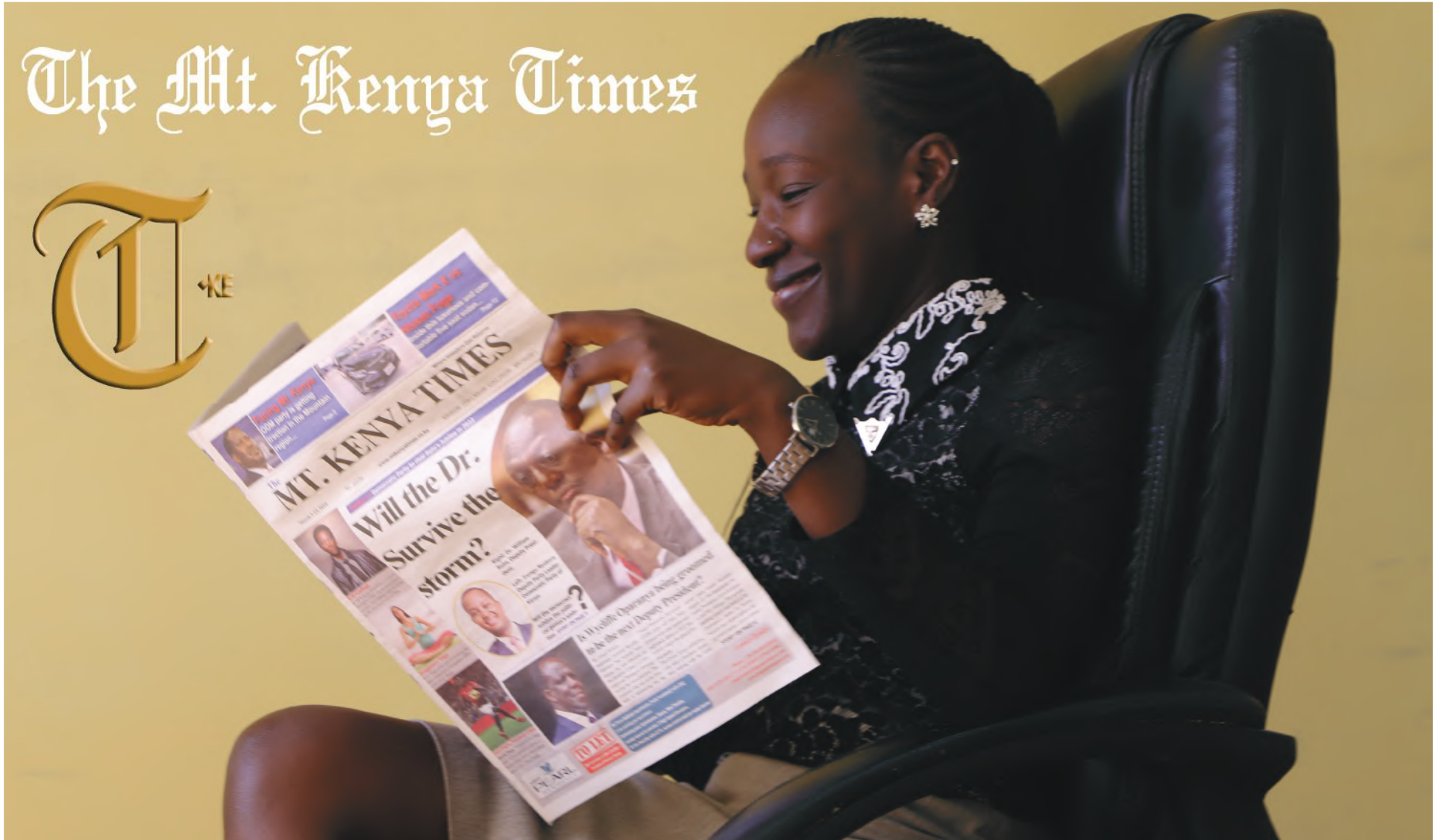
Her future vision is one where nurses are at the forefront of healthcare policy, technology and innovation.



Elevating nursing as a respected profession, well-resourced and empowered to lead community transformation.

"Nurses are the backbone of health-care systems, and their impact is felt in every corner of the world."

To the world, Juma may be a nurse, an innovator, a change maker, but she affirms that she wants to deliver blood faster than pizza.



# Caucus Formed To Front Mau Mau Interests

By: MKT Reporter  
@themkenyatimes

After decades of fragmentation, various groups allied to former freedom fighters might join hands and champion for their rights as one.

This follows last weekend's launch of a website that will be used to address the interests of the former freedom fighters who are commonly referred to as Mau Mau.

On Sunday, at Kitony Heights in Kitale town, Trans Nzoia county, dozens of former freedom fighters and hundreds of their descendants met for a thanksgiving service and launch of the website, [www.mmvassociates.org](http://www.mmvassociates.org).

The website will be used by the caucus; Mau Mau War Veterans Associations to bring together the various groups that are said to champion for the compensation of former freedom fighters. It is expected to bring together the more than a dozen Mau Mau groups.

According to the website, the caucus is being headed by a Director General who is James Njuguna Mahuria with Bishop Jane Mumbi Ngethe being listed as a director.

During a press briefing after the launch, Bishop Ngethe, Mr Francis Chemwor and Mr Johnstone Munyao said the caucus was the best placed organisation that should lead in demanding for Mau Mau and their descendants compensation from the British government.

The move barely two years after the group wrote to the former colonial masters demanding speedy compensation.

In a letter to the British government, the group demanding cash compensation amounting to trillions of shillings.

Prince Charles visited the country a few months after they wrote the letter and with his arrival, they expected news of the compensation but which was not addressed.

However, they noted that former Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki signed the commencement date of a law that has been pending for years.

They welcomed the move that saw the government effect the Public Benefit Organizations act which they saw as an avenue of demanding the ever elusive compensation.

Two years after the visit, they now want President William Ruto to assist in having the matter addressed once and for all.

According to the website, MMV Associates CLG (Company Limited by Guarantee) was established to unite all Mau Mau War Veterans associations in Kenya under one national umbrella, with a singular and unwavering mission: to ensure that every veteran of the Mau Mau liberation struggle is recognized, respected, and fairly compensated.

It states that the organization stands as a beacon of unity, justice, and remembrance for the freedom fighters who gave so much for Kenya's independence.

The Mau Mau Uprising was one of the most defining moments in Kenya's history — a courageous revolt against



Some of the officials celebrated the launch of the website.



Mr James Njuguna Mahuria (right) with other members in Kitale on Sunday. Photos/Courtesy.



Bishop Jane Mumbi Ngethe addressing journalists last Sunday.

**Worth Noting:**

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colonial rule led by determined men and women who demanded nothing less than freedom and dignity for their people. For far too long, these patriots were marginalized and left without compensation or recognition for the suffering they endured and the sacrifices they made.

The organisation was founded to address this long-standing injustice with its vision being to bring together all veterans' groups under one coordinated and structured platform that can effectively advocate for their rights and promote their welfare.

By consolidating these efforts, it amplify the voices of veterans, streamline support, and enable impactful engagement with government institutions, legal systems, and international stakeholders.

It maintains active contact and representation in all sub-counties across Kenya.

Currently, with collaboration with the Kingdom Bank, the organisation is facilitating opening of bank accounts for its members. It hopes to complete the process by the end of this month.

This national reach ensures that no vet-

eran, regardless of their location is left behind.

The organisation key areas of focus include: Compensation and Restitution, Unity and Representation, Documentation and Legacy, Public Education and Awareness as well as National and International Advocacy.

The website further notes that the group engages with Parliament, the judiciary, human rights bodies, and international allies to press for justice, recognition, and support for Mau Mau veterans.

# Kindiki: Billions Allocated Billions To Boost SMEs

By: John Kamau  
 @themtkenyatimes

The government has allocated billions of shillings to boost small and micro-businesses in each and every ward in the country in line with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki yesterday said at least 70 SMEs in each of the 1450 wards across the country will receive Sh50,000 in grants to boost their businesses.

Speaking during an Empowerment Forum in Naivasha, Nakuru County, the DP said the program targets those at the bottom including salon and barbershop owners, carpenters, tailors, mama mboga and other small scale traders who are in need of extra capital to grow their hustles.

“We are keen on boosting the small and micro enterprises so that they expand and create more jobs. We will have 70 small scale traders in every ward benefit from this program,” he said.

The DP said the Kenya Kwanza Administration promised to support those at the bottom of the economic scale and it is doing so through various tailor-made programs.

“We are serious and we don’t want to be distracted by political busybodies. That is the bottom up promise we made and we are fulfilling. It is time to work. Politics later,” he added.

In addition to this, the Deputy President said the empowerment forums for mama mboga and boda boda operators will continue across the country as they are meant to support them to expand and earn more returns. He challenged those opposed to come out in the open and declare their stand.

“Anyone opposed to the empowerment programs should come out clearly and tell us they are not for empowering small-scale traders to grow and better the lives of the owners. We must ensure traders expand and help us grow our economy,” he stated.

At the same time, Prof Kindiki said the government will expand the Climate WorX program which is underway in Nairobi to other counties so more youths could be part of it.

The program is geared at the regeneration of the environment through cleaning of river basins and unclogging of waterways and sewerage systems.

The DP also informed residents that the government is constructing 17 modern markets in Nakuru and has tendered for six more to start in the coming days.

Among them are those in Naivasha (Sh350m), Mai Mahiu (Sh200m), Oserian and Kinungi at Sh70 which are set for completion before the end of the year.



Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki with National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wah in Naivasha yesterday. Photo/Courtesy.

“I will be coming here frequently to check the progress of all these projects, the roads, electricity, markets and others. Once they are complete the President will come to open them,” he said.

The DP also said the government is on course to acquire land for victims of Mai Mahiu dam tragedy.

“We are negotiating the land to settle the victims of Mai Mahiu. We will finish it and in a short period they will be relocated,” he said.

The DP was accompanied by a host of MPs led by the National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung’wa, Mark Nyamita (Uriri), Martha Wan-

gari (Gilgil), Irene Njoki (Bahati), Patrick Ntwiga (Chuka Igamba Ng’ombe), Kwenya Thuku (Kinangop) and Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika.

The leaders hailed that Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda as a transformative one noting that it will unlock opportunities and foster enterprise across the country.

Ichung’wa quipped that the Initiative focuses on uplifting small-scale traders, farmers, youth and women-enabling them to take advantage of government programs, including transitioning into stall owners in the newly constructed markets.

“By empowering our grassroots, we are building a more inclusive and prosperous Kenya,” Ichung’wa said.

Kihika on her part said that the empowerment programme is part of her endeavor to support youth and women in the county and help transform their lives and businesses through provision of seed funds for their economic initiatives.

“This programme will be extended to all wards in the county as part of the many initiatives we have undertaken to empower the youth and women with skills and funds to engage in income generating activities,” she said.



Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki tries a jig at Naivasha yesterday. Photo/Courtesy.

**Worth Noting:**

- The DP said the Kenya Kwanza Administration promised to support those at the bottom of the economic scale and it is doing so through various tailor-made programs.
- “We are serious and we don’t want to be distracted by political busybodies. That is the bottom up promise we made and we are fulfilling. It is time to work. Politics later,” he added.
- In addition to this, the Deputy President said the empowerment forums for mama mboga and boda boda operators will continue across the country as they are meant to support them to expand and earn more returns. He challenged those opposed to come out in the open and declare their stand.

# Senate Committee Reviews KUSCCO Mismanagement, Nandi Evictions And Allegations Of Racism In Tourism Sector

By: PSCU

The Senate Trade Committee yesterday held a sitting to deliberate on responses submitted by various ministries to statements sought by Senators concerning a range of issues under the Committee's jurisdiction.

In response to the queries raised by Nyandarua Senator John Methu regarding the culpability of the management of the Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Cooperatives (KUSCCO), the Ministry provided a submission outlining key developments.

The Ministry confirmed that KUSCCO currently holds unsecured SACCO deposits totalling approximately KSh15 billion.

Notably, in Nyandarua County, Muki SACCO has deposits of KSh14,073,116.27, with shares valued at KSh15,564.00, while Tower SACCO holds deposits amounting to KSh107,577,864.00 and shares valued at Ksh. 41,087,914.00.

Regarding the culpability of KUSCCO management, the Ministry referenced an audit conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), which revealed that several former executives at KUSCCO were found responsible for significant financial losses.

In response to these findings, the Ministry confirmed that legal proceedings have been initiated against the individuals involved in order to recover the lost assets. Criminal investigations are also underway to hold those responsible for the mismanagement accountable.

The Asset Recovery Agency (ARA) has been tasked with overseeing the recovery of assets, including the seizure of any assets linked to the KUSCCO mismanagement.

Responding to Senator Okiyah Omtatah's queries regarding the loss of cooperative savings over the past ten years, the Ministry outlined key factors contributing to KUSCCO's financial troubles.

The recent audit revealed that top management falsified records, presenting profits while the union was actually incurring losses. Additionally, there was a mismatch in investments and funds were directed to non-viable projects, further exacerbating the financial issues. Misappropriation of funds by management was also highlighted as a significant cause of the losses.

Despite these issues, the Ministry confirmed that KUSCCO had met its legal compliance obligations, including annual audits, filing returns, convening annual general meetings and holding board elections as required by law. However, the forensic audits conducted by both the Ministry and PwC revealed that management had falsified financial records to show profits while concealing losses.

Regarding the loan portfolio, the Ministry provided a breakdown, noting that the Central Finance Fund amounted to KSh3.37 billion, the

KUSCCO Housing Fund totalled KSh2.91 billion, and the KUSASA Fund was valued at KSh191.7 million, bringing the total loan portfolio to KSh 6.47 billion. The Ministry confirmed that board members and senior staff implicated in the mismanagement have been dismissed.

In response to the question regarding the demolition of small-scale trader stalls in Kapsabet Town without prior notice, the Nandi County Government clarified that no demolitions had been carried out in Kapsabet Town as was stated. Instead, the County Government issued notices to those with illegal structures and stalls, especially in areas that were either undesignated or planned for other uses.

In the submission, these notices were followed by engagements with the affected traders, who, in line with the spirit of Article 159 of the Constitution, voluntarily agreed to remove their structures or stalls. Consequently, none of the affected traders paid for a 2025 trading license following the issuance of the notices.

Regarding the relocation of traders to a new market, the County Government emphasized that the Kapsabet Municipality Local Physical and Land Use Development Plan was being implemented. The new market established by the County Government was equipped with basic sanitary facilities, including water and modern toilets. The move allowed for a smooth transition in accordance with the land use development plan and no legal disputes arose from its implementation.

As for the number of traders impacted by the demolitions and their financial losses, the County Government reiterated that the demolition was voluntary. Since the traders voluntarily removed their stalls, it was impossible to determine the exact number of traders involved or to estimate the financial losses they incurred during the process.

Regarding the demolition at Namgol Trading Centre, the County Government reiterated that the demolition was also voluntary. They further explained that Namgol Trading Centre was located in a road reserve, which posed a significant safety risk to traders and their property. The County Government also noted that no alternative location was provided to the displaced traders, as the situation involved land that was not available for compensation, being unalienated public land.

The County Government's compensation measures were outlined, confirming that the affected traders were relocated to the new market site following consultative meetings, with evidence of attendance provided. It was emphasized that no land or interest was compulsorily acquired from the traders and their valuables had been removed before the demolitions



Senator John Methu



Senator Okiyah Omtata

took place, minimizing any potential losses.

In response to the statement submitted by Senator Esther Okenyuri on allegations of racism, discrimination and nepotism at Taita Hills Safari Resort, Salt Lick Safari Lodge, Fairview Hotel and Nyali Beach Resort, the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife provided measures among them commitment to investigate all reported issues on discrimination, racism and nepotism taking necessary action to ensure that they are addressed conclusively besides conducting routine quality audits to confirm the existence and implementation of HR policies that conform to the laws of Kenya.

The Ministry also expressed plans to carry out periodic joint exercises

with relevant agencies, including the respective labour offices. Additionally, the Ministry will develop and implement workforce registration regulations to ensure proper records of personnel working in the sector. Stakeholders in the tourism and hospitality industry will be continuously sensitised on the national values and the importance of developing and implementing human resource policies that adhere to these values.

The Ministry further stated that it will also enhance the existing complaint reporting and handling mechanisms to address related incidents and ensure the implementation of the code of conduct in the tourism sector.

**Worth Noting:**

- Notably, in Nyandarua County, Muki SACCO has deposits of KSh14,073,116.27, with shares valued at KSh15,564.00, while Tower SACCO holds deposits amounting to KSh107,577,864.00 and shares valued at Ksh. 41,087,914.00.
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- The Asset Recovery Agency (ARA) has been tasked with overseeing the recovery of assets, including the seizure of any assets linked to the KUSCCO mismanagement.

## When Two



It grows in pauses,  
in showing up—  
on the hard days,  
in the small hours,  
with nothing grand  
but everything needed.

When two find each other  
in this wide, whirling world,  
it is never just chance.  
It's a quiet calling—  
a glance that lingers,  
a moment that feels  
like a memory returning.

Love begins  
not with fireworks,  
but with the softness  
of being understood.

In laughter,  
in silence,  
in the way they remember  
how your voice drops when you're tired.

It is not perfect.  
It stumbles, aches, unravels—  
and still, it stays.  
Not because it has to,  
but because it wants to.

This is love:  
not found,  
but made.  
Not owned,  
but held.

Not a fairy tale,  
but a choice—  
again and again.

By Cathren Gathoni

## Traditions Of Customs, Ceremonies And Holidays Of The Uzbekistan People



By: Marjona Tokhtayeva Baybori

**Abstract:** Three articles provide an explanation of customs, rituals, and holidays. A detailed discussion of the customs, rituals, and holidays of the Uzbek people is provided.

**Keywords:** Tradition, people, ceremony, Navruz, holiday

It is of great importance to know and study the various traditions, ceremonies, customs that have been living together with the people, as well as the circumstances of their origin. Because although these are ethnographic data, they are closely related to the history and past of the people. Customs are a specific practical aspect of social culture. They have a stable and stable description, and are implemented not by individual or single individuals, but by the majority.

The concept of a ritual also implies the repetition of certain words and actions, but in this case, words and actions acquire conditional symbolism. Rituals have internal integrity, compositional unity, and formal elegance. For example, let's take harvest festivals, cotton festivals, flower and spring festivals, grape and melon festivals. These festivals and holidays are held as a celebration of joy, abundance, and elegance [pp. 14–11]. Today, when our country has gained independence, the traditions and rituals of the peoples of our country have restored their ancient manifestations and have become a great force accelerating the development of our society.

Positive customs and traditions that have been formed and preserved over the centuries: loyalty to the Motherland, respect for the elderly, care for parents, orphans, the elderly, blood relations, hospitality, etc. are reflected in holidays and rituals of a social nature. These social characteristics have been preserved from ancient times to the present day.

Various holidays, mass games, seasonal and professional rituals created by the people and of great social significance occupy a special place in the cultural heritage of the Uzbek people. Among the most widespread and national traditions among the Uzbek people, seasonal rituals are noteworthy. According to

some researchers, Uzbek seasonal rituals can be classified into the following categories:

1. Winter rituals such as chats.
2. Spring rituals such as Navruz, shokhmoylar (joining), tulip or red flower sayli, project tashy, "slow wife" and others.
3. Summer rituals - "Kovun sayli", "Chay momo", etc.
4. Autumn rituals - "Mehrjon", "Oblobaraka", shamo sayli, grape sayli, etc. related to the harvest.

One of the long-standing traditions of the Uzbek people is hospitality. When a guest arrives, they are asked about his well-being, have a cordial conversation, and are showered with all the delicacies in the house. Friends and relatives from far and near are remembered. The guest conveys the warm love and greetings of his relatives and friends to the host. In our society, along with our traditions and rituals, there are also holidays. For example, the holiday of Navruz, which is widely celebrated among nature holidays, can be cited as an example. On the day of the holiday, people give each other sugar and sweets (meaning may your life be sweet), present flowers (meaning may you be beautiful), sprinkle water on each other (meaning may there be plenty of water this year, may there be a bountiful harvest), and a number of other customs have been formed. In addition, there are many more holidays in our country. These are Independence Day, Teachers and Mentors Day, the day the Constitution was adopted, the first days of Ramadan and Eid al-Adha [page 2, 6]. Holidays have been fulfilling the task of restoring the national pride of our people, raising the morale of people, and encouraging them to work for the betterment of the country, creativity, and innovation. The traditions and rituals of the Uzbek people are being studied by ethnographers. In this regard, it is especially appropriate to mention the works of such Russian scholars as L.P. Potapov, G.P. Snesev, Sazonova, K.L. Zadikhina, K. Shoniyozov, O.A. Sukhareva, N.A. Kislyakov, N.P. Lobacheva, B.Kh. Karmisheva, and the studies and articles of such folklorists as M. Alaviya, B. Sarimdokov, N. Kurbanova, N. Kurbanbayeva, O. Usmanova, M. Juraev, S. Davlatov. In conclusion, it can be said that the existing customs, rituals, and holidays of each people served to form the spiritual world of that people. Similarly, the customs, rituals, and holidays of the Uzbek people have been passed down from ancestors to generations for centuries, enriching our cultural life.

Marjona Tokhtayeva Baybori  
Chirchik State Pedagogical University,  
Faculty of Humanities,  
History Department, 2nd year student

## VISION

BY JESSIE B. RITTENHOUSE

I came to the mountains for beauty  
And I find here the toiling folk,  
On sparse little farms in the valleys,  
Wearing their days like a yoke.

White clouds fill the valleys at morning,  
They are round as great billows at sea,  
And roll themselves up to the hill-tops  
Still round as great billows can be.

The mists fill the valleys at evening,  
They are blue as the smoke in the fall,  
And spread all the hills with a tenuous scarf  
That touches the hills not at all.

These lone folk have looked on them daily,  
Yet I see in their faces no light.  
Oh, how can I show them the mountains  
That are round them by day and by night?

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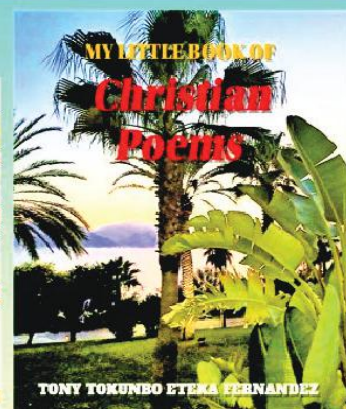
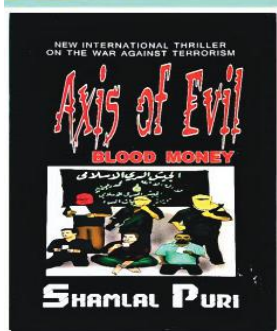
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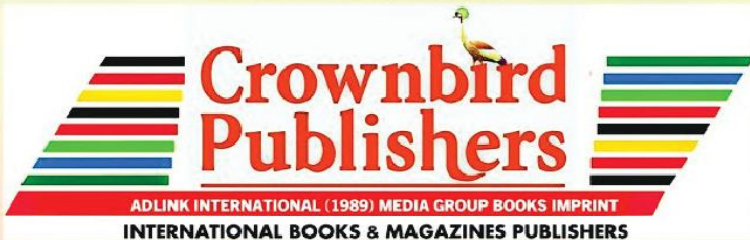
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# Varsity Students Partner With Schools In Initiative To Green The Country

By: John Kamau  
@themkenyatimes

A group of students from various universities and colleges have come together by in a move to conserve the environment in partnership with schools.

Through Compassion Africa Initiative, the young Kenyans, some of whom have completed their courses but are not employed, have come up with a waste management and fruit tree planting program which involves primary and secondary schools, aimed at cleaning and greening the country.

Josephine Karimi, coordinator of the group, says her members are currently working with various schools in Kiambu County where they have established fruit tree nurseries and initiated waste management projects which isolate and recycle solid materials.

“Through this initiative, we are encouraging students not only to

clean the environment, but also make money through sale of recycled waste materials. The fruit trees idea aims at improving nutrition for the students and local communities,” said Karimi, a graduate in medicine and surgery.

The group members have established an orchard at Mang’u High School, but because of the semi-arid nature of the place where fruits may not survive, they have introduced indigenous tree nurseries as well.

“We encourage the schools and the neighbouring communities not to throw away seeds whenever they eat fruits, but to donate them to us. Once we collect the seeds, we work with experts in the field so that we help the students to develop nurseries and orchards,” explained Ms Karimi.

She added that later, the Compassion Africa group buys the seedlings from the learners for onward planting to schools and other designated areas.

Karimi further explained that their efforts will not just be localized in Kiambu County, but are spreading

out to other parts of the country.

Earlier, members of the Initiative, accompanied officials of the Rotary Club of Juja and the team mentor Selina Murithi, took part in a tree planting exercise at the Ruiru Sports Club where over 1,000 fruit trees were planted.

An official of the Rotary Club Mburu Machua, hailed the group’s focus on fruit trees because they provide nutrition, clean the environment and generate incomes.

He also commended the youth group for coming up with the environment conservation idea, noting that their program will benefit posterity.

“I commend this group of young people who have refused to join their peers in merrymaking activities and instead decided to do something for posterity’s sake,” said Machua.



A member of Compassion Africa Initiative plants a tree at Ruiru Sports Club in Kiambu during an environment conservation drive.

# Diaspora Affairs PS Outlines Funding Priorities In Meeting With MPs

By: Eric Biegon  
@themkenyatimes

The Principal Secretary of the State Department for Diaspora Affairs, Roseline Njogu, yesterday outlined key funding priorities aimed at enhancing the country’s engagement with its global diaspora community.

During her appearance before the National Assembly’s Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence, and Foreign Relations, where she presented the annual Revenue and Expenditure estimates for the 2025/2026 Financial Year, the PS confirmed that her department will focus on four broad areas that reflect the country’s commitment to enhancing diplomatic outreach and strengthening ties with Kenyans living and working abroad.

Njogu stated that her department will continue to advocate for the protection and welfare of the diaspora, which includes establishing

safe houses, providing legal support, staffing, and offering evacuation funds, among other initiatives.

Additionally, she informed the Committee, led by Belgut MP Nelson Koech, that facilitating Kenyan talent access to the global market, engaging the diaspora, and enhancing service delivery are strategic priorities for her department in the 2025/2026 Financial Year.

The PS was accompanied by senior State Department officials, including Amb. Isaiya Kabira (Secretary for Investments, Skills and Entrepreneurship), Mr. Daniel Mwaura (Director/CPPD), Mr. Gideon Gichana (Senior Chief Finance Officer), Ms. Margaret Wamoto (Director/Administration), Mr. Obiero Makori (Director/SCM), Ms. Polly Maingi (Head of Accounting Unit), Ms. Caroline Nderi (Deputy Director, HRM&D), Ms. Lilian Miliza (SPFO), Ms. Carolyne Maina (FO1), and Mr. Ledama Meisashi (FSO/OPS).



Principal Secretary of the State Department for Diaspora Affairs Roseline Njogu



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# The False Purity Paradigm: Unmasking the Ecological and Ethical Debt of Cobalt-Dependent Electric Vehicles



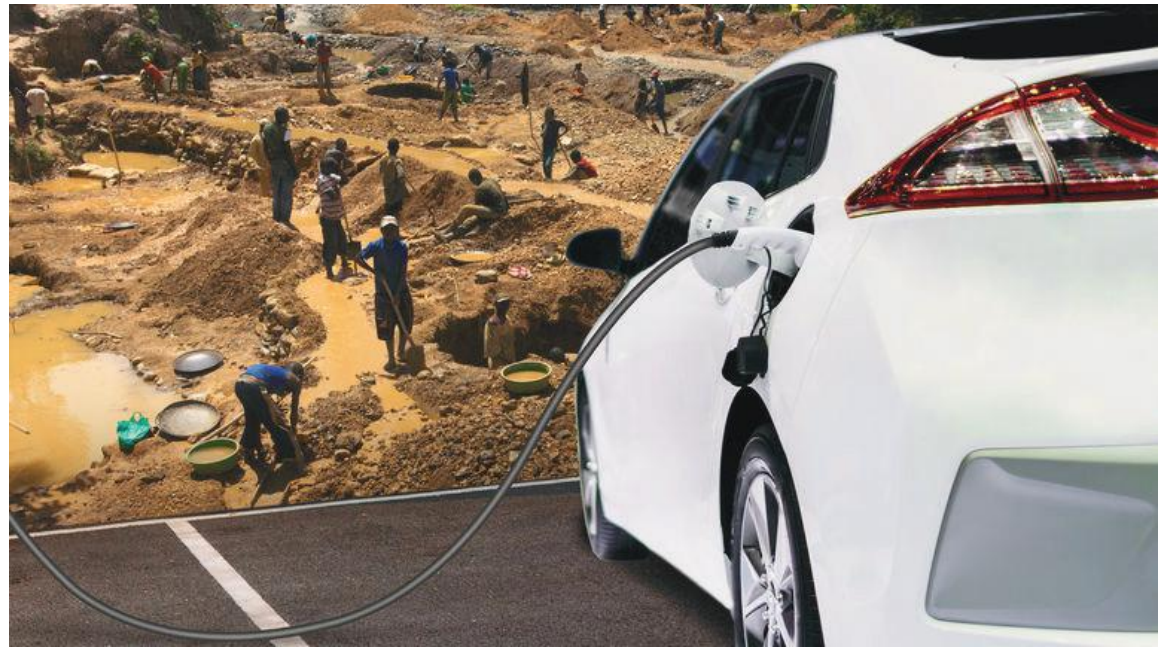
By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor  
@themkenyatimes

The prevailing narrative surrounding electric vehicles positions them as an unequivocal environmental triumph, promising liberation from fossil fuel dependence while obscuring the profound ecological debt incurred during their production. This myopic focus on operational emissions systematically neglects the devastation wrought by resource extraction processes that enable EV manufacturing, particularly the cobalt mining that forms the cornerstone of contemporary lithium-ion battery technology. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which supplies over 70% of global cobalt production, bears witness to ecological decimation on an industrial scale, with vast tracts of land stripped for mineral access and waterways contaminated beyond remediation.

According to the International Energy Agency's 2021 comprehensive assessment, cobalt extraction and processing alone generate approximately 74 kilograms of carbon dioxide per kilogram of refined cobalt, creating a substantial carbon debt before an EV even reaches a consumer. This fundamental contradiction marketing "zero-emission" vehicles whose very existence depends on extraordinarily carbon-intensive and environmentally destructive mining operations represents not merely an oversight but a structural delusion within contemporary environmental discourse. The resulting paradox demands critical scrutiny: EVs promise environmental salvation while simultaneously perpetuating ecological devastation in regions conveniently distant from their primary markets, creating a geographic displacement of environmental harm rather than its elimination. The "clean energy" designation thus functions as a form of ecological laundering, washing away the environmental sins of production through selective measurement of environmental impact.

The landscape of cobalt extraction in the DRC presents a harrowing portrait of environmental catastrophe systematically excluded from the clean energy narrative, with open-pit mining operations creating lunar-like scarification across once-fertile territories. Toxic tailings from industrial and artisanal cobalt mining contaminate groundwater with heavy metals including uranium, arsenic, and cadmium, rendering water sources poisonous for generations and decimating agricultural potential throughout mining regions. Comprehensive environmental impact assessments conducted by Mwanza et al. (2023) in Environmental Science & Technology document alarming concentrations of heavy metals exceeding international safety standards by factors of 10-50 in soil and water samples surrounding mining operations, with bioaccumulation observed in local food chains.

The massive deforestation required to establish mining operations has destroyed critical habitat in one of Earth's most biodiverse regions, with the Congo Basin representing the planet's second-largest rainforest ecosystem and a crucial carbon



sink now compromised by extraction activities. Industrial processing facilities, frequently powered by coal-burning plants in a region with minimal environmental regulation, release airborne pollutants that create acid rain and respiratory hazards across a geographic radius extending hundreds of kilometers beyond the mining sites themselves. According to Sovacool's (2021) "Decarbonization and Its Discontents," the ecological restoration of cobalt mining sites requires 15-25 years and investments exceeding \$25,000 per hectare, with success rates historically below 40% due to soil contamination and watershed disruption. The irony is inescapable: in our quest for environmental redemption through electrification, we have sanctioned environmental desecration on an industrial scale, merely displacing ecological harm rather than eliminating it.

The devastating human consequences of cobalt mining reveal the profound ethical contradictions embedded within the EV revolution, exposing how "clean" Western consumption depends upon exploitative labor conditions in the Global South. Artisanal cobalt mines supplying approximately 30% of Congolese production routinely employ child laborers as young as four years old who descend into narrow, hand-dug tunnels with minimal safety equipment, risking burial and respiratory diseases while earning mere dollars per day, as meticulously documented in Siddharth Kara's harrowing ethnographic investigation, "Cobalt Red: How the Blood of the Congo Powers Our Lives" (2022). Medical studies conducted across mining communities reveal systemic cobalt poisoning among workers and nearby residents, manifesting as "cobalt lung" (pneumoconiosis), cardiomyopathy, and developmental disorders in children, with mortality rates from mining accidents and related illnesses consistently obscured by inadequate reporting infrastructure.

The economic exploitation is equally devastating, with multinational mining corporations extracting billions in mineral wealth while the DRC remains one of the world's poorest

nations, its citizens seeing minimal benefit from resources underpinning the global transition to "clean energy." Amnesty International's 2020 comprehensive report "Powering Change: The Human Rights Impacts of Battery Supply Chains" conclusively links major automobile manufacturers to supply chains tainted by human rights abuses, despite corporate sustainability pledges and ethical sourcing claims. Communities surrounding industrial mining operations report forced displacement, with over 40,000 people relocated since 2010 according to Global Witness documentation, often into inadequate housing with minimal compensation and severed from traditional agricultural livelihoods. Exposure to toxic waste from processing facilities has created public health crises in mining regions, with dramatically elevated rates of birth defects, cancers, and respiratory diseases compounded by inadequate medical infrastructure. This stark reality exposes the moral bankruptcy of positioning EVs as ethical transportation solutions while systematically ignoring the human suffering intrinsic to their production chain.

The carbon-intensive reality of EV battery production creates a substantial emissions debt that undermines claims of immediate climate benefits, as manufacturing a single EV battery generates carbon emissions equivalent to driving a conventional vehicle for multiple years. The Swedish Energy Agency's landmark 2019 lifecycle assessment established that battery production for a standard electric vehicle releases between 10-20 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent primarily during resource extraction, material refinement, and energy-intensive cell manufacturing processes. Battery production alone accounts for approximately 35-50% of an EV's total manufacturing emissions, with cobalt refining representing a disproportionate contribution due to its energy-intensive hydrometallurgical and pyrometallurgical processing requirements.

Comparative analysis from the MIT Energy Initiative demonstrates that a new mid-size EV begins its life with

a carbon debt 25-40% higher than an equivalent internal combustion engine vehicle, creating an emissions deficit that must be overcome through operational advantages over its lifespan. Grid-dependent charging further complicates this calculus, as EVs operating in regions with coal-dominated electricity generation like China, India, and parts of the United States may require 8-10 years of operation to achieve carbon parity with efficient conventional vehicles, according to comprehensive modeling from the International Council on Clean Transportation.

The carbon intensity of battery production proves particularly problematic for larger luxury EVs with massive battery packs exceeding 100kWh, which may never achieve true carbon neutrality within their operational lifespan when charged on fossil-fuel-dominated grids. According to Volvo's transparent 2021 lifecycle assessment of its electric and conventional vehicles, "The carbon footprint of battery manufacturing means electric vehicles leave the factory with a significantly higher carbon debt than conventional vehicles, requiring years of zero-emission operation to achieve parity." This fundamental reality exposes the fallacy of promoting EVs as immediate climate solutions rather than long-term investments that require clean electricity generation to deliver their promised environmental benefits.

The widely promoted narrative of closed-loop battery recycling represents more aspiration than reality, as current recycling infrastructure remains woefully inadequate to address the impending tsunami of spent EV batteries. Global lithium-ion battery recycling rates currently languish below 5% according to Xu et al.'s comprehensive 2022 assessment in Nature, "Global Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling: Challenges and Opportunities," with the vast majority of batteries ending their lifecycle in land-

## Worth Noting:

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- Toxic tailings from industrial and artisanal cobalt mining contaminate groundwater with heavy metals including uranium, arsenic, and cadmium, rendering water sources poisonous for generations and decimating agricultural potential throughout mining regions.
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# The False Purity Paradigm: Unmasking the Ecological and Ethical Debt of Cobalt-Dependent Electric Vehicles

Contd from page 18

fills where they risk leaching toxic compounds into soil and groundwater. Even advanced hydrometallurgical recycling processes recover only 25-60% of cobalt from spent batteries while consuming substantial energy and generating chemical waste streams that create secondary environmental hazards, challenging the circular economy claims prominent in EV marketing materials. The complex and proprietary construction of lithium-ion batteries—containing dozens of compounds fused together through manufacturing processes specifically designed for performance rather than disassembly—creates fundamental technical barriers to efficient recycling that remain unresolved despite decades of research.

Current projections from the International Energy Agency indicate that by 2030, over 12 million metric tons of lithium-ion batteries will reach end-of-life globally, yet recycling capacity remains below 10% of this volume with minimal investment in scaling necessary infrastructure. Stockpiling of spent batteries represents a growing environmental liability, particularly in jurisdictions with inadequate hazardous waste regulations, creating potential “battery graveyards” with long-term contamination risks similar to other electronic waste scenarios. The comprehensive recycling assessment conducted by Harper et al. (2019) in *Nature Communications*, “Recycling lithium-ion batteries from electric vehicles,” concludes that “despite the critical importance of recycling to secure the material supply chain for EVs, current economic incentives remain insufficient to create viable, large-scale recycling operations capable of meeting projected battery waste volumes.” This recycling shortfall exposes yet another contradiction in the clean energy narrative: EVs create massive future waste streams containing hazardous materials with inadequate planning for their environmental management.

The theoretical environmental benefits of electric vehicles must be evaluated against realistic timelines for offsetting the ecological devastation caused by their production, particularly the irreparable harm inflicted by cobalt mining operations. Critical analysis of remediation timeframes reveals that restoring a single hectare of land destroyed by cobalt mining requires 15-25 years under optimal conditions and success rates below 50%, according to environmental restoration studies by Mwanza et al. (2023), creating a temporal mismatch between immediate damage and hypothetical future benefits. When calculating carbon payback periods, the IEA’s comprehensive assessment indicates that EVs must typically operate for 4-8 years (depending on grid cleanliness) to overcome their

manufacturing emissions relative to conventional vehicles, without accounting for mining’s broader ecological impacts including deforestation, biodiversity loss, and watershed contamination. The displacement of indigenous communities and destruction of traditional agricultural lands represents permanent cultural and economic losses that cannot be meaningfully quantified within conventional environmental accounting frameworks, exposing how narrowly focused carbon metrics systematically undervalue irreversible social and ecological consequences.

According to projections from Bloomberg New Energy Finance, global cobalt demand for EV production will increase 4-5 fold by 2030, requiring substantial expansion of mining operations and magnifying associated environmental degradation beyond current baselines, suggesting that ecological damage will accelerate more rapidly than remediation efforts. The expanding scale of cobalt mining creates cumulative impacts that may trigger ecological tipping points in affected regions, potentially causing irreversible ecosystem collapse that defies remediation timelines and challenges linear benefit calculations commonly cited by EV proponents. Gellert and Lynch’s (2023) analysis in *Environmental Politics*, “The Hidden Costs of Energy Transitions,” argues persuasively that “the temporal accounting of environmental benefits systematically discounts immediate and irreversible ecological damage while overvaluing uncertain future gains, creating a fundamentally unsound environmental calculus that privileges technological optimism over ecological reality.” This temporal disconnect represents perhaps the most profound contradiction within the clean energy narrative: the promise of future climate benefits remains contingent upon accepting immediate and potentially irreversible ecological devastation.

The persistent belief that technological innovation will resolve cobalt dependency represents a dangerous form of magical thinking divorced from material realities and engineering constraints. Industry promises regarding cobalt-free batteries consistently collide with physics-based limitations, as alternative chemistries like lithium-iron-phosphate (LFP) sacrifice 20-30% of energy density and fast-charging capability critical performance parameters for consumer adoption according to comprehensive battery materials analysis by Miller and Jones (2022) in *Battery Materials Review*. The timeline for developing and scaling commercially viable alternatives extends far beyond the urgent climate intervention window, with materials scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology estimating that transitioning global battery production to cobalt-free alternatives would require 15-20 years even with accelerated investment and regulatory support.

Supply chain restructuring faces insurmountable geopolitical con-



straints, as alternative material sources frequently present their own environmental and ethical challenges, merely shifting rather than eliminating extraction impacts, as thoroughly analyzed in Olivetti et al.’s (2020) landmark study in *Science*, “Lithium-ion battery supply chain considerations: Analysis of potential bottlenecks in critical metals.” Corporate pledges to reduce cobalt content exemplified by Tesla’s highly publicized commitment to minimize cobalt usage—have consistently failed to materialize at scale, with the company’s actual cobalt consumption rising in absolute terms despite concentration reductions in individual cells, illustrating how increased production volume overwhelms incremental efficiency improvements.

The clean energy transition’s accelerating pace actually intensifies pressure on cobalt supplies, as Bloomberg New Energy Finance projects global EV production to increase from 6.5 million units in 2021 to over 70 million by 2040, potentially requiring a tenfold expansion in cobalt mining absent revolutionary battery chemistry breakthroughs. According to a sobering assessment from the Natural Resource Governance Institute, “Absent structural changes in global supply chains and significant technological innovation, the environmental and human costs of mining will likely increase proportionally with growing mineral demand, potentially undermining the net environmental benefits of electrification.” This technological reality check exposes the fundamental misconception underpinning EV advocacy: we cannot simply innovate our way out of material constraints and ecological consequences without fundamentally reconsidering consumption patterns and transportation paradigms.

Addressing the profound contradictions of cobalt-dependent electric vehicles demands moving beyond simplistic “clean versus dirty” binaries toward nuanced sustainability frameworks that acknowledge inherent tradeoffs and center both environmental and social justice. Policymakers must implement aggressive supply chain transparency requirements and meaningful penalties for human rights violations, as advocated by Amnesty International’s comprehensive recommendations, while simultaneously investing in re-

mediation of mining-impacted communities and ecosystems as essential components of the clean energy transition. The illusion of technological solutions must yield to fundamental reconsideration of transportation systems, prioritizing mass transit, urban redesign, and reduced mobility demands over one-to-one replacement of conventional vehicles with electric alternatives that perpetuate resource-intensive transportation paradigms.

Progressive battery passport systems as pioneered by the European Union represent a promising regulatory approach by documenting the complete environmental and social footprint of EV batteries throughout their lifecycle, creating accountability mechanisms and consumer awareness currently absent in most markets. Lifecycle assessments must expand beyond carbon accounting to include comprehensive ecological and social metrics, acknowledging that sustainability encompasses more than greenhouse gas reductions and requires holistic evaluation of environmental justice implications across global supply chains. According to Princen’s influential framework in “The Logic of Sufficiency” (2005), truly sustainable systems require not merely efficiency improvements but fundamental reconsideration of consumption patterns and resource flows, questioning whether mass adoption of resource-intensive private vehicles represents a viable path regardless of their power source. The EV revolution, despite its genuine climate benefits, ultimately represents an incremental reform within a fundamentally unsustainable transportation paradigm, requiring critical engagement rather than unquestioning acceptance if we hope to achieve meaningful sustainability. This more honest discourse would recognize electric vehicles as an imperfect transitional technology rather than an environmental panacea, acknowledging their role in climate mitigation while simultaneously working to address their profound ecological and ethical contradictions.

The cobalt paradox illuminates the fundamental contradiction at the heart of contemporary environmental discourse: our pursuit of ecological sustainability remains tethered to profoundly unsustainable practices, obscured through selective measurement and geographic displacement

of harm. The manufacturing emissions, ecological devastation, and human exploitation embedded within electric vehicle production do not invalidate their climate benefits but demand intellectual honesty about the profound moral complexities of energy transitions and the limitations of technological solutions to ecological crises. Electric vehicles remain vital tools for reducing urban air pollution and transportation emissions, yet their environmental credentials must be evaluated within a comprehensive framework that acknowledges both benefits and costs across the entire product lifecycle and supply chain.

As meticulously documented throughout the scholarly literature, from Kara’s ethnographic investigations to the IEA’s technical assessments, the current trajectory of cobalt-dependent electrification perpetuates neo-colonial resource extraction patterns that sacrifice distant ecosystems and communities for metropolitan environmental improvements. The path forward requires rejecting both blind technoptimism and cynical dismissal in favor of pragmatic approaches: accelerating development of reduced-cobalt chemistries, implementing mandatory supply chain transparency, developing circular battery economies, and fundamentally questioning consumption patterns that necessitate massive resource extraction regardless of energy source.

Transportation sustainability ultimately demands systemic transformation beyond vehicle propulsion technology, encompassing urban design, public transportation, and mobility patterns recognizing that truly sustainable solutions require not merely substituting electricity for petroleum but reconceptualizing our relationship with mobility itself. The cobalt paradox thus offers a crucial lesson in environmental humility: there are no perfect solutions, only complex tradeoffs requiring transparent evaluation and ethical decision-making rather than misleading marketing narratives of technological salvation.

*The writer is a legal researcher and writer*

# The Use Of Firearms By Security Services: Understanding Justifiable And Criminal Homicide



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande  
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## Introduction

The role of security services, including police officers and military personnel, is to maintain law and order, protect citizens, and ensure national security. While no individual has the inherent right to kill another, there are circumstances where law enforcement and military personnel must use firearms, sometimes resulting in the death of a person. Understanding the distinction between criminal and non-criminal homicide is essential for citizens to appreciate the legal and ethical framework within which security forces operate.

## Criminal Homicide: When Killing is Unlawful

Criminal homicide refers to unlawful killings committed with a criminal state of mind. In Namibian setting, these cases are investigated by the Namibian Police Force's Crime Investigation Directorate and are categorized as follows:

### 1. Murder

Murder involves the intentional killing of another person with malice aforethought. It is further classified into:

- **First-Degree Murder:** A premeditated and deliberate killing, often planned beforehand. It also includes felony murder, where a death occurs during the commission of a dangerous felony, even if unintentional.

- **Second-Degree Murder:** An intentional killing without premeditation, often occurring in the heat of the moment but without sufficient provocation to qualify as manslaughter.

- **Third-Degree Murder (in some jurisdictions):** A reckless or negligent killing that occurs with malice but without premeditation or intent to kill.

### 2. Manslaughter

Manslaughter is an unlawful killing that lacks malice aforethought. It is divided into:

- **Voluntary Manslaughter:** An intentional killing that occurs in the "heat of passion" due to adequate provocation that would cause a reasonable person to lose self-control.

- **Involuntary Manslaughter:** An unintentional killing resulting from recklessness or criminal negligence, such as driving under the influence and causing a fatal accident.

- **Vehicular Manslaughter:** A specific type of involuntary manslaughter involving reckless or



negligent operation of a vehicle that results in death.

## Culpable Homicide in Namibian Law: Legal Interpretation and Application

One of the notable cases of manslaughter in Namibia is culpable homicide. Culpable homicide (in Namibian setting) is classified as an unlawful killing that occurs due to negligence or recklessness, rather than direct intent to kill. It is distinct from murder, which requires proof of intent (dolus) to cause death. Culpable homicide falls under the broader category of unlawful homicide, but it is considered a lesser offense because it lacks premeditation or deliberate intent.

## Legal Framework and Elements of Culpable Homicide

Under Namibian law, culpable homicide is governed by principles derived from common law and statutory provisions. The key elements that courts examine when determining culpable homicide include:

1. **Unlawful Conduct** – The accused must have engaged in an act or omission that was unlawful and led to the death of another person.

2. **Negligence or Recklessness** – Unlike murder, culpable homicide does not require intent to kill. Instead, the prosecution must prove that the accused acted negligently or recklessly, failing to exercise reasonable care to prevent harm.

3. **Causation** – There must be a direct link between the accused's actions and the victim's death. The court assesses whether the death was

a foreseeable consequence of the accused's conduct.

## Distinction Between Culpable Homicide and Murder

- **Murder** requires intent (either direct or indirect) to cause death, whereas culpable homicide is based on negligence or recklessness leading to death.

- In cases of murder, the accused may have acted with premeditation, whereas culpable homicide often arises from accidents, excessive force, or failure to act responsibly.

- **Sentencing for murder** is generally more severe, often resulting in life imprisonment, while culpable homicide carries a lesser sentence, depending on the degree of negligence and or recklessness involved.

## Practical Applications in Namibia

Namibian courts have dealt with various cases of culpable homicide, particularly in contexts such as:

- **Road Traffic Accidents** – Drivers who cause fatal accidents due to reckless or negligent driving may be charged with culpable homicide.

- **Medical Negligence** – Healthcare professionals who fail to provide adequate care, leading to a patient's death, may be held liable for culpable homicide.

- **Use of Excessive Force** – Security personnel or civilians who unintentionally cause death while defending themselves or others may be charged with culpable homicide if their actions are deemed dispro-

portionate.

## Judicial Approach and Sentencing

Namibian courts assess culpable homicide on a case-by-case basis, considering factors such as:

- The degree of negligence or recklessness involved.

- Whether the accused had a duty of care toward the victim.

- The foreseeability of harm resulting from the accused's actions. Sentences for culpable homicide vary, ranging from fines and suspended sentences to imprisonment, depending on the severity of the negligence and the circumstances surrounding the case.

## Notable Namibian Court Cases of Non-Justifiable Nature

Legal proceedings involving claims of self-defense often present intricate challenges, requiring courts to carefully assess whether the use of lethal force was justified under the prevailing circumstances. In Namibia, several cases have surfaced where defendants asserted self-defense as a legal justification for their actions, yet judicial scrutiny ultimately determined that the killings did not meet the threshold for justifiability. These rulings typically hinge on critical factors such as the immediacy and severity of the threat, the proportionality of the response, and whether reasonable alternatives to lethal force were available. In con-

**Worth Noting:**

- **First-Degree Murder:** A premeditated and deliberate killing, often planned beforehand. It also includes felony murder, where a death occurs during the commission of a dangerous felony, even if unintentional.
- **Second-Degree Murder:** An intentional killing without premeditation, often occurring in the heat of the moment but without sufficient provocation to qualify as manslaughter.
- **Third-Degree Murder (in some jurisdictions):** A reckless or negligent killing that occurs with malice but without premeditation or intent to kill.
- **Voluntary Manslaughter:** An intentional killing that occurs in the "heat of passion" due to adequate provocation that would cause a reasonable person to lose self-control.
- **Involuntary Manslaughter:** An unintentional killing resulting from recklessness or criminal negligence, such as driving under the influence and causing a fatal accident.

# The Use Of Firearms By Security Services: Understanding Justifiable And Criminal Homicide

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trast, Namibia has also witnessed widely publicized instances of legally recognized justifiable killings, particularly in cases involving law enforcement officers acting within the scope of their duties to neutralize imminent threats or civilians defending themselves against life-threatening attacks where no viable means of escape existed. Such cases, extensively covered in national newspapers, highlight the nuanced application of legal principles governing self-defense and the use of force. They reinforce the importance of ensuring that claims of self-defense are substantiated by credible evidence and align with established legal standards, thereby safeguarding both individual rights and the broader interests of justice. Some of the well-known cases are as follow:

**Self-Defense in a Public Altercation**  
In *S v Simataa* (CC 3 of 2014), the accused was involved in a fight at a club in Khomasdal. After being attacked and kicked to the ground, he later approached the vehicle of his attackers and fired shots, killing one person and injuring another. The accused claimed private defense, but the court ruled that by the time he fired, the attack had ceased, meaning his actions exceeded the bounds of self-defense.

**Law Enforcement Action Against a Dangerous Suspect**  
In *S v Hamukwaya* (HC-NLD-CRI-APP-SNA 33 of 2021), the respondent was charged with murder but was initially convicted of attempted murder due to procedural issues. The case involved a violent altercation where the method and manner of killing were considered in determining legal causation.

**Self-Defense in a Domestic Dispute**  
In *S v Michael* (4) [2017] NAHCN-LD 48, the accused stabbed the deceased 24 times, claiming self-defense. While the court acknowledged that there was a fight, it ruled that the accused had exceeded the bounds of self-defense, making the killing unlawful.

These cases illustrate how Namibian courts assess self-defense and justifiable homicide to determine if the killer has acted in a justified manner in order to kill. The key factor in

determining justification is whether the person using deadly force had a reasonable belief that their life or the lives of others were in imminent danger.

## Non-Criminal Homicide: When Killing is Justified

Certain killings are considered lawful under specific circumstances, falling under non-criminal homicide. Justifiable homicide occurs when a killing is necessary to prevent death or serious bodily harm to oneself or others. Examples include:

- **Self-Defense or Defense of Others:** If a police officer or citizen is attacked with deadly force, they may use lethal force to protect themselves or others.
  - **Law Enforcement Actions:** Police officers may use deadly force when apprehending a dangerous suspect who poses an immediate threat to life. For instance, if an armed robber is actively shooting at civilians, officers may be forced to neutralize the threat.
  - **Military Engagements:** Soldiers in wartime may kill enemy combatants as part of their duty to protect national security.
- Here are some real-life examples of justifiable homicide:

### Self-Defense Against an Armed Intruder

A homeowner in the Karibib shot and killed an intruder who had broken into their house armed with a weapon. The homeowner feared for their life and acted in self-defense. The court ruled the killing as justifiable homicide since the homeowner had a reasonable belief that their life was in danger.

### Police Officer Stopping an Active Shooter

In 2019, a police officer in Texas shot and killed a gunman who had opened fire in a crowded shopping mall. The officer acted to protect civilians from imminent harm, and the killing was deemed justifiable.

### Military Engagement in Combat

Soldiers engaged in combat during wartime often kill enemy combatants as part of their duty to protect national security. For example, during counterterrorism operations, military personnel may eliminate armed insurgents who pose a direct threat to civilians and national security.

### Law Enforcement Neutralizing a Hostage Situation



In a hostage crisis, law enforcement officers may use lethal force to stop a perpetrator who is actively threatening the lives of hostages. For instance, in a 2015 case, a SWAT team in France shot and killed terrorists holding civilians hostage in a café. The action was ruled as justifiable homicide since it was necessary to prevent further loss of innocent lives.

### Police Shooting of Armed Robbers in Windhoek

In 2016, Namibian police officers shot and killed armed robbers who had attempted to rob a cash-in-transit vehicle. The suspects fired at the police when confronted, and officers responded with lethal force. The court ruled the killings as justifiable homicide, as the officers acted in self-defense and to protect civilians from harm.

### Farmer Shooting a Poacher in Self-Defense

In 2018, a farmer in the Otjozondjupa region shot and killed a poacher who had entered his property armed with a firearm. The poacher threatened the farmer, who then fired in self-defense. The authorities ruled the killing justifiable, as the farmer had a reasonable belief that his life was in danger.

### Police Neutralizing a Hostage-Taker

In 2021, Namibian police officers shot and killed a man who had taken hostages in a shop in Oshakati. The suspect was armed and had threat-

ened to kill civilians. After failed negotiations, officers were forced to use lethal force to protect the hostages. The killing was ruled justifiable, as it was necessary to prevent further loss of innocent lives.

These examples illustrate how justifiable homicide is applied in real-world scenarios where lethal force is necessary to protect lives. The key factor in determining justification is whether the person using deadly force had a reasonable belief that their life or the lives of others were in imminent danger.

Justifiable homicide occurs when deadly force is used only as a last resort to protect lives. In Namibia, law enforcement officers, security personnel, and civilians may use lethal force only when faced with an immediate and unavoidable threat. However, excessive force or unnecessary killings are not justified and can lead to criminal prosecution.

### Excusable Homicide

Excusable homicide refers to unintentional killings that occur due to lawful acts without criminal negligence. Examples include:

- **Accidental Deaths:** If a police officer unintentionally kills a suspect while lawfully restraining them without excessive force, it may be considered excusable homicide.
- **Sudden Affray:** If a person is attacked unexpectedly and uses necessary force in self-defense without undue advantage, the resulting death may be excusable.

## Practical Examples of Lawful Use of Firearms

Security services must use firearms responsibly, and their use is justified only in extreme situations. Some practical examples include:

- A police officer encountering an armed suspect who refuses to surrender and poses an immediate threat to civilians.
- A soldier defending a military base from an armed terrorist attack.
- A security officer protecting a high-profile individual from an assassination attempt.

## Conclusion

The use of firearms by security services is a serious responsibility that must be exercised within the confines of the law. Citizens must understand that police officers, military personnel, and security forces do not carry weapons for intimidation but for protection and enforcement of the law. However, provoking these individuals or engaging in criminal activities that warrant the use of deadly force can lead to tragic consequences.

While criminal homicide is punishable by law, non-criminal homicide is justified under specific circumstances. The key distinction lies in intent and necessity. Law enforcement officers and military personnel must always act within legal and ethical boundaries, ensuring that the use of firearms is a last resort rather than a first response.

# SPORTS NEWS

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**Sports >>** \*Team Kenya from the just-concluded World Athletics Relays returned home early yesterday following a successful outing in Guangzhou, China

## Kenya Sprinters Return, To Train In Miramas Ahead Of Tokyo World Championships



Team Kenya from the just-concluded World Athletics Relays returned home early yesterday following a successful outing in Guangzhou, China where they secured three tickets for this year's World Athletics Championships, as well as a bronze medal in the 4 by 400 mixed relay.

Speaking on arrival at the JKIA, team captain Boniface Mweresa, who led the 4x400m men's team in setting a new national record, called on Athletics Kenya to ensure they embark on early specialised training ahead of the Tokyo World Athletics Championships in September.

"This was my first time captaining Team Kenya, and I am happy with the results; we got three national records, three world championship tickets and a bronze in

the 4x400m mixed relay, said Mweresa.

Mweresa said his focus now shifts to securing a world championships ticket in his individual 400m race.

"My next big assignment for now is to qualify for World Championships in 400m in addition to the 4x400m. We need to work on the button exchange between now and September," added Mweresa.

Athletics Kenya Senior Vice President Paul Mutwii, who was the head of the delegation, revealed that they intend to send the team for a residential training camp in Miramas, France, ahead of the September world championships.

"We did well in China; three out of four teams set national records

and qualified for World Championships in Tokyo. As a director of competition, we will recommend that the team train out of the country in preparation for the World Championships." Mutwii said

His sentiments were echoed by team manager Kennedy Tanui, who called on the government to give the team full support and adequate preparations, which will spur it to good results during the World Championships in September.

"We hope the government will help the team get special training in Miramas, France, before the World Championships since it has the state-of-the-art facilities, unlike here in Kenya." Tanui said Kenya secured three world championship tickets in the

4x400m men's, the 4x400m mixed and the 4x100m men's and a bronze medal in the 4x400m mixed relay.

The 4x400m mixed relay team of David Sanayek, Mercy Chebet, Brian Tinega and Mercy Aoko posted a season's best time of 3:13.10 to grab a bronze medal, Kenya's only podium finish at the championships.

The team also set three national records during the two-day World Relays in Guangzhou, China.

**KBC**

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>>** \*Michael Karanga delivered a spectacular final-round performance to clinch the 2025 NCBA Kiambu Open title, finishing three-under-par with a total score of 214 (73, 72, 69)

# Karanga Claims Victory At Kiambu Open



Michael Karanga

Michael Karanga delivered a spectacular final-round performance to clinch the 2025 NCBA Kiambu Open title, finishing three-under-par with a total score of 214 (73, 72, 69) over three rounds at the par-72 Kiambu Golf Club course.

His win earned him the top prize of KES 115,600 from the KES 500,000 prize fund sponsored by NCBA Bank.

Coming into the final day leading by two shots, Karanga's final-round 69, the lowest of the tournament, cemented his dominance on the leaderboard.

His composure and precision throughout the course made the difference as he surged ahead to secure the win. He carded birdies on holes 2, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16, and 17, only dropping shots at holes 4, 5, 14, and 18.

With the win, the Ndumberi Golf Club Chairman earned 230 KAGC Order of Merit points, climbing to second place overall with 723 points, just 72 points behind long-time series leader John Lejirma.

"The course was tough this time round due to the ongoing rains.

I probably could have returned a better score than three-under-par, but I'm very happy to have retained the title," said Karanga. "I checked the KAGC Order of Merit and realized I was number three, so I knew I had to do something this weekend, especially being the defending champion," he added.

Finishing second was John Lejirma of Royal Nairobi Golf Club, who posted rounds of 75, 72, and 73 for a total score of 220 (+4). Lejirma's consistent ball-striking and recovery play kept him in contention throughout the event.

Despite an up-and-down start in Round 1, marked by several bogeys, Lejirma steadied his game in Round 2 with birdies at the 1st, 9th, 11th, and 13th to finish level-par for the day. He began Round 3 on fire with birdies on the first three holes, later adding two more on the 11th and 16th. However, his quest for the title was hampered by a double bogey on the 7th and bogeys at holes 8, 9, 10, and 15, ultimately earning him KES 69,400.

Tied for third at +9 (225) were Hetansh Shah (Sigona Golf Club),

Naomi Wafula (Vipingo Ridge), and Joyce Njuguini (Kiambu Golf Club), each taking home KES 36,200.

Shah had a slow start with a first-round 80, struggling particularly on the back nine, but showed tremendous improvement with rounds of 74 and 71 on the second and third days respectively. His final round featured birdies on holes 6, 11, 15, and 16, and he remained bogey-free on the front nine. He only dropped shots on holes 14 (bogey) and 18 (double bogey).

Naomi Wafula, the 2023 Kiambu Open champion, delivered a solid defense of her title with rounds of 75, 76, and 74. Her final round was particularly composed, showing excellent short game control and avoiding major mistakes to finish a respectable two-over-par on the day.

Home favorite Joyce Njuguini was the epitome of consistency, carding identical rounds of 75 over all three days. Her deep familiarity with the Kiambu layout was evident as she displayed superb course management, grinding out pars and key birdies to stay

competitive in a strong field.

Speaking at the awards ceremony, Julius Mburu, NCBA Kiambu Branch Manager, said: "Our sponsorship of the Kiambu Open is part of NCBA's broader commitment to supporting Kenyan sport and developing platforms where talent can thrive. This tournament is about more than just Order of Merit points or world rankings—it's about nurturing ambition and creating opportunities for the next generation of champions.

"We're also pleased to see regional representation from Rwanda, Uganda, and Burundi. Golf is a unifying sport, and it's exciting to see the East African community coming together through shared passion," he added.

The three-day tournament, held at the 9-hole Kiambu Golf Club, brought together top amateur talent from across the region. The KAGC series continues from 23rd to 25th May 2025 with the Ronald Marshall & Toby Gibson Cup at Muthaiga Golf Club.

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## Tasnia ya Uanahabari na Kiswahili Imefiwa



By: Alfred Lobawoi  
@themkenyatimes

### Worth Noting:

“Awali nilipenda kumsikiliza sana bw. Charles Hillary hasa wakati ambapo nilipata video yake akitangaza taarifa ya habari. Ulumbi wake kwa lugha ya Kiswahili uliniteka bakunja. Kando na bw. Charles Hillary Nkwanga kuwa mtangazaji hodari wa taarifa pia alikuwa mweledi katika utangazaji wa kabumbu. Umilisi huu wa kuwa na vipaji viwili na vyenyewe kumkaa pia kuliwavutia wengi na kuwapendeza. Hilo ni jambo jingine ambalo atakumbukiwa kwayo.”

Naandika makala haya nikiwa na masikitio makubwa sana kuhusu kifo cha gwiji Charles Hillary Nkwanga ambaye alitangulia mbele za haki mnamo Jumapili 11 katika Hospitali ya Mloganzila alikokuwa akipokea matibabu.

Habari hizi nilizipokea kwa uzito sana nilipokuwa katika harakati za kutafuta taarifa za hapa na pale kama kawaida ya uanahabari. Japo nilichukua mda kuelewa kama kweli ni Charles mmoja nimjuaye au ni mwingine. Baadaye nilielewa fika ni ukweli. Kuro haisemi uongo kumbe. Habari hizi hazikuwa kwenye mitandao ya kijamii pekee bali pia kwenye ukurasa wa wakereketwa wengi wa Kiswahili. Ukweli ni kuwa chema hakidumu.

Awali nilipenda kumsikiliza sana bw. Charles Hillary hasa wakati ambapo nilipata video yake akitangaza taarifa ya habari. Ulumbi wake kwa lugha ya Kiswahili uliniteka bakunja. Si hayo tu, yeye ni miongoni mwa wanahabari ambao utapenda mno kuwasikiliza mara kwa mara kutokana na mtiririko wao aula katika utangazaji na muwala ambao ni wa kuvutia. Isitoshe, licha ya yeye kuwa mwanahabari kutoka taifa la Zanzibar, kinachovutia na kutia moyo ni jinsi ambavyo watu kutoka mataifa ya nje wanavyomfahamu Hillary kwa ujuzi wake na tajiriba pana katika ulingo wa utangazaji. Tangu enzi zile akiwa katika mashirika kama vile shirika la Utangazaji BBC, Radio One na DW ambapo alitengeneza msingi mzuri katika tasnia ya uanahabari na kuacha alama ambayo itadumu daima dawamu.

Hillary ambaye amefariki akiwa bado ni Mkurugenzi wa Idara ya Mawasiliano kwenye ikulu ya Zanzibar na Msemaji mkuu wa Serikali ya Mapinduzi ya Zanzibar atakumbukwa pakubwa na waandishi wa habari waliotangamana naye kama mtu mnyenyekevu, mcheshi, mungwana na mwenye kipaji cha kipekee. Mti mkuu ukigwa wana wa nyuni huyumba eti.

Vyombo vya habari vya Zanzibar, Tanzania na hata mataifa mengine kwa kweli kimempoteza mhimili muhimu katika ulingo wa uanahabari. Sauti yake na ucheshi wake

ulivyotaanisi kwenye masikio na ya mwenzake Leonard Mambo hili. Kiswahili Kimefiwa.” akasema



Former BBC, Journalist Charles Hillary

macho ya watazamaji na wasikilizaji, itasalia kuwa kumbukumbu nzuri sana katika taifa la Zanzibar. Si hayo tu, pia wengi ambao walipata nafasi ya kushikwa mkono naye wanamzungumzia kama mtu ambaye alipenda kuvikuza vipaji changa hasa katika ulingo wa utangazaji jambo ambalo limewafanya wengi kuinukia na kuwa mfano bora.

Kando na bw. Charles Hillary Nkwanga kuwa mtangazaji hodari wa taarifa pia alikuwa mweledi katika utangazaji wa kabumbu. Umilisi huu wa kuwa na vipaji viwili na vyenyewe kumkaa pia kuliwavutia wengi na kuwapendeza. Hilo ni jambo jingine ambalo atakumbukiwa kwayo. Katika safu hiyo kifo chake pia kinafufua kumbukumbu

Mbotela ambaye alitangulia mbele za haki mwaka huu, naye alikuwa mtangazaji mzuri wa taarifa pamoja na kabumbu.

Waandishi na watangazaji katika taifa hili letu pia watamkumbuka Charles Hillary alipoalikwa kwenye kongamano la Kiswahili WASTA kama mgeni mashuhuri na hata kutuzwa kutokana na mchango wake adhimu wa kukikuza Kiswahili.

Pamoja na hayo nilipata nafasi adhimu mno kama njia mojawapo ya kukusanya maoni ya kuandaa makala haya kuhusu kumbukumbu ya wakereketwa wamjua Charles Hillary ambao walizungumza yaliyowakaa moyoni; “Mimi ninamkumbuka nguli, Charles Hillary Nkwanga kama mlumbi hodari na aliyekitetea Kiswahili Sanifu. Kimefiwa Kiswa-

bw. Bitugi Matundura ambaye ni mhadhiri wa Kiswahili katika Chuo kikuu cha Chuka.

Ingawa ndiyo njia yetu sote kwenda hatuna la kuamba ila kumtakia mwenzake Charles Hillary alazwe penye wema peponi na Mwenyezi Mungu amuepushe na adhabu ya kaburi Inshallah. Makiwa sana kwa ndugu jamaa na marafiki wa mwenzake pamoja na Tasnia ya Uanahabari pamoja na Kiswahili kwa jumla.