

NGOs Given One Year To Comply With The New Law



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Public Benefit Organisations Authority Director General Dr. Laxmana Kiptoo



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President Ruto Visits Galana-Kulalu Project

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

The completion of construction works at the Galana-Kulalu Food Security Project's siltation basin and water canal marks a significant milestone in actualising the long-awaited food production initiative.

The Sh519.4 million infrastructure is now undergoing final testing. It comprises a 753-metre inlet canal, a 450 million litre-reservoir, a 1,210-metre outlet canal, and a 20 million-litre off-take water supply source.

Through a public-private partnership, we are now poised to significantly scale up food production in line with our commitment to making Kenya food sufficient.

On Friday, President Ruto inspected the completed works at the Galana-Kulalu Food Security Project in Kilifi and Tana River counties.

He also inspected the construction of the Galana-Kulalu Bridge and access road, a critical infrastructure that will facilitate the efficient movement of produce from the farms to markets.

Later, the President inspected the construction of the project's electricity supply, which will lower the cost of production by eliminating the use of diesel to power the farm.



Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Health remains a cornerstone of Kenya's development agenda, with the Social Health Authority (SHA) playing a central role in advancing the country's vision for universal health coverage. This commitment was reaffirmed during a high-level visit to Murang'a County, where the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni, joined Deputy President, Kithure Kindiki, for a transformative Women Empowerment initiative. The visit brought together community leaders, women's groups, youth representatives, and health stakeholders to spotlight key issues affecting local development. Among the top priorities discussed were the need to expand access to clean and safe water, strengthen the ongoing fight against drug and substance abuse, and enhance community resilience through inclusive programs. Speaking during the engagement, the DP emphasized the government's unwavering commitment to equitable healthcare. He encouraged residents of Murang'a to register for the Social Health Authority (SHA) to access the expanded health benefit packages available through the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF).



KTDA MS Managing Director Collins Bett, KTDA Finance Director Dorcas Mohammed, KTDA General Manager Sales and Marketing Vincent Mwingirwa and KTDA Operations Manager Kanja Thuku on Friday held a consultative meeting with Factory appointed tea brokers and buyers in Nairobi. The meeting explored ways of spurring the market and improving the current depressed prices.

The Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, Eng. Eric Mugaa accompanied by the Principal Secretary for Water and Sanitation, Julius Korir, participated in the Sectoral Council of Ministers on the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC). The meeting, held in Kisumu, saw the adoption of the report of the 23rd Ordinary Meeting, a crucial document outlining the progress and strategic direction for projects and programmes within the Lake Victoria Basin. The report was presented by Dr. Caroline Karugu, Principal Secretary, State Department for EAC and Chairperson of the Coordination Committee. The session was chaired by the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of East African Community Beatrice Akul, Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers, and underscored the shared commitment of EAC member states to sustainable water resource management and regional integration. Among the key highlights was a site visit to inspect the ongoing construction of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission Headquarters, a flagship infrastructure project that is now nearing completion. The ministry reaffirmed its dedication to supporting collaborative regional efforts that strengthen environmental sustainability, enhance water resource governance, and improve livelihoods across the Lake Victoria Basin.



To understand the root cause of GBV in Murang'a, a county ranked second nationally in Gender-Based Violence cases, the Chairperson of GBV taskforce, Dr. Nancy Baraza, together with the National Gender and Equality Commission CEO, Dr. Purity Ngina led a powerful public participation forum on the ongoing community engagements. With the community at the center, the session aimed to unpack the underlying factors contributing to GBV and explore sustainable, homegrown solutions. Voices from survivors, local leaders, and residents echoed the urgent need for coordinated action, awareness, and support systems. Dr Ngina emphasized the Commission's commitment to listening, learning, and acting because real change begins with the people.



Principal Secretary Joseph M. Motari chaired the World Bank project meeting on the Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion Project (KSEIP II) that was attended by officers from various government departments. KSEIP II aims to enhance the economic resilience of poor and vulnerable households in Kenya through targeted "cash-plus" programs that address needs across the life cycle. These interventions will help households meet basic needs, develop coping mechanisms, and transition from dependency to self-sufficiency. Over its five-year implementation period, KSEIP II will strengthen delivery systems and directly benefit nearly three million households—approximately 12 million Kenyans—including all two million currently enrolled in the National Safety Net Programme.





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We Shall Lead In DCP Registration, Vow Nyeri Leaders

By: Charles Kinyua
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

• “All aspirants and potential party members are elated by the party leader’s assurance that he would not extend favours to any member including his very close acquaintances,” said Warutere who aspires to take over the seat which was once held by Gachagua.

• He added, “people especially in Mathira have been disappointed by Gachagua’s successor whom he personally hand-picked to succeed him but ironically turned out to be his biggest betrayer”.



Sitted from left; Wanyaga Gathaka, Davidson Warutere, Mahinda Kanyora and Paul Kanyari during the press briefing at Senior Chief Wambugu Palace near Nyeri town.

Nyeri leaders have vowed to embark on a massive registration drive of the new Democracy for the Citizens Party in the country that will put them ahead nationally.

The leaders drawn from aspirants of various seats and former officials of other parties, converged at a Nyeri hotel just a day after the the unveiling of the party.

Led by lawyer Davidson Warutere who took up the interim Secretary’s role lauded the party leader for his assurance that there would be no direct nominations at all levels.

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ing his very close acquaintances,” said Warutere who aspires to take over the seat which was once held by Gachagua.

He added, “people especially in Mathira have been disappointed by Gachagua’s successor whom he personally hand-picked to succeed him but ironically turned out to be his biggest betrayer”.

Former Nyeri town mayor, Wanyaga Gathaka who those present picked as their county coordinator urged residents to register the party in large numbers and ensure that the party leader who comes from the county is respected at the national level.

“Like our party leader has always been saying, each one of us has a home

and if you are not respected where you come from, it’s not possible to earn respect and even votes elsewhere,” noted Gathaka whose appointment as chairman of Tana Water Works Development Agency was revoke recently in what he believes was due to his unshakeable support for the former DP

Youthful former Kabaru ward MCA Duncan Gituanja called on the youth to register as voters and come out to vote when elections are called and help in shaping their own destiny.

“In the past, the youth have kept in voting allowing elders to determine their destiny, a practise that must cease. We must take our future in our own hands”, declared Gituanja who has declared his interest in the sena-

torial seat.

Mahinda Kanyora (Wa Mercy) who will act as county chairman called opposition principals not to let down citizens by disintegrating as that would be a direct ticket for the incumbent - William Ruto-to return to state house with ease.

He vowed to ensure that by the date of the party’s launch on 4th June, Nyeri county will be leading in membership registration.

“When the IEBC is fully in place, we shall mobilise and assist the youth to in getting IDs and boost our current 480 thousand registered voters”, averred Kanyora.

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Gov't Commended For Announcing Ban On Pesticide Products

By: Wangari Ndirangu

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “We are urging for the full implementation, stronger regulatory oversight, and farmer-centered alternatives for a toxic-free food system,” they said.
- The civil society has also applauded the enactment of the Business Laws Amendment Act, 2024, that introduces a provision addressing the issue of double standards in chemical regulation, whereby hazardous substances banned or severely restricted in exporting countries have continued to be imported and used in Kenya.
- The Act provides a robust legislative foundation to support and enforce the announced ban of 50 pesticide products.



The Route to Food Initiative (RTFI) and partners have today commended the government for its landmark decision to ban over 50 pesticides classified as Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHP) from the market.

In a joint press briefing, the partners said that if effectively implemented, the commitment marks a decisive step towards safeguarding human health and biodiversity and Kenya's ecological integrity, aligning with global best practices, as stipulated by the FAO/WHO, a crucial step towards a safer, more sustainable food system.

“We are urging for the full implementation, stronger regulatory oversight, and farmer-centered alternatives for a toxic-free food system,” they said.

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The Act provides a robust legislative foundation to support and enforce the announced ban of 50 pesticide

products.

“For years, civil society, researchers, farmers’ organizations, and public health have been advocating for the phase-out of the HHPs, and we are hopeful that the list of 50 pesticide products targeted by the ban will be made public and will include the highly hazardous and widely used active ingredients long identified as a priority for regulatory action,” they said in the read statement.

They named Mancozeb, Paraquat, Glyphosate, Carbendazim, and several synthetic pyrethroids such as Lambda-cyhalothrin, Cypermethrin, Deltamethrin, and other pesticides that are extensively applied across Kenya’s staple and export-oriented crops and have repeatedly been documented to pose significant acute and chronic effects.

They urged the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development and the regulatory agency PCPB to prioritize active ingredients with the highest combination of intrinsic hazard and exposure likelihood, base recommendations on comprehensive risk assessments, international precedents, and local exposure data, and also ensure that the banned substances are those linked to demonstrable

adverse effects on human health and our biodiversity/ecosystems.

The group has gone further and advocated for establishing a multidisciplinary advisory panel of independent toxicologists, Eco toxicologists, agronomists, public health experts, farmers’ representatives, and civil society organizations to review pesticide data, assess regulatory proposals, and provide evidence-based, conflict-free recommendations to PCPB or a future authority in its place.

The responsible authorities and PCPB should establish clear, regular, and transparent mechanisms for stakeholder engagement throughout pesticide review processes as well as meaningful consultation that is proactive in disseminating information through multiple accessible channels.

The civil society group has also recommended that the National Assembly, The National Treasury, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development strengthen the capacity of all institutions mandated to regulate, surveil, and enforce pesticide management decisions as recommended by the Departmental Committee of Health Report on Pub-

lic Petition 70 of 2019.

The group further welcomed the Cabinet’s recent approval of a bill to transform PCPB into a full-fledged regulatory authority, saying this legislative reform will address the governance, budgetary, and operational gaps that have historically undermined the Board’s effectiveness.



NGOs Given One Year To Comply With The New Law

Only 4,000 Out Of 14,000 NGOs In Kenya Are Compliant, With Officials Saying It Is Important That They Comply With The Law That Is Being Operationalised For The Benefit Of All

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The DG disclosed that only 4,000 out of 14,000 registered Non-Governmental organisations are compliant.
- Dr. Kiptoo told the entities to take advantage of the current period to be compliant.
- “It is important that they comply with the law that is being operationalised for the benefit of all,” he said.
- He added that the agencies know what to do and urged them not to wait for the last-minute rush for compliance.
- “It is shocking that out of the 14,000 NGOs we have registered, only 4,000 are compliant,” he said.
- Kiptoo spoke at a media engagement on the status of the new law whose enforcement has been delayed for more than a decade.

Non-Governmental Organizations have been given a lifeline.

The organization that brings in the country billions of shillings have another one year to align their operations with the current laws, that were passed more than a decade ago but enacted last year.

This week, the Public Benefit Organisations Authority Director General Dr. Laxmana Kiptoo told NGOs to take advantage of the current period to be compliant.

He said they have embarked on a crucial phase in the implementation of the Public Benefit Organisations (PBO) Act, 2013.

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“It is important that they comply with the law that is being operationalised for the benefit of all,” he said.

He added that the agencies know what to do and urged them not to wait for the last-minute rush for compliance.

“It is shocking that out of the 14,000 NGOs we have registered, only 4,000 are compliant,” he said.

Kiptoo spoke at a media engagement on the status of the new law whose enforcement has been delayed for more than a decade.

Dr Kiptoo added that the regulatory framework will significantly impact Kenya’s nonprofit and development

landscape.

He said the operationalisation of the PBO Act on May 14, 2024, marked a historic milestone, replacing the defunct NGOS Coordination Act of 1990.

“The new Act ushers in a new regulatory framework that supports a dynamic civil society ecosystem while reinforcing mechanisms for accountability, sustainability, and transparency,” he said.

The PBO sector is vast, diverse, and impactful, he added.

The authority is focused on the finalisation of the draft regulations that will bring the PBO Act to life.

Between June and July 2025, the board will be holding county-level public participation forums across all 47 counties, seeking direct input from stakeholders.

Among others, the law says all registered NGOs are deemed to be registered under the PBO Act but will be required to ‘re-register’ under the PBO Act within one year from the Commencement Date.

A few months ago, Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki, then Cabinet Secretary for Interior gazetted the enactment of the law but the government realised it was practically impossible to implement it, hence the need to extend the compliance deadline from May 14 this year to May 13 next year.

NGOs that were exempt from registration under the NGO Act are now required to apply for registration under the PBO Act within three months

from the commencement date.

International PBOs (IPBOs) will be required to submit particulars of a local authorised agent (a Kenyan citizen who is resident in Kenya) who will be the IPBO’s duly authorised legal representative for purposes of receiving official summonses, notices and inquiries on behalf of the IPBO.

NGOs may be exempted from registration under the PBO Act and instead granted a permit to operate in Kenya if they do not intend to directly implement activities or programmes in Kenya or operate from Kenya to implement activities or programmes in another country.

PBOs will enjoy a wide range of benefits, including indirect government support in the form of exemption from specified categories of taxes, direct government financing and preferential treatment in public procurement procedures and bidding for contracts.

There will be an established PBO Disputes Tribunal that will determine appeals from members of the public or PBOs against decisions of the PBO Authority and complaints arising out of a breach of the PBO Act.

Further, there will be the National Federation of Public Benefits Organisations, which is an umbrella organisation of all registered PBOs and self-regulation forums.

Its functions include promoting self-regulation, coordinating and monitoring the self-regulation fo-

rum registered under the PBO Act.

Stakeholders in the sector gave different opinion from the government’s explanation.

A group that has been agitating for the Act’s implementation said the government was shifting the enforcement period as a way of running away from addressing crucial issues addressed therein.

They said some of them include issues to compensation of former country liberators, who have for decades waited for their dues.

They further argued that the government was behind the scene planning to have its way over various proposals made on the act.

There has been push and pull over some issues in the act, with the government and other stakeholders taking different sides.

However, there have been some gains, among them appointment of Charles Mutuma to lead in formation of rural administration officers across the country.

A senior government official President s said to be planning to visit Meru county, where Mutuma hails from for the celebration of his elevation.

But the hiccup remains failure for the next financial year to allocate funds for implementation of some of the Act’s provisions.

Duale Allays Fears Of Shortage Of Critical Vaccines For Children

By: John Kamau
@themkenyatimes

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale has allayed fears that key vaccines for children had run out, maintaining that there are enough stocks to last up to next month when new supplies will be brought in.

He downplayed reports that the country is facing acute shortage of vaccines for children terming them as unfounded.

The CS asserted that the only vaccines whose supply the Ministry was grappling with are BCG and polio which, however, he said will be restocked from next month.

“The only two vaccines I have a problem with are BCG and polio. We have paid for, we are working with UNICEF and still have stocks, but a stock that will cover for the next eight months will arrive on the 15th of June,” the CS said.

Duale spoke when he visited Kenyatta University Teaching Referral and Research Hospital (KUTRRH) to assess progress in advancing Universal

Health Coverage (UHC) and familiarize with achievements and challenges.

He was accompanied by the Director General for Health Dr Patrick Amoth, officials from the Ministry of Health and KUTRRH management led by Board Chairman Dr Kembi Gitura and the Acting CEO Dr Zeinab Gura.

He at the same time divulged that the proposed budget cuts in the Ministry of Health will not affect critical services.

Duale disclosed that his Ministry is holding negotiations with the National Treasury to see to it that when the budget is read on June 12, none of the critical areas in the health sector will be affected.

During the visit, the CS was taken around the 64-bed ICU, 21-bed Cath Lab, Cancer Centre Annex with advanced CyberKnife and LINAC machines, the Integrated Molecular Imaging Center (IMIC) and the Transplant ICU, among others.

The CS said the hospital management had appealed for increased support to operationalize the New Cancer Centre, with a budget expansion of Sh 250 million, additional LINAC machines, stronger referral policies and timely

SHA reimbursements to enhance services under Taifa Care.

Terming KUTRRH as a key pillar in universal health care provision, he said he will push for more funding in the crucial specialized treatment areas like oncology and kidney transplant surgery.

The CS also awarded certificates to nurses who pioneered the kidney transplants at the hospital as the country marks the International Nurses Week 2025.

At the same time, he said there is urgent need to establish a regulatory framework for organ donation and transplants amid reports of malpractice and unethical behavior by some health facilities.

“As access to transplant services increases, we must ensure that every procedure adheres to the highest standards of ethics, transparency and safety of both the donor and the patient,

“The Ministry is actively reviewing the existing laws and policies to ensure that the system is protected from abuse and that organic donation and transplantation are carried out in a just and accountable manner,” Duale stated.



Regarding the Social Health Authority (SHA) registration figures, Duale said Mombasa leads among the top ten counties with 58.9 percent, followed by Bomet 51.7 percent and Nyeri in third position with 50.6 percent.

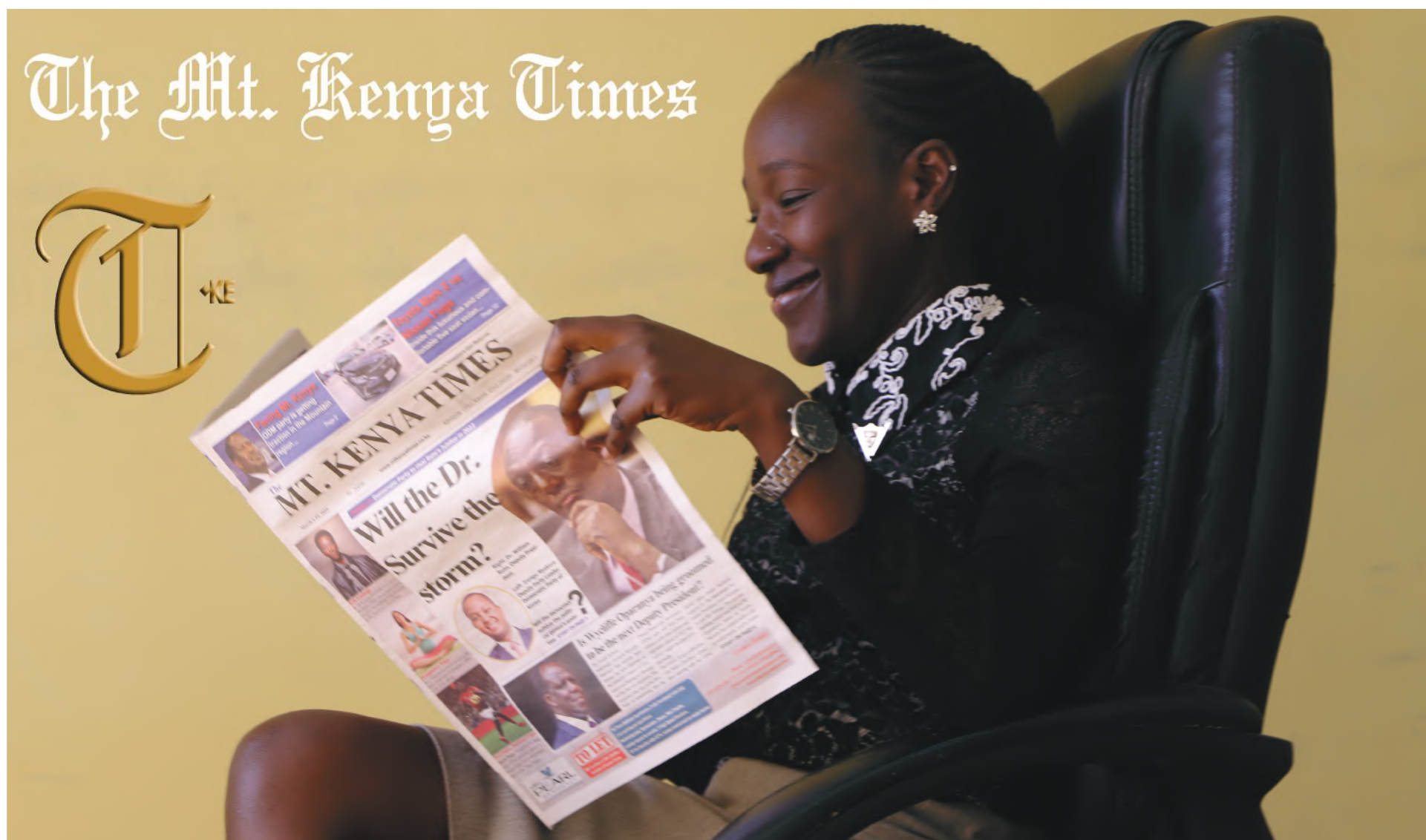
Other counties in the top ten include Elgeyo Marakwet (48.4pc), Kirinyaga (48.2pc), Kisumu (44.8pc), Lamu (44.3pc), Kericho (43.7pc), Embu (43pc) and Tharaka Nithi (42.1pc).

Duale further indicated that a total of 22,327,488 Kenyans have registered on the SHA platform, with 4,868,967 individuals completing means testing to determine their tailored benefit

package.

Duale noted that daily registration averages 45,000 to 50,000, with a record 52,893 new registrations and contributions worth Ksh 20.9 million recorded in just 24 hours.

“The overwhelming response to Taifa Care reflects growing public enthusiasm and ownership. Kenyans are not just signing up; they are willingly contributing, underscoring the confidence they place in this reform. We encourage all Kenyans who have not yet registered to do so immediately,” the CS said.





By: Mary Karau Ngethe
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Silence is the answer. It helps you to understand that the answers don't always come from the outside world but from within you. It reminds you not to always seek advice and opinions from outside, but to just keep quiet and reflect on the matter at hand. And dare to listen keenly to the silence of your heart. God talks directly to your heart, in total silence.
- Silence is the teacher. There are lessons in life that only come to you in solitude. You know your deep hidden secrets, your hidden pains, and your unspoken. Any outside teacher does not have the full script.



Silence is the mirror. Silence is a mirror, to force you to look at yourself without masks. To see the-you that you truly are. Silence reveals what is hidden behind job titles, behind make-up, behind religion, behind drug addiction.

Being alone, yet not lonely. Embracing the sound of silence.

Silence is the answer. It helps you to understand that the answers don't always come from the outside world but from within you. It reminds you not to always seek advice and opinions from outside, but to just keep quiet and reflect on the matter at hand. And dare to listen keenly to the silence of your heart. God talks directly to your heart, in total silence.

Silence is the teacher. There are lessons in life that only come to you in solitude. You know your deep hidden secrets, your hidden pains, and your unspoken. Any outside teacher does not have the full script.

Silence is the strength. Stillness gives

birth to inner strength gained in stillness and peace. God says, "Be still, and know that I Am God" Psalms 46:10. Listen keenly and you will hear God. Obey.

Silence is the voice.

There is a voice that can only be heard in your silence. God talks about the Still small voice, after loud noises.

Silence is loud: In my life I have come to learn one big life lesson: The quieter you become, the louder the voice of the heart becomes. Dare to listen to yourself. In silence.

Conclusion on silence:

If you stand in your own presence, unshaken by others, you will grow strong. The caterpillar must be wrapped in stillness, before it can take flight to become a butterfly. When everything around you is stripped away, you begin to see clearly. This is not loneliness but alignment with your soul. There are lessons that can only be learnt in solitude. You

face the wounds that have been ignored. When you're willing to feel it, you start to heal it. The fears that have been buried start emerging. Solitude then, instead of weakening you, awakens you to hidden strength. It is a divine re-set, to find the infinite power that has always been within you. In silence you're removed from the opinions, and are protected from the expectations of others. You then let-go of the idea that you need people to complete you.

Everything starts to unfold exactly as it should. Personal transformation starts and completes in isolation. Rarely does a human being go to isolation by choice.

Most times, life pushes you to isolation. Embrace the push. It is God The Holy Spirit pushing you. Do not resist. Say, "YES LORD" Like a caterpillar, soon, you will fly like a butterfly. And forget the pain, like a mother forgets labor pain after childbirth. Joy is coming, in the morning after the pitch darkness of 3 a.m.

Action:

When you find yourself alone, do not seek to escape. Embrace that silence. Listen to the whispers of your soul. Agree to transform into the person you were meant to be. Whatever your age. You agree to step into your destiny by letting go the past. Obey your spirit, and agree to be led. In silence, your spirit partners with the Holy Spirit towards your newfound destiny. Dare to obey. Have a silent, beautiful and powerful second half of May 2025.

The Author is a Programs Director/ Life Coach, Central Kenya Development Network (CKDN). She can be contacted on; WhatsApp only 0722652111 or marykaraungethe@gmail.com

Kindiki: Construction Of Modern Markets Aimed To Boost Economy At Grassroots

By: Bernard Munyao and Purity Mugo

[@themkenyaintimes](#)



Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during a women's and boda boda riders' empowerment event held at Kigumo Bendera grounds on Friday, the Deputy President underscored the transformative potential of the markets saying more markets are slated for construction so as to provide small-scale traders with a conducive environment for conducting businesses.
- He emphasized that the initiative is designed not only to create vibrant commercial hubs but also to address the practical needs of traders and their families.
- "These markets will be more than just trading spaces. They will include well-structured stalls, ICT hubs to support digital trade and online works, cold rooms for storage of fresh produce, and even daycare facilities for mothers with young children," stated Kindiki.

The government is undertaking an ambitious programme of constructing over 400 modern markets across the country, aiming to strengthen local economies and provide vital infrastructure for small-scale traders.

According to Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki, these markets are at various stages of completion, reflecting the government's commitment to uplift grassroots economic development.

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"These markets will be more than just trading spaces. They will include well-structured stalls, ICT hubs to support digital trade and online

works, cold rooms for storage of fresh produce, and even daycare facilities for mothers with young children," stated Kindiki.

"We want to ensure that our traders, especially women, have a safe, clean, and supportive environment to grow their businesses," he said.

In relation to Murang'a, the Deputy President said the government is already constructing 15 modern markets some of which are at completion level.

"We have Kangari, Muthithi, Kambirwa, Gakoe and Gatunyu among other markets which the government is already doing in Murang'a. 12 other markets will be constructed in the next financial year," he added.

He observed that agriculture is a source of livelihoods for many Kenyan households hence the markets would provide venues for selling and buying of agricultural produce.

Kindiki also emphasized the importance of improving road networks to support the markets, ensuring that traders could easily transport their goods to and from the markets.

"We are investing heavily in roads and infrastructure to link these mar-

kets to the rest of the country, reducing transportation costs and connecting our farmers and traders to larger markets," he noted.

The markets are expected to significantly reduce operational costs for traders, improve the quality and shelf life of perishable goods, and create a conducive environment for local innovation.

With proper planning and continued government support, these markets could become vital economic engines for rural and urban communities alike.

As the markets take shape, the government remains focused on ensuring they serve as comprehensive economic zones, where small businesses could thrive and families flourish.

In addition to these critical features, the Deputy President reiterated the government's commitment to providing reliable electricity to every household, a cornerstone of economic empowerment.

"We are working tirelessly to ensure that every home in this country has access to electricity. It is not just about lighting up homes, but about powering businesses, enhancing se-

curity, and opening doors to digital opportunities," he said, underscoring the broader impact of this effort on household incomes and community growth.

Kindiki noted that the government is currently implementing electricity connection projects worth Sh1.1 billion in Murang'a County.

He said the funds, distributed according to constituencies, would see more than 16,000 households get connected to electric power.

"It's the role of each MP to ensure areas within his or her constituency which have no electricity connections benefit from these funds," added the Deputy President.

During the event that was organized by Murang'a County Woman Representative Betty Maina and attended by scores of leaders, women groups and boda boda riders associations received funds to boost their businesses.

Maina urged locals to support the government's development initiatives which are targeting to uplift them from poverty.

We Will Fulfil All The Development Projects We Pledged To Kenyans, Says DP

By: Dennis Dibondo

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has promised Mt Kenya region the government is committed to delivering the pledges they made to Kenyans in the last general election.

The DP said the Kenya Kwanza administration is fully focused on delivering its promises and commitment to the “bottom-up” economic model, asserting the path to national prosperity lies in uplifting ordinary Kenyans .

He spoke after touring Muranga and Meru counties.

Kindiki pitched a tent in Kigumo, Murang’a county in the morning, before proceeding to Meru later in the afternoon where he said the government was not only ready for the 2027 electoral test but actively working toward it by transforming lives and livelihoods across the country.

“All of us are focused on our jobs because we have a lot of work to do in delivering our promises we are not ready for politics time for politics will come now we are only focusing on developments and not noise and this is a test we are preparing for come 2027,” Kindiki said.

In his speech in Murang’a he said president William Ruto’s government is focused on uplifting the agricultural sector, particularly in coffee, tea, and dairy farming

He said there is economic lifelines of Mt Kenya region as farmers have received the highest payout in over three decades, while tea and dairy incomes have seen a steady increase over the past two years.

“These milestones were not accidental but the results of deliberate policy implementation under the government’s economic transformation blueprint, dubbed “BETA.” and we are working hard to streamline agriculture to improve the earnings of our people across the country.” said Kindiki .

Deputy President further noted that the government is devoted to revolutionize local trade and infrastructure before 2027

He announced that 15 modern markets have already been built in Murang’a County, with an additional twelve more being in the pipeline.

“Our greatest joy is to see every farmer, every mama mboga, every boda boda, every fisherman smile to the bank because of improved pay and better earnings We will not wait for elections to empower them with freebies. We’re boosting their businesses now so they can expand their hustles and not always wait for empty promises ,” he added.

In Meru. he delivered development goodies after giving out more than



Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki in Meru on Friday.

Worth Noting:

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- “Our greatest joy is to see every farmer, every mama mboga, every boda boda, every small trader, every fisherman smile to the bank because of improved pay and better earnings We will not wait for elections to empower them with freebies. We’re boosting their businesses now so they can expand their hustles and not always wait for empty promises ,” he added.

five million to youth and women groups at Mwendantu grounds North Imenti.

He said all stalled projects will be completed in two years’ time.

In what was seen as a veiled attack on former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and critics of the government, Kindiki accused the opposition of early campaigns.

“They are trying to fuel division in the country for their own political interest ahead of 2027,” Kindiki said.

“We have made it clear the real campaign is in service delivery. Instead of political rhetoric, Kenya kwanza administration is focused on tangible, grassroots-level development that

speaks directly to the needs of the ordinary Kenyan,” he added.

He noted that the era of leaders complaining while in power should be long gone and instead, they should focus on service delivery to ensure people’s needs are addressed.

The second in command also issued a stern warning to public servants against laxity in the public sector, reminding all those appointed by the President that the people expect timely and effective delivery of government projects.

“We cannot entertain laxity and lame excuses. We have no choice but to deliver to the people,” he declared. In addition to economic empow-

erment, the Deputy President also addressed the ongoing war against illicit brews and drug abuse, which have long plagued rural and urban communities.

He termed the perpetrators as enemies of progress and vowed that the government will not relent in protecting Kenyan youth from the devastating effects of substance abuse.

“Anyone who is engaged in this illegal business is an enemy of our people, an enemy of our country because they are destroying our youth, our families, and our country’s heritage.” he added .

My Sisters



They stand by me in difficult times,
Giving their love every moment,
Wherever I go, they follow behind,
They are my sisters.

Kind to each other,
There's magic in their words,
Hardworking and harmless,
My beautiful sisters.

They always look after me,
They argue and make up quickly,
They never leave me alone,
My helpful sisters.

When they are by my side,
I am very happy,
For my sisters,
I would even give my life.

Rasulova Ruxshona
Uzbekistan

The Story Of The Woman At The Bus Stop



I have to live it. That's why I spend more time outside, distracting myself, losing myself in newspapers."

As she finished speaking, tears were flowing down my face. Then the bus arrived. I hadn't even realized how quickly time had passed. I said goodbye and got on the bus. When I returned later, she wasn't at the stop. I assumed she had gone home.

The next day was March 8th (International Women's Day), and I wanted to make her happy. I brought her bright red roses. She loved those kinds of flowers and was so happy. From then on, I began bringing her different flowers, but there was always one flower I couldn't seem to find—the one she liked most. Later, I found out that, like me, she loved daisies.

One day, I finally found daisies and went early to the bus stop, but she wasn't there. This continued for a week, and I didn't see her at all.

One day, while waiting for the bus, I saw a woman sweeping the street and got excited. But as I got closer, I realized it was someone else. I asked her about the other woman. She told me that the woman had passed away five days ago.

I broke into a cold sweat and started crying. I was too late to bring her the daisies. But I felt happy for her because now, she was reunited with her family. I sat at the same bus stop, remembering the whole story.

She was a wonderful woman. May she rest in peace...

Now, another woman cleans that same street.

Dinora Sodiqova daughter of Faxriddin was born in Surxondaryo region. She is currently 18 years old and a first-year student at Termiz State University.

Dinora has achieved numerous accomplishments so far. Her scientific articles have been published and highly rated in international journals. She participated in the International Republican Conference titled "The Heroism on the Path of National Prosperity, Peace, and Protection Will Never Be Forgotten" with her article and achieved great success. Her creative works, carried out in an artistic style across the republic, have also received recognition.

She is the winner of the "Most Intelligent Poetry Reader" nomination at Termiz State University.

Her life motto is: "Every step taken toward a goal leads a person toward victory."

I was 16 years old at the time. Every morning, I waited at the bus stop to go to my lyceum, but as usual, the bus never arrived on time and always made me wait.

During those moments at the stop, a woman constantly caught my attention. Every day she cleaned the streets, picked up trash, and after finishing her work, she would sit at the bus stop and start reading a newspaper, staying there for a long time. Even when I returned from school and got off the bus at the same stop, she would still be there. I was always curious about why she stayed there and didn't go home.

One day, the bus was running very late. The woman had already finished her work and had come to sit beside me. Then, she suddenly spoke:

"My girl, aren't you late for your classes?" she asked.

I smiled and replied, "Not really, it's okay." After that, curiosity got the better of me, and I asked why I saw her there every day and why she didn't go home until late. That's when I realized she carried a deep sorrow. She suddenly burst into tears. I realized I had asked something I shouldn't have and apologized.

She said, "No, don't apologize, my girl, you did nothing wrong," and then began to speak.

"Five years ago, I lost my three children and husband in a car accident. It's very painful for me to talk about it. Whenever I think about them, my heart aches deeply.

When I'm at home, I constantly hear my children's laughter echoing through the house. At lunchtime, it feels as if my husband is coming in saying, 'What's for lunch, darling?' Every moment, every second reminds me of them. Every corner of my home is filled with memories of their laughter. I cry when I'm home, wondering why I wasn't taken with them. I feel tired of life sometimes. But what can I do? If God has granted me a long life,

A Person Reading A Book Has A Wing!



Books warm our hearts, make us happy, and brighten our days. In recent years, there has been a lot of talk about the value of reading and how to encourage it among youth and leaders.

The creation of a reading culture receives special focus when successive spiritual and educational reforms are implemented.

In truth, books and reading are a source of spirituality that develops people's minds and inspires the most magnificent good intents in their hearts, guiding them into the world of goodness. This is why we should always read books. Sometimes a person is unaware of how the day and night passed in terms of material interests, current events, or the Internet system. This way of life has grown old for me. It's as if he's missing something and cannot find it. His heart shrinks and apparently does not fit into it. The soul desires a nice word, solace, and ointment.

At this point, we are going unquestionably move on to flipping through the books. Whether it's a lyric, a story that we like – whether it's a pitch or a genuine brief story and novel – we begin perusing and keep perusing. We not only read, but too inundate ourselves within the advancement of occasions within the work and live there...

At long last, the soul unwinds, and the soul appears to calm down. As it were at that point

will we profoundly feel the control of writing, its need. After all, a great book cleanses the reflect of a person's soul, energizes sweet fantasies, and most vitally, understanding individuals, pardoning, and a life in look of goodness.

Books warm our hearts, light up our hearts, and make us happy and happy, bright days. The true truth that the world can be conquered only with the help of science is no secret to anyone today. And there is only one path to a solid mastery of science, namely, reading books.

Speaking of children's literature, it is important to note that April 2 is celebrated annually as International Children's Book Day. This date was established in 1967 on the initiative of the International Council of Children's and Youth Literature. The date of birth of Hans Christian Andersen, the famous Danish children's writer, who was born on April 2, 1805, was taken as the basis.

In this regard, many new editions of children's literature are being published all over the world.

Holding major book fairs has also become a tradition. At the Children's Book Day festival, which is held every two years, children's writers and artists receive the main award in this field of literature – the international Hans Christian Andersen Prize.

Abdisamiyeva Dilnoza Isroilovna was born on December 16, 2005, in the Arnasay district of the Jizzakh region.

Currently, Abdisamiyeva Dilnoza Isroilovna is attending training courses on computer literacy and language learning. Her future goal is to become a qualified teacher by applying the knowledge she has gained from her mentors and to pass on her knowledge to future generations.

Abdisamiyeva Dilnoza Isroilovna is actively participating in various competitions, striving to achieve success and establish her place in society.

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BUSINESS

BIC Donates 150,000 Pens To Empower Kenyan Students



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Paloma Lengema, General Manager of BIC East Africa, expressed pride in the long-standing initiative. “We are proud to be running Buy Me and BIC Will Donate a Pen for the fifth year in Kenya,” she said. “The initiative is testament to our commitment to the education field and to providing students with the tools they need to help them perform academically.”
- The campaign, which has become a cornerstone of BIC’s education support efforts in Kenya, forms part of the company’s broader goal to improve learning conditions for 250 million students globally by 2025. To date, over 200 million students worldwide have been impacted by BIC’s educational initiatives.



Cliff Onyango, BIC East Africa Sales Representative, distributes pens to eager students at Arap Moi Primary School. The donation is part of BIC’s Buy Me and BIC Will Donate a Pen initiative which resulted in equipping 150,000 students with the necessary writing tools for an enhanced learning experience. The company’s educational initiative has already impacted 1.5 million students in Kenya

Thousands of students across Kenya are set to benefit from improved learning conditions following the donation of 150,000 pens by BIC, a global leader in stationery, lighters, and shavers. The donation was part of the fifth edition of the company’s flagship initiative, Buy Me and BIC Will Donate a Pen, aimed at bridging a critical resource gap in schools.

This year’s initiative, held in partnership with CFK Africa, reached students in Nairobi, Machakos, Kiambu, and Kajiado counties. For every pen purchased under the campaign, BIC donates a pen to a student in need—an approach designed to drive social impact through everyday purchases.

Paloma Lengema, General Manager of BIC East Africa, expressed pride in the long-standing initiative. “We are

proud to be running Buy Me and BIC Will Donate a Pen for the fifth year in Kenya,” she said. “The initiative is testament to our commitment to the education field and to providing students with the tools they need to help them perform academically.”

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“Education remains the most powerful tool in transforming lives, and something as simple as a pen can make a meaningful difference in a child’s learning journey,” said Jeffrey

Okoro, Executive Director at CFK Africa. “Our partnership with BIC has enabled us to reach thousands of students who lack basic writing tools. These donations help remove barriers to education and empower children to actively participate in classroom activities, ultimately improving their academic outcomes.”

On the ground, the impact of the initiative is being felt in classrooms. Madam Rhoda, headteacher at Arap Moi Primary School, welcomed the gesture. “We are grateful to BIC and CFK Africa,” she said. “Collaborating with like-minded partners that have the interest of students in mind is refreshing. Equipping our students with the necessary writing tools will certainly boost their confidence and allow them to focus on their studies

without worrying about resources.”

The pen donation campaign is one of several education-based programs BIC runs in Kenya. Another key initiative is Express Myself with My BIC Pen, formerly known as My Words, My Story, My BIC Pen. Launched in 2020, the creative writing campaign has reached approximately 50,000 students and involved hundreds of teachers and schools across the country.

Through such programs, BIC continues to position itself as more than just a stationery brand, but as a catalyst for educational change and student empowerment across Kenya.

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Public Dcries Budget Allocations In Finance Bill 2025 During Nyeri Hearing

By: James Wanjiku
@themkenyatimes

Nyeri residents have raised concerns over what they termed as excessive and misplaced allocations in the proposed Finance Bill 2025, urging the government to prioritize essential services such as health, education, and agriculture.

Speaking during a public hearing on the 2025/2026 Budget Estimates at ACK St. Peter's Cathedral in Nyeri town, Mukurwe-ini MP John Kaguchia criticized the government for failing to keep its promise of cutting unnecessary spending.

"We are seeing billions of shillings being funneled into areas that do not directly contribute to national development," Kaguchia said.

"Following the Gen Z protests last year against the Finance Bill 2024, President William Ruto assured the country that such excessive expenditures would be scrapped. Unfortunately, they have resurfaced in this year's proposal."

Kaguchia cited the presidency's nearly Sh17 billion budget, the Sh51 billion allocation to the National Intelligence Service (NIS), and Sh195 billion in recurrent expenditure for the Defence department as examples of fiscal excess.

"I urge the government to scale down these allocations to the NIS, Executive offices, Defence, and the Public Service and redirect funds to critical sectors like Agriculture, Health, and Education," he added.

Citizens echoed the MP's sentiments, urging leaders to be more responsive to public needs and ensure equitable distribution of national resources.

Ian Gichuki, a resident from Mathira Constituency, emphasized the importance of changing the government's perception of young people.

"Stop labeling youths as drunkards or drug addicts. We are the people, and we demand accountability—not conflict," he said.

Gichuki also questioned the functionality of the Social Health Authority (SHA), especially given that Nyeri Town MP Maina Mathenge, who was present at the forum, serves on the National Assembly Health Committee.

Leah Wanjiru from Tetu Constituency raised concerns over the government's ability to fund national examinations.

"We have learned that the government lacks money to support exams for our learners. This is deeply troubling," she said.

Hassan Wanjiku, a resident of Majengo in Nyeri Town Constituency, called for increased funding to Technical and Vocational Education



Mukurwe-ini MP John Kaguchia addressing the media in Nyeri town during the public participation on Finance Bill 2025. PHOTO BY JAMES WANJIKU

and Training (TVET) institutions, while Peter Wambugu from Othaya criticized the planned renovations of State House.

"How can you justify allocating a huge sum for State House renovations when there are far more pressing needs?" Wambugu asked. "Stop forcing our people to beg for bursaries from MPs. Education funding should be fairly allocated."

Responding to the concerns, Nyeri Town MP Maina Mathenge acknowl-

edged the public's frustrations but noted that budget cuts had been implemented.

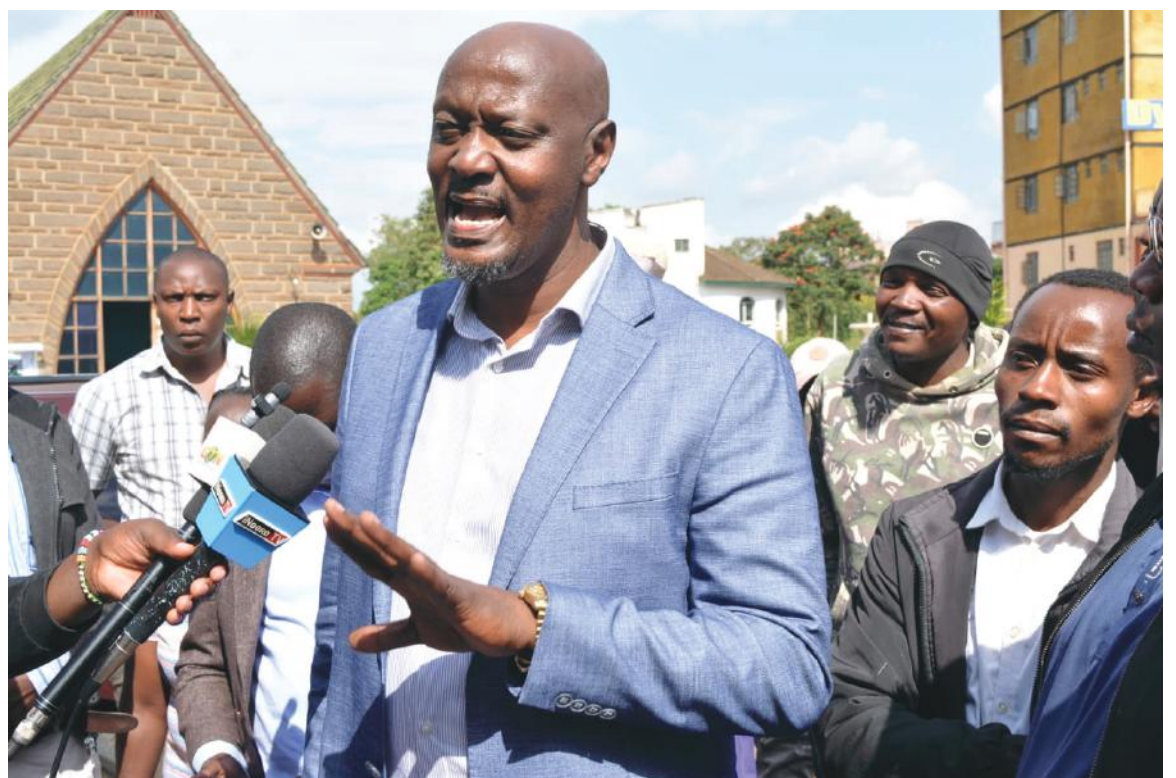
"The budget deficit has been reduced to 4.5 percent from 5.8 percent, and overall expenditure has been cut by 20 percent. This has required us to reduce budgets across all departments," Mathenge said.

Igembe South MP John Mwirigi, a member of the National Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committee, assured residents that their con-

tributions would be included in the committee's final report.

"All your views will be taken into account as we compile our report. We are committed to ensuring transparency in the allocation and use of public funds," Mwirigi said.

The public hearing served as part of a nationwide consultation process on the proposed budget, intended to give citizens a platform to shape the country's fiscal priorities.



Nyeri Town MP Maina Mathenge addressing the media during the public participation exercise on Finance Bill 2025

Worth Noting:

- Kaguchia cited the presidency's nearly Sh17 billion budget, the Sh51 billion allocation to the National Intelligence Service (NIS), and Sh195 billion in recurrent expenditure for the Defence department as examples of fiscal excess.
- "I urge the government to scale down these allocations to the NIS, Executive offices, Defence, and the Public Service and redirect funds to critical sectors like Agriculture, Health, and Education," he added.
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Kenya Unveils Bold 10-Year Action Plan To Save Endangered Pancake Tortoise

By: Alex Njeru
 @themtkenyatimes

In a landmark event held to mark the National Endangered Species Day, Kenya has launched its first-ever National Recovery and Conservation Action Plan (2025-2025) for the Pancake Tortoise at Chiakariga, Tharaka Nithi County.

Led by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Director General Prof. Erastus Kanga and Tharaka Nithi Deputy Governor Nyaga Muisrael, the launch brought together conservation stakeholders including the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and the National Museums of Kenya, signaling a renewed national commitment to protect one of the country's most unique and critically endangered reptiles.

Prof. Kanga announced that a national census of the pancake tortoise would soon be undertaken to determine the current population of the elusive species, which is mainly found in Kenya's arid and semi-arid landscapes — and almost entirely outside national parks.

"Because nearly all pancake tortoises live on community and private lands, it is the responsibility of local residents to ensure their survival," Prof. Kanga urged.

He also revealed a new partnership with Tharaka University, where KWS will establish a laboratory for venomous snakes, which will serve educational purposes and facilitate the safe harvesting of venom for

medical use.

He noted that snake bites remain a significant threat in warmer regions and called for awareness and preparedness.

"The future will hold us accountable for the environmental legacy we leave behind. As KWS, we pledge to protect Kenya's wildlife for generations to come," said Prof. Kanga, who also encouraged locals to visit the nearby Meru and Tharaka National Parks.

Addressing broader security concerns, Prof. Kanga condemned livestock theft in Tharaka North, warning that such criminal activities would not be tolerated.

Deputy Governor Muisrael, representing Governor Muthomi Njuki, expressed pride in hosting the national event and called upon counties where the pancake tortoise is found to actively support its conservation.

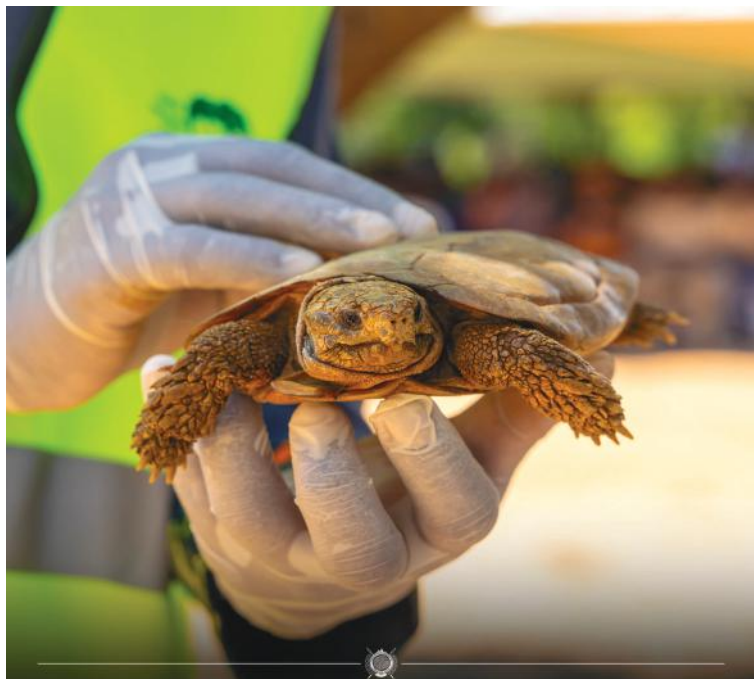
"Local communities must be empowered to protect wildlife — not just the endangered species, but all of nature," Mr. Muisrael said.

He also reinforced the county's strict stance against charcoal burning, reminding enforcement officers to uphold the ban imposed by Governor Njuki.

"Let us preserve our creation for the sake of our future generations," he urged.

Scientists from the National Museums of Kenya noted that the action plan is a culmination of over two decades of research into the species' habits, habitat, and threats.

A Rare and Peculiar Reptile at



Pancake tortoise that is risking extinction. Kenya Wildlife Service has launched a bid to protect them. Photo/Alex Njeru.



From right: Kenya Wildlife Service Director General Prof Erastus Kanga and Tharaka Nithi Deputy Governor Nyaga Muisrael at National Day for Endangered Species. Photo/Alex Njeru..

Risk

The Pancake Tortoise (*Malacochersus tornieri*), native to East Africa, is unlike any other tortoise. With a flat, flexible shell, it slips easily into rocky crevices to evade predators — a unique evolutionary adaptation.

In Kenya, its strongholds include Marsabit, Samburu, Isiolo, Laikipia, Kitui, Meru, Embu, Tana River, and especially Tharaka Nithi, where populations thrive around Kijeg Hill in the Chiakariga area.

Despite its agility and distinctiveness, the pancake tortoise is under siege — 95% of its population lives

outside protected areas, making it extremely vulnerable to habitat loss and illegal wildlife trade.

Its rarity and unusual appearance have made it a target in the exotic pet market, despite legal protections under CITES and Kenyan law.

The action plan recognizes the critical role of community conservation, emphasizing that saving the species must go beyond parks and into the hearts of local residents.

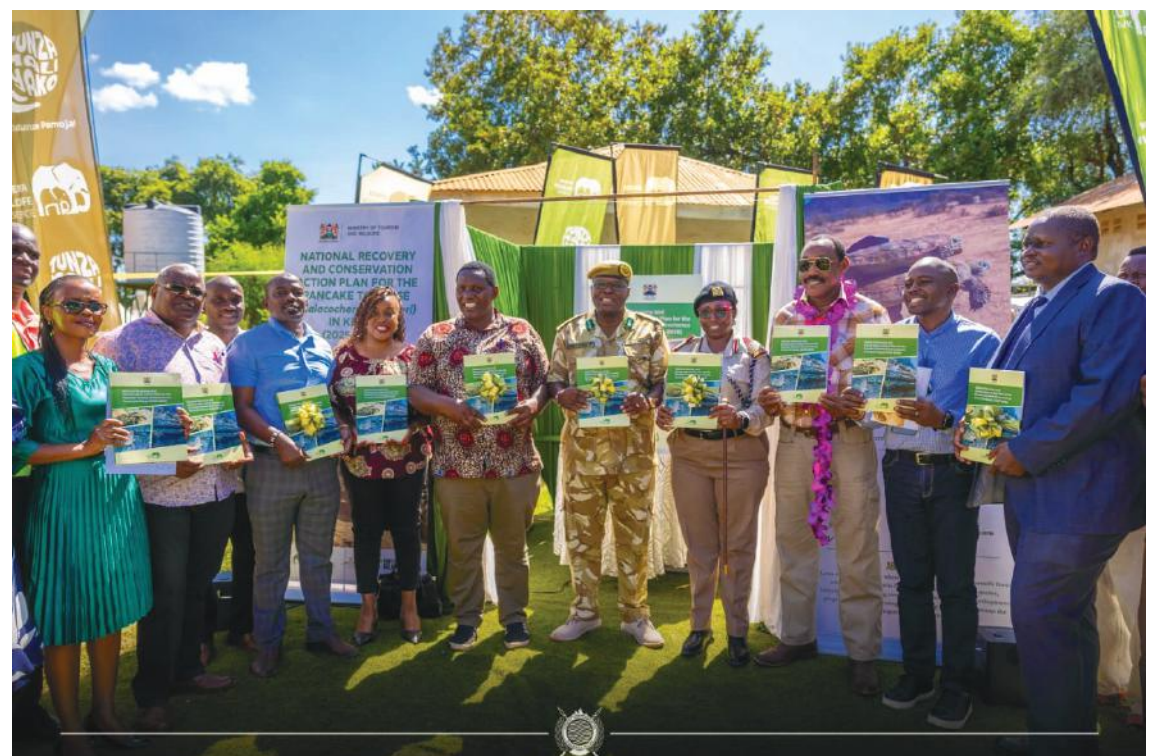
"Without community involvement, there is no future for the pancake tortoise," said a researcher from the National Museums of Kenya. "They

are the real custodians of this species."

A Call to Action

With Kenya now charting a course for the next decade of tortoise conservation, the success of the plan will depend on education, habitat preservation, community engagement, and law enforcement.

As the nation rallies to protect one of its most peculiar reptiles, the pancake tortoise stands as a symbol of a larger truth — that the future of biodiversity rests in the hands of the very people who share its habitat.



Launch of a bid to protect endangered pancake tortoise by Kenya Wildlife Service at Chiakariga in Tharaka Nithi County. Photo/Alex Njeru.

Political Party Loyalty vs. Merit: The Hidden Barrier to Competent Leadership



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Voters expect political parties to present leaders capable of driving national development. When a party continuously selects weak candidates based on loyalty rather than capability, public trust erodes. Citizens begin to perceive the party as self-serving rather than service-driven, leading to declining voter confidence.
- Electoral losses often follow as voters opt for alternative parties that prioritize competence in leadership selection. This weakens the party's ability to remain politically relevant, reducing its influence and legislative power.
- Many political parties experience internal friction when merit-based individuals challenge the dominance of loyalty-based selections. Competent individuals who aspire to leadership positions often criticize the unfair selection process, creating party divisions. This leads to factionalism, where members split into rival camps advocating different approaches. Such divisions hinder party unity and weaken its ability to function effectively in national politics.

I. Introduction

Political parties play a crucial role in shaping the leadership and governance of a nation. As vehicles for political representation, they determine who ascends to positions of power, including parliamentary seats and leadership roles in local government. However, in many political systems, parties prioritize loyalty over competence when selecting candidates for leadership roles. Factors such as party contributions, presence at rallies, and long-standing allegiance often overshadow merit-based qualifications such as education, governance expertise, and leadership skills.

This selection process inadvertently prevents capable individuals from attaining leadership positions, thereby weakening the party's effectiveness and governance capacity. The exclusion of skilled individuals damages the credibility of a political party and leads to governance inefficiencies that hinder national progress. This article critically examines the consequences of loyalty-based selections, explaining how they undermine leadership quality and weaken political parties. Furthermore, it proposes solutions, including constitutional reforms within party structures, to ensure capable candidates are identified and placed in positions of power.

2. The Dilemma of Political Loyalty in Candidate Selection

Political parties rely on loyal members to sustain operations, mobilize support, and preserve ideological continuity. Party loyalty ensures cohesion and stability within the organization, preventing fragmentation. However, when loyalty becomes the primary criterion for selecting parliamentary representatives and government officials, competence takes a backseat.

Key loyalty-driven criteria often include:

- Active participation in rallies and political campaigns.
- Financial contributions (monthly or annual).
- Years of allegiance and unwavering commitment to party ideologies.
- Strong relationships with senior party figures.

While these elements strengthen party unity, they do not necessarily translate into effective governance. A capable leader requires critical thinking skills, policy knowledge, administrative experience, and problem-solving abilities. The exclusion of competent individuals who fail to



meet loyalty-based conditions deprives a party of the expertise needed to lead and legislate effectively.

3. The Consequences of Loyalty-Based Selection

3.1. Exclusion of Skilled Candidates

Many qualified individuals who possess the ability to lead are overlooked due to their lack of political involvement. These individuals may have sound knowledge of governance, economic policies, constitutional law, and administrative efficiency, yet their absence from party gatherings prevents them from being considered for leadership roles.

For example, a highly experienced economist or legal expert may not have attended political rallies or contributed financially to a party. Despite having the competence to improve national financial policies or legislative frameworks, such a person would be sidelined in favor of a loyal party member with fewer qualifications.

3.2. Weak Leadership and Governance Inefficiencies

When political parties prioritize loyalty over competence, they inadvertently place individuals in positions for which they are unqualified. Weak leadership leads to governance inefficiencies such as:

- Poor policy formulation and implementation.
- Mismanagement of government resources.
- Failure to address socio-economic challenges effectively.
- Incompetent handling of international relations and diplomacy.

History has shown that governments suffering from ineffective leadership often struggle to drive development. Weak governance struc-

tures lead to slow decision-making, lack of innovation, and failure to address key national concerns.

3.3. Decline in Public Trust and Electoral Losses

Voters expect political parties to present leaders capable of driving national development. When a party continuously selects weak candidates based on loyalty rather than capability, public trust erodes. Citizens begin to perceive the party as self-serving rather than service-driven, leading to declining voter confidence.

Electoral losses often follow as voters opt for alternative parties that prioritize competence in leadership selection. This weakens the party's ability to remain politically relevant, reducing its influence and legislative power.

3.4. Internal Party Divisions and Conflicts

Many political parties experience internal friction when merit-based individuals challenge the dominance of loyalty-based selections. Competent individuals who aspire to leadership positions often criticize the unfair selection process, creating party divisions. This leads to factionalism, where members split into rival camps advocating different approaches. Such divisions hinder party unity and weaken its ability to function effectively in national politics.

4. Case Studies of Political Systems Affected by Loyalty-Based Selection

4.1. African Political Parties and Loyalty-Based Governance

Several African nations have witnessed governance inefficiencies due to loyalty-based selections. In many cases, party leaders appoint

individuals with strong ideological allegiance rather than expertise, leading to poor administration.

- South Africa: Political loyalty within party structures has led to governance inefficiencies, where competent individuals are excluded from key leadership roles.

- Kenya: Financial contributions and party activities significantly influence candidate selection, overshadowing merit-based criteria.

- Nigeria: Party-based appointments have often resulted in leadership crises, where loyal members lacking governance experience fail to manage political responsibilities effectively.

4.2. European Political Systems Facing Similar Challenges

Even in European democracies, political loyalty sometimes overrides competence in candidate selection. Cases such as Britain's party appointments or Italy's internal political maneuvering reveal how loyalty-based selections can impact national governance. Political parties often sideline competent individuals in favor of those who have long-standing relationships with party elites.

5. The Long-Term Effects on Party Stability and Nation-Building

The practice of selecting party representatives based on loyalty instead of competence creates long-term disadvantages.

- Economic setbacks: Poor leadership results in weak financial policies and mismanagement of resources.

NPS Successfully Investigates 71 Cases In Last Four Months

By: KBC

The National Police Service (NPS) has released a detailed report of cases it has successfully investigated since the beginning of the year.

In a statement, the service noted that through the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), it had successfully investigated and concluded 71 cases in the past four months ranging from armed robberies, theft of goods in transit, murder, defilement, to trafficking of firearms, ammunition, narcotics, and human beings, among others.

Some of the notable cases include the recent murders of Kasipul MP Charles Were, Multimedia University student Silvia Kemunto, Scottish national Campbell Alistair Scott, and

Aisha Abubakar, an IEBC official in Kilifi.

Others highlighted include the Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Co-operatives (KUSSCO) fraud scandal involving top officials, and a home invasion and robbery targeting a Korean missionary couple at the Elmarba Full Gospel Church in Olkililai, Kajiado County, in which four suspects were arrested and charged in court.

“Additionally, tremendous progress has been made concerning the murder of Hon. Charles Were, Member of Parliament for Kasipul. This success stems from the steadfast commitment of the National Police Service to ensuring that all reported cases are thoroughly and expeditiously investigated to bring perpetrators to justice”, NPS spokesperson Muchiri Nyaga said.

He further commended the public for their support “We extend our

gratitude to members of the public who have bravely come forward and shared crucial information, significantly contributing to the successful completion of investigations and the apprehension of those responsible for these heinous acts”.

NPS has meanwhile reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to serving and protecting the public by conducting thorough and meticulous investigations to ensure all cases are brought to their logical conclusion and perpetrators held accountable.

“NPS appeals for continued support from the public and encourages anyone with information on any criminal activity to report it to the nearest police station or through our toll-free numbers: 999, 911, 112, and #FichuakwaDCI (0800 722 203). All information provided will be treated with the utmost confidentiality”, it assured.



Political Party Loyalty vs. Merit: The Hidden Barrier to Competent Leadership

Contd from page 20

Legislative stagnation: Inexperienced leaders fail to draft effective laws for national development.

Policy inconsistencies: Incompetent individuals struggle to maintain stable governance policies. For a political party to remain relevant and influential, it must prioritize capable leadership. The inability to reform its selection process eventually leads to political irrelevance and electoral decline.

6. Proposed Solutions: Reforming Party Constitutions for Merit-Based Leadership Selection

To correct this issue, political parties must adopt constitutional reforms that integrate merit-based selections alongside loyalty considerations. Some key recommendations include:

6.1. Establishing Merit-Based Can-

didate Screening

Parties should introduce a formal screening process to evaluate candidates based on:

- Leadership competency and policy expertise.
- Educational qualifications and governance experience.
- Problem-solving abilities and strategic decision-making skills.

6.2. Revising Party Constitutions

Political parties should revise their constitutions to incorporate clear meritocratic principles in candidate selection processes. These reforms should:

- Reduce the emphasis on financial contributions and rally attendance.
- Introduce governance training for party members to prepare them for leadership roles.
- Mandate merit evaluations before approving candidates for parliamentary seats.

6.3. Encouraging Merit-Based Youth Participation

Instead of rewarding youth involve-

ment based solely on loyalty, parties should encourage young professionals to engage in constructive governance training. Establishing mentorship programs for aspiring leaders would ensure competent individuals rise within the party structure.

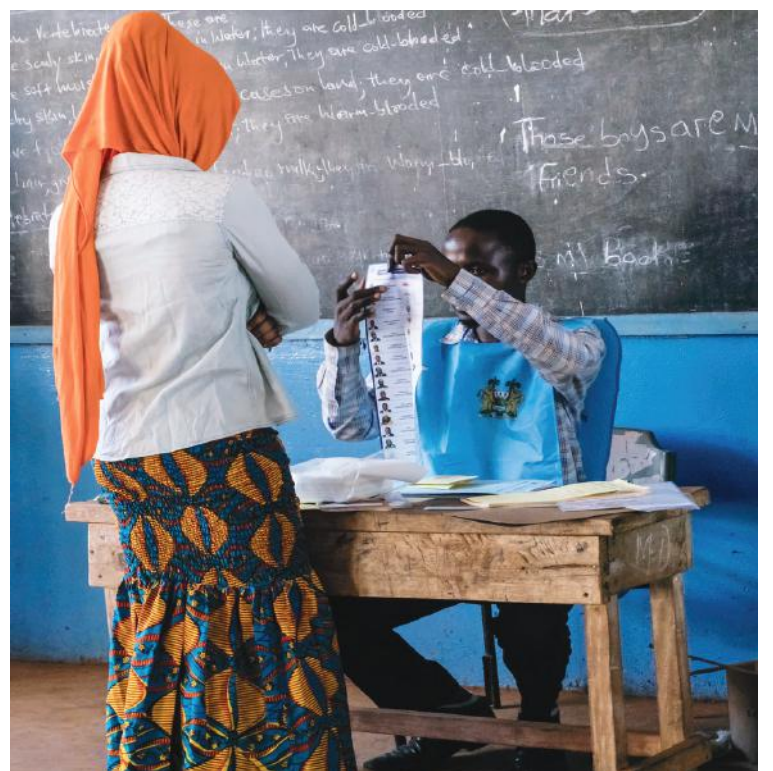
6.4. Implementing Public Participation in Candidate Selection

To foster transparency, parties should engage the electorate in candidate selection through public consultations, debates, and governance assessments. Public endorsement of qualified individuals would strengthen party credibility and trust.

7. Conclusion

Political parties play an essential role in shaping national governance. However, the tradition of selecting leaders based on loyalty rather than competence undermines effective leadership and weakens the party's stability. Excluding skilled individuals in favor of loyal members harms governance, reducing public trust and leading to electoral decline.

For political parties to thrive, they



must restructure their selection processes, balancing party loyalty with meritocratic principles. Reforming party constitutions, introducing candidate screening, and encouraging public participation are essential

strategies for ensuring competent leadership. A political party that prioritizes governance efficiency over internal loyalty will strengthen both its credibility and national development.

Sports >> *Talanta FC assistant coach Jackson Gatheru says the club are keen to hold on star forward Emmanuel Osoro at least for another season.

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Talanta Star Man Osoro Urged To Stay At Relegation Strugglers Amid Advances From Top Clubs



Talanta's Emmanuel Osoro celebrates his goal with teammates. PHOTO/RAYMOND MAKHAYA

Talanta FC assistant coach Jackson Gatheru says the club are keen to hold on star forward Emmanuel Osoro at least for another season.

Gatheru says it is in the best interests for Osoro to play one more season with the side despite a horde of admirers in the top flight.

"I call him the 'wonderkid'... he is an exceptional player...one whose praises I will continue singing to the end. I would advise him to take it easy and not be quick to move on amid the huge number of clubs that are eyeing him. It would be in his

best interest to stay one more season with us," the gaffer said.

Osoro has been a bright spark in Talanta's gloomy run in the 2024/25 FKF Premier League season, topping the scoring charts with 16 goals from 31 matches.

His shining star got brighter on Wednesday when he scored a brace to drown title contenders Tusker FC in a league tie at the Dandora Stadium.

It was a double that undoubtedly raised his profile in the transfer market and earned him a few more admiring glances from the big guns in the league.

Osoro has also scored against league defending champions Gor Mahia and leaders Kenya Police. Reflecting on his player's performance against Charles Okere's charges, Gatheru was in awe.

"We thank him so much for the two goals he scored, which were a big boost for us in our bid to survive relegation. Overall, the boys gave a good account of themselves as well as the technical bench. We thank God for the win because it is one that we desperately needed," Gatheru said.

The coach also waxed lyrical about goalkeeper Brandon Obie-

ro who saved Deogratius Ojok's first half penalty to maintain Talanta's lead.

"He has come in the team at the right time and given us the right boost. Keeping three clean sheets in four matches is a huge credit to him. I am happy for him in the way he has taken his chances," the coach said.

Talanta, who lie 12th with 35 points, next play Kenya Police over the weekend.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Olympics bronze medalist Faith Cherotich displayed a never-say-die spirit to win the women's 3000m steeplechase at the third leg of the Diamond League in Doha on Friday night.

Mountain-Moving Faith! Youngster Cherotich Wins Thrilling Race At Doha Diamond League



Faith Cherotich crosses the finish line to win the women's 3000m steeplechase at the Brussels Diamond League. PHOTO/WANDA DIAMOND LEAGUE X

Olympics bronze medalist Faith Cherotich displayed a never-say-die spirit to win the women's 3000m steeplechase at the third leg of the Diamond League in Doha on Friday night.

Cherotich clocked a world lead of 9:05.08 to cross the finish line ahead of fellow countrywoman, Olympic champion Winfred Yavi of Bahrain, who timed a season's

best of 9:05.26.

Ethiopia's Sembo Almayew finished third in a season's best of 9:09.27 in what was a nerve racking race to the end.

Cherotich had led for a majority of the race but seemed to lose steam in the second last lap as Yavi, who had been bidding her time at the tail-end of the leading pack, made her move to the front.

However, the youngster recovered, wading off the challenge of Alemayew to reduce the final lap to a two-horse race with Yavi.

Yavi seemed destined for top honour but a powerful kick by Cherotich in the last 50m spurred her past the Kenyan-born Bahraini for her second straight Diamond League victory — following on from last September's triumph at

the season-ender in Brussels.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Causes, Symptoms, And Prevention Of Arterial Hypertension In Therapeutic And Pediatric Practice



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Abstract: This article discusses arterial hypertension (AH), one of the most common diseases today, and its occurrence in pediatric practice. It also highlights the causes of the disease and ways to prevent it.

Keywords: Vascular wall tone, pressor system, hypertensive disease, idiopathic, essential hypertension, metabolic disease, compensation, conflict.

About 80% of the human body consists of water, and a major part of this fluid is blood. Blood accounts for approximately 7% of body mass. The movement of blood through the vessels is maintained by the heart. One of the most frequently encountered cardiovascular diseases is arterial hypertension. It occurs due to changes in vascular wall tone and an increase in cardiac output. The vascular tone is regulated by the central nervous system, endocrine glands (hypothalamus, pituitary, thyroid, parathyroid, thymus, etc.), and kidneys. Overactivity of the body's pressor systems (sympathoadrenal, renin-angiotensin, angiotensin-vasopressin, glucocorticoids) can lead to AH.

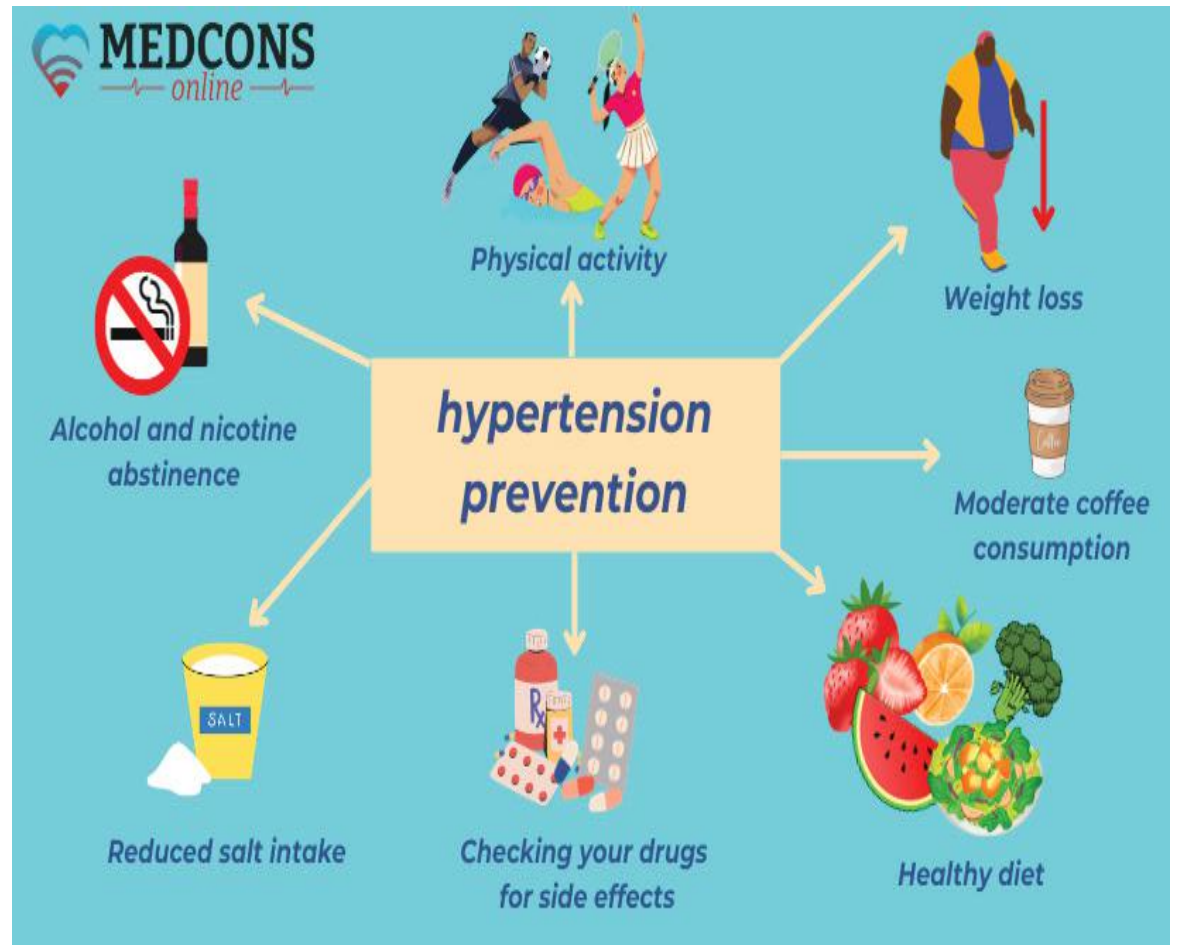
Causes of AH include:

Kidney diseases
Adrenal gland tumors
Aortic coarctation (as a symptom)

In 14% of patients with AH, the condition results from kidney diseases. Additionally, psycho-emotional stress can trigger AH, primarily due to hormonal changes.

Psycho-emotional stress and anxiety create a pathological focus in the CNS, leading to increased secretion of catecholamines (adrenaline and noradrenaline). This causes vascular spasms, which increase blood pressure. Moreover, during stress, the sensitivity of adrenergic receptors in the sympathetic nervous system increases, enhancing the effect of catecholamines.

Hypertension is associated with metabolic disorders such as atherosclerosis, gout, diabetes mellitus, and gastrointestinal diseases, and it



is referred to by various synonyms, including essential hypertension and idiopathic hypertension.

Currently, over 1.2 billion people worldwide suffer from this disease. About 40% are unaware of their condition and die during the compensation stage. Around 10–11% take the disease seriously and live under regular medical supervision, while nearly 50% neglect their health, unaware that the disease can shorten their lifespan by 10–12 years.

Although AH is often considered a disease of older adults, it can also occur in children. The prevalence in children is between 5–14%, which is quite high. Among boys, the rate ranges from 3.9% to 14.3%, while in girls it ranges from 4.7% to 9.6%. It is twice as common in urban populations compared to rural ones.

In children, increased blood pressure is usually discovered incidentally. Children may complain of headaches, dizziness, and show signs of memory decline compared to their peers. Triggers in children include family conflicts and emotional stress

at school.

To diagnose hypertension in children, attention should be paid to the following signs:

Changes in the eye fundus vessels (narrowing of arteries)
Elevated blood pressure at rest
ECG showing arrhythmia, leftward deviation of the electrical axis of the heart, and increased electrical activity of the left ventricle

Phonocardiogram showing systolic murmur, accentuation of the second aortic tone
Chest X-ray indicating left ventricular hypertrophy

It is important to differentiate hypertension from symptomatic hypertension associated with:

Conn's syndrome
Cushing's syndrome
Congenital adrenogenital syndrome

Patients with hypertension must constantly monitor their health. Chronic heart strain can lead to heart failure, myocardial infarction, or

stroke. To prevent the disease, it is essential to maintain a healthy lifestyle: get adequate sleep, take regular walks, and reduce psycho-emotional stress by avoiding anxiety and overexertion.

Conclusion: In conclusion, everyone is responsible for their own health and maintaining and monitoring one's health is in one's own hands.

Sarvinoz Vohidjon qizi Asqarova was born on May 29, 2005, in Marhamat district, Andijan region. She is Uzbek by nationality. From 2011 to 2022, she studied at School No. 15 in Marhamat district and graduated with excellent grades. Currently, she is a 3rd-year student at the Faculty of Pediatrics at Andijan State Medical Institute (soon to be a University).

Worth Noting:

- Psycho-emotional stress and anxiety create a pathological focus in the CNS, leading to increased secretion of catecholamines (adrenaline and noradrenaline). This causes vascular spasms, which increase blood pressure. Moreover, during stress, the sensitivity of adrenergic receptors in the sympathetic nervous system increases, enhancing the effect of catecholamines.
- Hypertension is associated with metabolic disorders such as atherosclerosis, gout, diabetes mellitus, and gastrointestinal diseases, and it is referred to by various synonyms, including essential hypertension and idiopathic hypertension.