



The Manufacturing Of Misery: How Kenya's Elite Have Perfected The Art Of Poverty Production
Poverty has emerged not as an unfortunate by-product of failed governance, but as a carefully choreographed performance piece, in the grand theater of Kenyan politics, where Shakespeare's observation that "all the world's a stage" takes on a particularly cynical hue.

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Parliament To Proceed Full Steam With IEBC

⚡ National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula has insisted that the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC) will proceed with the vetting of nominees to the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), despite a High Court order halting gazettment of a new poll body. In a firm response yesterday's court directive, Wetangula maintained that Parliament must be allowed to discharge its constitutional mandate, adding that those aggrieved by the process are free to seek redress in court after Parliament has completed its work.



National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula/FILE

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Noo Wanguku
Noo Wanguku



Kalonzo Hosts Opposition Leaders, Hundreds Of Supporters At His Tseikuru Home

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Former Vice President and Wiper party leader Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka yesterday hosted hundreds of leaders opposed to the current administration and supporters. The leaders who included former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua resolved to remain united and make President William Ruto a one term President. The leaders said they were united under one purpose of liberating the country from recklessness and other ills and would remain astutely committed to a better Kenya and where no one is left behind. Others present included former Cabinet Secretaries Peter Munya, Justin Murturi, Mithika Linturi and Eugene Wamalwa. Also present was Pastor Dorcas Rigathi, the three Ukambani counties governors and dozens of Members of Parliament from different parts of the country.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Medical Services Principal Secretary Dr. Ouma Oluga has called for increased investment in Kenya's family planning programme, urging the Parliamentary Committee on Health to prioritise resource allocation to safeguard access, equity, and long-term sustainability. Speaking at a high-level stakeholder meeting on family planning commodity financing advocacy, held in Mombasa, Dr. Oluga highlighted the critical funding gap that threatens the effectiveness of the programme. He stated that approximately Ksh. 3.2 billion (USD 25 million) is required annually for the procurement, warehousing, and distribution of family planning commodities across the country. He underscored that family planning is a proven high-impact investment. A 2018 cost-benefit analysis showed that every one shilling invested in family planning saves the country up to four shillings in healthcare, education, and social service costs.



Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale yesterday appeared before the Senate Committee on Delegated Legislation, chaired by Tharaka Nithi Senator Mwenda Gataya, to present and clarify the Social Health Insurance (SHI) (Amendment) Regulations—Legal Notice No. 55 of 2025—and the SHI (Tariffs for Healthcare Services) Regulations—Legal Notice No. 56 of 2025. The session provided a platform to deepen understanding and alignment on the implementation of Kenya's ongoing health sector reforms under the Social Health Authority (SHA). In his briefing, the CS highlighted key partnerships driving the reform agenda.



A joint team of law enforcement officers drawn from Mbeere South based detectives and Kenya Wildlife Service officers has arrested three wildlife traffickers and recovered six elephant tusks. The traffickers, Michael Kariuki Kithaka, 44, Morris Kariuki Njuki, 45, and Margaret Syombua Mutua, 46, were intercepted at the Siakago-Kiritiri Junction transporting the elephant tusks weighing 48 kilograms in two gunny bags, a blatant violation of wildlife protection laws. The trio were presented before the Siakago Law Courts where they were charged with dealing in and possessing wildlife trophies of an endangered species without a permit where they were remanded until June 11, 2025, pending a pre-bail report, as authorities continue with their investigations.



The State Department for Irrigation has been engaged in tree planting activities for the last two days at Kona Baridi, Kajiado County, as part of the National Government's efforts to grow 15 billion trees by 2032. The efforts were led by the Director, Climate Resilience for Food and Water Security, Thande Githae, who emphasized the importance of restoring degraded ecosystems to conserve the environment. The director noted that the State Department for irrigation heavily relied on water to fulfil its mandate and was thus in the forefront of the tree growing campaign. He added that the State Department and its agencies have targeted to grow 11,000 trees at Kona Baridi before the end of the rainy season.



Kenya and Uganda continue to demonstrate unwavering commitment to strengthening the long-standing diplomatic and economic relations between the two nations. In a fruitful and insightful engagement, Agriculture Principal Secretary Paul Ronoh met with Uganda's Minister for Trade, Industry, and Cooperatives, David Bahati. The meeting focused on promoting agricultural development, tackling critical challenges in the sector particularly in the tea industry and exploring joint strategies to enhance trade, reform auction models, and increase farmers' earnings. With a shared resolve for structured cooperation, both countries are working to reinforce the agricultural value chain and foster sustainable economic growth.



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Zetech University Students Unveil AI-driven Smart Gate Security System To Tackle Rising Insecurity In Kenya

By: John Kamau
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “Our goal was to create a security solution that is not only intelligent and efficient but also scalable and adaptable to various institutions,” said Kelvin Mutungwa in an interview during Zetech University’s 7th Annual Research and Innovation Week.
- “Security is no longer about padlocks and guards. It’s about real-time data, analytics, and automation,” he added.
- The Smart Gate system integrates facial recognition technology with smart sensors and a centralized control system.

As Kenya continues to grapple with growing security threats, two innovative university students have stepped forward with a revolutionary solution aimed at transforming how institutions, government buildings, and private premises are secured.

Kelvin Mutungwa and Ian Cheruiyot, both students at Zetech University, have developed an advanced security system dubbed Smart Gate, which leverages the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) to replace outdated, easily manipulated manual security systems.

Over the years, Kenya has invested billions in efforts to curb crime and bolster security.

However, many of the traditional systems remain vulnerable to human error, corruption, and technological obsolescence. It is within this context that the Smart Gate system has emerged as a timely and promising innovation.

“Our goal was to create a security solution that is not only intelligent and efficient but also scalable and adaptable to various institutions,” said Kelvin Mutungwa in an interview during Zetech University’s 7th Annual Research and Innovation Week.

“Security is no longer about padlocks and guards. It’s about real-time data, analytics, and automation,” he added.

The Smart Gate system integrates facial recognition technology with smart sensors and a centralized control system.

When a person approaches a secured entry point, the system scans their face, matches it against a database, and either grants or denies access based on pre-set parameters.

“What makes the system particularly powerful is its ability to collect, process, and store critical data. This data can be used by security agencies for tracking suspicious activity, identifying suspects, or even analyzing traffic



Ian Cheruiyot, one of the students at Zetech University who have developed an advanced security system dubbed Smart Gate, which leverages the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) to replace outdated, easily manipulated manual security systems.

patterns in and out of a location,” noted Mutungwa.

“Incorporating AI into physical security allows us to make proactive decisions,” said Ian Cheruiyot, co-developer of the project who added that “if someone unauthorized tries to gain access, the system doesn’t just deny entry—it alerts the relevant personnel in real-time and records the attempt.”

Despite the innovation and clear potential of Smart Gate, Mutungwa and Cheruiyot have faced funding obstacles that they say are their main hindrance to scaling the innovation to new heights.

“Building the system—from hardware to software—requires significant investment. We’ve developed a working prototype, but scaling it to meet national demand will need support,”

Mutungwa explained.

They called on the government, private sector, and technology partners to back their innovation and help turn it into a commercially viable security solution.

“With adequate support, we believe Smart Gate can contribute significantly to national security,” added Cheruiyot.

The innovation was one of the highlights of this year’s Research and Innovation Week at Zetech University, themed “Education for Sustainable Prosperity: Empowering Lives through Innovation.”

The event, running until Friday, May 30, 2025, has attracted academics, government officials, and industry leaders.

In attendance during the launch was

Dr. Catherine Kyobutungi, Executive Director of the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) who praised the students’ ingenuity and highlighted the importance of supporting homegrown innovations.

“Kenya has an immense pool of young talent. What these students have done is proof that with the right environment, our youth can solve some of the continent’s most pressing problems,” said Dr. Kyobutungi.

Looking ahead, the duo hopes to further refine their system, integrate more advanced features such as biometric scanning and license plate recognition, and eventually deploy Smart Gate in high-security areas such as airports, banks, and military installations.

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Kenya Christian Professionals Forum Calls On Parliament To Follow The Law On Budget-Making Process

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Some of the issues raised by KCPF include failure of the 2024/2025 National Budget to comply with Article 220(1) of the Constitution of Kenya, which outlines the legal requirements for public financial planning and accountability.
- The other is breach of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2012, by the National Assembly and the National Treasury for failing to publish revenue estimates by 30th April 2025, and instead prioritizing the Finance Bill, 2025 - a reversal of lawful budgetary procedure.
- Speaking during a media briefing under the Governance Accountability Program (GAP), KCPF emphasized that the Finance Bill is not the lawful basis for public participation in the national budget process.

A Christian professionals caucus has raised alarm on the ongoing budget making process saying parliamentarians were not adhering to the laid down procedures.

The Kenya Christian Professionals Forum (KCPF) want the National Assembly and the Treasury to strictly fully comply with the Constitution and Public Finance laws in the ongoing 2025/2026 national budget-making process.

Yesterday, KCPF raised alarm over multiple legal violations, including unlawful borrowing, inflation of revenue estimates, flawed public participation, and a fundamental misapplication of budget instruments.

Some of the issues raised by KCPF include failure of the 2024/2025 National Budget to comply with Article 220(1) of the Constitution of Kenya, which outlines the legal requirements for public financial planning and accountability.

The other is breach of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2012, by the National Assembly and the National Treasury for failing to publish revenue estimates by 30th April 2025, and instead prioritizing the Finance Bill, 2025 - a reversal of lawful budgetary procedure.

Speaking during a media briefing under the Governance Accountability Program (GAP), KCPF emphasized that the Finance Bill is not the lawful basis for public participation in the national budget process.

Instead, Articles 220 and 221 of the Constitution require that public engagement be based on the revenue and expenditure estimates laid before Parliament, which they noted was an obligation the Treasury and Parliament have failed to meet.

KCPF chairman Charles Kanjama said: "The National Assembly, in its budget-making process, and particularly in conducting public participation, should focus not just on revenue raising measures equally on the expenditure component. The main focus should not be on the Finance Bill, but on the revenue estimates, loans and grants to root out budgeted corruption where budgets are not supported by corresponding documented expenditure".

Kanjama who is lawyer disclosed that in the past, the Departmental Committee on Finance has been publishing, for public scrutiny, just the proposed expenditure without disclosing the source of revenue. But following a petition that KCPF wrote to the National Assembly, this time round, the committee adhered to the rule of law on the issue.

Bernard Muchere, a Risk Management Consultant and a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) who is a retired Internal Auditor at the National Treasury and a KCPF Consultant noted: "What is currently before the public is the Finance Bill, not the estimates of revenue and expenditure as prescribed by Article 221(5) of the Constitution. This is like putting the cart before the horse. The law is clear - citizen input must be sought at the estimates stage, not the tax amendment stage."

KCPF decried the failure of the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury to publish the revenue estimates alongside expenditure projections, as required under Article 220(1)(a) and (b) of the Constitution and Section 33 of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Regulations, 2015. The submitted 2025/2026 expenditure plan totals Ksh. 4.57 trillion, while the government's own data shows an annual average actual revenue of only Ksh. 1.97 trillion in recent years, creating a deficit of approximately Ksh. 2.4 trillion.

Illegal borrowing and constitutional violations

Additionally, KCPF raised concern that the government continues to borrow without adhering to constitutional guidelines. The Constitution mandates that borrowing must be approved by Parliament, and more importantly, must be directed toward development expenditure. Instead, the current fiscal trends show borrowing being used to fund recurrent expenditure, in violation of Article 220(1)(b) and Section 15(2)(c) of the PFM Act. They warned that this trend risks mortgaging Kenya's future by prioritizing consumption over development. Furthermore, the national debt ceiling has already been breached, undermining debt sustainability frameworks and exposing the country to economic vulnerabilities.

"Borrowing done outside the confines of the Constitution is not sovereign debt," KCPF asserted.

"Such debt should not be passed on to future generations as a legitimate national obligation."

Debt repayment misalignment

KCPF noted that a significant portion of current tax revenues is being redirected to service debt - much of which financed recurrent expenses, rather than development initiatives. The overreliance on tax revenues for debt servicing leaves critical social sectors like health, education and infrastructure underfunded, exacerbat-



Lawyer Charles Kanjama (right) and Bernard Muchere briefing journalists at All Saints Cathedral, Nairobi yesterday. Photo/Courtesy.



ing inequality and stalling economic growth.

The Forum called on Parliament to initiate a debt audit to identify and isolate unconstitutional debt and ensure that future debt is aligned with sustainable development priorities as required by law.

Inflated revenue estimates and budgeted corruption

KCPF also flagged the issue of deliberately inflated revenue projections in the budget documents, which create room for wasteful expenditure, budgeted corruption, and supplementary budgets that facilitate unchecked spending.

These unrealistic targets, they said, compromise the credibility of the budget process and violate the principles of transparency and fiscal responsibility enshrined in Article 201 of the Constitution.

"When you inflate revenue, you create space for slush funds that are later captured through corruption-ridden supplementary budgets," said KCPF, warning that this is a recipe for abuse.

They urged the Office of the Auditor General and the Controller of Budget to strengthen oversight on revenue estimates and prevent misuse of public resources under the guise of supplementary budget adjustments.

The KCPF officials called on the National Assembly to halt further con-

sideration of the Finance Bill until the legally required estimates of revenue and expenditure are published and subjected to effective, accessible and structured public participation.

They averred that the June deadline set for the passage of the bill was not mandatory and that there was room for the National Assembly to pass part of the appropriation bill for the sake of smooth running of the government as the concerned parties addressed issues raised by the public.

The Forum reiterated its commitment to civic education and to mobilizing citizens to demand accountability, legality, and transparency in budget-making.

"The Constitution is not a suggestion; it is the supreme law. Budget-making must return to a lawful, participatory, and transparent path. We are educating citizens on their rights and empowering them to demand accountability," Muchere added.

As the June 12 deadline for budget finalization nears, KCPF urges Parliament and the Treasury to uphold the Constitution, reverse irregular practices, and commit to genuine public finance reform.

Others who spoke and had similar views during the media briefing at All Saints Cathedral, Nairobi were KCPF Executive Director Sam Mwaura and Dr Wahome Ngare who took the participants through the Citizens Engagement to Governance.

Plans To Have Public Benefits Organization Officials Take Office Takes Shape

Former Freedom Fighters And Their Descendents Caucus Welcome The Initiative Saying The Move Is Drawing Their Compensation Nearer After Waiting For Decades

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Finally, there is light at the end of the tunnel, as far as compensation of former freedom fighters is concerned.

This is after the National Assembly yesterday indicated that officials who the former freedom fighters believe hold the key to their compensation would be vetted and thus expected to assume office soon.

The National Assembly Clerk, S. Njoroge published in the dailies the names of the Public Benefits Organization (PBO) tribunal chairperson and four members.

The five are expected to be vetted by the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs on June 13.

The chairperson is Eunice Arwa with members being Christabel Ebo, Elizabeth Mulwa, Leonard Kin-

yulusi and Mohamed Noor.

The publication of their names comes put more than seven months after the Judiciary closed period for the positions' application on October 14 last year.

The call for application was made by the Judiciary following a petition by an NGO that questioned the delay as the law establishing the PBO was passed and accented by former President, the late Mwai Kibaki in 2013.

The NGO, Jeremiah Mugi Foundation had written to the Speaker of the Senate threatening to petition the matter before the International Court of Arbitration if action was not taken.

The foundation, through its chairman, James Njuguna Mahuria had written the letter on behalf of more than 50,000 members of Mau Mau War Veterans Association and Mau Mau Children Post Colonial Elites.

In the letter, the former freedom fighters averred that trillions of shil-



Some of former freedom fighters during a past procession



James Njuguna Mahuria.

lings were being held due to lack of officials to handle the matter.

However, sources said the delay was occasioned by lack of funds to support the team. However, with the pending vetting, their funds will be provided in the coming financial year.

Yesterday Mahuria welcomed the move saying they hoped the issue of compensation would be solved once and for all.

According to the act, the incoming team is expected to carry out its mandate which include hearing and determining complaints arising out of ant

breach of the act.

Other mandate is hearing any matter or appeal made to it, pursuant to the provisions of the act and any other duty that may be conferred upon it by the act or any other written law.

Two-Year Agreement To Boost Sustainable And Inclusive Trade In Kenya

By: Wangari Ndirangu
@themkenyatimes

Sweden has signed a USD 2.7 million agreement with TradeMark Africa to boost sustainable and inclusive trade in Kenya.

The two-year Kenya Enhanced Trade Environment and Inclusion (KETEI) programme will support Kenya in meeting its national ambition within the various signed trade agreement frameworks, such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The programme will do so by promoting port efficiency, improving the green trade infrastructure and policy landscape in Kenya, and enhancing the resilience of women- and youth-owned SMEs participating in trade.

The KETEI programme aligns with TradeMark Africa's broader strategy of supporting sustainable and resilient trade.

Through the programme, it is anticipated that supported MSMEs (60% women-led, 40% youth-led) will realize a USD 3 million increase in ex-

port value, alongside tailored support on climate-linked export regulations and standards. Further, at least USD 5 million in private investment is expected to be leveraged towards green logistics infrastructure.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Marie Ottosson, Sweden's Head of the Kenya Development Cooperation Section, said that globally, there is growing demand from consumers for goods that are produced sustainably.

"With the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) set to take effect in 2026, we are pleased to support Kenya's smallholder producers in meeting these requirements and securing continued access to global markets and particularly in the European Union," she said.

At the same time, she added that they remain strong supporters of the AfCFTA, which they view as a strategic step toward deepening cross-border trade across the continent.

In 2023, Kenya exported coffee worth approximately USD 252.12 million, with the European Union (EU) accounting for 55 percent of this value.

That same year, the EU Parliament passed the EUDR, aimed at reducing



deforestation and forest degradation.

The EUDR mandates that certain commodities, including coffee, linked to deforestation must not be placed on or exported to the EU market after 30th December 2025 for medium and large companies and 30 June 2026 for small and micro businesses.

This makes compliance with these regulations essential to the success of Kenya's coffee subsector, which relies heavily on the EU market.

Lillian Mwai-Ndegwa, TradeMark Africa's Kenya Country Director, said that Sweden's support enables them to address structural inefficien-

cies in how goods move and how SMEs are supported, both regionally and globally.

In addition to expanding and diversifying our markets, she noted the need to ensure that growth is inclusive, climate-resilient, and future-proof.

"By strengthening trade systems and placing women and young people at the centre of the process, we are not only fulfilling the promise of the AfCFTA but also safeguarding Kenya's competitiveness in an increasingly dynamic global economy," Mwai said.

In 2022, Kenya launched its AfCFTA strategy, which sought to facilitate an

expansion of the country's trade and investment within Africa, support structural transformation, and foster economic growth and sustainable development.

Three core objectives underpin the strategy, enhancing secure and efficient export trade through improved customs processes and infrastructure; promoting inclusivity in international trade by integrating MSMEs, women, and youth and achieving these objectives in ways that contribute to environmental sustainability, including the promotion of green trade practices.

Wetangula Directs JLAC To Proceed Full Steam With IEBC, Courts To Wait

By: Irene Mwangi
 @themkenyatimes

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula has insisted that the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC) will proceed with the vetting of nominees to the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), despite a High Court order halting gazettment of a new poll body.

In a firm response yesterday's court directive, Wetangula maintained that Parliament must be allowed to discharge its constitutional mandate, adding that those aggrieved by the process are free to seek redress in court after Parliament has completed its work.

"Parliament is a constitutionally established institution, clothed with the authority to discharge its constitutional functions. Once a matter is before Parliament whether in committee or in plenary the proceedings carry equal weight and legal standing," said Speaker Wetangula.

"For the avoidance of doubt, let it be underscored: nobody under any law or constitutional provision has the authority to bar or injunct Parliament from executing its mandate," he stated.

The Speaker further disclosed that he is preparing a formal communication that will provide precedent-setting guidance on how Parliament should respond to perceived encroachments by other arms of government, particularly in matters under active consideration by parliamentary committees.

'Institutional overreach'

Wetangula revealed that he had invited Chief Justice Martha Koome to convene a colloquium bringing together members of the Judiciary and Parliament.

"We must acknowledge that we need one another in service to the Republic. However, we will not condone institutional overreach by one arm of government into the domain of another," he said.

His remarks come hours after Justice Lawrence Mugambi issued orders against an anticipated gazettment of the IEBC commissioners following



National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula/FILE

a petition filed by activists Boniface Mwangi and Kelvin Roy.

The petition, filed through senior counsels Paul Muite and Douglas Otieno, challenges the legality of the selection process and raises significant constitutional questions.

Justice Mugambi referred the matter to Chief Justice Martha Koome for empanelment of a bench, emphasizing that the concerns must be fully addressed before formal appointments can proceed.

Parliament autonomy

The dispute now places two arms of government—Judiciary and Legislature—on conflicting paths with Parliament holding firm to its decisional independence.

While the Judiciary has paused the final step of gazettment, the Legislature is pushing ahead with the vetting process, which Speaker Wetangula says is well within its jurisdiction.

President William Ruto nominated

Erastus Etheke Edung as Chairperson of the IEBC and six others—Ann Njeri Nderitu, Moses Alutalala Mukhwana, Mary Karen Sorobit, Hassan Noor Hassan, Francis Odhiambo Aduol, and Fahima Ararat Abdallah—as commissioners.

The nominations followed recommendations by a Selection Panel constituted to recruit new commissioners.

DCI Arrests Murang'a MCA Grace Nduta Over Staged Abduction of Juja MP Koimburi

By: Editorial

Detectives have arrested Murang'a Kanyenyaini MCA Grace Nduta, popularly known as "City," in connection with the staged abduction of Juja MP George Koimburi, in what police have described as a politically motivated plot.

She was arrested a day after the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) said they had recovered a private vehicle allegedly used in the abduction, a Subaru Forester, on Tuesday in Juja Township.

The car is registered to an individual described as a close political ally of the MP and a former UDA agent in the 2022 elections.

According to police, the suspect's vehicle allegedly blocked the MP's car moments before the purported abduction. Investigators are also pur-

suing a motorcycle believed to have transported the MP from a house in the area to the coffee plantation in Kiambu County, where he was later found.

"This is a major breakthrough in the investigation," said Police Spokesperson Muchiri Nyaga. "The Subaru was identified as the vehicle used to obstruct Koimburi's car before his alleged abduction."

Koimburi was reportedly taken on Sunday outside a church in Mugutha, Kiambu County, and found the next morning dumped in a coffee plantation. However, police now say the incident was staged.

Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja dismissed the abduction claims, terming the ordeal "political theatrics." He said officers who responded to the alleged scene found no signs of a struggle or abduction.

"The video circulating online does not match the terrain and road conditions of the supposed location," Kan-



Juja MP George Koimburi in a coffee plantation where he was found after an alleged staged abduction in May 2025.

ja stated, adding that the caretaker of the farm where the MP was found, identified as Moses Kariuki, denied witnessing any incident.

Koimburi was taken to Karen Hospital in Nairobi, where he remains admitted. Though he has received

several visitors, police say he has declined to record a statement or assist in the investigation.

IG Kanja also raised questions about how Koimburi's allies knew his exact location and noted that he was driven to the hospital in his own car, further

casting doubt on the abduction narrative.

Detectives are continuing their probe into the motive behind the staged incident, with more arrests expected.

Educationists Raise Alarm Over Brain Drain As Kenya Grapples With Soaring Joblessness

By: John Kamau
@themkenyatimes

Education stakeholders have raised serious concerns over the escalating exodus of skilled Kenyan professionals to foreign countries, warning that the trend could jeopardize service delivery and hamper national development.

Speaking during the seventh Research and Innovation Week at Zetech University, Vice Chancellor Prof. Njenga Munene decried the increasing brain drain, particularly in the health sector, as a threat to Kenya's socio-economic progress.

Prof. Munene pointed out that despite a population exceeding 52 million, Kenya has only 13,340 registered doctors—translating to one doctor serving over 3,000 people. This falls far short of the World Health Organization's recommendation of one doctor for every 1,000 individuals.

"To meet global standards, Kenya needs a minimum of 52,000 doctors," Prof. Munene emphasized. "We only have a third of that number, and even more worrying is that many among



Participants during the seventh Research and Innovation Week at Zetech University.

them are actively seeking job opportunities abroad."

The professor stressed that the continued outflow of professionals—especially in critical sectors such as health and education—could have long-term repercussions on the country's development.

"This is something we need to reflect on seriously. We cannot afford to keep losing highly trained individuals who are crucial to our national wellbeing. Health is not something we can take

for granted," he said.

He added that the issue of brain drain extends beyond the medical profession, noting that many African professionals are now running institutions outside the continent.

"To safeguard our future, we must put in place measures that will retain skilled professionals and create enabling environments for them to thrive within our borders," Prof. Munene urged.

In response to the shortage of health-



Zetech University Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academics Prof Alice Njuguna speaking during the seventh Research and Innovation Week at Zetech University.

care workers, Zetech University has already received accreditation from the Commission for University Education.

The institution also plans to expand its medical programs to help bridge the gap in the health sector.

"We are also investing in research and innovation by supporting our innovators to protect their intellectual property through collaborations with our legal department," Prof. Munene

said.

The concerns come at a time when youth unemployment in Kenya remains alarmingly high, driving thousands of graduates to seek better opportunities abroad. Stakeholders are now calling for a multi-sectoral approach to tackle the root causes of the brain drain and safeguard the country's human capital.



MPs Grill KAA Over KSh75M Groundbreaking Costs, KSh4.5B Irregular Payments In Greenfield Project

By: PSCU

The Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy, chaired by Pokot South MP David Pkosing yesterday grilled the Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) over questionable financial dealings involving the controversial Greenfield Terminal project at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA).

The Committee examined audited accounts of KAA covering the financial years 2018/2019 to 2021/2022, raising serious concerns about irregular payments and financial accountability.

Acting KAA Managing Director Nicholas Bodo and his team appeared before the Committee to respond to issues flagged by the Auditor General.

Among the key concerns was an irregular payment of KSh75 million purportedly used for the groundbreaking ceremony of the Greenfield Terminal project in 2014.

According to the Committee, records show the amount was paid to contractors and labeled as a “contract variation,” despite there being no such provision in the original contract or bill of quantities.

In its defence, KAA management stated that the groundbreaking ceremony, which was officiated by the Head of

State as part of the Vision 2030 flagship projects, required logistical preparations that were not initially budgeted for.

Management said the costs were covered using contingency funds within the contract, and the expenditure was approved by the tender committee, citing compliance with the Public Procurement and Disposal Act (PPADA) of 2005.

However, the Committee questioned the justification for categorizing ceremonial expenses as a project variation, terming it a possible misuse of public funds.

The MP for Kaloleni, Katana Paul Kahindi questioned the CEO on the identities of the committee members responsible for organizing the groundbreaking event.

“How can there be such a huge variation in the cost of a project that hasn’t even started? This committee must take the matter seriously and hold those responsible accountable. We cannot allow people to play around with taxpayers’ money. They must be dealt with accordingly to serve as an example to others,” he said.

Committee Chair David Pkosing acknowledged the seriousness of the issue and emphasized the need for accountability.

He inquired whether the members of the organizing committee were still working at Dork AA, but Bodo clarified that the matter dated back to 2013 and

that most of the individuals involved had since left the organization.

Nyeri Town MP Duncan Mathenge cautioned that a similar issue could easily recur if the current committee does not treat the matter with the urgency it deserves.

Addressing some of the glaring concerns raised, Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri remarked that many of the audit queries may have originated from the board, which has the mandate to act before management steps in.

The committee also flagged nugatory payments totalling over KSh4.5 billion made to contractors and consultants without evidence of actual work completed by June 30, 2019. Specifically, KSh4.31 billion was paid as advance to the main contractor, ACEG/CATIC JV, while KSh216 million was disbursed to the consulting firm Louis Berger JV Runji and Partners.

Additionally, audit records revealed that PricewaterhouseCoopers was paid KSh7.4 million after its contract for technical advisory services was terminated under unclear circumstances.

KAA maintained that the KSh4.31 billion was part of an advance payment clause in the contract, backed by a valid Advance Payment Guarantee, and that the amounts were later recovered or settled during a mediation process following termination of the contract.

The authority also clarified that a portion of the consultancy fees had been



The committee during yesterday’s session.

paid for design review and supervision services rendered on a time basis.

The Committee further raised alarm over the termination process itself, noting the lack of clear documentation showing agreement by the contractors and consultants on the decision to void the contract. This, MPs warned, could expose the government to potential legal suits.

In response, KAA provided annexed documentation indicating that the consultants had acknowledged termination of their contract and that the contractor’s claims were resolved through me-

diation.

The Greenfield Terminal project, which was envisioned to expand JKIA’s passenger handling capacity significantly, was terminated in 2016 under controversial circumstances. The fallout continues to cast a long shadow over the Authority’s procurement and contract management practices.

The Committee is expected to compile a report with recommendations on whether further investigations or legal actions should be taken.

Tharaka Nithi County Calls On Residents To Shape Their Future Through Budget Participation

By: Peris Njambi and Alex Njeru
@themkenyatimes

Residents of Tharaka Nithi County have a golden opportunity to influence the direction of local development as the County Assembly opens doors for public participation in the 2025/2026 budget-making process.

The Assembly is calling on citizens from all walks of life to turn up in large numbers and make their voices heard during a series of public hearings scheduled for next week.

This initiative is part of a broader effort to promote transparency, accountability, and citizen-driven governance.

The hearings will take place on Wednesday at Nkondi Chief’s Camp, on Thursday at Kambandi Chief’s Camp, and on Friday at Ingwanjau ACC Camp—all beginning at

10:00am.

These sessions will allow residents to provide input on the Annual Development Plan and key legislative proposals concerning markets, child protection, cultural activities, agriculture, and tax waivers.

Those unable to attend in person can still contribute by submitting written memoranda to the Office of the Clerk no later than the close of business Friday next week.

Public participation is not just a constitutional right; it is a civic duty that empowers citizens to directly influence policy and resource allocation. When residents engage, the county government is better positioned to address real community needs and deliver services that matter most to the people.

Tharaka Nithi has been nationally recognised for its efforts in embracing public participation.

This reputation for openness and inclusivity is not just a badge of hon-

our—it is a call to action.

The only way to maintain and build upon this success is through active involvement from the grassroots.

“Development must be people-centered,” said a representative from the County Assembly. “The budget is not just numbers—it’s about health, roads, education, and livelihoods. That’s why we need our people to guide us.”

As the budget determines the county’s development priorities for the next financial year, the time to act is now.

Let every ward, every village, and every resident raise their voice and shape the future of Tharaka Nithi.



Tharaka Nithi County Assembly Speaker John Mbabu during a past session at the chambers in Kathwana. Photo/Alex Njeru

Farming Triumph in Tharaka Nithi: Charles Kimathi Makamba Reaps Big From Certified Seeds Support

By: Brenda Mwende and Alex Njeru
 @themtkenyatimes

Amid the rolling hills and red soils of Tharaka Nithi County, a powerful story of agricultural transformation is unfolding.

Charles Kimathi Makamba, a farmer from the small village of Kabururu in Kiaritha sub-location, has turned his once modest farming venture into a shining beacon of rural prosperity—thanks to certified seeds, county government support, and unwavering dedication.

For over 13 years, Kimathi, a former hawker in Thika town in Kiambu County toiled on his land, battling low yields and unpredictable weather.

“When I first started, I used to sow local seeds—maize and green grams bought in ordinary bags,” he recalls. “I’d harvest a bag or two of green grams and maybe half a bag of maize from a whole hectare. It was disheartening.”

But the tide turned when the County

Government of Tharaka Nithi, under the leadership of Governor Muthomi Njuki, began distributing certified seeds.

The support came as part of a larger county initiative to modernize farming and enhance food security in the county that was facing food insecurity.

“When I switched to the certified seeds, everything changed,” Kimathi says with a smile. “Now I harvest up to 30 bags of maize and 4 bags of green grams per acre during good seasons. Even in dry periods, I get about 20 to 25 bags of maize and 3 bags of green grams.”

According to Kimathi, the real game-changer is the resilience of the certified seeds. “The local green grams were no match for pests or diseases like kimou,” he explains. “But the certified seeds withstand the weather, resist pests, and produce far better yields.”

Recently, Kimathi planted certified green grams across 8 acres of land. The result? A bumper harvest of 18 to 26 bags—more than triple what he used to get using traditional seeds. The rewards have been life-changing.

“Farming has completely turned my life around,” Kimathi declares. “I’ve paid school fees for my children, provided for my family, bought land, built houses, and even bought a car—all from farming.”

But success hasn’t come without its challenges. While the harvests have improved dramatically, marketing remains a major hurdle.

“We sell our produce in local markets like Ishiara, but the prices are not favorable,” Kimathi laments. “We still use tins to measure produce, yet each tin holds nearly 3.5 kilograms. This means we lose a lot of money, especially compared to standard kilogram-based pricing.”

He urges the government to intervene and standardize produce measurements while helping farmers access consistent, profitable markets. “If the county can help us find better markets and stop this tin system, we’ll truly benefit from our hard work,” he says.

Kimathi also applauds other county government initiatives, such as the provision of artificial insemination services. “The AI cows we’ve



Mr Charles Kimathi and his wife harvesting green grams in their farm in Ig-a, bang’ombe ward in Tharaka Nithi County. Photo/Alex Njeru.

received are more productive and easier to manage. This is the kind of support we need.”

Looking to the future, Kimathi calls for continued collaboration between farmers, government, and development partners.

“Let’s join hands—farmers, leaders, and residents—for the growth of Tharaka Nithi,” he says.

Charles Kimathi Makamba’s story is a powerful testament to what targeted agricultural support and personal resilience can achieve.

His journey from struggle to success is not just an individual victory—it’s a glimpse into the potential of rural transformation when the right seeds are planted, both in the soil and in policy.

All Set For Rhino Charge Scrutineering In SaimoSoi, Baringo County

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

The rugged landscapes of Saimo-Soi in Baringo North constituency are set to come alive this weekend as the 36th edition of Kenya’s legendary Rhino Charge kicks off with scrutineering today.

A total of 64 vehicles, including a groundbreaking electric entry which will be car No. 29 will undergo rigorous technical inspections to ensure compliance with the event’s strict safety and environmental standards.

This year marks the fifth time Baringo County will be hosting the iconic off-road competition, reinforcing its reputation as a hub for adventure tourism and conservation.

Since its inception in 1989, the Rhino Charge has raised more than KSh2.4 billion which goes to address critical environmental proj-



Some of the vehicles that will be taking part in this year’s competition.

ects, including wildlife fencing, habitat restoration, and community livelihoods in Kenya’s most vulnerable ecosystems that includes the Aberdares, Mt. Kenya, Mau Forest and Kakamega Forest.

Nestled in Baringo North’s dramatic terrain, Saimo-Soi was selected for its low human footprint, diverse habitats and breathtaking landscapes which are ideal for the Charge’s demanding off-road challenge.

The area, part of Baringo’s vast wil-

dom, is home to Lake Baringo, the Tugen Hills and the Kerio Valley, thus making it a prime location for conservation-driven tourism.

Hosting the event is more than just a motorsport spectacle as it’s a strategic opportunity for the region. Local workers have already been employed to set up infrastructure, injecting much-needed income into the remote community. Additionally, the Vehicle Community Donation—a Rhino Charge tradition



Participants registering ahead of the competition.

will fund long-term projects such as schools, boreholes, or health facilities, building on the KSh80 million already donated to past host communities in various counties.

This year’s event includes a historic milestone; the debut of an electric vehicle, signaling the Charge’s commitment to innovation and environmental sustainability.

The move aligns with global trends toward greener motorsports while maintaining the event’s core mission

of fundraising for conservation.

In 2024 alone, the Rhino Charge raised KSh325 million, setting a high bar for this year’s competitors. The event allows a maximum of 65 entries, making it one of the world’s most exclusive and impactful off-road fundraisers.

Today will be for scrutineering vehicles with the main competition taking place tomorrow and prizes being awarded on Sunday.

Senator James Murango Demands Urgent Government Action In Mwea Rice Crisis

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Kirinyaga Senator James Murango has sounded the alarm over what he terms a deepening agricultural crisis in the Mwea Irrigation Scheme, urging immediate government intervention to rescue thousands of rice farmers grappling with unsold stock.

In a formal letter addressed to the Ministry of Agriculture and copied to the National Treasury, the Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC), and the Chairman of the Budget and Appropriations Committee in the National Assembly Senator Murango is calling on the government to purchase over 5,000 metric tonnes of paddy rice currently stuck in stores due to an oversupply of imports.

“The influx of cheap imported rice has saturated the market, leaving local farmers unable to sell their harvest,” Senator Murango said. “This situation is dire, and unless swift action is

taken, the economic fabric of Mwea’s rice-growing community will unravel.”

To cushion the farmers and stabilize the sector, Murango is proposing a special budget allocation of at least Ksh 600 million. The funds, he says, should be used to buy the rice at a minimum rate of Ksh 100 per kilogram a fair price that would enable farmers to recover their production costs and prepare for the next planting season.

“With the planting period fast approaching, farmers urgently need capital to prepare their fields. Delayed payments or government inaction could lead to widespread disruption in rice production and, by extension, threaten national food security,” the senator warned.

Murango also criticized what he termed lax import controls and insufficient support for local producers, noting that unchecked imports were undermining Kenya’s food sovereignty. He challenged the Ministry of Agriculture to collaborate with relevant



Kirinyaga Senator James Murango

state agencies to secure local markets for domestic produce.

“The government must act decisively not only to protect our farmers, but to support rural livelihoods, strength-

en food systems, and boost the local economy,” he said. “This is not the time for silence. It is time for action.”

The senator’s appeal is already stirring debate in policy circles, as

stakeholders wait to see whether the government will prioritize local agriculture amid ongoing economic challenges.

Kenya Breweries Limited (KBL) And Isuzu EA Report Annual Energy Savings Of More Than Ksh 26 Million

By: Cynthia Omenge
@themtkenyatimes

Isuzu East Africa Limited (Isuzu) and Kenya Breweries Limited (KBL) have received recognition from the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) for achieving a combined annual energy saving of Kshs. 26 million in compliance with the Energy (Energy Management) Regulations, 2025.

The two companies are the first to comply with the Regulations, which were gazetted in February 2025 and are aimed at promoting energy efficiency. Isuzu saved 128,818 kWh, exceeding their audit projection, translating to KShs. 5.6 million in savings. On the other hand, the KBL Kisumu Plant realised savings of 657,584 kWh in electrical energy and 5,497 GJ in thermal energy, amounting to KShs. 20.6 million in annual savings. The achievements by the two firms are a great milestone in energy efficiency and highlight the tangible financial benefits

of compliance with the Regulations.

In commending the two firms, EPRA Director General, Daniel Kiptoo Bargoria, said “We are proud of these two companies for demonstrating commitment towards sustainable industrial practices. The accomplishments are a step in the right direction and will translate to reduced costs of doing business and lower emissions.”

The success in energy efficiency for the two firms was borne out of energy audits, energy management implementation plans, energy policies, appointment of energy managers and energy management committees that oversaw the implementation of energy management practices as well as maintenance of energy consumption and production records.

The Regulations are a critical framework for promoting energy efficiency across the commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors. Any facility consuming more than 180,000 kWh of thermal and electrical energy annually is required to conduct a comprehensive energy audit every four years. Firms must engage qualified energy managers who



First companies to Comply with EPRA’s Energy (Energy Management) Regulations, 2025 awarded. (left to right): Mr. Jacob Njoroge, General Manager, Isuzu East Africa LTD, Dr. Eng. Joseph Oketch, Director of Electricity and Renewable Energy, EPRA, and Eng. Jacob Bett, Head of Engineering and Packaging, Kenya Breweries Ltd – Kisumu.

work with in-house energy management committees responsible for im-

plementing and overseeing energy management programmes within the

company to ensure sustained efforts towards efficiency.

Stuck



Chasing after what she cannot quite name.

Balancing on a see-saw,
She sways, needing to land on one side
So her soul can find stillness.

She fears facing the depths within,
Preferring the safety of chains—
For she dreads that freedom might reveal
too much.

She fears the loneliness, though she finds
peace in her solitude.
Afraid to be her true self,
Scared of a life unchained, unfiltered.

She finds comfort in hidden souls,
Not realizing she could be her own sanctuary.
She fills her days with distractions,
From the only thing she returns to, night
after night.

That's how her life has always spun,
Ignorance guiding her forward—
For her heart feels too young to carry
burdens,
And her mind, too full to dwell on them.

By Cathren Gathoni

She stands between patience and
impatience,

The patience she offers to love, the
impatience love has for her.

Torn, unsure which side to lean on,
She lingers between love and its many
tongues—

Sweet gestures and self-assurances,
Hopeful whispers and the lessons they leave.

Caught between heartbeats and desires,
Attraction that pulls, affection that warms,
Wondering which will rise victorious.

Like losing a medallion while staring at a
treasure

That waits, waiting for her to unlock.

She craves a touch of attention,
Yet turns from the small pieces she holds.

Stuck between two reflections—
One she dreams of, the other she knows.

She thought she'd settled,

But something inside still hunts,

Pieces Of Us



We are fragments, scattered wide,
Like stars that glitter, yet collide.
Each piece a story, old and new,
A puzzle made of me and you.

In whispered words and silent sighs,
In fleeting moments, time defies,
A laugh, a tear, a touch, a glance,
We dance the threads of fate's own
chance.

Through days of storm, and nights so
bright,

Our pieces weave in gentle light.

The pieces fall, the pieces rise,
In the quiet of our shared goodbyes.

But somehow still, they always fit,
These broken pieces, perfect, lit—
For in each shard, there's something
true:

A part of me, a part of you.

And though we're scattered, far apart,

Our pieces echo in the heart.

Together whole, though not the same,
We're bound forever by our name.

About the poet:

Simiyu S. Stanford

A prolific author whose works include
The Ring of The Moon, Robai Nabisino
Makokha, Of Walls Unbroken, and
other compelling stories. His narratives
weave together the beauty of
human connection, resilience, and the
intricacies of life. Explore his world
through the pages of his unforgettable
books.

Parvinder Nagi



Parvinder Nagi
(Principal)

WILD ECSTASIES

Let me dive in the emotions of your love !
Finding treasures of trust
Deep in your heart,
Longing for the thrilling secrets you hold in the gushing
tides...

The never ending wild expectations
I see in this paradise,

Let my lips taste the salts of your soul.
The melody of your ecstasy is enormously infectious ...
The dreams of lust are wild and mysterious.

Lemme find the bliss of my love ...
where the sea kisses the shores endlessly
By the passing breeze of awakening love...!

Copyright: Parvinder Nagi

NEW JOURNEY BEGINS

Walking under the falling stars

Across the seaside sands

Like a sailing ship so smooth

A new journey begins

with desires anew

Here's the moon witnessing our glowing bond With
gleaming of each star our love sparkles more Unto the

depths of the sea

There's no measure to

our love I see

Across the tenderness of our souls Soft melodies play
in magical ways Mingling gently are the whispers soft
Under the moonlight so bright

dreaming in the enchantments of night A twilight with
gifts of warm hugs and cuddles
Stealing your bewitching looks

Kissing upon my gentle soul

We sail with tender love and symphony
walking through the sands of time

Copyright: Parvinder Nagi

CASCADING TRESSES

Misty fragrance

Of the morning breeze

Playing tunes of eloquence

Soaking it's misty essence

Anew romance is brewing

In the meadows lush green

For I've fallen in love

With your cascading tresses

Floating under the azure sky

Caressing through the

Infinite horizons

Exuberant is the beauty

Of your coiffures

Brushing across

The curves of your face

With the scents of

Morning breeze.

Copyright: Parvinder Nagi

PEACE

Let the world buzz with melodies of harmony and love

Let's spread the fragrance of brotherhood across the
globe in unity

Let's bloom like pansies so blue humming the glories of
peace all through

Let's walk hand in hand through the mellifluous paths so
divine

Let's achieve the goals through manifestations serene

Let's dwell in the world free of slumber and darkness
with rays of hopes anew

Let's all live in the world of peace full of joys with no
sorrows and no regrets.

Copyright: Parvinder Nagi

Biography:
Parvinder is born and brought up in the coastal city of
Mombasa, Kenya, East Africa.

Having dedicated her career to shaping the
minds of future generations as a principal from the
distinguished senior secondary schools in India and also
served as charity in the British schools in UK.

Parvinder is a national award winner from NCERT,
New Delhi, for making teaching and learning process more
easier through the classroom aids for both the teachers
and pupils.

One of the defining moments of her poetic journey
occurred during a visit to Dove Cottage and the museum
dedicated to the venerable poet, William Wordsworth,
nestled in the enchanting landscape of Grasmere, Lake
District, UK.

In the hallowed halls of this literary sanctuary, standing
amidst the profound legacy of Wordsworth, Parvinder
found herself immersed in the timeless essence of
poetry, a force capable of transcending the boundaries of
time and place.

Her passion for poetry found recognition when
she was bestowed with the prestigious accolades in a
national poetry contest in the year 2022 orchestrated
among a gathering of over 2000 poets from across India
on the national level.

Parvinder is a recipient of many literary awards in
poetry...

- An Ambassador for peace in the world poetic fraternity

- The Global Peace Ambassador Awards

- Literary Ambassador Awards

- Honorary Doctorate Award

- An Ambassador for Indian culture for Insight magazine
USA

- Membership card from ICAL and felicitations of
appreciation and excellence, joining the bridges across
the world through her literary work!

Parvinder is an author of a poetry book, "UNFATHOMED
SECRETS", a heartfelt collection of 100 poems from the
abyss of her heart.

Parvinder's poems are translated in various
languages across the globe. She is honoured to be one
of the 58 selected poets, whose poems are translated
in Turkish and published in Turkey, the anthology book, "
Poets From The World"

Her poems are also published among 231 great noble world
poets, in the book " WORLD CONTEMPORARY POETS
VOLUME 2 "

A book, " The Women - Global Poetic Gems" is the
Collection of Lyrical Poems By 35 International Poets,
Parvinder is proud to be featured among one of these
world renowned poets.

Her poems are reviewed by eminent writers, authors and
also reviewers from Harvard University USA
From time to time her poems are featured in the various
journals, newspapers and magazines across the globe.

She has collaborated her duet poems with poets
across the globe.

She has also participated in the live poetry
recitation among the global poets on google meet online
and won the accolades!

Parvinder has translated a Historical chronological
book, from Kosovo, written by Dibran Fylli "Prekazi Brezni
Trimash-HE IS ALIVE" into her mother language Punjabi.

Parvinder's poems are music to the heart that
express different aspects of life, conjuring up emotions
from happiness to sadness using different styles and
themes giving pleasure to the readers.

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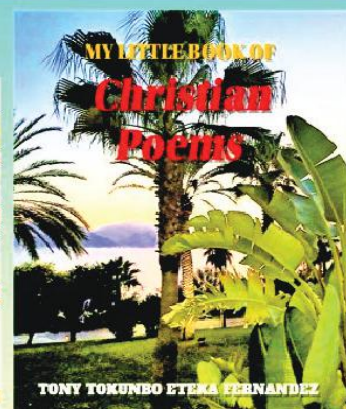
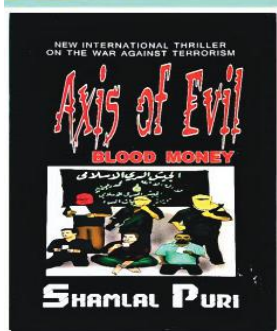
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BUSINESS

Supporting Women In Leadership



By: Raphael Ndakala Atanda
@themtkenytimes

Worth Noting:

- Studies reveal that women have less autonomy control than men. When we empower women, they participate in decision-making that has more positive outcomes for not only themselves but also for their institutions, families and wider communities. Women empowerment fosters diversity (gender equity) and makes organizations more inclusive, driving innovation and organizational effectiveness.
- Generation.org says, Women are unique. They will bring unique perspectives and approaches that will lead to innovative solutions and better decision-making in the workplace.”
- Women in leadership positions bring diverse perspectives, foster collaboration and in fact improves overall performance. It is in fact said that companies that have increased female representation in leadership roles have more inclusive systems and are more likely to experience increased profitability.

There is need of empowering women to gain influence and equal opportunities to pursue their personal, social and economic endeavours (as men), so that they may participate fully in society (just like men) to be at par with them. We need to challenge impediments that curtail chances and even control over their own lives.

The question is, how can we create a more equitable society which enables women to have freedom to make their own choices and achieve full potential? We need to give them power to decide, remove barriers that prevent their growth and offer same rights, opportunities and influence, as men.

Studies reveal that women have less autonomy control than men. When we empower women, they participate in decision-making that has more positive outcomes for not only themselves but also for their institutions, families and wider communities. Women empowerment fosters diversity (gender equity) and makes organizations more inclusive, driving innovation and organizational effectiveness.

Generation.org says, Women are unique. They will bring unique perspectives and approaches that will lead to innovative solutions and better decision-making in the workplace.”

Women in leadership positions bring diverse perspectives, foster collaboration and in fact improves overall performance. It is in fact said that companies that have increased female representation in leadership roles have more inclusive systems and are more likely to experience increased profitability.

Men and women have potential different leadership styles. Men are directive and task-oriented while women tend to be more collaborative, participatory and inter-personal. Men, for example, will focus on achieving goals and directing their teams towards them. They are autocratic, make decisions independently and focus on clear expectations and rewards. They prioritise individual performance and achieving organizational goals and are, of course more assertive and competitive. This is according to a research by ResearchGate. Men focus on accomplishing tasks, implementing structure and establishing power.

On the other hand, women adopt collaborative and participatory leadership, involving their team and fostering a sense of shared responsibility.

They also support emotional needs or their teams and may leverage their empathy and emotional intelligence to build strong relationships. ResearchGate adds that women embrace transformational leadership which embraces inspiring and motivating teams to achieve shared vision. Women are equally interested in fostering a positive work environment for their teams. Women focus on caring for the team, motivating them, listening to their ideas and solving their problems. That is why it is important to increase the number of women on the table.

Back home, Kenyan women are increasingly booking their spaces at the table, with many running their own business, taking leadership roles in the society and getting up the corporate ladder. We are not saying that women should be given positions but that they should fold their sleeves and step up. Don't they say that what a man can do a woman can do better!

At the workplace, there need to be processes that will enable women to have equal opportunities in all aspects – career development pay equity, and freedom from discrimination and harassment. Organizations need to create an environment where women can thrive and contribute fully on equal footing with men.

Equal opportunity and inclusion means that hiring, training and promotion policies do not discriminate against women. Leadership and decision-making means that women are represented in leadership positions and their voice is heard when decisions are being made. Career development means that women have access to resources that will allow them advance their careers – mentorship, coaching and opportunities to take up challenging roles. Pay equity means that there is equal pay for equal work and that there is transparency in pay structure.

Organizations should have a culture that does not allow any gender-based discrimination, harassment and violence. Work-life balance policies should also exist to support women on balancing their work and personal life – flexible work plans, paid parental leave and child care support. The environment should be free from hazards and risks. Women should have access to acquisition of skills to make them succeed and lastly they need to be rewarded and recognized for their contributions, achievements and



Margaret Karangatha Kingdom bank Chairlady of the Board

leadership to keep them motivated. In conclusion, just like men, women need education, training, awareness, literacy, equal status to succeed. Organizations need to equip women with resources, opportunities and confidence needed to achieve their goals. We need to accept their viewpoints, make them gain or acquire power and control, allow them to challenge existing power structures

which subordinate them, remove constraints that impede their abilities and offer equal opportunity!

Raphael Atanda works at Car & General (Kenya) Plc as Head of Communications
raphael.atanda@cargen.com

CLIMATE

Africa's Climate Agenda Gets A Boost With The Launch Of New Just Transition Principles

By: James Ndolo
 @themtkenyatimes



Attendees pose for a photo during the launch of the Just Transition Platform's (JTP) Principles for a Just and Equitable Transition, held in Nairobi on Wednesday. The report aims to guide Africa's response to the climate crisis.

Worth Noting:

- In finance and trade, the framework pushes for reforms that align economic systems with climate goals. It promotes financial sovereignty, equitable partnerships, and structural debt relief to correct historical imbalances.
- In the labour sector, it insists on embedding labour rights and social protections into national climate plans. Priorities include decent work, inclusive governance, gender justice, and green skills training. The framework also urges wealthier nations to finance Africa's transition through grants, not loans.
- On agriculture and land use, the principles promote inclusive policy reform, access to finance, secure land tenure, and the empowerment of smallholder farmers. Recognizing agriculture's central role in Africa's economy and climate resilience, the framework calls for urgent investment in transforming outdated practices.

The Just Transition Platform (JTP) has unveiled its Principles for a Just and Equitable Transition a groundbreaking framework designed to guide Africa's response to the climate crisis. Launched in Nairobi, this continental initiative brought together diverse stakeholders, including government leaders, climate advocates, trade unionists, and academics, all committed to an inclusive, African-led climate transition.

Co-convened by the ClimateWorks Foundation and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) Africa, the JTP connects experts and grassroots activists to ensure that no one is left behind in the shift toward a climate-resilient economy.

Speakers at the launch emphasized the need for African-led solutions and tailored investments. Dean Bhebhe of Power Shift Africa highlighted the urgency of securing quality finance, technology transfer, and skill development. He called for a shift from "consultant-led" to "movement-led" approaches that are rooted in African realities. Dr. Samuel Ngingi of the University of Nairobi stressed the importance of investing in local

research and contextual data to guide green transitions. George Mwaniki, Kenya Country Director at the World Resources Institute, emphasized the need to transform agriculture which employs 70% of Kenya's labor force to ensure dignified employment and long-term viability.

The new framework addresses five key sectors: energy, finance and trade, labour, agriculture and land use, and the care economy. In the energy sector, it calls for national energy sovereignty, justice, and innovation. It advocates for universal access to clean, reliable energy while ensuring vulnerable communities are protected from the harms of legacy fossil fuel systems.

In finance and trade, the framework pushes for reforms that align economic systems with climate goals. It promotes financial sovereignty, equitable partnerships, and structural debt relief to correct historical imbalances.

In the labour sector, it insists on embedding labour rights and social protections into national climate plans. Priorities include decent work, inclusive governance, gender justice, and green skills training. The frame-

work also urges wealthier nations to finance Africa's transition through grants, not loans.

On agriculture and land use, the principles promote inclusive policy reform, access to finance, secure land tenure, and the empowerment of smallholder farmers. Recognizing agriculture's central role in Africa's economy and climate resilience, the framework calls for urgent investment in transforming outdated practices.

In the care economy, the framework emphasizes the foundational role of both unpaid and paid care work in achieving a gender-just transition. It calls for the full inclusion of women especially in last-mile communities across all climate-affected sectors.

The JTP's vision is grounded in six core messages. First, Africa must reframe the climate transition narrative by rejecting externally imposed models and asserting its own terms and priorities. Second, it must prioritize economic justice, ensuring that green jobs offer dignity and security not just survival.

Third, the framework calls for tackling the root causes of inequality, in-

cluding corruption, elite capture, and gender disparities. Fourth, it affirms African sovereignty over natural resources and promotes homegrown renewable energy sectors. Fifth, it urges investment in African-led education, research, and awareness-building. Finally, it demands a rethinking of development priorities and financial flows, advocating for transparency and structural reforms to the global financial system.

As African countries prepare to update their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, the JTP principles arrive at a critical moment. Established in 2022, the Platform developed these principles through extensive consultations across the continent. The result is a timely, people-centered roadmap rooted in justice, sovereignty, and lived experience that offers a bold vision for Africa's climate future.

The Manufacturing Of Misery: How Kenya's Elite Have Perfected The Art Of Poverty Production



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
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Poverty has emerged not as an unfortunate byproduct of failed governance, but as a carefully choreographed performance piece, in the grand theater of Kenyan politics, where Shakespeare's observation that "all the world's a stage" takes on a particularly cynical hue. Like the colonial administrators who once claimed to civilize while systematically impoverishing, Kenya's political class has mastered the art of manufacturing misery while positioning themselves as the saviors of the very masses they've methodically marginalized. Chinua Achebe's prescient warning in "Things Fall Apart" that "the white man is very clever" has found its contemporary echo in the indigenous elite who have proven equally adept at exploitation, trading colonial masters for homegrown architects of destitution.

The genesis of this sophisticated poverty production can be traced to the immediate post-independence period, when the promise of uhuru (freedom) was quickly transformed into what Ngugi wa Thiong'o aptly termed "neo-colonial dependency." In his seminal work "Decolonising the Mind," Ngugi observed how the African bourgeoisie inherited not just the colonial state apparatus but its fundamental logic of extraction and oppression. Kenya's founding fathers, despite their liberation rhetoric, established a system where poverty would serve as both a political weapon and an economic tool. The landless masses, promised redistribution, instead witnessed the emergence of a new aristocracy that consolidated colonial-era inequalities while adding layers of ethnic patronage and political clientelism that would make even the most cynical Roman senator blush with admiration.

Statistical evidence paints a picture so absurd it borders on the satirical. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2023), while 36.1% of Kenyans live below the poverty line, the country's wealth inequality has reached levels that would make medieval kingdoms appear egalitarian. The Gini coefficient stands at 0.48, indicating a level of inequality so stark that it suggests not market failure but deliberate design. Meanwhile, Kenya's Members of Parliament, who represent some of the highest-paid legislators globally, earn monthly salaries equivalent to what 97 ordinary Kenyans make in a year. This isn't incompetence; it's artistry in the creation of contrast poverty as performance art, with the elite as both directors and primary beneficiaries.



The mechanism through which this poverty production operates reveals itself in what Achebe called the "grammar of oppression" a systematic language of exclusion disguised as development discourse. Kenya's budget allocations consistently demonstrate this phenomenon, with development funds mysteriously evaporating through what officials euphemistically term "procurement irregularities." The Auditor General's reports read like dark comedy scripts, documenting the disappearance of billions meant for poverty alleviation programs while simultaneously revealing the emergence of overnight millionaires among procurement officers. The Annual Development Fund (ADF) and Constituency Development Fund (CDF), ostensibly designed to combat poverty at the grassroots level, have instead become conveyor belts for wealth transfer from the poor to the politically connected, creating what might be termed "reverse trickle-down economics."

Education, that supposed great equalizer, has been transformed into a sophisticated sorting mechanism that perpetuates class distinctions with mathematical precision. While public schools crumble under neglect with student-to-textbook ratios reaching 1:15 in some regions according to UNESCO Kenya (2024) the political elite's children attend private institutions that cost more annually than most Kenyans earn in a decade. This educational apartheid ensures that poverty becomes hereditary, passed down like family heirlooms from generation to generation. Ngugi's concept of "mental colonization" finds perfect expression here, as the masses are educated just enough to be functional but not enough to be threatening, creating what he termed

"a colonized mind that accepts its own subjugation."

Healthcare provides perhaps the most grotesque example of poverty as political strategy. While Kenya's political class jets to India, Germany, and South Africa for medical treatment often at taxpayer expense ordinary citizens die from preventable diseases in understaffed, under-equipped public hospitals. The irony reaches Swifitian proportions when considering that politicians who cannot trust their own country's healthcare system for their personal needs simultaneously campaign on platforms of healthcare improvement. The 2023 Health Ministry budget showed allocations of KSh 8 billion for medical treatment abroad for government officials, while maternal mortality rates in rural areas remain among the highest in East Africa. This isn't negligence; it's strategic population management through controlled access to life-preserving services.

The agricultural sector, which employs over 70% of Kenya's population, has been systematically weakened through policies that appear designed to create rather than alleviate rural poverty. Subsidies that should support smallholder farmers mysteriously benefit large-scale agricultural corporations, many with direct links to political families. The fertilizer subsidy program, for instance, has consistently failed to reach intended beneficiaries while enriching middlemen who happen to be politically connected. Achebe's observation about the "grammar of oppression" resonates here, as policies are crafted in the language of support while functioning as mechanisms of dispossession. Coffee and tea farmers, the backbone of Kenya's agricultural export economy, receive pittances for

their produce while export revenues line the pockets of marketing board officials and political brokers.

Urban poverty reveals itself as equally manufactured through housing policies that seem designed by satirists rather than planners. Nairobi's slums, home to over 60% of the city's population according to UN-Habitat (2024), exist in a state of permanent temporariness that serves the political class perfectly. Residents cannot organize effectively because they lack security of tenure, cannot access formal financial services because they lack formal addresses, and cannot escape poverty because the informal economy becomes their only option. Meanwhile, prime urban land remains undeveloped, held speculatively by political families who benefit from artificial scarcity. The result is a urban planning strategy that Dickens would recognize creating conditions of desperation that ensure a permanent underclass dependent on political patronage for survival.

Corruption, often dismissed as mere greed, reveals itself upon closer examination as a sophisticated poverty production system. The Anglo Leasing scandal, the National Youth Service heist, the Eurobond saga these aren't isolated incidents of corruption but components of a systematic wealth extraction mechanism that transforms public resources into private wealth while simultaneously creating the conditions for mass impoverishment. Each "scandal" follows a predictable pattern: public resources allocated for development disappear,

Worth Noting:

- Education, that supposed great equalizer, has been transformed into a sophisticated sorting mechanism that perpetuates class distinctions with mathematical precision. While public schools crumble under neglect with student-to-textbook ratios reaching 1:15 in some regions according to UNESCO Kenya (2024) the political elite's children attend private institutions that cost more annually than most Kenyans earn in a decade.

- This educational apartheid ensures that poverty becomes hereditary, passed down like family heirlooms from generation to generation. Ngugi's concept of "mental colonization" finds perfect expression here, as the masses are educated just enough to be functional but not enough to be threatening, creating what he termed "a colonized mind that accepts its own subjugation."

Okoa Uchumi Calls Out Government Over Apology, Budget, And State Violence

By: Jameson Ndolo
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The Okoa Uchumi Coalition has strongly rejected President Ruto's recent "conditional apology," calling it a non-committal gesture that fails to acknowledge state-sponsored violence, economic mismanagement, and constitutional betrayal.

Speaking in Machakos Town, the coalition stated that Kenya is not grieving in speculation, but in painful reality: over 60 youth shot dead during protests, 89 citizens abducted and disappeared, journalists surveilled, and cross-border impunity left unchecked.

Signed by civil society groups including The Institute of Social Accountability (TISA), Christian Aid Kenya, Bajeti Hub, and student representatives, the statement criticized Ruto's vague apology—"if there is any misstep, we apologize"—as in-

sincere and devoid of accountability. "There is no 'if' when the evidence is written in the wounds of a nation," the coalition declared.

Okoa Uchumi also condemned the President's recent apology to Tanzania for diplomatic tensions without demanding justice for mistreated Kenyan citizens, calling it "pretentious" and self-serving.

They labeled the national budget a "Budget of Betrayal," arguing it slashes social spending while inflating allocations for the presidency and security. With Ksh.706 billion in pending bills and Ksh.1.9 trillion in debt repayments, the coalition warned that Kenya is already in a state of debt default.

Rejecting symbolic apologies offered at high-profile events, the coalition demanded concrete action: protection of Kenyans at home and abroad, a national inquiry into state violence, transparent audits of public debt, prosecution of grand corruption, and restoration of critical social



TISA Executive Director Diana Gichengo, Christian Aid Kenya Executive Director Janet Ngombalu, Bajeti Hub Executive Director Abraham Rugo, and USLA representative Carel Omwoyo during a press conference in Machakos on Thursday.

budgets. "This campaign is not against Kenya, it is for a Kenya where leadership

is accountable, budgets serve people, and justice is delivered through policy—not prayer." thier statement

read in part.

The Manufacturing Of Misery: How Kenya's Elite Have Perfected The Art Of Poverty Production

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investigations are launched with great fanfare, scapegoats are identified, and the system continues unchanged. Ngugi's concept of "comprador bourgeoisie" finds perfect expression here, as the local elite collaborate with international capital to extract resources while maintaining domestic populations in states of managed poverty.

The role of ethnicity in poverty production demonstrates the sophistication of Kenya's elite in weaponizing identity for economic control. Ethnic tensions, rather than being ancient tribal hatreds, serve as convenient distractions from class-based analysis of inequality. Political elites from all communities collaborate in wealth extraction while simultaneously mobilizing ethnic solidarity to prevent cross-community organizing around shared economic interests. This strategy, which Achebe explored in "Anthills of the Savannah," ensures that the poor fight among themselves over ethnic representation while the

wealthy from all communities consolidate their advantages. The 2007-2008 post-election violence, which displaced over 600,000 Kenyans, served the dual purpose of political positioning and land redistribution that benefited the politically connected across ethnic lines.

International aid and development programs, ostensibly designed to combat poverty, have been captured and repurposed as poverty production mechanisms. Kenya receives billions annually in development assistance, yet poverty rates have remained relatively stable for decades. This apparent paradox resolves when examining how aid flows are structured to benefit local elites who control implementation. Development projects require local partners, creating opportunities for rent-seeking. Emergency aid creates permanent emergency conditions. Capacity building programs build capacity primarily for resource extraction. Ngugi's analysis of neocolonialism proves prophetic here, as international development becomes a collaborative enterprise between global capital and local compradors, with poverty serving as the renew-

able resource that justifies continued intervention and extraction.

Youth unemployment, affecting over 7.5 million young Kenyans according to 2024 labour statistics, represents perhaps the most cynical aspect of poverty production. Rather than being an unfortunate consequence of limited opportunities, youth unemployment serves multiple political functions. Desperate young people become available for political mobilization during elections, forming the foot soldiers for ethnic violence and political demonstrations. The informal economy, dominated by young people, remains largely untaxed and unregulated, creating a parallel economy that benefits political elites who control access to licenses, permits, and protection. Youth entrepreneurship programs, heavily publicized and minimally funded, serve as publicity opportunities while ensuring that the fundamental conditions creating youth unemployment remain unchanged.

The sophistication of Kenya's poverty production system lies in its ability to generate wealth for the elite while simultaneously creating the impression of fighting pover-



ty. Every budget speech promises poverty reduction while allocating resources in ways that guarantee poverty reproduction. Every development program creates new opportunities for extraction while marginally improving conditions enough to claim success. Every anti-corruption initiative provides cover for more sophisticated corruption while eliminating competition from less connected operators. This isn't governance failure; it's governance by design, creating what Achebe might have called "things falling apart by arrangement." The political class has

discovered that poverty, properly managed, provides more sustainable returns than development, ensuring both political relevance and economic advantage in perpetuity. As Ngugi observed, the most effective chains are those that convince the enslaved they're being liberated and Kenya's elite have forged such chains from the very rhetoric of development, creating a system where poverty production masquerades as poverty reduction while generating wealth for those who claim to combat it.

The writer is a legal researcher and writer.

Genocide Remembrance Day: A Nation Confronts Its Scars, A Journey Towards Elusive Closure



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
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As the sun rises over the vast Namibian landscape this morning, a profound silence descends upon the nation, pregnant with the weight of history. For the first time, May 28th is officially observed as Genocide Remembrance Day – a solemn declaration by the Namibian government marking the closure of the infamous German concentration camps in 1908. This pivotal day is more than a mere date on the calendar; it is a profound act of national recognition, a somber acknowledgement of the darkest chapter in Namibia's colonial past. Yet, as the nation reflects, a deeper question emerges: Can a single day, or indeed a series of negotiations, truly mark a "closure" to wounds so deep, to suffering so immense, as that inflicted upon the Ovaherero and Nama people? This article delves into the harrowing history of this day, explores its profound significance for Namibians, particularly the Nama and Herero communities, and critically analyzes the complex notion of closure in the shadow of genocide.

The Genesis of a Crime: German Colonialism and the Road to Annihilation

The late 19th century saw a brutal scramble for Africa, with European powers carving up the continent with scant regard for its inhabitants. German South West Africa, established in 1884, quickly became a microcosm of imperial ambition fueled by racial superiority and economic greed. Prior to German arrival, the land was home to diverse and sophisticated communities: the pastoral Ovaherero, the fiercely independent Nama, the resilient San, Damara, and various Ovambo groups. For centuries, these communities had developed complex social structures, land tenure systems, and trade networks.

The German presence, however, systematically dismantled this delicate balance. Through a combination of fraudulent treaties, outright land theft, and the imposition of a harsh colonial administration, the indigenous populations found themselves increasingly dispossessed and marginalized. German settlers, backed by military might, seized prime grazing lands, confiscated cattle – the lifeblood of the Herero

economy – and subjected the local populace to degrading labor practices and racial discrimination. Tensions simmered, fueled by broken promises and mounting injustices. The land, which for generations had sustained their way of life, was being systematically alienated, and the very fabric of their societies was under threat.

The breaking point arrived on January 12, 1904. Driven to desperation by the relentless oppression and the prospect of utter ruin, Samuel Maharero, paramount chief of the Ovaherero, led an uprising against German colonial rule. The initial Herero revolt, though targeting German men and military installations, notably spared German women, children, and missionaries, reflecting a desperate plea for justice rather than indiscriminate vengeance. The Herero sought to reclaim their stolen lands and dignity. Their initial successes stunned the Germans, forcing Berlin to dispatch a new, ruthless commander: Lieutenant-General Lothar von Trotha.

Von Trotha arrived in June 1904, imbued with a chillingly genocidal ideology. He viewed the African people as an impediment to German colonial expansion, fit only for extermination. His strategy was not about pacification or negotiation; it was about annihilation. Following the decisive Battle of Ohamakari (Waterberg) in August 1904, where the Herero were outmaneuvered but not decisively defeated, von Trotha issued his infamous "Extermination Order" (Vernichtungsbefehl) on October 2, 1904. Its words remain etched in the annals of infamy:

"Within the German boundaries every Herero, whether armed or unarmed, with or without cattle, will be shot. I shall no longer receive women and children; I will drive them back to their people or I will have them shot."

This was not merely a military directive; it was a clear decree of genocide. Thousands of Herero, driven from the Waterberg, were forced into the unforgiving Omaheke desert. German military units systematically poisoned waterholes and cut off escape routes, condemning tens of thousands to a agonizing death by thirst and starvation. The desert became a vast, silent graveyard, testament to an unparalleled act of calculated cruelty.

The Nama people, witnessing the Herero's fate and suffering under similar German oppression, launched their own uprising in late 1904, led by revered figures like Hendrik Witbooi and Jacob Morenga. They too faced the brutal efficiency of von Trotha's forces, their resistance met with similar scorched-earth tactics and widespread atrocities. The stage was set for the establishment of concentration camps, a chilling precur-

sor to the horrors of the 20th century.

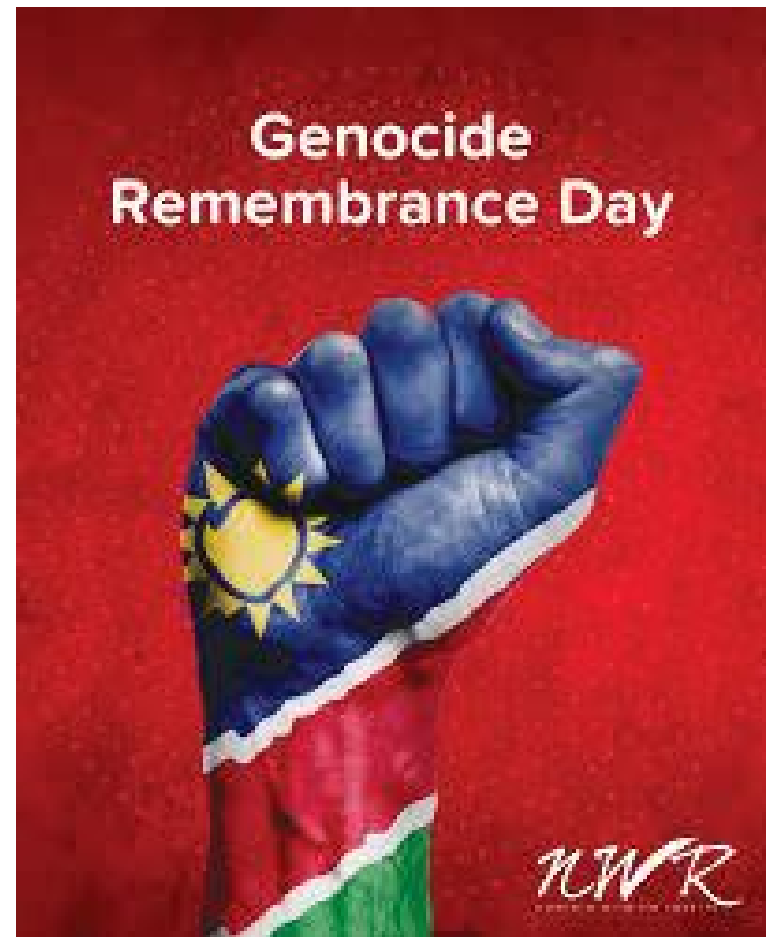
The Horrors Unveiled: German Concentration Camps in South West Africa

As the Herero and Nama people succumbed to the combined assault of German firepower, the desert, and starvation, the survivors faced a new, equally horrific fate: incarceration in concentration camps. These were not initially conceived as gas chambers, but their purpose was equally insidious: to break the spirit of the surviving indigenous communities, to exploit their labor to death, and to systematically degrade and dehumanize them. Established from 1904 onwards, camps sprung up across the territory, in locations such as Swakopmund, Windhoek, Omaruru, Karibib, and most notoriously, Shark Island (Haifischinsel) near Lüderitz. Shark Island stands as a chilling monument to the depths of human cruelty. Located off the coast of Lüderitz, its barren, windswept expanse became a death trap. Prisoners, predominantly Nama and Herero women, children, and the elderly, were crammed into makeshift shelters, exposed to the biting cold Atlantic winds and the relentless sun. Malnutrition was endemic, with prisoners surviving on meager rations of rice and often rotten flour. Forced labor in the harbour, guano fields, and railway construction gangs under brutal conditions further weakened their already frail bodies.

Disease, however, was the ultimate killer. Typhus, scurvy, dysentery, and pneumonia ripped through the emaciated populations. Lack of sanitation, contaminated water, and the absence of proper medical care turned the camps into charnel houses. Mortality rates on Shark Island often soared to horrifying levels, with reports indicating that 70% to 90% of some groups perished within months. Those who survived often bore the indelible scars of their ordeal – chronic illness, broken bodies, and shattered spirits.

Conditions in other camps, though perhaps not reaching the same staggering death tolls as Shark Island, mirrored the same patterns of abuse, starvation, and systematic neglect. Prisoners were forced to build the very infrastructure that facilitated German colonial exploitation, often working until they dropped dead from exhaustion. The camps were designed to strip away every shred of dignity, to transform human beings into disposable units of labor, paving the way for the total appropriation of their land and resources.

Adding another layer of horror was the involvement of scientific racism and grotesque medical experimentation. German doctors and anthropologists, driven by the pseudoscientific theories of racial hierarchy prevalent



at the time, conducted sadistic "experiments" on living prisoners. Dr. Eugen Fischer, later a leading figure in Nazi eugenics, conducted studies on mixed-race children, examining their physical characteristics and advocating for the prevention of further "racial mixing." Skulls and other body parts of deceased prisoners were systematically collected, boiled, cleaned, and shipped to Germany for "racial research" in museums and universities, including the prestigious Charité hospital in Berlin. This macabre trade in human remains underscored the complete dehumanization of the indigenous people, reducing them to mere specimens for racist "science."

The concentration camps eventually closed in May 1908. This closure was not a humanitarian gesture driven by moral compunction, but rather a pragmatic decision influenced by several factors: international condemnation and growing scrutiny, the massive decline in prisoner numbers due to the high mortality rates (there were simply few left to exploit), and a shift in German colonial policy towards a more systematic system of forced labor on farms and in mines, rather than large, centralized camps. The surviving Herero and Nama were dispersed, often forced into servile labor on German farms or confined to reserves on their ancestral lands, now fully dispossessed and economically ruined. The date of May 28, 1908, marked the formal shutdown of these death camps, a physical end to a systematic horror, but by no means an end to the suffering it had engendered.

The Long Shadow: What Genocide Remembrance Day Means for Namibians

The declaration of May 28th as Genocide Remembrance Day reverberates deeply across Namibia, particularly for the descendants of the Herero and Nama genocide survivors. For these communities, this day is a profound act of recognition and validation. For over a century, their suffering was largely dismissed, ignored, or downplayed, often obscured by the victor's narrative of colonial progress. An official remembrance day unequivocally acknowledges the historical truth of the genocide, validating the oral histories, the generational trauma, and the persistent cries for justice that have echoed through their families for generations. It is a vital step in restoring dignity to the victims and their descendants.

The intergenerational impact of the genocide cannot be overstated. Decades of research in post-conflict societies demonstrate that trauma is not confined to individuals but can be passed down through generations, manifesting as higher rates of PTSD, depression, anxiety, and social dysfunction. For the Herero and Nama, this trauma is compounded by the enduring economic marginalization and land dispossession directly stemming from the genocide.

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Many descendants live in poverty, still landless, often working on the very farms that once belonged to their ancestors. Genocide Remembrance Day thus becomes a focal point for understanding these persistent socio-economic disparities, linking them directly to the historical injustice.

The day also holds immense cultural significance. It is a time for remembering ancestors lost, for traditional mourning ceremonies, for recounting the stories that have been orally preserved, often in secret, for over a century. It is an opportunity to reclaim narratives, to strengthen cultural identity, and to reaffirm the resilience of communities that were pushed to the brink of extinction. Memorials, such as the infamous Shark Island, now become sites of pilgrimage and education, places where the spirits of the ancestors can be honored and their stories told to new generations.

Crucially, Genocide Remembrance Day underscores the ongoing struggle for justice and reparations from the German government. While Germany formally acknowledged the atrocities as “genocide” in 2021 and offered a “reconciliation” package of €1.1 billion for development projects over 30 years, this agreement remains deeply contentious for many within the affected communities. Critics argue that the funds do not constitute direct “reparations” as legally defined, that the amount is insufficient given the scale of the destruction, and that it was negotiated without full consensus or direct participation from all descendant groups. The fight for a truly comprehensive, legally binding, and morally acceptable form of restorative justice continues, and the remembrance day serves as a powerful reminder of this unresolved historical debt.

Furthermore, the genocide was fundamentally a crime of land dispossession. The vast majority of commercially viable land in Namibia remains in the hands of descendants of German settlers, a direct legacy of the 1904-1908 events. Genocide Remembrance Day implicitly highlights the urgency of addressing this stark inequality, reminding the nation that true reconciliation cannot occur without confronting the ongoing economic disparities rooted in colonial violence.

Beyond the immediate impact on the Herero and Nama, Genocide Remembrance Day holds broader significance for all Namibians. It fosters a shared understanding of the nation’s turbulent past, promoting national unity through a common

history of struggle against colonialism, albeit with different experiences. It reinforces a national commitment to the principle of “Never Again,” serving as a stark reminder of the consequences of unchecked hatred, racism, and state-sponsored violence. It encourages education and awareness, ensuring that future generations, both in Namibia and globally, understand this dark chapter in human history and the importance of safeguarding human rights. Namibia, having experienced genocide firsthand, positions itself as a moral voice on the international stage, advocating for justice and prevention wherever such atrocities occur.

The Namibian government’s decision to declare this day is therefore highly significant. It demonstrates a commitment to national healing, to confronting uncomfortable truths, and to advocating for its citizens on the global stage. However, it also highlights the internal challenges of uniting diverse perspectives within the victim communities and navigating the complexities of international diplomacy.

True Closure: A Critical Analysis

The concept of “closure” in the context of genocide is profoundly complex and often elusive. While May 28th, 1908, marked the physical closure of the German concentration camps, can May 28th, 2025 or years to come, truly mark a “closure” to the genocide itself?

Symbolic Closure: In a symbolic sense, yes, the declaration of Genocide Remembrance Day offers a form of closure. It is an official, national recognition of the atrocities, a public act of mourning, and a commitment to remembering the victims. It provides a focal point for collective grief and reflection, validating the suffering that has been carried for generations. It is a powerful statement that the victims’ lives mattered, and their deaths will not be forgotten.

Historical Closure: The camps themselves ceased to operate. From a purely historical and administrative perspective, that chapter closed. However, the effects of the camps and the genocide – the demographic decimation, the loss of land, language, and culture, the psychological trauma, the economic disenfranchisement – did not close. They festered, shaping the contours of Namibian society for over a century. History, in this sense, is not closed but continuously lived and grappled with.

Emotional and Psychological Closure: For the victims and their descendants, emotional and psychological closure is not a singular event but a long, arduous process. It requires:

1. A Full and Unreserved Apology:



While Germany’s 2021 apology was a significant diplomatic step, many victim communities felt it lacked the full legal and moral weight required, particularly its avoidance of the term “reparations” in favor of “reconciliation projects.” True emotional closure demands a clear and unambiguous admission of guilt for the specific crime of genocide.

2. Adequate Reparations and Restitution: The financial agreement, while substantial in monetary terms for development projects, is seen by many as insufficient and not truly addressing the direct, individual, and communal losses incurred. For many, real closure necessitates material restitution – including the return of ancestral lands – that empowers the affected communities to rebuild what was lost. The debate over direct payments versus development aid remains a significant hurdle to genuine closure.

3. Return of Ancestral Remains and Artifacts: The symbolic and spiritual importance of bringing home the skulls and other human remains taken to Germany for “scientific” study is paramount. For many, true healing cannot begin until their ancestors are returned to their sacred burial grounds. The return of cultural artifacts also contributes to the restoration of identity and heritage.

4. Comprehensive Educational Initiatives: Closure requires a shared understanding of the past in both Namibia and Germany. This means not only acknowledging the history in textbooks but also fostering deeper dialogue, supporting educational exchanges, and ensuring that the lessons of the genocide are understood and integrated into national consciousness in both countries.

5. True Reconciliation: Reconcil-

iation is not merely the absence of conflict but a profound process of building trust and understanding. It requires genuine dialogue, a willingness to address past injustices, and a commitment to ensuring that power imbalances are rectified. For many, Germany’s reluctance to engage with all descendant groups directly or address the land question thoroughly hinders true reconciliation.

Political and Legal Closure: From a legal perspective, the matter remains partially open. While Germany has acknowledged the genocide, it has avoided a full legal admission that would entail direct reparations under international law. Legal challenges, particularly in international courts, underscore the ongoing pursuit of a comprehensive legal closure that aligns with international human rights standards.

The path forward is therefore complex. It requires continued, robust dialogue between the Namibian and German governments, but crucially, it also demands inclusive engagement with all segments of the affected communities. Addressing the lingering land question and economic disparities that are direct consequences of the genocide is paramount. Sustaining remembrance through memorials, museums, and the oral histories of survivors and their descendants will ensure that the lessons of this dark chapter are never forgotten. The “Special Initiative” funds, while contested, must be transparently and effectively managed to reach and benefit the most affected communities directly. The struggle for true closure is an ongoing journey, a continuous act of advocacy, remembrance, and the pursuit of holistic justice.

Conclusion: A Nation Remembers, A Future Forged in Truth

The declaration of May 28th as Genocide Remembrance Day is a momentous occasion for Namibia. It is a powerful and necessary step in acknowledging the horrific truths of its colonial past, a day for the nation to stand in solidarity with the Ovaherero and Nama people, whose ancestors endured unspeakable suffering in the German concentration camps. It marks a historical end to a physical horror, offering a vital symbolic closure for a nation striving to heal.

However, the path to true closure is long and multifaceted. It transcends the physical closure of the camps in 1908 or even a single day of remembrance in 2025. It demands continued commitment to justice, encompassing meaningful reparations, the return of ancestral remains, and a deep, empathetic understanding of intergenerational trauma. It calls for genuine reconciliation, built on truth, mutual respect, and a rectification of the historical injustices that continue to cast a long shadow over Namibian society, particularly concerning land and economic equity.

As Namibia remembers, it also looks forward. This day serves as a powerful reminder of the resilience of its people, their unwavering spirit in the face of unimaginable adversity. It is a testament to the enduring human capacity for survival, for reclaiming narrative, and for demanding accountability. May 28th is not just about looking back at the past; it is about building a future rooted in truth, a future where such atrocities can never be repeated, and where the promise of justice and healing can finally be realized for all Namibians.

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Anticipation is building ahead of the 36th edition of the Rhino Charge, set to take place Saturday, May 31, in Baringo County.

65 Teams To Compete At 36th Edition Of Rhino Charge In Baringo County



Geco Tribe Chargers of Car 46.

By: AGENCIES

Anticipation is building ahead of the 36th edition of the Rhino Charge, set to take place Saturday, May 31, in Baringo County.

Known for its tough terrain, ingenious route planning, and unwavering conservation mission, Rhino Charge continues to be one of Kenya's most daring and distinctive motorsport events.

This year, 65 teams from across Kenya and beyond are registered to compete in the off-road challenge, which raises funds for the Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust.

The Trust supports the conservation and protection of Kenya's mountain ecosystems — the country's critical water towers.

Returning to the charge are

some of the event's most recognized and resilient teams, including:

Car No. 25 – Charging Hippos: Led by Sam Jethwa, a paraplegic driver whose inspiring participation also extends to the East Africa Safari Classic Rally.

Car No. 19 – Bush Babes: The formidable all-female team that has participated in Rhino Charge for over 15 years, exemplifying determination and grit.

Car No. 46 – Geco Tribe Chargers: A passionate group known for their adventurous spirit and conservation ethos.

Speaking ahead of the race, Mateus Finato, driver of Geco Tribe's Car No. 46, shared:

"Preparing for Rhino Charge is always intense—we've been fine-tuning the car, testing in terrain similar to what we expect in Baringo, and getting the whole team mentally and physically ready. It's not just about speed; it's about strategy, endurance, and teamwork. We're excited and feeling confident. Having White Cap Lager back us again is a real boost—it helps take some pressure off and lets us focus fully on the challenge ahead."

Others will include five-time winners Car No. 5, led by Graham McKittrick, and past champions Car No. 4, led by Mark Glen.

Other top contenders include Car No. 43 (Peter Kinyua), Moto Moto (Rajesh Maini), Team AK44 (Adil Khawaja), BATUK,

Team Huzi, and Zambarau Heels on the Wheel, among others.

Beyond the competition, the Rhino Charge is a major fundraising platform for environmental conservation.

In 2024, the event raised a record-breaking Ksh 375 million for Rhino Ark's work — a milestone that organizers and participants are eager to exceed this year.

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Sports >> *Kenya Amateur Golf Championship (KAGC) leader John Lejirma will clash with defending champion Michael Karanga and other rising stars at the 2025 NCBA Coronation Cup

Top Amateur Golfers Led By Lejirma To Clash At NCBA Coronation Cup & Bendor Trophy



Royal Nairobi Golf Club's John Lejirma follows his shot off a fairway during round two action at the East Africa Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing Qualifying School

By: **Capital Sport**

Kenya Amateur Golf Championship (KAGC) leader John Lejirma will clash with defending champion Michael Karanga and other rising stars at the 2025 NCBA Coronation Cup & Bendor Trophy slated to tee-off Friday to Sunday June 1 at the Nakuru Golf Club.

The competition will bring together the country's top amateur golfers in a battle for glory in one of the most prestigious events in the KAGC series.

Others in the line-up are Elvis Muigua, and home player John Kamaisi joined by a contingency of nine elite ladies including Joyce Wanjiru, Kellie Gachaga, and Naom Wafula will also be battling out for the triumph.

Four players from Rwanda and

two from Great Britain will also be in action.

This year's tournament has attracted an impressive field of 110 registered players for the Coronation Category (Based on gross scores) and another 100 players for the Bendor Category (Based on net scores), promising intense competition and high-quality golf throughout the weekend.

The Coronation event will be played in a stroke play format over 54 holes while the Bendor category will play for 36 holes on Saturday and Sunday.

Players are expected to face a challenging but well-prepared course in Nakuru, with the club captain confirming that the course is in excellent condition and ready to welcome players and fans for what promises to be a thrilling

golfing weekend.

Commenting on the tournament, NCBA Group Managing Director John Gachora noted the significance of such tournaments in elevating the standards of golf in the country.

"We are delighted to support events like the Coronation Cup and Bendor Trophy, reflecting our strong commitment to growing the game of golf in Kenya," Gachora said.

"As we prepare for this much-anticipated tournament at Nakuru Golf Club, we look forward to witnessing remarkable talent and a great weekend of golfing and networking," he added.

"This event is a significant part of Kenya's golfing tradition, and we are privileged to play a role in its ongoing story. We are excited

to connect with our valued stakeholders from Nakuru and beyond as we unite to celebrate the enduring spirit of golf."

As part of the Kenya Golf Union's elite national series, the NCBA Coronation Trophy contributes valuable points to the World Amateur Golf Rankings (WAGR), attracting top players from across the country and the region.

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Nuclear Power For Uraan Pakistan

By: Malahat Abbasi
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Worth Noting:

- Energy fuels the economy and in Pakistan's case, the paucity of it is hindering the progress in the economy. Pakistan has historically suffered from an energy crisis thereby relying heavily on imported fossil fuel sources. This scenario is further exacerbated by the price fluctuations in the international market and supply disruptions due to political and/or economic reasons.
- Keeping in view the obstacles in attaining economic stability and political coherence, Pakistan invested in Nuclear energy generation which provided a way to diversify the national energy mix and enhance energy independence. However, even with the 2065 gigawatts-hours (GWh) energy production contributing more than 26% share of clean energy in the national grid, Pakistan's nuclear energy capacity remains underutilized, with its potential far from fully realized.



“Pakistan's nuclear power generation program is one of the most successful programs in the world”, said the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Grossi during his recent visit to Pakistan. The visit by DG IAEA underscores the acknowledgment of Pakistan's achievement in the peaceful utilization of nuclear technology, offering a compelling solution to attain the results outlined in the progressive economic revival vision of “Uraan Pakistan”.

Energy fuels the economy and in Pakistan's case, the paucity of it is hindering the progress in the economy. Pakistan has historically suffered from an energy crisis thereby relying heavily on imported fossil fuel sources. This scenario is further exacerbated by the price fluctuations in the international market and supply disruptions due to political and/or economic reasons.

Keeping in view the obstacles in attaining economic stability and political coherence, Pakistan invested in Nuclear energy generation which provided a way to diversify the national energy mix and enhance energy independence. However, even with the 2065 gigawatts-hours

(GWh) energy production contributing more than 26% share of clean energy in the national grid, Pakistan's nuclear energy capacity remains underutilized, with its potential far from fully realized. The nation's persistent energy crisis compounded with its inflating growth requirement makes it inevitable to renew the focus on expanding nuclear power generation for a secure, sustainable, and prosperous future.

The history of nuclear power generation dates back to the 1950s when the Nuclear power plants (NPP) began to operate. Sighting the effectiveness of nuclear fission reactions and greenhouse gas-free quality, the utilization of nuclear technology for energy generation was encouraged across the globe. “The time of nuclear renaissance has come,” said French President Emmanuel Macron in his speech in Belfort, East of France, while outlining France's energy policy for 2050. The statement endorsed the crucial role played by nuclear energy for the sustainable future of planet Earth. Nuclear energy presents a powerful and reliable solution to energy woes which is not the case with fossil fuels. Nuclear power plants provide a stable and

undistorted baseload of electricity which is inevitable for the functioning of industries.

Additionally, nuclear energy is used in various applications such as medical and industrial uses, and research and development. For example, nuclear medicine uses radioactive isotopes for diagnosis and treatment of diseases, while radiation processing is used for sterilization and preservation of food products. Overall, the use of nuclear technology continues to address global challenges such as energy security, climate change, and food and health issues.

As per the official records of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), the country is currently operating six Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) with a total capacity of 3,530 Megawatts of energy (MWe). Four of these NPPs Chasnupp 1,2,3 and 4 as C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4 are located in the Punjab province at Chashma Nuclear Power Generating Station (CNPGS). Similarly, The Karachi Nuclear Power Plant KANUPP (K-2 and K-3), located by the far coastal region in Karachi with a combined capacity of 2200 MW. It is important to note that China's contribution to establishing the K-2 and K-3 NPPs

remains foundational. During the year 2023, these NPPs added 22,372 million kWh to the National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) system (17.2 % of the total electricity mix)

Since Uraan Pakistan aims to revitalize the economic landscape of Pakistan through industrial growth, nuclear energy can act as a catalyzing force to obtain those milestones. An uninterrupted and continued power supply is a necessity for industrial expansion, ultimately attracting foreign investments and thus, creating much-needed jobs. By investing in smart small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs), the hefty cost of construction can be curtailed. The country would also be able to expedite its technological base expertise by fostering a skilled workforce in the high-tech sector. These outcomes are the practical manifestation of the Uraan Pakistan vision which highlights the importance of a technologically advanced and updated nation. By utilizing the technology of the atom in its real essence, Pakistan can unlock its economic potential, secure its energy future, and truly take the flight with Uraan Pakistan.