



Rwanda's Calculated Exit From ECCAS: A Geopolitical Tremor In Central Africa
 Rwanda's recent decision to withdraw from the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), announced on June 7, 2025, marks a significant turning point in the complex and often fraught regional dynamics of Central Africa. This is not Rwanda's first departure from the bloc, having previously exited in 2007 and rejoined in 2015. Page 18

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News>> Tea Bill: Parliamentary Committee Engages Stakeholders

P. 8. The National Assembly Committee on Agriculture and Livestock yesterday held a stakeholders' engagement on the Tea (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

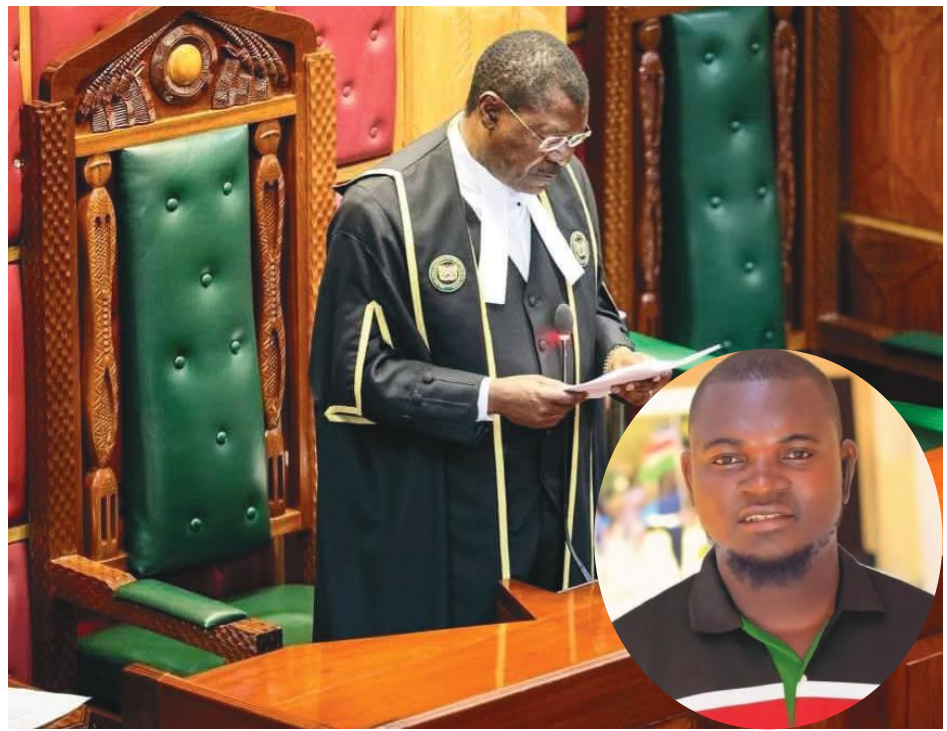


News>> Stakeholders Give Views On Tissue, Organ Transplant Procedures

P. 12. The Independent and Investigative Committee on Tissue and Organ Transplant Services is in Eldoret to collect the views of residents over possible malpractice and unethical violations of the processes leading to the surgical procedures.

Report On Ojwang's Death To Be Tabled Tomorrow

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula yesterday directed the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security to present a preliminary report and statement to the House regarding the death of Albert Ojwang tomorrow. The Speaker said the report will provide an update on the ongoing investigations into the circumstances surrounding the tragic death of Ojwang.



Moses Wetang'ula, (inset - Albert Ojwang')

STORY ON PAGE 9



President Ruto Meets A Section Of Kikuyu Artistes

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto has said that the country will be transformed by leaders who are prepared to take bold and decisive steps to change the lives of the people. Speaking on Monday when he met a section of artistes from central Kenya, the Head of State notes that through bold decisions, his government has made great strides in stabilising the economy, increasing agricultural productivity and enhancing social security for a better future. Equally, he added, his administration has also made tough decisions in making affordable housing a reality, and ensuring the provision of universal healthcare. During the meeting, held at State House, Nairobi, the artistes appraised me of the issues affecting their sector where they also agreed to work with the current regime for a better country for all citizens.



Editor's Desk




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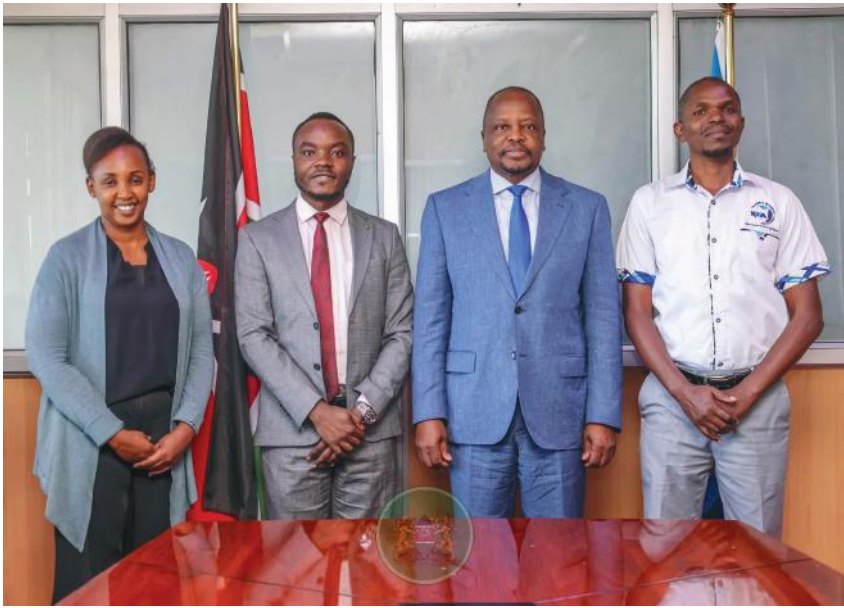
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NEWS IN BRIEF



Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mutahi Kagwe yesterday hosted the Kenya Veterinary Association led by National Chairperson Dr. Kelvin Osore in a meeting aimed at strengthening collaboration. The CS Kagwe welcomed KVA's proposals and emphasized the need for a more structured partnership. "We must align incentives and training. Slaughterhouse and butchery workers must be trained and certified. Public health cannot be compromised," he said. He committed to improving veterinary intern welfare through better documentation, regular payslips, a modest stipend increase, and exploring harmonized allowances. The CS also called for tighter oversight of payroll systems and expanded training programs for meat sector workers. The meeting concluded with an agreement to form a joint working group to address systemic challenges and elevate the livestock sector as a key economic driver.



Senior Counsel Katwa Kigen affirmed Mediheal Group of Hospitals' full cooperation with the Independent and Investigative Committee on Tissue and Organ Transplant Services. Kigen assured the team of their commitment to support the ongoing probe into transplant procedures. He confirmed that Mediheal had already submitted relevant documentation and expressed readiness to provide any additional materials the committee may require to assess the integrity of the hospital's transplant procedures. The committee is currently in Eldoret to gather public views on potential malpractice and ethical concerns surrounding organ and tissue transplant processes. Kigen also noted that Mediheal is prepared to contribute to shaping the scope of the committee's work, including the development of a legal framework to guide tissue and organ transplant services across the country.

Youth from vulnerable families in Samburu County have been urged to apply for the Climate Resilience Service Program (CRSP), commonly known as Kazi Mtaani, which will run for six months. Samburu County Commissioner John Cheruiyot said the programme targets 677 youth and 23 supervisors across the three sub-counties, aiming to offer employment while instilling patriotism through tasks such as road repair, tree planting, and security road clearing. Eligible youth aged 18-29 (and up to 35 for those with disabilities) will earn Sh500 daily, with supervisors earning Sh580. Cheruiyot emphasised gender balance and inclusivity for persons with disabilities during recruitment and urged youth, including those in remote areas, to apply via www.crsp.go.ke.



Murang'a East Sub County Police Commander Reginah Muriuki has called on women to report incidents of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) immediately to the authorities, emphasising that timely reporting is crucial for justice and protection. She emphasised that speaking out not only protects the victim but also prevents future abuse. Kahuro Deputy County Commissioner Esther Mwaura reinforced the message, highlighting the availability of gender desks at all police stations and assuring survivors that their voices will be heard and action taken. Both officials encouraged the use of existing justice systems to support survivors and hold perpetrators accountable.



Over 1,000 Narok County residents received free medical care during the two-day Better Together Mara Medical Camp held at Enkitoria Oloolaimutia Medical Centre in Narok West. Organised by Life Care International, the outreach brought together local and international medical professionals offering services such as dental and optical care, gynaecology, tumour and cleft lip surgeries, and treatment for chronic illnesses. Dr. John Njenga, the clinical lead at the camp, said the overwhelming turnout highlighted the urgent need for accessible healthcare in rural Kenya. More than 500 patients received eye surgeries, including 73 cataract extractions and 64 tumour removal procedures. A special ward focused on women and children offered breast cancer screenings, paediatric check-ups, and mental health counselling.



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Gov't To Source For Extra Funding To Address Research Deficit In Local Industries

By: Erastus Gichohi
@themkenyatimes

The government is sourcing for extra funding for the research sector in order to support and spur the emerging innovations for locally bred ideas.

The move comes even after the national government failed to meet the two per cent allocation threshold of the National Domestic Product (GDP) to fund Research, Science and Innovation as mandated by the 2013 Act.

By enacting this Act, Parliament tasked the National Research Fund with the necessary funding provisions in law to drive innovations and help commercialize research locally.

However, inadequate funding for the sector has seen Kenya being ranked 96th out of 132 countries in the 2024 Global Innovation Index, which measures institutions' capacity, human capital, research infrastructure and creative outputs.

Consequently, Research, Science and Innovation Principal Secretary Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak has said there was a need to boost necessary funding to stimulate and strengthen the uptake of research to address Kenya's socio-economic challenges.

However, official data from the National Research Fund shows that the National Treasury allocated a mere Sh343 million for research during the financial year 2023/ 2024 out of the possible Sh200 billion target, needed annually as per the 2013 Act.

Out of this funding, the available data shows that 160 research projects were funded and six projects commercialized, while an MoU on Research and

Development was signed to the tune of Sh75 million in 2024.

Prof. Abdulrazak however indicated that the government is finalising the development of draft Science, Technology and Innovation policy (2023) to address the existing gaps including adequate financing.

The policy, he said, will help strengthen local institutions involved in research and development to enhance uptake of innovations, which will help curb skills brain drain.

The PS said that the move will be achieved by supporting locally developed innovation prototypes, protecting intellectual property rights (IP), noting that previously Kenya has been robbed of great innovations for lacking adequate legal protections.

Prof. Adulrazak said the state department has also lobbied the parliamentary committee on Education and Research for additional funding needed to catalyze innovations for economic development and wealth creation locally.

At the same time, the PS rooted for more linkages with the diaspora players, the private sector, and venture capitalists to address the remaining funding gap to stimulate research and advance Kenya's innovation agenda.

Prof. Abdulrazak made the remarks in Naivasha, during the opening of the 4th Multi-Sectoral Conference and Exhibition on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation, being hosted by the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI).

Towards this end, the PS announced a stronger partnership with all the 47 counties to establish incubation centres to nurture, develop and com-



Research, Science and Innovation Principal Secretary Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak engaging students

mercialize emerging innovative ideas, especially for youths.

He added that through the Kenya Innovation Agency (KENIA), the government will seek to tap Gen Z's ideas and enthusiasm, as well as expand funding opportunities to commercialize and monetize their innovations.

"Kenya lags behind in the global innovation index at position 96 and we seek to reverse this by supporting local innovation prototypes and ring-fencing intellectual property rights", said the PS.

On his part, Chair of the National Re-

search Fund, Prof. Ratemo Michieka, said the agency has relied on the national government funding, as well as local and international donors to push for the commercialization of research projects in the country.

Prof. Michieka underscored the need to tap and empower the youthful talents, while funding priority is directed to research activities and areas that will address local solutions to existing and emerging challenges.

On his part, the Chair of Konza Technopolis Development Authority, Prof. Raphael Munavu, cited research, sci-

ence and technology as key catalysts to the country's development agenda.

Prof. Munavu said the smart city, the first on the continent, now hosts key facilities that will ensure youths incubate their innovations, commercialize and monetize them.

He said the Technopolis now hosts a data centre supporting over 70 local companies including private and public entities, key to enhancing data protection.

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Tea Bill: Parliamentary Committee Engages Stakeholders

By: PSCU and MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

The National Assembly Committee on Agriculture and Livestock yesterday held a stakeholders' engagement on the Tea (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

In a meeting chaired by the Committee Vice-Chairperson and Konoin constituency MP Brighton Yegon, different stakeholders gave their submission on the Senate Bill which seeks to amend the Tea Act to provide for direct sales of tea, the payment of tea proceeds and for connected purposes.

Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) Holdings led by the national chairperson, Mr. Chege Kirundi, was the first entity to make their submission before the committee.

They disagreed with Section 22(1) of the Bill that seeks to provide for a maximum of five members of the board of directors for every factory.

"We seek for deletion of Section 22 (1) of the proposed Bill. The number of directors was already provided for by the Act and it was capped at nine. What usually happens is we elect six and leave three positions open which are filled in adherence to the governance framework in issues such as gender representation. Tampering with this will lead to under representation of tea farmers across the factories," Mr. Kirundi argued.

The Agency was also against Section 36 (8) of the principal Act which states that the Cabinet Secretary shall in consultation with the county governments prescribe regulations for the procedure for sale of tea and for the establishment of auction centers in tea growing counties.

On opposing the establishment of other auction centers, Yegon wondered why KTDA was against a move that he observed would make it easier for them to sell the tea.

"You are aware that tea from West Rift has been performing poorly in the Mombasa Tea Auction, selling at a really low price even lower than the production cost. So why oppose establishment of other tea auctions that would give farmers from this region a chance," Yegon asked.

In response, the KTDA officials said, establishing multiple auction centers in tea-growing counties risks segmenting the tea market leading to difference in pricing. They added that this could dilute Kenya's competitive edge in the global tea market that benefits from a centralized pricing system.

"The benefits of having a consolidated auction that accommodates all the



KTDA Holdings chairman Chege Kirundi addressing the committee yesterday

teas from the country provides economies of scale that translate to lower auction selling costs for the producer as well as convenience to the buyer who when blending different origin teas will need the teas to be easily accessible. Therefore, delete this provision and retain the Mombasa Tea Auction as the sole auction center," the KTDA chairperson who is also a lawyer by profession told the committee.

Reacting to the presentation, Nominated MP Sabina Chege asked KTDA why they were against the number of directors being regulated yet tea farmers have complained on the burden they have to shoulder with the current nine directors in office.

"Having looked at your presentation, it is like the directors are questioning themselves. Tell us why you don't want to be regulated because if we leave it open, are you not thinking about the burden that goes to the tea farmers," Sabina asked.

Mr. Kirundi argued that the justification for leaving the number of directors open to the Article is because of the turnover of the Tea Factory Company, the shareholding of the Tea Factory Company and the flexibility in the management of a tea factory.

For Kenya Tea Growers' Association

(KTGA) led by the CEO, Ms Linda Oluoch they had an issue with Clause 13 amending Section 53 on Tea Levy "(2A) Specialty tea and value-added tea packed into packets or containers holding not more than ten kilograms" shall be exempted from tea levy.

The issue, according to Ms. Oluoch, is the exemption of specialty or value-added teas from tea levy restricted to 10kgs packaging disregards needed incentives for all value-added teas such as instant teas, special manufacture teas unique to Kenya's geographical location and tea character which some are not packaged in 10kilograms

"Our proposal is deletion of the phrase packed into packets or containers holding not more than ten kilograms in the proposed sub-clause (2A) as per justifications above so that the exemption is applicable to all value-added teas. This will overall, incentivize value addition ventures," Ms. Olouch said.

Other entities who gave their submission were East Africa Tea Trade Association (EATTA), Kenya Tea Brokers Association (KTBA), Tea Board Kenya (TBK) and KALRO-Tea Research Institute.



Committee chairman Brighton Yegon during yesterday's session.



Jubilee nominated MP Sabina Chege during yesterday's meeting.



KTDA Holdings Director for Kirinyaga County, John Mithamo WaSusana making his contribution yesterday.

Wetang'ula Directs House Committee To Table Interim Report On Albert Ojwang's Death Tomorrow

By: PSCU

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula yesterday directed the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security to present a preliminary report and statement to the House regarding the death of Albert Ojwang tomorrow.

The Speaker said the report will provide an update on the ongoing investigations into the circumstances surrounding the tragic death of Ojwang.

The report is expected to update the House and the nation on the progress of investigations into the mysterious death of Ojwang, who hailed from Homa Bay County.

The directive followed concerns raised by lawmakers, led by Nyando MP Jared Okello, who described the matter as grave and urgent.

"By all means a very serious matter. Yesterday, yours truly here, and others spoke to it in the same manner that you are speaking. This is, by all means, a very serious matter," Wetang'ula said.

"The chairman of the security committee. This matter is causing a lot of anxiety, and the explanations are coming out. For those of you who have read the book Steve Biko. It sounds like a Steve Biko story, and I would want to direct the chairman of security. I know Thursday is Budget Day, but we have half an hour before budget starts. You will bring a preliminary report and statement with the House on Thursday at 2:30 to inform the House and the country the progress so far made in the investigations," added the Speaker.

Acknowledging widespread concern among MPs, the Speaker assured members they would have an opportunity to respond once the statement is presented:

"I know many members have strong views on this matter. Hold your horses, once the statement is presented on Thursday, I will give you an opportunity," he stated.

Narok West MP Gabriel Tongoyo, who chairs the National Assembly Departmental Committee on National Administration and Internal Security, acknowledged that the death of Albert Ojwang' is a matter of grave concern not only to Members of Parliament but also too many Kenyans.

"I wish to extend my heartfelt condolences to the family. It is an extremely unfortunate incident that a young Kenyan died at the hands

of the police, in a place where he should have felt safe," said Tongoyo.

He further assured the House and the public that the committee is taking the matter seriously: "I want to confirm to you, Hon. Speaker, to this House, and to Kenyans, that we are all deeply disturbed. This morning, we officially wrote and the Clerk has already signed letters summoning the Inspector General of Police and the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) to appear before the committee. They will brief us on the circumstances surrounding the incident and provide an update on the ongoing investigation."

Tongoyo committed to presenting a preliminary report as directed: "By Thursday afternoon, as you instructed, I will be in a position to table a preliminary report on the matter."

Tharaka MP George Murugara expressed deep sorrow over the loss of such a young man under unclear circumstances, which raises serious questions about the integrity of our national police service. He criticized the official statements related to the incident as confusing and lacking clarity.

Murugara called on the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) to thoroughly investigate and uncover the truth so that justice can be served to the family of the young man who tragically died.

"Sometimes we wonder why the police service continues to conduct itself in this manner. It begs the question whether their training syllabus has changed since the colonial era, because during the State of Emergency, we saw extrajudicial killings," he noted.

"Is this practice still ongoing today?" he asked.

He further added, "Are there officers, whether senior or junior, who are issuing orders to execute young men? These are questions we must ask ourselves. It is high time we review the qualifications and training of our police officers. Perhaps there are gaps at the entry level or in the training they receive at the Kiganjo Police Training College. Times have changed, and our police service must meet the expectations of today."

"Justice must prevail at all times. We must unequivocally condemn extrajudicial killings, they should neither be allowed nor condoned. This House must continue to denounce such acts consistently, day in and day out," he said.

Suba North MP Millie Odhiambo expressed deep concern over the tragic death of Albert Ojwang',

lamenting that such incidents continue to occur despite the enactment of a new Constitution that transformed the police force into a service-oriented institution.

"It is unfortunate that even after we passed a new Constitution to reform the police into a service, we are still witnessing conduct that contradicts that very spirit," she said.

Odhiambo called on President William Ruto to ensure that any police officers found culpable in Ojwang's death are prosecuted without delay.

"Those tarnishing the name of the police service must be held accountable. They should be charged and prosecuted swiftly because justice delayed is justice denied," she stated.

She warned against the common trend of cases being abandoned once public anger subsides. "We've seen it before people get arrested, tempers cool down, and then the cases quietly disappear. That cannot happen this time. To show seriousness, this case must be fast-tracked."

She further suggested that, if necessary, the government should consider involving external investigators. "The government has in the past engaged international experts. If IPOA is overwhelmed or compromised, perhaps it's time to bring in external forces to ensure justice is done and seen to be done."

Odhiambo also addressed public frustration, emphasizing that Members of Parliament share in the pain and grief. "I understand the public's anger, but let me remind you, MPs are not responsible for this death. We are hurting too."

She added that for those from Homa Bay County, the pain is even deeper. "This is our home. We don't want our people to be killed. We lost Hon. Ong'ondo Were just the other day. Now, we are mourning another young man who lived near him. We want the government to treat this matter with the seriousness it deserves."



Jared Okello



Albert Ojwang'

Senators, Lobby Groups Unite To Tackle Rising Violence Against Women In Murang'a County

By: Bernard Munyao and Catherine Kamunyo
@themkenyaintimes

A campaign to address gender-based violence against women and girls, mostly perpetrated by men and in some cases leading to death, has been launched in Murang'a County.

A women's group from the Senate (KEWOSA), chaired by nominated Senator Veronica Maina, has partnered with some human rights organizations and officials from the Ministries of Gender and Education to empower women to speak out and confront this issue.

Speaking during the launch in Murang'a town on Monday, Senator Maina emphasized the urgency of addressing the crisis and the importance of empowering women to speak out.

She noted that 570 women have been affected by gender-based violence in just one year, a number that shocked many in attendance.

"That number is not just a statistic; it represents lives lost, families bro-

ken, and communities wounded. We cannot continue to lose our daughters, sisters, and mothers to silence and brutality. This campaign is about breaking the silence. We want every woman to know her life matters, and there are leaders ready to stand with her," averred Senator Maina.

She continued, "We will continue to push for stronger laws and more protection for women at all levels. The time to act is now. We must rise up together as a society to end this cycle of violence and restore dignity, justice, and safety for all women and girls in Kenya."

On the security front, Murang'a East Sub-County Police Commander Ms. Reginah Muriuki called on women to report incidents of sexual and gender-based violence without fear.

"If you are sexually abused, do not stay quiet. Come forward and report immediately. We are here to help you. Silence protects the abuser, and speaking up protects others," she urged.

Echoing the call for action, Kahuro Deputy County Commissioner (DCC) Esther Mwaura encouraged survivors

to use existing systems to seek justice and support.

"All police stations now have gender desks, and they are open to you. Do not hesitate to walk in and report any form of abuse. Your voice will be heard, and action will be taken," Ms. Mwaura remarked.

The event brought together hundreds of women from all six wards of Kiharu Constituency in Murang'a Town, where they gathered for an open forum to address the growing crisis of violence against women.

Mercy Njeri, a resident of Kiharu and one of the forum's participants, spoke candidly about the struggles faced by women in the community.

She revealed that for many years, victims have had no safe space to speak of or seek help. The fear of being judged, dismissed, or even harmed further kept them silent.

"For years, many of us have suffered in silence. Today I feel seen and heard. I'm grateful for this initiative because it gives us strength and shows us that change is possible if we speak up," she noted.



Senator Veronica Maina

"It's not easy to talk about what we've been through, especially when the very people meant to protect us often ignore our cries. But today, seeing women come together, supported by leaders and officers, gives me hope. I now believe that my daughters can grow up in a safer, more just society, and one where they will never have to suffer the way so many of us have," Njeri added.

Among the key drivers behind this alarming trend are increased incidences

of abuse of alcohol and drugs, as well as deepening poverty and poor living conditions that make women more vulnerable to exploitation and violence.

Meanwhile, officials from the Ministries of Gender and Education urged residents to remain vigilant and report perpetrators of violence, especially those targeting young girls in rural communities.



President Ruto Appoints IEBC Chair And Commissioners Amid Pending High Court Blockage

By: Editorial Desk

President William Ruto has officially appointed Erastus Edung Ethecon as the Chairperson of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), alongside six commissioners, despite a subsisting court order temporarily barring their gazettement.

The appointments come at a time when a legal petition challenging the constitutionality of the selection process is still before the courts.

In Gazette Notice issued yesterday, Ethecon's appointment was confirmed for a six-year term under Article 250(2) of the Constitution and the IEBC Act.

A separate notice, also announced the appointment of six commissioners to serve for the same duration. They are Ann Njeri Nderitu, Moses Kipkoge Mukhwana, Mary Karen Sorobit, Hassan Noor Hassan, Francis Odhiambo Aduol, and Fahima Araphat Abdallah. All seven appointees had been vetted and approved

by the National Assembly.

The appointments were made despite a decision by a three-judge bench of the High Court that sustained an order blocking the gazettement of the IEBC nominees until a constitutional petition challenging their appointment is heard and determined. Justices Roselyne Aburili, Bahati Mwamuye, and John Chigiti on Monday upheld an earlier directive by Justice Lawrence Mugambi, who had temporarily halted the gazettement.

The court ruled that the status quo should be maintained, with parties appearing on June 23 for the hearing. In preparation, the judges directed all parties to file their written submissions and replying affidavits. The case raises critical legal questions about the transparency and legality of the IEBC selection panel's conduct.

The petition was filed by activists Boniface Mwangi and Kelvin Roy, who are represented by senior counsels Paul Muite and Douglas Otieno. They argue that the selection process lacked public participation and violated constitutional standards. Jus-



President William Ruto receives IEBC nominees report from the selection panel on May 6, 2025,

Justice Mugambi, upon reviewing the petition, determined that the issues raised were significant enough to warrant determination by a bench, and referred the matter to Chief Justice Martha Koome for empanement.

The legal challenge has not deterred the executive from moving forward with the appointments, raising concerns among civil society groups

and some opposition leaders. Critics argue that proceeding with gazettement in the face of a court order undermines judicial authority and threatens the rule of law.

Nonetheless, the government maintains that the appointments followed due process and are necessary to ensure the IEBC is fully reconstituted ahead of the 2027 General Election. The commission has been operating

without substantive leadership since the departure of previous commissioners after the 2022 polls.

As the legal battle unfolds, the fate of the newly appointed commissioners remains uncertain. The upcoming court session on June 23 will be pivotal in determining whether the appointments stand or if the entire process must be revisited.

KALRO Hosts Conference To Strengthen Agricultural Research Impact

By: Anita Omwenga
@themtkenyatimes

The Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) has officially opened its 1st Socio-Economics and Policy Development Conference and Exhibition at the KALRO Headquarters in Nairobi.

This inaugural conference marks a significant milestone in KALRO's commitment to placing evidence-based policy and socio-economic analysis at the core of agricultural transformation in Kenya and the region.

Themed "Building Resilient Food Systems through Socio-Economics and Policy Research," the three-day event brings together key stakeholders from research institutions, government, development partners, and the private sector to explore how socio-economic and policy research can shape Kenya's agricultural fu-

ture.

Speaking while officiating the opening ceremony, KALRO Director General Dr. Eliud Kireger underscored the need for research that not only generates innovative technologies, but also ensures these innovations are economically viable, socially inclusive, and guided by supportive policy frameworks.

Dr. Kireger highlighted the growing complexity of agricultural systems, noting that while KALRO continues to develop Technologies, Innovations, and Management Practices (TIMPs), their success depends heavily on understanding the socio-economic context, market systems, and policy environments in which they operate.

"The transformation of agriculture is not only about technology. It is about ensuring that innovations are socially acceptable, economically viable, and supported by sound policies and functional markets," he said.

The DG said that the conference aligns with national priorities and policy instruments such as Kenya's

Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS), the Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy and the Food and Nutrition Security Implementation Plan.

"At the continental level, the conference responds to the CAADP Results Framework by advancing inclusive, evidence-based policy and market interventions," he said.

Dr. Kireger lauded the role of KALRO's socio-economics and policy experts in extending the impact of agricultural research from laboratories into real-world farming and market environments.

He encouraged active participation in the sessions to foster collaboration and actionable knowledge sharing.

The DG said partner institutions including ILRI, TEGEMEO, FAO, IDRC, and ICIPE are participating alongside pioneer socio-economists, who laid the foundation for policy-focused agricultural research at KALRO.

He commended their contribution to extending research impact beyond laboratories into farming communi-



Dr. Eliud Kireger

ties.

The three-day conference features presentations and discussions structured around major sub-themes, including Market systems and agribusiness, Gender and youth inclusion in agriculture, Agricultural policy

reform and Digital transformation in agricultural value chains.

The event is supported by a wide array of development partners and collaborators including KAFACI, AWARD, SAF-NICE, CIMMYT, ILRI, Tegemeo, and ICIPE.

Stakeholders Give Views On Tissue, Organ Transplant Procedures

By: Ekuwam Sylvester and Dorothy Chepkwemoi
 @themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Speaking during the commencement of the four-day public participation exercise on cell tissue and organ transplant services in Kenya, the Committee's Chairperson Prof. Elizabeth Bukusi indicated that they were investigating allegations, reviewing the legal and ethical framework, and auditing relevant documents to ensure the safety and rights of those involved in the entire process was factored.
- "To investigate all the services that are being offered within all health facilities in this country that provide tissue or organ transplantation and to determine if they are being done appropriately and at what standards and at what level," she said.
- "And if there is adequate regulation and policy that enables these services to be offered appropriately for Kenyan citizens," added Prof. Bukusi.



Prof. Elizabeth Bukusi

The Independent and Investigative Committee on Tissue and Organ Transplant Services is in Eldoret to collect the views of residents over possible malpractice and unethical violations of the processes leading to the surgical procedures.

Speaking during the commencement of the four-day public participation exercise on cell tissue and organ transplant services in Kenya, the Committee's Chairperson Prof. Elizabeth Bukusi indicated that they were investigating allegations, reviewing the legal and ethical framework, and auditing relevant documents to ensure the safety and rights of those involved in the entire process was factored.

"To investigate all the services that are being offered within all health facilities in this country that provide tissue or organ transplantation and to determine if they are being done appropriately and at what standards and at what level," she said.

"And if there is adequate regulation and policy that enables these services to be offered appropriately for Kenyan citizens," added Prof. Bukusi.

She pointed out that they are going to be in Uasin Gishu for four days providing an opportunity for anybody who has any interest in this area to be

able to provide information to the task force either in public or private.

Additionally, the committee is keen on providing privacy so that people can be able to make choices that allow them to say what they would want to say but within the privacy of making sure that they keep their identity secret from everybody else but only known to the individuals they are speaking to.

The Committee chairperson said they decided to spend four days in Uasin Gishu, because some of the allegations that could be deemed inappropriate started there and the individuals came out to speak saying that the services that have been offered or the way in which these services had been procured might not be appropriate.

"That is why we are giving this county an appropriate time to ensure we can adequately capture information from anybody available to speak to us," she noted.

Prof. Bukusi emphasized that the committee is tasked with investigating transplants not just kidneys, but kidneys come to the fore because that is where the issue was raised.

She further explained that transplants that happen the most in most countries are actually the eye "cold"

corneal transplants, actually from people who are deceased and no longer need their eyes to see and have donated them to be used.

She explained the importance of the kidney transplant process unlike the eye one. The Kidney procedure involves a donor who is alive and needs to remain alive and is willing to donate to somebody else so that the recipient's own life can be extended.

"It is an important process because when you donate a kidney you need to understand what is going to happen to you after you have donated, what are the risks that you will face if you only have one kidney, what are the things you need to take care of, you need to be very clearly aware of what choice you are making," explained Prof. Bukusi.

Noting that there has been the process of drafting a law to regulate tissue transplant and organ, but it has not yet become law, Prof. Bukusi said their review is a very technical one within the ministry of health to determine what is required from legislation to policy, guideline to practice and to standards.

She mentioned that they are visiting all facilities in the country that are offering tissue and organ transplant services to find out what they are do-

ing and the standards to which they are doing it.

In his remarks, Senior Counsel Katwa Kigen who submitted comments on behalf of the Mediheal Group of Hospitals, confirmed their preparedness to cooperate with the committee to avail all the materials the committee will require to certify on the propriety of all the transplants done by the hospital.

"In our appearance before the committee today, we confirm having delivered the document, our preparedness to supply any other document material required, preparedness to answer any questions that may come up in course of our work, on the position of Mediheal and their available legal provision documents in the kidney transplants," he added.

He said that they are also ready to make their input on the scope of the committee's work and also to set up the form of legal framework, within which tissue and organ transplant services can be done in the country.

Mwaura: State On Course In Transforming The Country

By: Sadik Hassan
@themtkenyatimes

The Government Spokesperson, Dr Isaac Mwaura, has affirmed the Kenya Kwanza Administration's commitment to ensuring the equitable political and socio-economic development of all regions as President Dr. William Ruto marks 1000 days in office.

In the last two years, Dr. Mwaura say the government has initiated several projects and programmes aimed at reducing poverty and vulnerability amongst Kenyans in line with the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

"These initiatives are further geared towards creating job opportunities, improving livelihoods, and guaranteeing the existence of equitable development across all regions. They include social protection, infrastructural developments, growth of trade and agriculture, as well as investments in tourism and education, among other sectoral developments," he said.

To protect older persons aged 70 and

above, orphans and vulnerable children, and people living with severe disabilities from life hardships under the social protection Cash Transfer Programme, the government last week released Sh 3.519 billion for payment to 1,759,656 beneficiaries.

"Each of the beneficiaries received Sh2,000 covering the month of May 2025, keeping the payments up to date, a promise the government has kept all through without fail, helping these needy members of our society meet their pressing needs," stated the Government Spokesperson in Mombasa.

He added that the programme remains a cornerstone of the government's social protection strategy aimed at alleviating poverty and promoting the well-being of society's most vulnerable members.

On agriculture, Dr. Mwaura noted that the sector is one of the fastest-growing sectors of the economy, as indicated in the 2025 country's Economic Survey, where agriculture, forestry, and fishing led the growth by 4.6 percent last year.

He attributed the growth in the sector to transformative actions by the gov-

ernment aimed at lowering the cost of production and improving national food security by introducing a raft of initiatives, among them cheaper farm inputs, top of the list being subsidised fertiliser.

Under the National Fertiliser Subsidy Program (NFSP), the cost of fertiliser was reduced by more than 46 percent, dropping from Sh6,500 in 2022 to a low of the current Sh2,500.

"This saw the agriculture sector exhibit an overall improved performance in 2024, a factor attributable to increased crop yields and increased livestock production, coupled with increased government support to the sector, according to the Economic Survey," Dr. Mwaura explained.

He also defended the 2025/2026 budget as progressive and pro-hustlers, outlining that over Sh20 billion has been allocated under the new term programme to help young people become entrepreneurs.

The Government Spokesperson reiterated that the current administration has done a lot in the 1000 days, disclosing that the first 100 days were difficult.

"We inherited a bankrupt country, we



Dr Isaac Mwaura

inherited a country that didn't have import cover. Now, we have dollars of import cover, covering three to four months and counting. Our shilling to the dollar has now been stable for the last one and a half years," he said.

The Spokesperson further noted that Tourist Operators can now project their income amid a surge in tourist numbers from 1.4 million to over 2 million due to the introduction of the Electronic Travel Authorization.

"We now have a very clean record of paying our debts because we have

been able to pay the Eurobond, and even recently we restructured some loans that were due," he stated.

He went on, "At the same time, we are not going on a borrowing spree; we have had serious budget cuts that have affected even our office here."

Dr. Mwaura urged Kenyans not to sensationalize the current budget in a bid to create "another finance moment," warning that the government will take stern action to ensure there is law and order.

Superior Homes, HF Group Partner To Revolutionize Home Ownership In Kenya

By: Joseph Ng'ang'a
@themtkenyatimes

Superior Homes Kenya (SHK) and HFC Kenya, a subsidiary of HF Group have signed a transformative MoU that is set to merge quality development with affordable financing options, marking a significant milestone in Kenya's real estate sector.

Under this partnership, HF Group will provide concessional mortgage financing at an attractive rate of 9.5 per cent, one of the most favorable in the market, making property acquisition more accessible to Kenyans.

The agreement also includes a 20-year loan term and a commitment to quick loan approvals, ensuring a seamless home acquisition process for buyers, particularly in the growing middle and upper-middle income segments.

Speaking during the event, Superior Homes Kenya Managing Direc-

tor, Ian Henderson, described the partnership as a timely response to Kenya's evolving housing demand and emphasized the company's commitment to offering communities of value to their investors.

"This partnership is a game-changer for Kenya's real estate sector. By combining Superior Homes' expertise in master-planned communities with HF Group's innovative financing solutions, we are empowering more Kenyans to achieve their dream of homeownership while contributing to sustainable urban development," said Henderson.

For Kenya's real estate sector, the collaboration addresses a critical financing gap, encouraging more Kenyans to opt for structured mortgages over slow, savings-based construction.

This partnership further demonstrates a shared commitment to sustainable urban development in line with Kenya's Urban Areas and Cities Act.

The two entities have emphasized



their intent to support the creation of integrated communities that include critical infrastructure and essential amenities.

The collaboration underscores a broader national agenda to manage urban growth responsibly while fostering inclusive access to secure,

planned neighbourhoods.

HFC Managing Director Peter Mugeni said, "As a company, we finance end buyers and therefore, this partnership is important for us, and we are happy to collaborate with partners such as Superior Homes who create long-term, sustainable

communities.

"We are founder members of KMRS and therefore, we are able to offer mortgage financing to end buyers at rates that are below 10 per cent, fixed for a period of up to 15 to 20 years," he said.

The Greatest Victory Is Mastering Yourself Not The World

inner strength



First master yourself, not the world outside,
Conquering your mind is a great challenge
Control your thoughts, mind, and heart
Control your tongue, and find peace
Self-control brings boundless joy and happiness
Control brings out inner strength,
It will shine with all its might.
Explore your depths and discover your

In mastering yourself, you'll find your real purpose
No need to master the world, just master your soul,
Live with intention, and let your heart lead you
Self-discipline and conscience are the path to move on
Leading you to peace and happiness,
Master yourself, and you'll find your way,
To live a life of purpose, in self-mastery lies true strength

Brinda D

Spend Some Time With Elders. Everything Is Not Found In Google



In the age of Google, where answers abound,
Don't forget the wisdom that elders have found.
Their life experiences, a treasure to share,
A wealth of knowledge, that's beyond compare.
Spend some time with elders, and listen to their tales,
Of struggles and triumphs, of joy and of fails.
Their stories will teach you, of love, loss, and strife,
And the values they've learned, through a lifetime of life.

Google may give you answers, but elders give you insight,
Into the human heart, and the ways of life's plight.
They'll share their wisdom, gained through trials and tears,
And offer guidance, through all your doubts and fears.

So put aside your screens, and visit them with glee,
And let their wisdom, be a gift to you and me.
For everything is not found, in Google's digital space,
Some things are only learned, in the warmth of a human face.

Sripriya India

Night View



The moon wandered alone in the quiet night,
There is a strange beauty in the sky.
The sky is like a swing for him, like a palace,
The fairy tales are a joke to the stars.
The leaves rustle slowly,

A pleasant breeze caresses my face.
He urinates gently,
As if he really wishes me a sweet dream.

The moonlight is falling from my window,
Suddenly, my room was covered in oil.
Little stars gathered for a while,
They shared joy, it's a world for me.
My excitement is endless, knows no bounds,

A poem for such a miracle.
Even if he says goodnight, I can't sleep.
Oh, the night scene is so beautiful!

Shodiyeva Mehribon Amin qizi.

Falling Down Is Not Always Losing



Falling down is a natural phenomenon of Earth.
It's a transition of one to another.
Falling down is a stepping stone of success.
Falling down is not a problem,

Staying there for a long time is a problem.
Not getting up from that is a major problem.
A sprout won't be form,
If a seed doesn't fall.
A pearl won't be born,
If a rain drop not fall into the shell.
A fertilization won't happen,
If a pollen does not fall in a flower.
If rain doesn't fall down,
No organism will be found in the earth.
If sun rays doesn't fall down,
No photosynthesis will happen on earth.

Rajesh Kanna B N

My Literary Portrait



I read poetry until morning
Meeting, love, sweet sadness.
In front of my eyes are bad legs,
Discarded helpfull grasses.
I read poetry of songbirds
About free flight.
Afghan birds in front of my eyes,
It pases away in a withered tree.
I read poetry my grandfather Alpmish!
I swear, we are the sons of the Alps!
There is no Kuntugmish in front of my eyes,
Neither Rustam nor Gorogli.
I read poetry

higher emotions:
Faith, honesty, kindness.
Brothers and sisters in front of my eyes,
They do not show mercy to each other.

I read poetry the world is bright.
I'm here, the sky is clear.
It is clear before my eyes,
A world of steppe wolf
I read poetry again and again.
Loud claps are played.
I have eternal applause in front of my eyes,
Curse the father of clappers.
I read poetry, deceiving the nation,
Close your eyes to everything,
I do not tremble on any page,
I read poetry and call myself a poet...

Farrukh Amirov

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Environment Committee To Summon CS, PS Over Failure To Appear To Respond Issues On Ngong And Eldoret Forests

By: PSCU

The National Assembly Departmental Committee on Environment Forestry and Mining yesterday resolved to summon the Principal Secretary in the State Department for Forestry Mr. Gitonga Mugambi who will be required to appear in the company of the Cabinet Secretary (CS) in the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Dr. Deborah Barasa after failing to honour two Committee invites.

Yesterday's committee sitting that was chaired by its vice chairman and Baringo South MP Charles Kamuren was meant to get clarification on issues surrounding Ngong Forest where there has been public uproar following the ongoing construction of a Hotel on public land and the under-valuation of the forest area in Moi International Airport, Eldoret where the market value is said to be KSh3 Billion and not the said

KSh500 million.

"We had invited the PS to find the logic of the Ksh 500 million instead of Ksh 3 Billion market value. The same PS was to tell us what is happening in Ngong Forest which is public land, for the second time the PS and his team are sending us a letter signed by CS Deborah giving reasons not to appear," Kamuren noted.

"This is a serious concern, this is a State Department that is not supporting the President's agenda on Climate Action, under our Constitution Article 125 and our standing orders in Article 1, we hereby issue summons today 10th June 2025, PS Gitonga Mugambi and CS Dr. Deborah M. Barasa appears before this Committee on Thursday 19th June at 10am to respond to these issues", Kamuren ruled.

Committee Members Titus Lotee (Kacheliba) and Joseph Emathe (Turkana Central) in their contribution asked that the Committee treats this issue with the seriousness it deserves, describing it as disrespect to the Committee and the entire August

House.

"We invited the PS and his team to meetings even outside Parliament Buildings and they did not show up, we are asking this on behalf of Kenyans, remember the issues around logging that had started in the country, look at what has been happening in Karura forest, now Ngong Forest, trees are cut down and construction going on in our forests without a clear explanation, who is doing all these? Lotee asked.

"The Moratorium on logging was lifted however this was not done procedurally. Kenyans needed to understand which forests and tree species were classified for logging. The PS Forestry during his vetting pledged to have a green bond as part of the GDP of this country and this gave us hope. I am however disappointed since we are not told the truth on what is happening to Ngong Forest land and the Eldoret airport land, this Committee must act now Hon. Chair", said Emathe.

In his closing remarks, Kamuren directed that all activities of construction, valuation and logging in Ngong



Charles Kamuren during yesterday's session.

and Moi International Airport forest land be stopped with immediate effect until the PS and CS appear to give a clarification.

In his letter to the committee yesterday, the CS pointed out that her PS was not available for the meeting as

he was out of the country until today, requesting that the meeting be postponed to next week. This is the second time the meeting has been postponed following requests from the Ministry.

Government Affirms Safety And Economic Benefits Of Kilifi Nuclear Plant

By: Sitati Reagan

@themtkenyatimes

The government has reaffirmed her commitment to ensuring environmental safety while securing economic benefits for Kilifi residents amidst the ongoing concerns regarding the proposed nuclear power plant at Uyombo village, Matsangoni Ward, in Kilifi County

Speaking at the County Commissioners' office at Uhuru na Kazi Towers in Mombasa County, Government Spokesperson Dr. Isaac Mwaura assured the public that all necessary precautions are being taken in line with international safety standards to safeguard the health and livelihoods of the local community.

His remarks follow concerns raised by opposition leaders last weekend while on a political tour of the region about the potential hazardous impact of the project on tourism and public health.

Dr. Mwaura emphasised that the proposed nuclear facility, which

forms part of Kenya's long-term energy development strategy, is a crucial step toward reducing energy costs, increasing national power output, and promoting clean energy.

"We are now in Phase Two of the project implementation, which will happen between now and 2027, following the successful completion of Phase One," he said. "We are establishing the necessary regulatory frameworks, including the creation of a nuclear regulatory authority."

The project, which is jointly sponsored by the Kenyan government and the World Bank, is expected to cost approximately Sh500 billion and generate about 1,000 megawatts (MWs) of electricity upon completion. It forms part of the national energy diversification plan to meet the country's growing electricity demand, which currently stands at 3,321 MWs.

"As the third-largest economy in Sub-Saharan Africa, Kenya requires up to 30,000 MWs of electricity to support industrialization and sustainable development. Nuclear energy, alongside geothermal and hydroelec-

tric power, offers a stable, clean, and reliable source," Dr. Mwaura noted.

He dismissed claims that the project poses health risks, adding that international safety benchmarks are being observed. He cited a recent visit by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) delegation to assess the country's nuclear readiness.

"The identified sites have undergone thorough safety assessments. We have learned from global experiences such as the Chernobyl incident in 1986, and we are committed to ensuring the highest safety standards," said Dr. Mwaura, who attended the IAEA mission alongside Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi.

In addition to electricity generation, the spokesperson highlighted the broader benefits of nuclear technology, including its application in cancer treatment, sterilization of medical equipment, and food preservation.

The plant is also expected to create a minimum of 10,000 jobs, further contributing to the local economy. Dr. Mwaura urged residents to disregard misinformation and affirmed that public engagement remains cen-



tral to the government's approach to development.

"Only local landowners will receive compensation. The concerns about non-locals receiving title deeds are being investigated by the relevant authorities, and necessary action will be taken against them," he clarified.

Kenya is among a few African countries pursuing nuclear energy, with South Africa being the only one currently operating a nuclear power plant. Egypt, Ghana, and Kenya are progressing in the development of

nuclear power programs, with Kenya targeting 2034 for operational readiness.

Dr. Mwaura also addressed other government initiatives, including the upcoming climate works programme modelled on the previous Kazi Mtaani project. The programme is expected to create over 110,000 job opportunities across the country.

Safaricom Foundation To Train Over 500 Youths On Digital Skills

By: Esther Mwangi and Mary Ochieng
 @themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during deliberations between a delegation from Safaricom Foundation and officials from the County's Youth, Sports, Gender, and Inclusivity Department, Jabedo underscored the importance of the digital programme saying that it will go a long way in ensuring capacity building was done from the lowest level.
- He said they were targeting to train youths from informal settlements wards including Kaptembwa, Biashara, Kivumbuni, Rhonda, and Flamingo areas with each ward being allocated 100 training slots
- "We are also targeting students who are among the youths and will be trained on basic computer skills, online safety and how to behave online," added the official.



Safaricom Foundation is partnering with Nakuru County government to train more than 500 youths on digital skills to enhance their employability and create income-generating opportunities.

According to Team Leader at Safaricom Limited Company Clive Jabedo, the training was designed to equip the youth with various computer literacy, digital marketing, online entrepreneurship, and financial literacy skills to enable them meet the job market requirements.

The Safaricom company official explained that a comprehensive work plan and roadmap will be developed to guide the successful implementation of the initiative, ensuring impactful outcomes and sustainability.

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"We are also targeting students who are among the youths and will be trained on basic computer skills, online safety and how to behave online," added the official.

He urged the youths to use the digital skills responsibly and increase their

employability in this digital age. Acting County Chief Officer for Youths Josephat Kimemia said the empowerment program was aimed at transforming youths into productive, responsible and digitally skilled individuals.

By providing hands-on learning experiences, Kimemia said the the initiative would bridge the digital divide in all the 11 Sub-Counties and empowers youths with the tools to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

He voiced the County government's commitment to fostering inclusive digital transformation, especially for women and youths in rural areas and informal settlements.

"The program is a sign of commitment to sustainable development to alleviate poverty and enhance economic growth," Kimemia pointed out.

The Chief Officer indicated that despite the youthful population being a vital asset for the County's econom-

ic growth, unemployment remained a pressing issue that hinders their meaningful contribution to the economic growth.

He emphasized the importance of equipping young people with practical skills that would create economic opportunities and foster personal growth.

While noting that young people were vulnerable to many addictions, identity crises and abusive relationships, the chief officer emphasized the need to empower them with the right skills and opportunities to secure their future.

He said the impact of the training was expected to be profound with participants gaining the skills needed to create sustainable strategies for growth for their businesses, develop targeted advertising campaigns, and build strong communities around their brands.

Kimemia underscored the importance of digital skills in empowering

women and youth, which he said would position them to thrive in a rapidly evolving global digital economy.

He affirmed that Governor Susan Kihika's administration was dedicated to fostering partnerships that would offer meaningful opportunities for youth and women to unlock their full potential and contribute to the devolved unit's economic growth.

"We are excited to work with the Safaricom Foundation to nurture a vibrant ecosystem of innovation and enterprise among our youth and women" added the chief officer.

Kimemia said governor Kihika had put relevant policy frameworks in place with the view of equipping youths and women with skills and opportunities they needed to succeed, thereby fueling economic growth and community development across the County.,



Rwanda's Calculated Exit From ECCAS: A Geopolitical Tremor In Central Africa



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyatimes

Rwanda's recent decision to withdraw from the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), announced on June 7, 2025, marks a significant turning point in the complex and often fraught regional dynamics of Central Africa. This is not Rwanda's first departure from the bloc, having previously exited in 2007 and rejoined in 2015. However, the current context, characterized by heightened tensions with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and a perceived "instrumentalization" of ECCAS, imbues this withdrawal with considerable geopolitical weight, portending ripple effects for Rwanda itself, Central Africa, and the wider African continent.



Rwanda President Paul Kagame

Worth Noting:

This incident, as Kigali highlighted, was not isolated. Rwanda had previously protested its "illegal exclusion" from the 22nd Summit in Kinshasa in 2023, which was hosted under the DRC's presidency. The perceived "silence and inaction" from both ECCAS and the African Union (AU) following these protests fueled Rwanda's conviction that the organization had become a tool in the hands of the DRC and its allies, undermining its foundational principles of fairness and regional cooperation.

At the heart of these tensions lies the protracted conflict in eastern DRC, where M23 rebels continue to wage an offensive. The DRC, along with the United Nations, the United States, and France, has consistently accused Rwanda of supporting the M23 – a charge Kigali vehemently denies

The Breaking Point: A Summit of Discord

The immediate catalyst for Rwanda's withdrawal was the 26th Ordinary Summit held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. Rwanda claims it was due to assume the rotating chairmanship of the 11-member bloc, a right it asserts is enshrined in Article 6 of the ECCAS treaty. However, this right was "deliberately ignored in order to impose the DRC's diktat," according to a statement from Rwanda's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The summit instead opted to extend Equatorial Guinea's term.

This incident, as Kigali highlighted, was not isolated. Rwanda had previously protested its "illegal exclusion" from the 22nd Summit in Kinshasa in 2023, which was hosted under the DRC's presidency. The perceived "silence and inaction" from both ECCAS and the African Union (AU) following these protests fueled Rwanda's conviction that the organization had become a tool in the hands of the DRC and its allies, undermining its foundational principles of fairness and regional cooperation.

At the heart of these tensions lies the protracted conflict in eastern DRC, where M23 rebels continue to wage an offensive. The DRC, along with the United Nations, the United States, and France, has consistently accused Rwanda of supporting the M23 – a charge Kigali vehemently denies, instead asserting its actions are aimed at preventing the conflict from spilling over its borders and addressing the threat posed by elements linked to the 1994 genocide. The ECCAS summit's decision to "acknowledge the aggression against the Democratic Republic of Congo by Rwanda and order the aggressor country to withdraw its troops from Congolese soil" further solidified Rwanda's view of

ECCAS's bias.

Implications for Rwanda: Asserting Sovereignty and Seeking Alternative Alliances

For Rwanda, the withdrawal from ECCAS is a clear statement of its foreign policy posture: prioritizing national interests and sovereignty over what it perceives as dysfunctional and politically manipulated regional institutions. President Paul Kagame's administration has long been known for its pragmatic and results-oriented approach to international relations. This move suggests a belief that ECCAS no longer serves Rwanda's strategic objectives, particularly in light of its ongoing security concerns with the DRC.

Economically, Rwanda's ties to ECCAS were perhaps less impactful than its engagements with other regional blocs like the East African Community (EAC). While ECCAS aims to promote economic integration, it has historically struggled with implementation, often overshadowed by internal conflicts and a lack of political will among some members. Rwanda's robust economic growth and diversified trade partnerships mean its withdrawal might not have a significant direct economic impact, particularly compared to the potential political and security benefits of disassociating from a bloc it views as

hostile.

However, the withdrawal could also mean a reduced platform for dialogue and conflict resolution within the Central African sub-region. While Rwanda has emphasized its commitment to other peace processes, such as those facilitated by the US and Qatar, the absence from ECCAS might further isolate it within a critical regional grouping. This isolation could, in turn, intensify bilateral tensions with the DRC and its allies, potentially leading to increased diplomatic pressure and a more precarious security environment along its western border.

Impact on Central Africa: Fragmentation and Weakened Regionalism

Rwanda's exit undoubtedly weakens ECCAS, a bloc already struggling with internal cohesion and effectiveness. ECCAS was established to foster cooperation across a vast and diverse region grappling with issues ranging from political instability and armed conflict to underdevelopment and humanitarian crises. Its ability to respond to these challenges effectively has been consistently hampered by a lack of resources, political commitment from member states, and entrenched national interests.

The immediate consequence of Rwanda's departure is a further fragmentation of regional efforts towards

peace and security. The ongoing conflict in eastern DRC, already a complex web of actors and interests, will now lack a key regional player within a formal framework for dialogue. This could make coordinated regional responses to cross-border threats, such as the M23 insurgency, even more challenging. The DRC, having seemingly achieved a diplomatic victory within ECCAS, might find its leverage increased within the remaining bloc, but the overall effectiveness of ECCAS in resolving regional crises remains questionable without the participation of a militarily capable and strategically important state like Rwanda.

Moreover, the withdrawal raises questions about the future of multilateralism in Central Africa. If regional organizations are perceived as easily "instrumentalized" for political agendas, it undermines trust and discourages genuine cooperation. This could lead to a preference for bilateral arrangements or ad-hoc coalitions, further weakening the institutional fabric of regional governance.

Africa at Large: A Test Case for Con-

Rwanda's Calculated Exit From ECCAS: A Geopolitical Tremor In Central Africa

Contd from page 18

Worth Noting:

- Rwanda's withdrawal from ECCAS reverberates beyond Central Africa, offering a critical lens through which to examine the broader challenges of continental integration. The African Union (AU) has long championed regional economic communities (RECs) as the building blocks of an integrated and prosperous Africa. However, the recurring issues of political interference, a lack of adherence to founding principles, and the prevalence of national interests over collective good continue to plague many RECs.
- Rwanda's move can be seen as a critique of the efficacy of some RECs in upholding their stated mandates, particularly in conflict resolution and the promotion of equitable representation.

Continental Integration

Rwanda's withdrawal from ECCAS reverberates beyond Central Africa, offering a critical lens through which to examine the broader challenges of continental integration. The African Union (AU) has long championed regional economic communities (RECs) as the building blocks of an integrated and prosperous Africa. However, the recurring issues of political interference, a lack of adherence to founding principles, and the prevalence of national interests over collective good continue to plague many RECs.

Rwanda's move can be seen as a critique of the efficacy of some RECs in upholding their stated mandates, particularly in conflict resolution and the promotion of equitable representation. It highlights the inherent tension between the aspirations of regional integration and the realities of sovereign states with divergent interests and often unresolved historical grievances.

This event might prompt other African nations to reassess their engagements with RECs, particularly those perceived as dysfunctional or biased. While it doesn't necessarily signal a widespread dismantling of regional blocs, it does underscore the need for stronger governance, impartial leadership, and a genuine commitment from all member states to the principles of regional cooperation. The AU's response, or lack thereof, to Rwanda's earlier protests regarding its exclusion from summits within ECCAS also raises questions about the AU's capacity to mediate and ensure the integrity of its sub-regional pillars.

The Geopolitical Spectrum: Beyond Regional Borders

At a broader geopolitical level, Rwanda's withdrawal from ECCAS adds another layer of complexity to an already intricate regional landscape. The Great Lakes region is a flashpoint for global powers, particularly given its vast reserves of critical minerals like cobalt, tantalum, copper, and lithium – essential for the global electronics and clean energy industries. Instability in this region has significant implications for global supply chains and strategic interests.

The continued friction between Rwanda and the DRC, now exacerbated by Rwanda's ECCAS exit, creates an environment ripe for external interference and proxy conflicts. Different international actors, including the US, European Union,



and China, have varying degrees of regional blocs and shift the locus of it serves as a stark reminder of the Rwanda President Paul Kagame

involvement and interests in the region, often supporting different sides or pursuing their own strategic objectives. Rwanda's decision might be interpreted by some as a move to disentangle itself from a regional framework that could be seen as compromising its ability to maneuver freely on the international stage and secure its interests directly with global partners.

Furthermore, the withdrawal could signal Rwanda's increasing reliance on bilateral partnerships and engagement with extra-continental powers for security and economic development. This "look outwards" strategy, if pursued more aggressively, could further diminish the influence of re-

power and decision-making away from pan-African institutions.

In conclusion, Rwanda's departure from ECCAS is more than a mere administrative formality; it is a calculated geopolitical maneuver with far-reaching implications. It underscores the deep-seated mistrust and unresolved conflicts that continue to plague Central Africa, challenging the very foundation of regional cooperation. While Rwanda asserts its sovereignty and seeks to forge its own path, the move risks further isolating it within a volatile neighborhood. For Central Africa, it signifies a step backward in regional integration and a potential intensification of existing tensions. For Africa at large,

persistent challenges facing continental unity and the critical need for RECs to uphold their principles and effectively address the complex security and economic realities of their member states. The broader geopolitical landscape will undoubtedly watch closely to see how this calculated exit reshapes alliances, security dynamics, and economic trajectories in one of Africa's most strategically important regions.

Kenya Railways Marks 8th Anniversary of Madaraka Express with Grand Celebration at Nairobi Terminus



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themkenyaintimes

Kenya Railways yesterday marked a significant milestone as it celebrated the 8th anniversary of the Madaraka Express, the country's flagship Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) service, with a grand event held at the Nairobi Terminus. The occasion was attended by dignitaries, partners, and stakeholders who have played a pivotal role in the success and growth of the railway service since its inception.

The event was graced by the Chinese Ambassador to Kenya, Her Excellency Amb. Guo Haiyan, reflecting the strong partnership between Kenya and China in the development and operation of the SGR. Kenya Railways Chairman, Mr. Abdi Bare, and Managing Director, Mr. Philip J. Mainga, EBS, hosted the celebration, welcoming guests that included members of the Kenya Railways Board, Senior Management, the Railways Training Institute Board, and representatives from Afristar, the operations and maintenance partner for the SGR.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Abdi Bare highlighted the transformative impact the Madaraka Express has had on Kenya's transport sector. "Eight years ago, we embarked on a journey to revolutionize rail transport in Kenya. Today, the Madaraka Express stands as a testament to the power of vision, partnership, and commitment to service," he said. Mr. Bare emphasized the railway's role in enhancing connectivity, promoting economic growth, and providing safe and reliable transportation for millions of Kenyans.

Ambassador Guo Haiyan commended the collaboration between the two nations, noting that the SGR project is a symbol of the enduring friendship and cooperation between Kenya and China. "The Madaraka Express is not just a railway line; it is a bridge of friendship, development, and shared prosperity," she remarked. The Ambassador reaffirmed China's commitment to supporting Kenya's infrastructure ambitions and praised the operational excellence and safety record maintained by the railway.

Since its launch in 2017, the Madaraka Express has transformed travel between Nairobi and Mombasa, reducing journey times, enhancing safety, and providing a comfortable and affordable alternative to road transport. Over the past eight years, the service has transported millions of passengers and thousands of tonnes of cargo, contributing significantly to the country's economic development and regional integration.



The event was graced by the Chinese Ambassador to Kenya, Amb. Guo Haiyan, hosted by Kenya Railways Chairman Mr. Abdi Bare and Managing Director Mr. Philip J. Mainga. Also present was the Kenya Railways Board and Senior Management.

Worth Noting:

- In his opening remarks, Mr. Abdi Bare highlighted the transformative impact the Madaraka Express has had on Kenya's transport sector. "Eight years ago, we embarked on a journey to revolutionize rail transport in Kenya. Today, the Madaraka Express stands as a testament to the power of vision, partnership, and commitment to service," he said. Mr. Bare emphasized the railway's role in enhancing connectivity, promoting economic growth, and providing safe and reliable transportation for millions of Kenyans.
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Mr. Philip J. Mainga, Managing Director of Kenya Railways, attributed the success of the Madaraka Express to the dedication of the staff, the support of partners such as Afristar, and the trust of the Kenyan public. "We are proud of the strides we have made in delivering world-class rail services. Our focus remains on ensuring safety, reliability, and continuous improvement," he stated. Mr. Mainga outlined plans

for future expansion and innovation, including enhanced freight services and integration with other modes of transport.

The event concluded with a tour of the Nairobi Terminus and an exhibition showcasing the achievements and milestones of the Madaraka Express over the past eight years. Guests were treated to cultural performances and a display of the latest advancements in railway technology.

As Kenya Railways celebrates this anniversary, the organization reaffirmed its commitment to delivering transformative rail services that connect people, markets, and opportunities across the nation. The Madaraka Express continues to be a symbol of progress and a catalyst for Kenya's journey towards a modern, integrated transport network.



Kenya Railways Marks 8th Anniversary

Increase In Airborne Particulate Matter In Industrial Areas And Its Medical-Biological Impact On Public Health



By: Toshturdiyev Nurbek Nurali
@themkenyatimes

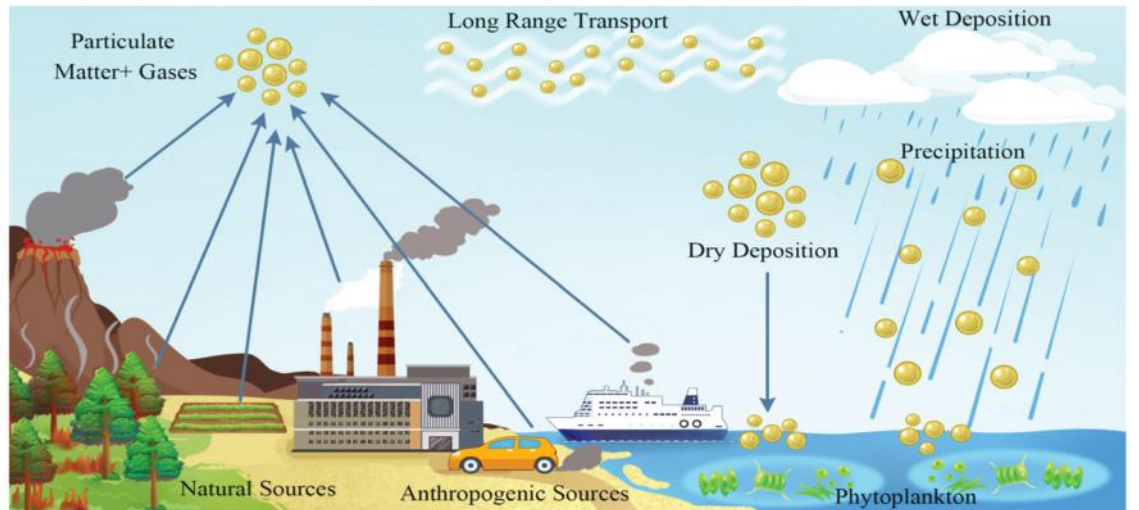
In recent years, while the rapid development of industry has significantly contributed to human progress, it has also intensified various environmental issues. Air pollution—particularly the increasing concentration of particulate matter (PM)—has become one of the most pressing global public health concerns. This issue is especially critical in densely industrialized regions. Sectors such as metallurgy, energy production, chemical processing, and construction materials industry release a variety of particles, gases, and dust into the air, severely disrupting environmental stability.

Particulate matter suspended in the atmosphere—especially particles smaller than 10 microns (PM10) and 2.5 microns (PM2.5)—poses a serious health risk. These particles can enter lung tissues and even the circulatory system during respiration. As a result, an increase in respiratory diseases such as bronchitis, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cardiovascular conditions, allergic reactions, and even cancer has been observed.

According to data from the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly 7 million people die annually due to diseases associated with air pollution, including exposure to particulate matter. This problem is also highly relevant in Uzbekistan. In cities like Navoi, Almalyk, and Angren, where industrial enterprises are densely located, atmospheric pollution levels often exceed WHO-recommended standards.

This article explores the ecological and medical-biological problems associated with rising dust concentrations in industrial areas. It provides an in-depth analysis of the health impacts of airborne particles based on statistical data. Furthermore, it proposes practical technological, preventive, and monitoring strategies to mitigate the issue.

In the past decade, the contamination of the atmosphere by particulate matter has been increasingly discussed in scientific literature as a major threat to global health and environmental sustainability. International and local studies have thoroughly examined the sources, distribution mechanisms, and health hazards of PM10 and PM2.5 particles. According to the WHO (2021), more than 7 million deaths each year are linked to air pollution, especially from inorganic particulate matter. The WHO recommends that PM2.5 levels not exceed $15 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and PM10 not exceed $45 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. However, in industrial zones, these values are reported to be 2–5 times higher (WHO, 2023). The United States Environmental Protection



Agency (EPA, 2020) has shown that PM2.5 particles contribute to cardiovascular diseases, lung fibrosis, respiratory failure, and even neurodegenerative conditions such as Alzheimer's disease. Long-term exposure to these particles can induce oxidative stress, inflammation, and DNA mutations at the cellular level.

Uzbek researchers have also paid attention to this issue. For example, T.K. Karimov (2018) scientifically demonstrated a direct correlation between air pollution in industrialized areas and the sharp rise in bronchopulmonary diseases. Additionally, observations conducted in the Navoi region (G.M. Solieva, 2021) revealed that industrial emissions—especially from cement and metallurgical enterprises—contributed significantly to increased respiratory diseases in the population. Long-term studies by Russian scientists (Avdeeva A.N. et al., 2019) found that the prevalence of cardiovascular and allergic diseases among people living near industrial facilities was 30–50% higher compared to other regions. This suggests the potential link to long-term exposure to PM2.5 particles. Similar conclusions were drawn by scientists in China, India, and Iran, indicating that living in environments polluted with industrial dust directly reduces life expectancy and health levels (Chen et al., 2020; Naddafi et al., 2022).

A review of the literature shows that dust particles negatively impact not only pulmonary and cardiovascular health but also the immune, endocrine, and nervous systems. In particular, nanoparticles that remain suspended in the air for long periods are capable of penetrating cell membranes. Furthermore, the presence of heavy metals and organic toxins on their surfaces poses additional health risks.

Moreover, the study assessed the extent to which dust particles affect public health. The correlation between disease incidence and dust concentration was statistically evaluated. Correlational analyses iden-

tified significant links between air pollution and respiratory diseases, cardiovascular issues, and allergic reactions. A dynamic analysis was conducted to examine trends over time. Comparative regional analyses were also carried out to assess differences between industrialized and environmentally clean areas.

Based on medical-biological assessments, the mechanisms of how dust particles affect the human body were investigated. It was found that these particles penetrate alveoli in the lungs, trigger inflammation, cause oxidative stress, and damage cell structures. Comparative analysis was made with experimental results from international literature, which confirm the negative effects on cardiovascular, nervous, and endocrine systems. The findings clearly show that PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations in industrial zones significantly exceed permissible limits. In particular, in cities like Navoi, Almalyk, Chirchik, and Angren, PM concentrations were found to be 1.5 to 3 times higher than WHO hygienic standards, especially during summer months and in windless weather conditions.

Monitoring results revealed that daily average PM2.5 concentrations in Navoi's industrial zones ranged from 45 to $70 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ —significantly higher than the WHO standard of $25 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Such conditions directly affect public health. In recent years, respiratory illnesses such as bronchitis, asthma, and allergies have increased among people living near industrial areas. According to statistics, respiratory diseases in these areas have risen by 20–30% over the last five years. Pulmonary dysfunction, cardiovascular problems, chronic inflammation, and weakened immunity are particularly common among children and the elderly. It was found that dust particles enter the circulatory system, increasing the risk of ischemic heart disease, hypertension, stroke, and heart attacks. There is also evidence that long-term exposure to dust neg-

atively affects central nervous system functions.

Based on these conclusions, the following recommendations can be proposed:

- First, align the operations of dust-emitting industrial enterprises with environmental standards by introducing modern purification and filtration technologies. Strict control mechanisms must be implemented to minimize dust emissions during production processes.
 - Second, increase the number of automated air quality monitoring stations and develop real-time information systems to keep the public informed via mass media.
 - Third, strengthen public health prevention measures, especially for vulnerable groups—such as children, the elderly, and those with chronic illnesses—by organizing regular medical checkups.
 - Fourth, promote environmental awareness and engage the public in environmental protection activities. Concepts of ecology and air quality should be gradually incorporated into the education system.
 - Fifth, improve regulatory frameworks to ensure environmental safety, enhance the ecological accountability of enterprises, and establish strict penalties for entities causing environmental harm.
- In conclusion, the increase in airborne dust concentrations in industrial zones must be viewed not only as an ecological issue but also as a social and medical problem. A comprehensive approach based on scientific evidence, supported by joint actions from government, society, and healthcare systems, is essential for finding balanced solutions.

Toshturdiyev Nurbek Nurali ugli, National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek, Faculty of Physics, Department of Hydrometeorology
3rd year student

Worth Noting:

- Particulate matter suspended in the atmosphere—especially particles smaller than 10 microns (PM10) and 2.5 microns (PM2.5)—poses a serious health risk. These particles can enter lung tissues and even the circulatory system during respiration. As a result, an increase in respiratory diseases such as bronchitis, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cardiovascular conditions, allergic reactions, and even cancer has been observed.
- According to data from the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly 7 million people die annually due to diseases associated with air pollution, including exposure to particulate matter. This problem is also highly relevant in Uzbekistan. In cities like Navoi, Almalyk, and Angren, where industrial enterprises are densely located, atmospheric pollution levels often exceed WHO-recommended standards.

Sports >> *Royal Nairobi Golf Club's elite amateur John Lejirma extended his fine form on day two of the Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing at Ruiru Sports Club, carding a steady round of 3-under par 69

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Sunshine Development Tour: Lejirma In Cruise Control Heading Into Final Round In Ruiru

By: Capital Sport

Royal Nairobi Golf Club's elite amateur John Lejirma extended his fine form on day two of the Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing at Ruiru Sports Club, carding a steady round of 3-under par 69 to take his total for the two days to 9-under par 135 – five shots clear of his nearest challenger.

Lejirma was conservative on the front nine, heading out level thanks to a birdie on the 9th and a bogey on the 8th.

On the back nine, he played bogey-free with birdies on the 10th, 13th, and 17th seeing him card 33 for a total of 69 for the day.

Speaking after his round, Lejirma said: "I'm happy to be in this position going into the final round. I kept things tidy today. I stuck to the game plan and didn't try to force anything. I was solid off the tee and made key putts when I needed to. The course played well and I'm looking forward to finishing strong tomorrow."

He now sits five shots ahead of veteran golfer, Dismas Indiza of Kakamega Sports Club, whose solid round of 3-under par 69 saw him climb up the leaderboard to second with a tournament total of 4-under par 140.

Teeing-off from 10th in the company of Rwanda's Celestin Nsanuwera and Ndumberi's Michael Karanga, Indiza played a bogey-free back nine, holing a birdie at the 11th for total of 35.

On the first nine, he opened strong with back-to-back birdies on the 1st and 2nd holes, before holing his only bogey of the round at the 4th.

He then shot a birdie at the ninth for a total of 34. He now sits one shot ahead of Railway Golf Club's Samuel Njoroge on the leaderboard after the two rounds.

Indiza said: "Today was a good day for me. I've been striking



the ball well all week, and today I managed to keep mistakes to a minimum. I stayed patient and capitalized on my chances. Tomorrow is all about staying sharp and giving it a final push," said Indiza after his round.

On his part, Njoroge carded a solid round of 3-under par 69 to climb into second place on the leaderboard.

After an even-par 72 in round one, Njoroge made gains with birdies on the 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 10th, and 18th, while conceding bogeys on the 13th and 15th.

Samuel Njoroge said: "I'm happy with how I played today. I gave myself a lot more opportunities and converted some key putts, especially on the front nine. The back nine was a bit up and down, but I recovered well on the closing holes. I feel good heading into the final round."

Joining the tie for third was Tanzania's Nuru Mollel, who carded a confident 2-under par 70.

Mollel made birdies on the 6th, 8th, 11th, and 13th, but holed bogeys on the 2nd and 17th, and held par across the rest of the round to stay firmly in contention heading into the final day.

Thika Greens champion Njoroge Kibugu of Windsor Golf Hotel & Country Club sits in fifth after returning a 1-under par 71, taking his total to 2-under par.

Kibugu recovered from a bogey on the 1st with birdies at the 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 9th. He added further birdies on the 10th, 13th, 14th, and 16th, though dropped shots on the 3rd and 18th slightly affected his momentum.

Elvis Muigua, the rising amateur from Ndumberi Golf Club, delivered a solid round of 1-under par 71 to move into sixth position overall.

Muigua made birdies on the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 14th holes, with a single bogey on the 6th the only blemish on his card.

Amateurs Elvis Muigua, Michael Karanga, and Naom Wafula were the only other players to return level-par scores or better after two rounds.

Karanga, who opened with a 2-under par 70 in round one, followed up with a 2-over par 74 but remains inside the top group heading into the final round.

Naom Wafula, of Vipingo Ridge Golf Resort, continued to impress as the leading lady in the

field. She posted a round of even-par 72, carding birdies on the 2nd and 6th, holing a solo bogey for the round at the 5th.

Wafula advances to the final round with confidence and remains firmly in contention as the top-ranked lady and one of the leading amateurs.

At the close of round two, 30 players, who finished at 6-over par or better, made the cut and will proceed to tomorrow's final round.

At stake is a Ksh 2 million prize fund, with the winner set to walk away with Ksh 400,000.

Final round action tees off tomorrow morning at Ruiru Sports Club, with the race for the title, and Sunshine Development Tour points wide open.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Twelve-year-old fast-rising golf star Kanana Muthomi is elated after beating a strong field of elite female amateur golfers to claim the 2025 Muthaiga Ladies Open title on Sunday.

Teenager Kanana Delighted After Triumphant At Muthaiga Ladies Open



By: Capital Sport

She carded an impressive 2-under par 69 to emerge the winner.

She termed it a big win for her and went on to attribute her great show to her ball striking and course management.

“Winning this event means a lot to me. It’s one of the biggest on the calendar and attracts such a high-quality field. I kept things simple,” said Kanana after being awarded the winner’s trophy.

“I didn’t force shots, and when I had birdie chances, I took them. I’ve been working on my mid-irons and that helped today, especially on 10 and 11 where I hit it close.” She added.

The tournament, held at the par-71 Muthaiga Golf Club and hosted under the auspices of the Kenya Ladies Golf Union was sponsored by NCBA Insurance as part of NCBA Group’s broader commitment to supporting women’s sport

and growing the game of golf in Kenya as part of its Change the Story sustainability agenda.

The event brought together 200 of the country’s top amateur female golfers. It remains one of the most competitive stops on the ladies’ circuit and counts toward Golfer of the Year (GOTY) ranking points.

Kanana, one of the early starters, took advantage of calm morning conditions to post the round of the day.

The Windsor Golf Hotel & Country Club player kept her scorecard clean for most of the round, carding birdies on holes 4, 10, 11 and 17, while limiting her mistakes to just two bogeys on 7 and 12.

She parred the remaining twelve holes, displaying steady form throughout the day to finish at two-under-par 69, the only under-par score in the field.

She finished four strokes ahead of Joyce Njuguni and Mercy Nyan-

chama, who both signed for 73s (+2) to share second place.

Njuguni started strong, picking up a birdie at the par-4 3rd. However, bogeys on the 2nd, 7th and 9th disrupted her front-nine rhythm.

She didn’t start well on the second nine as she gave away strokes again with bogeys on the 14th and 16th but recovered well later on with birdies at the 17th and 18th which helped her pull ahead of the chasing group.

“I gave myself some work to do after the front nine,” Njuguni said. “But I fought hard to recover. The birdies at 17 and 18 helped end the round on a high note. There’s still work to do in terms of course management, but overall I’m happy with how I closed.”

Nyanchama played a more conservative round, making birdies at the 12th and 18th and limiting errors, but bogeys at 5, 8, 11 and 14 pushed her two over for the

day. She was consistent through the middle stretch and showed resilience after her bogey on 14 to close with par-par-birdie.

“My strategy was to stay level-headed and give myself pars where possible,” said Nyanchama.

“I struggled a bit around the turn, but I stayed calm. I’m especially happy with how I played the last two holes which I managed to hit birdies,” said Nyanchama.

Kellie Gachaga, who tied for fourth place, posted a 75 (+4) after a roller-coaster round.

Her front nine included a double bogey on the par-5 7th and additional bogeys on 2, 3, 6 and 9, sending her out in 42.

She rebounded impressively with birdies on 13, 14, 15 and 18, along with a bogey at 10 and 12, to come back in 33 — the best back nine among the top five.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The Captivating Journey of Ioana Mihalache A Star Who Wins Hearts



By: Anila Bukhari

@themtkenyatimes

Biography:

Ioana Mihalache is a stunning Romanian actress, model, economist, and beauty pageant titleholder who has captured the hearts of many with her charm, intelligence, and beauty. Born on December 28, 1990, in Constanța, Romania, Ioana has been making waves in the modeling and pageantry world with her impressive career.

Early Life and Education

Ioana's journey began with a strong foundation in education. She graduated from Ovidius University in Constanța with a degree in economics and a master's degree in Business Administration of European Politics. Her linguistic skills are equally impressive, speaking four languages: Romanian, English, Spanish, and Italian.

Modeling Career

Ioana's modeling career took off at the tender age of 15. She has since become an international model, gracing fashion shows in countries such as the United States, Great Britain, Italy, Turkey, Lebanon, China, and the United Arab Emirates. Her confidence and poise on the catwalk have earned her a reputation as a sought-after model.

Pageantry

Ioana's pageantry career is marked by her determination and perseverance. She has competed in several notable pageants, including Miss Universe Romania 2012, Miss World Romania 2013, Miss Earth 2013, and Miss Grand International 2016. Her crowning moment came when she was declared Miss Universe Romania 2017, representing her country at the Miss Universe 2017 pageant in Las Vegas.

Personal Qualities

Ioana's success can be attributed to her hard work, dedication, and passion for her craft. Her beauty, both inside and out, has won the hearts of many, making her a beloved figure in the modeling and pageantry world.

Inspiring Others

Ioana's journey serves as an inspiration to many young women around the world. Her story is a testament to the power of perseverance and determination. As a role model, Ioana continues to captivate audiences with her charm, intelligence, and beauty.

With her captivating smile and confident stride, Ioana Mihalache is sure to continue winning hearts and inspiring others in the years to come.



Ioana Mihalache

Worth Noting:

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