

# Gachagua To Ruto: You Can't Stop My Visit To Meru



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DCP party leader Rigathi Gachagua with for Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi in Meru town yesterday.



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# Riggy-G Kicks Off Meru County Tour


By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes

## Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua on Friday embarked on a tour of Meru County. Rigathi, the Democracy for the Citizens Party Leader is expected to make an extensive tour of the county, where he also roots. His mother came from there.



Editor's Desk




The Mt. Kenya Times

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Head of Public Service Felix Koskei underscored the need to eliminate retrogressive cultural practices such as early marriages, which continue to hinder girls' education in marginalised parts of Kenya. Speaking during an education celebration event in Diif, Wajir County, Koskei called on parents and community leaders to abandon outdated traditions and embrace education as a pathway to empowerment and sustainable development. Koskei, who was accompanied by Principal Secretary for Culture and Heritage Umi Bashir, praised teachers for their dedication and urged county leadership to institutionalise such events to motivate both students and educators. Bashir echoed his sentiments, emphasizing the importance of recognizing academic achievements to inspire learners and improve performance. Public Service Commission of Kenya



The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) is aggressively pursuing recovery of public land illegally acquired across Western Kenya's urban counties of Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma, and Busia. Western Regional Manager Eric Ngumbi revealed that about 25 per cent of public land in these areas is under illegal possession. Over the past year, EACC has recovered government land worth over 320 million shillings, including prime plots in Kakamega and Bungoma, and is continuing legal efforts against land grabbers and corrupt officials involved in these syndicates. He noted that the agency has also recovered some prime plots in Kakamega's Milimani estate, with two more to follow and were in the process of recovering land belonging to the official residence of Kakamega South Deputy County Commissioner.

The Director DCI, Mr. Mohamed I. Amin has emphasised the critical importance of collaboration in safeguarding the region against the ever-evolving threats posed by terrorism, transnational organised crime, and various security challenges. In his address at the Regional Workshop for the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO), which convened heads of crime intelligence units at the Holiday Inn, Two Rivers in Nairobi, Mr. Amin highlighted the successes of regional operations that have effectively dismantled cross-border smuggling rings, attributing these achievements to timely intelligence sharing that has averted potential crises. The two-day workshop is designed to provide participants with an opportunity to refine their strategies, align their efforts, and ensure a seamless flow of intelligence among member states. Amin also expressed his gratitude to the INTERPOL Regional Bureau for East Africa and the EAPCCO Secretariat for their efforts in organising this important event. The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Africa Apollo, Head of the INTERPOL Regional Bureau, Ibrahim Jillo, Director of the INTERPOL National Central Bureau at the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, among other distinguished guests. Regional Workshop for the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO), which convened heads of crime intelligence units at the Holiday Inn, Two Rivers in Nairobi, Mr. Amin highlighted the successes of regional operations that have effectively dismantled cross-border smuggling rings, attributing these achievements to timely intelligence sharing that has averted potential crises. The two-day workshop is designed to provide participants with an opportunity to refine their strategies, align their efforts, and ensure a seamless flow of intelligence among member states.



Police are pursuing a suspected criminal who fatally shot a Special Police Investigations Unit (SPIV) Officer in Thika, sparking a high-level security operation and recovery of a loaded pistol magazine. The incident that happened Wednesday evening in the Cravers area of Thika Town during a Stop-and-Search operation, in an incident that has rattled security agencies in the region. The officer, Police Constable Bernard Koome, was conducting a routine security check when he stopped a man riding a motorcycle. According to police reports, the suspect drew a firearm and shot Koome at close range before hijacking another motorcycle and fleeing the scene. According to Thika Deputy Criminal Investigations Officer (DCIO) Jacinta Mbaika, the officer was part of an intelligence-led operation targeting an armed suspect believed to be linked to a spate of recent robberies in Thika town and its environs.



The Kenya Institute of Primate Research (KIPRE) today launched its 5-Year Strategic Plan (2025–2030) in Nairobi—an important milestone in Kenya's pursuit of cutting-edge research, health security, and environmental conservation. The plan sets out a focused agenda to enhance biomedical and preclinical research, strengthen ethical primate conservation, and drive innovation in addressing both local and global health challenges. Anchored in Kenya Vision 2030, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), and the goal of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), the strategy affirms KIPRE's critical role in delivering on Kenya's sustainable development aspirations. This Strategic Plan is a bold step forward for science, sustainability, and public health in Kenya.





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# Thika Water Firm Warns Over Illegal Connections As It Plans To Boost Supply By 15 Million Litres

By: John Kamau  
@themkenyaintimes

Thika Water and Sewerage Company (Thiwasco) has announced plans to expand its treatment facilities in a bid to add an additional 15 million litres of water per day to help address the current supply deficit.

However, the water distribution and treatment firm warned of illegal connections that have led to huge losses besides disrupting supply to the more than 43,000 direct customers.

The managing director Moses Kinya said despite raising its revenue from Sh 600 million to Sh 1 billion annually, the company was still incurring huge losses through the illegal connections.

Speaking during Thiwasco's annual stakeholders meeting in Thika, Kinya said the offence attracts a fine of Sh 100,000 for illegal commercial connections and Sh 30,000 for domestic use.

He also appealed to members of the public to report any cases of theft of water or burst pipes to help minimize the losses.

"The losses through illegal connections are also likely to lead to increase in water tariffs because it amounts to inefficiency, so it is imperative for the public to help us eradicate this by reporting the culprits," said Kinya.

During the consultative meeting, the MD noted that the Cabinet has approved the Sh 15.4 billion Thika and Githunguri Water and Sanitation Project in Kiambu County.

Projected to be completed in the next three to five years, the project is expected to increase water supply for 1.2 million people not only in Thika and Githunguri towns but also the semi-arid Ithanga area of the neighbouring Murang'a County.

He noted that the water project is a welcome relief for the town's rapidly growing population which has been



THIWASCO Managing Director Eng Moses Kinya speaks during the stakeholders meeting in Thika Town..

feeling the pinch of water shortages.

The biggest beneficiaries will be schools, colleges and health institutions many of which have been going without water.

Financed by the Government of Kenya and Danida Sustainable Infrastructure Finance (DSIF) the project is being implemented by Athi Water Works Development Agency (AWWDA) to provide safe, reliable and affordable water and sanitation services to the residents of Thika and Githunguri Township in Kiambu County.

In addition, the MD said there are at least 16,000 new sewer line connections which has partly contributed to the improved revenue collection.

He further said the expansion plan is part of a broader strategy to ensure reliable water access for the fast-growing Thika population as it gears to

become an industrial city.

In addition to the planned expansion, Thiwasco is set to benefit from an extra 21,000 cubic meters per day from the Karimuni II Dam once the national government secures the necessary funding to complete the project.

Board Chair Maina Ruo noted that the company has long-term plans to construct a 40-meter-high mega dam, which will increase the water production capacity from the current 36,000m<sup>3</sup> to 70,000m<sup>3</sup> per day.

"This is meant to increase supply to match the projected population growth which indicates that by the year 2047, there will be a water deficit of 110,000 cubic meters in Thika town," Ruo pointed out.

At the same time, he expressed confidence that the water firm is prepared to meet the demands of Thika's proposed

industrial city status.

Echoing the urgent need for government support, Thika Business Community Chair Alfred Wanyoike called on the national government to fast-track funding, emphasizing that residents have endured persistent water shortages.

Wanyoike at the same time dismissed as impossible any scheme to merge Thiwasco with other water firms in the county or divert its water resources, saying the institution should be allowed to run independently.

The ambition to elevate Thika Town into Kenya's sixth city took a significant step forward after the Kiambu County Assembly unanimously approved a report proposing its transformation into an industrial smart city.

## Worth Noting:

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# Kiambu MCAs Pass On Application On Conferment Of Thika Town To A City

By: John Kamau  
@themkenyatimes

Thika Municipality could soon attain city status, after members of the County Assembly (MCAs) of Kiambu passed the report on application by the County Executive for its elevation to being a city.

The report laid by the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on County Planning and Urbanization Moses Ngatha Wambiri outlined factors that led to the approval.

The Chairman said that Thika meets the required population threshold of 250,000 residents as required by the Urban Areas and Cities Act with a current population of 279,429 according to 2019 Population and Housing Census.

It is projected to have an estimated population of 442,919 in the year 2035 and 808,434 in 2039 using a growth rate of 3.4 percent per annum as stipulated in the National Spatial Plan (NSP).

Ngatha said that among the factors that led to the nod by the Committee is the already developed Integrated Strategic Urban Development Plan that has been duly approved by both the County Executive and the County Assembly, ensuring alignment with the development needs of the municipality as required by the law.

He said that Thika has the potential for revenue collection. Currently, the Municipality is among the highest revenue generating sources from a variety of sources, including local taxes such as land rates, business permits and licenses, pollution, waste, and environmental charges, parking and transport fees, as well as county equitable shares.

“Based on the financial analysis of previous years, the Municipality demonstrates both sufficient revenue generation capacity and a strong potential for continued growth in revenue streams hence it has capacity to sustain operations,” he noted.

He said that the Municipality currently has provision of essential services as per Schedule 1 of the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011. It has a well equipped and robust planning and development control section that helps in approving applications, implements policies, provides public advisory services, and ensures regulatory compliance as well as adequate and qualified personnel.

The Chairman also outlined that the town contains essential infrastructure such as roads, a robust transport system, storm water management facilities, electricity, water supply, as well as key social and healthcare facilities, education institutions, recreational areas, several police stations, and



Murera Ward MCA and the Chairman of the planning committee at the Kiambu County Assembly Moses Ngatha.

## Worth Noting:

- Ngatha said that among the factors that led to the nod by the Committee is the already developed Integrated Strategic Urban Development Plan that has been duly approved by both the County Executive and the County Assembly, ensuring alignment with the development needs of the municipality as required by the law.
- He said that Thika has the potential for revenue collection. Currently, the Municipality is among the highest revenue generating sources from a variety of sources, including local taxes such as land rates, business permits and licenses, pollution, waste, and environmental charges, parking and transport fees, as well as county equitable shares.

markets.

In the previous years, Thika Municipality has demonstrated a strong commitment to citizen engagement through various initiatives including public involvement in projects such as the Thika Industrial Smart City, the County Spatial Plan, the County Fiscal Strategy Paper, and the Alcohol and Drugs Control Act of 2018.

The Murera ward MCA also noted that the area has adequate space for expansion and future growth, which is crucial for sustainable urban development. Given that the Municipality is reliant on agriculture, the preservation of agricultural land remains essential for sustainable food production.

He said, “The County Spatial Plan emphasizes compact urban growth and discourages urban sprawl by encouraging vertical development in central business districts (CBDs) and residential/commercial zones. This strategy supports the development of a sustainable city, promoting reduced car dependency, lower carbon emissions, improved public transport, and the preservation of green spaces.

“Additionally, the Municipality has access to ample space for expansion, including the Delmonte property and other underdeveloped areas. At the same time, Thika Municipality has made strides in managing solid waste

through the Directorate of Environment, which currently handles 140 tonnes of waste daily, with 60% of waste collected and 30% recycled,” he Added.

Ngatha noted that the Municipality operates a landfill at Kang’oki and utilizes the Gatunyaga site for asbestos disposal. He added that a solid waste management policy is underway, with several public awareness initiatives being conducted.

“while the private sector plays a role in waste management, better regulation is necessary to improve efficiency. Proposals are being considered to introduce waste segregation and incineration at Kang’oki to enhance waste management practices further,” he stated.

While supporting the initiative, the MCAs said that the elevation will see more funds channeled to Kiambu with the current share of the Municipality being split to the other municipalities.

Nyathuna Ward MCA Edward Kinyanjui said, “this is a blessing to Kiambu because now Thika makes the sixth Kenyan City where it shall have a budget and allocation of its own from the National Government, now the other municipal allocations can be divided another the others municipalities to foster development.”

His Kamenu ward counterpart Pe-

ter Mburu said that the initiative is a transformation agenda for Kiambu County while Thika Township MCA Honorable applauded the third Assembly for actualizing the dream terming it a recorded achievement.

Ann Wachera supported saying, “Rome was not built in one day. I urge all to support the application even if not all of us live in Thika because this will extend our global recognition as a County.”

The Deputy Speaker John Njiru (MCA, Hospital Ward) said that history will serve the third Assembly better as a major milestone of making Kiambu great again.

# You Can't Stop Me From Meru, Gachagua Tells Ruto

By: Dennis Dibondo  
@themtkenyatimes

The Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP) leader Rigathi Gachagua has told President William Ruto that he can not stop him from visiting Meru.

Gachagua alleged President Ruto had talked to MPs to try and hire goons to stop him from addressing his supporters in Meru.

Gachagua motorcade had to stop, and his supporters were forced to remove tyres and stones that had been put in an effort to block the former Deputy President from accessing Meru town.

The defiant Gachagua addressed a mammoth crowd at Tuskys stage, Gakoromone, and Makutano trading center where he claimed that it was President Ruto who had sponsored goons through Meru MPs so that they could cut off Gachagua from addressing his supporters.

"I want to tell President William Ruto that he cannot stop me from coming to Meru. My mother comes from the Meru community and I even have land here that I am planning to

build a very big mansion so that I can be closer to our people whether President Ruto likes it or not," he said.

Gachagua went ahead to hit at Ruto claiming that they fell out after he noticed that the President wanted to split Mount Kenya so that the votes can be tamed.

"His aim was to split Kikuyu, Embu and Meru so that they can be apart politically so that he can fight the tyranny of numbers Mount Kenya has," Gachagua said.

Gachagua was accompanied by former Agriculture CS Mithika Linturi, the DCP party Organising Secretary who said it is a shame he was being blocked from coming to Meru.

"We are not cowards, we have finally arrived and shame on them even if we now do not have elected MPs. I want to say we do not have a shortage of leaders and in 2027 we are going to have several MPs elected in our party," Mithika said.

Mithika said they will have a headache of choosing which aspirant to vie for which seat as they have many people wanting to vie with our party.

"We were campaigning for Ruto and Meru emerged number four in voting for President William Ruto but he



DCP party leader Rigathi Gachagua with for Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi in Meru town yesterday.

started ignoring us to an extent of sending us and Gachagua parking so now we are going to send him home to restore our glory," Mithika said.

He accused President Ruto of collapsing hustler fund, Women Fund

and Youth Fund which were well structured but they were collapsed and now his Deputy is going round giving handouts in the name of Empowerment instead," Mithika said.

Several other leaders from the coun-

ty and outside accompanied the former Deputy President who is on a three-day visit in the area.

# PBO Act Seeks To Weed Out Briefcase NGOs

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes

The government seeks to streamline Non-Governmental Organisations operating in the country through the Public Benefits Act, which emphasises the need for financial transparency and accountability.

The PBO Act, 2013 came into place in May last year, following an order by President William Ruto, replacing the previous Non-Governmental Organisations Co-ordination Act, 1990.

According to the new Act, the Public Benefit Organisations shall be required to keep up-to-date records of all their financial records, including audited accounts, detailed inventories of their assets, and annual progress reports of their activities and programmes.

The NGOs will be referred to as PBOs under the new Act. Speaking during a public participation forum for the new PBO regulations in Garissa, Public Benefit Organisations Regulatory Authority (PBORA) Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Laxmana Kiptoo said that the government is keen to operationalise

the Act and get rid of organisations that only solicit funds, with no actionable programmes.

"The Kenyan government wants to know and ascertain all the organisations previously known as Non-Governmental Organisations, which are now referred to as Public Benefit Organisations, operating across the country," Kiptoo said.

"We need to know exactly where these entities operate from and who their beneficiaries are. This law will make sure that we get rid of all 'briefcase' organisations who purport to be operating in certain areas of our country. They collect money from the donors, but in essence, these funds end up in other people's pockets," he added.

The CEO regretted that there have been non-governmental organisations operating in the country suspected of funding illegal activities such as terrorism and money laundering, which has put the country on the international radar.

He said that the Act will seal the gap and ensure that only legitimate organisations are operating in the country.

Kenya is currently on the Financial

Action Task Force (FATF) grey list, which was added in February 2024, due to deficiencies in its anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorism financing (CTF) frameworks.

"There are NGOs that are suspected to be funding illegal activities and that has put us in problems as a country. You are aware that the country was grey-listed by the FATF because non-profit organisations have been touted to be a conduit for money laundering and terrorism funding, which has put us as a country in an awkward position," he said.

Khalif Nunde, Chairperson for the Garissa Civil Society Network, applauded the new regulations, saying that the framework will bring some sanity among the NGOs.

"Regrettably we have briefcase NGOs that were only siphoning donor funds and failing to deliver on their mission. Going forward we need strict regulations to address these concerns," Nunde stressed.

He said NGOs serving communities must be held accountable with mandatory reporting requirements, audits and allowing members of the public to access information on their activities.



Dr. Laxmana Kiptoo

"The new Act must be strict to weed out organisations that have no presence on the ground but are siphoning donors' funds while operating with little oversight," he said.

All Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Kenya have until May 13, 2026, to restructure their internal systems, including governance, financial reporting and registration requirements, in line with the Public Benefits Organisations (PBO) Act.

This follows the government's deci-

sion to extend the compliance deadline by a year to allow for a smooth transition into the new legal regime.

According to PBORA, only 4,000 out of the 14,000 NGOs registered in Kenya are currently compliant.

According to the Annual Sector Report, the sector received Sh196 billion in project support and employed approximately 80,000 persons in 2024.

# Pomp And Colour During This Year's Giraffe Day

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), in partnership with African Fund for Endangered Wildlife - Giraffe Centre hosted an engaging conservation education session for 200 Kenyan learners from across the country at the iconic Ivory Burning Site in Nairobi National Park, the world's only Wildlife Capital in marking World Giraffe Day.

The event was graced by KWS Board Chair Lt. Gen (Rtd) Walter Raria Koipaton, KWS Director General Prof. Erustus Kanga, AFEW Board Chair Mr. Jagi Gakunju, AFEW CEO Ms. Christine Nyang'aya, and conservation partners.

Held under the theme "Collaboration and Innovation for Giraffe Conservation," the event showcased innovative approaches to conservation through education, technology, research, policy and governance, and socio-economic engagement — all essential pillars in securing a sustainable future

for giraffes and Kenya's broader biodiversity.

The KWS Board Chairman emphasized the importance of inspiring the younger generation to cherish and protect Kenya's natural heritage. He acknowledged the vital role of partners in driving conservation, affirmed support for county governments under the devolved system, and invited the private sector to join the Adopt-a-Giraffe initiative as strategic investors in Kenya's natural capital.

Prof. Erustus Kanga commended the involvement of learners, encouraging them to become young conservation champions who will carry forward the legacy of protecting Kenya's natural heritage. He also highlighted the urgent threats facing giraffes — including bush meat hunting, poaching, habitat loss, and shrinking natural spaces — and called for coordinated action through ecological planning, community engagement, and sustained investment in education and awareness to ensure the survival of giraffes and other wildlife species for generations to come.

AFEW CEO Ms. Christine Nyang'aya reaffirmed the strong



partnership between AFEW – Giraffe Centre and Kenya Wildlife Service, highlighting our joint commitment to giraffe conservation. She noted that AFEW plays an active role in supporting the implementation of the National Recovery Action Plan for Giraffes in Kenya, working closely with KWS and other stakeholders. Through this collaboration, AFEW continues to take deliberate action to conserve and protect giraffe populations — focus-



ing on education, habitat restoration, community engagement, and public advocacy as key strategies to reverse the decline of this iconic species.

This aligns with the ongoing on TunzaMaliYako School Campaign that is encouraging learners to visit our National Parks, Reserves, and Sanctuaries to learn and experience Kenya's rich wildlife!

The event culminated in an award ceremony recognizing outstand-

ing young conservation champions — learners who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to conservation. This serves as a powerful reminder that everyone has a role to play in protecting Kenya's wildlife — and celebrated the growing movement of young people stepping up to safeguard the future of our natural heritage.

# Kisii MCAs Pass Record KSh. 18.5 Billion Budget For 2025/26 Financial Year

By: Elizabeth Angira

@themkenyatimes

Members of the Kisii County Assembly have passed a record KSh. 18.5 billion budget for the 2025/2026 financial year the highest allocation since the advent of devolution.

While tabling the estimates, Budget and Appropriations Committee Chairperson Peter Otachi informed the House that KSh. 11.3 billion has been allocated for recurrent expenditure, while KSh. 7.1 billion will go towards development.

Otachi explained that the budget comprises allocations from the national exchequer, grants, own-source revenue, and balances carried forward from the previous financial year. The county projects to raise KSh. 2.6 billion from own-source revenue.

Among the key allocations, the As-

sembly approved KSh. 250 million for the county's empowerment program and KSh. 96 million for the school feeding program targeting Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) learners.

"We have not allocated funds for bursaries. The Controller of Budget barred counties from including bursary allocations in their budgets following a court directive. She has taken a tough stance on counties," Otachi noted during the session chaired by Speaker Dr. Philip Nyanumba.

Otachi, who is also the MCA for Monyereto Ward, said the county plans to construct one ECDE center per ward at a cost of KSh. 2.5 million each.

Additionally, KSh. 1.5 billion has been earmarked for water projects across the county, as part of Governor Simba Arati's flagship development initiatives.

The Assembly has also been allocated KSh. 1.5 billion for its recurrent expenditure and KSh. 18 million for

development.

In a shift towards sustainable infrastructure development, Otachi revealed that the county has embraced a ward-based development approach. It plans to acquire road construction machinery to open up ward roads, eliminating the need for contractors.

"It is cheaper to construct roads using county-owned machines than through contracting. Once roads are identified, fuel will be provided to open them up anytime," he stated. He further added that the county will also adopt labor-based work methods once the necessary policy is in place.

Otachi assured contractors that the Assembly has allocated funds to pay for ongoing and unpaid projects carried forward from the previous financial year. He also announced the allocation of funds for the recruitment of 300 health workers to strengthen services in county health facilities.

Majority Leader Henry Moracha urged the Executive to fast-track procurement processes to ensure the



Kisii County Assembly

timely implementation of the budget for the benefit of residents.

"The school feeding program is one of the unique initiatives we have funded. We want our children to be comfortable as they learn," Moracha said, adding that more ECDE teachers will also be employed to enhance learning outcomes.

Minority Leader Dennis Ombachi

said a committee has been set up to verify pending bills and ensure that verified contractors are paid to avoid conflicts.

"We have passed the budget, and as the minority, we will follow up to ensure that all projects are fully implemented," Ombachi added.

# Jubilee Party: A Detailed Analysis Of The Former Ruling Party's Revival

By: Ezekiel Kamau  
 @themkenyatimes

The recent High Court ruling reinstating former President Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta as the leader of the Jubilee Party has sparked renewed energy and optimism among its members nationwide.

This decision is not just a legal win but a political turning point that has reinvigorated the party's base and brought its loyalists into the limelight.

Here are some aspects that are worth noting.

## Legal Foundation and Leadership Clarity

The High Court ruling clarified the party's leadership structure, ending months of internal wrangling and uncertainty. By reinstating Kenyatta, the party gained a renewed sense of purpose under a leader whose tenure is associated with national cohesion and economic growth during his presidency. This legal victory is foundational for rebuilding party unity and restoring confidence among its members and supporters.

## Regional Dynamics

The revival of the party is unfolding differently across various regions, reflecting the diverse socio-political landscape of Kenya.

For example, in Nakuru County, the chairman Mr. Gichuru's celebration of the ruling reflects grassroots-level excitement. Such local leadership is critical for mobilizing support and ensuring the party's presence in key counties.

Nakuru county assembly former speaker Joel Kairu's steadfast loyalty during turbulent times, especially his role during the "Sufuria Revolution" protests, positions him as a symbolic figure of resilience in the area. His political capital could prove invaluable in rallying support in Nakuru.

In the neighbouring Laikipia County Ms. Sarolyne Mwendia's experiences of persecution highlight the sacrifices made by party loyalists. Her continued allegiance despite adversity underscores the enduring appeal of the Jubilee Party's ideals.

The likes of Mwendia represent the party's ability to attract resilient and committed leaders.

At the country's top town and capital city; Nairobi County, prominent leaders like Jeremiah Kioni symbolize the urban, intellectual, and strategic face of Jubilee.

Nairobi's political dynamics are crucial for national visibility, making the role of these figures pivotal in shaping public perception.

## Grassroots and National Impact

The involvement of local leaders, activists, and aspirants like Kairu and

Mwendia reveals a deep commitment to the party at the grassroots level. Their sacrifices, including arrests and political intimidation, have become rallying points for the party's revival narrative. These stories are crucial in galvanizing support among ordinary citizens, many of whom see these leaders as champions of their struggles.

At the national level, the resurgence of Jubilee signifies a potential shift in Kenya's political landscape. The party's ability to reconnect with its base, rebuild its image, and position itself as a formidable opposition or alternative will determine its future influence.

## Challenges Ahead

While the revival is promising, the Jubilee Party faces several challenges which include among other issues; Rebuilding Trust where years of internal conflict and external pressures have eroded trust among members and supporters. A cohesive strategy to rebuild this trust is very critical.

The other challenge is youth engagement where many young Kenyans have become disillusioned with traditional politics. The party must craft policies and campaigns that resonate with the youth.

Also in the same cage is the issue of resource mobilization that will have to address, among other factors, reviving party structures, funding activities and supporting candidates that will require significant financial and organizational resources.

Another major issue is the opposition dynamics. The former ruling party must navigate its relationship with both the government and other opposition parties and ensure that its voice remains distinct and influential.

## Strategic Recommendations

To ensure sustained revival, the party should consider, among other factors; acknowledge its loyalists by among other things, publicly recognizing and rewarding loyalists like Kairu, Mwendia, and Kioni as a way of motivating others to rally behind the party.

The party must also consider the issue of rebranding where it will be expected to initiate crafting of a new image that reflects inclusivity, resilience, and forward-thinking policies that will attract new supporters.

Jubilee party must also embark on grassroots engagement with the aim of strengthening county-level structures and engaging directly with citizens on their concerns will consolidate its base.

It must also factor in Youth and Women Inclusion in running of its affairs at all levels. This can be done by among others initiatives, expanding platforms for youth and women positions as a progressive force.

Not left behind is the strategic alliances which will involve collaborating with like-minded parties or movements that will amplify its voice on national issues.



Former President Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta



Jubilee Secretary General Jeremiah Kioni

In conclusion, Jubilee party's revival represents both a challenge and an opportunity.

The momentum generated by the court ruling can serve as a springboard for rebuilding its structures, uniting its members, and reclaiming its position in Kenya's political arena. With strategic planning and sustained effort, the party has the potential to redefine its legacy and secure its future.

Ezekiel Kamau is an analyst and accountability ambassador Nakuru county



Nakuru county assembly former speaker Joel Kairu

# Gender Based Violence: Forgiving The Unforgivable



By: Mary Karau Ngethe  
@themtkenyatimes

The author of this article has been writing on the power of the mind to do great things. The article for this week is yet another challenge for us human beings to plead with the mind to do what can be impossible unless the mind decides to do so. Letting go off pain, by choosing to forgive.

### Unforgivable and unforgettable

The author attempts to influence the reader to make a choice to start the journey of forgiveness, to allow the mind to discover new skills on how to make peace with painful memories since that haunt us, but are in the mind to stay, since they cannot be wished away. Forgiveness can allow the victim to move on, and allow God to create new beautiful memories to replace the painful ones.

To create a new life full of beauty, and turn a mess into a message for self

The article might therefore not resonate with all readers, because, unless a reader has been hurt deeply, one might not connect with the message. But then, may be a loved one has been hurt and the reader walked the journey with them, and are therefore a victim indirectly.

What if a daughter has ever been raped, what if a son has ever been sodomized, what if a sister has ever been brutally "murdered" by her husband, but survived a near death experience, what if a mother was attacked at night all alone, raped and left for death, but survived. Is any reader still convinced the article is not for all of us? Life happens, and it happens to human beings. And we are all related to human beings. So welcome and read for you or for sharing with another.

For this article, I will focus on pain resulting from Domestic Violence (DV) and Gender-Based violence (GBV) relating to sexual abuse of children.

In the coming weeks, I will write on other forms of pain so be on the look out for the weekly episodes

Domestic Violence and gender based violence as source of hurt

Domestic violence is a form of gender-based violence. Gender based violence includes, but is not limited to, domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, reproductive violence and coercion, stalking, and child abuse based on gender. However, if a person is facing gender based violence and commits a crime trying to protect self, that is not gender based violence but self-defense.

GBV occurs where there are differing power relations, and in most cas-



es women and girls are the victims, though boys and men are also becoming victims. When a wife plans to kill her husband through poisoning his food, that is both DV and GBV.

Domestic violence (DV) is a form of violence and abuse that takes place within the family unit. For awareness creation of both domestic violence and gender-based violence, I will use a case of an 8-year-old girl, without using names or location for privacy

### Sexual abuse of an 8-year-old girl by her grandfather

The girl is 8 years old, daughter of a single mother. Her mother and grandmother are peasants and have gone for labor in their neighbors land. She comes from school, and her grandfather is in the compound where they all live in different houses but same compound.

Family Unit. The old man, sexually abuses her every day after school, and threatens her with death if she ever reported the matter to anyone. Luckily, her mother gets a job out of the village and goes to her new home with her.

She is supposed to be a small innocent girl. Isn't she?

She and her family, including her grandfather take a photo of her. Her black and white photo, of herself leaning on her mother, to her, that photo held her secrets. She sees her tiny uniform on the lines and hates her time after school.

The girl is lost in thought even as the photo is taken. Will my new home have other men? Will I be safe? What if? Her life will be dictated by what if for a long time. She has been robbed off her safety, at an early age of 8!

### 40 Years later

Little girl, to graduate, to wedding to motherhood. What if follows her closely

The girl is now married with a family, and she is overprotective of her two daughters. Protective even from their own father. Psychoanalysis at work. I am the only security to them. It is my story.

One day, she was De-cluttering her closet, and out of nowhere, the Black Photo appears in one old envelope. With her maturity and exposure, she photo makes her aware of the pain, as triggers always come; she knows the time had come. Now. She is aware she cannot hide her pain any more, The story of Winfrey Oprah disclosing her sexual abuse story has been lingering in her mind. If Oprah healed, I can also heal, she tells herself. She knows she must confront this animal of pain forced onto her by a mad man. She goes to a therapist to seek help. And suddenly, the therapist makes her vulnerable again. She becomes the 8 year old, and presents the photo to the therapist. And from there onwards, the healing journey begins, remotely at first but surely!

She has to be taught how to discover how to take action for herself. To move on from an 8 year old vulnerable girl, to a 40 year old mother, wife boss. It is a journey that will take time and mental energy. To make peace with her painful memories. In order to enjoy fully her beautiful marriage, her beautiful motherhood and her beautiful practice as a successful lawyer.

She heals from a pessimistic person who always feels a victim despite her success, to a victor who is optimistic and always ready to receive good things in life. She stops believing in the God of her mother but embraces

a relationship with her God. She feels worthy of any promise of God. Her self-confidence gushes from within to rule her new life. God clothes the nakedness caused by her grandfather. She forgives her grandfather who had died years earlier. She forgives her mother and grandmother for leaving her at home alone with a monster. She realizes she did not need to forgive herself. She was just a victim.

She gives back to society by joining advocacy against domestic abuse and gender based violence. And she is a strong advocate of the agenda.

### Call to Action

This girl/woman chose to forgive. She chose to let go. It is my hope, as the author, that this article, parents will be more careful with their daughters and sons, victim living with pain of will take action like the above girl did, and that fathers will nurture their sons to be men-enough to respect girls and women, protect them and not abuse them, and that religious institutions will establish centers to handle gender based programs in their communities, and that GoK will implement the many policies to address GBV.

Have a safe nest, and create a safe nest for our girls, boys, women and men. Spread the gospel against Domestic Violence and Gender Based violence in our homes and communities. May our Police Force lead in this battle towards safety in Kenya and in Africa.

Mary Karau Ngethe is the Programs Director Central Kenya Development Network (CKDN). She can be reached on; marykaraungethe@gmail.com

### Worth Noting:

- The article might therefore not resonate with all readers, because, unless a reader has been hurt deeply, one might not connect with the message. But then, may be a loved one has been hurt and the reader walked the journey with them, and are therefore a victim indirectly.
- What if a daughter has ever been raped, what if a son has ever been sodomized, what if a sister has ever been brutally "murdered" by her husband, but survived a near death experience, what if a mother was attacked at night all alone, raped and left for death, but survived. Is any reader still convinced the article is not for all of us? Life happens, and it happens to human beings. And we are all related to human beings. So welcome and read for you or for sharing with another.

# Mau Mau War Veterans Association Urges Members To Attend PBOs Regulations Forums

By: MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

A former freedom fighters and their descendants caucus are expected to take part in forums organised to offer opinions on proposed regulations that are expected to govern the registration and running of Public Benefits Organization (PBO).

Mau Mau War Veterans Association (MMWVA) says the move is inching closer, the hope of getting compensation once the government puts all the system in running.

Consequently, through the association Director General James Njuguna Mahuria, members have been requested to turn up in large numbers and input their views.

The forums kicked off on Thursday but will be more inclusive next week when organisers move to areas where the former freedom fighters are concentrated.

On Friday, Mahuria asked thousands of his association members to read the draft regulations and prepare to propose changes when the Public Participation exercise takes place in their areas.

In a notice published in the dailies



James Njuguna Mahuria, accompanied by other MMWVA officials briefing journalists in a past forum.

last week, the Ministry of Interior and National Administration through the Public Benefits Organization Regulatory Authority announced that Kenyans will have a chance to propose changes during forums that will be conducted across the country, from June 19 to July 18.

The 47 counties are formed into 12 clusters where the public meetings will take place. The meetings will be held in Nairobi, Mombasa, Nyeri, Garissa, Meru, Machakos, Lamu, Lowdar, Eldoret, Kakamega, Kisumu and Nakuru.

The notice indicated that the draft regulations, once approved will be

used to guide the registration and management of PBOs in line with the provisions of the Act that was assented in 2013.

Despite being assented in 2013, it took about ten years for the government, through the then Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration Prof. Kithure Kindiki to gazette it's operation date.

Last month, Chief Justice forwarded to parliament, the names of individuals who would be sitting in the PBOs Tribunal board.

On Thursday, the National Assembly approved the nominees with the Chief Justice, Martha Koome expected to



Some of the other stakeholders who have been involved in demanding former freedom fighters compensation.

swear them to office anytime after their names are gazetted.

On Friday, Mahuria said his association members, found in all the 47 counties, would be airing their views and giving comments from all the designated places as per the notice.

He said his members were optimistic that once the team has been put in place, the exercise towards their compensation would sail through seamlessly.

At the same time, he urged those who have not registered do so, so as not to be left behind when the compensation exercise begins.

Once the team takes office, it will

easier for other departments to initiate their mandate which means the issue of former freedom fighters and their descendants compensation would be addressed, once and for all.

He noted that the issues are coming to a conclusion, just as various freedom fighters interested groups joined hands and resolved to work together under the MMWVA.

Mahuria further noted that MMWVA has for years been sensitizing its members about the PBO and National Village Administration Policy which he said have direct impact on his members.

# Over 1,000 Kajiado South Residents Receive Free Treatment

By: Rop Janet

@themtkenyatimes

More than 1,000 residents of Olbili village in Kajiado South have received free medical treatment during a 12-day medical outreach camp aimed at addressing healthcare gaps in remote areas.

The initiative was spearheaded by the County Government in collaboration with Amref Health Africa, Entepesi Kenya, Hands for Health Foundation, Rocky Vista University (USA), and Kilimanjaro Mission Hospital.

The medical camp offered a wide range of services, including eye surgeries such as cataract extractions and tumour removals, nutritional support, psychological counselling, cervical cancer screening, general consultations, laboratory services, and dental checkups.

Residents also benefited from family planning services, HIV testing and counselling, and treatments for both minor and critical conditions, including flu, heart disease, genetic disorders, and cancer.

Dr Brandon Hall from Rocky Vista

University noted the broad range of ailments presented by patients, from common colds and flu to more serious and life-threatening cases like cancer, heart conditions, and genetic issues.

Jackson Yapas, a clinical officer, highlighted a worrying trend of poor health-seeking behaviour among residents. This he attributed to lack of resources and the long distances to the nearest health centres.

"Many people do not seek medical attention when symptoms begin; they only visit hospitals when the condition has worsened," he said.

Obed Katia of Entepesi, Kenya, echoed this concern, adding that some expectant women had never attended antenatal clinics and some children had never received immunisations.

"This camp was not just about treatment; we are also educating the community on the importance of early health interventions," Katia said.

Beyond treatment, the medical team also prioritised community health education to promote early care-seeking behaviour.

The camp revealed the dire need for healthcare access in the region. Residents reported having to walk over 15 kilometres to the nearest health



Patients receiving treatment during the free medical camp outreach at Olbili, Kajiado South. Photo/Rop Janet

facility.

Joyce Mutunkei, a resident of Olbili, lamented the lack of a local health centre in the area.

"Many expectant mothers here are forced to give birth at home. We urgently need a hospital in this area," she said.

Martine Soipei, another local, emphasised the impact of poverty on access to health services. "Most of us cannot afford to go to hospitals. Free medical camps like this are a lifeline and should be held regularly to save lives," he said.

Serah Ndida, a resident of Inkisanjani, lauded the initiative for reach-

ing those who would otherwise go untreated.

"I had been unwell for more than two weeks, but the nearest hospital is far in Illasit town, and I didn't have transport to get there. When I heard that the medical camp was coming right here to our village, I was so relieved. I received treatment and medicine free of charge," she said.

Samantha Shackleton of Entepesi, Kenya, emphasised the importance of reaching marginalized communities with essential health services. She noted that providing quality healthcare closer to underserved communities was not just a priority

but a necessity in order to achieve universal health coverage.

"Many people in remote areas still struggle to access even the most basic medical services. These medical camps are helping to close that gap by delivering critical care right at the village level," she said.

Shackleton added that the large turnout of patients seeking medical services highlighted the urgent demand for accessible and inclusive healthcare and called for sustained support for similar initiatives across rural Kenya.

## The Uninvited Guest



Build confidence, and wipe away each tear.  
Live every moment, with passion and fire,  
For life's precious, and none can retire.

No person is eternal, we're told,  
Our time on earth, a story to unfold.  
So let's cherish each breath, each beat,  
And make the most, of life's fleeting treat.

In cancer's shadow, we find our might,  
A strength we never knew, a new light.  
Let's live fully, with heart and soul,  
And make each moment, our own goal.

Murali Krishna Boddula

Life's canvas, painted bright and bold,  
Dreams and desires, a future to unfold.  
Smooth sailing, till that fateful day,  
When cancer's shadow, came to stay.

The diagnosis, a sudden blow,  
Painful treatments, our hearts did know.  
But in the darkness, a spark remains,  
A flame of hope, that still sustains.

Let's rise above, the pain and fear,

## Ways To Achieve The Third Renaissance



What does the Renaissance mean? Let me express my personal understanding of this word. Renaissance means awakening, rebirth, development. This word usually develops the thinking, science and cultural development of humanity.

The Renaissance period has occurred several times around the world. Let me tell you one of them. This Renaissance period also took place in Europe, in the 14th and 15th centuries. During this time, the European people could not come out of their shell in a certain sense. That is, for a certain time they lived with religious restrictions. However, over time, the European people also began the Renaissance period. That is, people began to think, think critically, and science developed. There are also scientists who made a high contribution during the period of the rise, they are Galileo Galilei, Shakespeare and Leonardo da Vinci.

Of course, Uzbekistan also had a period of growth and revival. Let me briefly describe the first Renaissance twice. So, the first Renaissance was in the 10th-12th centuries. At that time, scientists such as Ibn Sina and Ferghani

were the founders of the Renaissance. After all, these scientists improved sciences such as physics, algebra, and medicine.

The Renaissance in Europe took place in the 14th-15th centuries. Scientists such as Mirzo Ulugbek, Behbudi, and Navoi lived during this time and also brought great benefits to the second Renaissance. Our scientists developed several sciences.

The Third Renaissance is today's goal, our President Shavkat Mirziyoyev is putting forward the idea of the Third Renaissance. What does this mean? It means that if we, the youth, gain knowledge, expand our worldview, master modern technologies, and advance our culture, we will begin the third Renaissance. For this, the head of our state must create opportunities. The main ways in which we create opportunities for young people are: organizing education, further increasing the interest of young people in science, providing them with modern technologies, and developing our national culture.

Personally, I am currently studying, researching, and in general, learning as much as possible, and this is the stage of the third Renaissance. If every young person thinks broadly, dreams and turns their dreams into goals, acquires knowledge and forms their literacy, and at the same time does useful work for our Motherland, the Renaissance will become not only history, but also, with a high probability, the present.

Abdurakhmonova Durdona Karim

## Ever Be Careful Who You Trust



One showing sweetness, the other, evil vibes

Like sugar and salt, similar in appearance,  
But entirely different in essence and intention  
One can nourish, the other can harm,  
If the Trust is broken, it is difficult to mend  
that bond

The wound runs deep, the scars will never end,  
So be cautious, and trust wisely,  
Or you fall prey to the evil persons

BRINDA. D  
CREATIVE WRITERS  
GRADUATE TEACHER,  
GOVT HIGH SCHOOL,  
MELPATTAMPAKKAM  
CUDDALORE,  
Tamilnadu India

Ever be careful who you trust,  
For not all are genuine, some are unjust,  
Though they may seem similar at first glance,  
Some wear masks, hiding their grudges.

Their smiles may seem friendly and bright,  
But beware, they may stab in the night in your  
back  
Smile and evil are two-faces of a coin with  
two sides,

## Modern Trends In Weddings And Ceremonies



extravagance. While wealthy families may justify this as an effort to ensure the happiness of the young couple, the middle class in society often views it as unnecessary spending.

Thanks to the initiatives of our respected President, there is now a visible trend toward simplifying ceremonies, avoiding unnecessary extravagance and waste, and taking into account the economic capabilities of both families and society as a whole. Holding weddings within set limits could prove beneficial for everyone, both financially and morally.

In conclusion, I can say that weddings and ceremonies are vital traditions that reflect the heart, culture, and values of a nation. While their outward forms may change over time, their core essence continues to strengthen love, respect, and unity among people.

Author: Feruza Raupova, 11th-grade student, Bukhara region

A wedding is not only a significant event in the lives of two individuals, but also a grand celebration for the entire community, family, relatives, and friends. The Uzbek people have long been known for their rich traditions, cultural values, and hospitality. These characteristics are especially evident in weddings and other ceremonies. Today, parents are organizing modern weddings for their children, fulfilling their parental duties and wishing them a happy life.

However, such modern weddings have increasingly led to excessive

## Uzuri Wangu Wa Tende



Haluwa vipi ishinde, utamu wa  
kughushiwa  
Hawatoniweza tende, mimi nimejaliwa  
Uzuri wangu wa tende, utamu wa  
kuzaliwa

Tende ninapendwa sana, na watu wa  
rika zote  
Ninapoadimikana, ninatafutwa popote  
Wanaranda Kila kona, ladha yangu  
waipate  
Uzuri wangu wa tende, utamu wa  
kuzaliwa

Mtunzi: Fatma Ali Mohamed  
Mahali: Pemba

Mimi mti wa jangwani, ukame nauhimili  
Hata nitupwe jaani, haiji yangu asili  
Watu wananithamini, japo kuwa bei  
ghali

Uzuri wangu wa tende, utamu wa  
kuzaliwa

Tofauti na makande, sukari yanayotiwa

# Kiambu High Court Halts Wamatangi's Arrest And Investigations Pending Jurisdiction Ruling

By: Felix Njenga  
@themkenyatimes

A Kiambu High Court has temporarily restrained the Attorney General, the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, and the National Police Service from arresting or investigating Kiambu governor Kimani Wamatangi.

High Court Judge Dorah Chepkwony ruled that the "status quo" be maintained by the state offices and agencies.

The directive comes ahead of a ruling on July 4, on a preliminary objection filed by the EACC. The EACC is challenging the court's jurisdiction over a petition brought by Kiambu voter Stephen Mwangi, who seeks injunctive orders to prevent these entities from "harassing" governor Wamatangi.

The EACC, through its representative Ruth Kemunto, argued that Mwangi's application is "frivolous" and that the resident has no legal right to institute the application, asserting that the court lacks jurisdiction to hear the matter. Kemunto reiterated that the issue of jurisdiction remains undetermined and that the EACC is simply carrying out its constitutional mandate.

Mwangi, however, informed the court that the EACC has continued to summon and harass the governor despite the ongoing court proceedings.

Representing the Attorney General, Wanjiru Wanja requested for three days to file and serve their submissions, following the denial of their earlier preliminary objection.

The application, filed under a certificate of urgency by Mwangi, names the Attorney General, Director of Public Prosecutions, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, National Police Service and the Chief Magistrate Milimani Law Courts as respondents. Mwangi is seeking injunctions to restrain and bar the DPP, EACC, and the Chief Magistrate Milimani Law Courts from arresting and prosecuting Governor Paul Kimani alias Wamatangi.

Both the Attorney General and the Chief Magistrate Milimani Court opposed Mwangi's petition. They argued that Mwangi had not demonstrated any constitutional violation, nor had he provided evidence of suffering prejudice, damages, or infringement of his rights and freedoms by their offices.

The EACC also opposed the application, stating that the procedure used to bring the petition was "unknown to law." They further asserted that the petitioner has no "locus standi" (legal right) to institute the



Stephen Mwangi a Kiambu a petitioner seeking Attorney General, EACC and NPS be barred from harrasing Governor Wamatangi in Kiambu law courts.

plaint and no right to relief concerning any alleged actions undertaken by EACC in its investigations touching on the Kiambu Governor. The EACC maintained its mandate to investigate corruption and economic crimes, emphasizing that it cannot be stopped from exercising its lawful duties. Additionally, the EACC argued that Mwangi had failed to disclose any alleged constitutional violations or identify specific constitutional provisions infringed or threatened.

In his petition, Mwangi had prayed for the court to; Issue injunction orders barring Governor Wamatangi's Deputy Governor Rosemary Kirika from being sworn in or taking over leadership of Kiambu County pending the petition's determination.

Issue conservatory orders restraining and barring the EACC and NPS from investigating or arresting governor Wamatangi pending the hearing and determination of the petition.

Interim orders restraining the Chief Magistrate Milimani Court for Anti-Corruption from proceeding with Case Number MCACMISC/E550/2025 pending the petition's hearing and determination.

The grounds of the petition primarily allege that the EACC and NPS have been harassing governor Wamatangi for "political reasons."

Mwangi claimed that on April 15,

2025, in the early morning hours, EACC and NPS unlawfully raided the Governor's residential home, harassing him and his family with the aim of "politically bringing him down on account of fighting corruption." He further stated that on the same date, the EACC and NPS forcibly escorted the Governor to Nairobi Integrity House for interrogation and to record a statement.

Mwangi asserted that, according to his sources, Governor Wamatangi's political rivals, through their bloggers on various social media platforms, have confirmed that the actions constitute a "political witch hunt" intended to overthrow his leadership and replace him with individuals of their choosing, "without justice." He cited public disclosures by these bloggers, whom he described as close associates of the Governor's political opponents, that the events were "stage managed to ouster Governor Wamatangi from leadership due to his positive impacts he has made in order to make Kiambu great again."

The petitioner further contended that since the Kiambu County Assembly has found nothing wrong to accuse Governor Wamatangi of, his "political enemy has applied a new methodology of using state machinery to prosecute criminal element in order to get him out of office."

Mwangi stressed the necessity

of suspending the harassment by EACC and NPS against Governor Wamatangi to allow the petition to be heard and determined. He argued that continued harassment would render the petition "nugatory" and cause the people of Kiambu to lose county services under his administration. He concluded that "political harassment through state's agencies violates Governor Wamatangi's fundamental rights, and liberties and freedoms under the Constitution of Kenya 2010."

"The respondents will not be prejudiced in any way if the orders sought herein are granted. It is in the interest of justice that my Governor Wamatangi be protected by the honorable court pending the hearing and determination of the present petition," read an affidavit from the petitioner.

## Worth Noting:

- The EACC, through its representative Ruth Kemunto, argued that Mwangi's application is "frivolous" and that the resident has no legal right to institute the application, asserting that the court lacks jurisdiction to hear the matter. Kemunto reiterated that the issue of jurisdiction remains undetermined and that the EACC is simply carrying out its constitutional mandate.
- Mwangi, however, informed the court that the EACC has continued to summon and harass the governor despite the ongoing court proceedings.
- Representing the Attorney General, Wanjiru Wanja requested for three days to file and serve their submissions, following the denial of their earlier preliminary objection.

# Car & General Holds Its Annual General Meeting

By: Raphael Ndakala Atanda  
@themkenyaintimes

Car & General held its 85th Annual General Meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2025 for the year ending 31 December 2024. During the virtual meeting, shareholders approved the recommended dividend of Shs 64,165,293 which is equal to Shs 0.80 per share.

Shareholders approved the retirement of Madabhushi Soundararajan as a member of the Board. Soundararajan joined the Board in 2008. They also approved the appointment of Nikhil Rustam Hira as an Independent Non-Executive Director.

Car & General saw various challenges during the period due to constraints in the Kenyan market, especially the boda boda business. Operational sustainability was achieved by the company's transition to other business lines.

As a result, turnover for the twelve-month period ending 31 December 2024 was Shs 21 billion against Shs 27 billion achieved in the fifteen-month period ending 31 De-

cember 2023 compared to Shs 2.1 billion in prior year. EBITDA (Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization) was Shs 1.5 billion and the Group made a profit before tax of Shs 526 million against a loss of Kshs 273 million in the previous year. The Company believes that uncertainty will persist in 2025 given the challenging global geo-politics although East Africa will see less turbulence.

Speaking after the AGM, Car & General CEO said, "Key to success will be maintaining strict fundamentals in terms of higher efficiency levels in all areas of business, maintaining market share in core products and achieving productivity across all business. We have a balanced business with five distinct business lines; automotive and equipment distribution, real estate investment, financial services, poultry and helmet manufacturing. This diversity, coupled with a broader geographical reach is the backbone of our sustainability."

Car & General is a diversified distributor of TVS motorcycles, Piaggio three wheelers, Kubota tractors, Toyota forklifts, Cummins generators, Develon earthmovers among



Sam Njenga (left), Chief Financial Officer of Car & General, Nicholas Ng'anga (center), Chairman of the Board of Directors and George Rubiri (right), General Manager of the company go through C&G's integrated report during the annual general meeting held on June 19, 2025..

other equipment in East Africa. Car & General was the pioneer of two and three wheelers as taxis in

Kenya over two decades ago. Raphael Atanda works at Car & General (Kenya) Plc as Head of

Communications, raphael.atanda@cargen.com

# Laikipia CS Koinange Backs Youth, Women In Laikipia's Climate And Economic Agenda

By: Suleiman Mbatiah  
@themkenyaintimes

Youth and women play a critical role in climate action and economic development, offering fresh ideas, local solutions, and the energy needed to build resilient, inclusive, and sustainable communities.

County Secretary Wahome Koinange echoed these sentiments during the signing of a partnership agreement between the County Government of Laikipia and the Green Generation Initiative (GGI).

GGI is a Kenyan charity fostering prosperous, eco-conscious generations across Africa. It empowers children, youth, women, and communities through nature-based solutions, green innovations, investments, and policies for a sustainable future.

The deal, Koinange said, aims to tackle climate change, restore degraded ecosystems, and promote environmental conservation across the

region. He emphasized that empowering youth and women is not just a moral imperative but a smart investment in Laikipia's future.

"We're tapping into local potential by equipping young people and women with the tools, support, and space they need to lead climate action while driving meaningful economic growth in their communities," he said.

The partnership will support the establishment of fruit and coffee nurseries in every Ward, managed by local youth groups, and are expected to boost agricultural productivity, generate employment.

Koinange noted that this collaboration is a practical expression of Laikipia County's broader climate resilience strategy, anchored in the County Environment Action Plan (CEAP) 2025-2029 and the Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) framework.

"This initiative is a game-changer. It aligns perfectly with our goals in advancing climate adaptation, promoting sustainable land use, and driving inclusive economic growth

that benefits communities at every level," he said.

Governor Irungu and GGI founder Elizabeth Wathuti officially signed the Memorandum of Understanding, sealing a partnership grounded in green innovation and grassroots involvement.

Governor Irungu said the partnership marks a critical step in his administration's commitment to a greener, more sustainable Laikipia County while also building a resilient community in addressing environmental challenges.

"This initiative will not only create employment opportunities but also provide local farmers with access to quality seedlings, enhancing agricultural productivity across the county," noted while emphasizing that the project will restore degraded lands.

Wathuti announced that her organization plans to plant trees in around 430 schools this academic term. This week alone, she aims to cover 180 schools across six counties, growing a total of 72,000 trees by the end of the week.

She added that the partnership



County Secretary Wahome Koinange

would strengthen her work with schools, communities, and young people across the county to restore degraded land, water catchments and green schools, all while creating income generating opportunities for the communities and more young people.

"We're especially excited about

supporting fruit trees and coffee tree seedlings production across Laikipia County, not just to grow trees, but to also improve livelihoods. This collaboration brings climate action closer to the ground and to the people," she noted

# Tremendous Growth In Fish Farming As Tharaka Nithi County Government Powers Aquaculture Revolution

By: Alex Njeru  
@themtkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- The Hapa Nets are vital for brooder spawning, rearing juveniles, and protecting young fish from predators—ensuring optimal growth conditions.
- “The success of fish farming largely depends on the quality of fingerlings, quality feeds and water conditions,” said Mr. Kiruja. “We are committed to supporting our hatcheries and farmers not just for today, but for the long-term sustainability of this sector.”
- There are currently 12 hatcheries across Tharaka Nithi, with eight well-established and operational. Before the County’s intervention, farmers were forced to travel to Sagana and Mwea to purchase fingerlings—an often costly and risky venture due to high fingerling mortality during transport.



Tharaka Nithi County Fisheries officials led by Chief Officer Mr Antony Kiruja issue oxygen cylinders and Hapa Nets to hatcheries. Photo/Alex Njeru.

Fish farming is thriving like never before in Tharaka Nithi County, thanks to sustained and strategic support from the County Government under the leadership of Governor Muthomi Njuki.

Once considered a minor agricultural activity, aquaculture is now transforming livelihoods across the region—serving both household consumption and commercial purposes. The growth has been spurred by deliberate government interventions focused on knowledge transfer, access to quality materials, and robust market linkages.

The County Government, through its Department of Fisheries, has been instrumental in empowering fish farmers by ensuring the availability of high-quality and affordable fingerlings produced by local hatcheries, distribution of premium fish feeds and provision of key aquaculture equipment.

Yesterday, in a move aimed at further enhancing fingerling survival and farm productivity, Fisheries Chief Officer Mr. Antony Kiruja issued oxygen cylinders and Hapa Nets to four functional hatcheries.

The Hapa Nets are vital for brooder spawning, rearing juveniles, and protecting young fish from predators—ensuring optimal growth conditions.

“The success of fish farming largely depends on the quality of fingerlings, quality feeds and water conditions,” said Mr. Kiruja. “We are committed to supporting our hatcheries and farmers not just for today, but for the long-term sustainability of this sector.”

There are currently 12 hatcheries across Tharaka Nithi, with eight well-established and operational. Before the County’s intervention, farmers were forced to travel to Sagana and Mwea to purchase fingerlings—an often costly and risky venture due to high fingerling mortality during transport.

The provision of oxygen cylinders will significantly solve this problem, reducing mortality and ensuring healthy stock.

Kathima Fish Farm Director Mr. Charles Njagi Marangu praised the County for its unwavering support. “Fish farming used to be strictly domestic, but now it’s commercial. The support we have received—from

equipment to training—has made all the difference,” he said.

Ms. Betty Kithuci of Miracle Hatcheries echoed the sentiment. “I started small, but with the County’s help, my hatchery has grown remarkably. We now supply farmers from all corners of the county.”

Ms. Nelly Kendi, a fish farmer and a hatchery owner from Mugwe Ward, recalled the challenges of sourcing fingerlings before local hatcheries were established. “We used to lose a lot of stock in transit. But today, thanks to the support from the County, we are thriving.”

To further support the value chain, the County has equipped every sub-county with freezer storage units and cool boxes to ease transportation and preservation. Fishing nets have also been distributed to farmers to boost harvesting efficiency.

The current aquaculture development programme is set to conclude in one year, but there are strong calls for its extension. Mr. Kiruja emphasized that the focus now is to make the initiative self-sustaining—by empowering hatcheries, supporting feed production, and ensuring strong mar-

ket systems are in place.

“We are building a future where fish farming is not dependent on County support, but on a well-established system run by the farmers themselves. That means access to quality feed, reliable fingerlings, cold storage facilities, and market outlets must continue seamlessly,” he noted.

He also encouraged farmers to embrace integrated farming practices to diversify income and food sources.

As aquaculture cements its place in Tharaka Nithi’s economic transformation, Governor Muthomi Njuki’s administration continues to lead from the front, ensuring that fish farming becomes a lasting pillar of food security, youth employment, and rural development.

# Deepfakes And Copyright In Kenya: Bridging The Digital Divide In Intellectual Property Protection



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor  
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Kenya stands at a critical juncture in the digital age, where emerging technologies like deepfakes are reshaping the landscape of intellectual property rights. As Africa's emerging technology hub, Kenya faces unique challenges in addressing the intersection of artificial intelligence-generated content and copyright law. The rise of deepfake technology sophisticated AI systems that create hyper-realistic but synthetic audiovisual content presents both unprecedented opportunities and complex legal challenges for Kenya's creative industries, from Nollywood collaborations to local content creators on digital platforms. The country's position as a regional leader in mobile money innovation and digital infrastructure places it at the forefront of needing robust legal frameworks to address these emerging technological realities.

The current legal framework governing copyright in Kenya, primarily anchored in the Copyright Act of 2001 and its subsequent amendments, including the Copyright (Amendment) Act of 2022, was designed for a pre-digital era and struggles to address the complexities introduced by AI-generated content. The Act provides copyright protection for literary, musical and artistic works, audio-visual works, sound recordings and broadcasts, and establishes the Kenya Copyright Board. However, the traditional understanding of authorship and originality becomes problematic when applied to deepfakes, which often utilize existing copyrighted materials images, videos, and voices of Kenyan celebrities, politicians, and ordinary citizens to create new synthetic content. The question of whether deepfakes constitute derivative works under Kenyan law or represent entirely new creations remains legally ambiguous, creating enforcement challenges for rights holders and uncertainty for content creators.

Kenya's recent launch of its National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2025-2030 represents a significant step toward addressing the governance of AI technologies, including deepfakes. The strategy aims to position the country as Africa's leading AI hub, driving sustainable development, economic growth, and social inclusion through innovative AI solutions. This strategic positioning acknowledges the need for comprehensive regulation that balances innovation with protection of individual and creator rights. However, the strategy's emphasis on economic development and technological advancement must be carefully balanced with robust protections against malicious deepfakes that could undermine democratic processes, particularly given Kenya's vibrant political landscape and the potential for deepfakes to spread disinformation during election periods.



protections against malicious deepfakes that could undermine democratic processes, particularly given Kenya's vibrant political landscape and the potential for deepfakes to spread disinformation during election periods.

The enforcement challenges facing Kenya in addressing deepfake-related copyright infringement are compounded by the country's digital infrastructure realities. While Kenya has achieved remarkable success in mobile connectivity and digital financial services, the rapid viral spread of deepfakes across social media platforms and messaging apps like WhatsApp presents monitoring difficulties for copyright holders. The Kenya Copyright Board's current enforcement mechanisms, designed primarily for traditional piracy cases, are inadequately equipped to handle the speed and scale at which deepfakes can be created and disseminated. Unlike developed economies with sophisticated digital forensics capabilities, Kenya lacks the technical infrastructure and expertise necessary for real-time detection and takedown of infringing deepfake content, leaving creators vulnerable to widespread unauthorized use of their likenesses and works.

The cultural and social implications of deepfakes in Kenya extend beyond traditional copyright concerns to encompass broader issues of dignity, reputation, and gender-based violence. In a society where communal respect and social standing hold significant value, deepfake technology poses particular risks to individuals, especially women, who may become targets of non-consensual synthetic media. The intersection of copyright law with Kenya's constitutional provisions on dignity and privacy creates

a complex legal landscape where multiple areas of law must work in harmony. The lack of specific legislation addressing deepfakes means that victims must rely on a patchwork of legal remedies, including copyright infringement claims, defamation suits, and constitutional petitions, none of which adequately address the unique harms posed by synthetic media.

Economic considerations play a crucial role in shaping Kenya's approach to deepfake regulation, particularly given the country's growing creative economy. The film industry, music sector, and digital content creation represent significant economic opportunities, but these industries require strong intellectual property protections to thrive. Deepfakes that misappropriate the likenesses of Kenyan artists, actors, and public figures not only violate copyright but also threaten the commercial value of authentic content. However, overly restrictive regulations could stifle innovation in Kenya's emerging AI sector and limit the country's ability to compete in the global digital economy. The challenge lies in crafting regulations that protect creators while preserving space for legitimate uses of AI technology, including parody, commentary, and artistic expression that are vital to Kenya's vibrant creative culture.

Looking toward regional and international cooperation, Kenya's approach to deepfakes and copyright must consider its role within the East African Community and the broader African Union framework. The borderless nature of digital content means that deepfakes created in one jurisdiction can easily spread across the region, requiring coordinated re-

sponses. Kenya's leadership in technology within East Africa positions it to influence regional standards for AI governance and copyright protection. Additionally, Kenya's participation in international copyright treaties and its obligations under the World Intellectual Property Organization framework require alignment between domestic deepfake regulations and international best practices. The country must balance its desire for technological sovereignty with the need for interoperability with global copyright enforcement mechanisms.

The path forward for Kenya requires a comprehensive reform of its copyright framework that specifically addresses AI-generated content while maintaining flexibility for future technological developments. This reform should include clear definitions of deepfakes, establishing liability frameworks for AI developers, users, and platforms, and creating expedited enforcement mechanisms suitable for the digital age. Additionally, Kenya must invest in building technical capacity for deepfake detection and digital forensics while fostering public awareness about the implications of synthetic media. The success of Kenya's approach will depend on collaboration between government, civil society, the technology sector, and creative industries to develop solutions that protect rights while enabling innovation. As Kenya continues to position itself as Africa's technology leader, its handling of the deepfake challenge will serve as a model for other developing nations grappling with the intersection of AI and intellectual property rights in the digital age.

*The writer is a lawyer and legal researcher*

## Worth Noting:

- Kenya's recent launch of its National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2025-2030 represents a significant step toward addressing the governance of AI technologies, including deepfakes. The strategy aims to position the country as Africa's leading AI hub, driving sustainable development, economic growth, and social inclusion through innovative AI solutions.
- This strategic positioning acknowledges the need for comprehensive regulation that balances innovation with protection of individual and creator rights. However, the strategy's emphasis on economic development and technological advancement must be carefully balanced with robust protections against malicious deepfakes that could undermine democratic processes, particularly given Kenya's vibrant political landscape and the potential for deepfakes to spread disinformation during election periods.

# Marcella Karimi: The Visionary Woman Behind Kenya's Ai-Powered Somasoma Platform



By: Alfred Lobawoi

@themkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

"As a published author, I wrote books like *Legends of Kaya* and *Other Stories* and *Nguli wa Kaya na Hadithi Nyingine* and through my role in education publishing, I became passionate about creating resources tailored directly to the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), also known as Competency-Based Education (CBE)

Somasoma directly addresses these gaps by automating administrative tasks and providing curriculum-specific content from schemes of work to video lessons, freeing educators to focus on what matters most: their students.

The platform is compliant with education data policies in Kenya, and we prohibit the sharing of any student information with third-party companies.

We are careful to give parents control and visibility over their children's progress and data."

### 1. Tell us about your journey

My name is Marcella Karimi. Somasoma's dream began in high school, when I was at Starehe Girls' Centre, where we were fortunate to have smart classrooms and internet access. That experience opened my eyes to the potential technology holds in education.

After high school, I enrolled at the University of Nairobi to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Education (Arts). After graduation, I worked in a leading publishing company in Kenya, where I got a broad view of what happens in classrooms, from designing books to understanding the struggles of both teachers and learners.

During my teaching practice at Alliance High School, I saw firsthand the heavy workloads teachers face, from manually drafting schemes of work and writing numerous lesson plans by hand. It was a time-intensive process that made me realise something needed to be done.

As a published author, I wrote books like *Legends of Kaya* and *Other Stories* and *Nguli wa Kaya na Hadithi Nyingine* and through my role in education publishing, I became passionate about creating resources tailored directly to the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), also known as Competency-Based Education (CBE). With the evolution of Artificial Intelligence, I saw a huge opportunity to streamline this process. I had a clear education-centric solution in mind, but I'm a teacher and a storyteller, not a software engineer. So I teamed up with Shadrack Apollo, a software engineer and entrepreneur, who has previously successfully founded tech companies and platforms.

Together, we turned my education expertise and his technical skills into Somasoma AI, a powerful tool designed to ease workloads for educators and empower children to learn smarter.

### 2. What specific gaps in Kenya's CBC/CBE curriculum did you see that prompted the creation of Somasoma?

We noticed a huge gap in quality, context-specific resources and administrative tools for teachers and parents to implement the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) effectively.

Most available materials were either hardcopy books or disconnected from the local context.

Additionally, teachers were spending countless hours manually preparing schemes of work, exams, and reports, which meant less time for actual teaching.

On the student side, we also realised there was a critical need for tailored Kenyan video content.

When you search on platforms like YouTube, you rarely find videos that match our curriculum and context.

Somasoma lets Kenyan teachers create and share video lessons aligned to the CBC, and our AI is encrypted to follow the Kenyan curriculum, making sure the content is accurate, relevant, and safe for children.

Somasoma directly addresses these

gaps by automating administrative tasks and providing curriculum-specific content from schemes of work to video lessons, freeing educators to focus on what matters most: their students.

### 3. What has been the reception so far among schools and educators who are using Somasoma?

The reception has been positive and enthusiastic.

Teachers appreciate how much time it saves them, generating schemes of work, assessments, and reports instantly and parents appreciate having a safe, personalised platform to help their children revise and learn without distractions.

Some have called it a "game-changer" for their classrooms, reducing their workloads by nearly 80%.

### 4. How do you ensure safety and privacy of students using this platform, especially in a digital-first environment?

Safety and privacy were a top priority from the outset.

Somasoma is designed to be a closed, curated environment, free from distractions and harmful content.

We employ age-appropriate controls, strong password protection, and data encryption to safeguard all information.

The platform is compliant with education data policies in Kenya, and we prohibit the sharing of any student information with third-party companies.

We are careful to give parents control and visibility over their children's progress and data.

### 5. How does this platform use AI to support teachers in creating lesson plans and schemes of work?

Somasoma's AI parses the curriculum's requirements and instantly generates schemes of work, lesson plans, exams, and marking schemes tailored to the grade and subject.

Instead of spending hours manually drafting these documents, a teacher simply enters a few details, and the platform produces high-calibre, curriculum-specific materials in minutes.

This lets educators devote their time and energy toward delivering impactful lessons and mentoring their students instead of being bogged down by administrative tasks.

Somasoma is built with a teacher in mind.

Instead of using generic AIs that require numerous prompts and trial-and-error, our AI already understands the Kenyan curriculum and a teacher's needs.

It provides effortless, context-specific automation, allowing educators to do their best to teach and inspire their learners.

### 6. Is the platform accessible and usable in areas with limited internet? How?

Somasoma is designed to be light and adaptable.

It performs well on smartphones and low-cost tablets, which are more available in rural areas and we're



currently working on adding offline capabilities.

Once implemented, this will enable students and teachers to continue accessing resources, including the AI, interactive flipbooks, and video lessons, even when the internet drops or is unreliable.

Learners will be able to study safely and effectively from home, replay video lessons and use personalised, curriculum-specific content without needing a constant internet connection.

For now, we're optimising the platform to use minimal data and run smoothly on low-cost devices, while we develop these future offline features to make education more accessible for all.

### 7. What challenges did you face while creating the Somasoma platform?

Some of the main challenges were: Aligning the technology directly with the (CBC/CBE) and keeping up with a Kenyan education system that evolves daily with new policies and guidelines.

We overcome this by working closely with educators and policymakers, trialling the platform in classrooms and making iterative improvements based on their feedback.

Convincing parents and educators to embrace AI:

Some were unsure whether technology would be helpful or harmful to their children's education.

We had to demonstrate that Somasoma is designed to be a safe, personalised and interactive tool, not a shortcut, helping children learn to think and adapt to a changing world.

We overcome these obstacles by engaging directly with parents and educators, listening to their concerns, and demonstrating through workshops and trial sessions how Somasoma nurtures deep understanding and problem-solving skills, not just memorisation.

### 8. What are your future plans concerning digital learning in Kenya?

We aim to expand Somasoma's reach to all 47 counties in Kenya and then across East Africa.

We want to develop additional modules like gamified literacy and numeracy content for lower primary, certification programs for teachers, and analytical tools for education policy makers.

Ultimately, we hope Somasoma becomes the leading education ecosystem, a tool that transforms education delivery and prepares Africa's children for future success.

9. What advice would you give to young innovators who want to create solutions for classroom challenges?

My greatest advice is just start with or without funding and leverage whatever skills you already have to bring your ideas to life.

I initially thought I'd need an accelerator or a lot of funding first, but after meeting Shadrack, we put our brains together, he took care of the technical side while I provided education expertise — teamwork makes the dream work.

It's also okay to seek communities of people who share your passion and mission, to learn from them and grow together.

Be proactive in asking questions and don't sit on your ideas. Start and learn along the way.

Most of all, do your research.

Talk to teachers, learners, and parents, find the gaps, listen to their struggles and resonate with their needs.

Your innovations should solve real problems in the classroom and empower future generations.

Using what you have and staying true to your mission, you can make a huge, lasting impact.

### 10. How can one reach out to learn more or check out your platform?

Visit our platform: <https://somasoma.app>

Follow us on LinkedIn: Somasoma AI

Or write to us directly at [info@somasoma.app](mailto:info@somasoma.app), we're happy to share more or collaborate!

# Floyd Shivambu's Political Gambit: Power, Principle, Or Personal Project?



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande

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Floyd Shivambu's Political Gambit: Power, Principle, Or Personal Project?

1. The Enigma of Floyd Shivambu  
In the ever-fluctuating realm of South African politics - where loyalty often bows to expediency and ideologies warp under the pressure of power - Floyd Shivambu has emerged as both a compelling figure and a controversial operator. His political journey, beginning with the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL), maturing through the founding of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), and veering into murky territory through his recent engagements with Jacob Zuma's uMkhonto weSizwe Party (MKP) and self-proclaimed prophet Shepherd Bushiri, suggests a man either reshaping revolutionary thought or consolidating power for a more personal mission.

Now, as whispers mount about the formation of his own political outfit - Mawisa - questions reverberate through South Africa's fractured political landscape: Has Shivambu finally broken with his ideological lineage? Was his dalliance with MKP an act of subterfuge or strategic curiosity? And above all, is this about national reform - or the ambitions of one man?

2. From Red Beret to Revolutionary: The EFF Genesis

Shivambu's political gravitas was cemented alongside Julius Malema in the post-Polokwane era, when both were expelled from the ANC and responded with a new vision: Economic Freedom Fighters. Founded in 2013, the EFF positioned itself as a radical alternative to ANC centrism - a revolutionary pan-Africanist, anti-capitalist formation that channeled discontent over land reform, economic exclusion, and youth unemployment.

Shivambu served as the party's deputy president and policy maestro, often crafting the ideological scaffolding behind its sharp parliamentary performances and electoral messaging. His economic sophistication lent credibility to the EFF's radical

rhetoric. Yet by 2022, rifts began to surface. Internal disagreements regarding accountability - most notably surrounding the VBS Mutual Bank scandal, where Shivambu's younger brother Brian was implicated - triggered tension within the central command.

Despite dismissals and clarifications, questions persisted. Shivambu's increasing independence within the party, his selective silences, and his back-channel dialogues with various political actors fed speculation about a deeper schism.

3. A Quiet Exit: Shivambu Leaves the EFF

In August 2024, Shivambu tendered his resignation from all leadership structures within the EFF. The announcement was terse; there was no grand press conference, only a letter circulated to select media houses. Publicly, the reason cited was "irreconcilable ideological differences." But the vacuum left behind invited speculation.

Was he forced out? Or did he walk away to preserve a more ambitious plan?

Some insiders claim his exit followed a failed internal challenge to Julius Malema's growing "cult of personality." Others allege that Shivambu had lost control over the EFF's policy direction, marginalized by Malema's populist tone and confrontational style.

Political analyst Nompumelelo Runji noted in a SABC News panel (Oct 2024), "We mustn't overlook that Shivambu was not just a figurehead - he was the EFF's intellectual capital. His departure signaled not just internal discord but a pivot point in the party's ideological journey."

4. The Zuma Detour: An Unlikely Alliance

Within months, Shivambu emerged - rather shockingly - as an informal affiliate of Jacob Zuma's MKP, a party founded in 2023 to galvanize nationalist and traditionalist sentiments among ANC dissidents. For an individual who had previously lambasted Zuma for state capture and "authoritarian populism," the alignment raised eyebrows.

Was it opportunism, or had he seen in MKP a vehicle for revolutionizing policy from within?

Shivambu's participation in strategy meetings in KwaZulu-Natal and his appearance at an MKP youth forum sparked rumors of his imminent absorption into the party's leadership. However, internal MKP sources - speaking to City Press in January 2025 - alleged that Shivambu's presence stoked paranoia within Zuma's inner circle.



Floyd Shivambu

bu's presence stoked paranoia within Zuma's inner circle.

Within MKP's inner circles, whispers of suspicion clung to Shivambu like smoke. To some insiders, his quiet demeanor and probing questions raised red flags; they believed he wasn't simply there as a supporter, but as a political operative - an outsider collecting information under the guise of collaboration. Doubt crept into the corridors of influence, and eventually, Jacob Zuma himself grew wary, unable to fully trust Shivambu's intentions. The perception that he was a mole - watching, listening, reporting - shaped the undercurrent that led to his quiet sidelining.

Ultimately, his recall from MKP functions followed a clandestine visit to Shepherd Bushiri in Malawi, viewed as a betrayal by MKP's senior leadership and a red flag for nationalist purists.

5. Bushiri and the Malawi Meeting: Calculated or Catastrophic?

The trip to Malawi - conducted under ambiguous circumstances - further muddied Shivambu's intentions. Though Bushiri remains popular among segments of southern Africa's spiritual community, his political entanglements and fugitive status in South Africa made the meeting politically radioactive.

Some speculate Shivambu sought spiritual counsel; others claim it was a move to access Bushiri's vast pan-African networks and potential funding streams. Regardless, the optics were disastrous.

Political writer Modibe Modiba tweeted in February 2025: "Shivambu's spiritual diplomacy with Bushiri? It's either genius or a desperate bid for relevance." The tweet went viral, sparking memes of Shivambu as a "prophet in politics."

6. Mawisa: The Birth of a "People's Movement"

By March 2025, posters started circulating on social media under the enigmatic banner "Mawisa - The People's Voice." Though not yet officially launched, early indicators pointed to Shivambu as its architect.

The term Mawisa, rooted in several indigenous languages, loosely translates to "waters that shift" - aptly symbolizing both his political re-emergence and the fluidity of South Africa's party system.

Initial policy leaks show promises to:

- Reform land expropriation policies with technocratic planning.
  - Introduce universal basic income for youth.
  - Embrace a pan-African trade and education compact.
- Shivambu's public statements ref-

erence "a decaying political system propped up by cults, factions, and nostalgia," veiled critiques of both the EFF and ANC. In a recent interview with PowerFM, he declared: "Mawisa is not about personalities. It's about reshaping the social contract between the state and its citizens."

7. Is Shivambu Power-Hungry or Strategically Misunderstood?

Critics argue his moves mirror those of political opportunists: discard old allies, forge temporary alliances, and create your own platform when power slips away. Yet others insist Shivambu remains true to his ideals, merely frustrated by party machines that suffocate dissent.

Veteran journalist Karima Brown once described him as "a surgeon with a machete - precise in his thinking, messy in his politics." That metaphor seems apt today.

He is both revered and reviled: a technocrat to some, a traitor to others.

8. The Cult Question: Critique of EFF and ANC Structures

In recent addresses, Shivambu

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has been unsparing in his critique of hierarchical political structures. Without naming names, he lambasted "pseudo-revolutionary parties hijacked by celebrity egos."

EFF insiders see this as a direct jab at Malema, while ANC loyalists see echoes of Cyril Ramaphosa's critics. Whether these barbs resonate beyond disenchanted urban voters remains to be seen.

In a township forum in Soweto, 23-year-old activist Naledi Mokoena remarked: "Shivambu talks different now. He sounds tired of fighting from within. Maybe he's building something new. Or maybe he's just mad he wasn't the chosen one."

9. Public Perception and Political Capital

The ultimate test of Mawisa's viability lies not in slogans or manifestos, but in the hearts of South Africans. Will disillusioned youth see Shivambu as a vessel for their frustrations? Or has the volatility of his recent moves alienated potential supporters?

Early polling by the Institute for Democratic Alternatives in South Africa (IDASA) shows 8-11% of young urban voters expressing "interest" in a new political alternative led by Shivambu. That is no small base - but it's far from electoral dominance.

As 2026 local elections loom, Mawisa may attract small-scale wins - municipal wards, council seats - but will it crack the hegemony of the ANC, EFF, or Democratic Alliance? Analysts remain skeptical, citing limited resources, fragmented organizing, and Shivambu's controversial past.

10. Shivambu's Gambit: A Threat or Just Tremors?

Floyd Shivambu's emergence with the budding Mawisa movement introduces an air of disruption into a political atmosphere long dominated by the African National Congress (ANC), Democratic Alliance (DA), and Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF). Yet disruption is not dominance. While his rhetorical precision and history of ideological influence make him a noteworthy contender, Shivambu lacks the wide organizational scaffolding and entrenched constituency that these larger parties command. His departure from the EFF and flirtation with uMkhonto weSizwe (MKP) left a trail of frac-

tured trust, and it's unclear whether his new vision can translate into a coherent and mobilized base beyond early urban curiosity.

For the ANC, Shivambu poses more of a symbolic threat than a practical one - for now. His critique of gerontocratic governance and corruption resonates with younger voters disillusioned by the party's protracted scandals and policy inertia. If Mawisa captures the imagination of ANC's youth demographic, it could siphon energy from internal reformers and challenge the ANC's claim to being the sole liberation legacy. But unless Shivambu can embed his message in local governance battles and community networks, his threat will remain theoretical rather than electoral.

The DA, characterized by its liberal constitutionalism and centrist pull, has less overlap with Shivambu's brand of economic radicalism and Africanist rhetoric. Still, his proposal for technocratically guided land reform and economic justice could attract a sliver of Black professionals or restless youth who view the DA's race-blind positioning as tone-deaf. Yet for the most part, Shivambu's ideological compass is set in a different direction, making his challenge to the DA more ideological than directly competitive.

It's the EFF, however, that feels Shivambu's heat most directly. He was once its ideological architect, and now his condemnation of "personality cults" and performative radicalism slices close to home. If Mawisa gains traction, it won't just peel away disaffected cadres - it may expose the fragility of the EFF's internal democracy and policy credibility. But whether Shivambu's movement blooms into a sustained political alternative or withers under the weight of South Africa's electoral terrain depends on one crucial test: Can he transform personal narrative into collective momentum, or will his movement remain a solitary stand against the giants he once helped build?

11. Zuma's Decision: Strategic Safeguard or Premature Purge?

Jacob Zuma's decision to relieve Floyd Shivambu of his position as secretary-general of the MKP Party was, on the surface, a move to preserve party discipline and cohesion. The official reason - Shivambu's unsanctioned visit to Shepherd Bushiri in Malawi - was framed as a breach of protocol and a liability to the party's image. Given the MKP's fragile legitimacy and its reliance



Floyd Shivambu's Political Gambit

on a tightly controlled narrative, Zuma may have felt compelled to act swiftly to avoid internal dissent or public scandal. In that sense, the removal could be interpreted as a strategic safeguard, reinforcing the party's intolerance for perceived insubordination and protecting its brand from association with controversial figures like Bushiri.

However, the timing and manner of Shivambu's dismissal raise questions about whether Zuma acted too hastily - or under pressure from factions within his own circle. Shivambu later claimed that Zuma had initially approved the Malawi trip and only reversed his stance after being influenced by "political scoundrels" exploiting Zuma's trust. If true, this suggests that the decision may have been less about principle and more about palace politics. Shivambu's growing popularity, his independent media engagements, and his subtle critiques of party leadership may have triggered insecurities among Zuma's loyalists, prompting a preemptive strike to neutralize a potential rival rather than a genuine disciplinary response.

In hindsight, Zuma's move may have cost the MKP more than it gained. Shivambu's removal not only fractured the party's internal unity but also gave him the moral high ground to launch consultations for a new political movement. His narrative of being ousted for "listening to the people" has resonated with some disillusioned supporters.

By acting when he did, Zuma may have inadvertently accelerated the rise of a competing force - one that could siphon off the very base MKP hoped to consolidate. Whether this was a miscalculation or a necessary sacrifice remains to be seen, but the political fallout is already reshaping the terrain.

12. Conclusion: A Disruptor or a Divider in South African Politics?

As the dust settles around Floyd Shivambu's political metamorphosis, one truth becomes increasingly difficult to ignore: he is far from finished - and even farther from being easily understood. With each unexpected move, Shivambu defies the typical arc of political fallout. He doesn't retreat; he recalibrates. Whether Mawisa matures into a fully-fledged people's movement, lingers as a symbolic footnote in South Africa's post-liberation politics, or collapses under the weight of its contradictions, will hinge on Shivambu's ability to bridge credibility with constituency - to convince a skeptical electorate that his shifts are guided by conviction rather than calculation.

Navigating South Africa's political terrain is no small feat. Trust has become both the most valuable and the most volatile currency in its democracy. Shivambu enters this space with both an advantage and a burden: he possesses the ideological clarity that helped shape the EFF, yet bears the scars of internal conflict, allegations of hypocrisy, and an ever-pres-

ent suspicion of self-interest. His challenge now is not just to distance himself from old narratives but to construct a new one - one powerful enough to cut through cynicism and rally a coalition of the disillusioned, the disaffected, and the daring.

The question that looms over every speech, every policy outline, and every strategic alliance is this: is Shivambu genuinely trying to rescue the soul of revolutionary politics from structures he sees as compromised? Or is Mawisa simply the latest stage for an ambitious tactician intent on carving out a personal empire amid fragmentation and fatigue? In a country where political rebirths are frequent yet fragile, sincerity is often judged retroactively - only time will reveal which version of Shivambu history accepts.

But one thing is clear - South African politics has never lacked spectacle, seismic shifts, or stirring reinvention. In Floyd Shivambu, we may be witnessing the convergence of all three: a disruptor who could either fracture the landscape further or channel its chaos into something entirely new. In this unfolding story, prediction is perilous. Only persistence, and the public's pulse, will determine the shape of his legacy. And for now, the stage remains his to command - or to lose.

# SPORTS NEWS

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**Sports >>** \*The Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) will spearhead the revitalization of golf tourism in Kenya to position Kenya as premier global golf destination.

## KTB To Enhance Revitalization Of Golf Tourism In Kenya



Vipingo Ridge Resort Manager David Marsh, KTB Company Secretary Allan Njoroge, KTB Chairman Francis Gichaba and Carol Kinyanjui from Pebble Travel at the golf tourism forum.

The Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) will spearhead the revitalization of golf tourism in Kenya to position Kenya as premier global golf destination.

In order to establish the nation as a top golf destination Worldwide, the tourism marketing agency will concentrate on integration and strategic alliances.

Golf travellers are among the highest spenders in the tourism industry, averaging \$3,200 per trip which is three times more than traditional leisure tourists.

Speaking during a Golf Tourism Stakeholders' forum convened in Nairobi, KTB Chairman Francis Gichaba expressed confidence in Kenya's potential to gain a stronger foothold in global golf tourism.

He cited the growing international interest seen at recent events such as the International Golf Travel Market (IGTM) in Lisbon, where Kenya attracted notable attention from affluent

markets like Portugal and Germany.

"Kenya is home to some of Africa's most spectacular and challenging courses. We've already witnessed increased buyer interest in premium golf-safari packages. The global market is expanding, and as a destination we must move swiftly to claim a bigger share by investing in infrastructure, marketing, and collaborative strategies," Gichaba remarked.

He underlined the need of concerted efforts by the public and private sectors, highlighting cooperative projects and investments in golf tourist marketing and infrastructure as essential to boosting Kenya's standing internationally.

Golf tourism is among the highest-yield segments within the global travel sector with its market value expanding at annual rates of 3% to 9% across regions. Golf tourists not only spend

more but also stay longer and disperse their benefits across multiple sectors including hospitality, transportation, retail and community enterprises.

TB CEO June Chepkemei echoed the call for accelerated action, urging the need to create innovative, integrated experiences that distinguish Kenya as a unique golf destination. She noted that Kenya holds a strong position with its combination of world-class golf courses, wildlife safaris, and coastal attractions.

"Golf travelers are among the highest spenders in the tourism industry, averaging almost three times more than traditional leisure tourists. Events like the Magical Kenya Open have provided great exposure, but we must build on that momentum to attract year-round traffic," said Chepkemei.

She further highlighted the need to address barriers to access, re-

frame golf as an inclusive sport, and develop products that cater to emerging segments such as youth, women, and multi-generational travelers. Digital engagement, sustainability, and community-based programs, she added, are essential to long-term growth.

The KTB CEO also emphasized regional integration as a strategic opportunity, pointing to the ongoing Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing as a promising avenue for cross-border collaboration providing the opportunity to create multi-destination itineraries and joint marketing campaigns.

The recognition of Kenya as Africa's Best Golf Destination in 2020, highlights the immense potential and appeal of Kenya's potential in the niche segment.

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GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>>** \*Kenya Pipeline Volleyball Club has been awarded Ksh 2 million by Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) for their outstanding performance in the just concluded KVF National League

# KPC Volleyball Club Rewarded Ksh 2 Million For League Victory



Kenya Pipeline Volleyball Club has been awarded Ksh 2 million by Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) for their outstanding performance in the just concluded Kenya Volleyball Federation (KVF) National League, where they reclaimed the league title for the 1st time since 2022.

Speaking while handing over the cheque to the team, Kenya Pipeline Company Managing Director Joe Sang reassured the team of continued support and encouraged them to continue with the same zeal.

‘We’ll continue supporting the team, and I can assure you that with a lot of hard work and support from the company, which is the sponsor, we should be able to see this team again retain the

trophy, but more importantly, we want to go for the Africa Championship trophy.’ He said.

Head Coach Geofrey Omondi noted that the team is working to improve on missed opportunities. “We have gotten the best support from the company, and we intend to do better in the coming season, working on our skills and ensuring that the trophies that we missed this season are brought home next season,” said KPC head coach Geffrey Omondi.

Apart from the league’s victory, the team also celebrated notable individual awards with their outside hitter Daisy Letting, who was named Most Valuable Player; Emmaculate Nekesa, who was recognised as the Best Setter; captain Gladys Ekaru, who was named

Best Middle Blocker; and Loice Simiyu, who won the Best Opposite title.

The team also celebrated players who got selected to the national team, Malkia Strikers: Emmaculate Nyongesa, Celestine Nyongesa, Loice Simiyu, Gladys Ekaru, Lydia Emokol, Elizabeth Sokoiyo, Mariam Musa, and Daisy Leting. Sharon Arusei and Gaudencia Makokha have been selected for Team Kenya for the upcoming Continental Beach Volleyball Championship set to take place from June 23rd to 30th in Tetouan and Martil, Morocco.

Naomi Too, the team’s assistant coach, has been appointed to Team Kenya as the beach volleyball coach for the girls team for the upcoming 1st Africa School

Games, which will be held in Algiers, Algeria, from 26th July to 5th August.

The team is now gearing up for the upcoming Kenya Cup, which will start on 5th July at the Nyayo Stadium Gymnasium as they prepare for continental assignment.

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# SPORTS NEWS

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# Martie M. Smith's Journey Of Strength And Purpose



By: Anila Bukhari

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## Worth Noting:

- Martie's journey is a powerful reminder that resilience is not just about bouncing back from adversity, but about growing and thriving in the face of challenges. Through her writing, speaking, and mentorship, Martie shares her story of resilience, inspiring others to own their narrative, find their inner strength, and rise above their struggles.
- Martie is a four-time best-selling author, known for her acclaimed books "Creative Chaos Warrior," "100 Voices of Women," "Expertas Sin Fronteras," and "She Wins." Her writing offers raw, uplifting lessons in courage and growth, and has resonated with readers worldwide. As a dynamic speaker, Martie has inspired audiences from ages 8 to 80, sharing her message of hope, resilience, and empowerment.

## Biography:

Martie M. Smith is a trailblazing figure in the world of resilience and empowerment. As a U.S. veteran, multi-time best-selling author, and internationally recognized voice of resilience, Martie has dedicated her life to inspiring others to overcome adversity and thrive. Her life story is a testament to the power of perseverance, healing, and transformation.

From her early days as a mechanic to her current role as a mentor and inspirational speaker, Martie has walked a path of remarkable growth and self-discovery. Despite facing numerous personal trials, including surgeries, reinventions, caregiving, and starting over, Martie has turned her pain into purpose, becoming a beacon of strength for others across generations.

## A Journey of Resilience

Martie's journey is a powerful reminder that resilience is not just about bouncing back from adversity, but about growing and thriving in the face of challenges. Through her writing, speaking, and mentorship, Martie shares her story of resilience, inspiring others to own their narrative, find their inner strength, and rise above their struggles.

## Acclaimed Author and Speaker

Martie is a four-time best-selling author, known for her acclaimed books "Creative Chaos Warrior," "100 Voices of Women," "Expertas Sin Fronteras," and "She Wins." Her writing offers raw, uplifting lessons in courage and growth, and has resonated with readers worldwide. As a dynamic speaker, Martie has inspired audiences from ages 8 to 80, sharing her message of hope, resilience, and empowerment.

## Awards and Recognition

Martie's work has been recognized globally, and she has received numerous awards and honors for her contributions to the field of resilience and empowerment. Some of her notable awards include:



Martie M. Smith.

- Top International Resilience Ambassador (2025)
- Inspirational Icon Award (2025)
- Force Magazine's Top 10 Entrepreneurs to Watch (2025)
- Named Senior Level Executive Contributor at Brainz Magazine
- Featured in Brainz Magazine's Top 500 Global Leaders

## A Legacy of Strength and Pur-

## pose

Through her work, Martie has created a ripple effect of positivity and empowerment, inspiring countless individuals to live more fully, authentically, and joyfully. Her legacy is a testament to the power of living a life of purpose, passion, and service, and her work will undoubtedly continue to touch hearts and minds for generations to come.

As Martie continues to share her gifts with the world, her impact will only continue to grow. She is a shining example of what it means to live a life of resilience, courage, and determination, and her story will undoubtedly inspire others to do the same. With her infectious enthusiasm and compassionate heart, Martie M. Smith is a force for good in the world, and her legacy will be felt for years to come.