



The Diesel Imperative: Why Energy Physics Demands We Accept Fossil Fuel Permanence Despite Climate Ambitions

The inconvenient truth about modern energy systems lies not in political rhetoric or environmental activism, but in the immutable laws of physics and thermodynamics. While climate change discourse dominates policy discussions worldwide, a rigorous examination of energy density, infrastructure requirements, and technological limitations reveals a stark reality. **Page 18**

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News>> President Ruto: Diaspora Plays Crucial Role In Economic Growth

P. 8. The government recognises the enormous contribution of the Kenyan Diaspora in the country's economic development through remittances, President William Ruto has said.



News>> Gachagua Hosts Over 500 Maa Grassroot Mobilizers At Wamun-yoro

P. 12. The DCP Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua yesterday hosted hundreds of Maa speaking grassroot leaders at his Mathira residence. Gachagua asked the Maa Community to work together, join hands with like-minded communities and form the next government together.

Protests: NIS Warns Of Terror Strikes

⚡ The National Intelligence Service (NIS) has issued warning that ongoing political protests in Nairobi may be infiltrated by radicalized terrorist groups seeking to strike Western targets and civilians in revenge for U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran.

According to intercepted communications by our Journalist, shared with top security organs and select diplomatic missions, details an "imminent asymmetric threat" aimed at using the chaos of anti-government demonstrations set to mark the anniversary of last year's June 25 unrest as cover for terror attacks.



Motorbike-riding goons attack protesters in Nairobi

STORY ON PAGE 9



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Rachel Ruto Graces 21st International Widows Day In Nyamira County

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

First Lady Rachel Ruto yesterday joined hundreds of Kenyans in marking this year's International Widows Day. The event that took place at Bugo Primary School grounds in Nyamaiya ward of Nyamira county was also attended by top women leadership, led by the President's Advisor on Women Rights Ms Harriette Chiggai. The day was marked to honour the strength, resilience and dignity of widows across the country. It is usually commemorated as a reminder of leaders' collective responsibility to promote inclusion, economic empowerment, and the protection of widows in all communities. While reaffirming the government's commitment to ensuring that no widow is left behind, Ms Ruto and Ms Chiggai urged women to take advantage of various funding initiatives, fronted by the government to raise money for their economic empowerment. The First Lady informed widows that there are funds targeting women from Ward to the National level and urged them to join groups that will enable them to access such funds. Ms Chiggai thanked the Kenya Kwanza administration for initiating programmes that not only support women but also others in the country.



Editor's Desk



The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe yesterday announced that the government had withdrawn from the market 77 end-use pesticide products. Similarly, 202 others have been put under strict use on crops while 151 more under review by PCPB. “We have taken decisive regulatory action to withdraw 77 end-use products from the Kenyan market and to restrict the use of 202 products on various crops. A further 151 products are under review by the Pest Control Products Board, with a decision on their approval expected by December 2025,” the CS disclosed. In the meantime, the use or importation of the 151 products remains prohibited until the end of the review. To further safeguard the public, Kagwe added, the government has taken some measures: all pest control products (PCPs) considered for registration in Kenya must be registered in their country of origin, No pest control products banned at the international level under multilateral environmental agreements shall be registered for use in Kenya and the importation of any molecule under review that is not approved in the European Union, the United States of America, Australia, or Canada shall be prohibited until finalization and review.



Narok Governor Patrick Ole Ntutu has commissioned vital water infrastructure at the Narok Town Water Intake Facility, including new pumping systems and a protective flood control wall. The Sh42 million project; implemented by Narok Water and Sewerage Services Company (NAR-WASSCO) in partnership with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is set to improve water access for over 140,000 residents. The County funded the installation of submersible and turbine pumps, while JICA supported the flood protection wall. Ntutu hailed the initiative as a milestone in tackling water shortages in the semi-arid county and reaffirmed his administration’s commitment to enhancing essential services.

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale yesterday held a strategic engagement with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), led by Chief of Mission John MacCue, to explore areas of collaboration in enhancing access to quality healthcare services for refugees and migrant populations in Kenya. The meeting addressed the need to improve registration of migrants and refugees, with the CS reaffirming the Ministry’s commitment to facilitating their enrolment into the health system to enable access to affordable care in line with the government’s Universal Health Coverage (UHC) agenda. Duale also noted the Ministry’s plans to establish a stronger regulatory role in ensuring quality healthcare is provided not only to migrant populations but also to the communities that host them. IOM expressed its commitment to collaborate with the Ministry in conducting a population mobility mapping exercise. The initiative will inform targeted public health interventions and identify areas at risk of cross-border disease transmission, particularly Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). It will also support capacity-building for Ministry officials, who will cascade the training to other points of entry and counties managing diseases of public health concern.



Interior Principal Secretary Raymond Omollo has assured Kenyans that the only way to access quality and affordable healthcare is by registering with the health insurance fund under the Social Health Authority (SHA). Omollo emphasised that SHA is critical to the success of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

“Families should no longer be forced to sell valuable assets to afford medical care,” he said, noting that many vulnerable households are already benefiting from the SHA cover. “Kenyans are convinced that SHA is working—the early doubts have faded. We urge all those who haven’t registered to do so without delay,” he added.



Media houses have been urged to help dispel misinformation surrounding the government’s affordable housing programme. National Housing Corporation (NHC) Board Chairman Yusuf Chanzu made the call during the signing of an MoU with Baringo County in Kabarnet. Chanzu expressed concern over misleading narratives by some politicians and wealthy individuals aimed at derailing public support. He emphasized the media’s role in shaping public opinion and boosting uptake of the initiative, calling it a “noble idea” to provide quality, dignified housing. Under the agreement, Baringo County will receive 360 housing units, beginning with 100 units at Ki-boino. NHC will handle technical and financial aspects, while the county will provide land and key infrastructure. Governor Benjamin Cheboi welcomed the project, urging local contractors and communities to take part and benefit from the development.





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- LET'S MAKE NAIROBI WORK -

Wetang'ula Emphasizes On Innovation, Excellent Service And Integrity As National Assembly Holds Inaugural Staff Open Day

By: PSCU

@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Noting that the forum had been convened to discuss the ways and means to provide excellent service delivery through innovation, collaboration and commitment, she pledged the Commission's support even as she called on the staff to freely share ideas on how to improve service delivery.
- "The Open Day is a symbol of renewed commitment to dialogue, transparency, and mutual respect. This is a safe and inclusive space. Here, sharing happens without fear or judgment", she noted.



Speaker Moses Wetang'ula addressing the staff

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula yesterday called on the staff to uphold professionalism, integrity, and discipline as fundamental values in their service.

Speaking during the National Assembly inaugural Staff Open Day, Wetang'ula encouraged a mindset of continuous improvement and innovation.

"Let discipline be the mantra in your work. Growth is open to everyone, but only if you are ready to grow."

The first-ever Staff Open Day, bringing together Members of Parliament, the Parliamentary Service Commission, leadership, and hundreds of parliamentary staff.

The event, themed "Excellence in Service Delivery Through Innovation, Collaboration and Commitment," focused on introspection, recognition, and connection.

In his keynote address, the Speaker, shared a heartfelt overview of the in-

stitution's history and underscored the staff's vital role.

"Parliament is a better place because of you. Everyone here is a cog in the wheel of democracy, no one is too small to matter," he asserted.

The Chairperson of the Staff Welfare Committee of the Parliamentary Service Commission, Faith Gitau, also addressed the gathering, leading a moment of silence for the late Mr. Maasai Lekipai, Deputy Director of Human Capital.

Gitau reaffirmed the Commission's dedication to addressing staff concerns.

"Promises made must become promises kept. We will listen, learn, and lead with kindness," she stated.

Noting that the forum had been convened to discuss the ways and means to provide excellent service delivery through innovation, collaboration and commitment, she pledged the Commission's support even as she called

on the staff to freely share ideas on how to improve service delivery.

"The Open Day is a symbol of renewed commitment to dialogue, transparency, and mutual respect. This is a safe and inclusive space. Here, sharing happens without fear or judgment", she noted.

Earlier, while addressing the forum, the Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Samuel Njoroge the lauded the staff, acknowledging their tireless work that often goes unnoticed.

"Behind every Committee report, every legislative document, and every milestone, there is a committed team working tirelessly, often away from the limelight", he stated.

He further stressed that excellence extends beyond simply completing tasks.

"Excellence goes beyond ticking boxes. It's about upholding our values, even when no one is watching," he added.

He also urged staff to embrace innovation, moving past the "we've always done it this way" mentality.

"We must adapt to the changing needs of Parliament. Innovation must be a pillar, not an afterthought," he emphasized.

"This event is christened 'Ways and Means' because that's what we are here to explore; how we facilitate Parliament, how we deliver service excellently, and how we stay true to our collective mission," said Mr. Njoroge.

Notably, Mr. Njoroge informed staff that the National Treasury had commended the National Assembly for closing its accounts in the last financial year without a single audit query, a rare achievement in public service.

The Open Day featured interactive sessions and open discussions on workplace issues, alongside recognizing outstanding staff for their innovation and service delivery.

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President Ruto: Diaspora Plays Crucial Role In Economic Growth

By: PCS

The government recognises the enormous contribution of the Kenyan Diaspora in the country's economic development through remittances, President William Ruto has said.

Addressing representatives of Kenyans from 27 countries across the world at State House, Nairobi, yesterday, the President said the remittances Kenyans abroad send home are the largest resources that come to the country.

Saying diaspora remittances are more than the earnings from tea, tourism and coffee, the President pointed out that these resources play a critical role in supporting families, are invested in our economy and also help raise the country's foreign reserves.

In 2024, President Ruto disclosed, remittances reached a record high of KSh638 billion up from KSh516 billion in 2022.

Likewise, he noted that the Labour Mobility Programme has facilitated the employment of nearly 400,000 Kenyans abroad in the past two years.

"We know who these people are, where they are, what jobs they do and how much they earn," he pointed out.

The President said the government has made it easier for people who get jobs abroad to get passports in less than a week.

To streamline the process of job recruitment abroad, President Ruto announced that the government has deregistered 1,000 agencies that were defrauding job seekers.

At the same time, he urged Kenyans living abroad to be good ambassadors of their motherland.

The President regretted that some Kenyans talk ill about their country as if they had another motherland.

He said Kenyans living in foreign countries are role models to people of other nationalities, and pointed out that the government is doing its best to provide the support they require in their countries of residence.

President Ruto told them to be brand



President William Ruto addressing the Diaspora yesterday.

champions of their country.

"I want you people to be brand champions of our nation to woo investors to our economy," he said.

He commended the critical role played in national development by Kenyans in the diaspora.

He said the government attaches great importance to the diaspora and appreciates the close bonds they

maintain with the country.

The President noted that his administration has developed instruments of engagement to bolster relations with the Kenyan Diaspora to enable them to invest in key projects in Kenya.

President Ruto said the Kenyan Diaspora is considered the single biggest asset outside the country.

"The support you are giving to your families, and the role you play in the initiation of development projects in your respective communities, is part of nation building," he said.

Meru Dairy Has Increase Production By 100k litres, Say, CEO

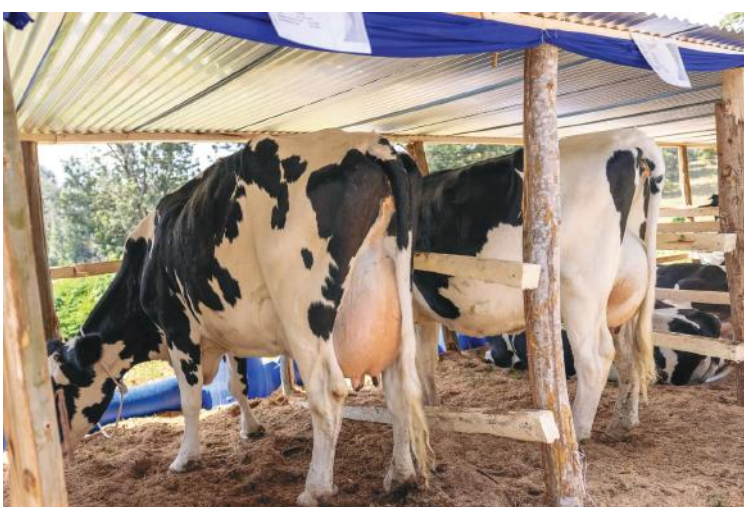
By: Dennis Dibondo
@themtkenyentimes

Meru Dairy Cooperative Union Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kenneth Gitonga has said the company has increased production of milk per day by more than 100,000 per day.

"Today we are boosting 620,000 litres per day and our plan is to make a million litres per day. When the president came to our annual farmers meeting last year, we were producing 524,000 litres per day. We have increased it by more than 100,000 litres," he said.

He spoke during the 10th annual dairy farmers annual field day at Gitoro showground on Saturday which was graced by among others; President William Ruto and his deputy Kithure Kindiki.

Gitonga noted that last year they had 123,000 farmers and now this year they have 146,000 farmers and a market was 23 per cent last year but now their market share is 33 per-



Some of the dairy cow at the 10th Meru Dairy annual farmers field day. Photo/Dennis Dibondo.

cent while doing a third of dairy in the country.

He said they aim to grow more annually as they have been increasing their capacity and production of milk which ten years ago stood at 10,000 litres per day.

Gitonga said the main challenge in the sector was cost of inputs such as

the animal feeds semen and vaccination.

Gitonga thanked President William Ruto for giving out KSh100 million for setting up a feed mill, which is ready and will be inspected and start production by December.

He urged the government to subsidise the sexed semen and make it



President William Ruto looks at some of products from Meru dairy as CEO Kenneth Gitonga (Center) and chairman Simon Kiruja (left) looks on.

more likely to get a dairy cow.

"We have sexed semen selling at Sh.2900 at KAGRI and we are giving it to farmers at Sh.4000. We urge the government to look into it because the chances of getting a dairy cow is 50/ 50," he said.

President Ruto addressed the issue of sexed semen where he directed

that the cost would from next month be reduced to KSh1,000.

The CEO disclosed that his firm has also opened a website for selling cows online to eliminate brokers and help farmers sell and buy cows easily.

NIS Warns Of Terror Strikes As Iran Crisis Spills Into Nairobi Protests

By: Franklin Wallah
@themkenyatimes



A Kenyan protester waving the Kenyan flag as police lob teargas during last year's anti-Finance Bill protests. Photo | Reuters

Worth Noting:

- “Kenya is assessed as a soft target precisely because of our strategic alliances, The Norfolk bombing in 1980 taught us that foreign conflicts can spill blood on our own soil.”
- The Norfolk Hotel bombing, which killed 15 Kenyans, was a direct reprisal for Kenya’s support of Israel during the Entebbe rescue mission. Today, the NIS believes Kenya could once again be “collateral damage in a global geopolitical war.”
- Intelligence sources warn that Iran, unlikely to confront the U.S. or Israel in conventional warfare, may rely on proxies and sleeper cells an approach echoed by the likes of al-Shabaab in Kenya’s past.

The National Intelligence Service (NIS) has issued warning that ongoing political protests in Nairobi may be infiltrated by radicalized terrorist groups seeking to strike Western targets and civilians in revenge for U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran.

According to intercepted communications by our Journalist, shared with top security organs and select diplomatic missions, details an “imminent asymmetric threat” aimed at using the chaos of anti-government demonstrations set to mark the anniversary of last year’s June 25 unrest as cover for terror attacks.

The chilling intelligence says in part:

“Our analysis indicates that hostile actors are planning to use explosives and Molotov cocktails to target police officers and vulnerable areas including diplomatic missions, operatives aligned with Iran or sympathetic to its cause are preparing to embed within protest groups. Their objectives: revenge strikes against U.S., Israeli, and allied interests—

Kenya included.”

The country has since been placed on its highest security alert, with multi-agency teams operating round the clock to preempt threats and neutralize potential attackers. Airports, embassies, and public gathering spaces have received urgent reinforcement.

The warning follows a dramatic escalation in Middle East tensions, after U.S. President Donald Trump authorized airstrikes on Iran’s underground Fordow nuclear facility. Iran has vowed retaliation, and analysts say the East African nation’s close ties with both Washington and Tel Aviv put it at greater risk.

The statemet shared further said “Kenya is assessed as a soft target precisely because of our strategic alliances, The Norfolk bombing in 1980 taught us that foreign conflicts can spill blood on our own soil.”

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Today, the NIS believes Kenya could once again be “collateral damage in a global geopolitical war.”

Intelligence sources warn that Iran, unlikely to confront the U.S. or Israel in conventional warfare, may rely on proxies and sleeper cells an approach echoed by the likes of al-Shabaab in Kenya’s past.

Authorities are now conducting covert sweeps in major cities, tracking digital footprints, and coordinating with international cyber and intelligence agencies to thwart any coordinated attack. Police and intelligence agencies have also been briefed on the threat of cyberattacks targeting national infrastructure.

Nis further says in the statement

“We are urging law enforcement to adopt a full counter-terrorism posture These are not just political rallies anymore—they are potential operational zones.”

Meanwhile, the geopolitical storm is already hitting global markets. Brent crude has surged to \$78.89 a barrel amid threats from Tehran

to choke the Strait of Hormuz—a move that could decimate global supply chains and send Kenya’s economy into a tailspin.

Iran’s parliament has backed a measure to shut the strait, though Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei has yet to authorize it. Over 200,000 Kenyans working in the Gulf may also be caught in the crossfire if regional tensions escalate.

With history and geography working against it, Kenya is once again walking a tightrope between domestic political unrest and international conflict.

Lands CS Alice Wahome Vows To Seal Revenue Loopholes And Combat Fraud

By: Felix Njenga
 @themtkenyatimes

Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Alice Wahome, has issued a stern warning that any loopholes leading to revenue loss within land registries must be sealed and responsible officers held accountable.

Her remarks came during an impromptu visit to the Kiambu and Ruiru Lands Registries, where she assessed their condition and service delivery.

Wahome emphasized that Kiambu, due to its strategic proximity to the capital, should be a national leader in revenue collection.

“I have made it clear any loopholes that enable the loss of public funds must be sealed — accountability is not optional,” she stated. “Every coin we safeguard strengthens our ability to deliver better, faster, and more transparent services to Kenyans.”

The CS highlighted Kiambu’s pioneering role in the government’s nationwide digitization of land regis-



Lands CS Alice Wahome perusing documents with ministry officers based in Kiambu



CS Alice Wahome at one of the registry rooms in Kiambu.

tries. She stressed that digitization is a crucial step beyond just technology.

“It is about eliminating manual inefficiencies, curbing fraud, securing land records, and enhancing access and transparency for all citizens,” CS explained.

She added that the ministry’s reforms are aimed at rebuilding public trust, asserting, “As we move, we must

walk with the people, not ahead of them.”

Wahome also declared that missing files must become a relic of the past in all registries, with comprehensive data records maintained for easy tracing. To encourage improved performance, she announced the establishment of a recognition award for the best land registry to ensure better and

more efficient service delivery.

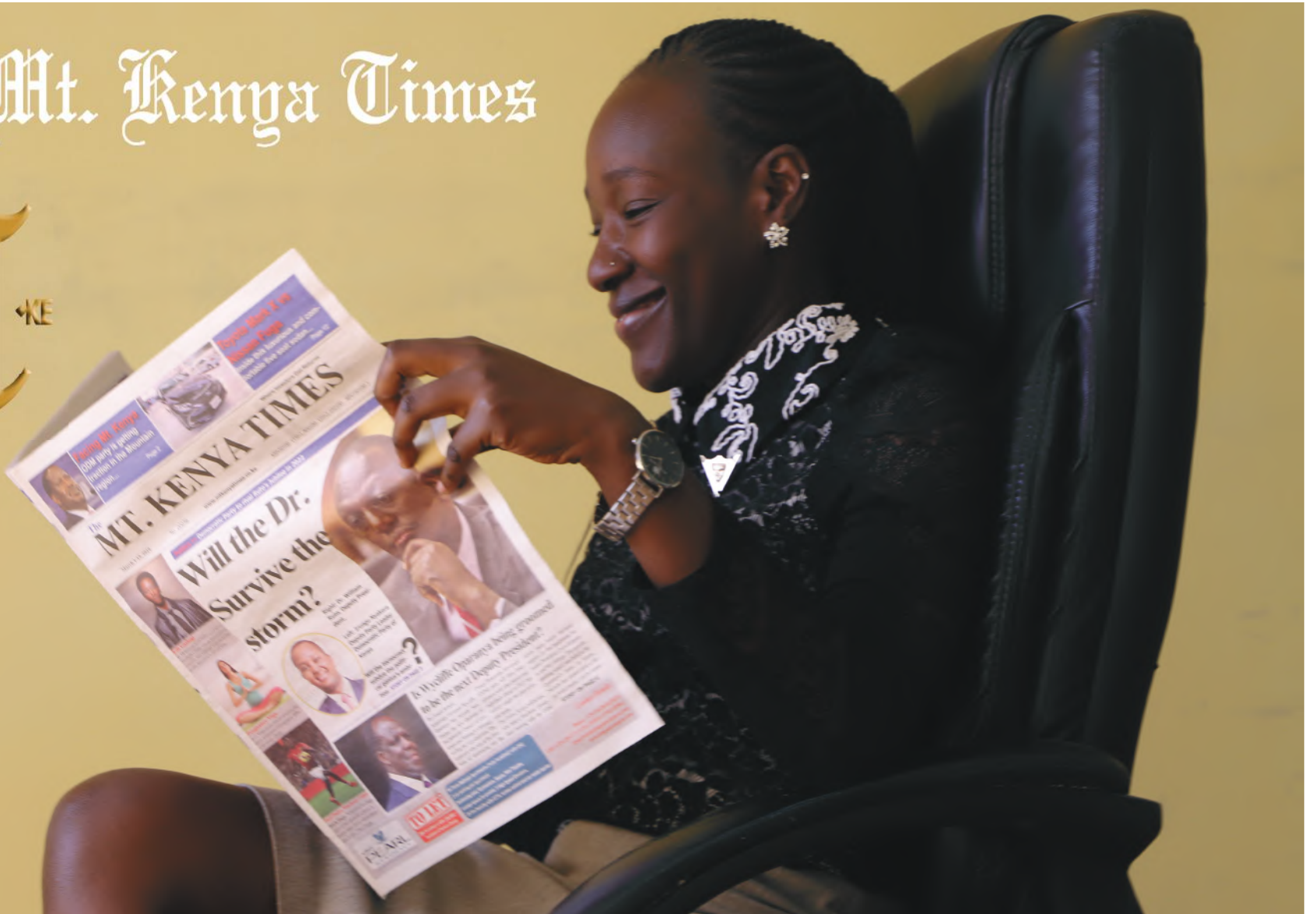
The CS reiterated that her visit was part of ongoing efforts to curb land fraud and ensure Kenyans receive efficient, transparent, and people-centered services.

“We are working diligently to streamline land transactions and strengthen accountability at all levels, improving service delivery isn’t just a

goal, it is a commitment to the Kenyan people, She said”

Wahome concluded by affirming that Kenyans deserve access to safe and secure land services. “Today’s visit is a reminder that we are watching, we are listening, and we are taking action,” she stated.

The Mt. Kenya Times



Gen Z Is Not Passing Cloud But Seismic Change



By: Ndung'u Wainaina
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Kenya is at political and generational crossroad. The country is facing severe problems of worsened poverty, increased inequalities, very low economic productivity, large unemployment and low trust in government. The challenges in country's economy have overtime been worsened by bad political decisions that have adversely affected economic outcomes.
- The Gen Z protests of the June 2024 were a pivotal moment of the country in ushering in a new movement for radical change. It was not a passing cloud but the beginning of the seismic change. The world is in turmoil. The old order is facing its demise. Every time such global eventuality happens, its domino effects reverberate locally.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) was the 32nd President of the United States of America and longest serving U.S. president.

He faced challenges of the Great Depression and the World War II and its consequences. Assuming the Presidency at the depth of the Great Depression, Roosevelt helped the American people regain faith in themselves.

He brought hope as he promised prompt, vigorous action, and asserted in his Inaugural Address, "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself". He proceeded to implement a sweeping New Deal that ushered the USA global economic, financial, cultural and military hegemony since 1945.

Kenya's Independence generation leaders had political philosophy and vision of a highly centralized state and state controlled economy. This generation dismembered progressive Independent Constitution to realize their political desire and vision. After 60 Years of a highly centralized state and economy, it is a historic moment for a new generation of leaders to define new political philosophy and vision for now and future Kenya.

The progressive and transformational Constitution of Kenya 2010 did reimagine and reconfigure the country. Its principles and values reflect the past journey and cast the vision for the future of the country based on the values of equality, inclusion, participation, openness and sustainability.

Kenya is at political and generational crossroad. The country is facing severe problems of worsened poverty, increased inequalities, very low economic productivity, large unemployment and low trust in government. The challenges in country's economy have overtime been worsened by bad political decisions that have adversely affected economic outcomes.

The Gen Z protests of the June 2024 were a pivotal moment of the country in ushering in a new movement for radical change. It was not a passing cloud but the beginning of the seismic change. The world is in turmoil. The old order is facing its demise. Every time such global eventuality happens, its domino effects reverberate locally.

Kenya is at a pivotal moment to imaginatively, and with a unity of purpose, redefine its economic and political landscape for 21st century. The current conjuncture defined by the Gen Z presents an opportunity to reset the country's new political, economic and security order. It is an opportunity to build a new, inclusive economy that benefits all Kenyans. This is a moment for a permanent and decisive break with the past.

While the rejection of the Finance Bill was a central focus of the protests, the demonstrations by Gen Z were fueled by a broader range of grievances and a desire for systemic change. The bill served as a catalyst, but the protests reflected a deeper discontent with the state of the economy, perceived government



Gen Z Protest in Kenya

corruption, and a lack of accountability.

The fight against the Finance Bill was about more than just a failed economic policy; it's a battle for their future. Gen Z feel betrayed by a government that promised change but delivered disappointment. They protest not just against punitive finance bill, but against a system rigged against them. This is rigged system against Kenyan people in every sphere of life from economy, health, education, livelihoods, governance, and opportunities. In everything Kenyans are suffocated. They cannot breathe. They believe they can create a new path, where their voices are heard and their futures safeguarded

Gen Z protests marked the beginning of a new chapter in Kenya's history, written by a generation that refuses to accept the status quo. As they march, they carry the dreams of a brighter tomorrow. The first three words in the 2010 Constitution of Kenya, "We the People," capture the foundational principle that the government derives its powers from the consent of the governed, whom it exists to serve.

Unfortunately, the current extractive political, economic and security system is outmoded. It has an irreparably run its course. It must face root and branch reset. It is end of 62 years of human and economic deprivation to Kenyan people. This is not working the system. No! It is political and economic seismic change of the system. GEN Z are about uprooting and changing the extractive system that has dehumanized, deprived and brutalized Kenyan people in their millions.

The Gen Z are propelling the path for

the emergence of an alternative leadership for Kenya. The building blocks of vision and philosophy of this alternative leadership is outlined in the 2010 Constitution of Kenya inter alia: principles of sovereignty of people, primacy of the Constitution, social and economic rights, devolution and dispersal of powers and resources, equal society and public expenditure guaranteeing equitable development, fair taxation and ethical governance.

The center of gravity of the Kenya old politics of regional kingpins and ethnic blocks has significantly shifted. The People of Kenya are hungering for a transformative 21st Century system. After the political democracy era, it is an economic democracy century.

Gen Z are sending clear unequivocal messages. Our choices are human freedom and human dignity, clean and efficient governance, and bold and forward thinking leadership. Our purpose is to serve our people and their interest; guard and extend their human freedoms; satisfying basic needs and uplifting Kenyan people from state of despair and economic poverty; and strengthen our country to effectively and efficiently compete globally. We will democratize our economy, guarantee human dignity and protect human freedoms. We will build stronger, better and prouder Kenya.

Gen Z are concern with now and new generations prospects for better life and high living standards. The world has changed. The old order must die. It must be wiped out. We must end transactional dealship politics. We must end the parasitic, predatory and cruel lead-

ership. They want leadership that is authentic and less about power but more about empowerment. It is a time for a new generation of leadership.

Gen Z are saying that the country has had a national decline rather than national greatness. It has been competition between private interests rather than public good while the geopolitics, economic, demographics and security dynamics of the world have significantly shifted. The world is in the new era of great power competition from diplomatic, economic, security to technology. We live in world with unprecedented challenges and equally with unmatched opportunities. The world production hubs have fundamentally changed. We are in knowledge and technology age. Tools of yesterday cannot meet needs of today and tomorrow.

Parting shot by Gen Z: We are in the midst of an historic and fundamental transition on the future direction of our country. We must dismantle the economic and political colonial state we inherited at the independence. We must chart a new radical course. We are beyond business as usual era. This is the moment for bold forward looking leadership and new system order.

The Writer is Transitional Justice and Human Security Fellow @Ndungu-Wainaina

Gachagua Hosts Over 500 Maa Grassroot Mobilizers At Wamunyoro

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

The DCP Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua yesterday hosted hundreds of Maa speaking grassroots leaders at his Mathira residence.

Gachagua asked the Maa Community to work together, join hands with like-minded communities and form the next government together.

The former DP wooed the communities of Kajiado, Narok and Samburu grassroots leaders to join him in the quest of liberating the country from what he termed as corrupt individuals, informing them that the community is key in the course.

The DCP leader was speaking in his Wamunyoro residence where he brought together more than 500 ground mobilizers from the 3 counties for consultations.

Explaining to them the reason behind his difference with William Ruto that led to his impeachment, Gachagua has said the president betrayed him



The DCP Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua yesterday hosted hundreds of Maa speaking grassroots leaders at his Mathira residence.

and the Mt. Kenya region despite him investing to support the president in the 2022 General Elections.

The former DP also added that the straw that broke the camels back was the Finance Bill 2024 and the subsequent killings of the Gen-z during the last year's demonstrations, which he vehemently opposed against his former boss's wish.

The former DP said that his other problem with the president was him wanting to divide the Mt. Kenya region into West and East, something that did not augur well with him.

He termed the president as a pathological liar and one who can not keep his word.

Gachagua wooed the Maa Community to be part of the formation of the

next government, engaging them as his in-laws and asking them to continue co-existing with other communities for the betterment of their region.

On the dates and place of DCP Party launch, he requested the community to provide a venue for its launch after the government denied the party, Kasarani indoor arena.

The Maa Community accepted to

host the launch which will take place on 7th July.

The former DP was accompanied by among other leaders; Kajiado Senator Seki Lenku, Kajiado North MP Onesmus Ngogoyo, Former Agriculture CS Muthika Linturi as well former Starehe Member of Parliament Maina Kamanda.

PCEA Moderator: Police Brutality Sad And Regrettable

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

PCEA Moderator, Rev. Thegu Mutahi has joined other key church leaders, politicians and business people in condemning what he described as uncalled for and senseless killings of peaceful and innocent Kenyans by the police.

Rev. Mutahi said the recent killing in a police cell of teacher and blogger Albert Ojwang and the near fatal shooting in the head of street masks vendor, Boniface Karanja is not only sad but regrettable.

The head of the PCEA church was speaking Sunday at the dedication service of PCEA Karuri Imani Church in Banana. He reiterated that police brutality against peaceful demonstrators in the country must be brought to an end.

He appealed to the youth to maintain peace during the planned street protests tomorrow to mark the 1st Anniversary since the watershed Gen-Z street protests on 25th of June last year.



PCEA Moderator Rev. Thegu Mutahi dedicating the Karuri Imani church in Banana as other leaders and faithful led by Rev. Mary Muriuki looks on. Photos/Courtesy.

Reverend Mutahi appealed to the youth to shun politicians out to use them for their own personal and selfish interests. He emphasised that in politics there are no permanent enemies or friends but only selfish

interests.

He urged Kenyans to stop the culture of political obsession, lamenting that it is sad to see the continuation of 'permanent' political bickering and campaign electioneering mode after



PCEA Moderator Rev. Thegu Mutahi with Rev. Mary Muriuki at Karuri Imani church in Banana on Sunday. Photos/Courtesy.

every election year.

The head of the Presbyterian church told Kenyans to instead focus and concentrate on their meaningful daily productive activities such as farming, businesses and other side hustles in order to fend for their families.

The colourful dedication service for

the 10-year old PCEA Karuri Imani church was attended by scores of faithfuls from the seven Banana Parish congregations led by the Parish Minister, Rev. Mary Muriuki in addition to invited guests. Rev. Muriuki is also the moderator of the Kiambu Presbytery.

Kirinyaga County Hosts First Agro-Ecology Symposium To Promote Organic Farming And Curb Health Risks

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Sessions focused on practical aspects of organic farming such as pest management, soil health, and market access.
- Governor Anne Waiguru earlier mentioned that her administration is committed to helping farmers adapt to changing weather patterns while reducing reliance on agrochemicals due to health concerns.
- “We are undertaking farmers’ training on organic farming because we want to reduce the use of agro-chemicals,” she said.
- She noted that organic farming supports food safety, public health, and environmental conservation.
- Waiguru said the County Government is undertaking training aimed at mitigating the potential negative impacts of chemicals in humans and the environment.

Kirinyaga County has taken a bold step towards safer and more sustainable farming by hosting its first-ever agro ecology symposium.

The two-day event, held at Kirinyaga University in Kutus, aimed at promoting the farming and consumption of organically grown food for commercial and health benefits.

The symposium is part of a campaign by the county government to encourage reduction in use of agro-chemicals in crop production in the wake of rising health concerns.

The symposium brought together over 700 participants, including farmers, agricultural experts, exhibitors, buyers, and input suppliers.

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Governor Anne Waiguru earlier mentioned that her administration is committed to helping farmers adapt to changing weather patterns while reducing reliance on agrochemicals due to health concerns.

“We are undertaking farmers’ training on organic farming because we want to reduce the use of agro-chemicals,” she said.

She noted that organic farming supports food safety, public health, and environmental conservation.

Waiguru said the County Government is undertaking training aimed at mitigating the potential negative impacts of chemicals in humans and the environment.

The training is targeting horticulture farmers especially those engaged in tomatoes, French beans, rice among other on reduction of agrochemicals especially in horticultural produce such as Some 400 farmers supported by the County Government have ventured into organic farming in the wake of growing demand driven by health concerns.

The farmers organized in 14 groups have been federated into a cooperative that is helping them tap into the growing market while at the same time offering them financial support to expand their ventures.

County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Dr. John Gachara, described the event as a milestone in the county’s transition to agro ecological farming.

“This is a day we have been planning for. We are proud to host the first organic farming symposium in Kirinyaga. Our focus is to encourage farmers to embrace organic methods in response to the health and environmental challenges posed by chemical-based agriculture,” Gachara said.

Dr. Gachara warned that the misuse



of pesticides may be contributing to the rise in lifestyle-related illnesses. He said the county is promoting biodegradable alternatives to protect both farmers and consumers.

“Our goal is to lower medical burden arising from use of agro-chemical,” he stated.

The symposium was organized in partnership with the Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN).

“We are pleased to have partnered with Kirinyaga County to organize this symposium that brought together stakeholders including farmers, companies, input suppliers, and extension providers,” he added.

Kiarie said the platform allowed farmers to explore innovative solutions in soil fertility and pesticide management while exchanging ideas

and experiences.

Alex Muriithi, founder of Super Ideal Farming Group, said his organization has been training farmers in Kirinyaga on the use of organic foliar fertilizers.

“These fertilizers help reduce crop diseases and are healthier for our bodies,” he said.

He explained that the group uses locally available materials, reducing waste and cutting production costs. “Most farmers have now embraced organic farming,” he added.

Agro ecology expert Gideon Moya from BIBA Kenya also praised the event. He said they had supported ten member organizations from across the country to participate.

“We are huge promoters of agro ecology, we train small-scale farmers on

safe production methods by discouraging toxic pesticides and promoting indigenous farming through our campaign dubbed “Kula Kienyeji.”

He explained that growing indigenous crops is one way to protect the environment from climate change and reduce the risk of terminal illnesses linked to chemical exposure.

Jane Muchiri, a member of the Mountain Green Group and an organic farmer, shared how she had transformed her farming practices after realizing the effects of chemicals on soil and health.

“The chemicals we used were destroying the soil microorganisms that maintain fertility, they are absorbed by the crops, and eventually we consume them, this is why diseases are increasing,” she noted.



14 POEMS

People Find Many Ways To Hurt You



You Find Ways To Be Happy Again

By Keeping away the destroyer,
Find our paths widely and clear.

A stone into a sculpture,
Getting many hurts into a structure,
As a matured human being learn to accept
the hurts help our metamorphosis.
Rajesh Kanna B N

Transform the hurts into stepping stones,
As the surfers completed successfully ,
Facing the huge waves courageously,
Focusing on destination reaching safely.

As the sailors tackle the hurting winds,
Sail the boat into their direction with bliss.

I am Rajesh Kanna B N
B T Asst,
From Government Higher Secondary
School, New Gummidipoondi. Tiruvallur
District. 601201.
Tamil Nadu. India.

Nobody Gets Through Life Without



It is a rude fact and truth
All endures pain, old or youth
Life is not a bed of roses
Not to cake walk for boys and girls

Receive strong stone hailing for many reasons
Specially for doing good in all seasons
Troubles grow like thorns
Problems repeat like waves

Never ending tear, we shed
On cute little pillow and on bed
Overcoming trials is not a joke
Patience and endurance are all we take

Like a ball or boomerang, bounce back
Like Phoenix bird rise and quack
Like an arrow go back and shoot ahead
Because nobody gets through life without
hatred

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

An Ocean's Opulence



The waves of embroidered opulence
clinging the sensorus, soulful and symbolic
richness
into his measureless resilience

Queen of wisdom—catches the pulses of
beauty
in her appealing appearance and serving duty;
to swathe the wounded veins,

Weave the transparency together as splashes
with occupancy to murmur the blinky bright
flashes;
where absences, and blur glances, Fully smashes

Regimes over the skies, the clarity in the eyes

Speak swiftly to the Free will—magically
admires
and classiness clarifies the unheard acquires
They, the luxury of the ocean, the ornament
of love
Swing kiss, portraying the untold saga, right
above
and there she whispers verses of dazzling
doves

Beyond the Ackleness, a lengthy long, straight
away
their tale that still dwells, into a keen portray
to reveal the fate, that fetches the heart
closer

She, the Athena, the glory of trance and
elegance
Relishes the Apollo, the gace of the grand
ocean
for his preposterous respulence.

—Tajalla Qureshi

Modern Journalism



All over the world, out of respect and reverence,
the media is often called the "Fourth Estate",
an abstract and lyrical concept. Because the
media does not have a command mechanism or
authority to correct someone's mistakes. For
example, if an organization does not pay people
their monthly salaries, deviates from the labor
code, or someone violates the law, it cannot
punish them, nor can it issue an order to correct
the mistakes. However, the press has the
right to draw the attention of the legislative,
executive, and judicial authorities to a problem,
issue, or event.

Although the term "fourth estate" is an
abstract and lyrical term that expresses the
extent to which the press can influence social
opinion in society, the media can attract the
public's attention to the political and social
processes taking place in our society and arouse
a sense of involvement in it, which is its task and
it has a sufficient right to do so. In exchange for
this right and privilege, the state requires the
three branches of government to operate in a
situation dependent on it, that is, the press. If,
on the contrary, the press is dependent on the
three branches of government, then there will be
no development in the state. In this situation, the
state system may not be able to get out of the
swamp of corruption and be in disarray. There
are many examples of this from history.
There is also a subtle side to the issue. There
has never been an independent press in the
literal sense. In all countries of the world, the
media operate in a situation of dependence on
established political or economic forces. At least,
it acts and interprets the issue according to the

worldview of its owner or the wishes of the
funder.

For example, there are media outlets that
try to present their personal animosity, some
destructive thoughts, and various negative
conclusions that have no value, as if they
were the mass social opinion of the people of
Uzbekistan. As a result of the work of such
news agencies, "A lie can travel half way around
the world while the truth is putting on its shoes."
Although this expression, which expresses what
truth and lie are in the most concise and clear
form, has become a very necessary concept
for many political and social scientists, it itself
remains an expression that is somewhere
between a big lie and doubt. The interesting thing
is that the original author of this phrase was the
great American writer Mark Twain, and despite
this being a clear truth, this information was
also turned into a lie. Some people spread false
information to the world that the famous British
politician Sir Winston Churchill first said this
phrase. Now, a lie, a fake and incorrect message
has spread and it is impossible to correct it, it is
very difficult to eliminate the error with a simple
denial.

It is very important who or which news agency
covered the news first in the world. Who would
like it if journalists from some other country
interpreted the internal political and social
problems existing in our country according to
their own dimensions and made a fuss about
it from the outside? We begin to express our
resentment and dissatisfaction towards "Radio
Liberty", "Voice of America", CNN and other
news agencies with hatred, sometimes with
anger, calling them "destructive", "ideologically
offensive", "unable to see".

Raikhona Rasulova
15 school graduates

In The Heart Where The Heart Is Brave



In the heart where the heart is brave,
A spirit springs, never to leave.
Through tempests that rage and darkness that
seeps,

A commitment to keep, a promise to leap.

Though there be tests and doubts may stray,
The fire that's lit illuminates the way.
With every failure, strength we gain,
For in the dark of night, hope is blind.

Take a stand, dear heart, through winds and rain,
Each wound we bear, each drop of pain,
Builds a home, strong and firm,
With each fight, we learn where we belong.

A phoenix will rise, from the ashes so bright,
With wings of strength, eternally.

So get up with the sun, let bravery spark,
In the midst of your soul, you'll never lose your
way.

Akshita agarwal

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FOOD

Authentic Beijing Flavor In Festival Food: Bite Into Chinese Tradition On African Screens

By: John Peter
@themtkenyatimes

The original culinary series Festival & Food, produced by StarTimes, is now captivating African audiences!

With seven episodes aired, the program explores iconic Chinese festivals—including Spring Festival, Qingming, and Dragon Boat Festival—through their signature dishes, unveiling cultural stories behind each bite in compact 10-minute episodes.

Innovative Format, Cultural Depth

Filmed in a traditional Siheyuan courtyard, the show adopts a “one festival, one delicacy” framework.

Host Bola guides viewers through dynamic segments: introducing historical origins with archival footage, showcasing food preparation (like zongzi dumplings for Dragon Boat Festival), and conducting taste tests. Each episode seamlessly blends practical demonstrations with cultural insights—for instance, linking Qingming’s green rice balls to China’s ancestral reverence traditions. The brisk pacing, from vibrant intro animations to on-location explorations, ensures an engaging learning experience.

Culinary Impact: Bridging Continents

Chinese festival foods resonate deeply in Africa. Dumplings symbolizing reunion and mooncakes conveying longing transcend cultural barriers, creating emotional touchpoints.

Aired on ST KungFu during prime African viewing hours, the program integrates naturally into family routines. Since its launch, clips have been shared by African cultural influencers, with #ChineseFestivalFood trending across platforms, the program has been featured in multiple media reports across Africa.

Cultural Diplomacy on a Plate

As the first Chinese culinary series tailored for Africa, Festival&Food uses universal food language to bypass linguistic hurdles.

The production team meticulously adapts content to local interest; like highlighting “mooncakes” for the Mid-Autumn Festival to align with African symbolism of prosperity.

Upcoming episodes will feature Laba porridge and Lunar New Year banquets, further illustrating China’s philosophy of harmony through cui-



sine. Since its launch, it has received special reports from media such as

Broadcast & Reach

With new episodes released weekly on StarTimes platforms, premiere on Saturday at 17:00 GMT, with repeats at 17:00 GMT the following day.

Festival&Food continues to spice up

cultural exchange. Tune in ST KungFu to embark on this delectable journey!

Worth Noting:

- Chinese festival foods resonate deeply in Africa. Dumplings symbolizing reunion and mooncakes conveying longing transcend cultural barriers, creating emotional touchpoints.
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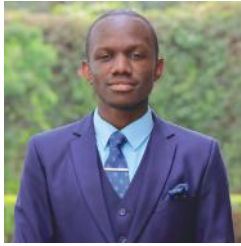
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The Diesel Imperative: Why Energy Physics Demands We Accept Fossil Fuel Permanence Despite Climate Ambitions



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

The inconvenient truth about modern energy systems lies not in political rhetoric or environmental activism, but in the immutable laws of physics and thermodynamics. While climate change discourse dominates policy discussions worldwide, a rigorous examination of energy density, infrastructure requirements, and technological limitations reveals a stark reality: diesel fuel and its petroleum derivatives will remain indispensable to global civilization for decades to come, regardless of our environmental aspirations. This assessment, grounded in empirical data and engineering constraints, challenges the prevailing narrative that renewable alternatives can seamlessly replace hydrocarbon fuels across all sectors of the modern economy.

Diesel fuel possesses an energy density of approximately 36 megajoules per liter (MJ/L), while gasoline contains about 32 MJ/L, representing energy concentrations that no current alternative technology can match on a volumetric basis. To comprehend the magnitude of this advantage, consider that diesel operates at about 9,007 watt-hours per kilogram (Wh/kg), while the most efficient lithium batteries can only achieve approximately 0.5 to 1 MJ per kilogram. This fundamental disparity means that replacing diesel with battery power requires carrying 18 to 36 times more weight to achieve equivalent energy storage. In transportation systems where payload capacity, range, and operational efficiency determine economic viability, this physical constraint represents an insurmountable barrier for many applications.

The aviation industry exemplifies the physical impossibility of replacing diesel-derived jet fuel with current alternatives. Commercial jet fuel has a specific energy of around 45 MJ/kg, while lithium-ion batteries typically deliver under 0.7 MJ/kg, meaning that over 1,500 tonnes of lithium-ion batteries would be required to achieve the same energy storage as conventional aviation fuel. This calculation reveals why battery-powered commercial aviation remains a fantasy rather than a feasible solution. A Boeing 747 carrying 1,500 additional tonnes of batteries would be physically unable to achieve lift-off, let alone maintain flight. The laws of aerodynamics and materials science, not corporate resistance or regulatory capture, dictate that aviation will depend on high-energy-density liquid fuels for the foreseeable future.

Heavy-duty transportation and shipping present equally compelling



cases for diesel permanence. Long-haul trucking, which moves the vast majority of goods across continents, requires vehicles capable of traveling 500-800 miles between refueling stops while carrying maximum payloads. Current battery technology would require truck batteries weighing 15-20 tonnes to achieve equivalent range, effectively eliminating cargo capacity and rendering electric long-haul trucking economically unviable. Similarly, maritime shipping, which handles 90% of global trade, depends on marine diesel engines that can operate continuously for weeks while powering vessels carrying tens of thousands of tonnes. Even liquid hydrogen, with its density of 8 MJ/L, provides only one-quarter the volumetric energy density of gasoline at 32 MJ/L, requiring prohibitively large storage systems and creating safety challenges that make it impractical for most shipping applications.

Industrial and construction sectors present additional evidence of diesel's irreplaceable role in the modern economy. Mining operations, which extract the raw materials essential for renewable energy infrastructure, depend on diesel-powered excavators, haul trucks, and processing equipment that operate in remote locations far from electrical grids. These machines require sustained high-power output over extended periods, characteristics that battery systems cannot reliably provide. Construction equipment faces similar constraints, where bulldozers, cranes, and generators must deliver consistent performance regardless of weather conditions or

grid availability. The backup power systems that maintain critical infrastructure during emergencies: hospitals, data centers, telecommunications networks rely overwhelmingly on diesel generators because they provide immediate, reliable power without dependence on weather conditions or complex supply chains.

The infrastructure requirements for replacing diesel systems reveal another dimension of practical impossibility. The widespread use of gasoline and diesel is largely explained by their energy density and ease of onboard storage, as no other fuels provide more energy within a given unit of volume. The existing global fuel distribution network represents trillions of dollars in sunk costs: refineries, pipelines, storage facilities, fuel stations, and transportation systems optimized for liquid hydrocarbon fuels. Replacing this infrastructure to support hydrogen distribution would require rebuilding the entire energy supply chain, including specialized storage tanks, cryogenic equipment, and safety systems that would cost exponentially more than current fossil fuel infrastructure while serving smaller volumes of energy per unit of infrastructure investment.

Economic realities compound the technical challenges facing diesel alternatives. While environmental advocates often cite falling prices for renewable electricity generation, they typically ignore the total system costs of energy storage, grid stabilization, and backup power required to make intermittent renewables reliable. Electric vehicles with fuel cells pow-

ered by hydrogen can double the fuel economy of a similarly sized gasoline vehicle, while battery-powered electric vehicles can achieve a quadrupling of fuel economy, but the costs of fuel cells, hydrogen storage, and batteries are prohibitively expensive to most consumers. Moreover, these efficiency gains do not overcome the fundamental energy density limitations that restrict range and payload capacity in commercial applications. The hydrogen economy, despite decades of research and billions in investment, remains prohibitively expensive due to the energy-intensive processes required for hydrogen production, storage, and distribution.

Environmental considerations, paradoxically, may also favor continued diesel use in certain contexts when examined through rigorous life-cycle analysis. The production of lithium-ion batteries requires intensive mining operations for lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements, often in environmentally sensitive regions with questionable labor practices. The carbon footprint of battery production, when amortized over realistic battery lifespans and charging from grid electricity that remains substantially fossil-fuel-dependent in most regions, may not provide significant environmental advantages over efficient diesel engines, particularly in applications where batteries would

Worth Noting:

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- This calculation reveals why battery-powered commercial aviation remains a fantasy rather than a feasible solution. A Boeing 747 carrying 1,500 additional tonnes of batteries would be physically unable to achieve lift-off, let alone maintain flight.

- The laws of aerodynamics and materials science, not corporate resistance or regulatory capture, dictate that aviation will depend on high-energy-density liquid fuels for the foreseeable future.

Kenya Launches Ambitious Skills Development Drive, Targets 420,000 Certifications by 2025

By: James Ndolo
@themkenyatimes

Kenya has unveiled a bold initiative aimed at transforming its skills development landscape through strengthened collaboration between national and county governments. The programme seeks to certify 420,000 Kenyans through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) framework by October 2025.

The announcement was made by the Principal Secretary for Labour and Skills Development, Mr. Shadrack Mwadime, during a consultative forum held at the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) campus in Athi River. The forum brought together County Executive Committee Members (CECMs) responsible for Education and Training from across the country.

In remarks delivered on his behalf by Labour and Skills Development Secretary Administrator Mr. Herman Shambi, PS Mwadime underscored the urgent need for coordinated intergovernmental action in implementing the newly launched Kenya National Skills Development Policy. The policy is a cornerstone of the country's economic transformation agenda, promoting lifelong learning, Recognition of Prior Learning, and employer-led training models to

respond to evolving labour market demands.

He highlighted the significant progress made by NITA, particularly in curriculum reform, the rollout of RPL programmes, and the deepening of industry partnerships. He also pointed to the operationalization of the National Labour Market Information System (LMIS) a data-driven platform designed to align training with actual labour market needs.

"The RPL programme is designed to formally recognize and certify skills acquired informally, especially within our dynamic informal sector," said Mr. Mwadime. "This initiative is not just about certification it's about enhancing employability, restoring dignity, and increasing mobility for our workers, particularly artisans, construction workers, and vocational specialists."

Under the Presidential Rapid Results Initiative (RRI), NITA is spearheading efforts to assess and certify 420,000 individuals by October 2025. This nationwide campaign is expected to significantly bolster Kenya's skilled labour force and support the government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

County governments have been identified as critical partners in the success of this initiative. PS Mwadime urged counties to appoint RPL focal persons, mobilize candidates,



Labour and Skills Development Secretary Administrator, Mr. Herman Shambi, leads guests in a group photo during the County Executive Committee Members' forum on skills development held at NITA, Machakos County, on Monday.

facilitate industry linkages, and provide the necessary infrastructure and policy support. He assured counties of continued technical assistance, policy guidance, and capacity-building support from the State Department.

Ms. Theresa Wasike, Acting Director General of NITA, reaffirmed the institution's strong partnership with counties, noting their critical role since the advent of devolution. She emphasized NITA's mandate to regulate, facilitate, and deliver industrial training, develop curricula, accredit training providers, and manage the Industrial Training Levy.

"Today's forum offers an opportunity to deepen collaboration with counties and explore new areas of partnership for mutual benefit," said Ms. Wasike. "We are confident that these discussions will lead to impactful joint actions that support job creation and economic growth."

Aden Noor Ali, Chairperson of the National Industrial Training Board (NITB), reiterated the Board's commitment to steering NITA toward sustainability, quality assurance, and global competitiveness. He called for enhanced collaboration among national and county governments, the private sector, and international

partners to broaden the reach and impact of NITA's work.

According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Kenya's long-term goal is to build a globally competitive and adaptive human resource base capable of driving rapid industrialization. However, the Ministry warned that the growing mismatch between skills produced and those demanded in the labour market could derail this vision if not addressed with urgency.

The Diesel Imperative: Why Energy Physics Demands We Accept Fossil Fuel Permanence Despite Climate Ambitions

Contd from page 18

need frequent replacement due to demanding duty cycles. Additionally, the recycling infrastructure for battery systems remains underdeveloped compared to the established recycling systems for metal components in conventional engines.

The path forward requires acknowledging that energy transitions occur over geological time scales, not political cycles, and are constrained by physics rather than policy preferences. Rather than pursuing the impossible goal of complete diesel elimination, rational energy policy

should focus on maximizing diesel efficiency, developing synthetic diesel fuels from renewable sources, and gradually expanding alternative technologies in applications where they can genuinely compete on performance and cost. Renewable diesel, with its cetane number between 75 and 90 compared to petroleum diesel's 40-45 range, offers superior performance characteristics while maintaining compatibility with existing infrastructure. This approach recognizes that energy security, economic stability, and environmental progress require pragmatic solutions that work within physical constraints rather than idealistic visions that ignore thermodynamic realities. The diesel imperative is not a failure of imagination or political will it is a



recognition that human civilization must operate within the boundaries established by the fundamental laws of physics, and those laws strongly

favor energy-dense liquid hydrocarbon fuels for the heavy-duty applications that sustain modern society.

The writer is a legal researcher and lawyer

Beyond The Grave: Edgar Lungu, Hakainde Hichilema, And The Political Rift That Outlived A Presidency



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande

@themkenyatimes

A Farewell Divided

When Edgar Chagwa Lungu, Zambia's sixth president, passed away in Pretoria on June 5, 2025, the announcement did more than stir the expected waves of national grief; it dramatically reopened a deep political wound that had festered for nearly a decade, refusing to heal. His death, occurring far from his homeland, marked the poignant culmination of a presidency that had been mired in considerable controversy and a post-presidency period relentlessly embattled by palpable bitterness and mutual animosity. Now, the profoundly impactful decision by his immediate family to lay him to rest in South Africa has ignited an exceptionally fierce and widespread public debate across Zambia, casting an intense, unforgiving light on the complex, often combustible, and ultimately tragic relationship that defined the interactions between Lungu and his successor, President Hakainde Hichilema. This unprecedented choice for a former head of state's final resting place has forced a national introspection into the lingering divisions.

This article delves deeply into tracing the intricate roots of a profound political rivalry that, over the years, not only transformed the very fabric of Zambian political discourse but also profoundly shaped and, at times, fractured the nation's sense of identity, ultimately influencing one of the most contentious and emotionally charged presidential farewells in the country's entire democratic history. It seeks to unpack the layers of animosity, the pivotal moments of conflict, and the enduring legacy of a political chasm that continued to widen even after one of its central figures had departed.

Origins of a Deepening Divide

The nascent seeds of deep enmity and distrust between Edgar Lungu and Hakainde Hichilema were firmly germinated in the turbulent and highly contested 2016 presidential election. Lungu, then serving as the incumbent and seeking a second full term under the banner of the ruling Patriotic Front (PF) party, narrowly secured victory over Hichilema, the formidable challenger from the opposition United Party for National Development (UPND). This victory was immediately shrouded in widespread allegations of significant electoral fraud and irregularities. Hichilema, incensed and steadfastly refusing to recognize the legitimacy

of the election outcome, defiantly labeled the entire process a "stolen mandate." This powerful and unyielding declaration from Hichilema set an immediate, uncompromising tone for what would become years of intensely adversarial and deeply polarized politics, irrevocably shaping the national narrative and the relationship between the two most prominent political figures.

The simmering rivalry between the two political titans escalated dramatically and reached a searing boiling point in April 2017, following an incident where Hichilema's motorcade allegedly failed to yield right-of-way to the presidential convoy.³ This seemingly minor traffic infraction spiraled into an extraordinary legal and political crisis when Hichilema was swiftly arrested and subsequently charged with the severe, non-bailable offense of treason. He then endured a grueling and controversial detention period, spending over 120 days incarcerated.⁴ The international community, including numerous human rights organizations and foreign governments, widely condemned the arrest as an egregious overreach of state power, with Amnesty International notably declaring Hichilema a "prisoner of conscience." While Lungu's government vehemently defended its actions, citing paramount national security concerns and the need to uphold the rule of law, a significant portion of both the local and international public perceived the arrest as a blatant and politically motivated attempt to criminalize legitimate dissent and silence a prominent opposition voice.

Following Hichilema's eventual release from prison, which occurred after significant international pressure and legal proceedings, there were conspicuously no discernible reconciliatory gestures or public displays of rapprochement between the two leaders. A particularly striking and symbolic snub that echoed through public speeches, political rallies, and even parliamentary debates was Hichilema's consistent refusal to refer to Lungu by his official title of "President." This deliberate and public omission underscored the depth of his conviction that Lungu's presidency lacked legitimate electoral foundation. Their increasingly overt and mutually acknowledged disdain for one another progressively became a defining, persistent undercurrent that not only characterized Zambia's political landscape but also permeated daily life and public discourse, creating a pervasive atmosphere of mistrust and division.

The 2021 Power Shift and an Uneasy Transition

In August 2021, Zambians headed to the polls with a quiet yet profoundly decisive urgency, reflecting a deep desire for change that had been building for years.⁵ The election witnessed an unprecedented surge in voter turnout, particularly among the nation's youth demographic, sig-



Edgar Chagwa Lungu.

naling a widespread public appetite for a new direction. Hakainde Hichilema's subsequent victory was not merely a win; it was resounding and emphatic, as he secured over 60% of the total vote. This landslide win marked one of the most dramatic and unexpected shifts in power in recent African electoral history, shattering the incumbent's grasp on power and ushering in a new political era.

Despite the obligatory public displays of civility and decorum during the official handover ceremony, an underlying current of palpable tension visibly lingered between the outgoing and incoming administrations. Lungu, initially, adopted a notably low public profile after his electoral defeat, seemingly retreating from the immediate political spotlight. However, by late 2022, he began a gradual but determined resurfacing into the realm of public political commentary. His increasingly vocal criticisms frequently centered on accusations that the new Hichilema administration was systematically persecuting his former allies and key figures from the Patriotic Front. His assertion that Zambia was "sliding into dictatorship under the guise of democracy" quickly became a potent rallying cry, resonating deeply with loyalists of the Patriotic Front and coalescing a significant segment of the opposition.

In response to Lungu's renewed political activism, the Hichilema government swiftly accused the former president of violating the provisions of the Former Presidents' Benefits Act, which stipulates that former heads of state should refrain from engaging in active politics. In a highly contentious move, Hichilema's administration took the drastic step of suspending Lungu's retirement benefits. This suspension included the withdrawal of his dedicated security detail, the cessation of housing provisions, and the revocation of diplomatic travel privileg-

es - effectively stripping him of the various entitlements and perks he had once enjoyed as a former head of state. This action, unprecedented in its scope, further inflamed the already tense relationship between the two political camps.

Lungu, in turn, staunchly maintained that his renewed public engagement was not a violation of protocol but rather a necessary act of defending Zambia's nascent democracy against what he perceived as authoritarian tendencies from the new government. He framed his actions as a patriotic duty to speak truth to power. However, his critics, including a broad spectrum of civil society watchdogs and political analysts, vehemently argued that his return to active politics was inherently destabilizing for the nation and, moreover, deeply hypocritical given his own administration's past actions. For ordinary Zambians, this escalating dispute between the former and current presidents became a stark and increasingly concerning symbol of a deepening partisan polarization within the country, a chasm that appeared to offer no clear or readily apparent off-ramp towards reconciliation or unity.

Legal Tensions and Family on Trial

The escalating political conflict between the two former adversaries soon broadened its scope, inevitably ensnaring Edgar Lungu's immediate family members and subjecting them to intense legal scrutiny. In 2023, his wife, Esther Lungu, faced serious charges alleging the irregular acquisition of state land and the laundering of significant public funds through what were purportedly charitable foundations. Concurrently, several of Lungu's children found themselves implicated in various customs violations and were scrutinized over the acquisition of luxury assets, the origins of which

were brought into question by the new administration's anti-corruption drive. These high-profile legal actions against his family significantly heightened the emotional stakes of the ongoing political feud.

Unsurprisingly, the Patriotic Front, Lungu's former party, vehemently condemned these arrests and charges, denouncing them outright as politically motivated "witch hunts" designed to harass and discredit the former first family. In stark contrast, the ruling United Party for National Development (UPND) adamantly insisted that the law was simply being applied equally and impartially to all citizens, regardless of their past political standing. Yet, in the court of public perception, the timing and nature of these arrests often appeared remarkably targeted, leading many to believe they were more an act of political vendetta than a genuine exercise in impartial vigilance against corruption, further eroding public trust in the independence of the justice system.

Adding another complex layer to the legal battle, in 2024, the Constitutional Court delivered a highly controversial ruling that declared Lungu eligible to run in future elections, dramatically reversing its own previous, definitive stance on the matter. This decision sent shockwaves through the legal and political communities. Legal experts and constitutional scholars widely decried the sudden reversal, noting that it closely followed a controversial reshuffling of senior judges within the judiciary, raising significant questions about judicial independence. President Hichilema's conspicuous silence on the perceived lack of ju-

Beyond The Grave: Edgar Lungu, Hakainde Hichilema, And The Political Rift That Outlived A Presidency

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dicial independence following this ruling prompted widespread criticism, though he publicly maintained that “the judiciary speaks for itself,” implying non-interference. For Lungu’s ardent supporters, this eligibility ruling was hailed as a monumental vindication, affirming his right to participate in the democratic process. However, for his detractors and those concerned about the rule of law, it was a dangerous flash-point that only served to reinforce profound fears of an impending constitutional crisis, with the judiciary seemingly bending to political pressures. Bolstered by this favourable ruling, Lungu began to subtly hint at a political comeback, even as worrying reports concerning his deteriorating health began to emerge, adding a poignant dimension to his political ambitions.

The Final Journey: Illness and Exile

As 2024 drew to a close, concerning reports began to emerge from sources close to Edgar Lungu’s family, indicating that the former president was battling a severe and progressively worsening degenerative heart condition. While detailed information remained deliberately sparse, it became increasingly apparent that his critical medical state necessitated advanced cardiovascular care, a level of specialized treatment that was, regrettably, unavailable within Zambia’s medical facilities. Tensions, already running high, flared dramatically when it was publicly revealed that Lungu had reportedly been denied official government clearance for international medical treatment that would have been sponsored by the state, as is typically accorded to former heads of state. This denial immediately sparked outrage among his supporters and further fueled accusations of political malice.

Consequently, with his medical trip privately funded, Lungu departed Zambia for Pretoria, South Africa, where he was immediately admitted to a highly specialized cardiovascular facility, underscoring the severity of his condition. During this period, persistent rumors swirled within political circles and among the public, suggesting that there had been deliberate and politically motivated delays in facilitating his medical evacuation. While the Zambian presidency vehemently denied any interference, attributing any delays to standard bureaucratic processes, some prominent figures within the opposition explicitly accused state security agencies of actively obstructing Lungu’s timely departure for life-saving treatment, deepening the narrative of persecution.

Tragically, on June 5, 2025, Edgar Lungu’s life came to an end in Pretoria - a city many miles removed from the iconic presidential hill

in Lusaka and far from the vibrant capital city he had once governed.⁶ His death in foreign land served as a stark, symbolic reminder of the bitter political rift that had shadowed his final years, preventing him from seeking solace and healing in his own country.

A Funeral Disputed

Almost immediately following the announcement of Edgar Lungu’s death, a profound diplomatic and domestic impasse erupted, adding yet another contentious chapter to his complex legacy. The Zambian government promptly announced a national 10-day period of mourning and, in adherence to established protocol for a former head of state, unveiled comprehensive plans for a full state funeral, complete with elaborate military honors. The proposed arrangements included Lungu’s body lying in state at the National Assembly for public viewing and a solemn burial at the prestigious Embassy Park Presidential Burial Site, the designated resting place for Zambia’s former leaders. However, in a truly unprecedented and deeply symbolic move, the Lungu family unequivocally objected to these state-led arrangements.⁷

Speaking through their designated spokesperson, the family delivered a stunning revelation: the late president had, in his meticulously prepared last will and testament, explicitly requested not to be buried “under the care of any administration presided over by Hakainde Hichilema.” The family cited a confluence of reasons for this extraordinary request, including profound and long-standing security concerns, an entrenched mistrust of the current government, and a deeply personal and heartfelt desire for the former president to rest in a “place of healing, not hostility.” This declaration publicly exposed the raw, unhealed wounds of the political feud. Consequently, the Lungu family refused to release the body to Zambian authorities for repatriation and state burial.⁸ Instead, they coordinated directly with Pretoria-based funeral directors, bypassing official channels. On June 20, 2025, in a quiet yet defiantly symbolic act, Lungu was interred in a private ceremony at the Westpark Cemetery in South Africa.⁹ High-profile officials from the Patriotic Front were conspicuously in attendance, while the official Zambian government delegation was notably and pointedly absent, further underscoring the profound chasm between the former president’s loyalists and the current administration.

In response to the family’s actions and the private burial, President Hichilema, clearly signaling the government’s displeasure and a desire to move past the contentious issue, declared the national mourning period over two days earlier than initially planned. In a terse and carefully worded public address, Hichilema urged Zambian citizens to “honor the past by focusing on the future,” adding a pointed remark that “unity



President Hakainde Hichilema.

must not be sacrificed to ego.” The message was unambiguous: the nation needed to move on from the divisive legacy of the past. This pronouncement was met with mixed reactions; some perceived it as a statesmanlike call for national healing and forward-looking pragmatism, while others viewed it as cold, indifferent, and insensitive to the rawness of national grief and the deep emotional attachment many still held for the departed leader. Ultimately, the entire funeral process, from the family’s refusal to the private burial and the president’s truncated mourning period, became a poignant and undeniable mirror reflecting the nation’s unresolved wounds and deep-seated political divisions.

A Legacy of Division, and a Symbolic Burial

Edgar Lungu’s burial in South Africa marked a truly historical first for Zambia: never before had a former Zambian head of state been laid to rest outside the nation’s borders since its independence. This unprecedented event immediately drew significant comparisons to the contentious burial of Zimbabwe’s former leader, Robert Mugabe, whose own family had similarly resisted state burial plans, opting for a private interment over a public hero’s acre. The parallels highlighted a growing trend in African politics where personal and familial wishes clash with state protocol, especially when post-presidency relations are fraught.

To some Zambians, particularly his ardent supporters and those who felt disenfranchised by the current government, Lungu’s burial abroad was seen as a dignified and powerful assertion of autonomy - a final, poignant act of protest against what they perceived as persistent humiliation and persecution by the Hichilema administration. It was framed as a courageous choice to find peace away from political hostility. Conversely, for many others, including

those aligned with the current government and a segment of the public who prioritized national symbolism, it was widely perceived as a profound betrayal of patriotism, an act that deprived the nation of collective closure and the symbolic reconciliation that a state funeral at home could have provided. This deeply split public opinion underscored the fragmented national identity that had emerged from the Lungu-Hichilema rivalry.

Across various platforms, Zambians from all political divides debated the issue fiercely and passionately. On social media, sentiments ranged dramatically from profound grief and sorrow at the loss of a former leader to outright vindication and relief, with some arguing that his legacy of division justified the unusual burial. Civil society groups, recognizing the potential for further national polarization, earnestly urged both political camps to rise above what they termed “petty vendettas.” They issued stark warnings that “a fractured past must not define a fractured future,” emphasizing the critical need for national unity and healing, lest the contentious burial exacerbate existing divisions.

Conclusion: What the Rift Reveals

The enduring political conflict between Edgar Lungu and Hakainde Hichilema was always far more than a mere personal animosity between two powerful individuals; it was a profound reflection of the high-stakes, intricate nature of Zambia’s ongoing democratic evolution. This rivalry laid bare the deep-seated truth that in Zambia, transitions of power carry not only immense symbolic weight but also significant structural implications, capable of reshaping the very foundations of governance and national identity. The consistent bitterness and lack of reconciliation between the two leaders highlighted the fragility of democratic norms when personal grudges

intertwine with political authority, often overshadowing the crucial tenets of peaceful coexistence and respect for institutions.

Lungu’s unprecedented burial in foreign soil is thus far more than a simple logistical footnote in Zambia’s historical records. It stands as a powerful and somber national parable about the devastating cost of entrenched political grudges, illustrating how personal animosities can poison the well of public discourse and prevent national healing. It speaks to the inherent fragility of institutional memory, as the nation grapples with how to remember and honor a leader whose final act was one of deliberate separation from his homeland’s official embrace. Most profoundly, it underscores the deep, palpable yearning for unity that pervades a country which, despite its democratic progress, so often appears to bend and strain under the immense, persistent weight of its internal divisions and unresolved historical wounds. The decision to bury Lungu abroad forces Zambians to confront the very real consequences of sustained political animosity, extending beyond a president’s term and even beyond his life.

As Zambians collectively reflect on this extraordinary and deeply symbolic moment - a former president laid to rest far from the soil he once governed - a quiet, yet profoundly unsettling question continues to linger in the national consciousness: Can the nation genuinely bury its deep-seated enmities and move towards a more cohesive future, or will these divisive political grudges continue to rise - again and again - from the symbolically unmarked graves of political pride, perpetually haunting Zambia’s journey towards genuine reconciliation and sustained unity? The answer remains uncertain, suspended in the balance of future political actions and the collective will of the Zambian people to overcome their fractured past.

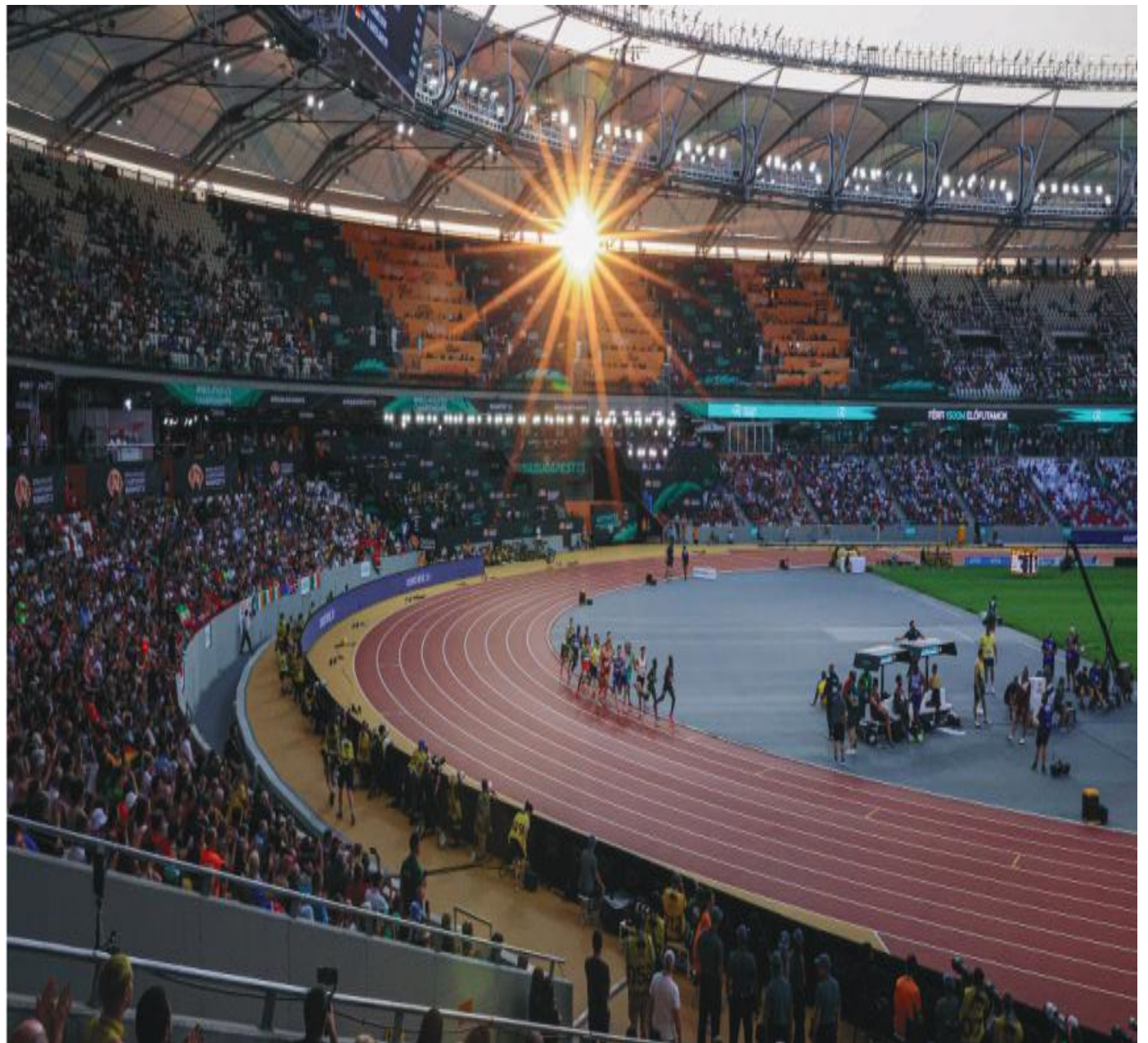
Sports >> *The bidding process for the 2029 and 2031 editions of the World Athletics Championships is now open.

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Bidding Process For 2029 And 2031 World Athletics Championships Launches



The bidding process for the 2029 and 2031 editions of the World Athletics Championships is now open.

Stakeholders from member federations and host institutions who are interested in hosting or learning more about organising either of these events should read the bid guide for the 2029 and 2031 World Athletics Championships, then fill out and submit the bid pre-qualification form,

which is accessible through the World Athletics Library.

The bidding process is set out in the bidding calendar.

The pre-qualification form submission deadline for both events is 1 October 2025.

The World Athletics Championships are among the most prominent major international athletic competitions worldwide.

As part of the process, World Athletics invites member feder-

ations and host institution stakeholders interested in hosting the World Athletics Championships 2029 / 2031 to participate in its observer programme at the World Athletics Championships Tokyo 25 in September.

The 20th edition of the World Athletics Championships will be held from 13th to 21st September this year in Tokyo, and the next World Athletics Championships will be held in Beijing in 2027.

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Sports >>> *The 1st Junior Roll Ball World Cup kicked off yesterday at the iconic Kasarani Stadium in Nairobi, with a proud moment for Tharaka Nithi County as one of its own, Shaniz Kendi, took to the court wearing national colours

Tharaka Nithi's Shaniz Kendi Shines At Junior Roll Ball World Cup



Ms Shaniz Kendi, a student from Iruma Girls' High School in Tharaka Nithi County representing Kenya at Junior Roll Ball World Cup at Kasarani Stadium. Photos/Alex Njeru.



From left: Tharaka Nithi County CECM Youths and Sports Moreen Nyambura and Ms Shaniz Kendi, a student from Iruma Girls' High School in Tharaka Nithi County representing Kenya at Junior Roll Ball World Cup at Kasarani Stadium.



Roll Ball World Cup players at Kasarani Stadium.

By Alex Njeru and Victoria Mwende

The 1st Junior Roll Ball World Cup kicked off yesterday at the iconic Kasarani Stadium in Nairobi, with a proud moment for Tharaka Nithi County as one of its own, Shaniz Kendi, took to the court wearing national colours and representing Kenya on the global stage.

The opening ceremony was graced by several leaders among them Tharaka Nithi County Sports and Youths CECM Moreen Nyambura, who expressed the county government's unwavering commitment to nurturing young talent and investing in youth empowerment. Speaking at the event, Nyambura

highlighted the need for counties across the country to prioritize sports development as a key pillar of youth transformation and national pride.

Kendi, a bright student at Iruma Girls' Secondary School in Chogoria Ward, Maara Constituency, has emerged as one of the stand-out players in Kenya's junior Roll Ball squad.

Her journey to the world stage is a testimony to the untapped potential in rural and marginalized areas — and a call to action for more structured support systems to grow such talent.

"Kendi's participation is not just a personal achievement; it is a reflection of what our youth can achieve when given the opportunity and support," said CECM

Nyambura. "We are immensely proud of her and we celebrate her as a beacon of hope and inspiration for many others."

With Roll Ball still gaining traction in Kenya, Kendi's presence at the World Cup amplifies the importance of investing in diverse sports disciplines and giving young people platforms to thrive.

Her success serves as a reminder that with mentorship, exposure, and encouragement, youth from every corner of the country can rise to the highest levels of achievement.

As the tournament continues through June 28, Shaniz and her teammates are not only chasing victory but also carrying the dreams of their communities with them. The people of Tharaka Nithi

County, and indeed the entire nation, will be watching with pride and anticipation.

In the words of CECM Nyambura, "Let us continue to invest in and uplift our young talents — for they are the champions of tomorrow."

The Governor Muthomi Njuki led government is also upgrading stadiums across the three constituencies; Tharaka Maara and Chuka/Igambang'ombe to ensure that youths have facilities for sharpening their sporting talents.

Last week, Ms Nyambura went round the county issuing footballs to primary schools learners as a way of nurturing the young talents.

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Transforming Lives Through Movement, Sound, Love



By: Anila Bukhari
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Aire's speaking engagements are highly sought after, and she has had the privilege of sharing her message on various platforms, including the Hollywood Luxury Gala, Women Who Speak, EmpowerHer, She Rises Studios, Fenix TV, Wild Women Summit, Empowering Mamas, and the live dating game show "Up to Date" at EDC Las Vegas. Her charisma and presence have also been featured in the Red-Carpet Series, where she has interviewed A-list celebrities and industry leaders.
- In addition to her work as a speaker and author, Aire is a pioneer in the field of therapeutic dance and sound healing. She leads workshops and retreats around the world, using the power of movement and sound to help others heal and connect with their inner selves.

Biography:

Aire Stillman is a trailblazing figure in the world of wellness and empowerment. As a best-selling author, dynamic speaker, and wellness consultant, she has dedicated her life to helping others heal from trauma, stress, and anxiety through the transformative power of dance.

With a passion that knows no bounds, Aire has become a leading voice in fostering healthy human connection, empowering women, and cultivating loving, purpose-driven communities. Her work has been recognized globally, and she has been honored with numerous awards for her contributions to the field of wellness and women's empowerment.

As the acclaimed best-selling author of "Reflections of Unconditional Love," Aire's writing has been featured in various publications, including WILMA Magazine, P.O.W.E.R., The Hollywood Elite, ES Lifestyle Consulting, Go Girl, and WTRK. Her work as an awarded writer for the "Women of Empowerment" award by POWER and the California State Senate has earned her a reputation as a thought leader in her field.

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In addition to her work as a speaker and author, Aire is a pioneer in the field of therapeutic dance and sound healing. She leads workshops and retreats around the world, using the power of movement and sound to help others heal and connect with their inner selves. Her mission is to build bridges between creative worlds and healing spaces, bringing light, love, and liberation to every

community she touches.

Through her work, Aire has created a ripple effect of positivity and empowerment, inspiring countless individuals to live more fully, authentically, and joyfully. Her dedication to her craft is evident in everything she does, from her captivating stage presence to her heartfelt writing.

As a wellness consultant, Aire works with individuals and organizations to help them cultivate healthy, purpose-driven lives. Her approach is holistic, incorporating elements of dance, sound, and mindfulness to promote deep healing and transformation. Her work has been transformative for many, and she continues to inspire others to embark on their own journeys of self-discovery and growth.

Aire's impact extends far beyond her professional endeavors. She is a beacon of hope and inspiration for those around her, and her presence is a reminder that we all have the power to create positive change in our lives and in the world. Through her work, she continues to touch hearts, minds, and souls, leaving a lasting legacy that will be felt for generations to come.

In a world that often values productivity over presence, Aire's work is a powerful reminder of the importance of slowing down, tuning in, and embracing our true selves. Her message is one of love, acceptance, and empowerment, and it resonates deeply with those who are fortunate enough to encounter her.

As Aire 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 purpose, passion, and service, and her work will undoubtedly inspire countless others to do the same. With her infectious enthusiasm and compassionate heart, Aire Stillman is a force for good in the world, and her legacy will be felt for years to come.

Aire's journey is a testament to the power of dedication, hard work, and a willingness to follow one's heart. Her story serves as a reminder that we all have the capacity to create meaningful change in the world, and



Aire Stillman

that our passions and talents can be a powerful catalyst for growth and transformation.

In conclusion, Aire Stillman is a remarkable individual who has made a profound impact in the world of wellness and empowerment. Through her writing, speaking, and healing work, she continues to inspire others 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.

With her unique blend of creativity, compassion, and expertise, Aire is poised to continue making a lasting impact in the world. Her dedication to her craft and her commitment to empowering others are an inspiration to us all, and her work will undoubtedly continue to inspire and uplift countless individuals around the globe.