



Escalation And Strategy: Analyzing The United States-Iran Tensions Amid Military Strikes

The longstanding tensions between the United States and Iran have once again surged into the global spotlight. What was once a cold standoff, interspersed with diplomacy and sanctions, has now entered a new phase with direct military confrontation. The latest events in June 2025 signal more than a flashpoint - they raise fundamental questions about U.S. strategy, regional security, and the future of the Iranian state. Page 20

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News>> Kindiki Name In Tharaka Nithi Budget Controversy Sparks Uproar As Motion Is Withdrawn

P. 8. Tensions are escalating in Tharaka Nithi County after a group of Members of County Assembly (MCAs) opposed to the Ksh6.8 billion 2025/2026 budget

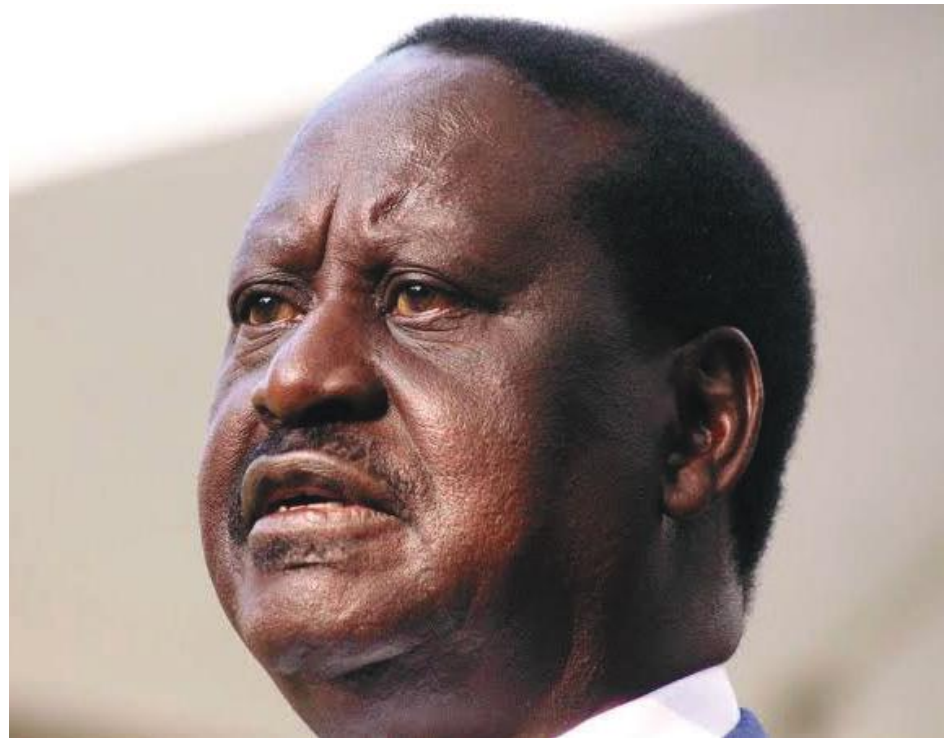


News>> National Assembly Committee Takes Action On Leadership Confusion At KNH And Failure By KEMSA Witnesses To Appear

P. 12. The Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration and Agriculture (PIC-SSAA), chaired by Navakholo MP Emmanuel Wangwe, for a second time has raised serious concerns over the leadership confusion at Kenyatta National Hospital

ODM Endorses Today's Protest

The Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party leader Raila Odinga has called on the government to allow today's planned demonstrations - driven largely by the country's Gen Z - to go on as scheduled, so long as they are peaceful and lawful. In a statement released yesterday evening by ODM Director of Communications Philip Etale, Mr. Odinga emphasized that the right to protest is protected under Article 37 of the Constitution, provided it is exercised within the confines of the law.



ODM leader Raila Odinga

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DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY
Mwamko Mpya

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Launch Of The People's Restorative Justice Commission

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

A new Commission with the mandate of unearthing atrocious activities metted on Kenyans by Kenya administration was yesterday launched by opposition leaders. The People's Restorative Justice Commission will be chaired by former Attorney General Justin Muturi who will work with three Commissioners; Makueni Senator Dan Maanzo, political activist Fred Ogolla and Asha Bashir. They were all sworn in during a ceremony that was witnessed by; former Vice President and Wiper party leader Kalonzo Musyoka, former Cabinet Secretary and DPAK party leader Eugene Wamalwa among others. Muturi noted that once they complete compiling information and evidence, they will be at liberty to privately prosecute those incriminated without seeking the approval of the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. "This moment marks the beginning of a solemn journey, one rooted in the painful reality that, for too long, we have normalized impunity through phrases like "forgive and forget" or "accept and move on." But for the families who have lost their loved ones, those gunned down in broad daylight, there is no moving on without justice. No nation can build lasting peace by burying truth beneath silence," Muturi said after being sworn by a team that included lawyer Ndegwa Njiru.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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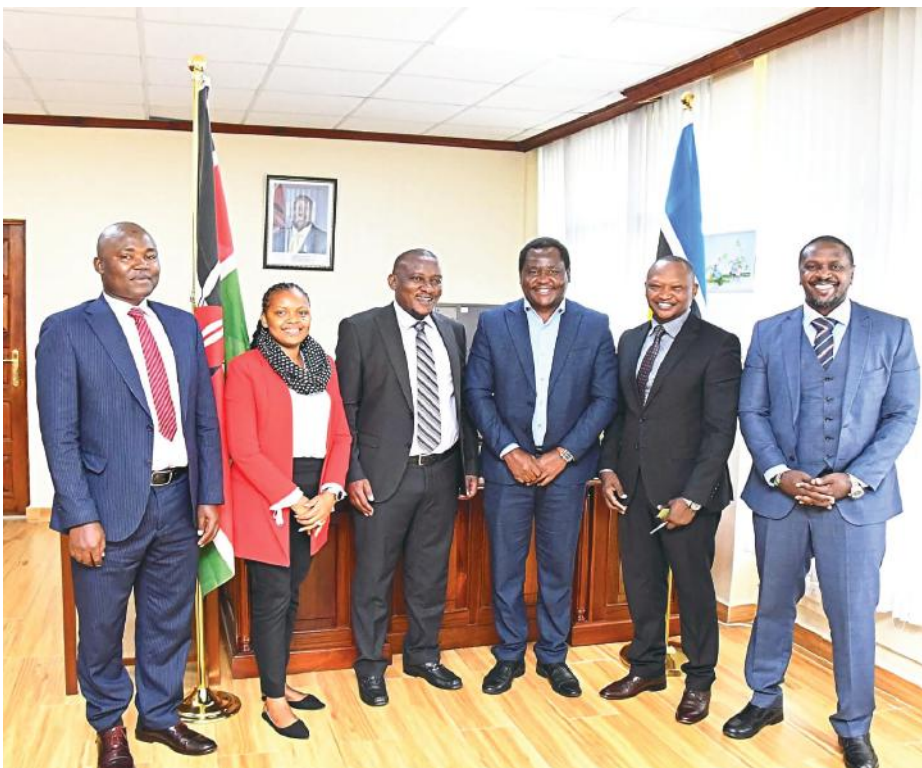
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NEWS IN BRIEF



The UDA Party Youth League have called on those taking part in today's demonstrations to exercise restraint even as they exercise their constitutional right to assemble. They said while they have no problems with the planned protests to commemorate the unfortunate events of June 25, 2024, the same must be conducted within the confined of law as enshrined in Article 37 of the Constitution. They said violence from any quarter, be it from the police or the protesting civilians is unacceptable urging the government to support civil societies, political parties and religious leaders in fostering peace, understanding and tolerance. They cautioned against infiltration of the protests by self-seeking politicians and other "scavengers" who will be working towards their selfish goals.



Kenya has launched the Kenya Pfizer Accord, a transformative initiative that will reduce the cost of over 140 essential medicines used to treat diabetes, cancer, and infectious diseases by up to 60 per cent. This move will significantly expand access to life-saving treatment in public hospitals. The partnership was officially unveiled in Nairobi by Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Dr. Ouma Oluga, and Pfizer Global President for Emerging Markets, Mr. Nick Lagunowich. Dr. Oluga noted that the Ministry of Health is committed to ensuring affordable, equitable care through reforms aligned with Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Some medicines under the Accord will cost as drastically, making them accessible to more Kenyans. In addition to expanding access to medicines, the Ministry will invest in competence-based in-service training to retrain healthcare workers, reduce negligence, and improve patient outcomes. Plans also include boosting clinical research and trials to support evidence-based care and local innovation. Reforms such as the Social Health Authority and a new Health Law on Quality Care currently under public participation will anchor these changes and ensure long-term sustainability of the healthcare system. Mr. Lagunowich praised the Ministry's leadership, "This Accord reflects our shared belief that everyone should have access to quality medicines, regardless of income or location. We are proud to partner with Kenya to advance sustainable health outcomes." The Kenya-Pfizer Accord is a major step in strengthening the country's health system and delivering inclusive, resilient healthcare for all.



Tourists are arriving in large numbers at the Maasai Mara National Reserve as the annual Great Wildebeest Migration gets underway. Narok Governor Patrick Ole Ntutu has assured visitors of their safety, citing enhanced security and improved infrastructure across camps, lodges, and cultural sites. Ntutu emphasised the significance of the season, calling it a vital economic and cultural event for both the county and the country. The migration, which typically runs from June through September, draws global attention as nearly three million wildebeests, zebras, and gazelles move from Tanzania's Serengeti into Kenya in search of greener pastures. Tourism activity is already picking up at facilities like Mara SOPA Lodge, where General Manager Ludi Ogot noted a surge in bookings and visitor enthusiasm. The season is also boosting local livelihoods, with vendors, guides, and performers benefiting from increased tourist spending. According to recent data, Narok County alone generates over Sh 2.5 billion annually from tourism-related activities, contributing a significant share to Kenya's tourism revenue.



Nyeri County Assembly nominated MCA, Ms Agnes Wachira (centre) being congratulated by her colleagues and Assembly Speaker Gichuhi Mwangi (right) for being recognized as the best nominated Woman MCA in Kenya and outstanding nominated Woman in Central Kenya region by the Independent Kenya Women Awards (IKWA).



The African Development Bank has commenced its supervision for the Green Zones Development Support Project Phase II, which are run by the Kenya Forest Service. The activities will be led by ADB Task Manager Onsesmus Maina and Winnie Wairimu. The mission team will conduct field visits across the country to assess the project's achievements and their impact since their inception. Speaking when the ADB visited to KFS Headquarters at Karura to start off the supervision, the Project Manager Alfred Kurgat, presented a detailed report on the achievements of the project which is funded by the ADB.

By George Mugo



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- LET'S MAKE NAIROBI WORK -

County Seeks To Unlock Sh3B Potential In Poultry Sub-Sector

By: Esther Mwangi and Esther Otieno

@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

• Governor Susan Kihika said through the project, more than 100 women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWD) groups in Menengai East Ward within Nakuru Town East Sub-county had received 13,000 one-month-old improved 'Kienyeji' chicks under the clarion call 'Improved Local Chicken Stimulus Project for economic vitality'.

• She added that the initiative was part of her administration's ongoing broader agricultural empowerment agenda, aimed at enhancing food security, increasing household incomes and promoting inclusive growth.

Nakuru County has unveiled a programme that encourages smallholder poultry farmers to use the dual-purpose breeds that will address the challenges of poor breeds and low production.

The initiative is aimed at unlocking the County's estimated potential of KSh3 billion in the sub-sector.

Governor Susan Kihika said through the project, more than 100 women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWD) groups in Menengai East Ward within Nakuru Town East Sub-county had received 13,000 one-month-old improved 'Kienyeji' chicks under the clarion call 'Improved Local Chicken Stimulus Project for economic vitality'.

She added that the initiative was part of her administration's ongoing broader agricultural empowerment agenda, aimed at enhancing food security, increasing household incomes and promoting inclusive growth.

The governor further said that all the beneficiaries had received basic training in poultry care and would get further support from ward livestock officers to help in improving breeding and multiplication of their indigenous chickens.

She explained that the project was designed to promote urban agriculture while ensuring the use of limited available space to feed the growing population in urban centers.

"Our ultimate goal is to achieve food security and nutrition as well as create employment for the vulnerable groups," Ms Kihika elaborated.

She voiced her administration's commitment to improving the livelihoods of Nakuru residents, particularly women, persons living with disabili-



ties and youth, to enable them to take care of their needs and those of their families.

The programme, Ms Kihika further said, targets to have farmers rear improved Kienyeji Chicken varieties that start laying eggs only five months after being hatched and produce an average meat weight of 1.5kg, while a cock should weigh at least 2 kg.

She said farmers were expected to use the dual-purpose breeds to improve their local chicken in addition to increasing their production, which she added will help address challenges of poor breeds and low production while at the same time generating income for the communities.

To ensure that the smallholder farmers realise optimum production, the county boss said her government had

attached veterinary and livestock extension officers to the project to help equip the breeders with necessary technical advice, such as how to feed the birds and administer vaccines.

Last year poultry farmers in Nakuru netted over Sh 875 million from the sale of 67 million eggs.

A further Sh 489 million was earned from the sale of 825 tonnes and 340 tonnes of chicken and turkey meat, respectively.

Agricultural experts have indicated that the earnings could exceed Sh 3 billion if farmers receive disease-resistant birds that mature quickly.

Statistics from the Ministry of Agriculture indicate that Kenya has an estimated poultry population of 31 million birds.

Out of these, 75 per cent consist of

indigenous chickens, 22 per cent of broilers and layers and one per cent of breeding stock.

The traditional chicken is mostly kept in rural areas, while layers and broilers are mainly reared in the urban areas.

Nakuru now has approximately 1.5 million indigenous chickens, 18,300 improved Kienyeji breed, 212,200 layers, 275,900 broilers, 44,000 turkeys, 73,000 ducks and 14,500 geese.

The County is exploring the possibility of intensifying poultry vaccination in order to cushion small-scale farmers against the high vaccination costs as well as the high cases of disease outbreaks.

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Letters To My Future Self: What Our Students Wish Adults Understood



By: William Mwangi
@themkenyatimes

There is a powerful statement that is frequently being used by teenagers “I don’t even like scrolling anymore... it just feels better than talking.”

They are not being rude or trying to avoid schoolwork. They are just overwhelmed. They are not trying to escape their responsibilities. They are just looking for a place to breathe.

The only place they feel heard or accepted is on a screen, not across the dining table, or in a classroom.

So many of our teenagers are hiding. In the glow of social media,

Behind “I’m fine.” Behind sarcasm, side-eyes, silence.

Not because they are uninterested in us, their parents and teachers, but because they do not feel understood by us. They have learned that it is safer to mask emotions than to risk being dismissed, misunderstood, or told, “When I was your age...”

It is not that we adults do not care.

We do. Desperately. But often, in our desire to protect, guide or correct, we forget to do the simplest thing: listen, and do not judge.

Recently, during a reflective writing exercise, one of our students from Crawford International School, Rafael, wrote to his future self: “I hope you remember how hard it was to be 17 and scared of being average. I hope you remember how you smiled in public and fell apart in private. Please, future me, don’t make your child feel like they need to earn love.”

Another, Nyambura, penned this: “One day, you’ll be the mum. Just promise you’ll ask, ‘How are you

really?’ and then wait for the real answer. Not the polite one.”

These are not attention-seekers. These are young people quietly longing for connection. It is easy to miss these moments when we focus only on performance. But children are not only learners. They are becoming. They are forming identities, negotiating peer pressure, battling self-doubt, and quietly wondering if they are enough.

Sometimes, we mistake rebellion for rudeness, and detachment for disinterest. But let me tell you: I’ve met the “disinterested” ones. They’re often the most thoughtful — just too wounded to risk vulnerability again. When adults react with punishment rather than curiosity, students learn to disappear.

Where do they go?

They hide in plain sight. In long showers. In overly loud music. In hours of YouTube. In watching others live, because they feel frozen in their

own stories. In group chats that offer them humour and honesty — things they wish they had at the dinner table. And sometimes, sadly, they hide in perfection. In getting top grades not out of passion, but because it is the only time their parents say, “Well done.”

We must ask ourselves honestly: Do our children feel safer online than at home? Do they feel freer with strangers than with us?

This is not a guilt trip. Parenting is hard. In fact, parenting is the one job we’re thrown into with no formal training, no induction course, no 90-day probation. And teenagers don’t come with user manuals. They come with moods, playlists, hormones, and hard questions like “Why do I exist?” — usually asked at bedtime.

We can learn to pause before reacting. To say, “That sounds tough” instead of “Get over it.” We can unlearn the belief that authority equals distance. We can relearn the beauty of presence — the kind that does not

rush to fix, but chooses to sit, breathe and understand.

We will not always say the right things. But our children are not asking for perfect parents. They are asking for honest ones. For ones who say, “I’m learning too.” For ones who can admit, “I didn’t get it right yesterday, but I want to do better today.” The truth is teenagers are listening, watching, waiting for parents to stop performing adulthood and start living it. To take off the masks and meet them, not with lectures, but with listening.

In the words of one final student letter:

“Dear future me, remember — they were not hard to love. You just forgot how to listen.”

William Mwangi is a Careers Advisor and Principal of Senior School, Crawford International School

Time To Log In: Why Chuka University Must Rethink Its Communication Strategy In The Digital Age

By: Dorcas Njoki
@themkenyatimes

In an age where digital communication is reshaping every facet of modern life, universities are under increasing pressure to adapt—or risk being left behind.

Recently, Kenyatta University made a bold yet necessary move by mandating the use of official student emails for all academic correspondence.

The decision is aimed at improving clarity, professionalism, and accountability by ensuring that students receive accurate and timely communication directly through institutional channels.

However, Chuka University still relies heavily on traditional communication methods—internal memos and physical notices—which often fall short of their intended purpose.

Typically, official memos are sent to faculty representatives, who then forward them to class representatives.

The assumption is that class reps will disseminate this information to their peers. But in reality, this chain of communication is riddled with inefficiencies.

How many times have students stumbled upon a notice days after it was issued? And how often do urgent updates get lost because a class rep was busy, unavailable, or simply forgot to share the information?

In many cases, critical announcements are posted on campus notice boards in locations that most students rarely visit—such as outside the finance office or administrative buildings.

This outdated system is not only unreliable but also alienates students who are off-campus, have classes in different faculties, or juggle other responsibilities. Important announcements, academic schedules, or fee deadlines often go unnoticed, leading to confusion, missed deadlines, and misdirected inquiries.

It’s time Chuka University embraced the tools of the digital age.

With nearly every student active on WhatsApp and other messaging



Chuka University

platforms, the university has a clear opportunity to adopt real-time, personalized, and direct communication methods.

Dedicated WhatsApp groups for academic units, automated SMS alerts, and official student email systems could drastically improve how information flows within the institution.

Official student emails also enhance

accountability and uphold the university’s institutional credibility. They offer a secure, traceable, and professional medium for academic interactions, reducing the risk of miscommunication and lost correspondence.

While notice boards and physical memos may have served their purpose in the past, they no longer meet the demands of today’s dynamic aca-

demical environment. To stay relevant and effective, Chuka University must transition to modern communication tools that reflect the realities of student life and digital engagement.

The future of university communication is digital—and Chuka University should not be left behind.

Kindiki Name In Tharaka Nithi Budget Controversy Sparks Uproar As Motion Is Withdrawn

By: Alex Njeru
@themkenyetimes

Tensions are escalating in Tharaka Nithi County after a group of Members of County Assembly (MCAs) opposed to the Ksh6.8 billion 2025/2026 budget dragged Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki's name into the political standoff, demanding he intervenes to remove Governor Muthomi Njuki before the next general election.

The budget, which was expected to be tabled for debate yesterday was dramatically withdrawn by the Budget and Appropriations Committee Chairperson, Karingani MCA Godfrey Murithi, following signs of external forces.

Speaking during a press briefing shortly after the withdrawal, Mithuru MCA Nebert Kinuthia, who has been vocal in opposing the budget, accused DP Kindiki of being responsible for Governor Njuki's political rise and urged him to "kill his cat."

"We are asking DP Kindiki to make sure that Governor Njuki goes home because he is the one who brought him to us," Kinuthia said.

Kinuthia was flanked by fellow dissenting MCAs including Njeru Ingara (Igambang'ombe), Kennedy Kamunyu (Marimanti), Gitonga Kithuka (Nkondi), Luke Marengo (Mukothima), Jacob Kiriko (Kugwe), and Jones Kinegeni (Mwimbi).

The group had just returned to the county from a hotel in Isiolo, where they had reportedly retreated since Sunday to plan on how to vote against the budget.

However, MCAs supporting the budget were quick to condemn the remarks, warning against politicizing national leadership for local power plays. Murithi, along with Magumoni MCA Justin Kithinji, Ganga MCA Libeth Gatiria, and Mariani MCA Anita Mbae, criticized their counterparts for involving the Deputy President in county-level wrangles.

"Though Prof Kindiki comes from Tharaka Nithi, it is wrong to drag his name into county disagreements. He is a national leader whom we should respect so that other Kenyans can emulate us," said Murithi.

Kithinji added that the Deputy President should be seen as a unifying figure, not a tool to settle scores within the county assembly.

"Prof Kindiki is a respected leader. He should not be used to intimidate or threaten Governor Njuki," Kithinji asserted.

Mariani MCA Anita Mbae directed her frustrations toward the absentee Senator Mwenda Gataya, noting that it is his role—not the DP's—to mediate such county disputes.

"I don't know why Prof Kindiki's name is being dragged into this county issue. The person who should be intervening is Senator Gataya, who hasn't even stepped into the assembly since 2022," Mbae said.

This is not the first time Prof Kindiki's name has featured in county politics. Earlier this year, some of the same MCAs—Njeru, Kinyua, and Kamunyu—claimed Governor Njuki was not supportive of the DP, prompting Kindiki to summon county leaders to Karen, where he reportedly asked them to keep him out of local political fights.

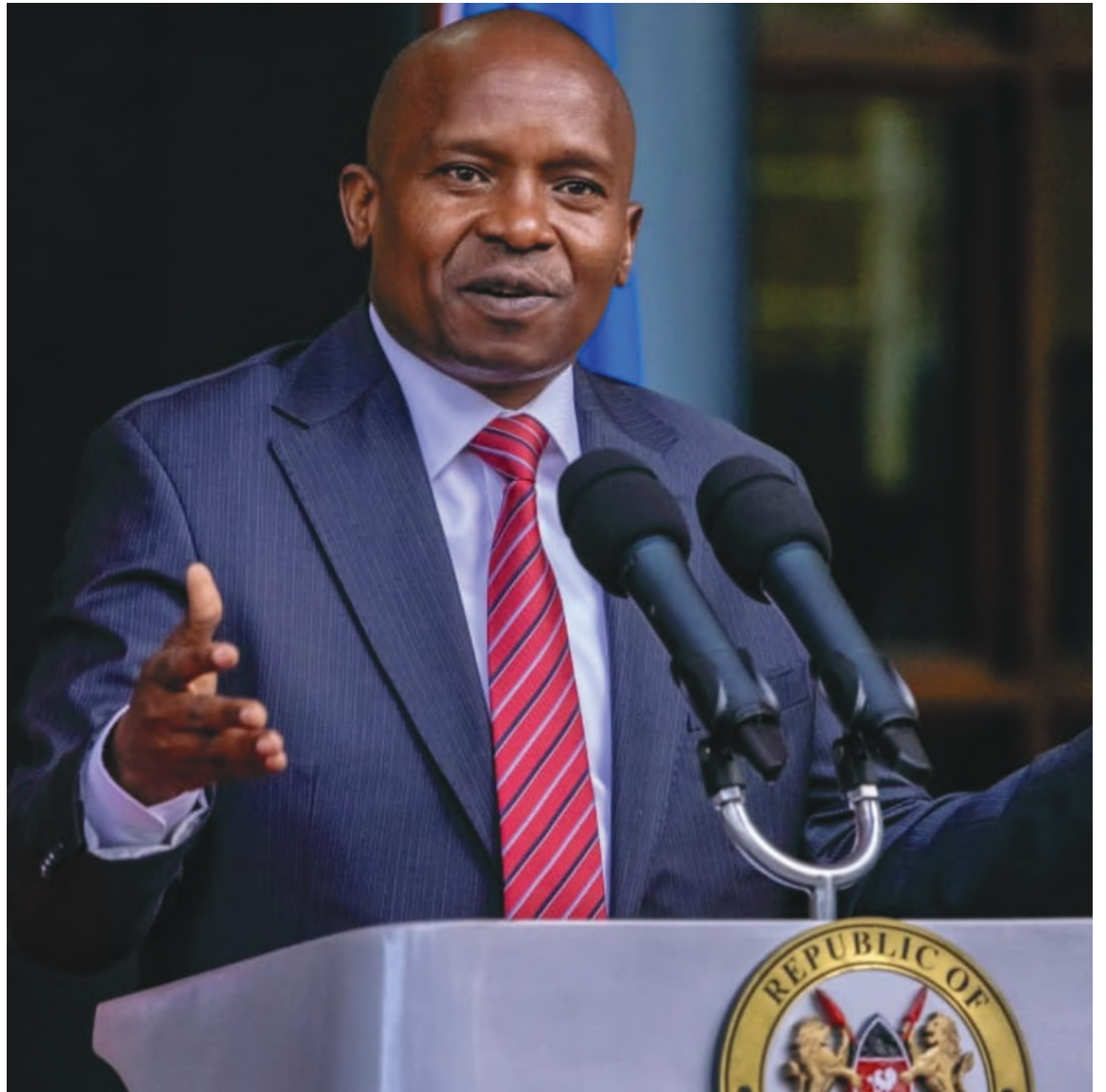
Murithi said he withdrew the budget motion not because of its technical content but due to what he perceived as a hidden political agenda cooked up during the MCAs' stay in Isiolo.

"I decided to withdraw the motion after sensing that it was not about the budget but another agenda discussed at a hotel in Isiolo," Murithi said.

Despite Murithi presenting a detailed budget report, dissenting MCAs insisted it lacked itemization aligned with sectoral committee recommendations and warned they would have voted against it had it been tabled.

The proposed budget was expected to be financed through Ksh4.66 billion in equitable share from the national government, Ksh1.6 billion in grants and loans, and Ksh585 million in own-source revenue.

The controversy now raises broader concerns over the intersection of national politics and devolved governance, with critics warning that politicizing the Deputy President's office undermines both local accountability and national unity.



Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki



Karingani Member of Tharaka Nithi County Assembly and Budget and Appropriations Committee Chairperson Godfrey Murithi reading 2025/2026 budget at chambers in Kathwana. Photo/Alex Njeru.

Raila: Let June 25 Protests Proceed, But Within The Law

By: Ian Omondi
@themkenyatimes

The Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party leader Raila Odinga has called on the government to allow today's planned demonstrations - driven largely by the country's Gen Z - to go on as scheduled, so long as they are peaceful and lawful.

In a statement released yesterday evening by ODM Director of Communications Philip Etale, Mr. Odinga emphasized that the right to protest is protected under Article 37 of the Constitution, provided it is exercised within the confines of the law.

"Demonstrators, picketing and freedom of assembly are provided for in law under Article 37 of the Constitution as long as the protesters do not deviate from the provisions of the law," read the statement.

"The law allows Kenyans to demonstrate as long as they notify the police on time and the two parties agree on the modus operandi."

Mr. Odinga cited examples from around the world where public protests were held in an organized and structured manner, urging Kenyan protesters to follow suit.

"Demonstrations are held worldwide... in Paris (France), London (UK), The Hague (Netherlands), India and even Pakistan when Israeli forces launched missile attacks on Iran. These... were done in a structured manner that did not disrupt people's daily activities and destruction of property," added the statement.

The former Prime Minister advised organisers of the Nairobi and countrywide protests to coordinate with the police on timing, routes, and end time.

"Notify the police of [your] actions, agree with them on what time they wish to start the demonstrations, which routes/streets to be used and the time to end," Mr. Odinga noted, according to the statement.

"This will allow the police time to plan on how to ensure the safety of the protesters and that of other Kenyans and their property."

Mr. Odinga said peaceful coordina-



Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga addressing the press after a consultative meeting in Homa Bay County on Thursday, February 27, 2025. Photo | Raila Odinga

tion between citizens and the police is key to upholding constitutional rights while preserving order.

"If this is done, there will be proper working relationship between the citizens and the police. The ODM party stands for peaceful demonstrations by Kenyans," the statement said.

On international matters, the ODM leader expressed deep concern over the growing tensions in the Middle East, warning of a looming global crisis.

"The world is on the brink of the Third World War," Mr. Odinga said, urging "governments across the world not to sit on the fence and take positions on the situation."

He criticized what he termed as global silence during past conflicts.

"When Israel attacked Palestinians in Gaza last year, the world was quiet about it and lives were lost as a result and hundreds of thousands displaced," the statement said.

Referring to the recent strikes in-

volving Israel, Iran and the U.S., he said global inaction could prove catastrophic: "This is not the time to be neutral... neutrality may lead to a disaster happening."

Calling for a permanent solution to the Middle East crisis, Mr. Odinga reaffirmed his support for Palestine.

"Two wrongs don't make a right... there is need to have a permanent solution to the Middle East crisis which is to have a One Free Palestinian Territory," he said.

'Kenya Deserves Better': Catholic Bishops Slam Ruto Gov't Over Rights Abuses, Misrule

By: Sam Njuguna
@themkenyatimes

The Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB) has delivered a scathing indictment of President William Ruto's government, accusing it of enabling extrajudicial killings, silencing dissent, and mismanaging public resources while ignoring the suffering of ordinary Kenyans.

In a joint statement on Tuesday, bishops of the Catholic Church's 30 dioceses across the country expressed alarm over what they described as a disturbing collapse of justice, accountability, and human dignity under the current administration.

"When those charged with upholding law and order become the source of fear and injustice, it signals a moral crisis in the State," the bishops warned.

They pointed to a pattern of mysterious disappearances, unlawful killings, and violent intimidation by security forces.

Referencing recent deaths, including those of fathers John Maim and Al-

ois Bett, activist Albert Ojwang, and the point-blank shooting of hawker Boniface Kariuki in Nairobi, the bishops demanded full investigations and prosecution of perpetrators.

"The life of every Kenyan matters. We must stop at the loss of any life and not simply 'move on'. Kenya deserves better," the bishops said.

They criticized the government's harsh crackdown on youth-led protests, particularly by Gen Z demonstrators who took to the streets last year over high taxes and lack of opportunities.

Instead of listening, the bishops said, state agencies responded with brutality, abductions, and killings.

"Our young people are not enemies of the state," the bishops said. "They are citizens with valid concerns who should be heard and supported—not harassed, silenced, or killed."

The bishops further denounced the politicization of development funds, accusing government leaders of engaging in cronyism and vote-driven giveaways while basic needs like education, healthcare, and youth empowerment remain underfunded.

"Public resources are being used for political advertisement, not nation-



Video screengrab of the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB) members addressing the press in Nairobi

al development," they said. "This entrenches corruption and deepens inequality. Governance should serve the common good—not partisan interests."

At the same time, the bishops decried what they termed as selective application of justice, saying that powerful individuals seem to be operating above the law while poor and outspoken citizens face swift punish-

ment. "This imbalance discredits our institutions and breeds resentment. The law must not be weaponized," they said.

Now, the church has called for independent investigations into human rights abuses, protection of civic space, equal application of the law, an end to rule by fear, and genuine national dialogue involving youth,

faith leaders, and civil society. "The government must stop ignoring the deaths of Kenyans. True leadership listens, heals, and restores," the bishops said.

They also urged Kenyans to remain hopeful, further telling the youth: "Your voice is vital. Remain peaceful, truthful, and courageous."

School Heads Converge In Mombasa For Annual KESSHA Meeting

By: Sitati Reagan and Amina Bakari

@themkenyatimes

The 48th Kenya Secondary School Heads Association (KESHA) Annual National Conference is taking place at Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Secondary School in Mombasa County.

The meeting that started on Monday and ends on Friday is bringing together over 7,000 school heads and 1,000 education stakeholders from across the country.

The five-day forum themed “Embracing Pathways in Senior School under the Competency-Based Education (CBE)”, aims to deepen discussions around the implementation of senior secondary pathways and the positioning of senior school education as a key pillar in Kenya’s education reform agenda.

KESHA National Chairperson Willy Kuria said this year’s conference will provide a platform to engage on critical issues, such as sustainable education financing, school accountability systems, and the role of teachers’ unions in enhancing quality learning outcomes.

“Our objective is to align all stakeholders with the ongoing transition to

senior school under CBE. We want to ensure the implementation is well supported through sound policies, adequate financing, and strong institutional frameworks,” Kuria noted.

Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki is expected to officially open the conference today.

Other dignitaries scheduled to speak include Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Migos Ogambo, Health CS Aden Duale, Treasury CS John Badi, and Principal Secretary for Basic Education Prof. Julius Bitok.

Others would be Senior officials from the Teachers Service Commission (TSC), the Office of the Auditor General and representatives from education unions KNUT and KUPPET.

Mombasa Governor, Abdulsamad Nassir, is expected to grace the event. The conference will be officially closed on Friday by the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Julius Ogambo Migos.

Meanwhile, Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting access to quality education.

Speaking during a pre-conference session, Erick Naivasha, Head of Sustainability at KCB, highlighted the Bank’s efforts to address financial barriers faced by vulnerable learners.



KESHA National Chairperson Willy Kuria briefing journalists in the company of other officials..

“KCB has supported over 5,000 students through our sponsorship programmes, ensuring that learners from disadvantaged backgrounds remain in school and complete their education,” Naivasha said.

He added that through the Wezesha programme, KCB equips students with job readiness skills to better prepare them for the workforce.

The Bank is also spearheading a clean energy transition in schools

across the country.

“Over 90 per cent of schools still rely on firewood and fossil fuels for cooking and electricity. Our Clean Energy in Schools initiative promotes solar power, LPG, biogas, and other sustainable solutions,” Naivasha explained.

He cautioned that learning institutions are currently responsible for the cutting down of more than 10 million trees annually, a practice he described

as environmentally and economically unsustainable.

“We must act decisively to transition schools toward cleaner, cost-effective, and healthier energy sources. It is not only a sustainability issue; it’s a matter of health, cost efficiency, and climate responsibility,” he said.

PS Health: New Bill To Ensure Quality Healthcare, Patient Safety

By: Bernard Munyao

@themkenyatimes

The government is working on a healthcare bill which is aimed at enhancing the quality of medical services and ensuring patient safety in all health facilities nationwide.

Once it sails through, the Quality Healthcare and Patient Safety 2025 Bill, currently at the public participation stage, will require all hospitals, clinics and other health institutions, both public and private, to strictly comply with set standards regarding infrastructure, staffing, and provision of healthcare services.

Public Health Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni has underscored the urgency of such legislation, citing widespread concerns over unregulated and unsafe health services in the country.

“For far too long, patients have been

exposed to unsafe conditions, treated in poorly constructed buildings and sometimes by unqualified professionals,” she said, adding that the bill is a crucial step toward restoring dignity and safety in our healthcare system.

Speaking during a public participation in Murang’a yesterday, the PS noted that the proposed law would establish the Quality Health Care and Patient Safety Authority that would be responsible for enforcing healthcare quality standards.

The authority would be tasked with registering, licensing, and accrediting health facilities, regulating their conduct, inspecting them for compliance, and undertaking regular monitoring and evaluation to ensure that all providers uphold the required standards, she added.

“The authority will also be doing ratings of the health facilities, thus ensuring competition among the hospitals in an effort to provide the best services,” she remarked.

PS Muthoni emphasised that the au-

thority would not only monitor compliance but also take decisive action when the health facilities fall short.

“The authority will have the power to revoke the accreditation of any health facility that fails to meet the quality healthcare standards or fails to correct identified non-conformities within the stipulated timelines,” Muthoni stated.

She further noted that the proposed reforms were meant to protect patients and promote accountability across the health sector, saying negligence of patients would be a thing of the past.

“The role of the authority will be to ensure that no health facility operates outside the bounds of the law. It will act in the best interest of the patient,” she remarked.

The PS also called on the public and healthcare stakeholders to actively contribute during the ongoing public participation process.

“We want Kenyans to understand what this bill means and to help



Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni in Murang’a yesterday.

shape it. Quality healthcare is a right, not a privilege, and this legislation is one way of making that right a reality,” Muthoni added.

Following the public input phase, the Ministry of Health will review all submissions before the bill is tabled in Parliament.

If passed, it is expected to revolutionize the country’s healthcare

system by enforcing consistent standards, improving service delivery, and ensuring patient safety in every corner of the nation.

Muthoni underscored that the Bill is a key component of legislative reforms aimed at strengthening universal health coverage.

Nakuru City Taps GIS Tech To Enhance Urban Planning

By: Anne Mwale
 @themkenyatimes



Nakuru County is working with various state agencies and international entities to actively establish a Spatial Data Infrastructure.

Worth Noting:

- Highlighting the transformative power of the GIS component in the SDI and its critical role in urban planning, tackling encroachments and promoting public feedback, Mr Thabanja said he was hopeful that the GIS laboratory system would improve development planning and management.
- He made the remarks when a delegation from HOTA's global team, led by the Global Director, Fabrizio Scrollini, met with City Management and other officials to review a collaboration and sign a memorandum of understanding between the two parties that leverages open mapping and geospatial tools to support disaster preparedness, infrastructure development and inclusive community planning.
- The GIS lab is expected to provide a platform to store and manage the digital footprint of development projects in sectors such as water, education, health, roads, rangelands, environment and natural resources.

Nakuru County is working with various state agencies and international entities to actively establish a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) towards improving resource management for data-driven urban planning and development.

The initiative, which includes the setting-up of a Geographic Information System (GIS) lab, is expected to streamline the administration of development projects and enhance resource allocation based on data analysis.

City Manager Mr Gitau Thabanja disclosed that the SDI is being designed to play a crucial role in various sectors, including infrastructure planning, natural resource management and disaster response.

Highlighting the transformative power of the GIS component in the SDI and its critical role in urban planning, tackling encroachments and promoting public feedback, Mr Thabanja said he was hopeful that the GIS laboratory system would improve development planning and management.

He made the remarks when a delegation from HOTA's global team, led by the Global Director, Fabrizio Scrollini, met with City Management and other officials to review a collaboration and sign a memorandum of understanding between the two parties that leverages open mapping and geospatial tools to support disaster preparedness, infrastructure development and inclusive community planning.

The GIS lab is expected to provide a platform to store and manage the digital footprint of development projects in sectors such as water, education, health, roads, rangelands, environment and natural resources.

He elaborated that the GIS laboratory

system will further help local and foreign investors to conveniently access land information.

While noting that the setting-up of the Spatial Data Infrastructure is in line with Governor Susan Kihika's manifesto to digitise access to some essential services to shorten the time and reduce the cost of access to services, the City Manager indicated that the system will help them collect, process and analyse data in digital form.

The City Manager observed that Nakuru City is emerging as a model for data-driven urban planning through its partnership with the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOTA).

He added that through past and ongoing collaborations, their achievements include flood-prone area mapping, street-level imagery for climate resilience and Nakuru's successful bid for Municipal Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) support.

"This partnership is critical as mapping is shaping how we plan and connect with residents. It supports better decisions, especially around public spaces and infrastructure. We acknowledge the collaboration's growing impact in promoting more inclusive, data-informed urban development," he said.

In June last year representatives from the World Bank met with officials from the County Lands and Physical Planning Department and the State Department of Housing and Urban Development for an engagement session to assess the Geospatial data needs and potential support areas within the Municipal Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI).

Mr Thabanja pointed out that the initiative aims to address challenges related to data duplication, improve resource

management and facilitate effective governance.

"We aim to provide better access to spatial data, reducing wastage and duplication. By providing a standardised approach to data management, we make more informed decisions. The initiative promotes the production and sharing of spatial data for sustainable development," he elaborated.

HOTA is a global organisation that uses open mapping to respond to humanitarian crises and promote community development.

It is based in Washington, D.C. It has a regional hub in Nairobi, focused on East Africa.

Nakuru City Board Director and Chair of the Urban Planning and Infrastructure Development Committee, Mr Chrispus Wathimba, emphasised the importance of actualising urban data as part of Governor Kihika's urban transformation agenda.

He commended the collaboration for providing technical support that directly informs infrastructure priorities and sustainable planning.

Mr Wathimba assured that a regulatory framework is being developed to address data sharing and security concerns related to geospatial information.

Clause 105(f) of the County Government Act 2012 requires county governments to establish GIS-based database systems for provision of data in the development of the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).

The technology is important for decision-making during planning and allocation of resources for the Annual Development Plan (ADP).

He noted that in Africa geospatial technology is necessary because the

continent still faces numerous challenges such as unplanned settlements, degraded rangelands, inadequate or unplanned infrastructure, low quality of development projects, poor monitoring systems, the mushrooming of new settlements and inequitable resource allocation due to lack of appropriate tools for decision-making.

"We have resolved to use GIS technology cognisant of these challenges and the need to streamline monitoring of development projects and ensure equitable resource allocations based on evidence," the City Board Director explained.

GIS uses location-based data collected via satellites, paper maps, and directly from the field through mobile positioning devices to map out resources for analysis and decision-making.

HOTA's Global Director Mr Scrollini said Spatial Data Infrastructure was critical in helping the County government make prudent management and allocation of resources while also facilitating rational decision-making processes.

He said SDI can identify areas in dire need of road connection or departments that require urgent support in terms of funding, among other things.

It can also be used to enhance various social amenities such as schools, hospitals, dispensaries and markets.

The system can also help streamline the budgeting process and give evidence-based development needs to the people, thereby attracting support from development partners, according to the official.

National Assembly Committee Takes Action On Leadership Confusion At KNH And Failure By KEMSA Witnesses To Appear

By: PSCU
@themkenyatimes

The Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration and Agriculture (PIC-SSAA), chaired by Navakholo MP Emmanuel Wangwe, for a second time has raised serious concerns over the leadership confusion at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) and the continued absence of key witnesses in the ongoing probe into the Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA).

In its latest sitting, the committee had scheduled a meeting with the chairperson of the KNH Board of Management and the hospital's CEO.

This followed concerns from a previous meeting where there was uncertainty over who the substantive CEO of KNH is. While Dr. William Sigilai had appeared before the Committee as the Acting CEO, Dr. Evanson Kamuri — the substantive CEO — was absent.

To the committee's surprise, Dr. Kamuri later sent a message stating that he was unaware he was required



The committee chairman and Navakholo MP Emmanuel Wangwe during yesterday's session

to appear. Members were visibly displeased, noting that such an explanation was unacceptable given the critical role of KNH in the public health sector and the need for clarity in its leadership.

The committee's Vice Chairperson, Caleb Amisi, and the chairperson read out Dr. Kamuri's message to the members, who expressed discontent with the ongoing confusion at the institution.

In response, the chairperson stated that the committee would write a "sermon letter" to the KNH Board of Management compelling them to appear before the committee Tuesday next week.

He further directed that the KNH CEO, whether acting or substantive, must also appear on the same day to provide clarity on the matter.

The committee also deliberated on the absence of key witnesses men-



Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina who is a member of the committee making his contribution yesterday.

tioned in the Auditor General's report on the audited accounts of KEMSA for the financial years 2019/2020 to 2023/2024.

Members were alarmed that several individuals had failed to appear despite being invited.

According to the Head of Secretariat Mr. Adan Keynan, some of the witnesses had actually reviewed the invites but later claimed they had not received any communication.

Members unanimously agreed that the secretariat should formally summon all relevant witnesses to ensure they appear before the committee.

They emphasised the need for full cooperation from all individuals and institutions under investigation. Additionally, the Committee directed the secretariat to organise another meeting as earlier agreed to continue with the inquiry.

Global Aviation Bodies Seek Unified Action On Conflict Zone Airspace Safety

By: Suleiman Mbatiah
@themkenyatimes

Aviation regulators and safety experts have called for stronger frameworks to ensure informed decision-making and inter-agency coordination as regional conflicts pose growing risks to civil aviation.

The push emerged during a high-level workshop in Nairobi focused on safety checks and risk management guidelines to strengthen global aviation safety through shared expertise and coordinated action amid rising geopolitical tensions.

The three-day event, organized by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA), brings together regulators, airlines, and safety partners to address threats in conflict-affected airspace.

The discussions come at a critical time, with escalating Middle East hostilities prompting heightened

concern over civilian flight safety, including potential aircraft rerouting and temporary closure of airspaces in high-risk zones.

Key measures under review include updated risk assessments, strategic flight rerouting, and stronger coordination efforts aimed at ensuring the safety of passengers and aircraft flying near conflict or high-risk areas.

The seminar also focuses on implementing ICAO Doc 10084, a global guideline for conflict zone risk management, through case studies, threat assessments, and regional information-sharing strategies.

"This seminar is essential. Through dialogue, we can build frameworks for informed decisions and coordination to address real dangers facing civil aviation," said Ms. Lucy W. Mbugua, ICAO Regional Director, emphasizing the urgency of the talks.

ICAO Doc 10084, a cornerstone of the discussions, provides a structured approach to evaluating and mitigating airspace risks. It outlines best practices for assessing threats,



Participants during the forum at EKA Hotel, Nairobi.

communicating hazards, and ensuring safer flight operations near conflict zones.

KCAA Director General Mr. Emile Arao, represented by Ms. Mary Keter, reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to aviation safety, describing Doc 10084 as a "life-saving tool." He highlighted Kenya's risk-based oversight system and close collabo-

ration with defense agencies to monitor emerging threats.

Citing recent incidents, including aircraft shoot-downs, GPS jamming, and missile strikes, Arao stressed the need for regional cooperation, stronger information-sharing mechanisms, and harmonized laws to alert airlines of evolving risks.

The workshop, supported by the

SSCC (Secretariat for Safety and Coordination in Civil Aviation), includes participants from ICAO, Transport Canada, UK Transport, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

Hope For Widows As Gatundu North MP Urges State To Create Fund For Economic Empowerment

By: John Kamau
 @themtkenyatimes

Gatundu North MP Elijah Njoroge Kururia is advocating for creation of kitty to support struggling widows across the country.

Speaking while marking the International Day for Widows in Mang'u village in the constituency, the lawmaker quipped that the fund will go a long way in alleviating economic challenges that widows face.

The MP also noted that widows in the region as well as the country at large face multifaceted challenges that further condemn them to poverty among other societal predicaments.

Kururia said that once widowed, many Kenyan women face challenges like retrogressive cultural practices and a largely patriarchal society that seems oblivious to their suffering. Economic insecurity, social isolation plus physical and emotional abuse make them vulnerable to exploitation and marginalization.

"The death of a spouse can lead to a significant loss of income and financial instability, especially if the husband was the primary breadwinner. Widows may be denied access to inheritance, land, and other assets, leaving them vulnerable and impoverished. This why I'm calling on the Government to consider creating a fund that will only be accessed by widows," the MP said.

The lawmaker maintained that there is need to expand access to financial services tailored to the specific needs of widows, including microloans and skills training programs.

"The combination of lost income, disinheritance, and lack of access to resources can push widows and their children into poverty. Also, investing in mental health initiatives that address the emotional and psychological well-being of widows must be prioritized," he said.

He noted that through the Gatundu North National Constituency Development Fund (NGCDF), widows will access bursary funds for their children noting during yesteryears, widows were discriminated even in accessing the crucial funds to facilitate their children's education.

"We will also initiate empowerment projects specifically designed for widows so that they can thrive economically and help boost their social standards," the MP said.

Widows led by Petronila Njeri and Priscilla Wanjiru averred that they face a multitude of challenges including social, economic, and health-related issues. These challenges are often compounded by harmful traditional practices, legal barriers, and lack of access to resources.

Wanjiru quipped that harmful traditional practices like widow inheritance and widow cleansing which are rampant among some societies, degrade and humiliate the women further.

"Most are the times that we face social isolation, discrimination, and negative labeling due to cultural beliefs and societal attitudes. This has affected many of us and we hope the government together with other stakeholders can make requisite interventions to address these issues and end our suffering," Wanjiru said.

According to the United Nations, there are an estimated 258 million widows around the world.

Of these, nearly one in seven – about 38 million, live in extreme poverty. Kenya has an estimated eight million widows, and is placed at position 33 in the list of countries in the world that have a harsh environment for widows.

The Kenya Kwanza Government through the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda Plan, recognizes that widows face enormous challenges. It has thus taken concrete steps to address them.

Currently, the Government is working on strengthening existing laws like the Law of Succession Act, Marriage Act, and Protection Against Domestic Violence Act. This aims to provide better legal protection for widows' inheritance rights and safety. It will help prevent dispossession and ensure widows have a fair share of their deceased spouse's estate.

New policies and practical solutions are also being developed to eliminate the systemic violations of widows' rights. At the same time, Government funds like the Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) and Uwezo Funds are available and offer loans with extended repayment periods, particularly helpful for widows whose businesses may have been impacted by the death of their husbands.

Similarly, programmes like the Thamini Mjane loan programme specifically target widows, providing financial aid to start or expand busi-



Gatundu North MP Njoroge Kururia.

nesses. This directly promotes the economic independence of widows, recognizing their role as caregivers and economic contributors.

However, there still exist gaps which must be addressed. While Government initiatives and programmes exist, many remain unaware of this fact. Thus, increased awareness creation and sensitization among widows on how to access and benefit from them, should be undertaken and implemented Countrywide in collaboration with stakeholders.

Similarly, promoting social inclusion by breaking down stigmas and fostering a supportive environment for widows to participate actively in their communities, is everyone's duty.

Overall, the Government's approach to supporting widows involves a combination of legal reform, financial support programmes, and awareness initiatives.

Ongoing collaboration with stakeholders and addressing implementation challenges is thus crucial for cre-

ating a truly supportive environment for Kenyan widows.

Working closely with Non-State Actors and Community-Based Organizations at the County level is essential to bridge the gap between policy and real-world impact for Kenyan widows.



Widows marking the International Day for Widows at Mang'u village in Gatundu North, Kiambu County.

Gratitude



You came with a lamp, when I was in dark

And show the way with loving care
Your kindness shone bright
Helping me find my way in light

When I was afraid, you stood near me
You gave me hope, and I left my worries free

Comforting words made my heart glee
A beacon of hope for all to see

I'll never forget the love you've shown
It will be forever my own

You healed my wounds with warm touch
Your kindness will forever be a loving bunch

T. VASUGI,
B.T Asst,
Kamaraj Matriculation Higher
Secondary School,
Kovilpatti.

State Of The Nation



We were promised light...
But now we walk in shadows.
Campaign drums once beat with hope,
But now the rhythm sounds hollow.

They said: "Youth, your time has come,"
"Jobs are waiting," they sang in unison—
But our degrees gather dust
Like broken promises on a politician's tongue.

We watched manifestos dance on paper,
Painted in patriotic ink,
But now blood stains the streets—
Lives lost without trial,
Names erased before judgment.

Extra-judicial killings now write headlines.
Mothers bury sons before they dream.
Fathers walk with bent backs,
Not from age,
But from carrying the weight of a nation's betrayal.

Tell me—
What happened to "improved healthcare"?
Where hospitals are halls of despair,
Patients sharing beds,
Doctors working bare-handed miracles,
While billions disappear into invisible pockets?

Security?
They armored themselves, not us.
We lock our doors at dusk,
Yet fear doesn't knock—it walks in,
Wearing a badge or brandishing a weapon.

And the mood of the nation?
It is tired.
Wounded.
Angry in silence.
Hope flickers like a candle in the wind,
And we wonder—when did our cries become whispers?

But this spoken word is not just protest—
It is a plea.
To the government that claims our allegiance:
Step down From your thrones of comfort.
Come sit with the street child.
Walk with the jobless graduate.
Wait in a public hospital queue.
And feel the pulse of a nation on the edge.

Rectify the mess—
By bringing justice to the slain.
By opening opportunities, not only tenders.
By healing not just bodies, but systems.
By trading lies for leadership.

Because the youth are not lazy—
We are loaded with potential.
And this land—this beautiful, bleeding land—
Still believes in resurrection.

So listen.
Before silence becomes rebellion.
Before the people's patience turns protest.
Before the fire you ignore consumes your own house.

This is the voice of the nation.
Raw.
Real.
Ready for change.

By Evans Asikoyo - the poet.
evansasikoyo@gmail.com

Home Sickness



Ever you are there in me,
In a busy schedule or in free
This vacant place cannot be filled
Ever it lays hollow, it can't be occupied

Thine breath fills the air
your image is visible in all spheres
Raindrops on face reminds your presence
The ocean reminds me of the immense love

Abundance care is revealed by all the
skyscrapers
Shaking of the leaves reminds me of your
laughter

Fragrance of the flowers recalls your sweater
preference
Flowers and bees remind me of the
attachment

Water on lotus reminds me of the serene love
The alarm clock reminds your heart beat
Each and every pillar murmurs your name
Money plant, grass, betel nut tells your fame

Home sickness is not a game
Least bothered about anybody's blame

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

Penzi Lishalokubuhu



Kalamu kaa vyandani, niliandike shairi
Lenye vina na mizani, kadhalika na urari
Lingapo uwandani, lisilete tafakuri
Penzi lishalokubuhu, si penzi ni mazowe

Niwaeeleze wendani, whenda wakatadaburi
Kwamba penzi la zamani, lishalozidi umuri
Linapunguwa thamani, bei yake ni swighari
Penzi lishalokubuhu, si penzi ni mazowe

Haliishi kwa amani, linachafua suduri
Huwa hamuelewani, kwa kukivaa kiburi
Mambo ya bebi na Hani, huzikwa kwenye kaburi
Pezi lishalokubuhu, si penzi ni mazowe

Ule upendo wa shani, uliovishwa johari
Lulu pia marijani, ukawa wa kifakhari
Kamwe hauonekani, huhajiri kwa hiari
Penzi lishalokubuhu, si penzi ni mazowe

Dharau na kisirani, hujitokeza sanjari
Hupotea ahuwani, na madhila hukithiri
Hukimbia samahani, pamoja na tabasuri
Penzi lishalokubuhu, si penzi ni mazowe

Mufananapo usoni, mfanano wa dhahiri
Kadhalika na launi, zikapauka uzuri
Upendo hushuka chini, kupanda tena ni siri
Penzi lishalokubuhu, si penzi ni mazowe

Upindapo mgongoni, watembea kwa hadhari
Hadi njia huioni, macho yatele athari
Mopenzi ya utotoni, sasa hufika ahiri
Penzi lishalokubuhu, si penzi ni mazowe

Mtunzi: Fatma Ali Mohamed
Mahali: Pemba - Zanzibar

Murali Krishna Boddula



Murali Krishna Boddula is a masterful wordsmith, crafting transcendent narratives that capture the very essence of human existence. With precision and profound empathy, he navigates the intricate tapestry of the human condition, illuminating the darkest depths of existential despair and the resplendent promise of hope.

A true linguistic virtuoso, Murali Krishna possesses a remarkable mastery of Telugu, Hindi,

and English languages, distilling the complexities of human experience into powerful, universally resonant stories. His distinctive voice and perspective shine like a beacon, guiding readers through life's turbulent waters with a message of hope, empathy, and kindness.

Murali Krishna's stories serve as a testament to the human spirit's boundless capacity for redemption, renewal, and resilience. With an uncanny understanding of the human heart, he weaves complex themes and emotions into his narratives, creating a rich, resplendent tapestry that inspires, transforms, and leaves an indelible mark on the reader's soul.

As a literary luminary, Murali Krishna continues to inspire readers to embark on a profound journey of self-discovery, emerging transformed, renewed, and forever changed. His words awaken the heart, stir the soul, and illuminate the path to a deeper understanding of ourselves and the world around us.

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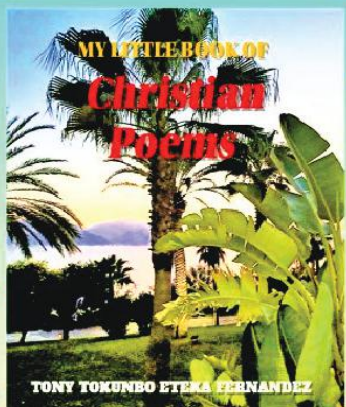
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EDUCATION

Over 6,000 TVET Students To Benefit From German Funding

By: Anne Mwale and Dennis Rasto

@themtkenyentimes



Ms Gladys Mutisya and RVIBS Director Mr John Gitau after the signing ceremony.

Worth Noting:

- Ms Mutisya affirmed that the funding will prioritize students from vulnerable or low-income backgrounds and those who do not have access to traditional funding sources due to financial constraints or other barriers, ensuring they have access to quality TVET education.
- In addition to direct financial assistance, Chancen International will offer financial literacy programmes to help the beneficiaries manage their finances and make informed decisions about their education and future.
- “Our commitment to funding TVET students in Kenya aligns with the broader goals of promoting education, skills development, and economic empowerment within the country.”

A German-based organisation is providing funding to cover the tuition fees for 6,000 students enrolled in Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) programmes across the country.

The initiative that incorporates 3,000 students from the Rift Valley Institute of Business Studies (RVIBS) aims to alleviate financial burdens for students to ensure they can access and complete their education.

According to Chancen International’s (CI) Country Director Ms Gladys Mutisya, the funding model is part of a broader effort to support TVET institutions and promote skills development within Kenya.

Ms Mutisya affirmed that the funding will prioritize students from vulnerable or low-income backgrounds and those who do not have access to traditional funding sources due to financial constraints or other barriers, ensuring they have access to quality TVET education.

In addition to direct financial assistance, Chancen International will offer financial literacy programmes to help the beneficiaries manage their finances and make informed decisions about their education and future.

“Our commitment to funding TVET

students in Kenya aligns with the broader goals of promoting education, skills development, and economic empowerment within the country.

By easing the financial strain on students, we are helping to create a more inclusive and accessible education system, fostering opportunities for young people to acquire valuable skills and contribute to the local economy,” stated Ms Mutisya.

She explained that the Income Share Agreements (ISAs) financing model for underserved youth in Kenya will allow TVET students to access education without upfront tuition fees, with repayments based on a percentage of their future income after graduation.

“This model aims to reduce financial barriers to education, particularly for marginalized groups, and foster economic mobility. Chancen uses ISAs, a form of financing where students repay a portion of their future income after graduation, rather than traditional loans with fixed payments,” she explained.

Ms Mutisya spoke in Nakuru when she signed a funding partnership agreement with RVIBS Director Mr John Gitau.

The Chancen International Country Director disclosed that once a student completes education and gets into income-generating activities or gets employed, repayments are adjusted based on the beneficiary’s income, making the model more flexible and sustainable.

“Our funding is fair and ethical. If a student is not in employment, they are not required to make a repayment. There is no interest charged. Our main interest is to improve the livelihoods of Kenyans,” she pointed out.

The Country Director added, “Repayments are structured as a percentage of income, ensuring they are manageable and affordable. There’s a minimum income threshold to protect basic needs, and repayments are paused if a graduate’s income falls below this threshold.”

In Africa, Chancen International has a presence in Rwanda, South Africa, Ghana and Kenya. It targets TVET students aged between 18 to 35 years.

The students who qualify for the funding and eventually get employment sign a contract period of repayment ranging from three to 10 years based on their income volumes.

Ms Mutisya indicated that they aim to finance 25,000 TVET students in

Kenya by 2029.

RVIBS Director noted that most students, particularly from marginalized groups struggle to pay fees, adding that the funding model by Chancen International will incentivise TVET institutions to offer relevant, high-quality programmes that lead to successful employment.

Mr Gitau observed that by linking repayment to income, Income Share Agreements (ISAs) will contribute to community development and economic growth.

He hailed the programme for its focus on diversity and inclusivity, with 71 per cent of targeted beneficiaries coming from low-income households.

The Director indicated that the programme aims to empower young people with education, leading to meaningful employment and contributing to economic mobility and community development.

“To be eligible, students need to be Kenyan citizens, over 18, and either final-year students or recent graduates from recognised institutions,” he added.

Kenya's Sugar Reforms: A Crucial Crossroads For Industry Revival And Public Trust

By: James' Kilonzo Bwire
@themkenyatimes

Kenya's sugar industry is at a defining moment. The Sugar Act No. 11 of 2024 has ushered in sweeping reforms by reinstating the Kenya Sugar Board (KSB) and introducing the Sugar Development Levy (SDL), a 4% charge on both domestic sugar value and the CIF value of imported sugar. This levy finances the Sugar Development Fund (SDF), a mechanism designed to breathe new life into an industry long beset by inefficiencies, unfair import competition, and declining farmer welfare. While these reforms are ambitious and necessary, their success will depend not only on sound policy but on genuine public engagement, transparent governance, and effective execution.

The Kenya Sugar Board, under the leadership of Chairman Engineer Gumbo Nicholas, has been vocal about the transformative potential of these reforms. Engineer Gumbo emphasizes that the levy and the fund are not mere bureaucratic instruments but critical tools to modernize factories, boost cane productivity, and empower farmers. Speaking on the importance of stakeholder involvement, he insists that "the future of Kenya's sugar industry hinges on inclusivity and accountability. The reforms must trans-

late into real benefits for the farmers who are the backbone of this sector." His leadership reflects a commitment to balancing industry revival with the voices of those most affected.

Public participation exercises conducted across sugarcane-growing regions, including a notable forum in Busia County led by the Sugar Development Fund Director Azenath Makori and Ministry of Agriculture's Timothy Ogwang, have sought to democratize the policy formulation process. These consultations provide stakeholders with opportunities to scrutinize the draft SDF Policy and Operational Manual, as well as the International Sugar Organization (ISO) Agreement. The draft policy outlines a thoughtful allocation of the fund's resources: 40% targeting cane productivity, 15% each for factory modernization and research, 10% for KSB administration, and 5% for farmer organizations. This distribution aims to address the sector's multifaceted challenges comprehensively.

Yet, there is a delicate balance to maintain. While ongoing consultations are essential, there is a risk of "participation fatigue" if stakeholders perceive their input as tokenistic or if feedback fails to shape tangible outcomes. The KSB must therefore ensure that these engagements are meaningful and that the voices of marginalized smallholder farmers are amplified—not just heard.

The economic implications of the

SDL, which was implemented in February 2025, are already evident. After a period marked by declining sugar prices—where the average price fell to Sh159.69 per kilogram in December 2024, a 25.4% drop year-on-year—the levy has contributed to reversing this trend. However, this comes with increased costs for consumers and industry players alike. Millers and importers are mandated to remit the levy monthly to the KSB, creating a steady revenue stream for the SDF. The challenge lies in ensuring that these funds are managed efficiently, with clear operational guidelines that prevent bureaucratic delays and corruption.

Without complementary measures to reduce production costs and enhance competitiveness, the levy risks becoming a subsidy for inefficiency rather than a catalyst for transformation. Engineer Gumbo has repeatedly stressed the need for a holistic approach, including enforcing the Sugar (Imports and Exports) Regulations 2025 to protect local producers from dumping and unfair trade practices that have historically crippled the industry.

Transparency must be at the heart of these reforms. Publishing real-time data on levy collection and utilization will build public trust and empower stakeholders to hold institutions accountable. Moreover, prioritizing investments that directly benefit smallholder farmers will be crucial in reversing decades of neglect and mar-



Stakeholder'd meeting

ginalization.

Kenya's sugar reforms are more than just legislative changes; they represent a critical reset for an industry vital to the country's agricultural economy and rural livelihoods. The true measure of success will not be the size of the fund or the existence of new policies but whether these reforms tangibly improve farmers' incomes, stabilize sugar prices, and foster a sustainable, competitive industry. The leadership of Engineer Gumbo Nicholas and the Kenya Sugar Board's commitment to inclusivity and transparency offer hope, but the journey ahead demands persistent vigilance and collective effort.

In the end, the sugar sector's renaissance will be a testament to Kenya's ability to marry policy innovation with grassroots empowerment—a model for agricultural reform across the continent. The question remains: will the reforms deliver on their promise, or will they become another missed opportunity in Kenya's long quest for sugar industry revival? The answer lies in the hands of policymakers, industry players, and most importantly, the farmers themselves.

James' Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and communication practitioner.

The Mt. Kenya Times



Ushairi Ni Kito Cha Thamani Kwa Malenga Wa Riaka



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

“Msukumo wangu wa kutunga ulitokona na hali ya maisha niliyoyapitia. Kulikuwa na changamoto chungu nzima kwenye makuzi yangu, tena tuliishi maisha ya kuguragura kwa sababu ya hali ya kazi aliyoifanya baba.

Mandhari ya Pwani hasa Malindi nilikosomea nikiwa mkembe niliweza kujifahamisha na lahaja mbalimbali kama vile lahaja ya Kimvita, Kiamu, na Kivumba.

Kwenye safari yangu ya utunzi naikumbuka Diwani ya Ustadh Mti Mle (Malenga wa Vumba) ambayo ilinifunza utunzi. Hiki kilikuwa kitabu changu cha kwanza cha mashairi nilichokisoma na kupendezwa na usukaji wa maneno alioutumia Ustadhi Boukheit Amana. “

1. Tueleze kwa kifupi Bernard ni nani?

Kwa jina nafahamika kama Bernard Mwandikwa. Mzaliwa wa Gatuzi la Kitui kwenye eneo la Tseikuru. Mimi ndiye mwandishi wa Diwani ya Malenga wa Riaka.

2. Msukumo wako wa kutunga mashairi ulitoka wapi?

Msukumo wangu wa kutunga ulitokona na hali ya maisha niliyoyapitia. Kulikuwa na changamoto chungu nzima kwenye makuzi yangu, tena tuliishi maisha ya kuguragura kwa sababu ya hali ya kazi aliyoifanya baba. Kwenye mazingira tofauti tofauti nilipata wigo mpana wa kutungia. Nilitaka sana kuwasilisha hisia zangu za kukerwa au kufurahika kwa lugha ya mkato na yenye nakshinakshi na lahani pevu.

3. Je, mazingira uliyomo yalikuchochea vipi katika utunzi?

Mazingira niliyomo yalinichochea kutunga mashairi yenye maudhui mbalimbali. Kwa mfano nilipoishi Pwani niliyaelewa zaidi mapisi ya waswahili na pia kujifahamisha na misamiati ya uvuvi na shughuli za kawaida za Wapwani. Mandhari ya Pwani hasa Malindi nilikosomea nikiwa mkembe niliweza kujifahamisha na lahaja mbalimbali kama vile lahaja ya Kimvita, Kiamu, na Kivumba. Sehemu mbalimbali nilizotembea zimenifanya kuwa na upana katika utunzi wangu haswa kwa misamiati mbalimbali na maudhui tofauti tofauti.

4. Ni matukio yapi ambayo unayakumbuka katika safari yako ya utunzi?

Kwenye safari yangu ya utunzi naikumbuka Diwani ya Ustadh Mti Mle (Malenga wa Vumba) ambayo ilinifunza utunzi. Hiki kilikuwa kitabu changu cha kwanza cha mashairi nilichokisoma na kupendezwa na usukaji wa maneno alioutumia Ustadhi Boukheit Amana. Namshukuru sana mwandishi huyu hodari aliyechochea kipaji hiki changu cha utunzi wa mashairi.

5. Kando na utunzi, wajishughulisha na nini kingine?

Kando na utunzi mimi ni muhandisi kwenye maswala ya umeme. Vilivile ni mhadhiri ninayefunza masomo ya uhandisi kwenye vyuo vya TVET. Zaidi najishughulisha na Zarea mamboleo, biashara ya vinyago na kuhubiri Injili ya Kristo kwenye kaniisa la Redeemed Gospel Church.

6. Ushairi unakufaidi vipi wewe



Bernard Mwandikwa

kama mtunzi?

Ushairi umenipa nafasi ya kukutana na wanazuoni na wasomi wakuu kama vile Ustadh Walah bin Walah, Ustadh Said Ahmed Mohammed, Prof. Abdilatif Abdallah na wengine wengi. Pia nimepata mialiko kwenye shule za Msingi na Sekondari kuzungumzia ushairi. Vilevile kipo kitabu ambacho nimekiandika kwa wanafunzi wa shule za upili, ‘Darubini ya Ushairi’ ambacho kimenipa faida kubwa. Kupitia ushairi nimepata mialiko mbalimbali ndani na nje ya nchi ambayo imenipanua mawazo.

7. Ni changamoto zipi ambazo

umekumbana nazo katika utunzi?

Changamoto kubwa kwenye ushairi ni kwamba wachache wanaufahamu na kuupenda ushairi. Hadhira ya ushairi ni ndogo mno maana wengi huzembea kuchambua na kujifahamisha misamiati migumu inayotumika kwenye utunzi.

8. Unawashauri vipi watunzi wanaoibukia katika ulingo wa ushairi?

Chipukizi waliozamia bahari hii pana ya ushairi wasikate tamaa hata wakikosa mapokezi mema. Kila mwanzo una changamoto zake na wanaojitahidi na kupambana na changamoto hizo

hadi mwisho huibuka washindi.

9. Anayetaka kufaidi kazi zako atazipataje?

Ukihitaji kazi zangu ukiwa Gatuzi la Kitui utazipata kwenye duka langu liitwalo “Nobel Afrika” na pia duka la vitabu “Umefika Bookshop”. Ukiwa Nairobi na Kiambu utazipata “Nyota Kubwa Bookshop”. Nalenga pia kuziweka kazi zangu mtandaoni ili ziweze kupatikana ukiwa popote duniani.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unlocking The IEBC Stalemate: A National Imperative For Credible Elections

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula's call to urgently resolve the impasse surrounding the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) reconstitution is a clarion call that Kenya cannot afford to ignore. With barely two years remaining before the 2027 general elections, the country stands at a critical juncture. Delays and legal battles over the swearing-in of vetted commissioners threaten to undermine the very foundation of our democratic process and risk plunging the electoral cycle into chaos.

The electoral machinery is alarmingly behind schedule. The IEBC, entrusted with the solemn duty of conducting free, fair, and credible elections, remains hamstrung by court injunctions that block the swearing-in of the newly vetted commissioners. This paralysis has a ripple effect across the entire electoral timeline. Without a fully constituted commission, essential preparations such as boundary delimitation, voter registration, and the vital cleansing of the voters' roll cannot proceed effectively. These are not mere bureaucratic formalities; they are the pillars upon which the legitimacy of our elections rests.

Kenya's demographic reality adds a

layer of urgency to this predicament. Our youthful population is growing rapidly, with thousands of young citizens reaching voting age every year. Yet, many remain unregistered, and the law prohibits any changes to the voters' register within a year of the elections. This legal constraint means that the window to register these new voters is closing fast. Failure to incorporate them into the voters' roll would amount to disenfranchisement of a significant portion of the electorate, undermining the inclusivity and representativeness of the 2027 polls.

Public trust in the IEBC has been eroded over the years, a consequence of past controversies and the pervasive mistrust among political actors and the citizenry. However, the solution is not to stall the commission's work indefinitely. Instead, the commission must be empowered to rebuild its credibility through transparency, professionalism, and rigorous preparation. A fully functional IEBC is the cornerstone of democratic stability and must be allowed to operate without undue interference. Commissioners who have undergone thorough parliamentary vetting and have been gazetted deserve to be sworn in and empowered to execute their mandate.

One of the commission's critical tasks is to cleanse the voters' register—removing deceased individuals and ensuring that only eligible voters participate. This process is fundamental to preventing electoral fraud and restoring confidence in the electoral process. The presence of dead voters on the register or the exclusion of eligible voters fuels suspicion and political tension, which Kenya can ill afford as it prepares for another hotly contested election.

The ongoing court injunction, issued on May 29th, exemplifies the tension between legal scrutiny and political expediency. While judicial oversight is vital to uphold the rule of law, the prolonged stalemate risks paralyzing the electoral calendar. The nominees—including Chairperson Erastus Edung Etheke and commissioners Anne Nderitu, Moses Mukhwana, Mary Karen Sorobit, Hassan Noor, Francis Odhiambo, and Fahima Abdalla—have been vetted and gazetted but remain in limbo, unable to commence their duties. This deadlock calls for a balanced approach that respects the legal process while prioritizing the national interest.

The judiciary, political leaders, and civil society must collaborate to expedite resolution and ensure that the



IEBC is fully constituted and operational well ahead of the 2027 elections. The stakes are too high for partisan interests or procedural delays to derail the electoral process. Kenya's democracy deserves better than prolonged uncertainty and political brinkmanship.

The government, courts, and all stakeholders must act decisively to unlock this stalemate. The IEBC must be empowered to fulfill its mandate, and Kenyans must be assured of an electoral process that is transparent, credible, and inclusive. As Speaker Wetang'ula emphasized, a strong electoral commission can deliver credible elections even amid challenges. The time to act is now—not only to safeguard the integrity of

the 2027 elections but to strengthen the democratic fabric of our nation for generations to come.

Addressing the IEBC reconstitution impasse with urgency and unity is not merely a bureaucratic necessity; it is a national imperative. Kenya must reaffirm its commitment to democracy by ensuring every eligible voter's voice is heard and respected. The credibility of our elections—and by extension, the legitimacy of our government—depends on it. The path forward demands courage, compromise, and a shared vision for a peaceful, prosperous, and democratic Kenya.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and communication practitioner.

June 25 Protests As Gen Z Defies Fear To Honour Their Fallen Colleagues

By **Marion Ayomba**
Migori County

Over the past year, the country has been in a state of quagmire as a result of the Gen z's protests and pressure to the Kenyan Government.

A month ago, the Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka announced that a nationwide protest will be held today, not to bring chaos to the country, but to commemorate the youths who died during the last year's protest over the finance bill.

The date and month are significant since that is when demonstrations were first held to oppose the finance bill.

Gen z's bought the idea not because Kalonzo is their leader but they saw it wise to honour their brothers and sisters who lost their lives while fighting for the country as well as opposing the government with the slogan "Ruto Must Go."

The young generation is set to go to the streets without any chaos amidst the threats and warnings they have been given by some leaders and alleged paid "goons".

"This is my country and i'd rather die in the battle field .Gen z's we are peaceful and we are not planning to harm anybody we are tired of this government and the killings," said Juma, a bodada rider in Mogori County.

"Therefore, the paid goons should not dare cause mayhems for we shall deal with them accordingly, otherwise the date still stands," he added.

However, majority of the millennials are not in support of this, not because they are satisfied with the government but because of the fear that their children will not see the next day after the protests.

"I think the protests are of no importance as at now, I am scared on behalf of my children, because the police officers will not cease to use fire on this young souls," Wanja, a mama mboga in Awendo Sub county said.

"We want a good system and new leaders but we have to wait till the 2027 elections and appoint new leaders," she added.

The Inspector General of Police, Douglas Kanja, in his statement said the police will ensure that protection is



given to the protesters on Wednesday and they should remain peaceful.

Although the statement sounds so right, it is not new to the citizens of Kenya .The only security the protesters have been given so far ,is killings

,kidnaps and unlawful arrests. This however does not deter the Gen z's from going to the streets .

(The whole nation and government is now awaiting for the protests that are to be held on Wednesday.

It is clear that the Gen z's cannot be controlled as they are aware of their rights in article 37 of the constitution, to picket ,assemble and present petitions, provided this actions are conducted peacefully and unarmed.

Escalation And Strategy: Analyzing The United States-Iran Tensions Amid Military Strikes



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
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Introduction

The longstanding tensions between the United States and Iran have once again surged into the global spotlight. What was once a cold stand-off, interspersed with diplomacy and sanctions, has now entered a new phase with direct military confrontation. The latest events in June 2025 signal more than a flashpoint - they raise fundamental questions about U.S. strategy, regional security, and the future of the Iranian state.



The United States strikes Iran

The Historical Arc of U.S.-Iran Relations

The fraught relationship between the United States and Iran is not merely a product of recent geopolitical disputes - it is the culmination of decades of mistrust, intervention, and ideological divergence.

1953: The CIA-Backed Coup and the Fall of Iranian Democracy

The modern rupture began in 1953, when the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), in collaboration with British intelligence, orchestrated a coup to overthrow Iran's democratically elected Prime Minister, Mohammad Mossadegh. Mossadegh had moved to nationalize Iran's oil industry, which had long been under British control. This move threatened Western economic interests and Cold War-era strategic calculations.

The coup, known as Operation Ajax, reinstated Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi with expanded powers. While the Shah was seen as a pro-Western modernizer, his regime became increasingly autocratic, relying on brutal repression and a feared secret police force, SAVAK, to silence dissent.

1957-1979: Nuclear Cooperation and Strategic Alliance

Ironically, the U.S. was once a key supporter of Iran's nuclear ambitions. Under President Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" program, the U.S. provided Iran with nuclear technology for civilian use. This cooperation continued into the 1970s, even as the Shah's regime grew more repressive.

During this period, Iran was a linchpin of U.S. strategy in the Middle East, serving as a bulwark against Soviet influence. The Shah purchased vast quantities of American arms and maintained close ties with successive U.S. administrations.

1979: The Islamic Revolution and the Great Break

Everything changed in 1979. A popular revolution, fueled by resentment toward the Shah's authoritarianism and Western influence, overthrew the monarchy. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini established the Islamic Republic, marking a dramatic ideological shift. The U.S. was now seen not as a partner, but as the "Great Satan."

The rupture was cemented by the U.S. Embassy hostage crisis, in which 52 American diplomats and citizens were held for 444 days. Diplomatic relations were severed in 1980 and have never been fully restored.

1980s-2000s: Proxy Conflicts and Escalating Hostility

Throughout the 1980s, the U.S. and Iran found themselves on opposite sides of regional conflicts. During the Iran-Iraq War, the U.S. supported Saddam Hussein's Iraq, further deepening Iranian mistrust. In 1988, a U.S. Navy cruiser mistakenly shot down Iran Air Flight 655, killing 290 civilians - an incident that remains a sore point in Iranian memory.

The 1990s and early 2000s saw continued friction, with the U.S. labeling Iran part of the "Axis of Evil" under President George W. Bush. Iran's support for Hezbollah and other proxy groups, as well as its nuclear ambitions, kept tensions high.

2015-Present: The Nuclear Deal and Its Collapse

The 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was a rare diplomatic breakthrough. It offered

Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program. However, the U.S. withdrawal from the deal in 2018 under President Trump reignited hostilities, leading to a cycle of sanctions, sabotage, and military brinkmanship.

This historical backdrop reveals that the current crisis is not an isolated flare-up but part of a long continuum of strategic rivalry, ideological opposition, and mutual suspicion. The legacy of 1953 still casts a long shadow, and every new confrontation is filtered through decades of unresolved grievances.

Nuclear Brinkmanship and the Fallout

At the heart of the crisis lies Iran's nuclear program. Tehran has consistently defended its pursuit of nuclear technology as peaceful, while the United States, Israel, and their allies have viewed it through the lens of proliferation risk. The 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was designed to restrict Iran's nuclear capabilities in exchange for sanctions relief. However, the 2018 U.S. withdrawal from the accord under then-President Trump dismantled a fragile framework and reignited hostilities.

The situation escalated sharply this month. U.S. forces conducted coordinated airstrikes on three major Iranian nuclear sites - Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan - following Israeli attacks that accused Iran of nearing weaponization. Though Iran denies the charge, Washington justified its actions as necessary for deterrence.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been thrust into controversy. Its Director General, Rafael Grossi, is under fire for a report that some say facilitated the strikes. While the IAEA's Board of Governors declared Iran non-compliant, internal findings indicate no conclusive evidence of a bomb-making effort, a nuance seemingly lost in the policy response.

Economic Strangulation and Strategic Consequences

Sanctions have long been a cornerstone of U.S. strategy toward Iran. Designed to erode Tehran's regional posture and curb domestic repression, these economic measures have devastated ordinary Iranians. With inflation rampant and essential services degraded, the economy teeters on collapse.

Now, with the resumption of kinetic warfare, critical civilian infrastructure has been hit. Energy grids and transport hubs, already brittle under sanctions, are under new strain. The net effect may be an economic and humanitarian disaster with regional spillover risks.

A Proxy Chessboard in Flames

Beyond nuclear disputes, the U.S.-Iran rivalry spans a broader geopolitical canvas. From Hezbollah in Lebanon to militias in Syria and Iraq, Iran's alliances have long chal-

Worth Noting:

- The fraught relationship between the United States and Iran is not merely a product of recent geopolitical disputes - it is the culmination of decades of mistrust, intervention, and ideological divergence.
- The modern rupture began in 1953, when the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), in collaboration with British intelligence, orchestrated a coup to overthrow Iran's democratically elected Prime Minister, Mohammad Mossadegh. Mossadegh had moved to nationalize Iran's oil industry, which had long been under British control. This move threatened Western economic interests and Cold War-era strategic calculations.
- The coup, known as Operation Ajax, reinstated Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi with expanded powers. While the Shah was seen as a pro-Western modernizer, his regime became increasingly autocratic, relying on brutal repression and a feared secret police force, SAVAK, to silence dissent.

Escalation And Strategy: Analyzing The United States-Iran Tensions Amid Military Strikes

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lenged American interests and those of its allies, particularly Israel and Saudi Arabia. The U.S. sees these as destabilizing networks, while Iran portrays them as strategic depth.

The United States' military footprint across the Middle East compounds tensions. With troops stationed in Qatar, Bahrain, and Iraq, American assets have become targets. Iran's retaliatory strikes on U.S. bases following the air raids demonstrate a volatile tit-for-tat dynamic that risks broader escalation.

One potential flashpoint: the Strait of Hormuz. Tehran's threat to block this vital maritime chokepoint would send shockwaves through global energy markets, threatening not just regional but global economic stability.

Diplomacy in the Shadow of Missiles

Amid the drumbeat of war, diplomatic signals persist - but faintly. President Trump has alluded to the possibility of renewed talks, yet Tehran remains resistant, asserting it will not negotiate under fire. The military strikes, while meant as strategic deterrents, may have entrenched positions further, narrowing the diplomatic runway.

Is State Collapse a Strategic Aim?

Officially, the U.S. claims its goals are limited: halt Iran's nuclear program, reduce its regional influence, and ensure security for allies. Yet the cumulative strategy - military strikes, maximum sanctions, rhetorical antagonism - raises uncomfortable questions.

Some analysts argue that the U.S. aims not just to restrain Iran but to catalyze regime collapse. The Trump-era "maximum pressure" campaign sought behavioral change through economic suffocation. Critics suggest this implicitly encouraged regime change, even if not formally acknowledged.

Support for exiled opposition groups, the precedent of the 2003 Iraq invasion, and the alignment with Israeli hawks deepen suspicions. The pattern appears less about containment and more about transformation - a shift from restraining Iran to dismantling the current regime altogether.

Moreover, the scale of military damage and the threat to institutional cohesion fuel concern that Iran

may not endure the compounded pressures. Whether by design or collateral consequence, the effects could push Iran toward fragmentation or functional disintegration.

Potential Future Developments In U.S.-Iran Relations

Looking ahead, the trajectory of U.S.-Iran relations is poised to be shaped by a volatile mix of military brinkmanship, diplomatic overtures, and shifting regional dynamics. Based on current developments and expert analysis, here are several plausible scenarios:

1. Escalation into Prolonged Conflict

With Iran vowing retaliation for the recent U.S. strikes on its nuclear facilities, there is a high risk of a sustained cycle of military exchanges. Iran has already launched missiles at U.S. bases in Qatar and Iraq, and its parliament is considering closing the Strait of Hormuz, a move that could disrupt global oil markets and provoke further U.S. military responses. If this tit-for-tat continues, it could spiral into a broader regional war involving proxy forces and U.S. allies like Israel and Saudi Arabia.

2. Strategic Retaliation and Asymmetric Warfare

Rather than direct confrontation, Iran may lean on its network of regional proxies, such as Hezbollah, the Houthis, and militias in Iraq and Syria, to target U.S. interests indirectly. Cyberattacks, sabotage of energy infrastructure, and maritime harassment in the Persian Gulf are also likely tools in Iran's asymmetric playbook. This would allow Tehran to respond without inviting full-scale war.

3. Diplomatic Reset or Backchannel Negotiations

Despite the current hostilities, there are faint signals of potential diplomacy. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has expressed cautious openness to dialogue, while President Trump has hinted at the possibility of a new deal, though both sides remain deeply mistrustful. A diplomatic breakthrough would likely require third-party mediation, confidence-building measures, and a recalibration of maximalist demands.

4. Economic Collapse and Internal Pressure in Iran

The compounded effects of sanctions, military strikes, and infrastructure damage could push Iran's economy to the brink. This may lead to increased domestic unrest or pressure on the regime to shift its



The United States strikes Iran

foreign policy posture. Alternatively, it could harden the government's resolve and lead to further isolation.

5. Regional Realignment and External Mediation

Russia and China may play more active roles in mediating or exploiting the conflict. Russian President Vladimir Putin has already condemned the U.S. strikes and offered support to Iran. A multipolar diplomatic effort involving the EU, Russia, and China could emerge as a counterbalance to U.S. influence, potentially reshaping the regional order.

6. A New Nuclear Agreement or Arms Race

If diplomacy resumes, it may result in a revised nuclear agreement - possibly more stringent than the JCPOA. However, if talks fail, Iran may accelerate its nuclear program, prompting a regional arms race with countries like Saudi Arabia seeking their own deterrents.

Each of these paths carries profound implications - not just for U.S.-Iran relations, but for global security, energy markets, and the future of diplomacy in a multipolar world.

Profound Implications For Global Security

The unfolding U.S.-Iran confrontation carries profound implications for global security, with ripple effects that extend far beyond the Middle East. Here's a breakdown of the key global risks and strategic consequences:

1. Energy Market Disruption

The most immediate threat stems

from Iran's threat to close the Strait of Hormuz, a maritime chokepoint through which nearly 20% of the world's oil and LNG flows. A closure, even temporary, could spike global oil prices to \$120 per barrel or more, triggering inflation, supply chain shocks, and economic instability across energy-dependent economies.

2. Regional Escalation and Proxy Warfare

The conflict risks drawing in regional actors like Israel, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, while emboldening Iran's proxies such as Hezbollah, the Houthis, and militias in Iraq and Syria. This could ignite a broader regional war, destabilizing fragile states and overwhelming humanitarian systems.

3. Global Diplomatic Polarization

The strikes have already deepened divides at the UN Security Council, with countries like Russia, China, and Pakistan condemning U.S. actions and calling for an immediate ceasefire. This polarization could erode multilateral cooperation on other global issues, from arms control to climate change.

4. Terrorism and Asymmetric Threats

A weakened or cornered Iran may resort to asymmetric retaliation, including cyberattacks, maritime sabotage, or support for transnational terrorist operations. Western interests and infrastructure, both physical and digital, could become targets, raising global threat levels.

5. Nuclear Non-Proliferation at Risk

The collapse of diplomatic frame-

works like the JCPOA and the targeting of nuclear facilities may undermine the global non-proliferation regime. Other states may reconsider their commitments, fearing that compliance offers no protection from military action.

6. Humanitarian Fallout

With hundreds already killed and critical infrastructure damaged, the conflict could trigger mass displacement, refugee flows, and a humanitarian crisis that strains international aid systems and border security in neighboring regions.

In essence, this is not just a bilateral conflict, it's a geopolitical tremor with the potential to reshape global alliances, economic stability, and the norms of international engagement.

A Precipice with No Clear Path Forward

There is no formal U.S. policy advocating Iran's erasure from the world map. Yet the convergence of military force, economic destabilization, and political isolation generates outcomes that mirror those of state collapse. Whether intentional or not, this trajectory threatens to redefine not only Iran's place in the world but also the stability of the wider Middle East.

The coming weeks will reveal whether diplomacy can interrupt this cycle of escalation. Until then, the world watches two adversaries locked in a strategic spiral - one that could redraw geopolitical boundaries or lead to unintended catastrophe.

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Police FC and their female counterparts, Bullets, have been lauded as great ambassadors of the nation by President William Ruto, who hosted them at the State House on Tuesday for breakfast after their League successes.

FKF PL Conquers Police FC, Bullets Honoured As Great Kenyan Ambassadors



Police FC, Bullet at State House.

Police FC and their female counterparts, Bullets, have been lauded as great ambassadors of the nation by President William Ruto, who hosted them at the State House on Tuesday for breakfast after their League successes.

Police FC stormed to its maiden Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Premier League title after lifting the trophy on Sunday during the conclusion of the 2024-25 season with a 1-1 draw at the Ulinzi Sports Complex.

The law enforcers topped the league with 65 points, six ahead of reigning and record champions Gor Mahia, who had to settle for second place and miss out on the title for the first time since 2022.

Bullets, on the other hand, continued their dominance in the FKF Women's Premier League, clinching the title with 43 points, two ahead of second-placed Ulinzi Starlets.

President Ruto congratulated both teams for their outstanding performances and praised their role as ambassadors of the National Police Service and Kenyan sports.



“Let me take this opportunity to say congratulations to Kenya Police Bullets and Kenya Police FC for the very well-deserved win in the Premier League, both for women’s football and men’s football,” the Head of State said. “I want to say congratulations, and it is a very proud moment

for me to receive you here at the State House. I had to postpone the cabinet to do this because this is important. Kenya is a great sporting nation, and the Kenya Police is an incubator for sports.” He added: “It is significant that we are meeting this morning so that we can appreciate what the

Kenya Police Service is doing, not only for our security but also for our sports, and being the greatest ambassadors for our nation.”

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Lionel Messi will face former club Paris St-Germain at the Fifa Club World Cup as Inter Miami drew 2-2 with Palmeiras to reach the knockout stages.

FIFA Club World Cup: Messi Set For PSG Reunion As Inter Miami Progress



Lionel Messi has scored 754 times across all competitions during his senior domestic career

Lionel Messi will face former club Paris St-Germain at the Fifa Club World Cup as Inter Miami drew 2-2 with Palmeiras to reach the knockout stages.

A point was sufficient for both sides to progress and Tadeo Alencide and Luis Suarez had Inter cruising at 2-0 in front of 60,914 fans at Hard Rock Stadium.

However the Brazilian club scored two goals in the final 10 minutes – from Paulinho and Mauricio – to ensure they went through as winners of Group A on goal difference.

Inter finished second to set up the meeting with PSG, where Argentina forward Messi played from 2021 to 2023.

Elsewhere in Group A, Egyptian side Al Ahly conceded an 89th-minute equaliser to draw 4-4 with Porto.

Wessam Ali's hat-trick for Al Ahly was cancelled out by goals from Rodrigo Mora, William and Samu Aghehowa before Mohamed Romdhane put Al Ahly 4-3

up in the 64th minute. However, Brazilian winger Pepe's dramatic late equaliser at Metlife Stadium ensured both sides exited the group phase with two points apiece.

Which player stood out?

This was a relatively subdued performance overall for Suarez but the 38-year-old Uruguay striker still has a knack of influencing games and produced two key moments.

First, the former Barcelona and Liverpool striker got an assist when he chested the ball into Alencide's path for the opening goal.

Then he produced a clinical finish just after the hour mark when he struck a left-footed half-volley into the top corner from a tight angle to make it 2-0.

Palmeiras fought back but Suarez still collected the player-of-the-match award.

What was the main talking point?

Fifa opted to give the one qualifying spot available for the host nation of the Club World Cup to Inter Miami.

It was a decision interpreted by many as an attempt to ensure Messi, one of football's most iconic figures, took part in the tournament.

However, they have proved their worth, becoming the only team from the United States to reach the knockout phase – with both Los Angeles FC and the Seattle Sounders eliminated.

With Messi, who joined Inter in 2023, now set for an intriguing reunion against one of his former clubs in PSG, the tournament's organisers will doubtless feel they made the right call.

"We've achieved the goal we set for ourselves at the start of this tournament, which was to qualify for the round of 16," said Inter head coach Javier Mascherano.

"Despite the fact we're facing arguably the best team in Europe, the Champions League winners,

we'll try to approach it with the same humility and the same seriousness.

"If there's one thing this sport has shown us, it's that anything can happen in a match."

PSG defeated the Seattle Sounders 2-0 to seal their place in the knockout stages as the winners of group B.

The standout stat

Lionel Messi's teams have progressed in all 33 group stages they have appeared in over his career.

What is next for these teams?

Messi and his Inter Miami colleagues will take on his former club and current Champions League holders PSG in Atlanta in the last 16 on 29 June.

Palmeiras will meet fellow Brazilian side Botafogo in Philadelphia the previous day.

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From Adversity To Art: The Unstoppable Journey Of Sara Louise



By: Anila Bukhari
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In a world where resilience and determination can be the greatest works of art, Sara Louise shines as a beacon of inspiration. This multi-faceted queen has transformed her life's challenges into masterpieces, captivating audiences with her photography and writing. As a champion in her field and a great human with a kind heart, Sara's story is a testament to the power of turning pain into art.

A Childhood Shaped by Adversity

Sara's early life was far from idyllic. Born with autism and raised in an environment devoid of warmth and affection, she endured relentless abuse and violence. Yet, she found solace in small moments of joy and learned to rely on herself. This resilience would become the foundation of her future success.

Survival and Transformation

In 2009, Sara survived an attempt on her life by an ex-partner, a moment that could have defined her as a victim. Instead, it fueled her transformation, and she refused to let her past dictate her future. She found love again in 2017, marrying a kind and loyal partner who became a source of healing and support.

Motherhood and Advocacy

As a mother of five, Sara has had to fight for her children's rights, whether it's for proper medical care, education, or simply the right to be themselves. Through them, she has found her voice as an advocate, pushing for a world that is more accepting and understanding of those who don't fit neatly into society's mold.

Photography and Storytelling

For Sara, photography is not just about taking pictures; it's about capturing the unspoken and the in-between. Her business, Sara Louise Photography, has grown exponentially, earning her a reputation for capturing moments with raw honesty. Her unique autistic perspective



Sara Louise.

allows her to see what others might overlook – the fleeting expressions, the untold emotions, and the beauty hidden in everyday life.

Awards and Recognition

Sara's work has not gone unnoticed. She has been honored with the title of International Street Photographer of the Year, a recognition that cements her place among the best in the industry. She has also been a finalist in several prestigious competitions, including the BX Awards and the Women's Championship.

Writing and Literary Pursuits

Sara's storytelling extends beyond photography; she is also a co-author of several books, contributing her voice to stories that matter. Her writing allows her to give voice to experiences that are often overlooked or misunderstood. She is now beginning to write children's books, driven by a desire to bring representation and meaningful narratives to young readers.

A Message of Hope

Sara's journey is not just one of success; it's a testament to the power of resilience and determination. To

those facing their own battles, Sara's message is clear: Keep going. Keep creating. Keep telling your story. Because your voice, your vision, and your truth matter. And the world is waiting to hear them.

A Queen Without a Crown

Sara Louise is a true queen, not because of a title or a crown, but because of her unwavering spirit and her ability to transform pain into art. Her story is a beacon of inspiration, reminding us that no matter where we start, no matter what obstacles stand in our way, there is always a way forward.

Worth Noting:

- Sara's early life was far from idyllic. Born with autism and raised in an environment devoid of warmth and affection, she endured relentless abuse and violence. Yet, she found solace in small moments of joy and learned to rely on herself. This resilience would become the foundation of her future success.
- In 2009, Sara survived an attempt on her life by an ex-partner, a moment that could have defined her as a victim. Instead, it fueled her transformation, and she refused to let her past dictate her future. She found love again in 2017, marrying a kind and loyal partner who became a source of healing and support.