



Intellectual Property and Franchising in Kenya: A Comprehensive Overview

Franchising is a business model where one party, the franchisor, grants another party, the franchisee, the right to operate a business using the franchisor's established brand, systems, and business methods in exchange for fees and on-going royalties.

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Outrage Over Live Coverage Ban

The Kenya Editors' Guild (KEG) has sharply condemned a directive by the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) banning live broadcasts of the June 25 protests. In a statement on Wednesday, KEG termed the CA's action as unconstitutional, noting that it misinterprets Articles 33 and 34 of the Constitution, which guarantee free expression and media freedom.



Genz protest marking the first anniversary of the storming of the parliament.

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Mwamko Mpya

CS Eric Mugaa Launches 17th WASREB Impact Report At Water And Sanitation International Conference

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

During the ongoing Water and Sanitation International Conference in Mombasa, the Cabinet Secretary for Water Sanitation and Irrigation Eric Mugaa officially launched the 17th Edition of the Wasreb Kenya Impact Report (2023/24) which is a key milestone in assessing performance and progress in water services sector.

The report highlighted a notable increase in water coverage, with regulated Water Service Providers (WSPs) growing from 65% to 70%. However, Non-Revenue Water (NRW) levels worsened, rising from 43% to 44%, far from the sector's target of 20% by 2030. The report revealed that water losses result in a potential KShs. 11 billion in annual revenue loss, pushing the burden onto consumers through elevated bills.

Several WSPs were recognized for outstanding performance in Governance, NRW Management, and Most Improved Services with Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company being crowned the Overall Winner.

Among the dignitaries present were Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu who is also the Chair Council of Governors Water Caucus, Principal Secretaries for Water and Sanitation (Julius Korir) and Ephantus Kimotho for Irrigation, Water Secretary Samuel Alima, Irrigation Secretary Vincent Kabuti, chairpersons and CEOs of Water Works Development Agencies, WSP Boards, Managing Directors, Development Partners and Civil Society Representatives. Also present was Laikipia County Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri who is also the chairman of deputy governors caucus.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NCKK Decries Rampant Environmental Destruction In Counties

By: Denson Mututo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking in Kitui, the lower Eastern region NCKK chairman Major Leonard Kasyoka called upon members of respective County Assemblies to swiftly enact laws that would help regulate both sand harvesting and charcoal burning across the four counties.
- “Without a proper law in place, even the local security authorities have nothing to enforce, thus giving way to the malpractice,” Kasyoka said, adding that the church is committed to ensuring local communities protect the natural environment.

The National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCKK) has raised concern over illegal sand harvesting and charcoal burning within the lower eastern counties of Kitui, Makueni, Machakos and Kajiado.

The council lamented that continued charcoal burning and sand harvesting are major threats to livelihoods in the lower eastern region, as they have gradually had negative impacts, including deforestation leading to drying of water sources.

Speaking in Kitui, the lower Eastern region NCKK chairman Major Leonard Kasyoka called upon members of respective County Assemblies to swiftly enact laws that would help regulate both sand harvesting and charcoal burning across the four counties.

“Without a proper law in place, even the local security authorities have nothing to enforce, thus giving way to the malpractice,” Kasyoka said, adding that the church is committed to ensuring local communities protect the natural environment.

The lower chairman appreciated Makueni County government for being the only county amongst the four counties in the lower eastern region that has a working legislation on sand harvesting aimed at the protection of local rivers, which are mainly water sources for the area residents.

Kitui County early this year enacted a bill on sand harvesting in an effort to regulate its harvesting as well as protect the massive destruction of local rivers.

The national religious umbrella organisation has expressed concern over recent incidents involving the use of force against unarmed protestors during nationwide demonstrations.

NCKK Chairman Rev. Dr. Elias Ogola, while addressing the issue, noted with regret the rising tensions in the country and urged security agencies



Visiting NCKK members with the local community at the Kaloyo water dam funded by NCKK.

to exercise restraint. He affirmed the church's commitment to advocating for the protection of constitutional rights, including the right to peaceful assembly and protest.

Ogola was speaking during the official commissioning of the Kaloyo Earth Dam water project at Kiseve village in Athi Ward, Kitui South Constituency. The church umbrella body is on a weeklong development visit in Kitui county.

Alongside Kaloyo dam, which was desilted at a cost of Sh2 million, the Council has also initiated several other projects, including sinking boreholes and constructing water kiosks for efficient supply of water to the local communities. The Council targets to spend Sh500 million to implement various water projects across Kitui South Constituency.

The NCKK is among several development actors in the private sector that have been working jointly with the national and Kitui county governments in the implementation of water projects aimed at alleviating water scarcity in Kitui county.



Charcoal kilns.

Aside from bringing water closer to the people for domestic use and livestock as well as small-scale farming, NCKK also directs efforts into the mitigation of gender-based violence (GBV) and teenage pregnancies that are quite prevalent across the vast Kitui South Constituency.

The county is among Kenya's counties with high cases of GBV and a high

number of teenage pregnancies.

In Kitui County, the pregnancy rate among girls aged 15-19 was 30 per cent, according to the Kenya Demographic and Health survey, 2022. This means that three out of every ten girls in that age group in Kitui County had experienced pregnancy.

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25th June Gen Z Protest In Pictures



25th June Gen Z Protest In Pictures



25th June Protest In Pictures



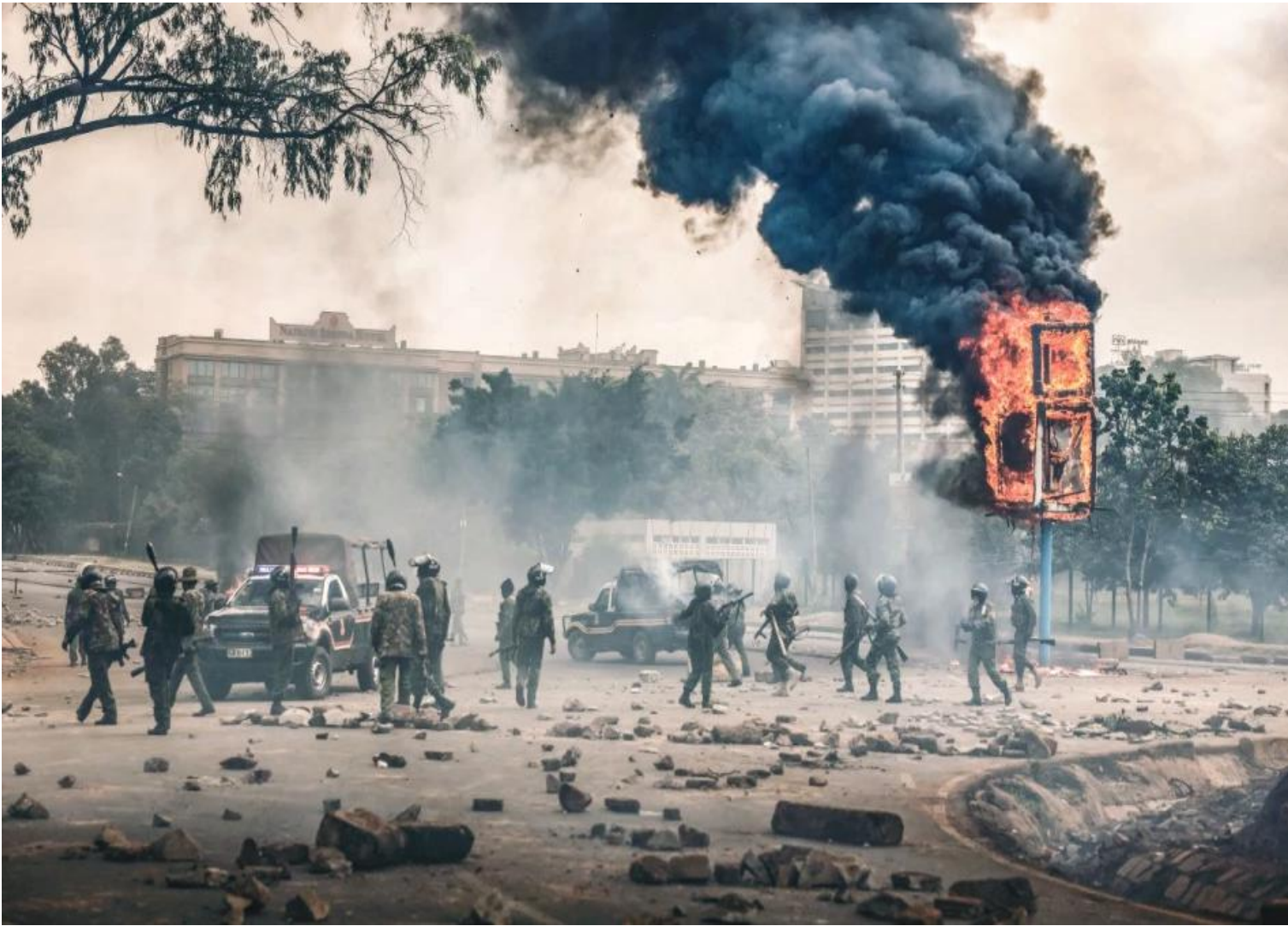
Editors Guild, LSK Condemn Gov't Order To Stop Live Broadcast Of June 25th Protests

By: Joseph Muia
@themtkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- “CA’s claim that it is acting under Articles 33 and 34 of the Constitution is legally and factually flawed. These provisions protect free expression, with clear limits only on hate speech, incitement, and propaganda, not on responsible journalism,” KEG said.
- The Guild cited a 2023 High Court judgment in Kenya Editors’ Guild & Others v Communications Authority & Others, in which the court ruled against state interference in live media broadcasts and emphasised that no government agency can impose prior restraint on the press.
- “By ignoring this ruling, CA is actively undermining judicial authority and reopening the door to unconstitutional state censorship,” President Kananu noted.



Members of Kenya security forces gather near a burning billboard in downtown Nairobi on June 25, 2025 during a planned day of protest marking the first anniversary of the storming of the parliament. (Photo by Luis TATO / AFP)

The Kenya Editors’ Guild (KEG) has sharply condemned a directive by the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) banning live broadcasts of the June 25 protests.

In a statement on Wednesday, KEG termed the CA’s action as unconstitutional, noting that it misinterprets Articles 33 and 34 of the Constitution, which guarantee free expression and media freedom.

KEG President Zubeidah Kananu termed the directive “legally and factually flawed”, saying it was an affront to press freedom and public accountability.

“CA’s claim that it is acting under Articles 33 and 34 of the Constitution is legally and factually flawed. These provisions protect free expression, with clear limits only on hate speech, incitement, and propaganda, not on responsible journalism,” KEG said.

The Guild cited a 2023 High Court judgment in Kenya Editors’ Guild & Others v Communications Authority & Others, in which the court ruled against state interference in live media broadcasts and emphasised that

no government agency can impose prior restraint on the press.

“By ignoring this ruling, CA is actively undermining judicial authority and reopening the door to unconstitutional state censorship,” President Kananu noted.

KEG called for the immediate withdrawal of the directive, respect for the court orders, and reinforcement of the public’s right to know as it urged media houses to stand firm and consider legal protection if threatened.

“During moments of civic unrest, the only crisis greater than the protest itself is the silencing of the voices that tell its story,” said Kananu.

At the same time, the Law Society of Kenya (LSK), the Police Reforms Working Group, and the Kenya Medical Association also censured the CA directive, warning of its implications on constitutional rights, emergency response, and the potential misuse of state power.

“This directive is a misinterpretation of constitutional provisions and a dangerous step towards suppressing fundamental freedoms in Ken-

ya,” the joint statement read.

The groups said the move not only violates Article 34 of the Constitution but also the November 2024 court ruling that declared CA’s earlier broadcast interference unconstitutional, affirming that only the Media Council of Kenya has regulatory authority over media content.

“Live broadcasts serve a crucial role in a democratic society... preventing the spread of misinformation and rumours,” the statement added.

They warned that the order is already affecting medical response to injured protesters, bystanders, and law enforcement officers, further violating the right to safety under Article 29 of the Constitution.

“We remind the CA that the media acts as a watchdog... Live broadcasts can deter excessive force and human rights violations by ensuring that actions are witnessed and recorded,” they said.

The three organisations further put the CA and its CEO on notice of imminent legal action if the directive is not rescinded by 4 pm, adding that

any move to shut down the internet would also breach standing conservatory court orders.

“We urge national media stations to remain guided by Kenyan law and recent judicial rulings, as well as keep Kenyans informed to prevent atrocities under the cover of a ban.”

CA had directed all television and radio stations to immediately cease live coverage of the ongoing protests.

In a circular addressed to “All Television and Radio Stations,” the authority cited Articles 33(2) and 34(1) of the Constitution and Section 461 of the Kenya Information and Communications Act of 1998 as the basis for the order.

“The live coverage of the June 25, 2025, demonstrations is contrary to Articles 33(2) and 34(1) of the Constitution of Kenya,” read the directive signed by CA Director General and CEO David Mugonyi.

Mau Mau War Veterans Association Presents Its PBO Regulations Petition

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

Former freedom fighters and their descendants yesterday presented a petition on the draft Public Benefits Organization (PBO) regulations that is undergoing public participation.

The members, through their caucus; Mau Mau War Veterans Association made the presentation during the public hearing in Nyeri town.

A petition, seen by this publication and which is signed by the caucus Director General James Njuguna Mahuria contains a number of proposals.

These include a call to decentralise the registration of PBOs to county level and establish a fully automated digital registration system.

Others are enforce a maximum 60 working day timeline for processing, issuing provisional registrations where necessary and simplify documentation for smaller grassroots organizations.

The caucus is further proposing for a provision where the governance and management should adopt a tiered governance obligations based on or-

ganizational size. They also want the government to provide standard templates and model constitutions that support federated or umbrella group compliance options. On financial accountability and Reporting, the team want a simplified reporting templates for micro and small PBOs that has room for affordable audit alternatives for grassroots entities with institutionalised national capacity building programs on financial management that can be implemented through on-line reporting systems for efficiency and transparency.

On regulatory oversight and compliance monitoring, the caucus is calling on the authorities to promote risk-based monitoring system rather than punitive inspections. This should be done through introduce compliance self-assessment tools and establishment of county-level compliance support officers that will be encouraging peer-to-peer mentorship frameworks.

On taxation, income-generating activities and financial sustainability, Mahuria's team is calling for clarity on tax exemption frameworks, permit regulated income-generating activities linked to PBO mandates and introduce incentives for private sec-



Some of the MMWVA members who presented the petition on behalf of thousands of others yesterday.



MMWVA Director General James Njuguna Mahuria addressing media in a past forum.

tor partnerships as well as establish a National PBO Sustainability Fund.

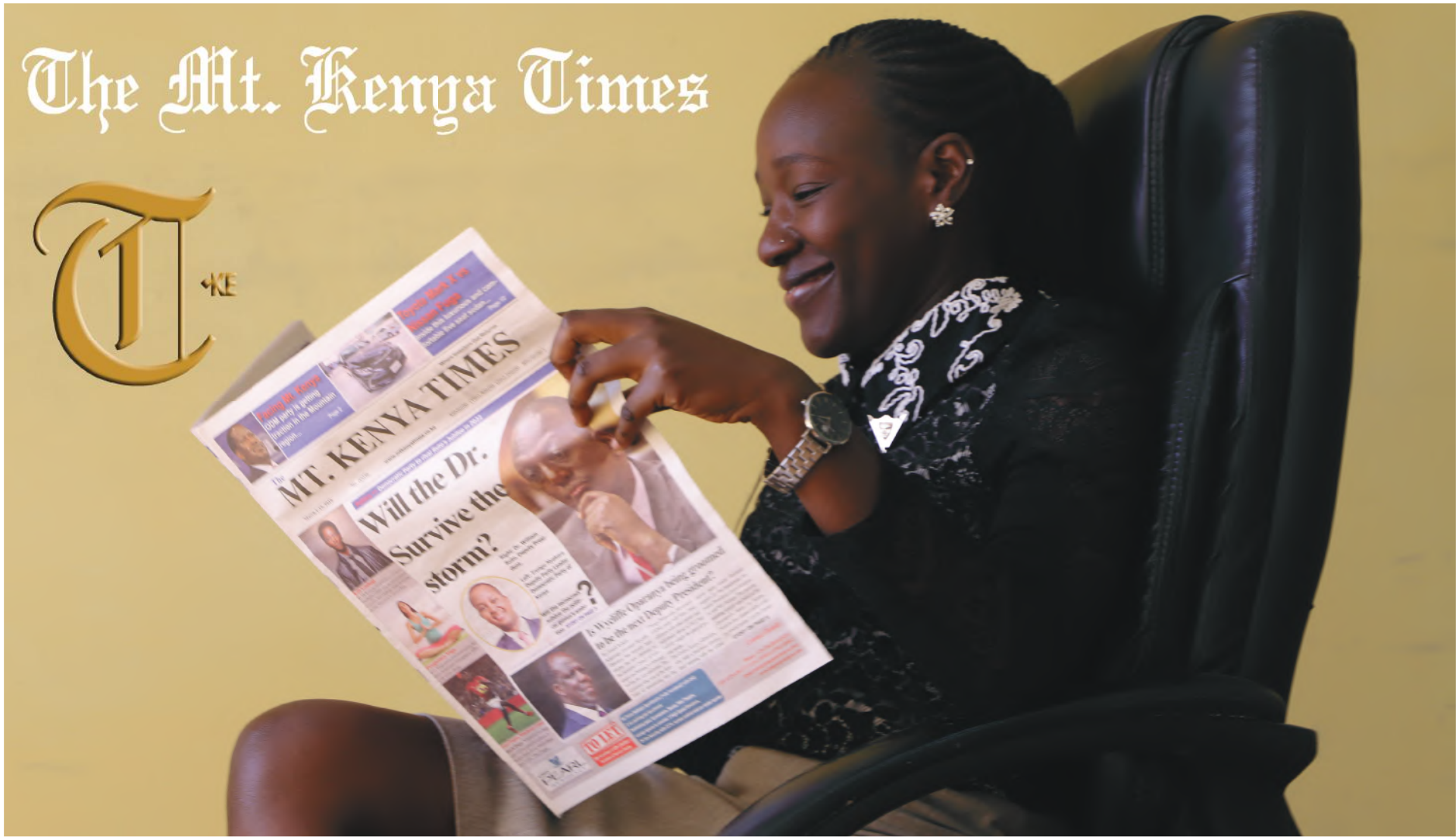
They also want the role of County Governments in PBO support clearly defined and a county liaison officer who will be engaging PBOs in county development forums by among other things, create small grant opportunities at county levels.

Further, on independence and freedoms, the team want PBOs protected

from political or administrative interference and also want a transition period of between 12–18 months for compliance alignment.

“We commend the Government of Kenya and the Regulatory Authority for recognizing the importance of PBOs in fostering development, enhancing service delivery, advancing civic engagement, and building resilience within communities across the

Republic of Kenya. As an umbrella organization representing members from diverse community-based organizations, cooperatives, and development initiatives, MMV Associates CLG is deeply interested in ensuring that the regulatory environment is enabling, inclusive, accountable, and practical for both large and small PBOs,” the petition read in part.



Over 1,200 Kiambu Youth Gain Practical Career skills

By: Collins Kirimi
@themtkenyatimes

At least 1,200 youth in Kiambu County underwent a short course on a skills training programme to enhance their employability and self-reliance to cope with the dynamic challenges of the Kenyan job market.

The graduation ceremony, held at Ndumburi Stadium, marked the successful completion of various short courses facilitated through a collaboration between the International Youth Fellowship (IYF) – Kiambu Chapter and the Kiambu County Government’s Department of Youth Affairs.

Speaking during the event, Chief Officer for Youth Affairs, Sports and Communication Godfrey Masolo, who was the guest of honour, commended the initiative for its role in equipping youth with practical and marketable skills.

“This programme is an example of how partnerships can yield impactful results. Our youth are now more empowered and prepared to contrib-



Chief Officer Godfrey Masolo presenting a certificate to one of the graduates.



Some of the graduates

ute meaningfully to society, either through employment or entrepreneurship,” said Masolo.

The training programme offered courses in Sign Language, Theology, Catering, Plumbing, and Computer Skills. It targeted unemployed youth, school leavers, and those looking to gain technical skills in preparation for the job market.

Masolo urged the graduates to take advantage of their newly acquired skills to create opportunities for themselves and others, noting that the county government was committed to supporting youth-led development through policy and funding frameworks.

Lucy Njeri, one of the beneficiaries who completed a computer skills course, expressed her gratitude, saying the programme had opened doors for her both personally and professionally.

“I can now apply for jobs online and even assist others in navigating digi-

tal platforms. This training has transformed my life,” she said.

The International Youth Fellowship, which spearheaded the training in conjunction with the county government, reiterated its commitment to supporting youth development through mentorship and education.

The ceremony was attended by youth leaders, trainers, parents, and local residents.

Entertainment by the graduates and displays of practical projects highlighted the impact of the programme on the participants.

The skills training programme is part of a broader strategy by the Kiambu County Government to reduce youth unemployment, promote innovation, and support inclusive growth under the development slogan ‘Making Kiambu Great Again’.

Kahawa Sukari Hospital To Boost Local Healthcare

By: Bilha Wesonga
@themtkenyatimes

The ongoing construction of Kahawa Sukari Level III Hospital marks a key milestone in Governor Kimani Wamatangi’s plan to improve provision of healthcare services across Kiambu County.

The project fully funded by the County Government of Kiambu is tailored to enhance access to quality and affordable healthcare by establishing modern health facilities in every sub-county.

Kahawa Sukari, located within Ruiru Sub-County, is among the key beneficiaries of this bold initiative.

A visit at the site revealed that the contractor was working round the clock as the new facility was gradually taking shape as heavy machinery, construction workers, and rising walls signalled visible progress.

Once complete, the Level III hospital will provide a wide range of es-

sential services, including outpatient treatment, maternal and child health care, minor surgeries, pharmacy services, laboratory testing, and referral support for complex cases.

According to the Kiambu County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023-2027, about 64% of the county’s population currently lives within a 5-kilometre radius of a public health facility. This project aims to bridge that gap, especially in densely populated areas like Ruiru.

Governor Wamatangi has emphasised that healthcare is a key part of his administration’s agenda, and the Kahawa Sukari facility is just one of several planned upgrades. “No family should travel long distances to receive basic medical care. This hospital will bring services right to the doorstep of our people,” he said during a recent address.

The county government has already begun similar projects and upgrades in areas such as Lari, Juja, and Limuru. The overall healthcare plan includes the construction of at least 13 new health centres and upgrades



to several others to ease the pressure on referral hospitals such as Kiambu Level 5 Hospital.

Local residents have welcomed the project with optimism. Jane Muthoni, a mother of three who lives in Kahawa Sukari, shared, “This is a dream come true. We often have to travel long distances for even the smallest health issues. This hospital will save lives.”

Beyond healthcare delivery, the project has also created temporary employment for local youth and skilled workers, giving a short-term economic boost to the area while laying a foundation for long-term benefits.

As the walls rise and the hospital takes shape, Kahawa Sukari Level III Hospital stands not only as a building but as a promise of better health and a commitment to leave no one behind.

It also shows that the county government is not just talking but taking action to make lives better.

CJ Hails Court Station Heads As Reform Champions

By: Patrick Nyakundi
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- “Leadership is about taking responsibility and setting the standard. As heads of station, you are the drivers of performance, responsible not only for your own output but also for inspiring, guiding and holding your colleagues accountable,” she explained.
- The Forum theme was: “Enhancing Access to Justice through Efficient and Sustainable Registry Operations.”
- In this regard, Koome, who is also the President of the Supreme Court of Kenya, challenged the 143 Magistrates Court Stations and 14 stand-alone Kadhi’s Courts to ensure cases were resolved quickly to avoid complaints from litigants and advocates who frequent courts for years.



Chief Justice Martha Koome with Makeni County Deputy Governor Lucy Mulili and other officials in Wote on Tuesday.

Chief Justice Martha Koome has said that heads of court stations are drivers of performance in the country, especially in offering leadership to ensure people access justice.

Consequently, CJ Koome said that when the leadership of a station is strong, systems function and people flourish besides taking responsibility and setting standards, saying they are in charge of their output and of their colleagues.

“Heads of station are the cornerstone of our success. Your role is pivotal in cultivating courts of excellence, and that excellence starts with you,” said Koome while addressing the 12th Annual Heads of Station Forum at a Hotel in Wote town, Makeni County, on Tuesday.

“Leadership is about taking responsibility and setting the standard. As heads of station, you are the drivers of performance, responsible not only for your own output but also for inspiring, guiding and holding your colleagues accountable,” she explained.

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the President of the Supreme Court of Kenya, challenged the 143 Magistrates Court Stations and 14 stand-alone Kadhi’s Courts to ensure cases were resolved quickly to avoid complaints from litigants and advocates who frequent courts for years.

“The expectation is that cases filed in court should be resolved without undue delay. Litigants do not want to keep returning to court year after year without a resolution. They deserve closure, finality, and certainty. This speaks to the performance of our courts in service delivery,” Koome noted.

During the forum, she revealed that from the first three quarters of the 2024/2025 financial year, 267,385 cases were filed at the Magistrate’s Courts and 269,067 were concluded at a Case Clearance Rate (CCR) of 97.3 per cent.

While calling upon heads of station to supervise those working at registries, she pointed out that the trust of the judiciary has been undermined by the registries across the country due to bribery claims.

Consequently, she said that nothing should be demanded from those seeking justice from our courts while

saying there is a need to root out the culture and restore integrity to the registries.

“One area that continues to undermine public trust in the judiciary is the perception and experience of corruption within registries. I have received repeated reports about a deeply entrenched culture of “facilitation” – where services that should be offered as a matter of right are given only upon payment of unofficial fees,” she lamented.

“This is unacceptable. Our work is public trust, and we are already paid salaries to serve the people. The salary our court staff earn each month is the only entitlement to offer service, and we must ensure nothing more is demanded from those who seek justice from our courts,” said the President of the Supreme Court of Kenya.

During the forum, the CJ launched Mahakama Popote Guidelines, which is a transformative set of procedures that governs the Judiciary officers to handle cases virtually from any location across the country using technology.

Koome disclosed that since its inception in October 2022, the platform has registered 17,389 cases and as a

result, 12,940 had been concluded by March 2025.

On succession cases, she directed the heads of station to clear all cases that have been pending for over 3 years by conducting rapid Result initiative and finish all that are uncontested by December 2025.

Further, she said that the Judiciary will recruit 100 additional resident magistrates and adjudicators to strengthen judicial capacity besides addressing the burden of work.

Speaking at the same forum, Makeni County Deputy Governor Lucy Mulili regretted the increase of gender-based violence and defilement cases in the county, saying there was a need to resolve the cases quickly.

Also, Mulili noted that many people in the county do not know much about succession matters and said the County has initiated programmes at the ward level to sensitise the people in the county.

Tharaka Nithi County Faces Senate Scrutiny Over Audit Queries

By: PSCU
@themtkenyatomes

Tharaka Nithi County faced Senate scrutiny over governance and financial management failures at Kathwana Municipality and Nithi Water and Sanitation Company during the 2023/24 financial year.

The Senate County Public Investment and Special Funds Committee, led by Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osotsi, on Tuesday invited Governor Muthomi Njuki and his executive team to explain audit queries that revealed the municipality operated without a legally constituted board when approving its budget.

“Operating without a duly constituted Board, as was the case when the budget was approved, is a serious breach,” Osotsi stated.

“We also note the lack of evidence for own-source revenue collection.”

Senator William Kisang expressed alarm at the municipality’s inability to demonstrate revenue generation. “It’s alarming. The municipality must ur-



Senator Godfrey Osotsi.

gently demonstrate how it’s generating revenue and account for its assets, including a timeline for tagging,” he said.

Governor Njuki acknowledged the board absence but claimed progress. “The Board for Kathwana Municipal-

ity was not in place then, but we are addressing this. A fixed assets register is now available,” he responded.

Nithi Water faced criticism over its 56% non-revenue water rate and outstanding debts. Senator Agnes Kavindu called the figure “unacceptable,”



Governor Muthomi Njuki

demanding stronger recovery measures despite some improvements.

Njuki defended the water company’s performance, citing recovery of 31 million shillings in receivables and 12 million shillings in payables, plus new tariffs addressing wage bills.

Osotsi concluded that while Nithi Water showed progress, Kathwana Municipality’s issues remained largely unresolved, demanding “swift, verifiable corrective actions.”

Kenya Bags KSh39.9B From Coffee Exports

By: Bernard Munyao
@themtkenyatomes

Earnings from the coffee exported to international markets in the 2023/2024 coffee year rose to Sh39.9 billion, up from Sh34.1 billion realised in the previous year.

According to a report by the Agriculture Food Authority (AFA), during the period, 49.5 million kilograms of coffee were exported to 60 countries as compared to 47,957 metric tonnes that were sold in the 2022/2023 coffee year.

In the coffee year that ended September 30, 2024, Belgium bought the largest consignment of coffee, weighing 8,275.79 metric tonnes and valued at KSh7.42 billion, followed by the USA with 7,917.13 metric tonnes valued at KSh6.68 billion.

Other top buyers included Germany, Korea, Sweden, Canada, the United Kingdom, Finland, Australia and the Netherlands.

The report that was released last

week by AFA Director Dr Bruno Linyiru was the first since the inception of coffee reforms at the Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) that commenced to be implemented on August 15, 2023.

The report further indicated 1,961 metric tonnes of locally processed coffee were exported to various destinations.

The report adds that in the duration between October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024, 58 coffee buyers bought 49,199.09 metric tonnes. They were led by C Dorman, which purchased 9,048.38, metric tonnes followed by Ibero Kenya, which purchased 7,769.51 metric tonnes.

Others key buyers were Kenyacof (5,663.50 metric tonnes), Taylor Winch (4,172.88 tonnes), Louis Dreyfus (4,144.27 metric), and Sasini (3,066.60 metric tonnes), among others.

In the coffee brokers’ category, 14 agents led by Alliance Berries, New KPCU, and Kirinyaga Slopes traded a total of 676,903 bags weighing 41,616,589 kgs.

The report further explains Alliance



Berries sold 198,084 bags, New KPCU 150,266 bags, Kirinyaga Slopes 122,031 bags, and KCCE 51,021 bags.

In the millers’ category, three New KPCU depots milled 17,847.84, Thika Coffee Mills 1,931.90, Murang’a Mills 152.07, and Kirinyaga 5,339.09 metric tonnes, respectively, among others.

According to reports on production, Kiambu farmers sold 9 million kilograms, Kirinyaga 8.9 million kilograms, Nyeri 6.5 million kilograms and Murang’a 5.01 million kilograms of coffee, among others.

A coffee expert, Henry Kinyua, said in Kenya 113,501 acres of land are under coffee farming, with 71 per cent occupied by the cooperative

societies.

“Area under coffee estates is 28,552 acres, while that under cooperative societies is at 84,950 acres,” he added.

Production of new coffee-growing areas included Kajiado 7,739.80 kilograms, Laikipia 9,872.42 Kilograms and Taita Taveta 9,007 kilograms.

WAR



Peace, peace, entire peace
This is what the whole world prefers
Now there is total devastation
Everything is destructed

Everything collapsed
All destroyed totally
Such magnanimous building at present
Lies beneath our vertical feet

Luxurious bed, costly furniture
Multi storied building lays collapsed
Who is the cause for it. Oh who...

Made the place beyond recognition
Made the people live in utter tension
When will all this end? What should we do to
bring peace??

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Storm Frozen In Time



Even in chaos – even in mess – there’s
something magnetic.
Like this sculpture in the gallery. Unfinished.
Raw. Real.
You stop. You stare. You wonder about the
story it holds –
a storm Frozen in time.
People are like that too.
We walk past them without knowing the
weight they carry.
We see the surface – not the scars.
But we’re quick to judge. Quick to criticize.
Especially when it’s a woman.
Especially when she refuses to stay silent.
But no one was born to be someone else’s
punching bag.
No one exists to be a shadow in their own life.

They expect you to stay quiet, to be soft, to
endure.
But you don’t have to.
You don’t have to be a sculpture carved by
cruelty.
You can choose to rebuild –
To be loud, to be kind, to rise.
To create your own life, on your own terms.
And remember:
The earth is round. What goes around comes
back.
No pain is wasted. No truth stays buried.
And nothing – nothing – escapes the eyes of
the Greatest Witness.
This is a call for every woman and girl disguised
as cracks and silence:
You are not your cracks.
You are a story still being written –
by you.
Never let others take hold of your pen.
They tried to bury us. They didn’t know we
were seeds .

Nodirova Sevinch Dilmurod
TMC Singapore Institute

My Angel – My Mother



No braid or charm like hers in any land.

Those black eyes, brows – to idols they belong.
Yet none could write of them in deeper verse.
The pens that praise true beauty all along,
Would find her calloused hands the universe.

To God above, I offer thanks anew,
I am the child of one so pure and bright.
My mother – rare, beloved, kind and true,
A simple woman... yet an angel’s light.

© Ibragimova Dilovar daughter of Anvar

From love was born a graceful, noble soul,
Her name is spoken – wise and full of grace.
For her dear children, she gives up her all,
An angel without wings on earth – her place.

No worldly beauty can with her compare,
Though age has touched her with a gentle
hand.

No oven’s warmth can match her loving care,

Ibragimova Dilovar Anvar was born in **2006** in
Muzrabot district, Surxondaryo region.
She has been writing poetry since her school
years.
Currently, she is a second-year student at the
Faculty of Uzbek Philology of Termiz State
University.

A Legacy Of Love – Beyond Boundaries



It was around five in the evening when I noticed a young woman in a lawyer’s attire standing quietly at the door of Classroom X. The special English class had just concluded, and students were leaving one by one. Suddenly, I recognised her and exclaimed, “Shamili... aren’t you Shamili?” She was surprised – and delighted – that I remembered her. “Ma’am, I’m so happy you remember me... and even my name!” she replied with a smile.

Shamili was one of those diligent, well-mannered students every teacher remembers. An excellent kho-kho player, she balanced sports and academics with equal grace. She had completed her Class X nine years ago and then went on to study her XI and XII right here in this school. After completing Class XII, she hadn’t come back to the school until today.

But beyond that, what truly set her apart was her strength – strength shaped by the loving hands that raised her.

Shamili lost her mother when she was very young. After her father remarried, she and her elder sister were brought up by their stepmother – a remarkable woman who treated them as her own. From their early childhood and school

years right into adulthood, this loving stepmother was always present. She attended every parent-teacher meeting, offered encouragement, celebrated their victories, and supported them through every challenge. To her, Shamili and her sister were not “stepdaughters” – they were her own, and she embraced them with a heart that knew no boundaries.

During our conversation, I asked Shamili about her family. To my surprise, she revealed that she was now married and a proud mother. “Ma’am, can you guess who this is?” she asked, showing a photo of an adorable baby girl. “That must be you when you were a baby!” I responded.

With a shy laugh, she said, “Ma’am, you guessed wrong – this is my daughter. Everyone says she’s a tiny version of me. Every morning before I leave for work at the High Court, I drop her off at my mother’s house. Ma’am, I am forever indebted to my mother. Even today, she takes care of my daughter with the same love she gave me and my sister when we were young.” Listening to Shamili, I felt deeply moved. Here was a beautiful reminder that a mother’s love knows no labels – biological or step. It doesn’t matter if it is a tie of blood or a bond of belonging. What truly matters is the heart that chooses to nurture, the hands that selflessly give, and the warmth that embraces every child as its own.

A mother’s love is a force that shines across generations – a beacon that knows no boundaries, no distinctions, no end.

R HEMALATHA SIVAN

I Find Myself Among Books



your heart, it speaks to your soul. Every time I pick up a book, I take another step closer to myself. I try to find myself in each book.

Books have become a part of my life. I find my way through books. It was not for nothing that our ancestors said, “There is no better friend than a book.” The more I find myself among books, the more meaningful my life becomes. That is why I always say, “I find myself among books.”

Bobokulova Laylo Toshtemirovna is a young creative person who is boldly striving for modern Uzbek literature and journalism.

She was born on March **13, 2008** in the city of Navoi, Navoi region. Having loved the magic of words since her youth, Laylo expresses her inner world, dreams and hopes, and her attitude towards society through poetry.

Her first poems attracted attention on social networks, and today several of her poems and articles are published in newspapers. This is a big step for the young artist, creating a solid foundation for her future creative work. Laylo dreams of becoming a journalist. She always strives for news, truth and justice. That is why she tries to cover current issues in society in her articles.

Today, the heart, sorrow, dreams and beliefs of young people are clearly reflected in each of her lines. Creativity has become not only her occupation, but also a way of life.

A person goes through many paths throughout his life, recognizes himself through various searches, mistakes and experiences. For me, this path is found through books. Books are the friends of my soul, the support of my spirit, the guide of my thoughts. I often find myself among books. Through books, we get acquainted with various life events and destinies. Most importantly, books help us understand ourselves. Through reading books, I change my views on life. The works I read teach me to be patient, not to lose hope in any circumstances. Each book is a new world, a new life. I imagine myself in the place of the heroes of the book I read. In these situations, I understand myself, the experiences I have gone through.

Books play a big role in my life. I am learning to think and draw the right conclusions through books. If you read a book not simply, but with

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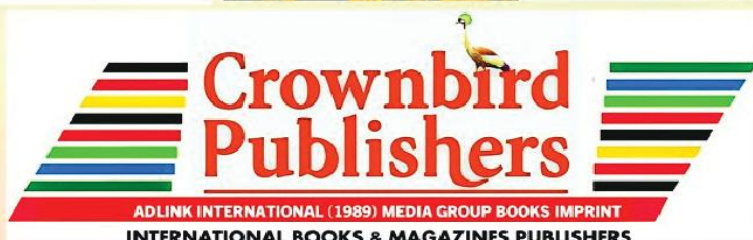
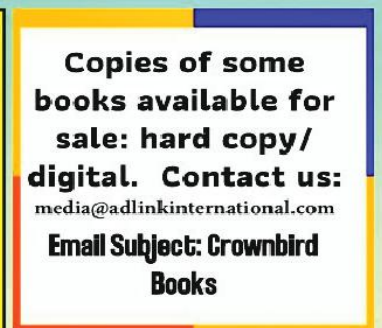
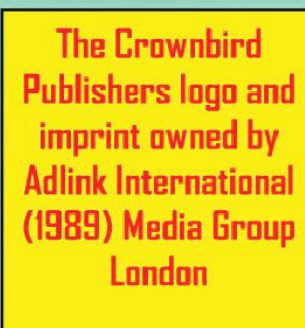
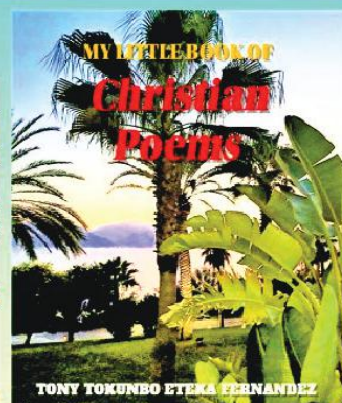
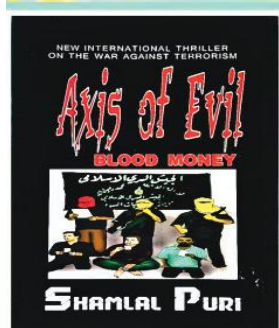
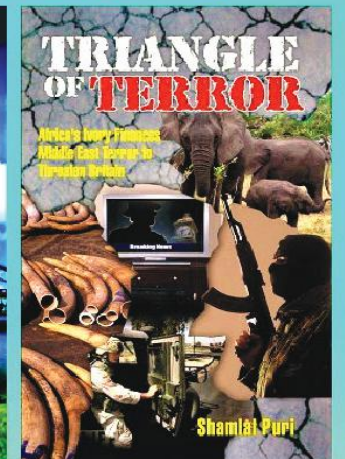
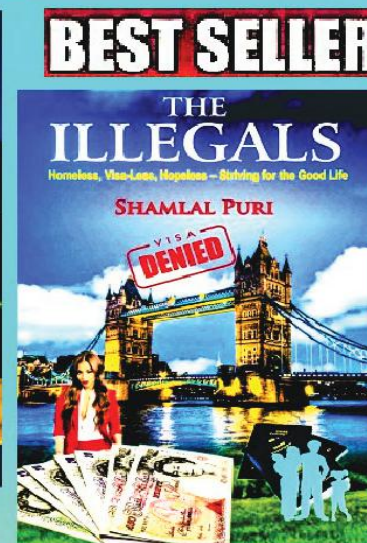
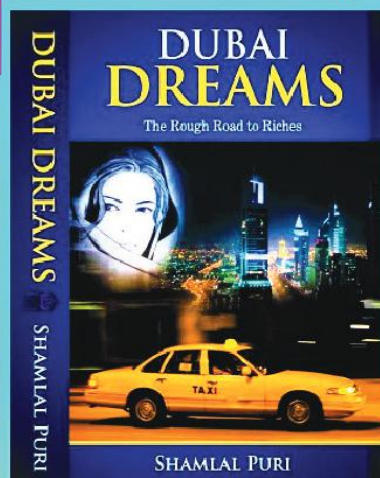
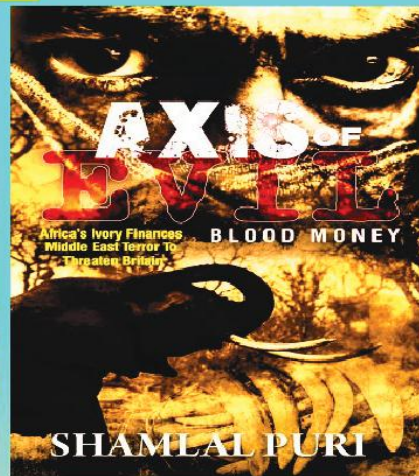
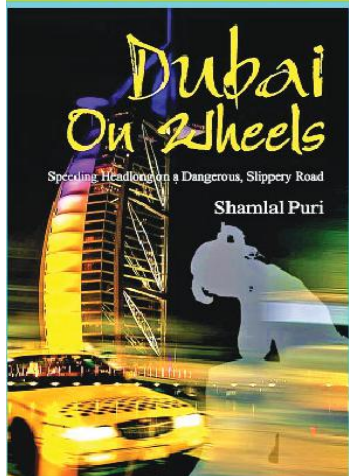
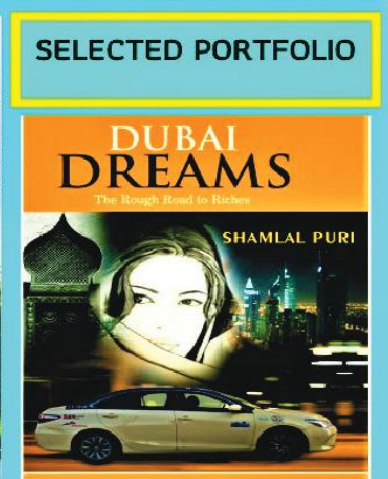
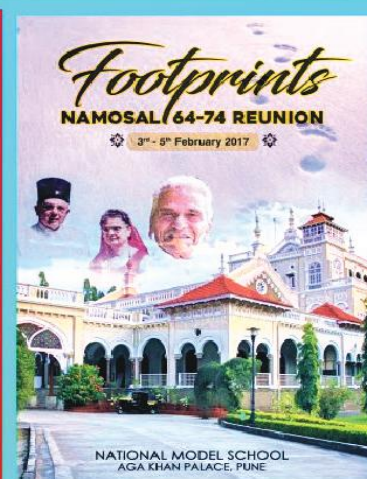
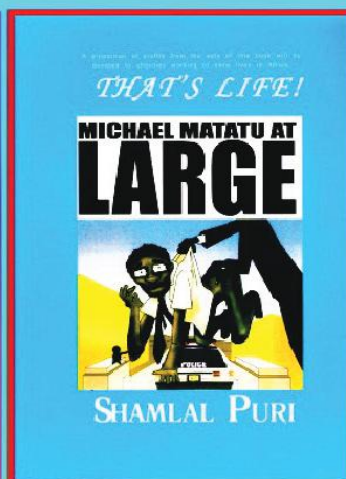
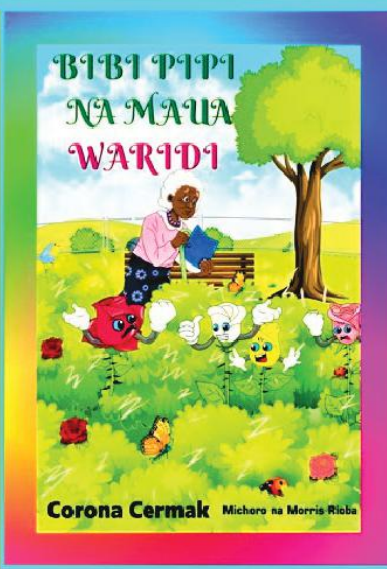
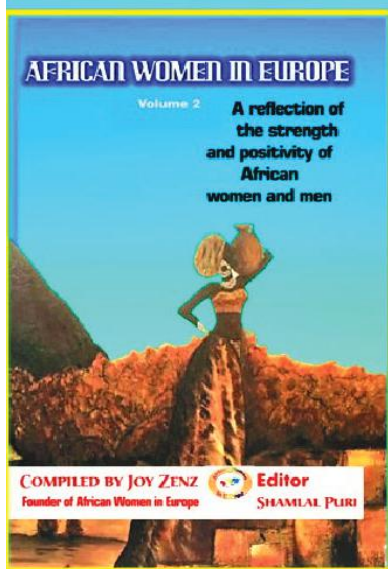
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Communication Authority Live Broadcast Ban Sparks Constitutional Crisis

By: Athuman Said
@themkenyatimes

In a move that has sent shockwaves through the nation and drawn widespread condemnation from legal experts and human rights organizations, the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) yesterday issued an unprecedented directive ordering all television and radio stations to immediately cease live broadcasts of ongoing events across the country. The directive, disseminated this Tuesday, June 25, 2025, has been widely decried as a blatant violation of Article 34 of the Kenyan Constitution, which guarantees freedom of the media.

The CA's directive, signed by Director General David Mugonyi, cited violations of Articles 33(2) and 34(1) of the Constitution, along with Section 461 of the Kenya Information and Communications Act, 1998, as grounds for the ban. The Authority warned that failure to comply would result in severe regulatory action, effectively strong-arming broadcasters into compliance. Following the directive, numerous media houses visibly switched from live feeds to studio discussions or pre-recorded programming, a stark illustration of the chilling effect of the order.

This draconian measure comes amidst a backdrop of widespread protests and public demonstrations, raising serious questions about the government's commitment to transparency and the public's right to information. Critics argue that the timing of the ban is highly suspicious, suggesting an attempt to control the narrative and suppress real-time reporting of events unfolding on the ground.

Article 34 of the Kenyan Constitution is unequivocally clear on the fundamental principles of media freedom. It states in terms:

(1) Freedom and independence of electronic, print and all other types of media is guaranteed, but does not extend to any expression specified in Article 33(2).

(2) The State shall not

(a) exercise control over or interfere with any person engaged in broadcasting, the production or circulation of any publication or the dissemination of information by any medium; or

(b) penalise any person for any opinion or view or the content of any broadcast, publication or dissemination.

The CA's directive appears to directly contravene these core tenets. By ordering a complete halt to live broadcasts, the Authority is effectively exercising control over and interfering with media outlets' ability to disseminate information. Fur-

thermore, penalizing stations for the content of their broadcasts, as implied by the threat of regulatory action, directly clashes with the constitutional safeguard against such punitive measures.

Legal scholars have been quick to point out the constitutional infirmity of the CA's actions. "This is a direct assault on the Bill of Rights," stated Dr. Njeri Maina, a constitutional law expert at the University of Nairobi. "Article 34 is not a suggestion; it's a fundamental right. The state cannot simply decide to switch off live reporting because it finds the content inconvenient or challenging. This sets a dangerous precedent for censorship."

The argument put forth by the CA, referencing Article 33(2) which limits freedom of expression that amounts to propaganda for war, incitement to violence, hate speech, or advocacy of hatred, raises concerns about potential abuse of power. While these limitations are valid within a democratic framework, a blanket ban on all live broadcasting, regardless of content, is a disproportionate and overreaching response. It implies that all live coverage of the ongoing situation inherently falls under these proscribed categories, a claim that is highly debatable and, more importantly, pre-empt the very media scrutiny that a free press is meant to provide.

This is not the first time the CA has attempted to impose restrictions on

live media coverage. In March 2023, under a previous Director General, the Authority accused several media houses of violating the Programming Code during live coverage of opposition protests, arguing it risked public alarm. However, that decision faced a swift legal challenge, with the High Court ruling in favor of media freedom advocates and declaring the CA's actions unconstitutional. The current directive, therefore, appears to disregard this significant judicial precedent.

Journalists and media organizations have voiced their outrage. The Kenya Editors' Guild released a statement condemning the ban, calling it "an unfortunate step backward for press freedom in Kenya." They emphasized the media's crucial role in informing the public, especially during times of heightened national interest, and warned that such actions erode public trust and foster an environment of speculation and misinformation.

"Our duty as journalists is to report what is happening, as it happens," stated Mr. Ben Oluoch, a veteran broadcast journalist. "To be told we cannot show live events is to deny Kenyans their right to know. It's an attempt to manage perception rather than allow for factual reporting."

The implications of this ban extend beyond the immediate events. A free and independent media is a cornerstone of any vibrant democracy. It acts as a watchdog, holding power to

account, fostering public discourse, and ensuring transparency. When this fundamental pillar is undermined, the very fabric of democratic governance is threatened.

The Communication Authority's mandate is to regulate the communications sector, ensuring fair play and adherence to established standards. However, this mandate is not absolute and must operate within the confines of the Constitution. Article 34 explicitly states that licensing procedures for broadcasting and electronic media must be "independent of control by government, political interests or commercial interests." A directive that effectively dictates what can and cannot be broadcast live directly contradicts this principle of independence.

The coming days will undoubtedly see strong reactions from various stakeholders, including civil society organizations, international press freedom advocates, and potentially further legal challenges. The Kenyan government, through the CA, is now faced with a significant test of its commitment to constitutionalism and democratic values. The eyes of the nation, and indeed the international community, are now fixed on how this critical challenge to media freedom will unfold. The constitutional promise of a free and independent press hangs precariously in the balance.

Worth Noting:

- The CA's directive appears to directly contravene these core tenets. By ordering a complete halt to live broadcasts, the Authority is effectively exercising control over and interfering with media outlets' ability to disseminate information. Furthermore, penalizing stations for the content of their broadcasts, as implied by the threat of regulatory action, directly clashes with the constitutional safeguard against such punitive measures.
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Intellectual Property and Franchising in Kenya: A Comprehensive Overview



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

The protection of intellectual property has become increasingly critical to Kenya's franchising success, with the Kenya Industrial Property Institute registering over 12,000 trademarks in 2024 alone, representing a 15% increase from the previous year and demonstrating the growing recognition of IP's importance among businesses. Trademarks serve as the cornerstone of franchise operations, ensuring that distinctive brand elements like logos, names, and slogans remain exclusive to their owners and can be properly licensed to franchisees without fear of unauthorized use by competitors.

Copyrights protect the creative aspects of franchise operations, including training manuals, marketing materials, and operational procedures that franchisors develop to maintain consistency across their network. Trade secrets encompass the confidential business information that gives franchises their competitive edge, such as KFC's famous recipe or proprietary operational methods that cannot be easily replicated by competitors, while patents may protect innovative products or processes that form part of a franchise's unique offering.

Franchising is a business model where one party, the franchisor, grants another party, the franchisee, the right to operate a business using the franchisor's established brand, systems, and business methods in exchange for fees and ongoing royalties. Intellectual property, on the other hand, refers to the legal rights that protect creations of the mind, including trademarks that identify brands, copyrights that protect creative works, patents that cover inventions, and trade secrets that safeguard confidential business information. These two concepts work hand in hand, as intellectual property forms the foundation that makes franchising possible by protecting the unique elements that distinguish one brand from another and ensuring that franchisees can legally use these protected assets to operate their businesses.

Kenya's economic landscape has proven remarkably fertile ground for franchising growth, with the country serving as a beacon of development in East Africa through its consistent GDP growth rate averaging 5.6% annually from 2015 to 2023 according to World Bank data. This economic momentum, supported by a population exceeding 53 million people and a rapidly expanding middle class projected to reach 50% of the population by 2030 as reported by the African Development Bank, has created substantial demand for branded goods and services that franchising can effectively meet. The franchising sector has responded to this opportunity by contributing an estimated KSh 100 billion annually to Kenya's economy, with the Kenya Franchise Association reporting in 2023 that this model has become increasingly attractive to both local entrepreneurs and international brands seeking market entry. Nairobi has emerged as the epicenter of this growth, hosting over 70% of Kenya's franchise outlets and serving as a launching pad for brands looking to expand throughout the East African region.

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Kenya's legal framework for intellectual property and franchising represents a complex patchwork of legislation rather than a single comprehensive statute, requiring businesses to navigate multiple laws to ensure adequate protection. The Trademarks Act, Cap 506, administered by the Kenya Industrial Property Institute, provides the primary mechanism for trademark registration and allows franchisors to license their marks to franchisees as "registered users" under Section 31, ensuring exclusive use of brand identifiers like Java House's distinctive coffee cup emblem. The Copyright Act protects creative works essential to franchise operations, while the Industrial Property Act of 2001 covers patents and industrial designs that may be crucial for franchises offering innovative products or services. The Competition Act plays a vital role in regulating exclusivity clauses within franchise agreements, with the Competition Authority of Kenya reporting 25 franchise-related exemption applications in 2024 as businesses seek to balance competitive concerns with legitimate business interests, while the Consumer Protection Act ensures

that franchisees maintain appropriate standards in serving consumers, evidenced by 1,200 complaints filed against retail franchises in 2023.

The proposed Intellectual Property Bill of 2020 represents a significant step toward streamlining Kenya's IP framework by consolidating the Kenya Industrial Property Institute, the Kenya Copyright Board, and the Anti-Counterfeit Authority into a single Intellectual Property Office of Kenya, which would create administrative efficiency and reduce bureaucratic complexity for businesses seeking IP protection. This proposed legislation also includes provisions for establishing a specialized IP court, which could significantly reduce the current average 18-month resolution time for IP disputes as reported by the Kenyan Judiciary in 2024, providing faster and more specialized adjudication of franchise-related IP conflicts. However, significant challenges continue to hamper the effectiveness of IP protection in Kenya, with counterfeit goods costing the economy an estimated KSh 80 billion annually according to the Anti-Counterfeit Authority, while historically weak IP enforcement has deterred some international franchisors from entering the Kenyan market despite its obvious potential.

Kenya's judiciary has played an increasingly important role in shaping the landscape of intellectual property and franchising law through several landmark cases that have established important precedents for business operations. In *Safaricom Limited v. Cyberspace Limited*, decided by the Nairobi High Court in 2017, the telecommunications giant successfully sued Cyberspace for trademark infringement based on the defendant's use of a similar green color scheme and branding elements, with the court ruling in Safaricom's favor and

awarding KSh 50 million in damages while affirming the critical importance of trademark distinctiveness in protecting brand identity. The case of *Kenchic Limited v. Kenfry Limited* in 2019 further strengthened IP protection by establishing that even unregistered trademarks can receive legal protection under common law principles when they have acquired sufficient goodwill and market recognition, as the court granted an injunction halting Kenfry's operations for "passing off" by mimicking Kenchic's branding and menu offerings. These cases demonstrate the Kenyan courts' willingness to enforce IP rights and provide meaningful remedies to rightsholders, creating a more secure environment for franchise operations.

International case law provides additional guidance and precedents that influence how IP and franchising matters are approached in Kenya, particularly as global brands expand into the East African market. The South African case of *McDonald's Corporation v. Joburgers Drive-Inn Restaurant* from 1996 saw McDonald's successfully pursue trademark infringement claims against a local restaurant using a similar "M" logo, with the South African Supreme Court of Appeal emphasizing the global reach and recognition of well-known trademarks, a principle that remains highly relevant as international franchises like McDonald's consider expansion into Kenya. The American case of *Starbucks Corporation v. Wolfe's Borough Coffee, Inc.* from 2007 illustrates the nuanced balance between trademark protec-

HELB Urges Teachers To Help Identify Needy Students

By: Sitati Reagan and Amina Bakari
@themkenyetimes

The Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) has called on teachers across the country to support efforts to identify genuinely needy students to ensure equitable access to tertiary education funding.

Speaking during the ongoing 48th Kenya Secondary Schools Heads Association (KESSHA) Annual National Conference at Sheikh Zayed Hall in Mombasa, HELB Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Monari said the board remains committed to financing Kenya’s human capital to be competitive in the global workforce.

“Our vision is to finance Kenya’s workforce to work anywhere in the world. Human capital is our most valuable national asset. As educators, we must encourage students to pursue higher learning opportunities,” said Monari.

He noted that a student who completes a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programme stands to earn 27 per cent

more than a Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) graduate, emphasising the importance of continued education.

Monari outlined HELB’s efforts to support learners at various levels, including undergraduate, salaried, and TVET students. Since its inception in 1975, the board has disbursed over Sh179 billion to more than 1.7 million beneficiaries.

“As of now, we have 463,150 loanees who are actively repaying a total of Sh66 billion,” he said.

Despite these efforts, Monari revealed that HELB still faces a financing shortfall of Sh36 billion. The board has received Sh41.5 billion to date but requires additional resources to fully meet demand.

Monari said currently, the board is tracking a total of 490,817 loan accounts, of which 293,122 are servicing their loans, while 245,030 were in default.

He appealed to loan defaulters to honour their repayment obligations to enable more students to benefit from the revolving fund. “We appreciate the teaching profession, which has the highest number of HELB



HELB Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Monari

loan repayers,” he added.

Addressing concerns over the cost of university education, Monari dismissed claims that HELB loans are expensive, citing the 4 per cent interest rate. “At 4 per cent interest, I can assure you it’s affordable. Ignorance, on the other hand, is far more costly,” he stated.

Monari called for closer collaboration between HELB and schools in identifying deserving students. He noted that past attempts to work

with chiefs in verifying needy cases were unsuccessful due to abuse and requests for facilitation.

“In some instances, everyone in the community suddenly became needy, and chiefs began demanding facilitation to issue recommendation letters,” he said.

He further observed that some genuinely needy students were reluctant to disclose their backgrounds due to stigma, while some from wealthier families falsely declared themselves

as needy, knowing they had nothing to lose.

“To address this, we want to partner with teachers to help us assess students’ financial histories throughout their schooling,” Monari said. “This will help us direct funding to those who need it most and ensure no student is left behind due to financial constraints.”

Intellectual Property and Franchising in Kenya: A Comprehensive Overview

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tion and fair competition, as the U.S. Second Circuit Court ruled in favor of Wolfe’s in their dispute over the “Charbucks” name, finding no significant likelihood of consumer confusion and demonstrating that even strong trademarks have limits to their protective scope.

The practical application of IP and franchising principles can be observed through numerous successful examples operating in Kenya’s market, each demonstrating different aspects of how intellectual property protection enables franchise operations. KFC operates over 30 outlets across Kenya as of 2025, relying heavily on its globally recognized trademark logo and closely guarded trade secret recipe to maintain consistency and brand recognition, though the company’s decision to import potatoes from Egypt due to inconsistent local supply has created controversy and cost local farmers an estimated KSh 500 million an-

nually in potential revenue according to the Kenya National Farmers’ Federation. Artcaffe represents a homegrown success story, operating 40 outlets through franchising while leveraging its trademark brand and commitment to locally sourced coffee to capture 15% of Kenya’s coffee shop market according to a 2024 Euromonitor report, demonstrating how local brands can effectively use IP protection to build sustainable franchise networks. Other examples include Kengele’s Bar and Restaurant, which charges a franchise fee of KSh 1.5 million plus 6% monthly royalties and has expanded to 10 outlets including international expansion into South Sudan, Carrefour with its 20 Kenyan stores contributing KSh 10 billion to retail sales in 2024, and Subway’s 12 outlets that maintain strict IP controls to ensure menu consistency across all locations.

Kenya’s franchising sector stands poised for substantial growth with the International Finance Corporation projecting a 10% annual increase in franchise investments through 2030, driven by continued urbanization that has brought 27% of Kenyans



into cities as of 2023 according to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and a youthful population with 60% under 25 years of age creating demand for branded experiences and modern retail concepts. However, significant challenges remain that require careful navigation, including the ongoing threat of counterfeit goods, inconsistent IP enforcement

mechanisms, and the absence of dedicated franchise legislation that would provide clearer guidance for business operations in this sector. Success in this environment requires franchisors to conduct thorough IP audits, register their trademarks with the Kenya Industrial Property Institute, draft comprehensive franchise agreements that address IP licens-

ing and protection obligations, and maintain vigilance against infringement even as enforcement mechanisms improve, evidenced by the Anti-Counterfeit Authority’s seizure of KSh 2 billion worth of counterfeit goods in 2024.

The writer is a legal researcher and lawyer

Diplomacy Or Distraction? Analyzing Pakistan’s Nomination Of Donald Trump For The Nobel Peace Prize Amid Global Controversy



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- The 2025 India-Pakistan crisis was the most serious military confrontation between the two countries since the Kargil War of 1999. It began on April 22, when militants from The Resistance Front (TRF) carried out a mass shooting in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, killing 28 civilians, mostly Hindu tourists. India blamed Pakistan-based groups and launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.
- Pakistan responded with Operation Bunyanum Marsoos, launching missile and drone strikes on Indian military installations over the next three days. The conflict saw the use of cruise missiles, short-range ballistic missiles, and drones by both sides-marking a new level of escalation.

Introduction: A Nomination That Shook the Diplomatic World

In June 2025, Pakistan stunned the international community by formally nominating U.S. President Donald J. Trump for the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize. The nomination, announced via the official Government of Pakistan account on X (formerly Twitter), credited Trump’s “decisive diplomatic intervention” during the May 2025 India-Pakistan military standoff with averting a catastrophic war between two nuclear-armed neighbors.

The move was met with a firestorm of reactions. Supporters hailed it as overdue recognition for a leader who, they argue, has repeatedly stepped into global crises with boldness. Critics, however, pointed to Trump’s recent authorization of U.S. airstrikes on Iranian nuclear facilities—actions that many believe contradict the spirit of the Nobel Peace Prize.

This article offers a comprehensive, factual analysis of the nomination. It explores the historical context of the India-Pakistan conflict, evaluates Trump’s role in the May 2025 ceasefire, examines the Nobel Peace Prize’s criteria and controversies, and weighs the implications of Trump’s broader foreign policy actions. It also considers Pakistan’s strategic motivations and the global response to this provocative diplomatic gesture.

1. Historical Context: India-Pakistan Tensions and the May 2025 Crisis

The 2025 India-Pakistan crisis was the most serious military confrontation between the two countries since the Kargil War of 1999. It began on April 22, when militants from The Resistance Front (TRF) carried out a mass shooting in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, killing 28 civilians, mostly Hindu tourists. India blamed Pakistan-based groups and launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

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A ceasefire was announced on May 10, following what the U.S. State Department later described as “in-



tensive back-channel diplomacy” involving President Trump, Vice President JD Vance, and Secretary of State Marco Rubio. However, India has consistently denied any external mediation, asserting that the ceasefire was the result of direct military-to-military talks.

2. Trump’s Role in the Ceasefire: Diplomatic Intervention or Political Theater?

Trump has repeatedly claimed credit for brokering the ceasefire. In a Truth Social post, he wrote, “I stopped the war between Pakistan and India. This man Asim Munir] was extremely influential in stopping it from the Pakistani side and PM Modi from the Indian side. Both are nuclear countries; they got to stop. I stopped a war between two major nuclear nations”.

The U.S. Department of State confirmed that Trump and Rubio had engaged with both Indian and Pakistani leadership in the 48 hours leading up to the ceasefire. However, Indian officials, including Prime Minister Modi and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, have publicly rejected the notion of third-party mediation.

This divergence in narratives raises critical questions: Was Trump’s involvement decisive, or was it opportunistic? Did his intervention genuinely alter the course of events, or did he merely insert himself into a resolution already underway?

3. The Nobel Peace Prize: Criteria, Precedents, and Controversies

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to individuals or organizations that have “done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations,

for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses.” Yet, the prize has a long history of controversy, from Henry Kissinger’s 1973 award during the Vietnam War to Barack Obama’s 2009 prize just months into his presidency.

Critics argue that Trump’s nomination follows this pattern of politicized or premature recognitions. His supporters counter that his interventions in South Asia, the Abraham Accords, and his claimed role in brokering peace between Congo and Rwanda demonstrate a consistent commitment to diplomacy.

Still, the Nobel Committee has historically favored sustained peace-building efforts over isolated interventions. Whether Trump’s actions meet that threshold remains hotly debated.

4. The Evaluation Process
The Nobel Peace Prize evaluation process is famously rigorous and shrouded in confidentiality, but here’s how it generally unfolds:

1. Nomination Phase
Only qualified individuals or institutions can nominate candidates (like national politicians, university professors, or past laureates). Nominations must be submitted by January 31st of the award year.

2. Initial Screening
The Norwegian Nobel Committee, a five-member body appointed by the Norwegian Parliament, reviews all valid nominations. In 2025, for example, there were 338 candidates, a mix of individuals and organizations.

3. Expert Review
The Committee then consults a network of advisers and experts,

including historians, political scientists, and peace researchers, who evaluate the nominees’ contributions in depth. They assess:

Impact: Has the nominee significantly advanced peace or prevented conflict?

Originality: Is the approach or achievement unique or groundbreaking?

Sustainability: Are the peace efforts likely to have lasting effects?

Alignment with Nobel’s vision: Does the work reflect Alfred Nobel’s intent to reward those who “shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations”?

5. Deliberation and Decision
After months of analysis, the Committee meets to deliberate and vote. The decision must be unanimous or majority-based, and the winner is announced in early October.

6. Secrecy and Legacy
All nomination records are sealed for 50 years, so the public can’t know who was nominated or why a decision was made, until long after the fact. It’s a fascinating blend of diplomacy, ethics, and historical judgment.

7. The Iran Factor: Can a Wartime President Be a Peacemaker?

Just days after the India-Pakistan ceasefire, Trump authorized Operation Midnight Hammer, a massive U.S. airstrike campaign targeting Iran’s nuclear facilities at Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan. The Pentagon

Upholding Truth: The Enduring Battle For Journalistic Integrity In Kenya

By: James Kilonzo Bwire
@themkenyatomes

The Media Council of Kenya (MCK) has long championed the critical role of journalistic integrity and the fight against misinformation as foundational pillars for a thriving democracy and a cohesive society. This call remains as urgent as ever, especially in light of the worrying erosion of ethical standards within Kenyan journalism. Increasingly, we witness sensationalism taking center stage, an uncritical reliance on anonymous sources, and a diminishing respect for the right of reply. These trends collectively chip away at public trust and weaken the media's essential watchdog role.

Integrity in journalism is not just a lofty ideal; it is an absolute necessity for the health and stability of any society. Journalists bear the paramount responsibility of prioritizing

accuracy, rigorous fact-checking, and unwavering adherence to the journalism code of conduct. This is crucial in preventing the spread of misinformation, which has the insidious power to sow discord and instability within our social fabric. The alarming prevalence of fake news and deliberately misleading content — such as fraudulent job adverts that shamelessly misuse the logos of reputable organizations — starkly reminds us of the urgent need for meticulous verification and steadfast ethical commitment. Without this foundation, the very bedrock of informed public discourse threatens to crumble.

Yet, despite these calls for ethical conduct, the Kenyan media landscape faces significant and complex challenges. The Media Council has repeatedly expressed concern over a culture of impunity where some media houses disregard regulatory authorities and ethical guidelines. This disregard not only compromises the vital principles of press freedom

but also undermines accountability. Moreover, internal tensions between media regulators and journalist bodies — exemplified by the Kenya Editors' Guild demanding an apology from MCK over accusations of biased reporting — highlight the complicated dynamics that hinder a unified front in enforcing ethical journalism. If left unresolved, these internal conflicts risk weakening the collective fight against journalistic malpractice.

In today's digital era, misinformation spreads faster and farther than ever before, making the Media Council's push for digital excellence and ethical reporting more critical than ever. Journalists are urged to move beyond "desktop journalism" and establish dedicated research desks, ensuring that reporting is not only accurate but scientifically sound and thoroughly vetted. Workshops and forums organized by MCK reinforce the "do no harm" principle, encouraging responsible and sensitive reporting. These



initiatives also empower journalists to report intimidation and threats, strengthening the media's capacity to safeguard democracy and uphold a free press.

The battle against misinformation and the pursuit of journalistic integrity require a collective effort from all stakeholders — journalists, media houses, regulators, and the public. Upholding ethical standards is not just a professional obligation; it is essential for preserving media credibility and fostering an informed, cohesive, and resilient society. Kenyan journalism stands at a critical crossroads. The embrace of integrity and responsible reporting will determine whether the media remains a trusted watchdog, holding power to account, or falls prey to sensationalism and divisive forces that threaten its very purpose. The choice, with far-reaching consequences, lies squarely in the hands of Kenya's media fraternity.

Diplomacy Or Distraction? Analyzing Pakistan's Nomination Of Donald Trump For The Nobel Peace Prize Amid Global Controversy

Contd from page 20

described the strikes as "spectacularly successful," claiming they "obliterated" Iran's enrichment capabilities.

The operation involved over 125 aircraft, including B-2 stealth bombers and Tomahawk missiles, and marked the largest U.S. air campaign in the region since the Iraq War.

Critics argue that this action undermines Trump's credibility as a peacemaker. Iranian officials have vowed retaliation, and global leaders have warned of a potential regional conflagration.

The juxtaposition of Trump's peace nomination with his wartime decisions raises a fundamental ethical question: Can a leader simultaneously wage war and be honored for peace?

8. Pakistan's Strategic Calculus: Why Nominate Trump Now?

Pakistan's nomination of Trump ap-

pears to be a calculated diplomatic move. The announcement came just days after a high-profile meeting between Trump and Pakistan's Army Chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, the first such meeting in over two decades.

Analysts suggest that Islamabad is seeking to reposition itself as a key U.S. ally amid shifting regional dynamics, including the U.S.-Iran conflict and the growing India-U.S. strategic partnership.

By nominating Trump, Pakistan may be attempting to curry favor with Washington, secure military and economic aid, and reassert its relevance in global diplomacy. However, the move has sparked domestic backlash, with Pakistani politicians and civil society groups calling for the nomination to be rescinded.

9. Global Reactions: Applause, Outrage, and Indifference

The international response to the nomination has been deeply polarized. In the U.S., Trump supporters have lauded the move, with some calling it long overdue. Former Dep-

uty Special Envoy Ellie Cohanin declared, "President Trump has truly saved the world... He deserves a Nobel Peace Prize for this".

In India, the reaction has been one of indignation. The Modi government has firmly denied any U.S. role in the ceasefire, and opposition leaders have accused Trump of "grandstanding" and "diplomatic overreach".

Online, the nomination has become a meme-worthy moment. Social media users have mocked the idea, with one viral post dubbing it "The Art of Lying ft. Donald Trump".

Even within Pakistan, the nomination has drawn criticism. Maulana Fazlur Rehman of JUI-F called it "a betrayal of the Palestinian and Afghan people," citing Trump's support for Israeli military actions and his vetoes of Gaza ceasefire resolutions.

10. Conclusion: Symbolism vs. Substance in the Pursuit of Peace

Pakistan's nomination of Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize is a bold, polarizing, and deeply symbol-



U.S. President Donald J. Trump

ic act. It reflects the complexities of modern diplomacy, where peace and war often coexist in the same political portfolio.

Trump's role in the India-Pakistan ceasefire, while disputed, was undeniably high-profile. Yet, his simultaneous military actions in Iran and his confrontational rhetoric complicate the narrative of a peacemaker.

Ultimately, the Nobel Peace Prize is not just a recognition of past actions; it is a statement about the values the global community wishes to uphold. Whether Trump's nomination aligns with those values is a question that will continue to provoke debate in capitals, classrooms, and coffee-houses around the world.

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Sports >> *Despite being inconsistent in her performance since she won the World title in 2023, Mary Moraa is confident of defending her women's 800m crown at the World Championships slated for Tokyo in September.

How Moraa Plots To Defend World Title In Tokyo Championships

Despite being inconsistent in her performance since she won the World title in 2023, Mary Moraa is confident of defending her women's 800m crown at the World Championships slated for Tokyo in September.

Moraa has a wild card by virtue of being the defending champion and says she will only compete at today's national trials at the Ulinzi Sports Complex to inspire the young athletes.

Since 2023, Moraa won bronze at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games before winning the diamond league title the same year, then this year, (2025) she competed at the Grand Slam in Jamaica where she did not excel.

However, she is confident she will be at her top form to face the best in the globe.

"I have trained well, and ready for the national championships. Nationals are tough because everyone will be competing for a slot to represent Kenya at the World championships," Moraa said.

"We have talented upcoming young athletes, so I will be glad to compete alongside them because they are the future, I have been competing in 400m and 800m and I know I will not run forever," she added.

Moraa is coy of plans to smash the long-standing women's 800m world record of 1:53.28, set by Jarmila Kratochvílová of Czechoslovakia on July 26, 1983, in Munich.

Moraa has a Personal Best of 1:56.03 clocked on the 27th August, 2023 in Budapest to win the World title-her first.

"Anything can happen in a race and if you have set the mind you are going to run that time, it's possible. Whoever will break the world record it might be me or someone else, it will be good," the 25-year-old said.

-Mweresa on World Champs medals-

Meanwhile, 400m runner Boni-



Kenya's Mary Moraa at the medal ceremony during the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary.
Photo/GETTY IMAGES

face Mweresa who led Kenya to qualifying to a first ever men's 4x400m at World Championships in Tokyo, believes that they need to work hard to bring the medals home.

"The target is to go and win a medal. If I qualify for the individuals (400m) it will boost my chance of winning two medals," said Mweresa.

Commenting on the Nationals Trials, Mweresa is looking forward to improving on his seasonal best.

"I think for the first time this season I've seen in 400m we have nine guys running sub 46, in 100m we have like 12 people running sub 10.5, in 200m, people are running 25 or 27 minutes, something that has never happened," he narrated.

Ahead of the event, Athletics Kenya received Ksh8 million

sponsorship boost from KCB Capital Sport Bank to bolster the federation's sports calendar for 2025.



GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Ruiru Sports Club is set to make history this weekend as it hosts its first-ever Kenya Ladies Golf Union (KLGU) Golfer of the Year (GOTY) tournament, marking yet another milestone for the club

Ruiru Sports Club Hosts First-Ever KLGU GOTY Event



Joyce Wanjiru in action during past golf tournaments. She has won 5 out of 9 GOTY events to be played this year.

Ruiru Sports Club is set to make history this weekend as it hosts its first-ever Kenya Ladies Golf Union (KLGU) Golfer of the Year (GOTY) tournament, marking yet another milestone for the club and the women’s golf circuit in Kenya. The highly anticipated event will bring together over 200 lady golfers from across the country on Saturday for a spirited weekend of competition, camaraderie, and celebration. Earlier this year, Ruiru successfully staged the prestigious KLGU Ladies 54-Hole Tournament, and this upcoming GOTY event further cements its growing reputation as a premier venue for women’s golf in Kenya. “Hosting the KLGU GOTY La-

dies Open is both an honor and a defining moment for Ruiru Sports Club. Our course is in pristine condition, our team is ready, and we are excited to welcome golfers from all over Kenya. This is more than a tournament, it is a celebration of women, golf, and growth,” Mukami said. She added: “The course has been meticulously prepared by the club’s greenkeeping team, promising players a true test of skill. With firm, fair fairways and fast, rolling greens, the layout rewards precision, confidence, and strategic play, offering a competitive yet enjoyable golfing experience for all.” Beyond the game, the tournament will play a crucial role in

the GOTY rankings, awarding key points to players vying for top positions on the 2025 KLGU leaderboard. With the stakes high and many top-ranking golfers expected to compete, the atmosphere is electric. The event has received tremendous backing from Kingdom Bank, Croton Motors, and Galana Energies, who have stepped forward to support the growth of women’s golf in the country. “This weekend is not just about chasing trophies. It is about community, connection, and celebrating how far women’s golf has come. The legacy truly unfolds here,” Mukami said. With the stage set and excitement building, all roads lead to Ruiru

for what promises to be a landmark event in the Kenyan golf calendar. Capital Sport

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The Beauty With Brain



By: Anila Bukhari
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Worth Noting:

- In 1984, Noriko returned to Japan for marriage, but her entrepreneurial spirit didn't falter. She built a second career in the translation industry, rising to executive positions and navigating the challenges of a male-dominated business field. After three decades of hard work, Noriko achieved early retirement, marking a new chapter in her life.
- With her newfound freedom, Noriko rediscovered her love for travel, making friends, and spreading joy. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, she had traveled extensively, exploring the world solo and embracing new experiences. In 2016, she embarked on a remarkable journey, traversing the globe, and creating unforgettable memories.

Ageless Inspiration: Noriko Sato's Journey to Empowerment and Global Citizenship

Noriko Sato is a shining example of living life to the fullest, defying conventions, and pursuing one's passions. Born and raised in Japan, Noriko's curiosity about the world was sparked at a young age, and she spent hours poring over world maps, dreaming of the day she could explore beyond her country's borders. The 1970 Osaka EXPO was a turning point, opening her eyes to the diversity of cultures and countries worldwide. This experience ignited a desire to meet people from different backgrounds and foster global understanding.

As a young adult, Noriko's determination led her to the United States as an exchange student at the age of 20. This experience broadened her horizons, allowing her to immerse herself in American culture, learn from its people, and develop a deeper appreciation for the complexities of global citizenship. After graduating from university, Noriko embarked on a successful career in international trade, working for a company that dealt with beauty equipment. Her expertise took her to San Jose, California, where she further honed her skills and took ESL courses at San Jose State University.

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With her newfound freedom, Noriko rediscovered her love for travel, making friends, and spreading joy. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, she had traveled extensively, exploring the world solo and embracing new experiences. In 2016, she embarked on a remarkable journey, traversing the globe, and creat-

ing unforgettable memories.

The pandemic brought unexpected challenges, but Noriko's resilience shone through. She discovered a new passion – pageantry – and found a platform to empower others. Her American dream took shape as she won the coveted title of Mrs. Senior Global in 2023, representing Japan in Mrs. Asia USA. This achievement wasn't just a personal triumph but a testament to her dedication to inspiring others.

Noriko's mission is clear: to empower individuals, especially women, who have lost their way. She encourages them to find their voice, build confidence, and recognize their unique beauty. Her message resonates deeply: "Every woman has individual beauty inside out, so just be confident." Through her platform, Noriko aims to uplift and support women worldwide, reminding them that they are not alone.

As an ageless model, Noriko defies stereotypes, proving that age is merely a number. Her journey is a testament to the power of living authentically, pursuing one's passions, and embracing life's opportunities. Noriko's story serves as a beacon of inspiration, reminding us that it's never too late to discover new paths, challenge ourselves, and make a meaningful impact.

Through her experiences, Noriko has come to realize the importance of self-discovery and honesty. She emphasizes that it's crucial to identify what we truly desire and be true to ourselves, regardless of our profession or circumstances. This philosophy has guided her journey, allowing her to navigate different careers, cultures, and challenges with poise and determination.

As we reflect on Noriko Sato's remarkable journey, we're reminded that life is a canvas waiting to be painted with vibrant colors, rich experiences, and meaningful connections. Noriko's story is an invitation to explore, to discover, and to empower – a testament to the human



Noriko Sato

spirit's capacity for growth, resilience, and transformation.

In a world where age often defines expectations, Noriko Sato's life is a powerful reminder that our potential knows no bounds. Her legacy will continue to inspire generations, encouraging them to pursue their dreams, challenge conventions, and embody the spirit of global citizenship.

Noriko's impact extends beyond her own story, inspiring others to find their own path to empowerment. Her journey serves as a reminder that we all have the power to create positive change in our lives and in the world around us. By embracing our passions, pursuing our dreams, and

supporting one another, we can unlock our full potential and live a life of purpose and fulfillment.

As Noriko continues to inspire and empower others, her story will remain a testament to the human spirit's capacity for growth, resilience, and transformation. Her legacy will live on, a reminder that age is just a number, and that it's never too late to pursue our dreams and make a meaningful impact.

In conclusion, Noriko Sato's journey is a shining example of living life to the fullest, defying conventions, and pursuing one's passions. Her story serves as a beacon of inspiration,