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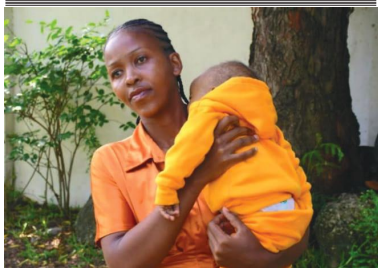
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**News>> Senator Mwenda Gataya Urges Senate To Prioritize Welfare Of Boys And Men**

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# IEBC Chairman, Commissioners Approved

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**This follows the tabling of a report by the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs (JLAC), chaired by Tharaka MP George Murugara.**

**The committee conducted the vetting exercise last Saturday.**



Mr. Erastus Edung Etheikon (Chairperson)

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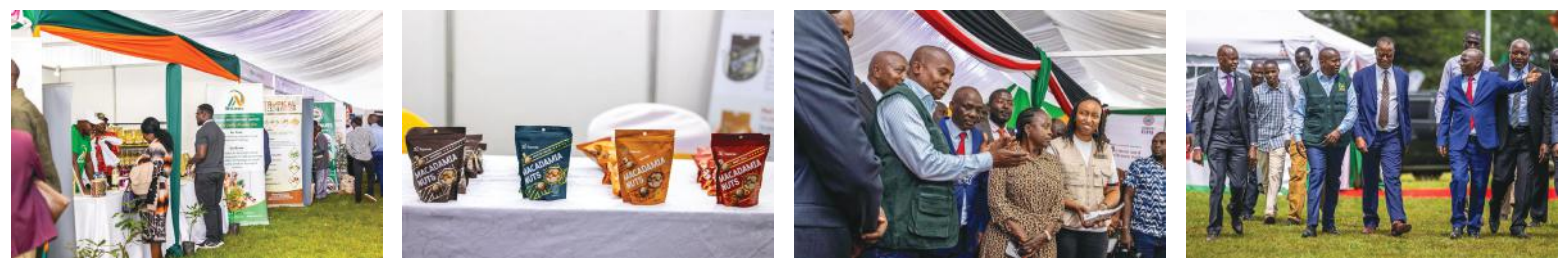


# The First National Conference On Macadamia Farming Taking Place In Embu

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes

*Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures During The Ceremony*

Kenya is the fourth largest exporter of macadamia in the world and the second largest in Africa. More than 200,000 small-holder farmers spread across 20 counties and the 40 processing plants offering 30,000 jobs mainly in rural areas are at the centre of government support programs to ensure greater incomes from this crucial value chain. Yesterday, Deputy President Professor Kithure Kindiki who officially opened the conference said the government is making deliberate interventions to reduce the cost of macadamia production, promote value addition and that the ongoing construction of the Embu County Aggregation and Industrial Park will go a long way in taking macadamia farming to the next level. Th three day event, taking place at The Embu University Grounds has attracted diverse stakeholders who includes; farmers, processors, financiers, industry regulators and political leaders.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



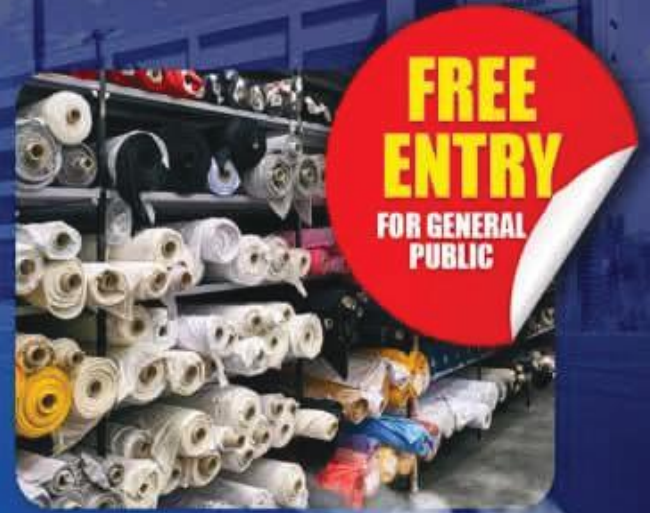
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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary William Kabogo has reaffirmed the government’s commitment to ensuring more than 33,000 digitised government services on E-Citizen fully accessible to persons with disabilities.

Kabogo stated that the Ministry will collaborate with innovators, leading global technology companies, and organisations representing persons with disabilities to advance Kenya’s digital accessibility agenda. He said that central to this effort is the implementation of the Accessibility Standard for Digital Products, which is already transforming how organisations design and deliver digital services.



Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale has reaffirmed the Ministry of Health’s full support for the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC), while issuing a strong caution against the unchecked expansion of health-related courses across the country. Speaking during the official opening of the 8th Biennial KMTC Scientific Conference at the institution’s headquarters in Nairobi, Duale stressed that KMTC must remain a centre of excellence focused on producing competent, service-ready professionals. The conference, themed “Advancing Equity in a Rapidly Changing Environment,” convened stakeholders from the health sector, academia, and research institutions to share innovations and strategies for improving health training and service delivery. The forum is a critical platform in Kenya’s ongoing efforts to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC).



The Principal Secretary for Water and Sanitation Julius Korir yesterday chaired the Auditor’s Entry Meeting for the Office of the Auditor General led by Mr Wilson Maiyo, Director of Audit as they begin the annual audit for the State Department’s Financial Year 2024/2025. The purpose of the meeting was to formally kick off the external audit process, review scope and timelines, and ensure that all departments understand the expectations for compliance and documentation. The Key Focus Areas include; Verification of financial records and compliance with public finance regulations, assessment of internal controls and risk management systems and Ensuring accuracy, transparency & accountability in budget utilization. The State Department reaffirms its dedication to sound financial management, prudent use of public resources, and full cooperation with the Office of the Auditor-General.



Kenyan delegation is taking part in a session discussion on the proposed Convention and Recommendation for the protection against biological hazards at work during the 113th @ILO conference in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting was opened on Tuesday by ILO Director-General Gilbert F. Houngbo. Tuesday’s sessions included employers meeting on decent work in the platform economy and a general discussion on innovative approaches on promoting transitions towards tackling informalities. While opening the meeting, ILO Director-General Gilbert Houngbo said the conference will provide an opportunity to take stock on developments and challenges in the world of work, and provide solutions.

The Managing Director of the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), Prof. Theophilus Mutui, has highlighted the agency’s key role in supporting agricultural exports. He revealed that in the past year alone, KEPHIS inspected and facilitated the export of over 573,773 fresh produce consignments. These included 240,000 tonnes of fresh cut flowers, 98,000 tonnes of fresh fruits, and 130,000 tonnes of fresh vegetables and herbs—valued at approximately Ksh 136 billion. To ensure continued market access and regulatory compliance, KEPHIS has strengthened its pest monitoring systems in response to updated phytosanitary regulations in major export markets such as the European Union, the UK, and South Korea. These updates include the new EU regulations on False Codling Moth (FCM), which took effect in April this year.



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# ‘We Invest In People’: Meta’s Maxine Williams Urges Inclusive Innovation In Africa

By: Aoma Keziah  
@themkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

“When we build with accessibility in mind, we unlock opportunity. We invest in people, and people build economies,” she said.

Globally, they say that over 1.3 billion people, one in six, live with disabilities, yet far too many remain excluded from digital tools and services. Williams emphasised that accessibility should be integrated from the outset of product development, driving usability and growth for all.

Innovators, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and disability advocates gathered to champion the future of accessible technology across the continent, during the Global Assistive Technologies (AT) Day that took place at the 6th Inclusive Africa Conference, that’s going on in Nairobi.

In her keynote address, Maxine Williams, Vice President of Accessibility and Engagement at Meta, praised Kenya’s role as a digital innovation hub and emphasised that accessibility is an economic opportunity, not just a moral imperative.

“When we build with accessibility in mind, we unlock opportunity. We invest in people, and people build economies,” she said.

Globally, they say that over 1.3 billion people, one in six, live with disabilities, yet far too many remain excluded from digital tools and services. Williams emphasised that accessibility should be integrated from the outset of product development, driving usability and growth for all.

Meta’s open-source AI tools, including Llama and Massively Multilingual Speech (MMS), are already revolutionising accessibility in Africa. MMS supports over 1,100 languages, incorporating African languages that were previously excluded from AI.

The Vice President further highlighted that innovations such as Jacaranda Health’s llama-powered maternal health assistant in Kenya, HelpMum’s vaccine chatbot in Nigeria, Twiga’s teaching assistant in Tanzania, and FoondaMate’s AI study buddy, which is utilised by millions of students in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Meta is also enhancing accessibility across its global platforms. WhatsApp now includes voice message transcription, while Facebook and Instagram provide improved screen reader sup-



In picture, Global Assistive Technologies Day, celebrated annually on June 4, raising awareness of the critical role of assistive technologies in empowering individuals with disabilities. The event happened during the 6th Inclusive Africa Conference in Nairobi.

port and AI-generated alt text, features developed in collaboration with the disability community.

“Real accessibility happens when Global most impacted help design the solutions,” continued to say Williams Nathalie Kouassi Akon, Global Director of Gender & Economic Inclusion at the IFC, reinforced the business case for investing in accessibility. “The story of Regina, a Nairobi entrepreneur with a disability, her business was transformed after gaining access to a smartphone through an African fintech platform. Yet challenges remain, nearly 80% of rural Kenyans with disabilities still lack access to basic technology and financial services,” she remarked.

She also highlighted that the MOSA-IC initiative launched in conjunction with ATscale, to enhance Africa’s AT manufacturing and skills development.

“The global AT market is projected to reach USD60 billion by 2030, and Africa stands to benefit significantly if the right investments are made. She also applauded efforts to create 500,000 Jobs for young people with disabilities across the continent,” Akon explained.

Additionally She called for greater collaboration between Governments, industry, and civil society to foster inclusive innovation and responsible AI development.

The Global Assistive Technologies

Day, celebrated annually on June 4, raises awareness of the critical role of assistive technologies in empowering individuals with disabilities. From screen readers to mobility aids, assistive technology (AT) enables millions to live independently, pursue education, and secure employment.

However, its stated that only 1 in 10 people worldwide have access to the AT they require. As demand is expected to surge, Global AT Day calls for bold innovation, stronger partnerships, and increased investment to close this gap. This year’s celebration in Nairobi highlighted Africa’s growing leadership in shaping an inclusive digital future for all.

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# Senator Mwenda Gataya Urges Senate To Prioritize Welfare Of Boys And Men

By: Stanely Mmasi and Alex Njeru  
 @themtkenyaticimes

Tharaka Nithi Senator Mwenda Gataya Morefire has urged the Senate Committee on Labour and Social Welfare to take decisive steps to enhance the welfare, dignity, and protection of boys and men in the country.

In a formal request to the committee during a Senate session yesterday, Gataya called for a comprehensive review of current government efforts aimed at preventing and responding to violence, neglect, and abuse affecting males, a demographic he says is often overlooked in national gender discourse.

The senator asked the committee, chaired by Senator Julius Murgor of West Pokot, to issue a detailed state-

ment outlining existing and planned strategies that address the unique challenges faced by boys and men.

Citing the National Policy for Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence and the Gender-Based Violence Action Plan (March 2023), Gataya said these frameworks need not only implementation but also targeted revisions to ensure male-focused interventions are fully integrated.

“It is time for the country to recognize that boys and men, too, face serious challenges that demand focused attention and tailor-made solutions,” he said.

Gataya also raised concerns about educational institutions, urging reforms to better accommodate the psychosocial and developmental needs of male learners. He noted that many schools are ill-equipped to support boys holistically—both academ-

ically and emotionally.

“Education should not only be about academics—it should also provide a safe and supportive environment that fosters the overall well-being of all learners,” he emphasized.

His appeal reflects a growing national conversation around inclusive gender policy, mental health, and youth empowerment. Gataya’s initiative pushes for equity in social development, ensuring no gender is left behind in welfare and protection programs.

The Senate Committee’s response is keenly awaited, as stakeholders anticipate possible legislative reforms. If enacted, Gataya’s proposals could mark a significant shift in Kenya’s approach to gender policy—toward one that embraces the needs of all citizens, regardless of gender.



Tharaka Nithi Senator Mwenda Gataya.

# Meru Residents Urge President Ruto To Appoint Meru Senator As Agriculture Cabinet Secretary

By: Dennis Dibondo  
 @themtkenyaticimes

Leaders and residents in Meru have urged President William Ruto to pick a Cabinet Secretary from the Imenti region.

Led by opinion leader and prominent businessman Mwitithi Kathendu, they said the county has been having at least two Cabinet Secretaries seat in previous regimes.

He urged President Ruto to appoint Meru senator Kathuri Murungi as Agriculture cabinet Secretary to represent the people of Imenti who overwhelmingly voted for him in 2022 polls.

Kathendu said former Agriculture CS Mithika Linturi and Meru Senator Kathuri Murungi were staunch supporters of President Ruto and stood out as they vehemently campaigned for him.

“Since Linturi was sacked as Cabinet and opted out of the UDA party, I think the person who should be rewarded is none other than Meru senator Kathuri Murungi,” he said.

Kathendu unsuccessfully vied for South Imenti MP seat in 2022 and

senator in 2017 as an independent candidate. He also worked as a sub county administrator in former governor Kiraitu Murungi’s government from 2017-2022.

He said that currently Imenti region is feeling the cold as it only has two Principal Secretary seats.

Kathendu said in recent weeks, Meru County has been at the heart of a growing national conversation following the impeachment of former Meru governor Kawira Mwangaza.

“That reflects both the pride and the complexity of our diverse and dynamic people,” he said.

He went on to list a number of seats that are currently occupied by residents from Nyambene; they include Meru governor, Water Cabinet Secretary, Somalia Ambassador, Khephhis chairman, cooperative PS, NSSF Board Chairman, Chairperson Warehouse and Receipting, Ceo AFA, Women rep, Ceo AFC.

“As a son of this land and a public servant who has walked with communities from Maua to Mitunguu, I feel compelled to offer a voice of balance, unity, and understanding,” he added

He said calls to lobby for the Imenti region to have a Cabinet Secretary position are not to demean or dimin-



Prominent businessman and opinion leader Anderson Mwitithi Kathendu. Photo/Dennis Dibondo.

ish any other part of Meru.

“First and foremost, a call for equity, rooted in the pledges made by President William Ruto, to the people of Meru. Today, Nyambene region is blessed with both the Governor and a Cabinet Secretary. This is a commendable achievement, and we

celebrate it as Meru sons and daughters. But equity must cut across. It is only fair and nationally strategic that Imenti,” Kathendu said.

He said Imenti is a region with a long history of political stability and economic contribution.

“It also deserves its due share at the top table of national leadership,” he

said

Saying that his remarks were not a divisive argument, he noted, “It is a call for balanced representation, so that no region feels left behind and all parts of Meru walk together toward development. We cannot preach unity in speeches and ignore it in appointments.”

# IEBC Chairman, Commissioners Approved

By: PSCU

**Worth Noting:**

- The seven approved nominees are Mr. Erastus Edung Ethekeon (Chairperson), Ms. Ann Njeri Nderitu, Mr. Moses Alutalala Mukhwana, Ms. Mary Karen Sorobit, Mr. Hassan Noor Hassan, Prof. Francis Odhiambo Aduol and Ms. Fahima Araphat Abdallah.
- The reconstitution of the IEBC comes at a critical time, following a prolonged vacancy that had hindered key electoral processes such as the delimitation of boundaries, by-elections in over 20 seats across the National Assembly, Senate, and County Assemblies, and preparations for the 2027 General Election.
- “The country has been without an operational IEBC for far too long. This has caused significant uncertainty. Reconstituting the Commission was an urgent national priority,” said Committee chairman Murugara.

The National Assembly has approved the nomination of seven persons for appointment as Chairperson and Commissioners of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).

This follows the tabling of a report by the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs (JLAC), chaired by Tharaka MP George Murugara.

The committee conducted the vetting exercise last Saturday.

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“The country has been without an operational IEBC for far too long. This has caused significant uncertainty. Reconstituting the Commission was an urgent national priority,” said Committee chairman Murugara.

In its report, JLAC confirmed that the nominations complied with constitutional requirements on gender, regional, and ethnic diversity. Of the seven, four are men and three are women, representing various regions and communities.

The vetting process evaluated each nominee’s academic and professional qualifications, integrity and suitability for office with the Committee finding that all seven nominees met the constitutional and legal thresholds and were capable of restoring public confidence in the IEBC.

The highly coveted positions had seen an IEBC Selection Panel, chaired by Rev. Dr. Nelson Makanda, shortlist the nominees from a pool of 1,848 applicants. The exercise which was conducted in a span of over three months saw interviews concluded on 25th April 2025, and there after names were forwarded to the President for consideration.

Although the process faced legal challenges, the High Court lifted a suspension on the vetting, allowing the parliamentary process to continue.

Ten public memoranda were submitted, with six being in support while four raising objections citing political affiliations, diversity concerns, and procedural issues.

Rarieda MP and JLAC Committee Member, Otiende Amollo stated, “We posed every question raised in the objections to the nominees and were satisfied that the concerns were either unsubstantiated or adequately addressed.”

Mombasa County MP, Zamzam Mohamed praised the committee’s work, noting the appointments reflected inclusivity and diversity.

“After months of national uncertainty, Kenyans now have hope through the reconstitution of this crucial body.”

Leader of Majority Party, Kimani Ichung’wah noted, “In two years, we will have a general election. We must therefore work within the given timelines to ensure that this commission has all the time to put in place necessary measures to ensure the 2027 elections will be beyond reproach.”

With the approval, the seven are expected to be gazetted and thereafter take the oath of office anytime.



Ms. Ann Njeri Nderitu



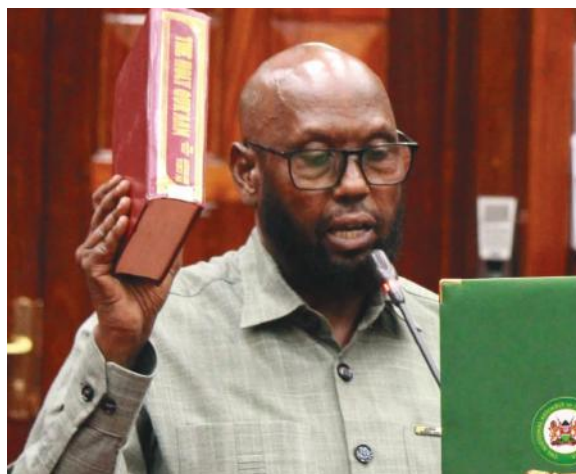
Mr. Moses Alutalala Mukhwana



Ms. Mary Karen Sorobit.



Prof. Francis Odhiambo Aduol.



Mr. Hassan Noor Hassan.



Ms. Fahima Araphat Abdallah.

# Culture Comes Alive At Nithi Bridge View Point As Tharaka Nithi Holds Vibrant Auditions For Ura Gate Festival

By: Shalon Mwende and Alex Njeru

@themtkenyatimes

The Nithi Bridge View Point in Mitheru Ward came alive with colour, rhythm, and rich tradition as Tharaka Nithi County held its cultural auditions in preparation for the highly anticipated Ura Gate Cultural Festival set for August.

The auditions drew several performance groups from across the county, each showcasing their talents through traditional dance, folk music, storytelling, and dramatized cultural acts. The event was a true celebration of heritage, bringing together both performers and enthusiasts for a day of cultural pride and community spirit.

The performing groups included: Mitheru Tourism, Kaimenyi Folk Media, Ndumbini Folk Media, Mitheru Culture and Ndambini, Mitheru Culture

The event was graced by top county officials, including Chief Officer for Tourism and Culture Ms. Irene Nkirote Makarius, and Director of Tourism, Mr. Geoffrey Chabari, who

affirmed the county government's commitment to supporting cultural groups, not only for artistic expression but also for potential economic empowerment.

"Our target is to get the best groups to represent our ward at the upcoming Ura Gate Cultural Festival," said Ms. Nkirote, highlighting the competitive yet inclusive nature of the auditions.

In addition to the performances, the venue hosted an impressive exhibition of cultural artifacts, traditional attire, indigenous tools, and locally made crafts, which reflected the community's creativity, heritage, and historical depth. The showcase drew admiration from visitors, who praised the richness and authenticity of Tharaka Nithi's cultural identity.

Mr. Chabari commended the participants for their dedication to preserving local traditions and noted the vital role of culture in promoting unity, tourism, and youth engagement. "My hope is that these groups will not only continue singing but also develop income-generating projects. We are ready to support you," he said.

Muthambi Sub-County Administrator Madam Gatwiri also lauded the



Traditional dancers perform at Nithi View Point in Mitheru ward during auditions for Uragate Tharaka Nithi Cultural Festival..

event, emphasizing that such initiatives help instill a sense of identity and belonging among communities.

The auditions marked a significant milestone in selecting representative

groups for the main festival and reaffirmed Tharaka Nithi's reputation as a cultural powerhouse Kenya. As the county continues to invest in preserving its diverse heritage, events like

these remain crucial in ensuring that local traditions are passed down and celebrated for generations to come.

# The Mt. Kenya Times



# Regional Media Pledge To Enhance Gender Equality

By: Anita Omwenga  
 @themtkenyatimes



Some of the participants

## Worth Noting:

- “For instance, when reporting on climate change, the story’s entry point is the environmental impact, but it naturally reveals the gendered dimensions,” said Bwire, adding that let the story’s entry point be the topical issue and its impact naturally reveal the gender dimension.
- Regional Director, UN Women East and Southern Africa Anna Mutavati underscored the indispensable role of media. She noted that across Africa, we are facing growing challenges, from the climate emergency and conflict to shrinking civic space, that continue to disproportionately affect women and girls.
- “We recognise the critical role of the media in shaping narratives and holding institutions accountable for gender equality and women’s empowerment across East and Southern Africa and beyond,” she said.

In a powerful demonstration of commitment, leading media organisations from East and Southern Africa have signed a landmark declaration pledging their intensified support for advancing gender equality across the region.

In the signed declaration, media representatives affirmed their understanding that media shapes public discourse, influences policy agendas, and holds power to account.

They also acknowledged their profound responsibility to challenge harmful stereotypes, amplify marginalized voices, and report on gender issues with accuracy, sensitivity, and depth.

The media organisations that gathered at the Generation Equality Media and Commitment Makers Forum in Nairobi pledged to ensure the efforts of gender equality players are visible, impactful, and sustained to promote positive social norms, challenge harmful perceptions and break stereotypes.

The forum, a collaborative effort between UN Women Africa, the Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK), the Kenya Editors Guild (KEG), and Nalafem, brought together a diverse group of media professionals and Generation Equality commitment makers.

The Participants, including governments, civil society organisations, youth activists, and private sector representatives from over 14 East and Southern African countries, converged to strategise impactful ways for the media to foster positive social norms, dismantle

harmful stereotypes, and champion gender equality.

Speaking during the forum in Nairobi, Director of Media Training and Development at the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) Victor Bwire urged stakeholders to consistently produce quality, timely content that naturally showcases women’s significant contributions across various sectors.

He explained that focusing on impactful stories, regardless of the initial entry point, inherently highlights gender perspectives.

“For instance, when reporting on climate change, the story’s entry point is the environmental impact, but it naturally reveals the gendered dimensions,” said Bwire, adding that let the story’s entry point be the topical issue and its impact naturally reveal the gender dimension.

Regional Director, UN Women East and Southern Africa Anna Mutavati underscored the indispensable role of media. She noted that across Africa, we are facing growing challenges, from the climate emergency and conflict to shrinking civic space, that continue to disproportionately affect women and girls.

“We recognise the critical role of the media in shaping narratives and holding institutions accountable for gender equality and women’s empowerment across East and Southern Africa and beyond,” she said.

She said that unprecedented funding

shrinkage, where many women’s organisations are stretched yet still expected to deliver life-saving services, defend rights and support communities.

“In times like these, we must stand together. We must unite our hands, our resources and our expertise, and we count on media partners,” she said, urging a shift from one-off events to sustained partnerships, from isolated stories to systemic narrative change and from reporting on women to reporting with women.

She said that a critical accelerator to all these efforts are multi-stakeholder, multi-level, and intergenerational partnerships, as recently highlighted in the Pact for the Future and in the regional reviews of progress against the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

On her part, Executive Director of AMWIK Queenter Mbori said by embracing the media’s role in shaping narratives, challenging biases, and amplifying the voices of change-makers, media organisations are laying the groundwork for sustained transformation across the region.

“Our aim is to move beyond intermittent coverage to sustained, impactful storytelling,” Mbori said, adding that this year offers a critical opportunity to evaluate progress, address ongoing challenges, and renew actionable commitments.

She said that the unified commitment demonstrated by media leaders in East and Southern Africa is a powerful dec-

laration of intent to forge a future where gender equality is not just an aspiration but a lived reality.

“We laud all media representatives who have signed the declaration to ensure gender-sensitive reporting, because with every story of progress told, we move one step closer to achieving equality,” she said.

This forum and the signed declarations arrive at a pivotal moment. The year 2025 marks a landmark year for gender equality, commemorating significant milestones: the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action the most comprehensive and visionary agenda for advancing gender equality and the rights of all women and girls;

Also, this year marks 25 years since the establishment of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, recognising the critical role of women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, and 15 years since the establishment of UN Women, created to accelerate progress on gender equality and women’s empowerment globally.

Representatives from the signatory media organisations committed to a series of concrete actions: advancing gender-sensitive reporting, developing dedicated gender equality editorial policies, amplifying the crucial work and voices of Generation Equality Commitment Makers, and diligently monitoring and evaluating progress made in advancing gender equality through the media.

# Help Save Baby Abdullahi: Family Seeks Liver Transplant Funds

By: Sitati Reagan  
 @themkenyatimes

A family in Shanzu, Mombasa County, is appealing for financial help to facilitate a lifesaving liver transplant for their six-month-old baby, Abdullahi Wamboi, who has been diagnosed with neonatal hepatitis.

Neonatal hepatitis is a serious liver condition that causes inflammation and damage to the liver in newborns and, if untreated, can lead to liver failure.

According to the infant's mother, Naomi Wamboi Njuguna, Abdullahi developed jaundice at six weeks old and was first taken to Kilifi County Hospital.

He was later referred to the Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital (CGTRH), where tests and a surgical procedure revealed severe liver complications.

"He underwent surgery at CGTRH,

and doctors confirmed he needs a liver transplant. Unfortunately, this procedure is not available in Kenya," said Njuguna.

The transplant is scheduled to take place in India at an estimated cost of KSh4.8 million. Naomi, currently unemployed and staying with a well-wisher, says she cannot raise the funds without help.

In the meantime, the child depends on weekly medication to maintain liver function and immunity.

"His medicine costs Sh4,500 per week. Without it, his condition worsens," she added.

The mother calls on Kenyans, charitable organisations, and well-wishers to support the treatment by donating via mobile money M-Pesa Pay bill 8061489 Account Number 0745208824 Account Name Abdullahi Wamboi.



Ms Naomi Wamboi with her son. Photo/Courtesy.

# Farmers Set To Benefit From Digital Agricultural Trading In Makueni County

By: Patrick Nyakundi  
 @themkenyatimes

the warehouse receipt System hosted by the Kenya National Multi Commodities Exchange Limited (KOMEX).

The revelations were made by KOMEX team leader Deputy Director Boniface Makau when they paid a courtesy call on Makueni County Deputy Governor (DG) Lucy Mulili in her Wote office.

While lauding Makueni for leading in the production of pulses, Makau disclosed that green grams, cow peas and pigeon peas farmers are the main beneficiaries in the new trading system.

He further said that farmers will list their produce on the digital platform and preferred prices, whereby buyers will make direct payments to sellers' bank accounts within 48 hours, hence ensuring faster transactions and reducing exploitation from middlemen.

"Through the platform, farmers will be able to reap maximum profits and avoid exploitation by middlemen," said Makau.

The digital platform is designed to streamline access to markets for both agricultural and non-agricultural commodities and offer essential services like price discovery, risk information, market information, and trading financing, besides creating a transparent trading system.

KOMEX, a financial state corporation under the State Department for Trade, is mandated to promote market access and address inefficiencies in commodity trading.

The platform is currently in the onboarding phase, targeting a broad range of stakeholders, including farmers, aggregators, cooperatives, traders, warehouse operators, financial institutions, off-takers, service providers, and institutional consumers.

On her part, Deputy Governor Mulili said that this will remove brokers and unscrupulous businessmen who have been exploiting farmers



and ensure they reap maximum profits from their farm produce.

While saying that farmers will not sell their farm produce in a hurry, she called for stronger collaboration between the county and the national

governments.

She further said that the programme will be done on a pilot basis while adding that it has been implemented in Migori county.

"There is a need to collaborate be-

tween the national and county governments to address the inadequate storage facilities. Farmers stand to benefit since they will get maximum profits," Muli said.

# Women MPs Engage Stakeholders To Strengthen Partnership On Menstrual Health In The Country

By: PSCU

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Members of Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) yesterday reaffirmed their commitment to improving reproductive health rights for women and girls across the country.

In a round table meeting, Women Parliamentarians engaged key partners namely; United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), representatives from the Ministry of Health and International Centre for Reproductive Health (ICRH) Kenya to explore ways on strengthening Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management in Kenya.

Women MPs stressed the need for consistent budget allocations, cross sectional collaboration and firm accountability so as to ensure that no girl misses school or losses her dignity because of menstruation.

They applauded Senator Gloria Orwoba for sponsoring the Provision of



Some of the leaders who attended the forum.

.....

Sanitary Towels Bill, 2024, exuding confidence in the Bill.

“If passed, the Bill will institutionalize the free and quality provision of sanitary towels in public schools and facilities nationwide, a game changer for menstrual justice in Kenya,” Nairobi County MP Esther Passaris said.

The meeting also provided a platform to explore possible areas of collaboration and sensitize Women Parliamentarians to the “Flow with Pride Campaign” launched by UNFPA with

funding from the Embassy of Denmark, which seeks to combat period stigma and ensure menstrual dignity for every girl.

UNFPA representative, Mr. Anders Thomsen emphasized the importance of local production of sanitary towels to make them more affordable to the users.

Research held in 2022 by the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) revealed that 65% of girls in rural areas and 52% in urban areas

face difficulties in accessing sanitary products, a reality that still hinders some girls from attending school during their menstrual cycle.

Dr. Jackline Kisia, from Ministry of Health called for the expansion of the sanitary towels distribution beyond Primary and Secondary schools.

“We need to include Tertiary Institutions as recommended by a Parliamentary Committee in 2023,” she said.

Dr. Kisia posed, “Why do girls de-

serve dignity during school sessions only? Do poverty go on holidays?”

In her closing remarks, KEWOPA vice chairperson and Dagoretti North MP Beatrice Elachi acknowledged the support given by partners in ending period poverty in Kenya.

“We thank UNFPA, JHPIEGO, the Ministry of Health and other partners in walking with us this important journey in making menstruation manageable for every Kenyan girl,” she said.

# Teacher To Serve 30 Years For Committing Indecent Act With School Boys

By: Bernard Munyao and Susan Muigai

@themtkenyatimes

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A 56-year-old teacher was sentenced to serve a total of 30 years’ jail term by a Murang’a court after he was found guilty of committing indecent acts with three boys aged between nine and 15 years.

Resident Magistrate Amelia Awino found Edward Kamau guilty of three counts where he was charged with touching private parts of the boys aged 9, 12 and 15 years on October 18 and October 19, 2024 at Gathama area of Murang’a county.

According to the victims, the teacher ordered them to visit his house after church, where the accused instructed them to sit on his lap as they perused his phone.

In their statement, the boys said the teacher took the opportunity and inserted his hand in their shorts and

touched their private parts claiming to check if the ‘seeds’ were out of the stomach.

The victims told the court that the offence occurred multiple times.

One of the boy’s parent tafter she got a tip off from his neighbour interrogated her son and after confirming the incident reported the matter at Nyakihai police post.

In his defense, Kamau dismissed the charges saying the mother of one of the victims fabricated the accusations due to a dispute after he refused to lend her firewood.

He further alleged that the other children’s involvement was to strengthen the case against him.

In her ruling the magistrate said the court was satisfied with the evidence presented by the prosecution side, and the charges against Kamau have been proven beyond any reasonable doubt.

A probation report presented by probation officer John Mbugua de-



scribed Kamau as a first-time offender but not well-known in the community, having lived there for less than 20 years.

Mbugua deemed the accused as a threat to society, unsuitable for a non-custodial sentence.

The report referenced the area chief’s concerns about rampant similar cases, noting that releasing Kamau would send the wrong message to the community, implying such offences could go unpunished.

The probation report also emphasized the need to protect the minor victims from further sexual abuse.

In his mitigation, Kamau pleaded for leniency, citing his status as a first-time offender and his wife’s illness and unknown whereabouts, as she had not appeared in court. He requested a non-custodial sentence to resume his life.

“Based on the nature of the offenses, the vulnerability of the victims, and the psychological impact of the

threats made to them, I find the offender unsuitable for a non-custodial sentence.” The magistrate ruled saying a custodial sentence will address the severity of the matter.

Kamau was sentenced to a total of thirty years in prison, with ten years handed for each count. The sentences are to run consecutively. However, the total sentence will be reduced by the number of days he has spent in remand.

## The Lost Silver Anklet



The love getting tied up.  
And so the blush on cheek glowed.

Unknowingly, The Silver Anklet got Lost,  
She came to know the deep reality,  
It was the fading love not mere Silver  
Anklet Lost,  
The fading bond getting Diminished.  
The Dream LOVE getting Faded...

★ Anjali Saxena... Prabal

★ Navi Mumbai... Maharashtra



Chasing behind the things more,  
The more things Goes at Distant.  
Something which isn't made for you,  
Will never be yours.  
Don't hold on to the things,  
That needs to let go.

It was Love getting lost,  
The lost Silver Anklet  
Reminded the Bonds,

That moment of eyes they met  
Revolved around the boy tying her  
Anklet,  
It was the Anklet getting tied up,

## Express Your Feelings



All these things are for the betterment and  
for our growth. When we do not know how to  
express our thoughts and Feelings which is in the  
mind for a long time,

When we do not know how to express our  
thoughts and Feelings which are in the mind for  
a long time, this magazine will help. It will give a  
way to channelize. Your mind. For a long time my  
mind says to speak something about time. So  
today let's discuss something about time and  
time management. Time is very precious. We  
have studied and heard a lot about time from  
many people. Yet we do not utilize time in a fine  
manner. All are gifted with same amount of time.  
Whereas some of us use it wisely, others say  
they do not get enough time to do all the things.  
One thing I wish to say here is that if a person  
has done something and if we ask the reason why  
the person has done it, frankly speaking they will  
not have any reason to tell. They wanted to do  
it, hence they did. If we ask the same question to  
the person who did not do, they give innumerable  
reasons as lame excuses. The core point here is  
time and willing mind. Where there is a will, there  
is a way. If one wants to do it then 200 ways are  
open to do it. God never shuts one door without

opening another. The person will be able to do it at  
any cost. no more lame excuses. One thing is, be  
Firm in decision and do the right thing.  
Keep the mind, be alert and active every time. 'To  
work is now' is the golden mantra. Avoid laziness.  
The time to work is now. Always think time is  
more precious than gold because if time is lost, it  
is lost forever. it can't be got again or retrieved  
gold or silver can be got, but time is so precious.  
We cannot get it back. Words cannot describe  
the value of time. Let's come to the point' leave  
the past. Past is past. It is over. Now let us pull  
up the socks and work to reach the goal. Let us  
do something good for society and our country.  
Certain things can't be instructed. It should come  
from our heart and mind within. Laziness is the  
biggest enemy for all of us. Procrastination is the  
chief of time. If we overcome that we can achieve  
success easily. Mild and flimsy pleasure in the  
beginning will seem to be so happy, but it will leave  
us nowhere. If we ignore such petty pleasures in  
the beginning and work hard with pleasure, it will  
take us to greater heights. I hope we all will utilize  
our time in a fruitful manner in the future and  
achieve great success. Hoping for the best.

Let us utilize time fruitfully  
MRS. BRINDA D  
teacher

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

## The Importance Of Documentation



showcases our achievements to others.  
Proper documentation involves neatly filing our  
achievements in various fields. This can include  
certificates, awards, projects, and other notable  
accomplishments. By doing so, we can easily  
access and showcase our credentials whenever  
needed.

In conclusion, documentation is an essential  
practice that helps us preserve our  
achievements and establish our credibility.  
It's not a difficult task, but rather a simple  
and effective way to keep track of our  
accomplishments. By documenting our  
achievements, we can reflect on our growth,  
showcase our credentials, and unlock new  
opportunities.

Benefits of Documentation:

1. Preserves achievements for future reference
2. Establishes credibility and showcases accomplishments
3. Helps track progress and growth
4. Provides a sense of accomplishment and pride
5. Unlocks new opportunities

By understanding the importance of  
documentation and implementing it in our daily  
lives, we can reap these benefits and achieve  
our goals.

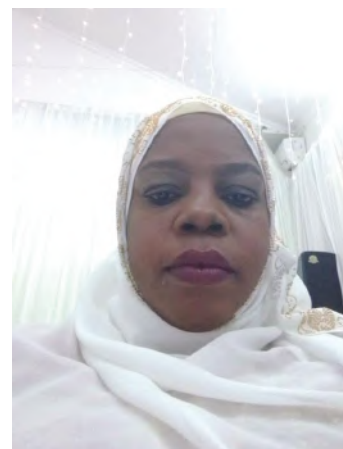
MRS. BRINDA D

Teacher

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

Greetings to all! Today, I'd like to discuss the  
significance of documentation. What exactly  
is documentation? When we hear this term,  
it may seem difficult and complex. However, I  
believe it's a straightforward and manageable  
task. Documentation simply means maintaining  
a record of all the activities, events, and  
accomplishments we've been a part of.  
In today's world, we often receive certificates  
and appreciation from various sources, but if  
we don't document them properly, they can  
easily go unnoticed. Unless preserved well, these  
achievements can be lost forever, leaving no  
trace behind. On the other hand, if we document  
and preserve our accomplishments, they can  
serve as valuable credentials for years to come.  
Documentation allows us to reflect on our  
achievements and creativity, giving us immense  
pleasure and happiness. By looking back at  
our documented accomplishments, we can  
appreciate our growth and progress. Moreover,  
documentation helps establish our credibility and

## Ambeni



Vile hamkati cheti, mnyotaka Ambani  
Mimi niko madhubuti, subira iko moyoni  
Nahisi sipandi chati, kuwajibu majununi

Ingalikuwa maneno, yaondosha utu wangu,  
ningefanya mapambana, tusi lenu tusi langu  
Na ningejikaza mno, ushindi ukawa wangu

Ila maneno si mtu, hayawezi niadhibu  
Sitoifanya papatu, kugombana na kidhabu  
Nitabakia sukutu, Mola atawaadhibu

Pia maneno si nyuki, kwamba yatanitaFunu  
Semeni na sishituki, usiku pia mchana  
Sitowafanyia chuki, sababu habari sina

Nakuomba ya Manani, mjao nipe subira  
Sishindane na wahuni, ikanivuka Sitara  
Yote nawasameheni, kwa Mungu hili ni bora

Mtunzi: Fatma Ali Mohamed  
Mahali: Pemba - Zanzibar

Yangaambwa mengi mamba, kwa nguvu na  
jitihada  
Ya wazi na ya mafumba, yakaongezwa na  
shada  
Halivuki langu umbu, bure mwajipa shida  
Yalishaambwa zamani, toka tumboni mwa  
ummi  
Yalisemwa hadharani, Kisha yakawa uvumi  
Heyebadili kanuni, ugali ukawa lami  
Bure mwajipa adhabu, kushinda vibarazani  
Mwajijazia dhunubu, ijapo hambaini  
Harakieni kutubu, hatudumu duniani

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# Weather Man; Why Some Areas Have Recorded Below-Average Rainfall

By: Samuel Maina  
@themtkenyentimes

## Worth Noting:

- The northern and eastern arid and semi-arid lands recorded significantly lower rainfall totals, with Lodwar and Mandera having the lowest.” reads the report by Director of KMD Dr David Gikungu.
- “The majority of stations, seventeen in number, fell within the near-normal range of 75-125% of long-term averages. This category included major agricultural zones such as Kericho (115.2%) and Kisii (109.7%), suggesting generally expected rainfall patterns across these critical areas.
- Nyeri station was the sole outlier, recording below-normal rainfall at 72.0% of its long-term mean, representing an isolated dry anomaly amidst otherwise normal to above-normal conditions across most of the country.”

Nyeri is among counties that recorded below-average rains during the March-April-May rainfall, according to a seasonal review of the 2025 long rain spell by the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD).

According to the report dated May 30, this year’s long rains also came much earlier than expected.

The onset of the rains began on March 10 and March 16 and was recorded in the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, Lake Basin, Rift valley, Nairobi and isolated areas over the Highlands East of the Rift Valley, the Southern lowlands and parts of Isiolo County.

However, during the same period, 15 stations recorded above-normal rainfall, 17 were near-normal and one was below normal.

“Near to above-average rainfall was recorded in most areas, with the highest totals in the western highlands and central regions.

However, Nyeri recorded below-average rainfall, and prolonged dry conditions were observed in the Coastal region and Mandera.

Rainfall distribution was generally good, though the season was marked with severe storms across several parts of the country, particularly in March, April, and early May.

The northern and eastern arid and semi-arid lands recorded significantly lower rainfall totals, with Lodwar and Mandera having the lowest.” reads the report by Director of KMD Dr David Gikungu.

“The majority of stations, seventeen in number, fell within the near-normal range of 75-125% of long-term averages. This category included major agricultural zones such as Kericho (115.2%) and Kisii (109.7%), suggesting generally expected rainfall patterns across these critical areas.

Nyeri station was the sole outlier, recording below-normal rainfall at 72.0% of its long-term mean, representing an isolated dry anomaly amidst otherwise normal to above-normal conditions across most of the country.”

However, the County is also expected to enjoy some occasional light showers during the June-July-August season that may be a relief to farmers as they await their crops to mature.

The weatherman forecasts the Highlands west of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley, parts of the Highlands east of the Rift Valley, and the northwestern regions are likely to receive near to above-average rainfall.

Normally, rainfall during the June-July-August season is typically concentrated over the Lake Victoria Basin, the Highlands west of the

Rift Valley, the Rift Valley, parts of the Highlands east of the Rift Valley, isolated areas of the northwestern region, and the Coastal Strip.

The remainder of the country is generally dry during this period.

“Highlands East of the Rift Valley (including Nairobi area), Nyandarua South, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Murang’a, Kiambu, Meru, Embu, Tharaka Nithi, Nairobi counties and the eastern parts of Laikipia County are likely to experience cool, cloudy and foggy conditions with occasional light rains.

Occasional afternoon and night showers are also likely, especially during the month of June. The total rainfall amounts during the period are expected to be close to the long-term average for the season.

These areas are expected to experience cool conditions with daytime (Maximum temperatures) occasionally falling below 18 degrees centigrade.” continues the report.

Owing to the expected cold season in these regions, members of the public have been advised to dress in warm clothing to avoid contracting respiratory-related diseases such as asthma, pneumonia, flu and the common cold.

Residents in these areas have also been cautioned against using charcoal jikos in poorly ventilated houses owing to the risk of inhaling carbon monoxide gas, which is often fatal.

“Respiratory diseases like asthma, pneumonia, flu, and the common cold are likely to increase over Nairobi County and the Highlands East of the Rift Valley due to the expected cold



Dr David Gikungu.

conditions.

The public in these areas are advised to dress warmly and follow advice from the Ministry of Health. They are also advised to avoid using charcoal jikos in poorly ventilated houses, as they may produce carbon monoxide gas that is lethal when inhaled,” cautions the seasonal report.

“Malaria transmission is expected to be normal over the Lake Victoria Basin, the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, and Northwestern regions,

though there may be an increase over the Coastal region due to the predicted warmer-than-average temperatures during the season.

Respiratory diseases and eye infections are likely to occur in the Northeastern region due to dust storms as a result of the windy and dry conditions expected.

Health authorities are therefore advised to preposition and redistribute medical supplies and insect-treated nets in the affected areas.”



Kenya Meteorological Department



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# New Dawn For Sports In Othaya As DP Kindiki Presides Over Stadium Groundbreaking Ceremony

By: Rose Angeline Ngunjiri  
 @themtkenyatimes

The dream of a modern sports facility for Othaya constituency came closer to reality yesterday as Deputy President Kithure Kindiki led the groundbreaking ceremony for the Othaya Stadium.

Once completed, the ultramodern facility will transform the local sports landscape.

The stadium will feature a running track, a football pitch, netball, volleyball, and basketball courts, a 700-seat capacity, a VIP lounge, modern changing rooms, and public washrooms.

It is expected to become a hub for both local and regional sports events.

The Deputy President who was hosted by area Member of Parliament, Wambugu Wainaina alias Kirima disclosed that the stadium had been funded through the Sports Fund to a tune of KSh55 million and it would take about six months to be completed.

The project, initially launched by former Sports Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba in 2022, had faced delays due to funding challenges.

However, after a renewed push by the area MP and following President William Ruto's directive during his

April tour of the Mount Kenya region, the project secured the necessary funding to proceed.

Yesterday, the MP expressed his gratitude for the support, pledging to ensure timely completion. "This is a promise fulfilled to the people of Othaya. Our youth deserve the best facilities to nurture their talents," he said.

Locals have requested that the stadium be named after former President Mwai Kibaki, who hailed from Othaya and is remembered for his dedication to national development.

The colourful ceremony was also attended by among others, Sports Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya, Energy Principal Secretary Alex Wachira and his Sports counterpart Elijah Mwangi as well as Nyeri Senator Wahome Wamatinga, Nyeri Town MP Duncan Maina Mathenge. Othaya constituency MCAs, save for Chinga's Kiruga Thuku boycotted the event.

Addressing the gathering, the DP and area MP noted that constituency will also be benefiting from other development projects, including the construction of three modern markets in Othaya Town, Mahiga Ward and Chinga Ward; decent housing for police officers; dormitories and 12 additional classrooms for Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) students; and the full equipping of the Mwai Kibaki Level 6 Hospital.



Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki and Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina alongside other leaders; Senator Wahome Wamatinga and Chinga Ward MCA Kiruga Thuku in a jig after Othaya stadium groundbreaking ceremony yesterday.



Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki groundbreaking the Othaya Stadium.



Sports Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya addressing Othaya residents as Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki listens.

# EPRA Rallies Sector Stakeholders To Champion Research And Innovation Investments For Universal Energy Access

By: Cynthia Omenge  
@themkenyatimes

The Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) has called on stakeholders in the energy sector to deepen investment in research, innovation, and inclusive dialogue as critical enablers of universal energy access and sustainable development. Speaking during the official opening of the 6th Annual EPRA Research and Innovation Conference 2025 at the Edge Convention Centre in Nairobi, EPRA Director General Daniel Kiptoo Bargoria reaffirmed the Authority's commitment to a data-driven and evidence-based regulatory approach aligned with Kenya's national energy objectives. "As we gather this week, our collective focus must be on how we can harness research, innovation, and in-

clusive dialogue to help Kenya realise its ambition for affordable, clean, and reliable energy for all. Energy access is more than just lights and power, it is about transforming lives, creating opportunities, and building resilient communities," said Mr. Kiptoo.

The conference comes at a time when Kenya continues to make significant strides in expanding access to electricity, where it expects to clock 10 million connections before year end. Kenya currently boasts of having about 81 % of the nation's installed grid capacity now sourced from renewable energy sources. EPRA has played a key role in steering the sector through enabling policies, regulatory reforms, and investment facilitation aimed at accelerating progress toward universal access.

Themed "Energy Access," the week-long conference runs from



EPRA Director General Daniel Kiptoo Bargoria

3rd to 5th June 2025, and brings together researchers, policymakers, private sector players, and development partners, to exchange ideas and

shape the future of energy in Kenya. Throughout the week, participants will engage in high-level policy discussions, technical sessions, ex-

hibitions, and knowledge-sharing forums expected to produce actionable insights that will inform future policies in the energy sector.

# Kwale Governor Fatuma Achani Faces Scrutiny Over Alleged Ksh 2 Million Payment To Council Of Governor's

By: Athuman Said  
@themkenyatimes

Kwale County Governor Fatuma Achani is under public scrutiny following allegations of an unauthorized KSh2 million payment to the Council of Governors (CoG) for functional costs. This development has sparked debates on fiscal responsibility and transparency within the county's administration. The controversy centers on a payment purportedly made by the Kwale County government to the CoG, an entity that coordinates activities among Kenya's 47 county governments. Critics argue that the payment lacked proper authorization and question its necessity, especially given the county's ongoing financial challenges. While specific details about the payment remain scarce, the issue has gained traction among civil society groups and residents who demand accountability and transparency in the county's financial dealings.

Governor Achani's administration has previously faced scrutiny over financial management. In November 2024, the Kwale County govern-

ment denied allegations of misusing public funds, which critics claimed led to stalled projects. Projects cited included the Sh120 million Kombani Fresh Produce Wholesale Market and the Sh149 million Official Governor's Residence, among others.

The Auditor General's report for the financial year ending June 2022 highlighted concerns over stalled projects worth more than Sh581 million, including the construction of a governor's residence and several road works. These projects were marred by procurement irregularities and contract terminations, leading to questions about the county's fiscal discipline.

In response to the allegations, Kwale County's Director of Communication, Nicky Gitonga, dismissed the claims as unfounded propaganda. He emphasized that the county implements projects in phases due to resource constraints and that delays should not be misconstrued as financial mismanagement. Regarding the stalled governor's residence, Gitonga noted that the construction began in 2017 with an approved budget of Sh149 million. However, in 2020, the Salaries and Remuneration Commission capped spending on governor residences at Sh45 million,

leading to a petition to the Senate and subsequent delays.

The alleged KSh2 million payment to the CoG raises broader questions about the financial autonomy and accountability of county governments in Kenya. Governors, including Achani, have previously called for clearer legal frameworks to guide financial operations. In July 2024, governors protested a plan by the National Treasury to slash county allocations by Sh5 billion, arguing that such moves undermine the spirit of devolution. Furthermore, the issue of multiple bank accounts operated by counties has been a point of contention. Achani's administration reportedly operates 213 bank accounts, a practice that has drawn criticism from the Auditor General for complicating audits and potentially obscuring financial accountability.

The allegations have sparked public outcry, with residents and civil society organizations demanding transparency and accountability. There are calls for a thorough investigation into the payment and for the county government to provide detailed explanations for its financial decisions. Local leaders have also weighed in on the matter. Kinondo Ward MCA Juma Maone urged residents to give



Kwale County Governor Fatuma Achani

their leaders time to work, explaining that their choices were made for the sake of development. However, leaders from the Azimio faction in Kwale criticized Achani and the MPs who supported the finance bill, suggesting that their actions were motivated by personal interests.

As the controversy unfolds, the spotlight remains on Governor

Achani's administration to address the allegations transparently. The situation underscores the importance of clear financial regulations and accountability mechanisms within county governments to ensure public trust and the effective use of resources.

# The Global Chessboard: Fear, Defiance, And The Unfolding Geopolitical Order



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande  
@themkenyetimes

## Worth Noting:

- **China, a rising global power, has maintained a robust strategic partnership with Russia, driven by a shared desire to counter perceived Western dominance and a pragmatic energy relationship. While Beijing has been careful to avoid direct military aid to Russia, its economic lifeline has been crucial in mitigating the impact of Western sanctions.**
- **India, a long-standing non-aligned nation, continues to maintain significant economic and defense ties with Russia, seeing it as a reliable partner and a crucial source of affordable energy and military equipment. India's geopolitical calculus is driven by its own national interests, including maintaining strategic autonomy and diversifying its foreign policy engagements.**

## Introduction

The geopolitical landscape of the 21st century is undergoing a profound transformation, shaped by Russia's assertive foreign policy, Western strategic responses, and the emergence of new global alliances. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has intensified these dynamics, leading to a complex web of diplomatic maneuvering, economic realignments, and military posturing. While NATO and Western nations seek to isolate Russia, other global players, including China, India, South Africa, Namibia, and the UAE, are forging deeper ties with Moscow. This article explores the evolving geopolitical relations and assesses whether the West fears Russia and whether Russia should be concerned about its global standing.

## The Vencer of a Unipolar World

The war in Ukraine has peeled back the veneer of a unipolar world, revealing a complex, multipolar geopolitical landscape where traditional alliances are tested, new partnerships are forged, and the very concept of global power is being redefined. At the heart of this tumultuous shift lies Vladimir Putin's Russia, seemingly undeterred by Western sanctions and military pressure, and a Western alliance grappling with the delicate balance between supporting Ukraine and avoiding a direct, catastrophic confrontation. The question lingers: Is the West truly scared of Russia, and in this intricate dance of power, should Russia itself be afraid?

## Washington Calculation

Washington's stated policy of not directly confronting Russia militarily is a strategic calculation rooted in the sobering reality of nuclear deterrence. Both the United States and Russia possess vast nuclear arsenals capable of global devastation. Any direct military engagement between NATO and Russia, even a limited one, carries an inherent risk of escalation to nuclear conflict, a scenario that policymakers on all sides are desperately trying to avoid. This fear, while rational, is not born of weakness but of a profound understanding of the stakes. It's a fear of Armageddon, not of Russia's conventional military might alone. Consequently, the provision of weapons to Ukraine is a finely calibrated exercise in risk management. The West aims to provide Ukraine with enough capability to defend itself and inflict costs on Russia, without crossing what Moscow perceives as



Russia President Vladimir Putin

a "red line" that could trigger a wider conflict. This caution, however, is often interpreted by Putin as a sign of Western hesitancy, emboldening his actions and reinforcing his narrative of a declining West.

Putin's apparent fearlessness is a cornerstone of his projected image, both domestically and internationally. For the Kremlin, the "special military operation" in Ukraine is framed as a defensive response to NATO expansion and a necessary step to secure Russia's geopolitical interests. Putin's defiance serves to rally internal support, projecting an image of a strong leader standing up to Western pressure. This narrative resonates with a significant portion of the global population, particularly in what is often termed the "Global South," where historical grievances against Western hegemony foster a degree of sympathy for Russia's challenge to the established order.

Indeed, while NATO countries have tirelessly worked to isolate Russia through sanctions and diplomatic pressure, many nations have actively resisted this isolation, and some have even strengthened ties with Moscow.

China, a rising global power, has maintained a robust strategic partnership with Russia, driven by a shared desire to counter perceived Western dominance and a pragmatic energy relationship. While Beijing has been careful to avoid direct mili-

tary aid to Russia, its economic lifeline has been crucial in mitigating the impact of Western sanctions.

India, a long-standing non-aligned nation, continues to maintain significant economic and defense ties with Russia, seeing it as a reliable partner and a crucial source of affordable energy and military equipment. India's geopolitical calculus is driven by its own national interests, including maintaining strategic autonomy and diversifying its foreign policy engagements.

Iran has skillfully capitalized on Russia's isolation and strategic vulnerabilities, particularly those exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, to elevate its own regional and international standing. Facing decades of crippling Western sanctions and a persistent desire to challenge the U.S.-led global order, Tehran found a willing partner in Moscow, itself under unprecedented sanctions. This convergence of shared adversaries and mutual needs has led to a significant deepening of ties, extending beyond their existing cooperation in Syria. Iran has become a crucial supplier of military hardware to Russia, most notably providing large quantities of Shahed kamikaze drones and potentially ballistic missiles, which have proven vital for Moscow's sustained attacks on Ukraine's infrastructure. In return, Iran gains access to advanced Russian military technology, including

sophisticated air defense systems and possibly assistance with its nuclear program, along with economic benefits such as oil-for-goods swaps, bypassing Western financial systems, and enhanced energy cooperation. This strategic alignment allows Iran to bolster its defense capabilities, circumvent sanctions, and project greater influence in the Middle East, while simultaneously solidifying a powerful anti-Western axis that challenges the current global power balance.

Similarly, South Africa, a prominent member of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa), has adopted a stance of "pro-Russian neutrality," often refraining from condemning Russia's actions and engaging in joint military exercises. This position is influenced by historical ties, a shared critique of Western-centric international institutions, and a desire to promote a multipolar world order.

Namibia, an African nation with a history of anti-colonial struggle, also aligns with this perspective, often expressing views that challenge Western narratives and highlight historical injustices.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE),

# The Global Chessboard: Fear, Defiance, And The Unfolding Geopolitical Order

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## Worth Noting:

- Namibia, an African nation with a history of anti-colonial struggle, also aligns with this perspective, often expressing views that challenge Western narratives and highlight historical injustices.
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE), a key player in the Middle East, has also maintained a pragmatic relationship with Russia, prioritizing economic interests and regional stability over full alignment with Western efforts to isolate Moscow.
- North Korea has masterfully capitalized on Russia's isolation and urgent need for military supplies in its war against Ukraine to forge a significantly deepened strategic partnership, turning its pariah status into leverage. Faced with severe international sanctions and a dwindling supply of compatible artillery shells and other conventional munitions, Russia found a willing and eager supplier in Pyongyang, which possesses vast stockpiles of Soviet-era weaponry.

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These nations, and others, view the conflict through their own geopolitical lenses, often seeing it as a symptom of a shifting global power balance and a moment to assert their own strategic independence.

Putin's apparent lack of concern stems from several factors. Firstly, he perceives the West's hesitance to engage directly as confirmation of its fundamental weakness and division, especially given Europe's historical reliance on Russian energy. Secondly, the robust support from non-Western powers, particularly China and India, provides Moscow with crucial economic and diplomatic lifelines, undermining the effectiveness of Western sanctions. Thirdly, Russia's own significant military capabilities, including its nuclear arsenal and its willingness to absorb heavy losses, contribute to Putin's confidence. The conflict has also allowed Russia to shift its economy onto a wartime footing, prioritizing military production.

Is the West truly scared of Russia?



South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa

In a direct military confrontation involving conventional forces, perhaps not in terms of sheer capability, but certainly of the catastrophic escalation it could entail. The fear is of nuclear war, of a direct clash between two nuclear-armed adversaries that could spiral out of control. This prudent caution, however, risks being perceived as timidity, allowing Russia to push boundaries.

Should Russia be scared?

While Putin projects an image of unwavering resolve, the reality on the ground is more complex. The war in Ukraine has exacted a tremendous toll on Russia's military, economy, and human capital. Sanctions, while not crippling, have had a long-term impact on technological access and economic growth. The strategic miscalculation in Ukraine has also strengthened NATO, leading to the accession of Finland and Sweden, effectively expanding the alliance closer to Russia's borders. Furthermore, while certain nations praise Putin, Russia's international standing, particularly in the West, has been severely diminished, and its long-term economic prospects are increasingly tied to a handful of non-Western partners. Putin's defiance may mask underlying vulnerabilities and the long-term consequences of his actions for Russia's future.

Is Putin's Geopolitical Equation Well-calculated to Balance?

Vladimir Putin's ability to "balance the equation" in this complex geopolitical match hinges on a deeply held strategic calculus that views the conflict in Ukraine not merely as a territorial dispute, but as a direct confrontation with the US-led unipolar world order and an assertion of Russia's "rightful" place as a great power in a multipolar system. His apparent defiance stems from a conviction that the West's unity and resolve are ultimately fragile, and that time is on Russia's side due to its vast resources, nuclear deterrent, and the growing alignment with non-Western powers. He aims to wear down Ukrainian resistance and Western support through a war of attrition, banking on "fatigue" in Western capitals and the perception that their sanctions are not fundamentally crippling Russia's economy in the long term, particularly with alternative trade routes and partners. The strategic partnerships with countries like China, India, and Iran, and the transactional relationship with North Korea, are crucial pillars of this balancing act, providing economic lifelines, military supplies, and diplomatic cover that undermine Western isolation efforts. However, this strategy is not without its significant risks: the long-term impact of sanctions on Russia's technological development, the heavy human and economic cost of the war, the strengthening and expansion of NATO on its borders, and the potential for shifts in the

alignment of even its current partners if the war drags on or escalates unpredictably. Putin's balancing act is thus a high-stakes gamble, relying on the steadfastness of his authoritarian control at home, the resilience of his strategic alliances abroad, and the ultimate fracturing of Western unity.

Ultimately, the global geopolitical landscape is in flux. The Russia-Ukraine war is not just a regional conflict; it is a crucible in which a new world order is being forged. The West's strategy of calibrated support, sanctions, and isolation seeks to contain Russia and uphold international norms. However, Russia's defiance, bolstered by strategic partnerships and a willingness to leverage its hard power, challenges this vision. The interplay of fear, perceived weakness, and strategic calculus on all sides will continue to shape this complex and volatile global geopolitical relations, with far-reaching implications for stability and power dynamics for decades to come. The question of who is "scared" is less about individual bravado and more about the existential risks inherent in a world where great powers clash, and the shadow of nuclear conflict looms large.

# SPORTS NEWS

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**Sports >>** \*The Kenyan trio of Jackline Chepngeno, Caren Chebet and Celestine Mantaine will be in action at Monday's FBK Games World Continental Tour in Hengelo, the Netherlands.

## Kenyan Trio To Fly National Flag At World Continental Tour In Dutch City



Caren Chebet leads Pamela Kosgei in the women's 3000m Steeplechase at the national championships. PHOTO/RAYMOND MAKHAYA.

The Kenyan trio of Jackline Chepngeno, Caren Chebet and Celestine Mantaine will be in action at Monday's FBK Games World Continental Tour in Hengelo, the Netherlands.

The three will be flying the national flag in the women's 3000m steeplechase where they will battle it out with 14 other elite runners, including the 2020 Olympic champion Peruth Jemutai of Uganda and the 2012 World Under 20 champion Daisy Jepkemei of Kazakhstan.

The three Kenyans will be seeking their first wins of the year on the international front, following what has been a lacklustre season thus far.

For Chebet, the 2017 World Under 18 champion will be eager to make up for her poor result at last weekend's Kip Keino Classic World Continental Tour in Nairobi where she failed to finish in the women's 3000m steeplechase.

The 25-year-old's only podium finish in 2025 thus far was a first-place at the national trials for the World Relays on April 12, when she clocked 9:36.28 to win the women's 3000m steeplechase.

On the other hand, Chepngeno will be competing in her event in three years, having last ran in October 2022 when she finished third at the Frankfurt Marathon – clocking 2:25.14.

The 32-year-old won silver for Kenya at the 2016 African Championships in Durban, South Africa, running 31:27.73 to finish second in the women's 10,000m.

Mantaine is a relatively new face in athletics and would be chomping at the chance to announce herself on the world scene in style.

The 18-year-old's last track and field event was at the national trials for the World Under 20 Championships in June last year, during which she clocked 16:18.45 to finish seventh in the women's 5000m.

The three will be praying to go one better than last year when

Ferdinand Omanyala was the sole winner for Kenya, clocking 10.01 to win the men's 100m.

*Capital Sport*

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*Harambee Stars midfielder Boniface Muchiri says head coach Benni McCarthy has changed the mood in the national team for the better.

# McCarthy Praised For Fatherly Influence On Harambee Stars Players



Manzur Okwaro with Harambee Stars coach Benni McCarthy.

Harambee Stars midfielder Boniface Muchiri says head coach Benni McCarthy has changed the mood in the national team for the better.

Muchiri describes the South African as a father figure who has guided the players to become the better version of themselves.

“He is more than a coach...he is a father figure, he is like a brother. He has given a lot of freedom to the players to express themselves...and to give their best. He has brought positive vibes to the squad. For me I feel that is the best way to get the best out of every player,” the Ulinzi Stars lynchpin said.

Muchiri is part of McCarthy’s 25-man squad that are currently in Morocco, preparing for a double-header international friendly against Chad this week.

He was also part of the team that competed at January’s Mapinduzi Cup in Zanzibar in which he scored in a 2-0 win over Tanzania.

It is the coming to age of a player who has had to wait out in the cold for three years since making his debut for the national team in 2019 in a 1-1 draw with Uganda Cranes.

A soldier by profession, the former Tusker midfielder is willing to shed blood, sweat and tears for the flag on the field.

“Everybody is willing to work and give the best for the country. My encouragement to the new players in the team is use their strong points to show their quality and risk it all for the sake of the country on the pitch. Given the opportunity, I am ready to give 100 per cent for my team to get positive results and to mentor the young ones,” Muchiri said.

Kenya is using the friendly as preparations for the Africa Nations Championships (CHAN), which it will co-host with Tanzania and Uganda in August this year.

McCarthy’s charges have been drawn in a tough Group A that in-

cludes Morocco, Zambia, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

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# SPORTS NEWS



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# SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



# Uzbekistan: The Rising Star Of Culturally Tourism In Central Asia



By: Madiyorbek Egamberdiyev  
@themtkenyatimes

## ANNOTATION

Uzbekistan, located at the heart of Central Asia, is rapidly emerging as a premier destination for cultural tourism due to its rich historical heritage, architectural marvels, and vibrant traditions. Once a key center along the ancient Silk Road, the country boasts a unique blend of Eastern and Western influences that have shaped its diverse culture over centuries. This article explores the factors contributing to Uzbekistan's rise as a cultural tourism hub, including government-led reforms, preservation of historical monuments, improved infrastructure, and strategic international collaborations. Major cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva are highlighted for their UNESCO World Heritage Sites, showcasing the nation's legacy in Islamic architecture, traditional crafts, and religious tolerance. Moreover, the revival of national festivals, handicrafts, cuisine, and folk art has enhanced the appeal of Uzbekistan for global tourists seeking authentic experiences. The paper also analyzes the role of digital marketing, visa facilitation, and tourism-friendly policies in attracting international visitors. Through a multidisciplinary lens, the article argues that Uzbekistan not only holds immense potential in cultural tourism but also serves as a model for sustainable and inclusive tourism development in the region. The study concludes by addressing challenges such as seasonal dependency and the need for further investment in human capital and eco-tourism, emphasizing the country's strategic roadmap to becoming the cultural heart of Central Asia.

## KEYWORDS



Uzbekistan, cultural tourism, Central Asia, Silk Road, heritage sites, Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Islamic architecture, traditional crafts, UNESCO, tourism development, cultural heritage, sustainable tourism, tourism policy, historical preservation, national identity, intangible culture, international tourism, Central Asian culture, tourism infrastructure, hospitality industry, digital tourism, visa policy, regional cooperation.

## INTRODUCTION

Uzbekistan, located in the heart of Central Asia, has long been known for its historical significance as a major crossroads of civilizations. As a key junction on the ancient Silk Road, the country served as a vital link between East and West, facilitating trade, knowledge exchange, and cultural interaction. In recent years, Uzbekistan has begun to harness its vast cultural heritage to develop a strong and dynamic tourism industry. From the majestic turquoise domes of Samarkand to the labyrinthine alleys of Bukhara and the desert charm of Khiva, Uzbekistan's cities offer living testaments to centuries of architectural, religious, and artistic traditions.

With growing international interest and support from national reforms, Uzbekistan is transforming into a rising star of cultural tourism. This

article aims to explore the unique cultural assets of Uzbekistan, the strategic efforts being made to promote tourism, and the country's potential as a leading destination in Central Asia's tourism landscape.

## HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PLACES OF UZBEKISTAN

Uzbekistan's cultural identity is deeply rooted in its long and storied past. As one of the key regions along the Silk Road, it became a melting pot of cultures, ideas, and religions. The cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva flourished as centers of Islamic scholarship, architecture, and trade during the medieval period. These cities attracted scholars, poets, craftsmen, and merchants from all over the Islamic world and beyond, leaving behind a lasting legacy of intellectual and artistic achievement.

Samarkand, often referred to as the "Pearl of the East," was the capital of the great Timurid Empire and home to architectural masterpieces such as the Registan Square and the Shah-i-Zinda necropolis. Bukhara, known for its madrasahs and minarets, was a vital center of Islamic learning and Sufi spirituality. Khiva, with its well-preserved inner city, Ichan Kala, remains a living museum that reflects the lifestyle of a bygone era.

Uzbekistan's culture is not only

preserved in monuments and manuscripts but also in its rich traditions—oral literature, music, dance, and handicrafts. From the epic poetry of "Alpomish" to the melodies of shashmaqom music and intricate silk weaving, Uzbekistan continues to celebrate and promote its intangible cultural heritage. These elements create a deeply immersive and educational experience for cultural tourists.

The diverse ethnic makeup of the country, including Uzbeks, Tajiks, Kazakhs, Russians, and other minority groups, contributes to a multifaceted cultural atmosphere. Religious tolerance and coexistence, shaped by centuries of interaction, add further depth to the visitor experience. Today, Uzbekistan stands as a bridge between its ancient past and a modern, globally connected future.

## CONCLUSION

Uzbekistan is rapidly gaining international attention as a cultural tourism destination thanks to its rich heritage, historic cities, and vibrant traditions. With strong government support, preservation of ancient sites, and a growing tourism infrastructure, the country is successfully reconnecting with its Silk Road legacy. By combining authenticity with modern development, Uzbekistan offers unique and memo-

orable experiences for travelers. As it continues to invest in sustainable and inclusive tourism, Uzbekistan is well on its way to becoming the cultural heart of Central Asia.

Madiyorbek Egamberdiyev, son of Abdusamad, is a first-year student at the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, majoring in Tourism and Hospitality. In 2024, he graduated from school with a gold medal, and the same year, he was admitted to university on a fully funded scholarship. In 2025, he was awarded the "Pride of the Nation" badge. He is also a graduate of the three-month Aspire Leadership Program at Harvard University.

Madiyorbek is an international volunteer, having contributed to events such as the Education Exhibition, Golden Wing Volunteers, and the Uzbekistan Volunteers Association. He is also a member of the Ibrat Debate Team within the Ibrat Children's Organization.

In addition, he is:

A National Medical Volunteer

An artist

A FIFA volunteer

A holder of an international marketing certificate

The official representative of NASA's Summer School in Uzbekistan