



The Unfinished Scramble: Africa's Resource Paradox And The Shadow Of Neo-Colonialism. Part 1
 The narrative of Africa is often one of profound paradox. A continent brimming with unimaginable natural wealth – vast reserves of diamonds, gold, copper, cobalt, coltan, uranium, oil, gas, and countless other strategic minerals – yet simultaneously grappling with pervasive poverty, persistent underdevelopment, and an enduring struggle for genuine self-determination. Page 18

NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL CONFERENCE, 10TH ANNIVERSARY ROADSHOW
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Daily ePAPER

Thursday, July 17, 2025 No. 01346 www.mountkenyatiimes.co.ke f i t themtkenyatiimes



News >> New PBO Regulations To Boost Oversight, Weed Out Fake NGOs

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News >> Students Bag KSh50,000 For Insurance-Themed Pieces At Kenya Music Festivals

P. 12. Schools across the country bagged cash prizes of up to KSh50,000 as the regional competitions of the Kenya Music Festival ended, with top honours awarded for creative performances that championed insurance adoption by rebranding it as a vital "vaccine" and a protective "ark" against life's journey.

No Mega Dam Completed Despite Pledge To Build 1,000 - Water CS

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The CS spoke when he appeared before the Senate yesterday to respond to questions from legislators regarding the status of key irrigation and dam projects in Kitui and Embu Counties. His submissions provided insight into the challenges facing Kenya's water infrastructure development, including bureaucratic delays, financial hurdles and the complexities of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).



Cabinet Secretary Eric Murithi at the Senate yesterday.

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NAIROBI - MT KENYA CIRCUIT ROADSHOW ROADMAP (17-18 SEPT 2025)

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President Ruto Inspects Moi International Sports Centre Ahead of CHAN 2025


By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto yesterday inspected the Moi International Sports Centre in Kasarani, Nairobi County, ahead of next month's 2024 African Nations Championship (CHAN). The stadium has undergone major upgrades to ensure full compliance with Confederation of African Football (CAF) and Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) standards ahead of the CHAN 2024 and the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2027. The President said Kenya is ready to host the continental football event. Speaking to Harambee Stars players, who are training for the tournament at the stadium, the President said the government will fully support the national team. The President urged the players to represent the country diligently and make Kenyans proud.



Editor's Desk



The Mt. Kenya Times

The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative. It is published by **Exponential International Limited**, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Kagwe Tea Factory on Tuesday welcomed a team from Tapal Teas, one of KTDA's long-standing and leading buyers from Pakistan. Such visits strengthen global partnerships, unlock new markets, and help boost incomes for our smallholder tea farmers. The team was taken through the tea production process by Production Manager Moses Gitau and Edward Birech from KTDA Sales & Marketing.



Over 100 creatives from Kiambu County have benefitted from a government-sponsored empowerment workshop aimed at helping artists turn their talents into sustainable income. The two-day event, dubbed Kiambu Creative Industry Empowerment, brought together beadwork makers, painters, jewellery designers, and performing artists, among others. It was organised by the County Government through the Directorate of Culture and the Arts. Director of Culture Kennedy Mwangi said the initiative seeks to support creatives through training, networking, and platforms to showcase their work. He announced plans to renovate the local community hall for artists and launch Kiambu's first-ever film festival in September.



Mombasa residents are calling on the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) to reinstate the "white card" casual labour system to tackle rising youth unemployment and curb drug and substance abuse. The white card system, abolished 16 years ago, allowed KPA to hire casual workers on three-month renewable contracts. Residents say it served as a vital entry point into employment for many young people in the coastal region. Speaking in Mombasa, local resident John Walele commended KPA Managing Director Capt. William Ruto for enhancing port efficiency and transparency and urged him—through the Ministry of Transport—to consider reintroducing the programme.



The Kenya Correspondents Association (KCA), in partnership with ASPEN and Free Press Unlimited, has launched a three-year project to strengthen investigative journalism among young Kenyan reporters. Dubbed Supporting African Future Investigative and Responsible Journalism (SAFIRI), the EU-funded initiative targets 60 journalists from Nyanza, Nairobi, and Coastal regions, particularly those from underserved rural areas. During the first training workshop in Kisumu, KCA Chairman Araka Matara urged participants to remain committed, noting that investigative journalism plays a vital role in accountability and governance. One of the media trainers, Kevin Omollo, emphasised the importance of equipping young journalists with skills to navigate the complex media landscape. Omollo noted that many early-career journalists struggle to pursue investigative reporting due to limited time and resources. Trainees will receive mentorship, investigative grants, and training in ethical reporting, leadership, and safety skills.



Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Ms. Mary Muthoni yesterday confirmed that the government is investigating four mysterious fatalities in Mombasa. Speaking on Kameme TV's Rikiratha Show the PS revealed surveillance teams have been deployed and laboratory analyses initiated to determine the cause, while appealing for public calm during the ongoing probe. The PS simultaneously reported heightened nationwide Mpox surveillance, with special focus on ports of entry, where preparedness measures have been intensified to ensure rapid response capability. Regarding immunization progress, Muthoni announced the successful completion of the national vaccination campaign, with 16.1 million children receiving typhoid vaccines (84% coverage) and 5.18 million immunized against measles-rubella (81% of target). On healthcare reforms, the PS detailed the ongoing implementation of the Social Health Authority (SHA) as NHIF's replacement, highlighting its role as the cornerstone of Universal Health Coverage. She emphasized the accelerated digitization of services and nationwide verification of UHC workers as key initiatives to strengthen transparency, accountability, and community health service delivery.



One of the best performing private schools in the mountain region; Ndimani Kanini Academy has received donation of Computers from board members. In a remarkable display of commitment to education, the institution's BOM members delivered the gadgets which they procured by their own resources. While thanking the BoM members for the gesture, Director Ronny Lincoln Njogu (left in the photo) said the donation will significantly enhance research and learning, particularly the Junior School Learners, who rely on online resources for their studies.



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- LET'S MAKE NAIROBI WORK -

Gachara Kamanga: Devolution Has Not Been Result Oriented

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking yesterday on Inooro TV's morning show, Inooro Ruciini where he was hosted by Kamau Kangethe, Kamanga who has worked for various international organisations across the world particularly singled out Mt Kenya region leaders whom he accused of having residents priorities upside down.
- On the local economy, Kamanga who is popularly known as 'Anko G' noted that a focused county leadership should prioritize local economic drivers like coffee or tea and aggregate the produce to aquire higher prices.



Gachara Kamanga alias Anko-G at Inooro TV studios yesterday.



Gachara Kamanga with his host Kamau Wa Kang'ethe at Inooro TV yesterday.

Photos/Courtesy.

Twelve years of devolution has not achieved anticipated results mainly due to politics.

Governance and Development expert Gachara Kamanga has attributed this to county chiefs being elected more on politics than policy.

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On the local economy, Kamanga who is popularly known as 'Anko G' noted that a focused county leadership should prioritize local economic drivers like coffee or tea and aggregate the produce to aquire higher prices.

Quoting demographic surveys, he noted that in 2014, about 17 per cent of central Kenya residents suffered food deficiency, which improved marginally in 2022.

In Nyandarua lowered to 13%, Murang'a 14%, Kiambu and Nyeri deteriorated to 20 and 21% respectively, which are not the best indicators of quality and focused leadership.

On health, juvenile pregnancy was at 10% in Nyandarua in 2014 and improved to 5% in 2022.

In Nyeri, there was an improvement from 7% to 5% in the same period while in Kirinyaga and Kiambu there were improvements of 11% to 7% and 14% to 12% respectively while Murang'a dropped from 6% to 7%.

Kamanga noted that counties have the capacity and mandate to mobilise resources from diaspora and other

stakeholders and not just rely on the Treasury only as well as optimise own source revenues in order to avail requisite services to their electors.

In the session that covered a wide range of issues, Kamanga further noted that professionalisation of politics can enhance quality governance that is result oriented and politics for its own sake.

"Poor governance begins at the shambolic political party nominations where the wrong people, mostly the corrupt get tickets of popular parties leading to the mess that is our leadership," lamented Kamanga.

He further stated that fat contributions to harambees should never be a yardstick of good leadership as it more often than not encourages corruption.

He laughed off the much hyped economic empowerment by the national

government as a visionless political tool that is of zero economic value.

"When you give out bodabodas and poshomills, how do you ensure that they are turned into productive use and not sold," he posed.

"Kenya has a high global profile but our leaders leaders are our undoing as they do not optimise our good name for the common good of the citizenry", stated Kamanga who has declared his interest in vying for the Nyeri gubernatorial seat in the 2027 general elections.

Anko G defended wananchi on accusations of tribalism noting that they are united but only reminded about their ethnic backgrounds by leaders and called on leaders of all cadres to refrain from the practise.

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New PBO Regulations To Boost Oversight, Weed Out Fake NGOs

Organisations Like Mau Mau War Veterans Association (MMWVA) That Champions For The Compensation Of Former Freedom Fighters Said They Hoped The New Body Will Assist Them In Fast-Tracking The Long Overdue Process

By: Suleiman Mbatiah and William Muchiri

@themtkenyatimes

The Public Benefit Organizations (PBO) regulations are set to enhance transparency and accountability in the operations of non-governmental organizations in Kenya, experts say.

If approved, the regulations, published on June 5, 2025, will operationalize the PBO Act, 2013, and introduce tighter oversight aimed at eliminating “briefcase NGOs” while strengthening the sector’s regulatory framework.

According to Mr. Liondo Otieno, Legal Affairs Manager at the Public Benefit Organizations Regulatory Authority (PBORA), the new rules will empower the Authority to monitor and verify all NGOs, now classified as PBOs. This, he said, will help restore public trust by ensuring only legitimate and impactful organizations operate.

“We reaffirm our support for a vibrant, well-regulated civil society that complements government efforts in delivering services, promoting social justice, and deepening democratic governance across the country,” said Mr. Otieno.

Otieno who was speaking during a public participation forum on the draft regulations held at the Rift Valley Regional Commissioner’s plenary hall in Nakuru said one of the government’s priorities is to root out fraudulent organizations that misappropriate donor funds while purporting to serve communities.

PBORA, established under Section 34 of the PBO Act, took over the functions previously handled by the NGO Coordination Board. Unlike its predecessor, PBORA operates as an independent oversight body responsible for registration, compliance monitoring, policy interpretation, and advising the government. It also has the power to investigate and deregister non-compliant organizations.

The PBO Act came into effect on May 14, 2024, after an 11-year delay caused by legal and administrative hurdles. Its commencement followed President William Ruto’s announcement at the UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi.

With the Act in force, attention has turned to finalizing the regulations. Two drafts—one from the government and another from civil society—are currently being harmonized through nationwide consultations. A final report will be submitted to Parliament in August, followed by a review by the Attorney General and gazetting by the Interior Cabinet Secretary.

Mr. Otieno described the Act’s commencement as a milestone and urged stakeholders to actively shape the regulations.

“Feedback on the draft regulations will determine how the law functions in practice. Public input is essential to ensure the regulations achieve the PBO Act’s 2013 purpose,” he said.

Under the Act, a Public Benefit Organization refers to a voluntary, non-profit, and non-partisan group delivering charitable services. These organizations must register under the new framework, which replaces the



Officials of various organisations waiting to air their views during the Nakuru forum yesterday.

outdated NGO Coordination Act of 1990.

The law streamlines registration, curbs administrative discretion, introduces tax and procurement benefits, and mandates all PBOs—regardless of funding size—to file both general and audited financial reports within six months of their financial year-end.

“In the previous Act, PBOs receiving funding of less than Sh1 million only filed a general report and not the audited reports, but with the PBO Act, all PBOs will henceforth file both reports,” said Mr. Otieno.

NGOs must re-register within a year of the Act’s commencement. Failure to comply within 30 days of notice will lead to deregistration. Previously exempt groups must register within three months, and international PBOs must appoint a local agent. Others operating abroad from Kenya may apply for special permits.

The law also provides for asset protection, citizen participation, and a dispute resolution tribunal under the Judiciary. It allows for three registration paths: incorporation as a new PBO, transition of existing entities, or permits for international NGOs.

The sector received Sh196 billion in project support and employed nearly 80,000 people in the 2022/23 financial year. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, nonprofit institutions contributed between 0.8 and 1 percent of GDP between 2018 and 2022.

Stakeholders in Nakuru welcomed the reforms. Pastor David Bellie of

Nakuru Pastors Fellowship said the law would enhance transparency in a sector plagued by fraud.

“Unfortunately, we’ve had NGOs that only exist on paper. They siphon donor money without delivering on their mandates,” he said.

Mzee Richard Mulembaine from the Kapkures Council of Elders supported the push for mandatory audits and better public access to NGO operations, including training and funding support for groups working with vulnerable communities.

Mary Waruinge, a trader at Wakulima Market, praised the Act’s creation of a Disputes Tribunal and a National Federation of PBOs.

“The Act introduces stricter governance requirements, including clear board composition, fiduciary duties,

and mandatory annual audits. These measures aim to ensure responsible management and oversight of non-profit organizations,” she said.

Former Freedom Fighters have not been left behind and through their caucus; Mau Mau War Veterans Association (MMWVA) has been presenting petitions in various forums, convened by the authority.

Yesterday, MMWVA through its patron Bishop Jane Mumbi Ngethe presented their petition, outlining their expectations.

Last evening, MMWVA Director General James Njuguna Mahuria said dozens of their members are expected to show up at Ufungamano Hall in Nairobi where the final public participation forum will be taking place.



Participants follow proceedings during the Public Participation on Draft Public Benefit Organizations (PBO) Regulations, 2025 at the Regional Commissioner’s Hall, Nakuru yesterday. Photo/Courtesy.



Public Benefit Organizations Regulatory Authority (PBORA) Legal Affairs Manager Mr Liondo Nicolas Otieno addressing participants in Nakuru yesterday.

No Mega Dam Completed Despite Pledge To Build 1,000, Water CS Tells Senate

By: PSCU

@themkenyatimes

The Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, Eric Murithi has told the Senate that no mega dam has been completed so far, despite the current administration's promise to build 1,000 dams.

The CS spoke when he appeared before the Senate yesterday to respond to questions from legislators regarding the status of key irrigation and dam projects in Kitui and Embu Counties. His submissions provided insight into the challenges facing Kenya's water infrastructure development, including bureaucratic delays, financial hurdles and the complexities of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).

In response to a question by Kitui Senator Enoch Wambua, posed on his behalf by his Bungoma counterpart Wafula Wakoli, the CS, gave an update on the solarisation plan for the Wikithuki Irrigation Scheme in Tseikuru, Mwingi North Constituency.

The scheme, developed between 2013 and 2017, spans 1,000 acres, half of which are under mango cultivation. The remaining acreage had initially remained non-operational due to faulty transformers, which have since been repaired.

The CS highlighted the persistent challenge of high electricity costs, which have affected the sustainability of the project, largely due to the inability of farmers to contribute to operation and maintenance costs.

To address this, the CS revealed that the National Irrigation Authority (NIA) has partnered with the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC) to transition the project to solar energy.

"A modernisation plan has been developed to solarise the scheme, which is expected to reduce operational costs significantly and improve efficiency," Eng. Murithi told the Senate.

He explained that preliminary designs have been completed at an estimated cost of KSh400 million, and a concept note has been submitted to the National Treasury for funding consideration.

Calling for the Senate's support, he added, "We respectfully request the support of this House to secure funding for this initiative, which is crucial to ensuring food security, enhancing nutrition, boosting household incomes, creating employment for the youth and fostering agro-processing value chains."

On measures being taken to make the entire scheme operational, the CS confirmed that the government is working to strengthen the capacity of the Irrigation Water Users Association (IWUA), which has already been



Cabinet Secretary Eric Murithi at the Senate yesterday..

sensitised and has applied for formal registration.

"There is potential to expand the scheme up to 10,000 acres through a gravity-fed system," the CS said, noting that Wikithuki is also expected to benefit from the High Grand Falls Dam, which is currently under planning.

Embu Senator Alexander Mundigi questioned the delay in the construction of three multipurpose dams, Kamumu, Thuci, and Thambana in Embu County. The Cabinet Secretary acknowledged the delays, attributing them to financial constraints, unresolved land acquisition issues and slow procurement processes under the PPP framework.

He explained that Kamumu dam which is designed to store 22 million cubic metres of water and benefit around 97,000 people, faced a setback due to high financing costs proposed by the identified contractor. The project, estimated at KSh6.65 billion, is currently stalled pending the completion of land and wayleave acquisitions and resettlement plans. He said the Ministry is in the process of updating feasibility studies and finalising a Cabinet Memorandum to unlock policy direction and financing.

Thuci dam, also planned under the PPP framework has a proposed storage capacity of 23 million cubic metres. It is expected to generate 5 megawatts of electricity and benefit over 70,000 people.

Murithi assured the Senate that the project remains a national priority

and has been included in the PPP project pipeline.

Regarding Thambana Dam, which is designed to supply 15,000 cubic metres of water per day and support 24,710 acres of irrigation, the CS revealed that the project is facing procurement setbacks.

He said the proposal submitted by Jos Hansen was rejected after the proponent failed to pay the mandatory deposit fee required under PPP regulations. As a result, a fresh procurement process is underway.

He added that, while exact timelines for construction cannot be confirmed at this stage, progress on procurement, statutory approvals and financing arrangements will determine how soon ground breaking can commence.

During the supplementary question session, Senators including Seki Lenku (Kajiado), Mwenda Gataya

(Tharaka Nithi), Danson Mungatana (Tana River), Agnes Kavindu (Machakos), Daniel Maanzo (Makueni), Samson Cherarkey (Nandi), John Kinyua (Laikipia) castigated the Ministry and by extension the government for failing to keep its promises on water provision.

They called on the CS to deliver on the water needs of Kenyans across the country.

The CS expressed his commitment to fast-tracking the projects through a mix of strategic partnerships, stakeholder engagement and strengthened planning.



The Senate.

Worth Noting:

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- The CS highlighted the persistent challenge of high electricity costs, which have affected the sustainability of the project, largely due to the inability of farmers to contribute to operation and maintenance costs.

Parliamentary Service Commission Set For Inaugural Sports Day To Boost Staff Wellness And Team Spirit

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

The Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) is gearing up for its inaugural Sports Day tomorrow at the KCB Leadership Centre, Karen, Nairobi.

Organized by the PSC Wellness Committee, the event is aimed at promoting physical well-being, strengthening workplace camaraderie, and providing a fun and engaging platform for staff to showcase their athletic talents beyond the confines of office routines.

Speaking after receiving the status of preparedness report, the Clerk of the Senate and Secretary to the PSC, Jeremiah Nyegenye, applauded the Wellness Committee, chaired by Osborn Obayo, for their dedication in putting together what promises to be a memorable day.

“This is commendable work in prepa-

ration for the event. I truly appreciate the effort by the team and encourage all staff to come out in large numbers and participate. Let’s make it a day of healthy competition and connection,” Mr. Nyegenye said.

He further emphasized that the day’s activities are not just about winning, but about fostering collaboration, boosting morale, and strengthening the bonds that hold the Secretariat together.

The day will feature a wide range of sporting activities, including athletics, football, volleyball, basketball, netball, darts, swimming, tug of war, field truck games, and table tennis, ensuring that there’s something for everyone.

With anticipation building across departments, the Sports Day is expected to ignite friendly rivalry, laughter, and most importantly, a renewed sense of unity among colleagues.

The Clerk emphasized on the benefits of Sports as an activity meant to enhance staff productivity through



synergy.

“There are more gainful benefits from sports. I therefore encourage

all to take part as well look forward to better physical health, enhanced communication among teams and a

networking opportunity to enhance work productivity”, noted Nyegenye.

The Mt. Kenya Times



Treasury CS Outlines Bold Economic Reforms, Reaffirms Support For Petroleum Sector

By: George Gerish and Victor Kiplagat
@themkenyatimes



Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi

Worth Noting:

- Mbadi stated that Kenya's economy had demonstrated resilience, recording an average growth rate of 5.2 per cent between 2023 and 2024, outpacing both the global average of 3.3 per cent and Sub-Saharan Africa's 3.8 per cent.
- He attributed this performance to deliberate policy choices and a diversified economic base. However, he cautioned that three major risks threaten economic stability, including external shocks, fiscal constraints, and structural weaknesses in the real economy.
- Further, the CS cited global conflicts and pandemics as triggers for rising inflation and supply shortages, which have driven up the cost of essential commodities such as fuel, edible oils, and fertilisers.

National Treasury and Economic Planning Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi has pledged robust government support for the petroleum sector while outlining broad fiscal and structural reforms to stabilise and grow the economy.

While addressing key stakeholders in the petroleum industry during the second quarter 2025 briefing organised by the Petroleum Institute of East Africa (PIEA), the CS applauded PIEA members for their role in creating jobs, contributing to tax revenues, and supporting infrastructure across the petroleum value chain.

"We appreciate the role of PIEA in economic development within Kenya and the East African Community," expressed the CS, noting that the institute's contributions have significantly shaped Kenya's employment landscape, tax base, and regional capacity in oil and gas.

Mbadi stated that Kenya's economy had demonstrated resilience, recording an average growth rate of 5.2 per cent between 2023 and 2024, outpacing both the global average of 3.3 per cent and Sub-Saharan Africa's 3.8 per cent.

He attributed this performance to deliberate policy choices and a diversified economic base. However, he cautioned that three major risks threaten economic stability, including external shocks, fiscal constraints, and structural weaknesses in the real economy.

Further, the CS cited global conflicts and pandemics as triggers for rising inflation and supply shortages, which have driven up the cost of essential commodities such as fuel, edible oils, and fertilisers.

"Domestically, the country is grappling with a shrinking fiscal space as the public debt ratio reaches 69.7 percent of GDP (Gross Domestic Product)," observed Mbadi.

Additionally, he highlighted that interest payments had overtaken all other recurrent expenditures, including the national wage bill and county allocations, underlining the urgency to restore Kenya's external creditworthiness.

"Public debt servicing now consumes 63 per cent of ordinary revenue. The interest cost has become the single largest recurrent expenditure item, exceedingly even salaries and county allocations," added Mbadi.

The CS also acknowledged growing public frustration with the disconnect between reported economic growth and lived realities.

He explained that the bulk of recent growth has been driven by large infrastructure projects like the Standard Gauge Railway and Nairobi Expressway, which have limited trickle-down benefits.

According to the CS, sectors like agriculture have been underfunded, forcing the country to increasingly rely on food imports that have risen from 10 per cent to 17 per cent of all imports over the past decade.

"This paradox of impressive GDP growth and economic hardship is not a mystery. It's a reflection of past investment choices that did not sufficiently benefit the productive economy," he expounded.

In response, Mbadi revealed that the 2025/26 budget was crafted to stimulate recovery and strengthen macroeco-

nomonic stability citing a significant drop in inflation from a peak of 9.6 per cent in October 2022 to 3.8 per cent in May 2025, accompanied by a notable decline in prices of basic foodstuffs and energy. "A 2-kilogram packet of sifted maize flour, for instance, now retails at Ksh 156.9, down from Ksh 177.7 in 2022," he exemplified.

Meanwhile, the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has since responded to this improved macroeconomic environment by reducing the Central Bank Rate from 13 per cent in August 2024 to 9.75 per cent by June 2025, with lending rates from commercial banks falling accordingly.

The shilling has also strengthened, appreciating from Sh 159.7 to Sh 129.3 to the US dollar, while foreign reserves have reached USD 10.5 billion—equivalent to 4.7 months of import cover.

The CS highlighted several measures underway to further enhance resilience, including broadening the tax base through digitization at the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), settling verified pending bills to unlock liquidity, and improving fiscal transparency through a comprehensive audit of public debt initiated by the Auditor General.

"There is a perception of opacity in the management of public debt," he pondered. "We have taken this concern seriously and initiated an independent audit from the Auditor General whose findings will be shared with the public."

In order to curb unrealistic budget estimates, Mbadi disclosed that the Treasury had adopted zero-based budgeting and adjusted revenue projections to align with actual trends.

On reforming Government-Owned

Enterprises (GOEs), the CS stated that the proposed GOE Bill, 2025, would restructure about 60 commercial state entities to operate under the Companies Act, enabling them to focus on profitability and efficiency. The objective is to shift project development in these institutions from state-driven to private sector-led models, freeing up fiscal resources for social spending.

"These entities were established to operate commercially and pay dividends, not to rely on exchequer support and therefore incorporating them under the Companies Act brings them in line with private sector standards," stressed Mbadi.

He at the same time confirmed plans to list the Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) on the Nairobi Securities Exchange through an Initial Public Offering (IPO), a move he maintained would reduce pressure on public finances and stimulate economic efficiency.

"Privatization through IPOs is not only about fiscal sustainability. It's about creating alternative financing models that don't rely on debt or taxes," he told stakeholders.

Mbadi reaffirmed the government's commitment to petroleum sector development and invited industry players to present ideas for collaboration.

"We welcome your proposals on how to partner in building this nation. Let us walk this journey together," he urged.

Students Bag KSh50,000 For Insurance-Themed Pieces At Kenya Music Festivals

By: Felix Njenga
@themkenyatimes

Schools across the country bagged cash prizes of up to KSh50,000 as the regional competitions of the Kenya Music Festival ended, with top honours awarded for creative performances that championed insurance adoption by rebranding it as a vital “vaccine” and a protective “ark” against life’s journey.

These messages align with this year’s KMF theme Enhancing the Creative Economy through Artistic Expression for Sustainable Development and reflect Equity Bank’s theme “Securing Lives Transformed and Wealth Created through Life, Health, and Wealth Insurance,” with the financial entity as the main sponsor of the festivals.

Educators at the festival championed the push for early financial literacy, arguing that these creative platforms are ideal for instilling crucial life skills. Abel Mariaka, a teacher and composer from CGHU Primary School, Starehe, stressed the necessity of starting early.

“It’s important for them to save early because they need to prepare well for their future lives,” he said, adding that such planning is vital for covering future school fees amid in-



Nginda Girls High School performs zilizopendwa on stage at Mang’u High School during the Central Regional Kenya music Festival.

flation. As a composer, Mr. Mariaka also noted a significant shift in the festival’s creative themes, which now embrace topics like digital technology and finance. He sees this as a positive development, suggesting that even AI can be used as a tool to “encourage creativity and innovation among the students.”

John Njuguna, a trainer at Mirema School, echoed the sentiment, particularly on the subject of insurance. He stressed the practical importance of this education, arguing that it provides a foundation for future security. He noted that when today’s students face challenges like illness later in life, they can “rely on what you learned when you were young about the insurance.” Mr. Njuguna added that understanding that education has a cost and that insurance can help secure it is a vital lesson for

learners.

Leading the charge at the regionals showcased across the country, Kyeni Girls High School, in a compelling narrative performed at the Chuka regionals, declared that “Insurance is your vaccine.” Their piece argued that just as a vaccine shield against illness, insurance provides a crucial defence against financial distress, covering everything from funeral expenses to ensuring “quality health without you.”

Echoing this sentiment of security, Mabe Twinkling Stars, a Primary School in Nairobi, showcased “The Ark” as their central metaphor for insurance. This ark, they explained, is a haven where individuals and their investments are protected from life’s storms. “Consider Insurance, for you never know when tragedy will attack,” they explained, high-



State House Girls celebrate at the Equity Tent.

lighting the comprehensive nature of policies that cover everything from life and health to property and even work-related injuries. Their performance culminated in a powerful call to action: “Come on, come on. Let’s be assured we are insured.”

Meanwhile, Mtopanga Secondary from Mombasa championed insurance as a steadfast shield. Their recitations consistently reinforced the idea of protection and peace of mind. While performing at Kenyatta High School Mwatate in Taita Taveta County, the high school students confidently declared, “We have removed worries. We are shielded with a shield.” This shield, they articulated, extends to various aspects of life, from ensuring financial stability in the face of illness – “It will treat can-

cer” – to covering funeral expenses and even providing for retirement and in times of crisis, will ensure families are not burdened.”

Mwenje Girls also detailed how insurance supports education, provides a comfortable retirement, ensures good health, and even offers support during times of disability.

With Ksh25 million sponsorship from Equity Group, the partnership has proven fruitful at the regional levels ending this July. The nationals, set to be held in Meru this August, will see top performers like Precious Blood Secondary School, Alliance Girls High School, Statehouse Girls, Meru School, St Martin Kaewa, compete for the final honors.

Two Children Perish In Tragic House Fire In Mathira

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Two children, aged 4 and 8, tragically lost their lives on Tuesday night after a fire engulfed their home in Mutitu Village, Mathira Constituency, Nyeri County.

The charred remains of the minors, identified as Vincent Kamau and Scholastica Nyambura, were discovered after villagers and fire-fighters managed to extinguish the blaze. The cause of the fire remains unknown.

According to eyewitnesses and local administrators, the fire broke out at around 7:30 p.m. in one of the bedrooms where the children were sleeping. Despite efforts by neighbours to rescue them, the flames



Residents gathering at the fire incident site.

spread rapidly, making the rescue impossible before the arrival of emergency services.

Mathira MP Eric Wamumbi, who

visited the grieving family, pledged government support and assistance to help them recover from the devastating loss.



Mathira MP Eric Wamumbi (in black coat) with residents of Mutitu village at the home where Two children perished in a fire incident.

The children’s mother, who was inconsolable, was reportedly away visiting a sick relative at the time of the incident.

The bodies were taken to the Karatina Sub-County Morgue for preservation and further investigation.

Kirinyaga Residents Asked To Protect Businesses From Destruction During Protests As I&M Open It's First Branch

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Kirinyaga Deputy Governor David Githanda has asked residents to protect businesses and other investments that they depend on for livelihood from looting and destruction.

Githanda said acts of hooliganism have no place in the county and regretted recent incidents of looting and destruction of businesses during demonstrations in various parts of the county.

The Deputy Governor noted that destruction and looting of businesses witnessed at Wang'uru, Kagio, Kagumo among other towns undermines investors' confidence in the county business environment saying it was likely to hurt the economy and families that depend on the enterprises. Speaking during the official opening of the first I&M bank branch in the County at Wang'uru town in Mwea yesterday, Githanda who represented Governor Anne Waiguru termed the looting and destruction of businesses as criminal acts that should not be tolerated.

"We cannot and must not destroy the very investments that our people depend on for livelihoods, nor should we sabotage our collective progress through violence and vandalism.



Flagging off the I&M service van.

These are a direct setback to our efforts to attract investors like I&M Bank. For heaven's sake, let us not be the architects of our own poverty," he said.

He said Governor Waiguru's administration has invested a lot in marketing the county as the next frontier for investment, improving of infrastructure like the roads, supply of water among others.

Githanda said the opening of the I&M bank branches in Kirinyaga was a vote of confidence in the county as an investment destination.

"Our development depends on stability, security, and unity. I therefore call upon all residents of Kirinyaga County to protect our investments, to uphold peace, and to resolve disagreements through dialogue and lawful

means," the DG added.

The bank is the latest financial institution to open shop in the county with NCBA and Diamond Trust Bank also making entry in the last few months.

"Kirinyaga County continues to establish itself as an investment-friendly hub, offering strategic proximity to Nairobi, affordable labour, and policies that attract agro-industrial ventures. The Sagana Agro Industrial City is underway, incorporating an Export Processing Zone (EPZ), a Special Economic Zone (SEZ), a County Aggregation and Industrial Park, and essential infrastructure to support industrial expansion. These initiatives affirm that Kirinyaga is rising as a thriving destination for transformative investment," he noted.

He said the opening of I&M Bank



Kirinyaga County Deputy Governor David Githanda with I&M bank Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Gul Khan cutting a cake during the opening of the institution's Wang'uru branch.

in Mwea will empower farmers, entrepreneurs, cooperatives, and small businesses, enabling them to secure credit, expand investments, and contribute to the county's financial stability.

Githanda challenged financial institutions to take advantage of the rising demand for agriculture mechanization and value addition to carve a niche in asset financing.

I&M bank Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Gul Khan, said Mwea was a natural choice for investment due to its agricultural significance and therefore was an economically promising areas.

"Our investment in Mwea is an-

chored on supporting local farmers and agro-entrepreneurs. We believe in offering practical solutions that transform lives, and agriculture remains at the heart of that transformation," said Khan.

The CEO said the bank's entry into Kirinyaga County was part of a broader ambition "to build a truly inclusive and future-facing bank with a relevance in Kenya's evolving financial landscape."

He said the bank has doubled its customer base in two years due to its tailor made solutions and strategy to "meet customers where they are."

Absa Bank Opens New Branch In Kawangware To Boost Financial Access

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Absa Bank Kenya has unveiled its 87th branch in Kawangware, Nairobi, as part of its ongoing strategy to expand financial access in rapidly growing urban areas.

Located at Soko Safi Mall, the branch offers a full-service banking hall and a 24/7 ATM and cash deposit machine and is supported by a robust mobile and agency banking network to serve the needs of the local community more effectively.

Speaking during the launch, Absa Bank Kenya Managing Director & CEO, Abdi Mohamed, said the expansion underscores the bank's commitment to enhancing financial

inclusion and empowering the economic potential of Kawangware's enterprising population.

"Kawangware is a strategic gateway into Nairobi, home to hard-working individuals, small businesses, and families who embody the spirit of enterprise. This branch represents our promise to walk with this community, offering not just banking services but the knowledge and partnerships that help people thrive," he proclaimed.

As part of the launch, the bank also rolled out a caravan initiative aimed at delivering financial literacy and tailored banking solutions to residents and businesses in Kawangware, Dagoretti, Kikuyu, and surrounding areas.



Absa Bank Kenya Managing Director & CEO, Abdi Mohamed during the launch of the branch.

14 POEMS

Trust God Even If The Answer Is Wait



A powerful reminder of faith and patience.
As we expect immediate answer
shower from the almighty,
the same from God demands trust.

Hold your prayers to promote for some
reason .

And also God wants to give a better
opportunity .
Something is delayed means
It doesn't denied by God.
He has planned to give in a perfect time.
Believe him, trust him definitely
he will do miracles!

Rajesh Kanna B N

I am Rajesh Kanna B N
B T Asst,
From Government Model High School, Tirur.
Tiruvallur District.
Tamil Nadu, India.

People Will Wish You The Best And Then Hate You When You Have It



People may offer well wishes
But hath harbour resentment upon success,
unspoken jealousy or resentment that can
arise
when others achieve what they perceive as
prize.
They wish you with smile , "we wish you
well,"
As you embarked, with confidence a hopeful
spell.
They watched you strive, with words so
sweet,
And secretly, their envy, it shows
bittersweet.
But grit and grace, you always persevered,
And reached the heights, their hope
reversed.

They now looked up from their own space
You can see a different mask on their face !
As their own dreams begin to sting
A bitter taste, a jealous song they sing,
The cheers they faked, dry smiles they wore,
Have faded and vanished, something more.
They saw you climb, the struggle shown,
And thought, "He'll stumble, overthrown."
They wish always best , but in heart
Sack of hatred as seeds begin to start !
The path you trod, they saw it well , clear,
Now, dark shadows fall, and doubts appear.
They wish to get what you now possess
And envy's grip, they can not suppress.
Be ready with your crown, with steady hand,
For glow of success understand this shifting
land.

SAVAAL SATHIYA

SATHIYA . V
B.T Assistant (English)
GHS THEMMAVUR
PUDUKKOTTAI DISTRICT
TAMIL NADU

The Structure And Importance Of Wisdom Teeth



By: O'ktamova Shakhnozabonu

where the enamel covering the crown meets
the cementum covering the root. Roots
Wisdom teeth usually have two to three roots,
although variations are common. The roots
may be fused, curved, or extra-long, which can
complicate extraction procedures. Inside the
roots is the pulp canal, which contains nerves
and blood vessels. Pulp Chamber The central
part of the tooth contains the pulp chamber,
which houses connective tissue, blood vessels,
and nerves.

This tissue is vital for the development of
the tooth during its early stages. Development
and Eruption Wisdom teeth are the last teeth
to develop. Their formation begins during
adolescence, but they often remain un-
interrupted due to insufficient jaw space.
Eruption typically occurs between ages 17
and 25. In many cases, they become impacted
– trapped beneath the gum and bone – which
can lead to pain, infection, or crowding of other
teeth.

Clinical Relevance and Complications Because of
their location and frequent impaction, wisdom
teeth are prone to complications: Impaction:
Failure to erupt fully, causing pressure or pain.
Pericoronitis: Inflammation of gum tissue around
a partially erupted tooth. Cysts or Tumors: In
rare cases, impacted wisdom teeth can form
cysts.
Orthodontic Problems: Can cause misalignment
or crowding of adjacent teeth. Radiographic
imaging is essential for evaluating the structure
and position of wisdom teeth before making
treatment decisions. Conclusion Wisdom teeth,
although structurally similar to other molars,
present unique anatomical and clinical challenges
due to their late eruption and positional
variability.

Understanding their structure helps in early
detection and appropriate treatment planning.
In many cases, extraction is recommended
to prevent complications, especially when the
teeth are impacted or poorly aligned.

Dental direction of the Medical Faculty of
AlFraganus University 3rd year students
Course students O'ktamova Shakhnozabonu

Abstract.
Wisdom teeth, or third molars, are the final
set of teeth to emerge in the human oral
cavity, usually between the ages of 17 and
25. Their eruption and development are often
associated with various dental complications
due to lack of space or abnormal positioning.
This paper aims to explore the anatomical
structure of wisdom teeth, their function, and
the clinical challenges they pose.

Introduction
Wisdom teeth are the third molars located
at the back of the oral cavity. Unlike other
permanent teeth, wisdom teeth are often
impacted, misaligned, or fail to erupt properly.
These teeth are considered vestigial, meaning
they no longer serve a significant purpose
in modern human diets. Understanding their
structure is crucial for dental professionals
to diagnose and manage related problems.
Anatomical Structure of Wisdom Teeth
Wisdom teeth have a similar structure to other
molars but with some unique features due to
their position and variation. Each wisdom tooth
consists of the following main parts.
Crown The crown is the visible part of the
tooth and is covered with enamel, the hardest
substance in the human body. The wisdom
tooth crown typically has four or more cusps,
allowing it to grind food efficiently. **Neck** The
neck is the transition area between the crown
and the root.
It contains the cemento-enamel junction (CEJ),

The Art of Decision Making



Decision making is a crucial aspect of our
lives. One who makes the right decision at
the right time is always successful. Before
taking a decision, it's essential to ponder
over it . Think wisely, think of the pros and
cons, and think about the future implications
of your decision.

Don't make decisions in a hasty manner.
Take your time, and wait carefully. There will
be times when you're confused about making
decisions, but with careful consideration,
you'll find the right path. You have many
choices, and it's up to you to make the best
decision.

Be confident in taking decisions.
You'll encounter new experiences and
opportunities that will help you grow
personally. Never fear of failure, as it's a
part of life. After taking a decision, focus

on moving forward, and don't dwell on what
could have been. No if's and but's.

Great leaders are often good decision
makers. Decision making helps us achieve our
goals and succeed in life. It's a skill that can
be developed over time with positive thinking
and patience.

If you face failures, don't worry. It's a natural
part of life. Instead, rise up and try to move
forward, and keep swimming against the
current. Be agile like a fish navigating through
the water, rather than passive, like a piece
of wood floating along.

Taking decisions is a great skill that requires
patience, positivity, and confidence. Trust
yourself, and believe in your abilities. With
time and practice, you'll develop the art of
decision making, and surely achieve your
goals and succeed in life.

Mrs. Brinda D,
Creative Writers & Graduate Teacher,
Govt High School, Melpattampakkam,
Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, India.



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Civil Society Groups Sound Alarm Over State's Attempts To Undermine Devolution

By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

A coalition of civil society organizations under the Kenya Devolution Civil Society Working Group (KDCWG) has issued a scathing press statement accusing the national government of systematically undermining devolution. In a strongly worded declaration released on Wednesday, the group cited delayed function transfers, unconstitutional funding mechanisms, and the reemergence of political patronage through State House-controlled development initiatives.

The KDCWG, which brings together civil society networks from all 47 counties, expressed concern over what it termed as a "backdoor recentralization" of government. "One of devolution's key promises was to end the era of leaders carrying begging bowls to State House," the group said. "Yet we are seeing county bosses summoned to negotiate for development funds, which undermines transparency and equi-

table resource sharing."

The group took particular issue with the growing prominence of parallel funding structures like the National Government-Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) and new presidential development programs. These, they argued, bypass county governments and weaken Parliament's budgetary role, ultimately tying development to political loyalty.

KDCWG also criticized the delayed transfer of devolved functions, despite repeated promises by President William Ruto. Of particular concern is the stalled Omnibus Bill which is supposed to regulate how functions are transferred between the national and county governments and the National Treasury's alleged withholding of critical funds.

According to the group, the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC) has already unbundled and costed additional devolved functions worth Ksh 272 billion. These funds, they argue, should have been factored into the 2025/26 Division of Revenue, which the group expected to hit at least Ksh 677 billion.

"The national government contin-



Civil society organizations representatives under the Kenya Devolution Civil Society Working Group (KDCWG) in picture.

ues to directly implement devolved functions such as rural roads, markets, agriculture, and healthcare, creating unnecessary duplication and confusion," the statement read.

The civil society coalition has now demanded the immediate release and passage of the Omnibus Bill, full funding of transferred functions, and an end to the overlap of roles between the two levels of government.

In addition, the group called on the Senate to reject the controversial NG-CDF Bill, terming it unconstitutional. "Courts have already ruled

that constituencies are not development units. Reviving NG-CDF undermines devolution and the principle of separation of powers," KDCWG warned.

The statement also took aim at the annual Devolution Conference, describing it as an exclusionary and elite-driven affair that fails to reflect the spirit of citizen participation. "The conference has become a closed-door event for governors and officials. Wanjiku has been locked out," the group lamented.

Among its six-point demands, the

KDCWG is calling for: full transfer of functions and resources; rejection of the NG-CDF Bill; a halt to State House-driven development; restoration of Parliament's budgetary authority; elimination of role duplication; and a more inclusive Devolution Conference that reflects the voices of grassroots communities.

"Devolution must work for Wanjiku, not politicians," the statement concluded.

Women in ADR Urge Kenyans to Embrace Amicable Dispute Resolution for Stability and Growth

By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Amidst mounting social, economic, and political tensions gripping the country, Women in Alternative Dispute Resolution (WADR) has issued a passionate appeal to Kenyans from all walks of life, calling for the prioritization of peaceful and constructive approaches to conflict resolution. With the nation at a crossroads, the group warns that without urgent adoption of amicable dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, Kenya risks undoing years of progress in governance, enterprise development, and national unity.

Speaking at a press briefing in Nairobi, WADR representatives highlighted the growing frequency of conflicts across various sectors from politics and business to community relations and underscored the need to move away from adversarial and often violent methods of dealing with disputes. "When society

chooses hostility and violence over constructive dialogue, we all lose," the statement read. "But when we sit down to reason and resolve our differences, businesses flourish, institutions regain trust, and hope is restored for all Kenyans."

The organization's leaders stressed that ADR tools including mediation, conciliation, reconciliation, and dialogue not only help preserve relationships and restore trust but also alleviate pressure on the overburdened justice system. "Embracing ADR will promote access to justice, protect commercial interests, and cultivate a culture of respect for the rule of law," WADR stated. "In this period of economic pressures and shifting political tides, we cannot afford to let disputes escalate into destructive conflicts."

Notably, the private sector has echoed these sentiments, with entrepreneurs and investors expressing a need for a stable, predictable environment to support business operations and investment. WADR called on businesses to adopt prac-

tices such as pre-litigation dialogue, include dispute management clauses in contracts, and support development of robust community mediation frameworks.

Emphasizing that effective dispute resolution is both a moral and a national duty, WADR reiterated that Kenya must position itself as a leader not just in economic growth, but also in the management of dissent and conflict. "Our stability enhances Kenya's appeal as an international hub for dispute resolution. Instability only undermines the nation's capacity to attract global investments and host regional peace initiatives."

The organization outlined clear steps for the public: actively consider amicable dispute resolution; engage professional mediators and arbitrators, especially from the qualified pool of women in ADR; shun incitement and rhetoric that promotes division; support community and institutional peacebuilding efforts; and demand transparency and dialogue from leaders at all levels.

WADR's call comes at a time when



WADR representatives in picture.

Kenya, like much of Africa, faces challenging political realignments and economic headwinds. Chairperson Lorna Wanjiru remarked, "Resolving conflict with wisdom rather than war, and with understanding rather than upheaval, must be our guiding principle."

As the nation looks ahead, the chal-

lenge remains for all Kenyans leaders, professionals, and ordinary citizens to reaffirm their commitment to peaceful conflict resolution and, in doing so, safeguard Kenya's social and economic fabric for future generations.

CS Chirchir Faces Senate Over Stalled Projects, Funding Gaps And Plans For Road Expansion

By: PSCU

@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The project, originally expected to take just 24 months, has dragged on for 92 months with only 54 per cent of work completed. The CS added that the Ministry recently disbursed KSh88 million and has received a commitment from the subcontractor to resume construction works by the end of this month, with final completion now projected for December next year.
- Still on Machakos County, Senator Kavindu also sought clarification on the construction of two key bridges in Masinga Sub-county. The CS explained that designs for both bridges; one across Thika River and another across Miu ya Ng'ang'a have not been completed but there is no funding allocated in the current financial year.

Cabinet Secretary for Roads and Transport, Davis Chirchir, appeared before the Senate plenary yesterday to answer a series of questions from senators on the state of roads and bridge construction projects, particularly those delayed due to budgetary and contractual challenges.

The session turned into a broad review of government efforts to address transport infrastructure needs across counties.

Responding to Machakos Senator Agnes Kavindu on the prolonged delays in the Kakuku–Ekalakala–Matuu Road project, the CS clarified that the initial contractor, Kitho Civil & Engineering Co. Ltd, experienced financial difficulties soon after commencement in 2015. The Ministry attempted to terminate the contract in 2019, but the contractor challenged the decision through arbitration. As a result, the Ministry allowed subcontracting. However, this did not immediately resolve the impasse.

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He estimated the cost of the Thika River bridge at KSh20 million and the Miu ya Ng'ang'a culvert at KSh15 million, stating that implementation will proceed once funds are secured.

Addressing a separate question by Senator Kavindu regarding the stalled construction of the Devki–Kinanie Leather Park Road in Athi River, the CS confirmed that the project had faced a two-year delay due to non-payment of KSh1.7 billion in pending certificates dating back to 2022. The contractor only resumed work after receiving the payment in 2024. He noted that KSh400 million has been allocated in the 2025/2026 budget to continue the works, with the project now expected to be completed by January next year.

On the broader state of infrastructure development in Machakos, CS



Cabinet Secretary for Roads Davis Chirchir in the Senate yesterday

Chirchir told the Senate that five major road projects are ongoing under KeRRA, with varying progress. These include the Kenol–Ngoleni–Mutituni Road, the Matuu–Ekalakala–Kangulu Road, the Tala–Donyo Sabuk Road, and others. He assured senators that the ministry had cleared over KSh 380 million in pending bills in the county and that the projects will continue as funds become available.

Turning to Nandi Senator Samson Cherargei's question on the stalled Nairobi–Nakuru–Eldoret dual carriageway, the CS explained that the project was initially awarded under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) but the procurement process was later annulled. The Ministry has since initiated a new PPP process to find a suitable concessionaire. Meanwhile, he confirmed that the Mau Summit–Eldoret section remains at the design stage due to the absence of construction funding.

Senator Cherargei also pressed the CS on the planned upgrade of the Eldoret–Kapsabet road, specifically whether it would be dualled and when the works would begin.

In his response, the CS said the road had been redesigned into a dual carriageway covering 27 km, but that implementation would only proceed once funding is secured. He added that periodic maintenance is scheduled to begin in June 2025 for the larger Eldoret–Chavakali corridor, which is part of the same network.

On the Mombasa–Mtwapa–Kilifi road, Kilifi Senator Stewart Madzayo raised concerns over the pace of work and lack of street lighting at the Kibarani–Changamwe interchange.

The CS responded that the two sections of the project—Mombasa to Mtwapa (Lot 1) and Mtwapa to Kilifi (Lot 2)—are 42% and 64% complete respectively. He projected that Lot 1 would be completed by November 2026 and Lot 2 by March 2026.

Regarding the street lights, he said the Ministry plans to install lighting starting June 2025. The proposed second Nyali Bridge, he added, is still undergoing feasibility studies under the PPP framework.

Murang'a Senator Joe Nyutu queried the use of private vehicles for road patrol services instead of deploy-

ing government fleet. In response, Chirchir explained that under the Performance-Based Contract (PBC) model, it is the responsibility of contracted service providers to supply patrol vehicles and personnel as part of their scope.

He said this model reduces costs and ensures that patrol services, including mechanical assistance and security alerts are embedded within the contract terms.

As such, KeNHA has no plan to acquire or maintain its own fleet of patrol vehicles.

The CS concluded by assuring the Senate that his Ministry was committed to completing ongoing works, settling pending bills, and prioritizing projects with the greatest socio-economic return, particularly in counties that have historically been underserved.

The Unfinished Scramble: Africa’s Resource Paradox And The Shadow Of Neo-Colonialism. Part 1

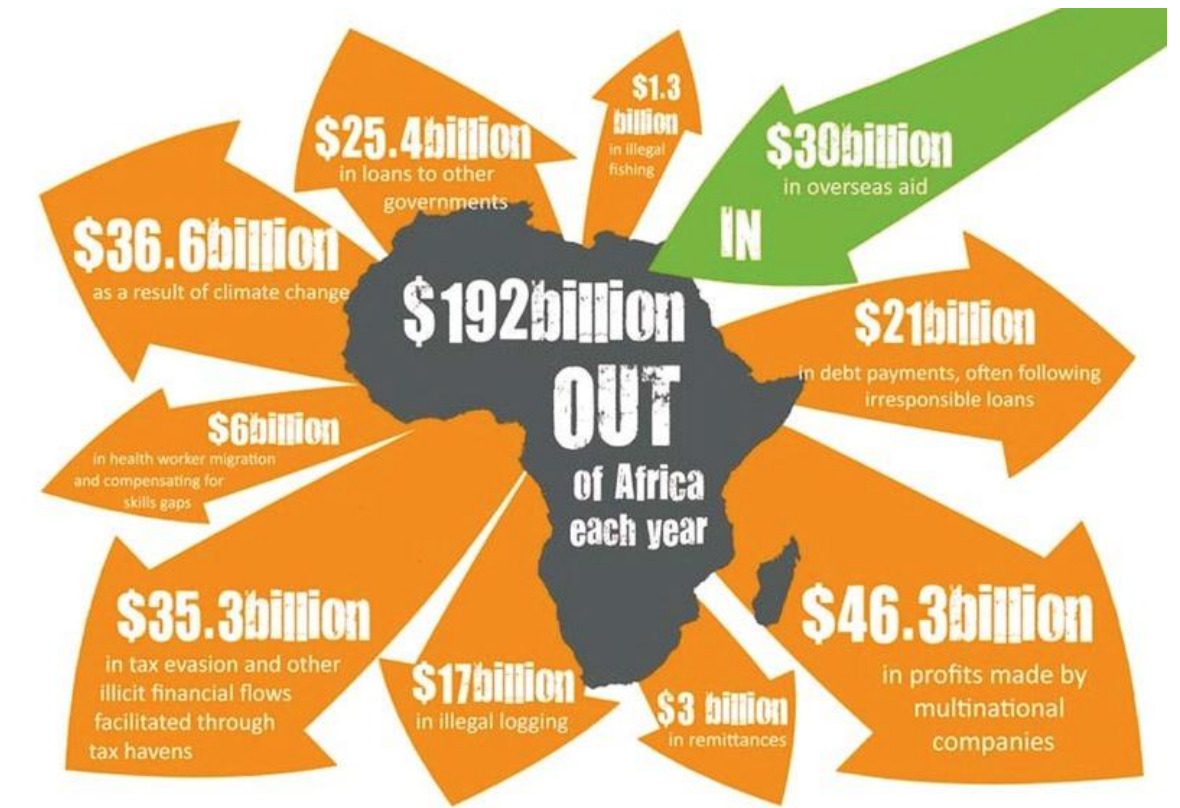


By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyatimes

Introduction

The narrative of Africa is often one of profound paradox. A continent brimming with unimaginable natural wealth – vast reserves of diamonds, gold, copper, cobalt, coltan, uranium, oil, gas, and countless other strategic minerals – yet simultaneously grappling with pervasive poverty, persistent underdevelopment, and an enduring struggle for genuine self-determination. From the sun-baked plains of Namibia, rich in copper and uranium, to the mineral-laden Copperbelt straddling Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the gold and diamond fields of South Africa, the ground beneath Africa’s feet holds the very sinews of global industry. Yet, the striking irony is that many African nations, endowed with these critical raw materials, must import the finished products derived from them, often at exorbitant prices, from continents thousands of miles away. This disjunction—the relentless export of raw materials coupled with the import of manufactured goods—is not merely an economic anomaly; it is the enduring symptom of a systemic imbalance that many argue constitutes a modern form of economic subjugation, a neo-colonialism that perpetuates dependency and stifles indigenous industrialization.

The legacy of the Berlin Conference of 1884-85, which carved up the African continent among European powers, laid the foundation for an extractive economic model designed to fuel the burgeoning industrial revolutions of the West. Borders were drawn not along cultural or ethnic lines, but around resource endowments, creating artificial states whose primary function became the supply of raw materials to the colonial metropolises. While the direct political chains of colonialism have largely been broken, the economic architecture constructed during that era has largely remained intact, merely evolving into more subtle, yet equally potent, forms of control. Today, the mines that extract Africa’s vast mineral wealth are predominantly owned and operated by multinational corporations from Europe, North America, and increasingly, Asia. African states often hold only minority stakes, effectively ceding control over their most valuable assets. This fundamental disconnect – where Africa possesses the resources but lacks the “production codes,” the machinery, the capital, and the technological know-how to transform these raw materials into high-value products – is at the heart of the continent’s arrested development. This article will argue that this global economic structure, far from being a natural progression of free markets, is a carefully maintained system that entrenches Africa’s dependency, limits its industrial aspirations, and bears all the hallmarks of a contemporary colonial endeavor, one that extracts wealth and potential without equitable return.



The Resource Curse or a Deliberate Design?

The concept of the “resource curse” has long been a dominant lens through which to understand Africa’s economic struggles. This theory posits that countries rich in natural resources often experience slower economic growth, increased corruption, political instability, and even conflict, compared to resource-poor nations. The mechanisms proposed include the “Dutch disease,” where resource booms lead to an appreciation of the national currency, making other sectors (like manufacturing and agriculture) less competitive. It also highlights how easy resource rents can disincentivize governments from investing in broad-based economic development, fostering rent-seeking behavior and corruption, and leading to internal strife over control of these valuable assets. Indeed, the history of African nations, from the diamond fields of Sierra Leone to the oil wells

of Nigeria and Angola, often provides grim illustrations that seem to support this narrative.

However, to solely attribute Africa’s economic challenges to an intrinsic “curse” of its resources is to oversimplify a deeply complex issue and, more critically, to deflect attention from the external forces and structural inequalities that actively shape these outcomes. The “resource curse” narrative, while containing elements of truth, often overlooks the crucial question of who benefits from the extraction of these resources, how these resources are managed, and why so little value addition occurs on the continent itself. It subtly implies an inherent African inability to manage its wealth, rather than examining the systemic constraints and deliberate actions that perpetuate Africa’s role as a primary resource provider for the industrialized world.

Consider the stark reality exemplified by Namibia and Zambia’s copper, or the Democratic Republic of Congo’s cobalt – minerals indispensable to modern technology, from electric vehicles and renewable energy systems to smartphones and defense industries. Both Namibia and Zambia are significant producers of copper concentrate, yet neither possesses robust domestic industries to refine this copper into wire, pipes, electronic components, or other finished products. Consequently, they export raw copper, or only semi-processed con-

centrates, at relatively low commodity prices, only to then import finished copper products, manufactured elsewhere, at significantly higher costs. The value generated from processing, manufacturing, and innovation—the lion’s share of the global copper industry’s profits—accrues almost entirely outside the African continent.

This is not merely an isolated case; it is a pervasive pattern across the continent. Ghana, a major gold producer, does not have a significant jewelry manufacturing or industrial gold processing sector. South Africa, rich in platinum group metals, exports much of its raw platinum for catalytic converters and other industrial applications produced overseas. The DRC, which holds the vast majority of the world’s cobalt reserves, an essential component for lithium-ion batteries, sees its raw cobalt shipped out, often under challenging ethical and environmental conditions, to be processed and integrated into high-tech products in Asia and Europe. The economic implications of this “raw materials trap” are profound. African nations forego colossal amounts of potential revenue – not just from the higher price of finished goods, but also from the taxes on profits, the wages for a skilled industrial work-

Worth Noting:

- The legacy of the Berlin Conference of 1884-85, which carved up the African continent among European powers, laid the foundation for an extractive economic model designed to fuel the burgeoning industrial revolutions of the West.
- Borders were drawn not along cultural or ethnic lines, but around resource endowments, creating artificial states whose primary function became the supply of raw materials to the colonial metropolises. While the direct political chains of colonialism have largely been broken, the economic architecture constructed during that era has largely remained intact, merely evolving into more subtle, yet equally potent, forms of control.
- Today, the mines that extract Africa’s vast mineral wealth are predominantly owned and operated by multinational corporations from Europe, North America, and increasingly, Asia.

The Unfinished Scramble: Africa's Resource Paradox And The Shadow Of Neo-Colonialism. Part 1

Contd from page 18

Worth Noting:

- The concept of the “resource curse” has long been a dominant lens through which to understand Africa's economic struggles. This theory posits that countries rich in natural resources often experience slower economic growth, increased corruption, political instability, and even conflict, compared to resource-poor nations.
- The mechanisms proposed include the “Dutch disease,” where resource booms lead to an appreciation of the national currency, making other sectors (like manufacturing and agriculture) less competitive. It also highlights how easy resource rents can disincentivize governments from investing in broad-based economic development, fostering rent-seeking behavior and corruption, and leading to internal strife over control of these valuable assets.
- Indeed, the history of African nations, from the diamond fields of Sierra Leone to the oil wells of Nigeria and Angola, often provides grim illustrations that seem to support this narrative.

force, the development of ancillary industries, and the fostering of innovation that naturally arises from a diversified manufacturing base. The lack of industrialization perpetuates unemployment, particularly among the youth, and limits the development of a robust middle class, further exacerbating socio-economic challenges.

The “lost opportunities” extend beyond mere economics. When a country exports raw materials, it also exports the potential for technological advancement, skills development, and industrial diversification. Processing minerals requires specialized machinery, engineering expertise, chemical knowledge, and logistical sophistication. Manufacturing products from these processed materials demands precision engineering, design capabilities, and complex supply chains. By remaining largely at the bottom of the global value chain, African nations are effectively denied the opportunity to build these critical capacities, trapping them in a cycle of dependency where they rely on external actors for the very products their own resources could create. This dynamic begs a crucial question: is this an unfortunate consequence of market forces and a genuine lack of capacity, or is it a deliberate outcome of a global economic system designed to maintain a particular division of labor, where Africa remains the primary provider of raw materials and the consumer of finished goods? The answer, upon deeper examination, points increasingly towards the latter.

Foreign Ownership and Control: The Modern Concession

The historical roots of foreign ownership in Africa's mineral sector are deeply intertwined with the colonial project. European powers, upon formalizing their claims over African territories, immediately set about mapping and exploiting the vast mineral wealth. Concessions were granted to private companies, often with direct links to the colonial administrations, ensuring that the benefits flowed directly to the metropole. Infrastructure, such as railways and ports, was built not to facilitate intra-African trade or local industrialization, but to expedite the export of raw materials. This established a pattern of external control over Africa's strategic resources that has largely persisted, albeit in a transmuted form.



Today, the landscape is dominated by multinational corporations (MNCs) headquartered in Western Europe, North America, Australia, and increasingly, China. Companies like Glencore (Swiss/UK), Rio Tinto (Anglo-Australian), Barrick Gold (Canadian), and Anglo American (South African, but with significant international operations and ownership) exert immense influence over the continent's mineral wealth. While African states technically own the subsoil resources, their equity stakes in major mining operations are often surprisingly small, frequently minority holdings of 10-25%. This limited ownership translates to limited control over operational decisions, profit repatriation, and broader strategic direction. Mining contracts themselves are often shrouded in secrecy and characterized by terms that heavily favor foreign investors. African governments, often desperate for foreign direct investment (FDI) and facing significant power imbalances in negotiations, may agree to overly generous tax holidays, reduced royalties, and exemptions from customs duties or environmental regulations. These concessions, while ostensibly

designed to attract investment, frequently result in a significant leakage of potential revenue that could otherwise be used for national development. The “race to the bottom” in attracting investment can create a perverse incentive for African nations to offer ever-more favorable terms, further eroding their share of the resource wealth.

Beyond the initial contract terms, illicit financial flows (IFFs) further deplete Africa's mineral revenues. Mechanisms such as transfer pricing, where subsidiaries of MNCs trade goods and services among themselves at manipulated prices to shift profits from high-tax jurisdictions (African host nations) to low-tax havens, are rampant. Over-invoicing of imports and under-invoicing of exports are other common tactics. These practices, while often legal or operating in a legal grey area, cumulatively cost African countries billions of dollars annually—funds that could be invested in education, healthcare, infrastructure, or indeed, in developing local processing capabilities. The scale of IFFs from Africa, largely driven by multinational corporate tax evasion and aggressive tax planning, far exceeds the amount

of foreign aid received by the continent, turning the notion of “aid” on its head as wealth flows out rather than in.

The social and environmental impacts of foreign-owned mining operations disproportionately burden local communities. While mining can bring some employment, it often comes at the cost of environmental degradation, including deforestation, water pollution, and soil contamination, which directly affects agriculture and public health. Communities are frequently displaced, their livelihoods disrupted, and traditional land rights ignored, often without adequate compensation or genuine consultation. The profits from these environmentally destructive and socially disruptive activities largely accrue to distant shareholders, while the long-term costs are borne by the host nation and its people. This arrangement is a stark continuation of the colonial mentality, where the land and its people are seen primarily as means to an end – the extraction of wealth for external benefit.

Classics Revisited: The Eternal Impression Of Athena On Contemporary Poets



By: Tajalla Qureshi
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Coupled with that, I showcase the harmony between intellect and creativity, an essential theme in classical literature. I reckon the beauty, wisdom, and creativity in classics are living testaments for contemporaries.
- However, the interdisciplinary approach of blending poetry with visual arts and music reflects the holistic appreciation of beauty found in classical. By way of time encore, the emblem of love is a mosaic of fleeting moments, scattered like sparks from a campfire, each flame has a different hue.
- Respected Adnan's Classical influence continues to cast a long and luminous shadow over contemporary expressions. The Tale of Odysseus's voyage becomes a metaphor that exemplifies resilience through the characters and impressions. Here, I extracted the influential verses from these thought-provoking poems.

Step into the timeless realm of classical literature, where the echoes resonate through the pages that whisper tales of love, conflict, and the eternal quest for meaning. These timeless works, crafted by masters of the written word, invite readers to traverse diverse landscapes of humanistic experiences—from Homer's heroic epics to Jane Austen's poignant imitations. Each Classic serves a door that opens into a sensual dimension, illuminating the values, struggles, and dreams of exploration with various universal themes. As I dwell on these legendary literary treasures, that are captivated by the richness of language, traditions, depth, and enduring truths that continuously shape my understanding.

On the flip side, the world of poetry is a rich tapestry woven from the threads of both traditions and innovations. Classic works have shaped not only the form and structure of poetry but also its profoundly demonstrative and sensational refrains. As Contemporary poets engage with classic forms, they not only pay homage to their literary predecessors but also reinterpret these structures to imitate modern refrains and sensibilities. Intertextuality creates a door to enter the Greek dimension. Many Modern Poets engage with classic works, reinterpreting and responding to them in their contemporary pieces of writing, creating layers of meaning that resonate with their presence. As Muhammad Adnan beautifully highlights the chain of emblems in classical dimension in his essay "Classics classically Classifies the cases of English Poetry."

Moreover, the theme is on Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom, the bright sunlit that enlightens every nook and corner. She is crowned with rubies of integrity, veracity, and angelicity. She is the guardian of heroes like Odysseus, Perseus, and Heracles, strengthening their minds, enlivening their sights with intellect and spark. From the Great Greeks, she is an approbation that embraces and traces the true arena. I wholeheartedly admire and adore his authentic and aesthetic image.

Below, I mentioned the admiration of her character in classical times. "But Athena, bright-eyed goddess, daughter of Zeus, Took thought for the brave Odysseus, held on a distant island..." (Odyssey 1.44-45)

"And Pallas Athena put strength

into his limbs, and daring in his heart, that he might excel among the Argives..." (Iliad 5.1-2)

"From his head sprang bright-eyed Athena, dread goddess, who delights in war and battle, the shout of armies and the clash of bronze." (Hesiod's Theogony (Lines 924-926)

Every Sunrise brought a chance to rewrite, Respected: Muhammad Adnan, as a transnational poet, juxtaposes Eastern and Western influences. He artistically deploys Greek myths in his poetry, explicitly bridging evocative images from both traditions. This approach reflects T.S. Eliot's belief in the importance of tradition in a poet's growth. Adnan's poetic dynamics are rooted in the richness of traditional poetry, drawing upon the art of Homer, Virgil, Pindar, Dante, and Boccaccio. Respected Adnan artistically crafted expression, full of classical allusions and vivid imagery. It seems to me that classics are swinging with a thread that knots the approbation and reassurance of Beauty, Love, and Wisdom from Great Greeks with contemporary embers magnificently. His artistic creations like "My Greek Warrior", "Tangible Trance", "A Light Jill", "To Consistency", "You are my untold tale", "Lioness of Grace", A song sung by Telemachus", "On his 24th birthday" and "You deserve more" holds the classical inspirations. I mention the selected verses below.

#1
"Your vanity is the vanity of Athena
Your pride is the pride of Odysseus
Your heart seems to be Castle of Calypso
Your aura is Palace of Cerci;
You are my Greek Warrior"

Coupled with that, I showcase the harmony between intellect and creativity, an essential theme in classical literature. I reckon the beauty, wisdom, and creativity in classics are living testaments for contemporaries. However, the interdisciplinary approach of blending poetry with visual arts and music reflects the holistic appreciation of beauty found in classical. By way of time encore, the emblem of love is a mosaic of fleeting moments, scattered like sparks from a campfire, each



flame has a different hue. Respected Adnan's Classical influence continues to cast a long and luminous shadow over contemporary expressions. The Tale of Odysseus's voyage becomes a metaphor that exemplifies resilience through the characters and impressions. Here, I extracted the influential verses from these thought-provoking poems.

"You are the fairy of Spencer's Queen
You are a dazzling wing of Spleen
Eye blinks in the search for Helen
Parris cherishes the sight even fallen"
My Greek Warrior by Muhammad Adnan

Furthermore, I telltale that contemporary poets have evolved while

retaining echoes of classical ideals. In ancient Greece and Rome, poets were seen as voices of truth, visionaries, and a sense of admiration for divinity, unity, and healing power, and contemporary poets continue to echo back and unearth those traditions to inspire changes and provoke thoughts like an electric connection between the souls of different eras.

#2
"Facing the stormy storm
She stands firm and never fads
standing like Penelope, she sips transparency
Athena she is, I call her Consistent"

Classics Revisited: The Eternal Impression Of Athena On Contemporary Poets

Contd from page 20

cy;
A thing of beauty is forever
Hymn to commoners she whispers
ever”
To Consistency by Muhammad Adnan

As turned over, the back-and-forth between contemporary poets and classic forms highlights the dynamic nature of poetry. By reimagining traditional structures, poets continue to reconnoiter and reinterpret classic forms, they retell that poetry is a living art that evolves while remaining rooted in the rich tapestry of human emotion and expression.

“Athena shies before your aura.
Hera cherishes your visage”
You are my untold tale by Muhammad Adnan

As I stepped into the moonlight, my poem Appraisal of Her Beauty, wondrously woven the essentials of Greek mythological typescripts to unveil the aura of highlighted wisdom, relishing beauty, and magnificence of love. The Great Greeks are reinvented with the essence of creativity and color in contemporary times. The artistic portrayal of Greek gods and goddesses like Apollo, Aphrodite, Athena, Hera, and Selena. I highlight the aroma of physical allure and affectional art of Aphrodite. Being a contemporary poet, I adore Athena’s wisdom, power of peace, Selena’s Celestial presence, Apollo’s admiration, and Aphrodite’s love.

1#
“Beyond the blue clouds and white ocean

Poetry switches and swings with the Greek notion

High up in the sky, Apollo whispers her artistic aura

Even beguiles the wariness of Hera, keeping in flora

And Aphrodite loves her love, acclaims the veiling devotion

Dance in dazzle, her imprints utter, gentle compels in motion

Vehemently, Venus often invites her beauty,

So far, Athena adores her victorious duty

Apollo offers her, his arrow, yet, to conquer the sparrow

Wisdom bows before her knees bamboozle the rough and narrow

She befriends Aphrodite and Athena for the scent of loveliness

All, with Selena, who clicks her on the moon for a dress

Appraise her aroma, in sliver stars, Selena opens art.

Appraisal of Her Beauty by Tajalla Qureshi

As I ventured into the unknowns,

another poem, Athena’s Apollo, also drew me to revisit and revive classical forms by capturing the rich tapestry of Greek mythology, particularly through the characters of Athena and Apollo. By intertwining wisdom, art, knowledge, and aesthetic admiration, the classical images evoke and embody the timeless ideals that beautifully define the beauty and virtue of the classical era. It whispers the language of acceptance, love, freedom, admiration, and understanding, yet bound in forms. I highly value the beauty of wisdom and sense of divine affection in Athena and Apollo’s characters, as seen in the line “Cherish the preponderance of love at miles,” which reveals the concept of transcending both distance and time, echoing the enduring relevance of classical ideas. Moreover, I showcase love, intellectuality, truthfulness, and integrity as an ever-lasting canvas of possibilities as the intimacy of texts changed in the quiet of midnight.

“Hovering over the sky, he often replies

to the veracity of wisdom, she, Athena

Cherish the preponderance of love at miles

Apollo retains the luxurious arena”

Hence, contemporary poets are exceedingly influenced by Greek elements: Wisdom as the ever-turning compass, Beauty as the mirror with many facets, and Love as the fragmented flame. Additionally, the reflection of Greek belief in the transformative power of art, not just as a visual or auditory experience, but it a force that awakens the senses and stirs the soul. Particularly, I and Respected Adnan are strongly influenced by her brilliance which.

“Sometimes, green adores your heart

and Apollo dances with mirth and March

She, the Starfire, encircles the melodious art

An affection, a reflection, Apollo owns the starch”

“Athena’s Apollo” by Tajalla Qureshi

2#

“Joyous the pleasure—all that the Athena ears

through her heavenly sacred eyes, hidden heartiness

thou gulping energy, embracing wholeheartedness

Astonishingly appeals—every potion thou plea”

“And Athena’s untold trance” by Tajalla Qureshi



Worth Noting:

- As I ventured into the unknowns, another poem, Athena’s Apollo, also drew me to revisit and revive classical forms by capturing the rich tapestry of Greek mythology, particularly through the characters of Athena and Apollo.
- By intertwining wisdom, art, knowledge, and aesthetic admiration, the classical images evoke and embody the timeless ideals that beautifully define the beauty and virtue of the classical era. It whispers the language of acceptance, love, freedom, admiration, and understanding, yet bound in forms.
- I highly value the beauty of wisdom and sense of divine affection in Athena and Apollo’s characters, as seen in the line “Cherish the preponderance of love at miles,” which reveals the concept of transcending both distance and time, echoing the enduring relevance of classical ideas.

3#

“Murmur compassion, whisper attention—
embroidered lashes, peeping pearls—light flashes;
that dress for dazzling delights, chosen charm and tranquility that warms
Yes, Athena of the modern Odyssey, they murmur.”

4#

“She, the Athena, the glory of trance and elegance

Relishes the Apollo, the grace of the grand ocean

for his preposterous resplendence.”

“An Ocean Opulence” by Tajalla Qureshi

As I pondered through the veil again in the contemporary era, love, beauty, and wisdom are like threads weaving through the fabric of our values of divinity and infinity. Love becomes the courage to connect

and accept the phrases and mazes; Beauty renovates into the aptitude to find elegance and embrace the authentic phase and face; and Wisdom chaperons the genuine to live with openness, and adaptability to admit imperfection. I reckon Love seeks beauty in the honest and the real as purity hits the purity,

Through their creative endeavors, contemporary poets ensure that the legacy of tradition remains vibrant and relevant, inviting new generations to engage with the beauty and complexity of poetry. The fusion of classical and contemporary is not a mere echo of the past but a vibrant dialogue that pushes the boundaries of what poetry can be, bridging the centuries with the timeless language of verse.

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Kenya will have three top match officials representing the country at the upcoming 2024 African Nations Championship (CHAN), jointly hosted by Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania from August 2 to 30.

CHAN 2024: Top Three Kenyan Referees Picked To Officiate In Tourney



Referee Stephen Yiembe, the most experienced of the trio, will serve as a Video Assistant Referee (VAR)

Kenya will have three top match officials representing the country at the upcoming 2024 African Nations Championship (CHAN), jointly hosted by Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania from August 2 to 30. The trio of Stephen Yiembe, Dickens Mimisa, and Samuel Mwangi has been officially appointed by the Confederation of African Football (CAF), to officiate some of the matches, underlining the country's growing stature in international refereeing.

Stephen Yiembe, the most experienced of the trio, will serve as a Video Assistant Referee (VAR). Born in Nakuru, Yiembe began

his refereeing career in 2012 and earned his FIFA badge in 2018. Since then, he has officiated at top-tier events, including AFCON, FIFA World Cup qualifiers, and the Olympics.

Most notably, he was the second assistant referee in this year's CAF Champions League Final between Pyramids FC and Mamelodi Sundowns. Yiembe was also selected for the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup and he officiated the group match between Real Madrid and Salzburg.

Dickens Mimisa, named Kenya's 2024 Male Referee of the Year, will officiate as a centre referee. Known for his calm con-

trol and crisp decision-making, Mimisa has handled major fixtures like the recent Mashemeji Derby and AFCON U20 matches. Outside football, he is also a respected civil engineer.

Samuel Mwangi, who will serve as an assistant referee earned his international badge in 2019, and has been praised at times for his offside judgment and discipline on the line in the Kenyan Premier League and regional competitions.

With Kenya set to open their CHAN 2024 campaign against DR Congo on August 2 at Kasarani Stadium, the presence of this trio highlights not only their

personal milestones but also the country's investment in world-class officiating.

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Sports >> *Liverpool are considering a blockbuster £120 million (\$160 million) bid for Newcastle striker Alexander Isak despite the Magpies' desire to hold onto the Sweden star, according to reports yesterday.

Liverpool Eye Blockbuster Bid For Newcastle's Isak: Reports



Liverpool are considering a blockbuster £120 million (\$160 million) bid for Newcastle striker Alexander Isak despite the Magpies' desire to hold onto the Sweden star, according to reports yesterday. The Premier League champions are yet to make a formal offer for Isak but he is believed to be high on their wanted list as boss Arne Slot looks for a new forward in the wake of Diogo Jota's death. Isak joined Newcastle from Real

Sociedad for £63 million in 2022, emerging as a key player for Eddie Howe's team. He scored 23 Premier League goals last season to fire the club into the Champions League for the second time in three years. Isak also scored in Newcastle's League Cup final victory over Liverpool at Wembley, which ended the Magpies' 70-year wait for a major domestic trophy. The 25-year-old, who is currently at a pre-season training camp in Austria, still has three years re-

maining on his contract and Newcastle are understood to be trying to tie him to a new deal. They have reportedly put a value of around £150 million on Isak in an attempt to ward off potential suitors, with Arsenal also reportedly contemplating an offer. Newcastle's majority owners, Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, have the financial muscle to resist any approach for a player who is said not to be agitating for a move. Darwin Nunez and Federico

Chiesa have also been linked with moves away from Anfield, which would increase their need to bring in a new striker. As well as their Isak interest, Liverpool have been linked with Eintracht Frankfurt's £70 million-rated forward Hugo Ekitike, who has also attracted attention from Newcastle.

AFP

SPORTS NEWS

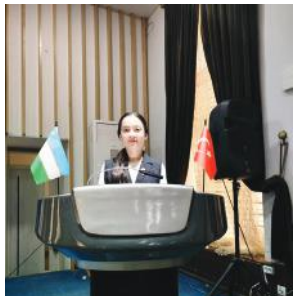


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KINDNESS – A True Investment



By: Mekhrangiz Kibriyeva
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- That very evening, Mustafa told his father everything. His father acted immediately, visited Ali's mother, assessed the situation, and decided to pay for all her medical treatment.
- After several months of care, Ali's mother gradually recovered and eventually regained her full health. The joy in Ali's eyes returned. It was all thanks to the generous and selfless help provided by Mustafa's father.
- Not long after, Ali and his mother moved to another city in search of a better life. Despite his young age, Ali had big dreams—he wanted to become a successful entrepreneur and build his own companies. His intelligence and determination made him stand out among his peers.

That morning, Mustafa woke up earlier than usual, his heart filled with excitement. He hurried off to school, though his mind was far from focused on the day's lessons. Today was special—his father had promised to buy him a phone, something Mustafa had long been waiting for.

Coming from a privileged and wealthy family, Mustafa rarely lacked anything in life. After school, he rushed out eagerly, heading home. But along the way, something unexpected caught his eye.

Sitting by the roadside was a boy around his age—perhaps a third-grader—who was dressed simply and crying quietly.

Moved by concern, Mustafa approached the boy and gently asked, "What's your name?"

Through his tears, the boy replied, "My name is Ali."

"Why are you crying, Ali? What happened? Boys don't usually cry like this. Tell me what's wrong," Mustafa asked, concerned.

Ali, his voice trembling, responded, "I'm really scared... I'm afraid of losing my mother. She's very sick. It's just the two of us at home. We have no money, and I can't afford to get her treated. Right now, she's lying in bed in a very serious condition."

Mustafo was deeply moved by Ali's words. Without hesitation, he said, "Don't worry, Ali. We'll help you. From now on, we're friends!"

That very evening, Mustafa told his father everything. His father acted immediately, visited Ali's mother, assessed the situation, and decided to pay for all her medical treatment.

After several months of care, Ali's mother gradually recovered and eventually regained her full health. The joy in Ali's eyes returned. It was all thanks to the generous and selfless help provided by Mustafa's father.

Not long after, Ali and his mother moved to another city in search of a better life. Despite his young age, Ali had big dreams—he wanted to become a successful entrepreneur and build his own companies. His intelligence and determination made him stand out among his peers.

Years passed...



Ali achieved his dreams. He became a skilled expert and a successful businessman, leading several organizations. His mother looked at him with pride, her heart full of joy. Meanwhile, Mustafa's family was facing difficult times. Once wealthy and admired, they had lost everything—their businesses had gone bankrupt, and their luxurious home and cars were no more.

In desperation, Mustafa began applying for jobs. By coincidence, he ended up at one of Ali's companies, not knowing who owned it.

After speaking with the HR manager, Mustafa was scheduled to meet the CEO for a final interview. As he entered the office, he was struck by the elegance and success surrounding the place. He deeply admired the owner—still unaware that it was his childhood friend, Ali.

To Mustafa's surprise, Ali recognized him immediately. After years of trying to find the boy who had once changed his life, fate had finally brought them together.

Ali welcomed Mustafa warmly. As Mustafa shared everything that had happened—the financial collapse, the loss of their home—Ali listened

with emotion.

Then, with a kind smile and a pat on Mustafa's shoulder, he said: "Mustafo, I remember when you once told me, 'We're friends now.' Back then, that meant everything to me. Your family helped me when no one else could. I'm lucky to have met you. Don't worry anymore. I'm here now. We'll start again—together. Deal, my friend?"

Mustafo was overwhelmed with gratitude. At last, he could bring joy back to his parents. Just as he had once helped Ali, now Ali was there to support him.

From that moment forward, the two friends faced life side by side. They launched new business ventures, expanded their companies, and supported each other through it all.

Mustafo regained his home and became Ali's business partner. In time, he even opened several of his own companies.

In the end, a single act of kindness shown in childhood had turned into a true investment for the future—one that came back when it was needed most.

Mekhrangiz Kibriyeva was born on

January 1, 2006, in Sariosiyo district of Surkhandarya region, Uzbekistan. She is currently studying Turkish language at the Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages.

Mekhrangiz has actively participated in various competitions and contests, earning notable achievements. For instance, during the 2023–2024 academic year, she took part in the Republican Science Olympiad in the subject of Informatics and Information Technologies, where she proudly secured 2nd place at the national level.

Her articles and short stories have been published in national newspapers as well as international journals, including those based in Kenya and California. Moreover, her creative works have been featured in anthologies published in multiple countries.

In addition to her literary accomplishments, she is also a member of several international organizations, among them the All India Council for Technical Skill Development based in India.