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 Summary dismissal in Kenya represents the most severe form of employment termination, allowing an employer to instantly end a contract of service without the customary notice period. This swift action, however, is not a unilateral power to be wielded arbitrarily, but is strictly regulated by the Employment Act, 2007, particularly Section 44. Page 18

**NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL CONFERENCE, 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ROADSHOW**  
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**News >> Gov't Collaborates With Stakeholders To Roll Out Insurance-Integrated Fertilizer Subsidy To Safeguard Smallholder Farmers**

P. 8. A unique insurance concept, targeting small scale farmers was launched yesterday.



**News >> Optiven, Co-operative Bank And Everstrong Maskani Partner To Deliver Home Ownership Solutions For Kenyans**

P. 12. Owning a home in Kenya has long been a fragmented and frustrating journey for many aspiring homeowners.

# Gachagua A Frontrunner For Presidential Ticket

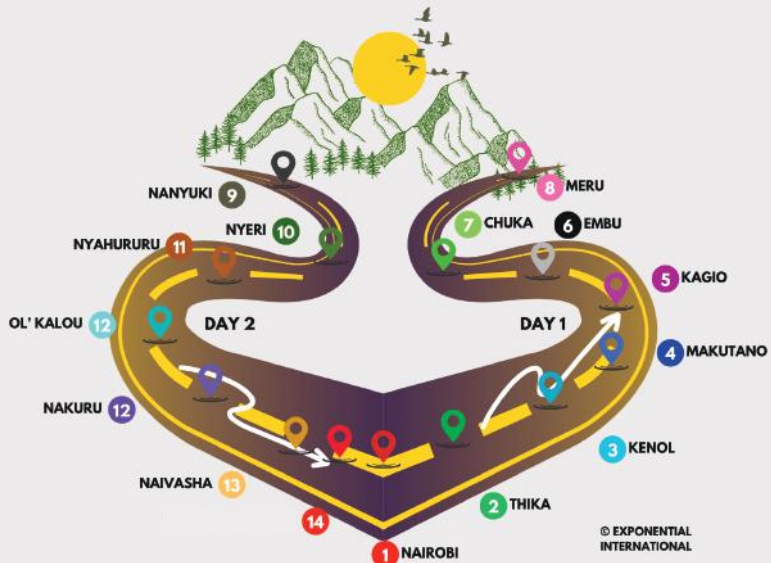
**Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has publicly declared himself the leading contender to fly the opposition's flag in the 2027 presidential election, asserting that he has both the political capital and national support to unseat President William Ruto after one term.** Speaking in Boston during a diaspora engagement and the launch of Democratic Change Party (DCP) satellite offices at the Well of Worship Hall in Massachusetts, Gachagua addressed the simmering tensions within the opposition over who should be the coalition's presidential candidate.



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

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



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# Roll Out Of Pioneering Insurance-Integrated Fertilizer Subsidy Program

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyentimes

## Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

In a bold step toward climate resilience and food security, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development alongside partners: PULA Advisors, The Bayer Foundation, Lemonade Foundation, SOMPO Digital Lab, and Etherisc launched an initiative that integrates agricultural insurance into Kenya's National Fertilizer Subsidy Program.

The pilot phase, targeting 250,000 smallholder farmers across 11 counties, embeds insurance worth KSh7,000 (the value of two bags of subsidized fertilizer) directly into fertilizer access via the Kenya Integrated Agriculture Management Information System (KIAMIS).

This innovation aims to de-risk farmers from climate shocks like erratic rainfall, pests, and crop failure, using AI-powered registration, satellite data, and mobile-based payout systems.

To start with 11 counties are targeted. (See full story elsewhere in this publication)



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



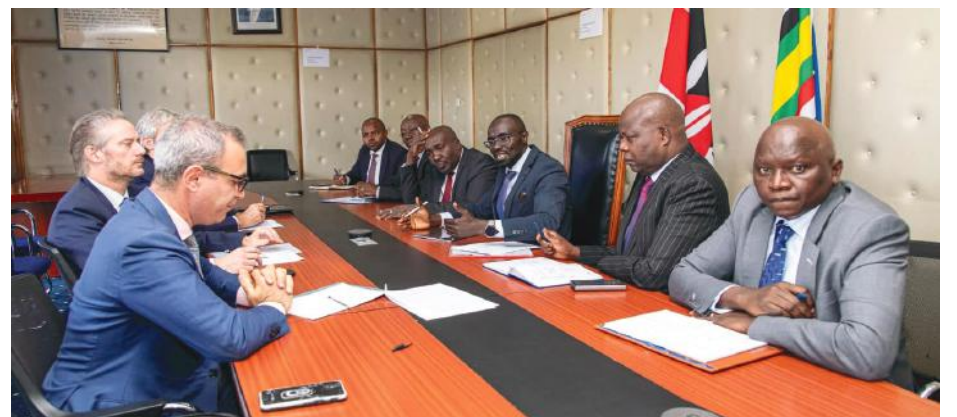
The Ministry of Health has intensified advocacy efforts to position breastfeeding as a key public health and development priority ahead of World Breastfeeding Week 2025, set to run from 1st to 7th August. Through the Division of Nutrition and Dietetics Services, the Ministry yesterday engaged media professionals in Nairobi to underscore the urgent need for sustainable support systems that enable mothers to breastfeed effectively—in health facilities, workplaces, and communities. This year’s theme, “Prioritize Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems,” calls for coordinated, long-term investments across all sectors. Speaking during the opening of the forum, Deputy Director General for Health, Dr. Sultani Matendechero, reaffirmed the Ministry’s commitment to advancing breastfeeding as a national imperative. The Ministry is calling on national and county governments, employers, and community leaders to strengthen policies, infrastructure, and financing that protect, promote, and sustain breastfeeding—for the health and resilience of future generations.



Yesterday, the KTDA Holdings leadership led by Chege Kirundi National Board Chairman, Group Chief Executive Officer Wilson Muthaura, KTDA Foundation Board Chairman GG Kagombe, Foundation GM Sudi Matara, James Mwangi Board Member Zone 2, Catherine Mankura Independent Director and other senior KTDA managers held a meeting with AAR insurance team to explore potential partnerships opportunities geared towards the farmers wellbeing. AAR was represented by Chief Executive Officer Justine Kosgei, General Manager AAR Healthcare Elizabeth Wassuna, Group Chief Finance Officer Hosea Kiprop, and Group Head of Technology Eugene Sanya.



At the High-Level Dialogue on African Carbon Markets held yesterday in Nairobi, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa called for African leadership and ownership in developing carbon markets. She stressed that the climate crisis is deeply personal for Africa and requires homegrown, inclusive solutions. Africa stands at a turning point facing the costs of inaction but also the opportunity to lead in climate-smart growth. Despite its rich ecosystems and renewable energy potential, the continent remains marginalised in global carbon markets. The Dialogue brought together key stakeholders to reshape Africa’s role in climate finance, with a unified message: carbon markets must work for, with, and by Africa. The CS emphasized the need for carbon markets to mobilize finance, support biodiversity, and improve livelihoods, while tackling issues like community exclusion, limited financing, and poor transparency. She advocated for the African Gold Standard on Carbon Credits as a symbol of sovereignty and fairness, and called for better carbon pricing to reflect Africa’s true climate contribution. Kenya’s leadership was highlighted through the Climate Change (Amendment) Act, 2023, draft regulations, and a national carbon registry to ensure transparency and integrity. Also present were, Mr. Nardos Bekele Thomas, CEO, AUDA-NEPAD, His Excellency, Neil Wigan, UK High Commissioner to Kenya, Amb. Ali Mohamed, Climate Change Envoy for the Republic of Kenya and Other Dignitaries.



The Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Eric Mugaa yesterday held a fruitful meeting with the French Ambassador to Kenya, Arnaud Suquet, to review the progress and portfolio of ongoing projects supported by the French Development Agency (AFD) across the country. The meeting focused on key flagship projects including; Mwache Downstream Works in Mombasa, Urban Pipeline Projects in Nairobi and Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation (LVWATSAN) Projects in Kisumu County. These projects, implemented through various Ministry agencies, are instrumental in advancing the Government’s agenda on improved water access, sanitation, and sustainable development. The Cabinet Secretary was joined by the Principal Secretary for Water and Sanitation Julius Korir, Water Secretary Sam Alima, Athi Water Works Development Agency CEO Joseph Kamau, and other senior Ministry officials.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Principal Secretary Dr. Esther Muoria has said the government is shifting focus from paper qualifications to practical competencies as part of efforts to align training with evolving market needs. “Empowering youth with hands-on skills not only promotes self-reliance but also strengthens the informal and SME sectors — the backbone of our economy,” she said in a speech delivered on her behalf by the Deputy Director of Technical Training, Dr. Bernard Isalambo. She was speaking during a ceremony where Finlays Community Trust, under Browns Plantations Kenya, awarded Sh8.7 million TVET scholarships to 40 students from Kericho and Bomet counties. The beneficiaries will pursue training in fields such as electrical installation, plumbing, welding, garment making, ICT, and masonry at Belgut and Konoin Technical Training Institutes. Each trainee will also receive a Sh50,000 start-up toolkit upon graduation to support self-employment or job placement. Tvet Authority Kenya Page Finlays Community Trust



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# Tharaka-Nithi County Reaping Big From President Ruto's Government

By: Alex Njeru

@themkenyentimes

## Worth Noting:

- Another KSh2.2 billion has been earmarked for accommodation infrastructure in institutions of higher learning, with Chuka Technical and Vocational Institute slated to receive hostels for 1,760 students and Chuka University set to get KSh1.1 billion for hostel construction.

- The government has also allocated KSh588 million toward the construction of modern markets, with works ongoing at Chuka, Gatunga and Chogoria Modern Markets, both of which were launched during the recent President's tour of the county.



Issuance of empowerment funds by Chuka/Igambango'mbe MP Patrick Munene and National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichungwa in Kaanwa market. Photo/Alex Njeru.

Tharaka-Nithi County is set to benefit from a series of transformative development projects funded by the national government, ranging from infrastructure upgrades to housing, education, and electrification.

Top on the list is the injection of over KSh 2.2 billion into affordable housing, including a KSh1.2 billion housing project in Chuka that has already been commissioned by President William Ruto.

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The government has also allocated KSh588 million toward the construction of modern markets, with works

ongoing at Chuka, Gatunga and Chogoria Modern Markets, both of which were launched during the recent President's tour of the county.

In the energy sector, KSh731 million has been invested in rural electrification programs to boost last-mile power connectivity and improve living standards in remote areas of the county.

National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wa, who led a section of Kenya Kwanza leaders on a development tour of the county yesterday, lauded the progress Tharaka-Nithi has made under the current administration.

He spoke at Kaanwa Market in Chuka Igambang'ombe Constituency during the launch of the Kaanwa-Kamutiria road tarmacking project, a road which will open the potential areas to towns.

"Tharaka-Nithi County has benefited immensely from the rollout of development projects, and we will ensure



Launch of Kaanwa road in Chuka/Igambango'mbe constituency by area MP Patrick Munene and National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichungwa. Photo/Alex Njeru.

their timely completion. This government has an agenda, the rest are just chanting slogans," Ichung'wah remarked.

Chuka Igambang'ombe MP Patrick Munene called on the government to elevate Chuka Technical Vocational Institute to national status, citing its strategic location and expanding infrastructure.

The lawmaker also appealed for the upgrade of the strategically located Kaanwa Market once the road project is completed to stimulate economic growth.

Principal Secretary for Blue Economy and Fisheries Betsy Njagi affirmed that Tharaka-Nithi is already experiencing the tangible impact of national government investments, urging residents to continue supporting the administration for even more gains in the current and second term.

Other leaders present included South Mugirango MP Silvanus Osoro and Nominated MP Sabina Chege, who called for patience and unity as the government works to fulfill its development pledges.

In addition, KSh4 million was disbursed to local community groups through the Uwezo Fund, further bolstering grassroots economic empowerment in the county.

The leaders also urged the county residents and Mt Kenya in large to fully support Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki who comes from Tharaka constituency.

They lauded DPs performance noting that he has already made great impact compared to his predecessor, the impeached Rigathi Gachagua.

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# Gov't Collaborates With Stakeholders To Roll Out Insurance-Integrated Fertilizer Subsidy To Safeguard Smallholder Farmers

By: MKT Correspondents

@themkenyatimes

A unique insurance concept, targeting small scale farmers was launched yesterday.

Stakeholders said the initiative is aimed at strengthening farmer resilience in the country's national fertilizer subsidy program through integrated agricultural insurance.

The entities behind the scheme which is spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development include Pula, Bayer Foundation, Lemonade Foundation, SOMPO Digital Lab, and Etherisc that has been working out on how to unveil a climate risk resilience initiative that integrates climate-smart insurance into Kenya's National Fertilizer Subsidy Program.

This marks a major milestone in the country's strategy to build resilience among smallholder farmers.

The initiative, the first of its kind in Kenya and in the broader region, will be piloted across 11 counties and is expected to reach approximately 250,000 crop farmers before expanding nationwide.

The Pilot phase rollout will cover Makeni, Machakos, Kisii, Migori, Meru, Nyeri, Trans-Nzoia, Kakamega, Kericho, Nakuru, and Uasin Gishu counties, ahead of a national scale-up next year.

In future seasons, the program will expand its coverage and deploy innovative public-private financing mechanisms to reduce vulnerability and promote sustained investment in agricultural inputs. The partnership aims to embed insurance into subsidized fertilizer distribution, supporting the government's broader vision of enabling farmers to adopt climate-smart practices and data-driven tools to improve productivity.

"Agricultural insurance is a step in the right direction, especially now that climate-related risks are not a distant threat to our livelihoods. This partnership is critical as it will not only protect farmers from risks such as drought and floods but will also promote a sustainable safety net for our farmers, mainly those in Arid and Semi-Arid areas," said National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) MD Samuel Karogo.

The program, he added, will improve uptake and confidence in the fertilizer subsidy program by offering value-added services. For this season, each farmer registered on the Kenya Integrated Agriculture Management

Information System (KIAMIS), in the beneficiary counties, will be offered insurance coverage for Ksh. 7,000, which is equivalent to the investment needed for two bags of subsidised fertilizer which they procure from the government. For subsequent seasons, the coverage amount and number of beneficiary counties will be increased.

Farmers are automatically enrolled in the insurance scheme when receiving their subsidized fertilizer, an essential step in the success of this public-private partnership initiative. The initiative is designed to de-risk smallholder farmers from climate-related threats, marking a major shift toward inclusive insurance at scale.

"This partnership is about creating meaningful access to resilience," said Mildred Nadah Pita, Head of Public Affairs, Science & Sustainability, Africa at Bayer. "At Bayer Foundation, we believe that insurance shouldn't be a privilege for a few, but a tool that empowers underserved farmers, especially women and youth, to thrive in the face of climate change."

"The future of climate protection in agriculture lies in scalable, digital-first solutions. By leveraging digital infrastructure and integrating with mobile wallets, we ensure that farmers are paid, transparently and rapidly, when it matters most," said Dimitri Fishler, Strategy and Operations Lead at the Lemonade Foundation.

The 2025 rollout builds on years of successful pilot programs, which reached thousands of farmers. It leverages Pula's proprietary tools—the Pula Insurance Engine (PIE) and Mavuno, an AI-powered farmer registration platform—alongside weather, satellite, and on-ground data to monitor rainfall, pests, and diseases. If yields fall below a set threshold, insured farmers receive timely payouts in cash or inputs.

"Together, we are transforming how agricultural subsidies work," said Thomas Njeru, Co-founder and CEO of Pula Advisors. "We deliver dignity, resilience, and predictability to farmers who feed our nation."

Agriculture contributes 33% to Kenya's GDP and employs over 70% of the rural population. Yet, fewer than 5% of farmers have access to formal insurance. By embedding risk protection into essential government services, this initiative aims to stabilize rural incomes, unlock financing, and foster long-term food security.

The project underlines the Ministry of Agriculture's commitment to shielding farmers from the mounting impacts of climate change, while building a sustainable and resilient



Farmers, Mary Muendo and Nahashon Mututu (Centre), receive a sample crop insurance voucher from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development and PULA. The voucher was presented by Ag. NCPB Managing Director Samuel Karogu (Second Right) and PULA President Rose Goslinga (Third Right). Photo/Courtesy.

agricultural economy. This collaboration illustrates the power of public-private partnerships to drive food security, de-risk rural investments, and enable climate adaptation at scale.

Other speakers during the ceremony that took place at Radisson Blu Hotel in Nairobi included County Governments Agriculture CECMs caucus chairman and Nyeri CECM James Muturi who termed the initiative as a

game-changer which will address the major challenges that most farmers have been facing.



County governments Agriculture CECM caucus chairman and Nyeri CECM James Muturi (right) comparing notes with PULA Commercial Manager Erastus Mugi (left) during the launching of the insurance program yesterday.

# Gachagua Declares Himself Frontrunner For Opposition's 2027 Presidential Ticket

By: Emmanuel Too  
 @themtkenyatimes

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has publicly declared himself the leading contender to fly the opposition's flag in the 2027 presidential election, asserting that he has both the political capital and national support to unseat President William Ruto after one term.

Speaking in Boston during a diaspora engagement and the launch of Democratic Change Party (DCP) satellite offices at the Well of Worship Hall in Massachusetts, Gachagua addressed the simmering tensions within the opposition over who should be the coalition's presidential candidate. "I am the frontrunner, and I think I have the best chance to be president," Gachagua told the crowd, positioning himself as the most viable alternative to President Ruto.

The former deputy president, who parted ways with Ruto earlier this year, insisted that no consensus has been reached within the opposition

on a joint candidate, despite speculation of power-sharing deals and back-room negotiations.

"We have not settled on anybody. There's only one thing that has been agreed on—and it's Wantam," he said, referencing the emerging unity framework among opposition parties.

Gachagua emphasized that each aspirant is currently building their own political base, and that a major meeting will be held in December 2026 to determine who stands the best chance of defeating Ruto.

"Everyone who wants to be president has been told: go and look for your votes. Mobilize your supporters. After Christmas next year, we will meet and decide who carries the flag—just one candidate to face William Ruto," he said in Swahili.

Touting his influence in the populous Mt. Kenya region, Gachagua claimed he was instrumental in mobilizing support that helped secure Ruto's 2022 victory, asserting he delivered nearly half of the total vote tally.

"I mobilized 4 million people from this mountain to make you president. I will mobilize 8 million from this community to send you home," he



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua speaks to Kenyans in Seattle, Washington State, on July 11, 2025.

declared, drawing cheers from the audience.

Gachagua's month-long U.S. tour is aimed at consolidating support both from the Mt. Kenya diaspora and back home, as the opposition prepares for a high-stakes presidential

race.

Other prominent opposition figures also eyeing the ticket include Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka, NARC Kenya's Martha Karua, former Interior CS Dr. Fred Matiang'i, and Busia Senator Okiya Omtatah. However,

Gachagua's bid comes amid ongoing legal battles, including a pending impeachment case filed earlier this year.

# KRA Announces Recruitment Drive For Commissioners, Managers

By: Nelson Ledama  
 @themtkenyatimes

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has rolled out a major recruitment drive that aims to develop a skilled and adaptable workforce to bolster service delivery to taxpayers.

According to the tax body, the drive covers a wide range of roles from leadership to operational positions.

Some of the positions advertised include three commissioner roles, twelve deputy commissioner roles as well as other managerial positions.

"This reflects the Authority's commitment to attracting a diverse and highly qualified pool of candidates in support of its mandate to drive national development through effective revenue mobilization," said KRA in a statement issued on Monday morning.

The recruitment was announced as

the authority is reviewing its organizational structure to address current and future institutional needs.

"The restructuring aims to address both current and future institutional needs by enhancing workforce flexibility, operational efficiency, and fostering a culture of continuous learning and innovation," stated KRA

The transformation, according to KRA, will enhance its workforce capacity which is currently over 9000 staff as well as bolstering its ability to navigate tax administration complexities, consistently deliver high quality services and offer a swift response to emerging challenges.

Furthermore, the authority also reiterated its commitment to foster a recruitment process that upholds the transparency and is merit-based to ensure that they attract and retain the best talent.



# Mudavadi Meets G7 Representatives And Development Partners

By: OPCS PS  
@themkenyatimes

The Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Musalia Mudavadi yesterday engaged with representatives of the G7 and Kenya's development partners at the Railways Headquarters to review the progress of priority pilot programmes aimed at easing congestion along the Nairobi Metropolitan Area's transport corridors.

Joined by Davis Chirchir, Cabinet Secretary for Roads and Transport, Mudavadi led a comprehensive and forward-looking evaluation of strategic transport initiatives designed to improve mobility, enhance accessibility, and promote a more sustainable and inclusive urban environment. In a robust and candid dialogue

with the representatives, members of the diplomatic corps, and esteemed partners led by Neil Wigan, British High Commissioner, the discussions reaffirmed a shared determination to transform Nairobi's urban infrastructure through meaningful collaboration, innovation, and transparent accountability.

Mudavadi emphasized the government's unwavering commitment to these transformative programmes, which stand as a cornerstone of Kenya's development agenda, with a clear mission; to deliver smarter, safer, and more efficient transport solutions that resonate with the aspirations of all Kenyans.

He called upon all stakeholders to sustain the momentum and deepen partnerships as the nation advances toward a better connected, greener, and more livable Nairobi, a city that reflects the promise and potential of Kenya for generations to come.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi during the meeting with development partners yesterday. Photo/Courtesy.



# Chuka County Referral Hospital Gets A Boost In Emergency Care With New Advanced Ultrasound Machine

By: Brenda Mwendu and Mr Alex Njeru  
 @themtkenyatomes

In a significant milestone for health-care in Tharaka Nithi County, the Emergency Medicine Kenya Foundation (EMKF) has donated a modern Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) machine to the Emergency Department at Chuka County Referral Hospital.

This development marks a major step forward in enhancing the hospital's emergency care capacity and overall medical response efficiency.

The state-of-the-art equipment is designed to assist healthcare professionals in making early and accurate diagnoses, a critical aspect in emergency settings where every second counts.

With this capability, medical teams at the hospital will be better equipped to deliver life-saving interventions and improve patient outcomes.

Speaking during the official hand-over ceremony yesterday, the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Health, Dr. Gichuyia Nthuraku M'Riara, expressed sincere appreciation to EMKF for their con-

tinued support.

He officially received and handed over the life-saving device to the hospital team, applauding EMKF's long-standing commitment to strengthening emergency care services across the country.

"This POCUS machine will allow our healthcare providers to make faster and more accurate decisions in emergency situations, potentially saving many lives," Dr. M'Riara said.

He emphasized the machine's potential in enabling rapid diagnostics and guiding timely treatment interventions.

The donation is part of a broader initiative by EMKF aimed at revolutionizing emergency care in Kenya.

Among the key components of this initiative is the enhancement of emergency medical response, with a goal to reduce mortality linked to delays or misdiagnosis in critical cases.

A vital aspect of the program is the training of frontline healthcare workers in the use of POCUS. Through hands-on sessions, healthcare providers will gain essential skills that enhance their diagnostic capabilities and the quality of care delivered in emergencies.



Emergency Medicine Kenya Foundation (EMKF) donates a modern Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) machine to Chuka County Referral Hospital.

In addition to equipment and training, EMKF's mission focuses on strengthening emergency healthcare systems across Kenya.

The organization has supported healthcare reforms in 28 counties and trained over 5,000 healthcare workers, helping to establish a more resilient

and responsive medical infrastructure.

The donation and accompanying training align with Tharaka Nithi County's long-term vision of ensuring high-quality, accessible healthcare for all residents. It also resonates with EMKF's commitment to fostering robust emergency medical systems

nationwide.

With this latest development, Chuka County Referral Hospital is now better equipped to handle critical care cases and remains a central pillar in the county's healthcare delivery system.

# Entries Stream In Steadily For The Africa Concours D'elegance

By: MKT Correspondent  
 @themtkenyatomes

The organizers of this year's Africa Concours d'Elegance report a steady flow of entries for the event which has been dubbed the "Bob Dewar Memorial Edition".

Over 50 entries have already been received for the event, which will be held at the Nairobi Racecourse on September 28th.

The Concours has full Africa continental status for cars and motorcycles and has been recognised and sanctioned by the FIM-Africa since 2006. The regulations and entry form are available from the website; www.concourskenya.com.

The event has been organized for the past 53 years by the Alfa Romeo Owners Club to enable the owners of well kept classic and vintage cars and motorcycles to showcase them to the thousands of motoring enthusiasts who follow the annual event.

Motorcycle enthusiasts will be treated to a variety of bikes including Dominique Antoine's 1925 Triumph 500SD which is the oldest motorcycle listed so far and a past winner of the event. In

addition, Dominique will also be showing a 1959 BSA B33 both of which have been carefully restored with an eye for the top prize.

Also stirring excitement in the motorcycle parade ring will be the roar of the big bikes among them the 1994 Yamaha V-Star and a 1991 Honda Goldwing Special Edition both entered by Doc Badman Classis, a regular Concours competitor. Other bikes entered in this category include Douglas Kiere-ini's 2016 Kawasaki 1400 GTR and the BMW GS 1200 of David Odhuno.

The car judging line will also feature a beautiful mix of regular and new vehicles. Arguably the most attractive Mercedes on show will be the 1974 Mercedes 450SL coupe which is the pride and joy of Kevit Desai, the Concours Patron. His 1968 Jaguar 420 is also expected to earn a place in the top ten.

Among the new car entries are the 1973 Alfa Romeo GTV and a 1981 Mercedes Benz two door entered for the first time by Priten Patel. Victor Odera will also be making his debut at the Concours with his 1988 E30 BMW M3, the only one of its kind in Kenya.

Peter Wanday the Chairman of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club and the Event Director of the Concours announced, "After three years of not having a prize



Kevit Desai's 1974 sparkling Mercedes 450SL coupe is among the interesting car entries received for the Africa Concours d'Elegance. Photo/Courtesy.

fund, we have re-introduced the much coveted prize fund alongside the many trophies and prizes to be won."

"Participants in this Concours will have the opportunity to win cash prizes for the three podium winners in each of the 20 classes in contention, in addition

to the overall podium winners for both car and motorcycle categories."

In addition to the judging of cars and motorcycles, the Concours also features 28 motor trade stands for new cars and vehicle accessories on the inside of the racecourse and a sale for classic cars and

motorcycles made in 2000, or earlier and a section for Motor Clubs. Registration for these categories is ongoing and entry forms are available on the event website www.concourskenya.com.

# Optiven, Co-operative Bank And Everstrong Maskani Partner To Deliver Home Ownership Solutions For Kenyans

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes

Owning a home in Kenya has long been a fragmented and frustrating journey for many aspiring homeowners.

From acquiring land to securing financing and managing construction, the process is often disjointed and riddled with uncertainty.

For the majority of Kenyans, the dream of a dignified, custom-built home remains just that - a dream.

In a major step toward solving this challenge, three sector leaders - Optiven Limited, Co-operative Bank of Kenya and Everstrong Maskani LLP have launched a strategic collaboration that integrates land acquisition, construction, and financing into one seamless, customer-centered journey.

Under the new collaboration, customers will now be able to purchase property through Optiven, access mortgage financing from Co-operative Bank, and build quality custom homes through Everstrong Maskani, all within a unified framework that simplifies the homeownership process and reduces risk.

The collaboration was officially launched last week at the Optiven's Global Office in Karen, Nairobi where the leaders of the three institutions signed the agreement in the presence of stakeholders, clients, and media.

Speaking during the launch, Dr. George Wachiuri, Chief Executive Officer of Optiven Limited, described the collaboration as a game-changer for Kenya's housing market:

"For far too long, many Kenyans have struggled with the disconnect between buying land and building a home. We've seen investors stuck for years, unsure where to begin or whom to trust with construction. This collaboration brings a solution to that struggle. By integrating the process, we are giving every customer a clear, safe, and professionally managed path to home ownership."

Dr. Wachiuri added, "At Optiven, we've always believed that our work shouldn't stop at selling value added land it should extend into creating real transformation for our customers. This collaboration is a natural progression in that journey. While land remains our core focus, enabling our customers to transition from ownership to actual habitation is a powerful step forward. We're not just facilitating the construction of homes; we're strengthening trust, offering structure, and giving our clients a more complete path toward stability and legacy."

Geoffrey Mwaura, Head of Refinancing at Kenya Mortgage Refinance Company (KMRC), emphasized the



Optiven Limited CEO Dr George Wachiuri making his address during the partnership launching ceremony last week.

affordability aspect of the partnership; "Home loans are affordable in this country today. Through our partnership with institutions like Co-operative Bank, we have provided in excess of KSh22 billion to financial institutions in Kenya. Customers can access loans of up to KSh10.5 million at single-digit interest rates - Co-operative Bank offers 9.5% fixed for the term of the loan, up to 25 years. This means once you start paying, your monthly payment remains constant until you redeem your mortgage, protecting you from interest rate fluctuations."

Customers who have purchased plots of land within Optiven projects, including Amani Ridge in Kiambu, Achievers Paradise in Kimuka Ngong, Success Gardens along Gatanga Road and Victory Gardens and Happy Gardens in Kitengela will now be able to contract Everstrong Maskani for home construction under a structured and transparent agreement. Co-operative Bank will provide milestone-based financing to ensure accountability, cost efficiency, and timely project completion.

Henry Kyanda, Managing Partner at Everstrong Maskani LLP, emphasized the company's dedication to client-focused execution; "We are proud to partner with trusted institutions like Optiven Limited and Co-operative Bank in delivering homes that meet the highest standards of quality, safety, and design. Through our MaskaniBora turnkey offering, we walk with each customer from concept to keys; offering them peace of mind, structural integrity, and professional service at every step."

## Financing That Works for the Modern Homeowner

The Co-operative Bank of Kenya will play a pivotal role by offering customized construction loans that match individual client needs. Disbursements will be made in phases aligned to verified building milestones, with regular inspections to assure quality control and safeguard client investments.

Japhet Kahindi Ponda, Head of Mortgage Finance at The Co-operative Bank of Kenya, said; "At Co-operative Bank, we recognize that home ownership is one of the most significant investments an individual can make. This collaboration allows us to bring financing directly into a trusted, end-to-end ecosystem where land, lending, and construction are seamlessly linked. Our role is to provide affordable credit and walk with our

clients all the way to the front door of their finished homes."

Each client referred by Optiven will sign a direct construction contract with Everstrong Maskani, ensuring legal clarity, customer protection and professional execution. Every home will include structural guarantees, a defect liability clause, and insurance coverage during the construction period. Everstrong Maskani will also assume full responsibility for safety, workmanship, and site management.

The offering will initially roll out in the aforementioned Optiven developments with a focus on Kiambu, Ngong, Kitengela and Gatanga Road, with plans for future expansion.

The collaboration is set to run for a period of three years, with a structured review framework to measure performance, impact, and customer satisfaction.



Left to Right: Henry Kyanda, Managing Partner at Everstrong Maskani LLP, Japhet Kahindi Ponda, Head of Mortgage Finance at The Co-operative Bank of Kenya and Dr. George Wachiuri, Optiven CEO at the launch of the collaboration initiative. Photos/ Courtesy.

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# BOXING

## Thika Boxers Struggling With Limited Training Facilities

By: Carolina Kamande  
@themtkenyatimes



### Worth Noting:

- Dynamite Wanjohi, an outstanding boxer from Kiambu County, believes that if supported, he can bring great honor to Kenya, adding that he gets disappointed whenever he misses out on many national tournaments due to lack of money for transport and accommodation, among other needs.
- “Many times I do not have the money to pay participation fees, accommodation, or fare to attend league games. But with financial support, I believe I can represent Kenya well even at the international level,” lamented Wanjohi.
- Speaking during an exhibition at Thika Town, Wayne Boxing Academy CEO Charles Wainaina said that they lack a spacious and fully equipped training facility, which limits their training, as the small room they have rented does not allow them to do their exercises effectively and accommodate spectators.

Thika boxers have decried the lack of a training ground and gear, which is shattering their dreams, saying they have the potential to play the game if they get the necessary support.

Led by Daniel Abuneri and Dynamite Wanjohi, the boxers said that they yearn to be champions and represent their country globally, but challenges like lack of sufficient space for exercising and proper equipment like gloves and headgears among others, have derailed their progress.

“We do not have equipment like gloves, punching bags, headgears, boxing pads, training weights, and without these it is difficult to develop our skills to the level of becoming professional boxers,” said Abuneri.

Dynamite Wanjohi, an outstanding boxer from Kiambu County, believes that if supported, he can bring great honor to Kenya, adding that he gets disappointed whenever he misses out on many national tournaments due to lack of money for transport and accommodation, among other needs.

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“With such a limited space, training becomes a challenge for us as we cannot all fit in this room we have rented in a commercial building and even our spectators have to watch matches through the windows because they cannot fit in here as there is only space for the participants,” said Wainaina.

Wainaina pointed out that the young fighters’ skills do not go to waste, as most of them end up joining the disciplined forces such as the Kenya Police and Kenya Defense Forces, or get job opportunities abroad where they earn from fight purses.

“We have trained people with a lot of potential despite financial challenges. We have one who is in Germany and others, through their resilience, have

joined the disciplined forces,” noted Wainaina.

He added that the sport has helped transform the behaviors of some of the young men in Thika who were engaging in criminal activities and alcohol abuse but have turned their lives around as boxing gives them a sense of hope and belonging in the community.

His words were echoed by Julius Gakuha, chairperson of Wayne Promotion Club, stating that the young people who have gone through boxing or any other martial arts training do not engage in any acts of robbery and cannot be lured by politicians into violence, as witnessed in the recent protests.

“Boxing instills discipline in these people, so you will not find them engaging in alcohol and drug abuse or participating in acts of violence such as robbery and vandalism,” said Gakuha.

Gakuha raised concern over the abandonment of boxers at the grassroots level by local leaders, saying that it is high time these youthful talents are nurtured and supported since they have a lot of potential and can

become Kenya’s great heroes.

While lauding Wayne Boxing Club, Martin Luther, a boxing promoter, urged the youth not to despise the sport or take it as any other game but to consider it as a career to earn a living.

Luther also castigated the bad governance in the Boxing Federation of Kenya (BFK), saying that it has been failing the federation by coming up with laws that are not implemented and should come up with policies that will uplift underprivileged grassroots boxers.

They have therefore called on the Kiambu County Governor, Kimani Wamatangi, to provide them with a spacious training facility at the Thika stadium where they can do their exercises and host boxing tournaments.

They also called on local leaders and sponsors to support them with equipment such as punching bags and weights, among other items used in the gymnasium, adding that they are forced to share two pairs of outfits among multiple trainees, making the exercise more difficult.

## No Teacher Can Teach Experience



Deep truth about learning and personal growth  
Teachers, books, and institutions can impart  
knowledge  
Experience is something that must be lived by  
hands  
No teacher can teach experience.

Engaging in life, making mistakes,  
Facing challenges, and reflecting on results.  
They are initiators, mentors, offer advices.  
True lessons are channelising only when you, go  
through the process.  
No teacher can teach experience.

Rajesh Kanna B N

I am Rajesh Kanna B N  
B T Asst,

From Government Model High School, Tirur.  
Tiruvallur District.  
Tamil Nadu, India.

## One Day All The Scientists Will Find Out A Thing...



Colliding with earth, causing destruction and  
endless night.

The sun will remain unscathed, its power  
untold,  
But earth will suffer, its fate forever cold,  
This warning's purpose is to raise awareness  
high,  
To save our planet, before it's too late to  
try.

So let's act now, and take responsibility's  
call,  
To protect our earth, and give it a chance to  
stand tall,  
For our future's sake, we must take heed,  
And work together, to save our planet with  
speed.

One day, scientists will discover a dire fate,  
A warning that the sun will soon destroy our  
state,  
In just a few days, the news will spread like  
fire,  
And people will tremble with a mix of fear  
and desire.

NASA and ISRO will converge with urgent  
plans,  
Discussing the sun's impending impact on our  
lands,  
A part of the sun will break off, a  
catastrophic sight,

S. Priya  
10th A  
Govt High School  
Melpattampakkam  
Cuddalore district  
Tamil Nadu, India

## International Day Against Drug Abuse And Illicit Trafficking



people inject drugs. Heroin addiction is  
increasing in North America, Western and  
Central Europe. Cannabis remains the most  
widely used illicit drug. In 2014, out of  
250 million people worldwide, 183 million  
tried cannabis at least once. The UN Office  
expressed concern over the rising use of  
marijuana, especially in Western countries.  
Drug abuse is unquestionably a threat to  
public health and safety. In many countries,  
this scourge seriously hinders sustainable  
development.

Significant funds are spent on treating  
drug addicts, allocated from state budgets.  
According to experts' calculations,  
currently only one in six drug users has  
access to treatment. Approximately \$35  
billion is spent annually on treatment. Apart  
from treatment costs, drug addiction poses  
a threat to social life and is recognized as a  
major social problem.

Anyone can become a victim of drug  
addiction. Drug abuse is not only an  
individual problem but also a serious  
headache for their families and society.  
In recent years, countries worldwide have  
been conducting extensive campaigns  
against drug abuse, including various events  
and widespread use of social advertising.  
The main focus remains on promoting a  
healthy lifestyle.

Fighting illegal drug trafficking is also one  
of the key tasks in combating drug abuse.  
International law enforcement agencies  
such as Interpol, Europol, and the World  
Customs Organization actively cooperate in  
this fight. Experts estimate the illegal drug  
trade turnover to range from \$300 billion to  
\$800 billion annually.

Drug trafficking and organized crime  
pose significant risks to the economic and  
political stability of countries in Asia,  
Africa, and Latin America.

Drug addiction is one of the most  
dangerous aspects of modern life. Every  
day, thousands of people fall into the  
terrifying trap of drug abuse.

Today, it is important to say a word to those  
who are falling into the vortex of drug  
addiction: Life is beautiful, and living is  
worthwhile. Every problem can be solved.  
Therefore, do not throw yourself into a pit.  
If you take a syringe filled with the liquid of  
death, remember that you are condemning  
your future to eternal darkness. Remember  
to firmly say "No" when offered drugs.

Only then will you survive.

Student of the Kattakurgan branch of  
Samarkand State University Azamova  
Feruz

On December 7, 1987, the UN General  
Assembly adopted Resolution No. 42/112,  
according to which June 26 is observed  
annually as the International Day against  
Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Each  
year, a special theme is assigned to the  
events held on this day.

Experts believe that the widespread use of  
drugs causes a number of social problems.  
These include demographic disasters and  
increased crime rates in socio-economic  
life. According to the UN Office on Drugs  
and Crime, in 2015, the number of drug  
users worldwide exceeded 300 million.  
Cannabis is reported to be the most widely  
consumed drug.

Drug-related deaths rank 19th among  
43 recorded causes of death worldwide.  
Cooperation to combat drug abuse began  
over a century ago. In February 1909,  
representatives from 13 countries gathered  
in Shanghai to fight against drug cultivation  
in Asia. The Shanghai Commission was  
established at that time.

Despite the measures taken, the UN  
General Assembly acknowledges that the  
illegal drug trade remains a significant  
global problem and continues to be a  
serious threat.

According to data, 1.3% of deaths among  
people aged 15 to 64 occur due to drug use.

Each year, approximately 211,000 deaths  
result from drug-related causes. In Europe,  
the average age of drug-related fatalities is  
35. Experts estimate that 1.6 million people  
who use drugs are living with HIV, 7.2  
million have contracted hepatitis C, and 1.2  
million are infected with hepatitis B.  
The number of people worldwide suffering  
from drug-related illnesses has exceeded  
29 million. According to the annual report  
by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime,  
"for the first time in six years, there is a  
disproportionate increase in drug use."

The report notes that 5% of the adult  
population globally, approximately 250  
million people, have used illicit drugs  
at least once. Additionally, 12 million

## Experience Is The Best Teacher



No book or instructor, can match  
experience  
For experience is practical, not just  
theory in noted  
The lessons we learn through experience  
stay with us for long,  
Shaping our thoughts, mind and guiding  
us throughout

Experience is the best motivator, and  
teacher  
Helping us grow, and see things fresh  
Its lessons are unforgettable,  
It will stay forever in our mind,  
It guides us forward, leaving the  
bitterness behind.

Experience is the best teacher,  
Teaching us lessons, both old and new,  
The lessons may be bitter, but the  
outcome is sweet,  
It is beneficial and long lasting,  
Experience is a good treasure to all

No teacher can teach, more than  
experience,  
It is unbiased and honest, with no  
partiality  
Experience teaches without prejudice or  
pride,  
It imparts wisdom, that stays by our  
side.

MRS. BRINDA. D  
CREATIVE WRITERS  
GRADUATE TEACHER,  
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MELPATTAMPAKKAM  
CUDDALORE,  
Tamilnadu India

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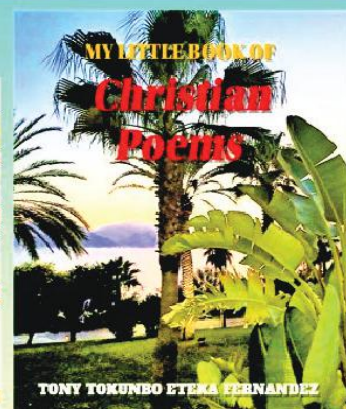
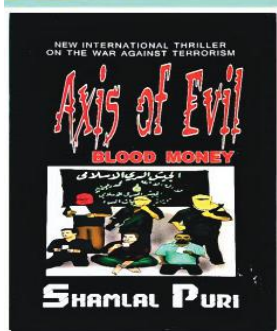
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## LAW

# Koome Promises Fair And Timely Handling Of Poll Disputes

By: Correspondent  
@themtkenyentimes



CJ Koome spoke during the launch of the Judiciary Committee on Elections Operational Plan 2025 - 2028 on Monday/Judiciary Media Service.

## Worth Noting:

- The CJ urged stakeholders and Kenyans, to join hands with the Judiciary, to safeguard the country's constitutional democracy to ensure a just, peaceful, and democratic country.
- She explained that electoral justice is a shared responsibility, and it is only through sustained collaboration that there can be a peaceful electoral process that upholds the constitutional vision of free, fair, and transparent electoral process; and foster the consolidation of our democracy.
- "I also call upon all our partners — the Law Society of Kenya, the IEBC, other electoral stakeholders, and our development partners — to continue walking this journey with us."

The Judiciary has affirmed its preparedness and commitment to its constitutional mandate of adjudicating electoral disputes fairly and efficiently.

Speaking in Nairobi during the launch of the Judiciary Committee on Elections Operational Plan 2025 – 2028 on Monday, Chief Justice Martha Koome said the Judiciary is ready to handle the 2027 Electoral Dispute Resolution (EDR) cycle with fairness, efficiency, independence, and integrity.

She said the Judiciary leadership will fully support the Judiciary Committee on Elections (JCE) as it guides the Judiciary towards attainment of the goal of having an effective EDR process during the 2027 cycle.

The CJ urged stakeholders and Kenyans, to join hands with the Judiciary, to safeguard the country's constitutional democracy to ensure a just, peaceful, and democratic country.

She explained that electoral justice is a shared responsibility, and it is only through sustained collaboration that there can be a peaceful electoral process that upholds the constitutional vision of free, fair, and transparent

electoral process; and foster the consolidation of our democracy.

"I also call upon all our partners — the Law Society of Kenya, the IEBC, other electoral stakeholders, and our development partners — to continue walking this journey with us."

CJ Koome commended the JCE's resolve to confront systemic challenges — including the need for timely electoral law reform, continuous capacity building for judges and judicial officers, and foster stronger synergies with other stakeholders in the electoral process.

"Particularly commendable is the proactive approach towards public engagement, aimed at countering disinformation and building public trust in the Judiciary's handling of electoral disputes."

### Clear roadmap

Reiterating the Judiciary's commitment to strengthening the architecture of electoral justice in Kenya, the Chief Justice said the Judiciary Committee on Elections Operational Plan serves not only as a roadmap for preparations towards the 2027 General Elections but also as a blueprint

for how the Judiciary will continue to defend the integrity of the electoral process, and foster public confidence in judicial adjudication of electoral disputes.

On the change of leadership from outgoing JCE chair, Supreme Court Judge Mohammed Ibrahim to incoming chairperson Supreme Court Judge Njoki Ndungu, the CJ noted that the moment marks both continuity and renewal in the Judiciary's pivotal role in safeguarding Kenya's democracy as it discharges its electoral disputes resolution mandate.

"It also marks the official commencement of the Judiciary's preparations for the 2027 Electoral Dispute Resolution (EDR) cycle."

Justice Ibrahim who also spoke at the function noted that the Operational Plan provides a clear roadmap to guide the Committee's priorities and programmes as the Judiciary prepares for the next electoral cycle adding it seeks to guide the Committee's work with clarity and purpose as it supports the Judiciary's mandate in EDR.

The incoming JCE Chair Lady Justice Njoki Ndungu asked Parliament to implement any legislative changes

well ahead of the General Elections. "Changes to the law are critical and negatively impact the Judiciary's preparedness for elections when they are done too late near elections," said Judge Njoki.

Speaking at the same event, Chief Registrar of the Judiciary Winfridah Mokaya said the Judiciary has embraced its constitutional duty not just as an arbiter of disputes, but as a key guarantor of electoral credibility.

She added that the Plan outlines the Judiciary's roadmap for strengthening electoral dispute resolution, building internal capacity, fostering inter-agency coordination, and deepening public trust in our processes.

"It reflects a judiciary that is not reactive, but anticipatory one that is deliberately planning, innovating, and investing in institutional excellence," the CRJ explained.



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# Summary Dismissal In Kenya: A Guide For Employers And Employees



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor  
@themkenyatimes

Summary dismissal in Kenya represents the most severe form of employment termination, allowing an employer to instantly end a contract of service without the customary notice period. This swift action, however, is not a unilateral power to be wielded arbitrarily, but is strictly regulated by the Employment Act, 2007, particularly Section 44. The law dictates that such a drastic measure can only be justified in instances of “gross misconduct” by the employee, signifying a fundamental breach of their contractual obligations. The underlying principle is to ensure that while employers have the means to address serious transgressions, employees are simultaneously shielded from unjust and capricious dismissals.

The Employment Act provides an illustrative, though not exhaustive, list of actions that may constitute gross misconduct warranting summary dismissal. These include, for instance, an employee’s absence from work without leave or lawful cause, becoming intoxicated during working hours rendering them incapable of performing their duties, or wilfully neglecting to perform assigned work. Other clear-cut examples are using abusive or insulting language towards an employer or person in authority, knowingly failing to obey a lawful command, or being reasonably suspected of having committed a criminal offence against the employer or their property. The breadth of Section 44(4) acknowledges that various forms of misconduct can undermine the employment relationship to such an extent that immediate termination becomes necessary.

Despite the seemingly clear grounds, the Employment and Labour Relations Court (ELRC) has consistently held that the mere existence of a reason for dismissal is insufficient. Procedural fairness, as enshrined in Section 41 of the Employment Act, is paramount. This means that an employee must be informed of the allegations against them, in a language they understand, and be given a fair opportunity to be heard and present their defense. The employer is obligated to genuinely consider the employee’s representations before making a decision. This principle was vividly demonstrated in the case of Geoffrey Muguna Muchiri v Nation Media Group Limited [2018] eKLR, where the court emphasized that even in cases of gross misconduct, failure to afford an employee a fair hearing renders the dismissal procedurally unfair.

The procedural requirements extend



to conducting a thorough investigation into the alleged misconduct. Employers are expected to gather evidence, interview witnesses, and ensure that the allegations are substantiated by facts, not mere suspicion or hearsay. In *Nicholas Muasya Kyula v Farmchem Limited Industrial Cause No. 1992 of 2011*, the court underscored the necessity for employers to have internal systems and processes to undertake administrative investigations and verify the occurrence of misconduct before arriving at a termination decision. This proactive approach helps to build a strong case for a lawful summary dismissal and demonstrates the employer’s commitment to fairness.

Furthermore, an employee has the right to be accompanied by a fellow employee or a trade union official during the disciplinary hearing, a crucial safeguard under Section 41(2) of the Act. This provision ensures that the employee is not intimidated or overwhelmed during the process and has support in articulating their defense. The absence of such an accompaniment, if requested, can also render a dismissal procedurally unfair, as seen in various rulings by the ELRC, reinforcing the importance of upholding an employee’s fundamental right to representation.

Should an employer fail to adhere to both substantive (valid reason) and

procedural (fair process) fairness, the summary dismissal will be deemed unfair or wrongful. The aggrieved employee then has avenues for recourse, including lodging a complaint with the Labour Officer or filing a claim directly with the Employment and Labour Relations Court. The burden of proving the validity and fairness of the dismissal rests squarely on the employer, as per Section 45(2) of the Employment Act. This legal standard acts as a strong deterrent against arbitrary dismissals.

The remedies available for unfair or wrongful dismissal are varied and significant. Section 49 of the Employment Act outlines these, which may include payment of wages the employee would have earned during the notice period, compensation not exceeding twelve months’ gross salary, or in exceptional circumstances, reinstatement or re-engagement. The courts consider factors such as the employee’s length of service, the circumstances of the termination, and the practicability of reinstatement. In *Kenya Union of Commercial Food and Allied Workers v Kenya Sugar Board [2014] eKLR*, the court awarded compensation for unfair termination, highlighting the financial implications for employers who do not comply with the law.

It is crucial to note that even when a summary dismissal is deemed lawful,

the employer still has certain obligations to the terminated employee. The employee is entitled to all wages and benefits accrued up to the date of dismissal, including any accumulated and unused leave days. Furthermore, the employer is legally mandated to issue a Certificate of Service, provided the employment lasted for at least four consecutive weeks, regardless of the reasons for termination. This ensures that even in instances of severe misconduct, the employee’s earned entitlements are protected.

In essence, summary dismissal in Kenya, while a powerful recourse for employers dealing with gross misconduct, is heavily regulated by law and interpreted through a robust body of case law. The emphasis on both substantive and procedural fairness ensures that the immediate termination of employment is not only for a valid reason but also carried out through a just and transparent process. Employers are therefore advised to exercise due diligence, ensure strict adherence to the Employment Act, and seek legal counsel where necessary to avoid costly and reputation-damaging claims of unfair dismissal.

*The writer is a legal researcher and lawyer*

## Worth Noting:

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- Other clear-cut examples are using abusive or insulting language towards an employer or person in authority, knowingly failing to obey a lawful command, or being reasonably suspected of having committed a criminal offence against the employer or their property.

- The breadth of Section 44(4) acknowledges that various forms of misconduct can undermine the employment relationship to such an extent that immediate termination becomes necessary.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Too Young To Bleed

By: David Nyaga  
@themkenyatimes

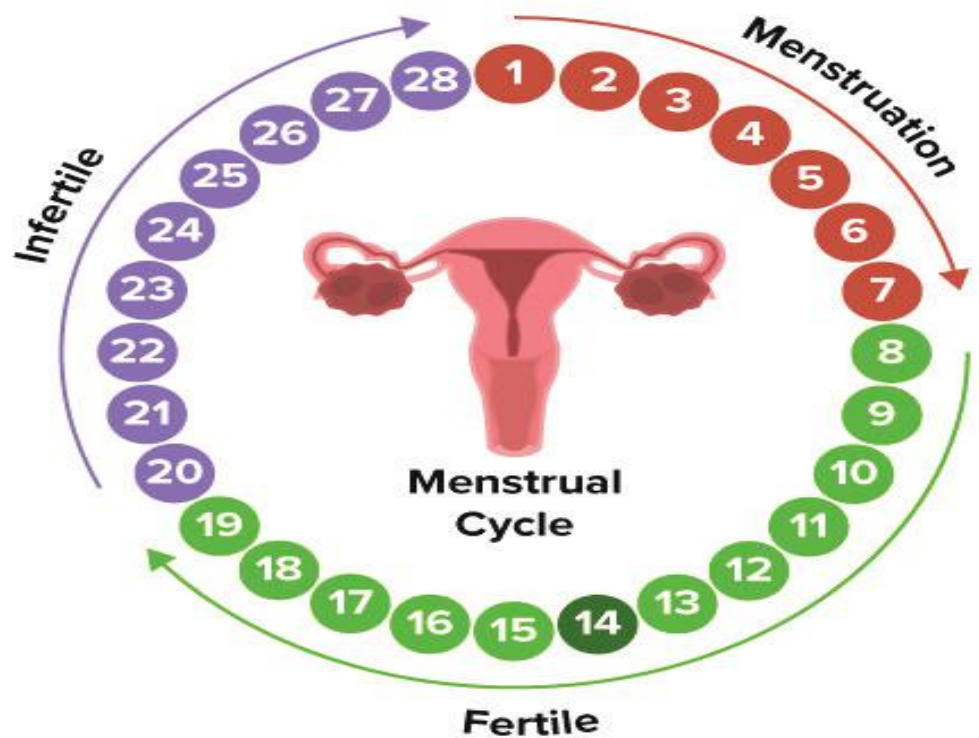
In today's world, raising children especially girls demands more than just basic provision. It requires vigilance, open dialogue, and God's mercy. Sadly, our daughters are becoming victims of an increasingly dangerous society, with cases of early sexual exploitation and broken innocence rising at alarming rates. It's no longer shocking to hear of primary school girls who have lost their virginity or fallen into traps set by predators, often right within their neighborhoods or even homes.

The innocence of girlhood is being stolen by a society that has normalized immorality and silence. Many parents shy away from having real, honest conversations with their children about sex, relationships, boundaries, and self-worth. Others are simply too busy, leaving the internet, peers, and strangers to fill the gap. And what these

sources teach is far from what a child needs.

Parents must rise to the occasion. They must become the first line of defense educating their daughters and even sons on the dangers of early sexual activity, on how to say no, on valuing themselves. Schools, churches, and the government too must step in not just with policy, but with practical, community-level action.

Our girls are too young to carry the trauma, shame, and confusion that comes with early sexual exposure. Too young to be mothers. Too young to bleed. It's time we listen to their silent cries and take action before more innocence is lost.



## Lawyer Danstan Omari Demands Urgent Attention For The Boy Child

By: Elizabeth Angira  
@themkenyatimes

Prominent Lawyer Danstan Omari has made a passionate call to action for the empowerment of the boy child, urging society to shift focus and restore balance in gender-based interventions.

Speaking during an annual mentorship program at Moi High School Gesusu, Omari emphasized that while affirmative action has historically uplifted the girl child, the boy child has been left behind.

"The law, as it stands, is tilted in favor of the girl child," Omari said. "Affirmative action, both constitutional and statutory, was necessary, but in the process, we forgot the boy."

Omari highlighted the disparities in university entry grades, where girls are admitted with lower cut-off points than boys, as one of the many examples of structural inequality.

He stressed that although Article 27 of the Constitution advocates for equality and non-discrimination, boys are now facing discrimination in silence.

The mentorship initiative launched at Moi Gesusu, he said, is a deliberate step toward reversing that trend.

Beyond legal inequalities, Omari pointed to the realities of modern family structures.

He noted that many boys are growing up in single-mother households, lacking male role models. For some students, the only father figures they encounter are their teachers.

"The teachers must work extra hard to rebuild what was lost in early childhood," Omari remarked. "These boys must be molded into confident, responsible men who can take on the challenges ahead."

Omari also praised Moi High School Gesusu for its investment in digital infrastructure, saying that embracing technology is essential in preparing the boy child for a future driven by a digital economy.

He expressed concern about the negative influence of peer pressure outside school settings, especially during holidays when boys lack structured guidance.

Drawing from his experience as a former teacher, law lecturer, and children's advocate, Omari urged parents to acquire better parenting skills tailored to raising boys in today's complex world.

"We are encouraging these boys to develop a personal brand, to be confident, and to take up leadership roles," he said. "The future belongs to them

not to us."

He challenged the media and policymakers to initiate national conversations around the challenges facing adolescent boys, noting that succession in all sectors—law, education, media, and governance—depends on empowering the next generation.

"Our forefathers who fought for independence were young. These boys are our future. We must give them hope," Omari said firmly.

The event's host, Moi High School Gesusu Principal James Momanyi, underscored the importance of the annual mentorship program, which he said is designed to inspire students and provide them with life skills.

"We identify challenges our boys face and tailor programs to give them broader perspectives on life. While we have made strides, more attention is needed for the boy child," the principal stated.

Mr. Patrick Nyagosia, Chairman of the Kisii County Education Board, commended the school for organizing such impactful events.

He called for a collaborative approach involving all stakeholders to support the evolving education system, especially with the transition from the 8-4-4 system to the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC).

"We need heavy investment in in-



frastructure, laboratories, workshops, and studios," Nyagosia said. "No one sector can do this alone. It requires collective effort."

The mentorship event at Moi Gesusu High School served as both a

wake-up call and a beacon of hope that with coordinated mentorship, resource investment, and societal attention, the boy child can be guided to a brighter, more balanced future.

# Kuria Lashes Out At Ichung'wah For Pastor Dorcas Smear

By: DAVIS AYEGA  
@themkenyatimes

Former President William Ruto's Senior Economic Advisor, Moses Kuria, has spoken out on the growing political feud between the Head of State's allies and his former deputy Rigathi Gachagua, urging leaders to keep families out of their battles.

Kuria in a tweet yesterday criticized National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wah for targeting Gachagua's wife, Pastor Dorcas, in recent remarks.

"When Rigathi Gachagua said that President Ruto asked him not to tag along his spouse to the National Prayer Breakfast because Mama Rachael was not there, I called him out on national TV for pettiness. By the same vein, Kimani Ichung'wah is grossly out of order for dragging Pastor Dorcas Rigathi into the mud only because of her husband," Kuria wrote.

"Since the next phase of this war will be vicious and bloody, let us have our version of the Geneva Convention. KEEP FAMILIES OUT OF POLITICS!"

Kuria's statement follows Ichung'wah's controversial comments made on Sunday, July 20, 2025, where he alleged that Pastor Dorcas was involved in an extramarital affair with a bishop.

"Huyu amekaliwa na bibi. Mwanau-me amekaliwa na bibi ataambia nini wanaume wenzake?" Ichung'wah said during a rally, implying that Gachagua was a "weak man controlled by his wife."

(Loosely translated: "This man is controlled by his wife. What advice can such a man give to other men?") Ichung'wah said during the rally.

The remarks sparked public backlash, with a section of Kenyans condemning the Majority Leader's attack as "deeply personal and inappropriate."

The controversy comes after Gachagua, in a church service on June 15, 2025, alleged that President Ruto



Moses Kuria

previously barred him from attending state functions with his wife whenever First Lady Rachel Ruto was absent.

"We had taken our seats when someone from protocol came and said, 'Since Mama Rachael is not attending, Pastor Dorcas must leave.' I said,

'This is too much. You've done this many times. No, she won't leave. Tell the President to leave instead,'" Gachagua recounted.

# State Seeks Mental Exam And 21-Detention For KNH Murder Suspect

By: Laban Wanambisi  
@themkenyatimes

The State wants Kennedy Kalombotole, the prime suspect in the brutal murders of two patients at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH), to undergo a mental examination.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) has also requested the court to allow police to detain the suspect for 21 more days pending the completion of investigations.

Prosecutors argued that the suspect might interfere with investigations and intimidate key witnesses if released.

"We are requesting for 21 days as the respondent has been a patient at KNH and currently has no place of abode. If released, he is likely to abscond, and we will not be able to trace him,"

the Prosecutor told the court.

The ODPP added: "We are also apprehensive of his mental state, as he is believed to have been involved in several incidents at Kenyatta National Hospital. We require a secure facility to hold him, considering he has been identified as a person of interest in two murder cases."

According to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), Kalombotole was arrested in connection with the killing of Edward Maingi Ndegwa on July 17, 2025, and Gilbert Kinyua Muthoni, who was killed on February 25.

Preliminary investigations show Kalombotole had been admitted to KNH on December 1, 2024.

Ndegwa's body was discovered by a cleaner conducting routine checks on July 17, who noticed blood oozing from the patient's neck.

The DCI stated that investigators found blood-stained slippers at the scene, with blood trails leading from



Ndegwa's bedside to a nearby toilet and then to a side room where the suspect had been admitted.

"In the room, investigators recov-

ered a pair of blue slippers and a blood-stained bedsheet," the DCI said.

A knife believed to be the murder

weapon was found wrapped in gloves and has been submitted to the National Forensic Laboratory for analysis.

# Lobby Groups Denounce Protest Arrests Under Terror Law

By: Bruhan Makong

[@themtkenyatimes](#)



Activist Boniface Mwangi

## Worth Noting:

- The DCI had claimed Mwangi was linked to the “facilitation of terrorist activities” during the June 25 anti-government protests — a move that drew widespread public outrage and condemnation from politicians, legal experts, and rights activists.
- Following a court appearance at Kahawa Law Courts, Mwangi was released on a Sh1 million personal bond, facing two charges: possession of three teargas canisters without lawful authority, and possession of one round of blank 7.62mm ammunition without a valid firearm certificate.
- Both incidents are alleged to have occurred during a search of Mwangi’s Mageuzi Hub office in Nairobi’s Hurlingham area.

A coalition of civil society organizations has condemned protest-related arrests framed under terrorism charges, warning against the continued misuse of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA).

In a statement issued yesterday, as activist Boniface Mwangi appeared in court on what the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) had termed terrorism charges, the alliance warned the arrests pose a serious threat to civil liberties and democratic governance.

The Police Reforms Working Group (PRWG) — an umbrella body comprising over 20 human rights and legal advocacy organizations — decried the government’s weaponization of anti-terror legislation to suppress dissent and peaceful protest.

The statement came just hours after the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) officially dropped terrorism and money-laundering charges against Mwangi, opting instead to proceed with lesser charges under the Firearms Act.

“Boniface Mwangi is not a terrorist,” the group declared unequivocally.

“His arrest follows weeks of coordinated, well-funded online disinformation campaigns targeting

Boniface Mwangi, members of the Police Reforms Working Group, human rights defenders, and opposition parties.”

They argued that the move “appears to be part of a broader effort to intimidate lawful dissent and those committed to upholding the rule of law.”

Mwangi was arrested on July 19 at his residence in Lukenya, Machakos County, by officers from the DCI.

### ‘Terrorist activities’

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Both incidents are alleged to have occurred during a search of Mwangi’s Mageuzi Hub office in Nairobi’s Hurlingham area.

### Troubling trend

Despite the downgraded charges, PRWG and other stakeholders argue that the entire process reflects a troubling trend.

“We are deeply concerned by the continued misuse of the Prevention of Terrorism Act to manage public order in more than 100 other cases,” PRWG said, warning that such practices undermine the criminal justice system and risk damaging Kenya’s international standing in counterterrorism cooperation.

A section of leaders has also weighed in.

Siaya Governor James Orengo labeled the original terrorism charges as “ridiculous,” stating:

“By any tortured legal definition or factual foundation, it’s ridiculous to charge Boniface Mwangi and our children — who have demonstrated a high level of political consciousness — with terrorism.”

“Protected speech and political action should never be criminalized.”

Former Chief Justice David Maraga echoed similar sentiments last week, accusing President William Ruto’s administration of misusing the justice system to intimidate critics.

The PRWG called on the Judiciary to uphold constitutional principles and resist executive pressure to al-

low politically motivated prosecutions.

The rights groups urged Kenyan authorities to “abandon this dangerous approach” and recommit to democratic norms, including the rights to free speech, assembly, and lawful protest.

Signatories to the statement included the Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU), Amnesty International Kenya, Katiba Institute, International Commission of Jurists – Kenya, Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA-Kenya), and Transparency International Kenya.

Sports >> \*Liverpool have agreed an initial £69m fee to sign Eintracht Frankfurt striker Hugo Ekitike.

# SPORTS NEWS

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## Liverpool Agree £69m Fee For Striker Ekitike

Liverpool have agreed an initial £69m fee to sign Eintracht Frankfurt striker Hugo Ekitike.

The 23-year-old Frenchman is expected to arrive in the UK on Tuesday before having a medical.

Frankfurt accepted a deal worth £79m, with £69m guaranteed and £10m in add-ons.

Ekitike is expected to sign a six-year contract and will fly out to join Liverpool's Asia tour later this week.

Newcastle had a £70m bid for Ekitike rejected this month, while Liverpool have shown an interest in Magpies striker Alexander Isak.

Ekitike scored 15 goals in 31 starts as Frankfurt finished third in the Bundesliga last season.

His arrival will push Liverpool's spending past £250m this summer.

They signed Florian Wirtz for a potential British record £116m, while defenders Milos Kerkez and Jeremie Frimpong have arrived for a combined £70m.

Only five players bettered Ekitike's scoring record in the Bundesliga last season, and he provided eight assists.

He had 117 shots on goal, more than any other player.

### 'Ekitike is a versatile attacker' – analysis

Constantin Eckner  
Bundesliga expert

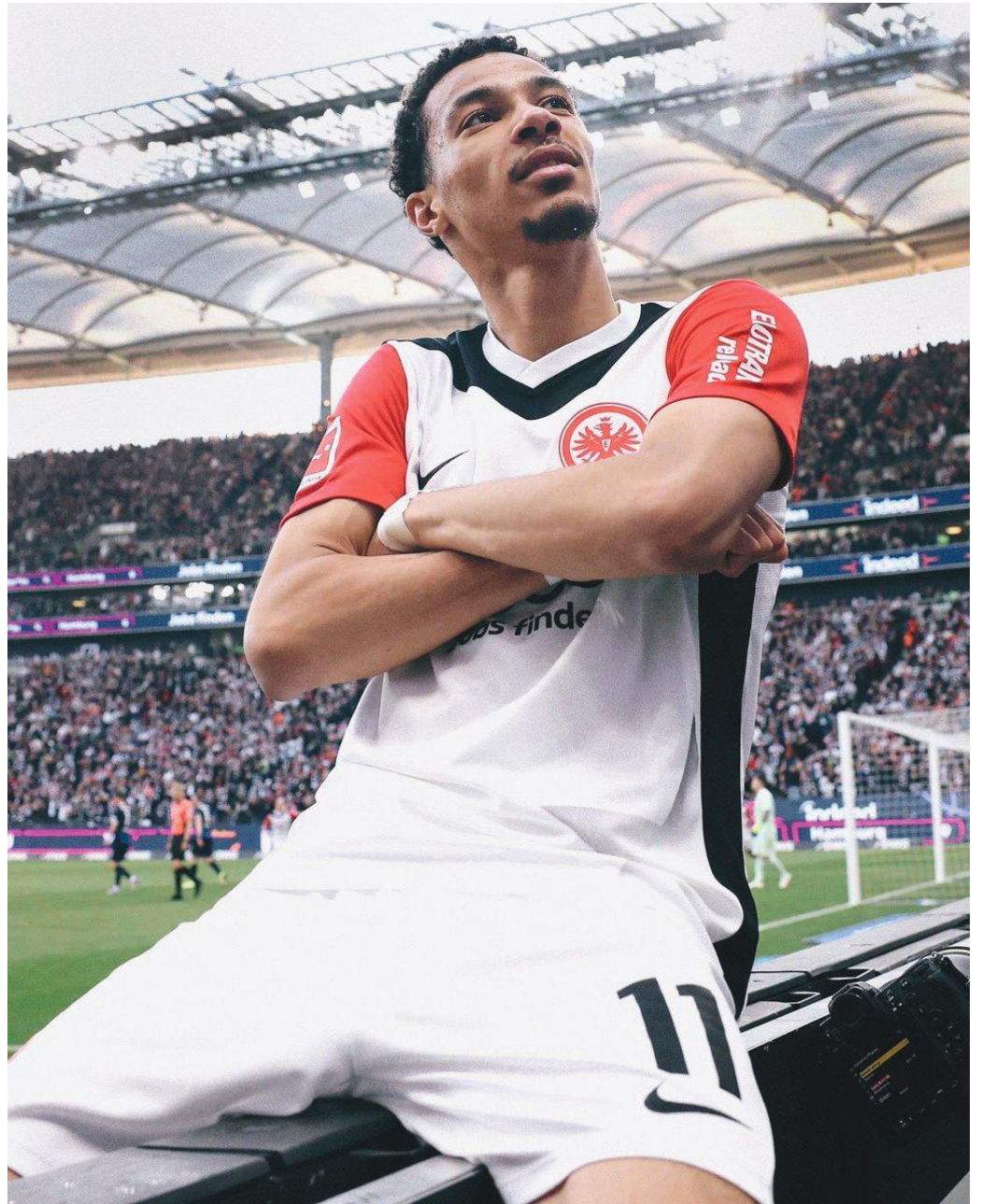
Ekitike is the latest success story of Frankfurt's recruitment.

He was not unknown when he joined Frankfurt on loan in early 2024 but had fallen into a bit of a hole.

He had attracted the interest of other clubs, including Newcastle, when he was coming through at Reims.

Ekitike opted to join Paris St-Germain but could not quite break through amid the embarrassment of riches in the attacking department.

Frankfurt picked him up and signed him on a permanent deal



New Liverpool sign Hugo Ekitike. PHOTO/WHOSCORED.COM.

a year ago.

He served as a lone striker and in a partnership under manager Dino Toppmoller.

During the first half of last season Ekitike and Omar Marmoush formed a fearsome pairing, but this was broken up when Manchester City signed Marmoush for £63m in January.

Frankfurt did not acquire a replacement for Marmoush and instead changed the tactical set-up. During the second half of

the campaign Ekitike played up front, with two attacking midfielders behind him.

Ekitike is versatile and not a striker who only feels at home inside the box. When he played alongside Marmoush both swapped positions constantly.

Ekitike might not be the most dynamic player, but he can get by defenders with smart moves.

His tactical understanding is one of his great strengths, not just in possession but also when apply-

ing a high or midfield press.

*Capital Sport*

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> \*Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford has passed a medical at Barcelona before his loan move.

# Man Utd Forward Rashford Passes Barcelona Medical



Marcus Rashford in a past match. PHOTO/MARCUS RASHFORD.

Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford has passed a medical at Barcelona before his loan move. The 27-year-old arrived in Catalonia on Sunday night after getting permission from United to complete the formalities of a move. The England international was met by Barcelona manager Hansi Flick and sporting director Deco at the training ground on Monday morning. Talks between Barcelona and United progressed swiftly in the last week, with a deal agreed in principle over the weekend. Barcelona have agreed to cover

Rashford's wages for the duration of his season-long loan after he accepted a 25% pay cut, saving United about £14m. The deal, which is for an initial 12 months, includes an option to buy for £30.3m (35m euros). Rashford will be presented to the media on Wednesday. Joining Barcelona has been Rashford's preferred option since he said in December he was ready for a new challenge after being dropped by United head coach Ruben Amorim. The move will be Rashford's second consecutive loan spell after a

six-month stint with Aston Villa in the second half of last season. Barcelona hope that Rashford's move will be completed in time join the pre-season tour of Japan and South Korea on Thursday. The Spanish club have work to do in order to register Rashford for La Liga competition. However, unregistered players can train with the team and play in non-competitive matches. Should Rashford join the tour, he could come up against former United team-mate Jesse Lingard. Lingard, 32, is in his second season with K League side FC Seoul,

who face Barcelona on 31 July. Another of Rashford's former team-mates, Monaco midfielder Paul Pogba, told YouTuber IShowSpeed: "I'm happy for him because they (United) took his number. "Manchester United are losing a great player. Unlucky for them. It's great for Barcelona. 'It's not really his (Amorim's) fault. If he doesn't believe in someone... He needs to win. If he doesn't win they're going to sack him." **BBC**

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# Joyceline Kalu's Journey To High Fashion Crochet



By: Anila Bukhari  
@themkenyatimes

Joyceline Kalu is a name synonymous with innovation, creativity, and empowerment in the fashion world. As the founder of JAYWEARS, Joyceline has been instrumental in revolutionizing the art of crochet, transforming it into a contemporary couture phenomenon that has captivated audiences worldwide.

## Early Beginnings and Inspiration

Joyceline's journey into the world of fashion began with a passion for crochet, a traditional craft that has been passed down through generations. With a keen eye for detail and a flair for design, Joyceline saw an opportunity to breathe new life into this timeless craft, elevating it to new heights of sophistication and style.

## The Birth of JAYWEARS

Joyceline's vision took shape with the launch of JAYWEARS, a fashion brand that would become the epitome of high-fashion crochet. Under her creative direction, JAYWEARS has become a benchmark for excellence, showcasing stunning designs that blend traditional techniques with modern sensibilities.

## International Recognition and Acclaim

Joyceline's designs have been showcased on prestigious international runways, including Premios Fashion Top Model in the Dominican Republic, the Collection Showcase in Nigeria, and Rhythm Runway in Orlando, Florida. Her innovative work has also been featured on major television shows across the United States, further cementing her reputation as a trailblazer in the fashion industry.

## Empowering Emerging Artists and Fashion Entrepreneurs

In addition to her work as a fashion designer, Joyceline is also a dedicated creative educator. She teaches crochet both online and in-person, helping emerging artists and fashion entrepreneurs master the craft and turn their skills into profitable businesses. Her popular YouTube chan-



Joyceline Kalu

nel, How to Crochet with Joyceline Kay, is a go-to resource for tutorials, design breakdowns, and entrepreneurial advice tailored to the handmade fashion community.

## A Resilient Entrepreneur

Joyceline's journey has not been without its challenges. However, her resilience and determination have enabled her to turn obstacles into opportunities for growth and transformation. She is currently developing a course on startup failure, recovery, and growth, drawn from her personal experiences and insights.

## Redefining Handmade Design

Joyceline's work is not just about

fashion; it's about purpose, empowerment, and reshaping the narrative of handmade design on the global stage. Through JAYWEARS, she is redefining the boundaries of high-fashion crochet, showcasing its potential as a powerful medium for artistic expression and creativity.

## A Legacy of Innovation and Creativity

As Joyceline continues to push the boundaries of fashion and creativity, her legacy as a visionary designer, educator, and entrepreneur is already being felt. Her work serves as an inspiration to aspiring designers, entrepreneurs, and artists around the world, demonstrating the power of passion, creativity, and determina-

tion.

## Conclusion

Joyceline Kalu's biography is a testament to the transformative power of creativity, innovation, and resilience. Through JAYWEARS, she has created a platform that celebrates heritage, sustainability, and high-style creativity, inspiring a new generation of fashion enthusiasts and entrepreneurs. As Joyceline continues to break new ground in the world of high-fashion crochet, her impact will be felt for years to come.

## Worth Noting:

- Joyceline's journey into the world of fashion began with a passion for crochet, a traditional craft that has been passed down through generations. With a keen eye for detail and a flair for design, Joyceline saw an opportunity to breathe new life into this timeless craft, elevating it to new heights of sophistication and style.
- Joyceline's vision took shape with the launch of JAYWEARS, a fashion brand that would become the epitome of high-fashion crochet. Under her creative direction, JAYWEARS has become a benchmark for excellence, showcasing stunning designs that blend traditional techniques with modern sensibilities.