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NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL CONFERENCE, 10TH ANNIVERSARY ROADSHOW
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News >> Commission For University Education Challenges Institutions On Competitive Courses

P. 8. The government has urged institutions of higher learning to work hard on programs that will attract more local and international students.



News >> A KSh10.8 Billion KEVEVAPI Strategic Plan For Safeguarding Livestock Health And Strengthening Food Security Unveiled

P. 12. Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has unveiled a KSh10.8 billion KEVEVAPI Strategic Plan that will boost livestock productivity, enhance food security through access to affordable and high quality veterinary vaccines to farmers

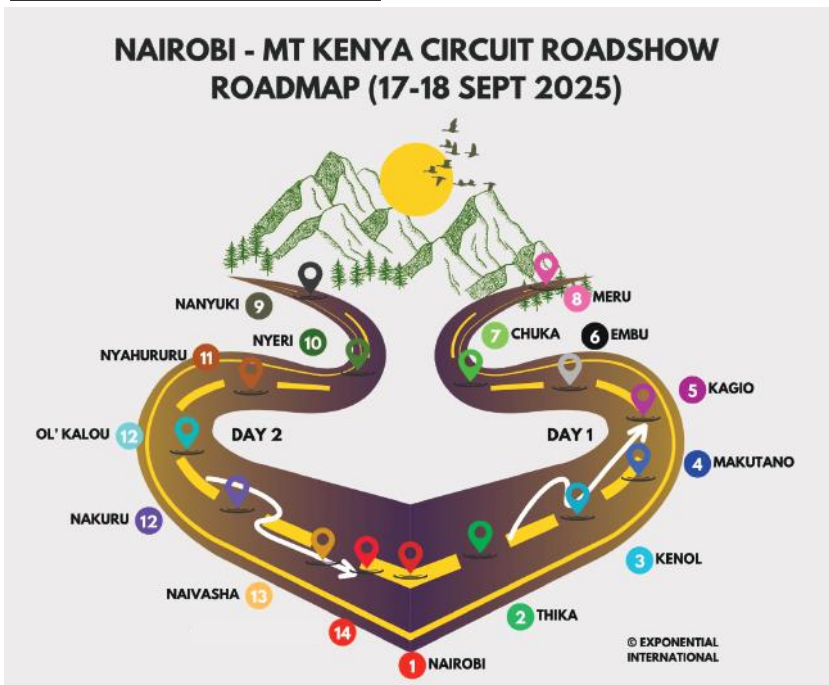
Sifuna: Confusion Looms In ODM Party

The Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) Secretary General Edwin Sifuna has admitted that the once-perceived largest political party in the country is grappling with confusion and internal contradictions, making it difficult for both its members and the public to understand its stance on national issues. Speaking in an interview on 'The Explainer' show on Citizen TV yesternight, Sifuna laid bare internal frustrations and ideological contradictions, questioning whether ODM still speaks in one voice or stands for the values it once championed.



The Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) Secretary General Edwin Sifuna

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Deputy President Meets A Section Of Maa-Speaking MPs

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki yesterday held a consultative meeting with law makers from Maa Community. The DP noted that regular consultations with elected leaders ensures proper perspective and feedback on the progress, bottlenecks and solutions for fast tracking of government policies and programmes across the country. The meeting at his official residence in Karen, Nairobi was attended by MPs representing constituencies in Narok, Kajiado, Marsabit and Samburu Counties. Those present were; Ken Aramat - Narok East, David Sankok - Member, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), Gabriel Tongoyo - Narok West, Julius Sunkuli - Kilgoris, Kitilai Ole Ntutu-Narok South, Rebecca Tonkei - Woman Representative, Narok County, Agnes Par-eyio - Narok North, Memusi Kanchory - Kajiado Central and Kukuta Maimai - Kajiado East. Others were; Sunkuyia George - Kajiado West, Sakimba Parashina - Kajiado South, Peris Tobiko - Senator, Lelegwe Ltumbesi - Senator, Samburu, Naisula Lesuuda - Samburu West, Lemasolai Lekuton - Laisamis and Sarah Korere - Laikipia North.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The juakali sector in Garissa is poised to receive millions of shillings from supplying building materials to the affordable housing projects in the county. According to the Northeastern Coordinator for Affordable Housing and Markets John Karanja, Garissa County is receiving Sh1.03 billion for housing projects alone. The projects include the construction of the 408 housing units, which is about 40 per cent complete, 1,720- bed capacity hostels at the Garissa University, and a modern market at a cost of Sh288 million among others. Speaking during a meeting with the juakali sector representatives and the housing contractors in Garissa town, Karanja said that the contractors have an obligation to cascade the works to all the levels, which include sourcing of materials from local artisans.



Over 40 million people who depend on Lake Victoria for food, water, and livelihoods across East Africa, are facing a deepening crisis, as a new regional study reveals rising pollution levels in major urban centres around the lake. Findings from a scientific monitoring programme commissioned by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), reveal growing contamination in nearshore waters, driven by untreated wastewater, agricultural runoff, and solid waste disposal. The month-long study, conducted in collaboration with Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, covered over 44 sites across the lake, including heavily impacted urban areas such as Kisumu, Kampala, Entebbe, and Mwanza. Water samples were collected from both surface and bottom layers and analyzed both on-site and in specialized laboratories. LVBC Water Resources Management Officer, Eng. Simon Otoung, said the assessment examined a wide range of parameters, including pH, temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and photosynthetically active radiation (PAR).

Principal Secretary for Defence Patrick Mariru yesterday held discussions on his Ministry's institutional housing programme with a delegation from the State Department for Foreign Affairs led by Principal Secretary Korir Sing'oei at Defence Headquarters. The Ministry is implementing an elaborate housing programme that seeks to deliver 60,000 units through the Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement. Phase I of the programme which is underway in Roysambu, Kwambuzi, Lanet, Gilgil and Mariakani Barracks will deliver a total of 3,069 houses on a Build-Transfer arrangement. The Foreign Affairs PS was accompanied by Amb Michael Kiboino (Secretary, Foreign Service), Amb Joseph Masila (Director General, Middle East), Ms Rose Kotut (Ag Director, Global Assets Management) and Mr James Omosa (Ag Deputy Director General, Kenya Missions and Assets) while the other team had Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) Chief of Special Projects Brig Titus Sokobe, SCFO Mr Joseph Muthuma, and Head of SCM Mr Willis Olwalo among others.



Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe, accompanied by PS Paul Ronoh chaired a meeting with the lessees of the four state-owned sugar factories (Nzoia, Sony, Chemilil, and Muhoroni), to evaluate progress on the ongoing lease agreements and address outstanding concerns affecting the sector. Also present were the Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of the Sugar Board of Kenya Sugar Board Jude Chesire, as well as key industry players including Jaswant Rai of West Kenya, Bhire Chatte of Kibos Sugar, Ben Soi of West Valley Sugar, and Ali Taib of Busia Sugar. The meeting focused on a range of critical issues, including compliance with agreed payment schedules, workers' welfare, the status of forward sales being handled by the transition committee, and expectations of sugarcane farmers regarding bonuses. Speaking after the meeting, CS Kagwe reaffirmed our commitment to revitalizing the sugar sector and ensuring that both farmers and factory workers are adequately compensated.



Residents of Uasin Gishu County, particularly those living in flood-prone and waterlogged areas, have expressed satisfaction with the ongoing drainage works being undertaken by the County Government through the Department of Roads, Transport, and Public Works. This is in response to recent heavy downpours that led to flash floods especially in areas with sloppy terrain and swampy grounds. County Executive Committee Member for Roads, Abraham Serem, alongside Chief Officer Geoffrey Tanui led a county-wide inspection of the works. Among the sites visited was Rehema Estate, where teams have commenced excavation of drainage ditches along Rehema Road, installation of new culverts, cleaning of blocked drains, and opening of clogged culvert lines. Serem emphasized that the ongoing drainage upgrades align with Governor Dr. Jonathan Bii's Nguzo Kumi development blueprint specifically the agenda six, which prioritizes infrastructure and road network improvements across the county.



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Kihika Boosts Technical Training And Bursaries To Empower Youth, Drive Economic Growth

By: Suleiman Mbatiah

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “We are not just handing out bursaries, we are laying the foundation for long-term economic transformation. Vocational training is not a fallback option. It’s a smart, strategic path to employment, enterprise, and dignity,” said Governor Kihika, in a speech read on her behalf by Education Minister Zipporah Wambui.
- Over the past year, the County Government has constructed eight fully equipped training workshops at its Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) at a cost of Ksh15.2 million. Nine centres have also been supplied with modern tools and machinery worth Ksh15.7 million.



Stakeholders at Mwariki Vocational Training Centre in Rhoda Ward, Nakuru Town West.

Equipping youth with technical skills is key to empowering individuals in tackling unemployment and driving grassroots and national development for economic growth, Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika has said.

Speaking during the launch of the second tranche of the county bursary fund at Langalanga Secondary School, the Governor outlined a raft of ongoing investments aimed at expanding access to education and skilling the county’s youth for the job market.

“We are not just handing out bursaries, we are laying the foundation for long-term economic transformation. Vocational training is not a fallback option. It’s a smart, strategic path to employment, enterprise, and dignity,” said Governor Kihika, in a speech read on her behalf by Education Minister

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Seven new VTCs have been opened, bringing the total number across the county to 40. Additionally, 10 Centres of Excellence have been constructed and are scheduled to be operational this year. These investments have already pushed VTC enrolment from 5,361 last year to 6,250 this year.

“We are determined to create opportunities that match today’s market needs. That’s why every VTC student continues to benefit from a Ksh30,000

annual capitation, easing the burden on parents while raising training standards,” said Governor Kihika.

The governor also announced the disbursement of Ksh287.7 million in bursaries for 49,865 learners across Nakuru’s 11 sub-counties, under the second tranche of the 2024/2025 financial year bursary program.

Of this, secondary school students, who form the majority of beneficiaries, will receive over Ksh134 million. Vocational trainees are set to get Ksh71 million, followed by college students with Ksh43.9 million. A further Ksh35.6 million will support university students, while Ksh2.4 million is earmarked for learners in special needs institutions.

“This bursary fund is a testament to our belief that no child should be de-

nied education due to lack of fees. We are here to give hope to the hopeless and to invest in the dreams of every learner in Nakuru,” Governor Kihika added.

So far, Ksh440 million has been allocated for bursaries this financial year, up from Ksh342 million in the previous cycle. The first tranche of Ksh165 million was disbursed earlier in the year.

In addition to bursaries and VTC development, the Governor noted the county’s investments in early childhood education. This includes the recruitment of 498 ECDE teachers on permanent terms, raising the total to 821, as well as the construction of 127 ECDE classrooms and the rollout of a school feeding programme that has pushed enrolment to 65,000.

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Commission For University Education Challenges Institutions On Competitive Courses

By: George Mugo
 @themkenyentimes

The government has urged institutions of higher learning to work hard on programs that will attract more local and international students.

The Commission for University Education Chief Executive Officer Mike Kuria said a lot of students travel abroad to join universities.

Instead, he said the institutions have room to change and see to a situation where international students can be coming to the country join local universities owing to what they were offering.

“Every year, a lot of students leave our country to study on different courses abroad at different universities. It is not bad, but we need to improve our programs so that they are felt locally and internationally. The situation will also see international students joining our universities,” he said.

In the end, Kuria said the students will be competent globally and can also get job locally and internationally.

“The bottom line is competence. What one can do. What they can handle and deliver, but are we producing what’s is needed locally and internationally?” Kuria asserted.

Kuria was the Chief Guest at St Paul’s University at its main campus in Limuru, Kiambu county during the institution’s launch of 5 year strategic plan.

The strategic plan aimed to run from 2025 up to 2030, will be guided by

a theme “building resilience through innovation and digitalisation”.

The CUE boss noted that the universities hold the key to an improved and developed society.

“Universities have a big responsibility to ensure all students leave them as creative and innovative as possible. The universities contributions towards everything need to be felt in the society” he said.

He also challenged the universities to come up with strategies of supporting students financially instead of depending on government funds.

A lot of students depend on funding from Higher Education Loans Board and bursaries.

The SPU’s strategic plan launched has a provision of starting an endowment kitty to support the needy families.

Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs Prof Abraham Waithima says the endowment kitty will be raised by the institution, friends and well wishers each year so as to support their needy students.

He said the strategic plan also will add value to the programs that they offer since they plan to start Bachelor of arts in medicine and surgery, BA in pharmacy and BA in law.

SPU vice chancellor Prof James Kombo said the strategic plan will guide them to improve the institution which at the end will see a growth of enrollment of the students.



Commission for University Education chief executive officer Mike Kuria planting a tree at St Paul’s University.

Worth Noting:

- Instead, he said the institutions have room to change and see to a situation where international students can be coming to the country join local universities owing to what they were offering.
- “Every year, a lot of students leave our country to study on different courses abroad at different universities. It is not bad, but we need to improve our programs so that they are felt locally and internationally. The situation will also see international students joining our universities,” he said.
- In the end, Kuria said the students will be competent globally and can also get job locally and internationally.



St Paul’s University vice chancellor Prof James Kombo speaking to journalists while Commission for University Education CEO Steve Kuria stands behind him on his left side.

ODM SG Sifuna Admits ‘Confusion’ In The Party, Apologizes To Members

By: Joseph Muia
 @themkenyatimes



ODM Secretary General Edwin Sifuna during an interview on Citizen TV. PHOTO | JASE MWANGI | CITIZEN DIGITAL.

Worth Noting:

- The outspoken Nairobi Senator acknowledged that he now finds it difficult to articulate the party’s position on core principles, a situation he blames on disjointed messaging and apparent support for rival political formations by some party members.
- Sifuna admitted that even he, despite being ODM Secretary General, can no longer speak authoritatively on the party’s position on key matters, including constitutional rights, devolution, and protest freedoms.
- “Right now, there is a lot of confusion. I have told my party leader that there was a time when it was very easy to be the SG of ODM... You would wake me up in the middle of the night and ask me anything because we agreed that you can compromise on tactics, but you can never compromise on your values,” he said.

The Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) Secretary General Edwin Sifuna has admitted that the once-perceived largest political party in the country is grappling with confusion and internal contradictions, making it difficult for both its members and the public to understand its stance on national issues.

Speaking in an interview on ‘The Explainer’ show on Citizen TV yesterday, Sifuna laid bare internal frustrations and ideological contradictions, questioning whether ODM still speaks in one voice or stands for the values it once championed.

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sion. I have told my party leader that there was a time when it was very easy to be the SG of ODM... You would wake me up in the middle of the night and ask me anything because we agreed that you can compromise on tactics, but you can never compromise on your values,” he said.

“There are things that ODM stands for. When you ask me my position on devolution or rights under Article 37, I would give you the answer straight away. But right now, there is a lot of confusion because I come to this show and I struggle to explain that we are the same political party.”

He added that recent developments—including ODM figures joining the government—have sent mixed signals to the party’s supporters and eroded trust in its leadership.

“You see a member of ODM who used to be in a premier position, now he is the Cabinet Secretary, and it leaves our supporters very confused,” Sifuna said.

In a rare moment of contrition, Sifuna apologised to ODM members for the disarray, blaming the party leadership – including himself - for failing

to project a unified front.

“I want to apologise to members of ODM for all the confusion we as a leadership have caused, because it is very difficult right now to discern the position of ODM on major issues. And that is the biggest sadness—because it should be easy,” he stated.

“When you hear a member of ODM proposing a bill saying, ‘Oh, we want to limit the rights under Article 37,’ what is ODM without Article 37? Without street protests? ODM is a movement that has been built on the strengths of the people.”

Sifuna also revealed that he had declined to join a team recently proposed to review the implementation of the controversial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ODM and UDA, terming the deal dead on arrival.

“There was a proposal to have a team to review the implementation of the MoU between UDA and ODM. I have asked respectfully to be left out of that team because I already declared this MoU dead. I am not a mortician,” Sifuna noted.

Despite the challenges, Sifuna insist-

ed he would not resign yet, holding on to hope that the party could still reclaim its former glory.

“The reason I will not resign yet is that I have not given up. I have not given up on members of ODM, because ODM is a mass movement and has a registered membership of over 5 million people,” he said.

“On the day that I give up, I will tell you. I will say it publicly that I have lost the battle to rescue this party and to bring it back to where it was—and we will have lost collectively as members.”

Sifuna said ODM’s strength lies in its grassroots base, not just its 160 elected leaders, and called for a return to the party’s founding principles.

“ODM has a total complement of about 160 elected MPs, but compare that to the 5 million in the grassroots. ODM as an institution has existed for more than 20 years, and you cannot just give up and quit,” stated Sifuna.

Elawnet Foundation Establishes Eco- Hub In Meru County

By: Dickson Mwiti
 @themkenyatimes

The Elawnet Foundation, through its flagship Treeconomy Programme, has established an Eco-Hub and Headquarters at the Kiamweri Model Village in Meru County.

The center will serve as a national Treeconomy Demonstration and Capacity Building Hub, aligning with Kenya's Vision 2030 Medium Term Plan IV, (MTP IV) Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), and Short-term Development Goals, (SDGs) and will play a catalytic role in the implementation of the 15 Billion Tree Growing Programme and the Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Strategy.

Addressing Journalists during its launch, the Foundation's patron, Lawrence Muthamia said they have had four days of intensive field program, where they successfully launched the Eco-School Tree Nursery under the Treeconomy Framework's three key

eco-pillars.

"We have been pegging our programme on One Tree, One Life promoting household and institutional tree growing for food security, income, and climate resilience.

We have also been dealing with the HoPE (Hope Pillar Engagement), faith-based and community-led ecosystem restoration initiatives, as well as AfroForest Tree Alliance, which is an agroforestry and indigenous knowledge integration for sustainable land use and green economy value chains," said Muthamia.

The Foundation also operationalized the Elawnet Foundation Media House, laying the groundwork for the launch of the Foundation and Consortium TV, an integrated media platform to amplify environmental awareness, policy advocacy, youth engagement, and global collaboration for sustainability and climate action.

"This Eco-Hub will also function as the strategic and operational headquarters for the Elawnet Foundation and Consortium, positioning it as the national coordination agency for the



Treeconomy Programme.

"The Hub integrates training, innovation, digital Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems, and blended finance approaches to scale up ecosystem restoration and green jobs creation," said Muthamia.

The patron said the Foundation's Strategic Alignment include Kenya Vision 2030 MTP IV flagship on en-

vironment, education, and economic transformation, Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), empowering grassroots, youth, and women, SDGs 13, 15, 4 & 17 on climate action, life on land, quality education, and partnerships, 15 Billion Tree Growing Campaign, AFR100, Bonn Challenge, Paris Agreement and Agenda 2063 regional and global

restoration and climate commitments. "The Elawnet Foundation Eco-Hub and the Kiamweri Model Village represent a living laboratory for community-driven sustainable development of Kenya's environmental and economic transformation," said Muthamia.

State To Enhance Interests And Development Of Minorities

By: Anita Omwenga
 @themkenyatimes

The State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications under the Ministry of ICT and the Digital Economy, is partnering with the Executive Office of the President, Minorities and Marginalized Affairs Unit to advocate for the interests and development needs of the minorities and marginalized communities in the country,

The partnership is focused on expanding broadcasting and development initiatives to underserved communities, to ensure equitable visibility, access and participation of Minority and Marginalized populations in national, media and innovation programmes.

Principal Secretary in the State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications, Mr Stephen Isaboke, while speaking during the consultative meeting yesterday at

Telposta Towers in Nairobi, said that the State Department is ready to accord the necessary support to Minorities and Marginalized Affairs Unit, by providing national visibility to issues, initiatives, culture and voices of marginalized communities.

"Visibility initiatives will be captured through documentaries, interviews, news and development stories using communication State Department media outlets, including Kenya News Agency, MyGov, Kenya Year Book Editorial publications and Kenya Broadcasting Corporation" he said.

The Secretary and Head of Minorities and Marginalized Affairs Unit, Mr Joshat Lowoi, said that the partnership will focus on showcasing culture and livelihoods of the minorities and marginalized communities, promoting inclusivity and help to sensitize the public on minorities and marginalized communities' rights.

"The strategic partnership will help unlock the full potential of these initiatives by aligning them with the Minorities and Marginalized Affairs



Unit mandated to ensure outreach to these communities and awareness about them to the world at large," he said.

Mr Lowoi said that it will promote cultural diversity of the ethnic minorities and marginalized communities that will promote indigenous cultural practices, as well as act as

a repository of important historical data for the communities, being described often as marginalized and indigenous people, or native tribes.

He said that the ICT Authority of Kenya and related broadcasting agencies are currently implementing programmes such as the Digital Literacy Programme, Presidential

Digital Talent Programme, Last Mile Connectivity, Konza Techno polis and Studio Mashinani, among others.

Furthermore, he said these initiatives offer vital platforms for access, inclusion and cultural expression yet consumption and outreach in remote and historically excluded regions remain limited.

MPs Should Be Allowed To Fund Sports - Mutunga

By: Dennis Dibondo
 @themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Mutunga said some politicians are taking advantage of youth's unemployment to use them to advance their political gains.
- Mutunga said youths who engage in sports keep from many vices such as drugs, alcohol and crime.
- He spoke to the press in his constituency after giving out jerseys to 16 soccer teams from the area who are participating in the county league.
- He said he would help identify talents and create one team to be known as Tigania Stars.
- Mutunga urged other leaders to also support sport teams to uplift sports as a way of creating employment.
- The clubs included Mweronkanga, Akithi, Mbeo, Kianjai, Maranatha, Makandi among others.



Tigania West MP John Mutunga gives sports kitty to some of the soccer teams in his Constituency. Photo/Dennis Dibondo.

An MP from Meru has proposed an amendment of the constitution to allow Members of Parliament to be able to support local sports teams through National Government - Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF)

The constitution currently does not allow sports to be under the NGCDF kitty.

Mutunga said due to that, many teams are suffering due to lack of kits and funds, leading to wasting many talents.

Mutunga said that MPs should consider reverting back sports in the NG-CDF. "I have been forced to use my own money to fund some of the teams, which is very hectic. I cannot be able to fund all," he said.

At the same time, Mutunga has urged the youth to embrace sports instead of being used by politicians.

He said recently youths have been used

as goons in demonstrations and other vices.

"The youth should not accept to be used to cause chaos, looting and demonstrations," he said.

Mutunga said some politicians are taking advantage of youth's unemployment to use them to advance their political gains.

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Mutunga urged other leaders to also support sport teams to uplift sports as a way of creating employment.

The clubs included Mweronkanga, Akithi, Mbeo, Kianjai, Maranatha, Makandi among others.

He said he will support teams taking part in county leagues with funds so that they can do well and bring trophies.

On Meru politics, Mutunga said President William Ruto and his deputy Kithure Kindiki have not yet declared they will support former governor Kawira Mwangaza to campaign for the Kenya Kwanza reelection in 2027.

"We cannot rely on rumours that there is no official communication from President Ruto or his deputy Kithure Kindiki," Mutunga said.

He defended Kenya Kwanza administration for having created many employment opportunities for youths through affordable housing, Kazi Mtaani, Kazi Majuu, Kazi Mtandao and many more.

"The government has also employed

70,000 teachers in the last three years. There is no government that has ever done that before, teachers who were retired or dead were the only ones who were being replaced by previous regimes," Mutunga said.

On the launch of a political party in Meru by Kawira Mwangaza, he said, "Parties are being former left right and center as Tigania West legislator 2027 is still far to decide which party I will use to defend my seat Mutunga said."

He said the opposition is taking advantage of Gen Z demonstrations to get political mileage ahead of 2027.

"People are taking advantage of some goons being transported to some places to cause chaos in disguise of peaceful protests," he said.



Tigania West MP John Mutunga speaks to press in his Constituency. Photo/Dennis Dibondo.

A KSh10.8 Billion KEVEVAPI Strategic Plan For Safeguarding Livestock Health And Strengthening Food Security Unveiled

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has unveiled a KSh10.8 billion Kenya Veterinary Vaccines Production Institute (KEVEVAPI) Strategic Plan that will boost livestock productivity, enhance food security through access to affordable and high quality veterinary vaccines to farmers in the country and the region.

Aligned with the government's agenda, the five year Strategic Plan (2023-2027) will guide the institute towards increasing livestock vaccines production through innovation and Infrastructure modernization and enhance vaccine market access.

Speaking during the launch of the Strategic Plan, the CS emphasized KEVEVAPI's critical role in national development.

He lauded the institute's leadership for overseeing the formation of the Strategic Plan, urging them to ensure that it is fully implemented towards the success of the livestock sector.

"Healthy livestock means healthy livelihoods. This Strategic Plan reflects the Government's unwavering commitment to protecting our farmers, promoting food security, and expanding Kenya's presence in global animal health markets."

"The modernization of KEVEVAPI and increased vaccine production will ensure the safety of our livestock and public health, boost exports, and increase productivity among our farmers in the rural communities. It will also ensure the safety of the vaccines being administered on our livestock which is integral to the success of this industry.

He noted that the government is committed to working with KEVEVAPI to ensure these ambitious targets are achieved," he said.

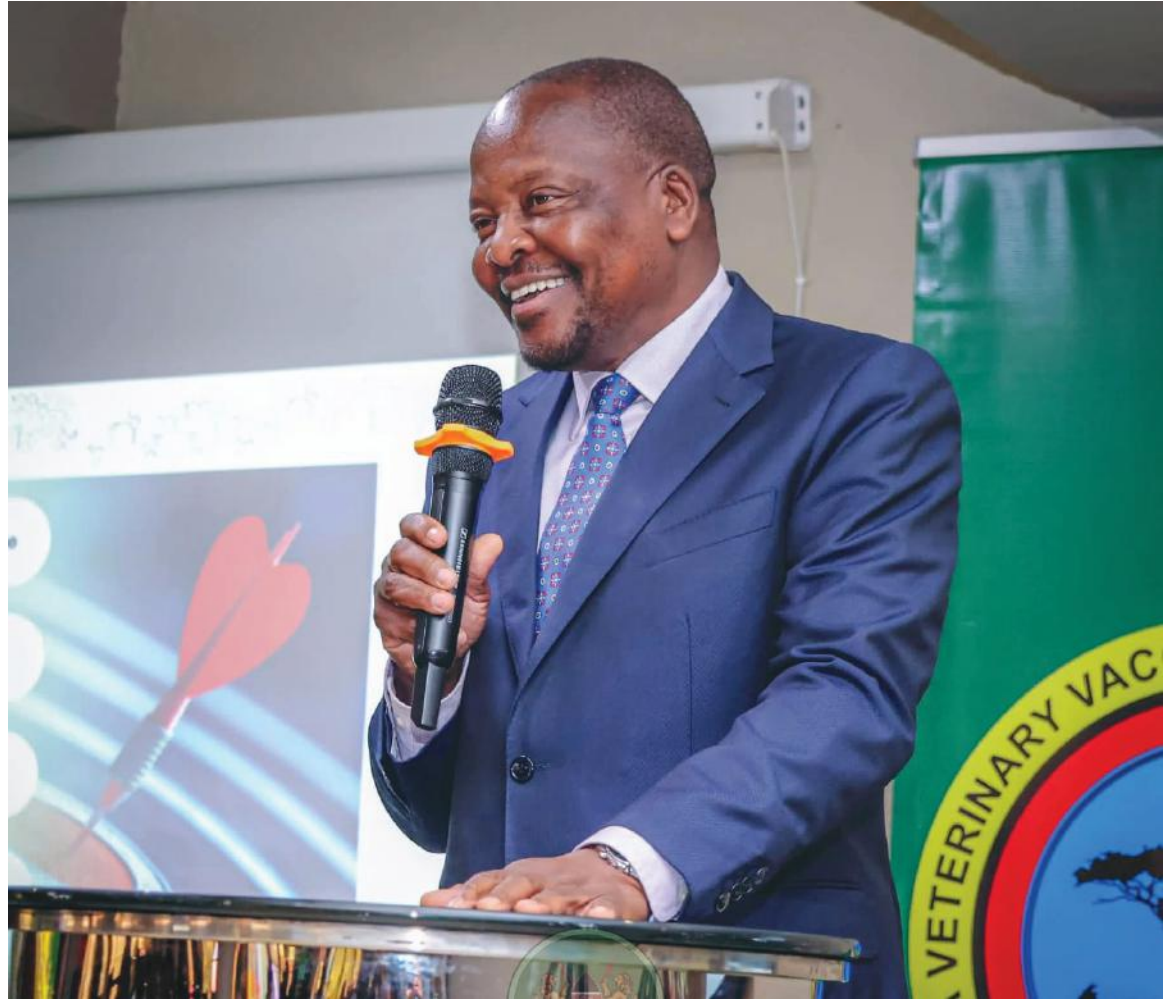
Livestock sector is important to Kenya's economic growth with a turnover of Sh235bn annually, accounting for approximately 12 per cent of the national GDP.

It serves as a critical source of income and nutrition for millions of households.

However, recurring animal diseases threaten productivity, trade, and food security making the plan a vital cog in ensure the country is prepared for disease management at all times.

The modernization of KEVEVAPI anchored on the Medium Term Plan 2023-2027 seeks to double the vaccine production from the current 35 million doses to 70 million doses annually.

This will ensure that the country has sufficient vaccines to mitigate the spread of Food and Mouth Disease (FMD), Lumpy Skin Disease and



Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe.

Worth Noting:

- "Healthy livestock means healthy livelihoods. This Strategic Plan reflects the Government's unwavering commitment to protecting our farmers, promoting food security, and expanding Kenya's presence in global animal health markets."
- "The modernization of KEVEVAPI and increased vaccine production will ensure the safety of our livestock and public health, boost exports, and increase productivity among our farmers in the rural communities. It will also ensure the safety of the vaccines being administered on our livestock which is integral to the success of this industry."
- He noted that the government is committed to working with KEVEVAPI to ensure these ambitious targets are achieved," he said.

Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) which leads to animal loss and revenue in the sector.

Previously, in their 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, the Institute produced 177.2 million doses of vaccines and exported approximately 11,332,430 of assorted livestock vaccines to external markets.

Further, KEVEVAPI plans to up-

grade its production facilities in Embakasi and Kabete to meet global Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) standards to not only increase vaccine production that are at par with international markets but also expand its market share in the region by exporting vaccines to neighboring countries in the EAC including Rwanda, DRC Congo, Uganda, Bu-

rundi, Tanzania, Djibouti and Mali.

During the ceremony, the CS was accompanied by among others; Livestock PS Jonathan Mueke, KEVEVAPI MD Alex Sabuni together with the board members and CEC Agriculture-Nyeri County among stakeholders.



Tullow Signs Agreement for Strategic Sale of Kenyan Assets to Gulf Energy

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Tullow Oil's subsidiary, Tullow Overseas Holdings BV, has signed a definitive Sale and Purchase Agreement with Auron Energy E&P Limited, an affiliate of Kenya's Gulf Energy Ltd.

In the deal, Tullow will act as guarantor for its subsidiary with the Gulf Energy Ltd doing the same for Auron Energy.

This agreement represents a significant strategic milestone, marking Tullow's exit from its Kenyan asset portfolio and advancing the Company's broader transformation agenda.

Transaction overview

Under the terms of the agreement, Auron will acquire 100% of the shares in Tullow Kenya BV, which holds Tullow's entire working interest in Kenya, including an estimated 463 million barrels of 2C resources. The

transaction carries a minimum cash consideration of US\$120 million, payable in structured tranches of;

US\$40 million on completion, US\$40 million upon Field Development Plan (FDP) approval or by 30 June 2026, whichever comes first and US\$40 million over five years starting in third quarter of 2028, contingent on oil prices, with any outstanding balance due by 30 June 2033.

In addition, Tullow will receive quarterly royalty payments of US\$0.5 per barrel, based on 80 per cent of production, subject to certain production and price conditions.

Tullow also retains a no-cost back-in right to re-enter with up to 30 per cent participation in future development phases, triggered if a third-party investor enters via sale or farm-down of the Purchaser's interest.

Richard Miller, Chief Financial Officer and Interim CEO of Tullow, commented, "We are pleased to announce the signing of the Kenyan SPA, marking another step toward completing this strategically important transac-



tion. For a minimum consideration of US\$120 million, this sale supports our priority to strengthen the balance sheet, with US\$80 million expected before the end of the year.

Moreover, we retain a material zero-cost option to participate in the upside of future development phases."

The transaction follows the recent US\$300 million divestment of Tullow's Gabonese assets, and is expected to bring total 2025 cash proceeds from non-core disposals to US\$380 million, significantly sup-

porting capital structure optimisation and deleveraging efforts.

Conditions and Timeline

Completion of the transaction is subject to regulatory approvals, including from the Competition Authority of Kenya, and the successful implementation of a physical and functional separation of Tullow Kenya BV from the Tullow group. Completion, including receipt of funds from Tranche A and the FDP-linked Tranche B, is anticipated this year.

All past and future decommissioning and environmental liabilities will transfer to Auron Energy upon closing.

The Kenyan assets, located in the South Lokichar Basin, are comprised entirely of discovered but undeveloped oil resources. As of 31 December 2024, the assets had; No production or 2P reserves, 463 million barrels of 2C resources and A carrying value of approximately US\$112.2 million.

Members Of Vulnerable Groups In Marsabit County Get Support From NGAAF

By: Sebastian Miriti
 @themtkenyatimes

Members of over one hundred groups in Marsabit County have a reason to smile after they received facilitation from the government, to enable them engage in income generating activities.

Marsabit Woman Representative, Naomi Waqo, expressed concern that the problem of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and drug abuse, was still prevalent in the region despite concerted efforts to end it.

Ms Waqo who presided over the presentation of the tools in all the four constituencies of Moyale, Saku, Laisamis and North Horr, noted that the beneficiaries who include needy men, women, youth and People with Disabilities, were deliberately being equipped to earn a decent living.

The tools that comprises of 100 tents and 6,000 chairs that the beneficiaries would use to rent out to individuals and organizations holding functions such as meetings, weddings and celebrations, were donat-

ed through the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF).

The Legislator said the empowerment of the vulnerable in society was a priority of the Kenya Kwanza government, adding that the fight against poverty would be relentlessly addressed.

She further said that President Ruto's Administration was keen at creating job opportunities for the youth and that the climate work programme was expected to offer employment to 831 youths in Marsabit county alone.

Ms Naomi who is also the Majority National Assembly Deputy Chief Whip, however, pointed out that the number was not adequate as youths requiring such hiring was very high and appealed to the government to consider revising it upwards.

"While we appreciate it that each of the 20 wards has been allocated about 36 slots, which I feel is on the lower side," she observed, adding that she would be making a formal request to the government for more chances to be created, so that those left out could benefit.

She further advised the youth to



Marsabit Women Representative Naomi Waqo addressing the beneficiaries..

guard themselves against drug abuse and especially bhang reportedly being smuggled from a neighbouring country, as the government was doing everything possible to address the issue of unemployment and idleness.

The MP pointed out that certain section of the society was still glued to retrogressive and outlawed cus-

tomary practices including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and wife beating which must stop.

"GBV is still rampant in this County as cases of forced early marriages and teenage pregnancies were being reported," she pointed out, and called on more efforts from the concerned government agencies and partners in order to reverse the trend.

She expressed concern that the vices were giving the County a bad name as statistics showed that the region was leading in the practices with the youth further ruining their future by engaging in drugs and substances.

Unexpressed Love.....



Unexpressed love gives more pain.
It makes you depressed.
Unexpressed love is always in our heart.
we do not tell to anyone.
it is like a secret.

It is very painful thing
Unexpressed love
is totally different from expressed love.
True love live for a long time
True love gives more happiness.
Unexpressed love is
always for my mother,
father and my brother.

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

My Mom And Dad



My mom is calm
My dad is my energy-boosting balm

With my parents' affection
I can beat the sun.

I have no pain
My parents give me future shine

I want my mom's silent

She doesn't spread violent

I respect my dad's bold
To shine like a gold

When I am alone
They are my back bone

They are my gift
From them I can have life's lift

Though their mind is sometimes hot
They show their face to me like a cooling pot.

R. Aswin,
VIII Std B,
Kamaraj Matriculation Higher Secondary School,
Kovilpatti.

I Never Regret Growing Older



I never regret growing older,
For many didn't get the chance, to live long
There's beauty in maturity, it is a treasure
There is beauty in wrinkles and gray hair,
Each one has different stories to tell

Experience matters a lot,
it brings wisdom and knowledge
Guiding the young, with a gentle light,
Shows the way as torchbearer,
Sharing knowledge to one and all.

No need to feel sad, bad or worried about

maturity
Growing old is a crown, that's truly a blessing
Each wrinkle teaches a lesson,
It has many story to tell,
Every gray hair, a blessing, has a good memory

Many didn't get the chance, to grow old with
happiness

So let's admire the beauty, of aging
A life well-lived, with experiences so grand,
A treasure with , wisdom, at our state
Only thing is one should be hale and healthy
With no disturbance to anyone
Live individually independently

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

Growing Older



Growing older, I won't regret,
Each wrinkle on my face, tells a story.

My silver hair shows my joy and sorrow
Day by day my heart's grown wide.

Growing older, each year a gift,
I've learned a lot with time
I'm grateful for the years
and the chance to live.

I've known too many, who didn't get old,
Their time was short, they don't have any
stories to tell.

I'm grateful for each day,
And the chance to live, in a precious way.

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

My Precious Sister Saraswati



My sister Saraswati, a gift From above,
A 12-year-old angel, with a heart full of love,
Tall and bright, with a smile so wide,
She plays with joy, and never will hide.

She's always there for me, a helping hand,
Supporting me through life's every stand,
She writes and reads, with a curious mind,
And feeds our pet, with love so kind.

I adore her dearly, with all my heart,
She's a treasure, a precious work of art,
She tells stories, and chases worries away,

Bringing joy to all, every single day.

She's a gift with a loving soul,
Spreading happiness, making our hearts whole,
Her passions lie in speech and art,
A creative spirit, that shines from the start.

Intelligent and brilliant, just like our dad,
She's a shining star, that makes us proud and
glad,

I'm grateful for her presence, in my life,
A precious sister, and a loving friend, a sweet
life.

A. Hemkumar
10 A Grade
Government High school, Melpattampakkam
Tamil Nadu
India,

I'll Never Regret Growing Older



I have known too many people who didn't get
that privilege.

Each wrinkle on my aging face,
Reflects a life I won't erase.

I'll never worry about the silver hair,
the time has arrived specs to wear.

My trembling hand can't hold the cup,
But my mind starts to blow up

Too many dreams were left unfurling,
By souls who perished far too young.

Growing old is inevitable
Keeping souls happily is vital.

Every year we become prime.
Starts our life as a rhyme.

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

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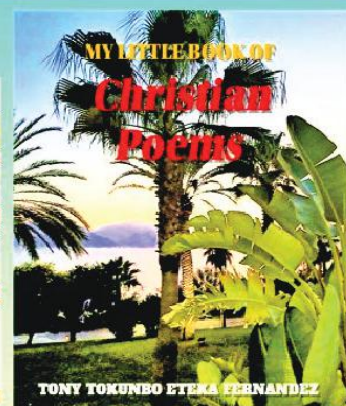
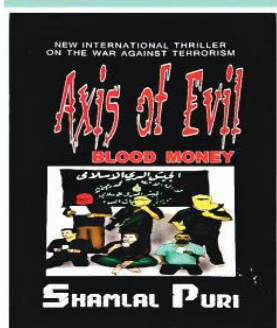
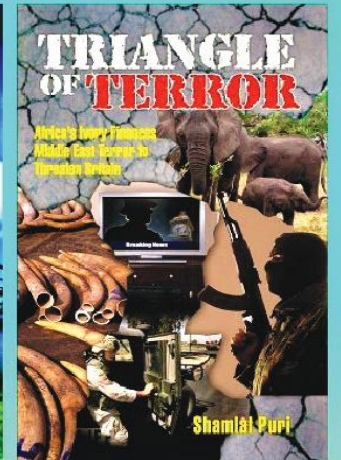
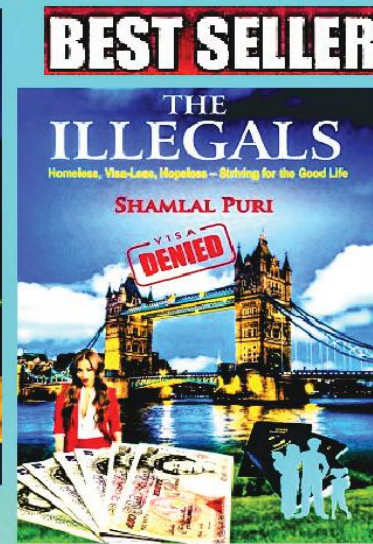
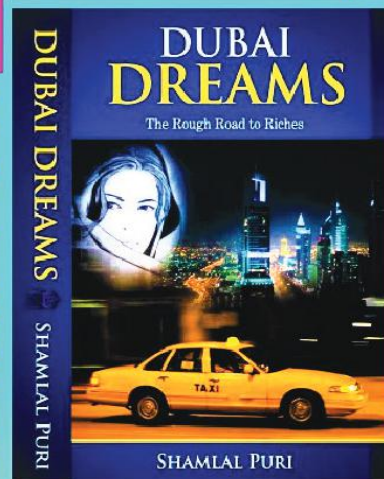
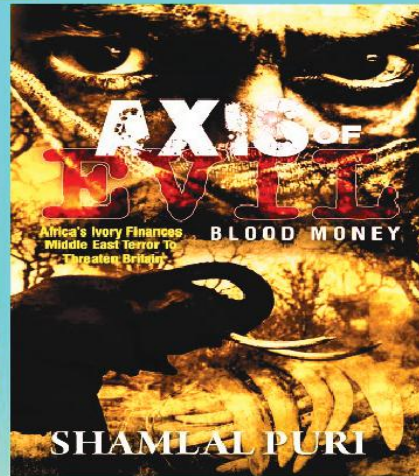
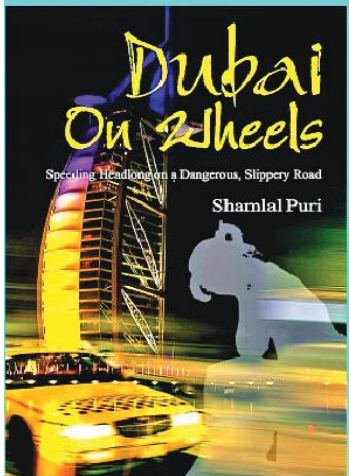
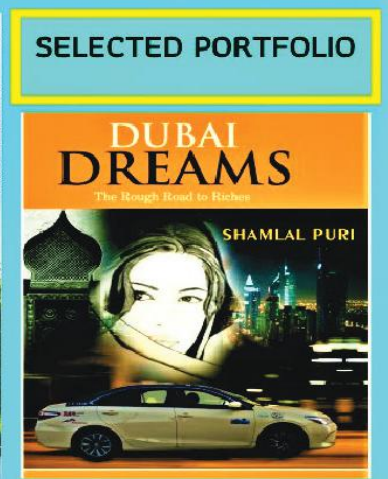
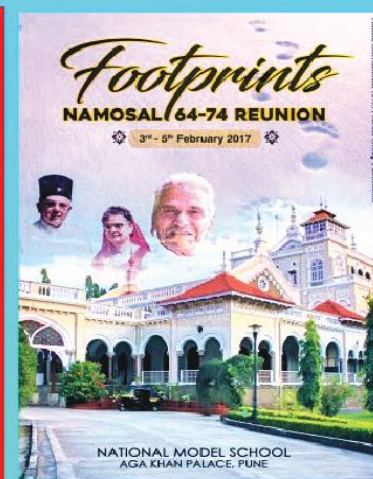
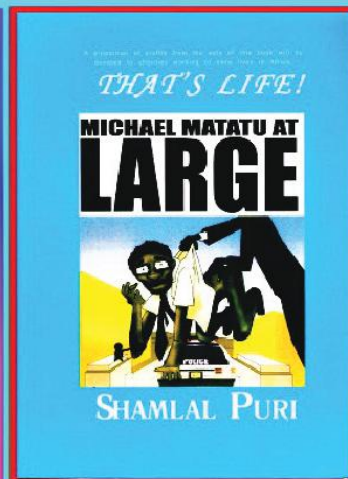
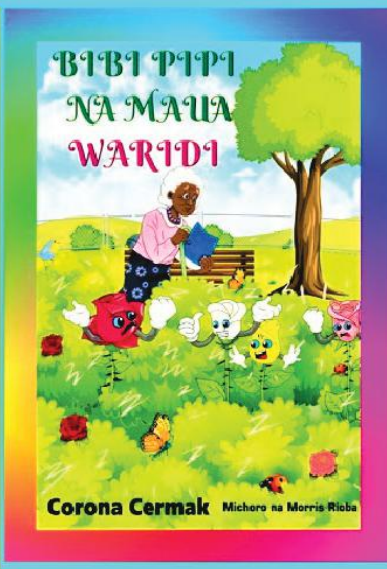
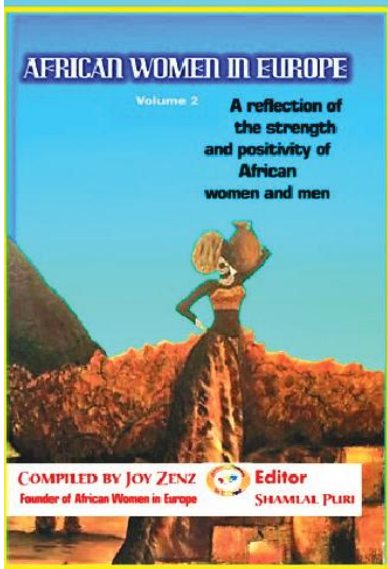
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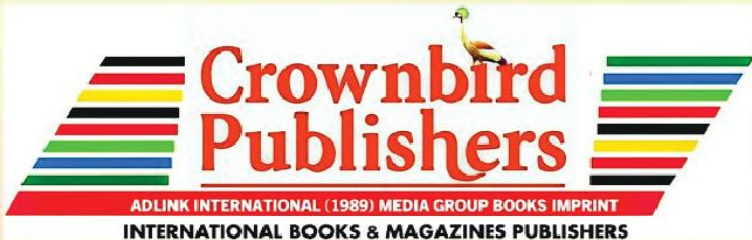
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NCIC Vice Chair Wambui Nyutu Fired Over Involvement In Political Activities

By: Lian Amondi
@themkenyatimes

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) has fired its Vice Chairperson Wambui Nyutu citing continued involvement in partisan political activities, a move it says violates both her oath of office and the law.

In a statement issued yesterday, by NCIC Chairperson Rev. Samuel Kobia following a special commission meeting, the team said Nyutu's conduct had become "untenable" and incompatible with her constitutional and statutory obligations.

"The Commission unanimously resolved to relieve Ms. Nyutu of her role as Vice Chairperson of the Commission with immediate effect," the statement read in part.

Nyutu has been under scrutiny since early this year over what the commission described as a pattern of political engagement.

The NCIC said it convened three prior Special meetings; on January 3, January 23, and February 6 to address her conduct following public

remarks and appearances deemed politically partisan.

While she initially denied the allegations, the commission noted, Nyutu later issued an apology and made a formal promise to steer clear of political activity, a promise that appears to have been short-lived.

"At its meeting on 22nd July, 2025, the Commission noted with deep concern that Ms. Wambui Nyutu has since been involved in partisan political activities, including participation in meetings affiliated with a particular political party," Rev. Kobia said.

"These actions constitute continued engagement in partisan politics, in contravention of her commitment to the Commission and in breach of the expectations of impartiality required of all Commissioners."

The NCIC has now triggered the formal process to remove her altogether from her role as Commissioner, invoking Section 23 of the National Cohesion and Integration Act (CAP 7N) and "other relevant constitutional mechanisms."

"The Commission will formally notify the relevant appointing authority in this regard," Rev. Kobia added.

In a swift transition, the Commis-



Ms Wambui Nyutu

sion unanimously elected Dr. Dorcas Kedogo as the new Vice Chairperson, effective immediately.

NCIC further sought to distance itself from any political pronouncements made by Nyutu, asserting that

such statements were made in her personal capacity and do not reflect the Commission's official position.

"The NCIC reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the principles of impartiality, integrity, and pro-

fessionalism in the execution of its mandate. Commissioners are bound by the oath of office to remain independent and non-partisan," Rev. Kobia noted.

Stephen Munyaiho Finally Released From Saudi Jail, To Return To Kenya: PS Sing'oei

By: Dennis Musau
@themkenyatimes

Stephen Munyaiho, the Kenyan man who faced execution in Saudi Arabia, has been freed and is set to travel back home, Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Korir Sing'oei announced yesterday.

Munyaiho, now called Abdulka- reem, was jailed in Shimeisi Prison in the Governorate of Mecca and was freed at 10 a.m. local time (10 a.m. East Africa Time), upon satisfaction of judicial decree.

"Our Mission in Riyadh has confirmed that Steve performed his Umra (minor pilgrimage) upon release," the PS said in an X post on Tuesday.

The Umrah is an Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, the holiest city for Muslims, which can be undertaken at any time of the year, in contrast to the

Hajj, which has specific dates.

While sometimes considered the "lesser pilgrimage" in comparison to Hajj, both are demonstrations of the solidarity of the Muslim people and their submission to Allah.

"We shall provide further details regarding his arrival in the country. I commend all who have offered their support towards securing this outcome," King'oei added.

Munyaiho was working in Saudi Arabia as a warehouse manager and was sentenced to death by the sword after being involved in a fight with a Yemeni colleague in April 2011. The colleague succumbed to injuries.

The Kenyan was due to be executed last May, but Kenya's Foreign Affairs Ministry at the time said Saudi authorities agreed to put it off pending further negotiations involving not only diplomats but religious leaders.

In March, UDA party Secretary-General Hassan Omar an-

nounced that Nairobi and Riyadh had reached a release agreement, and a \$1 million (about Ksh. 129 million) settlement was paid.

During a state Iftar dinner hosted by President William Ruto at State House, Nairobi, Omar said Muhammad Al-Issa – the Saudi religious leader and Secretary General of the Muslim World League, who attended last year's state Iftar dinner – was involved in the talks.

Omar further told media at the time that President Ruto approached Dr Issa during his Kenyan visit, adding that the Muslim World League paid the \$1 million.

The league is a Mecca-based international Islamic NGO that promotes what it calls the true message of Islam by advancing moderate values.



Stephen Munyaiho, alias Stevo, was sentenced to death in Saudi Arabia. | FILE/ Handout



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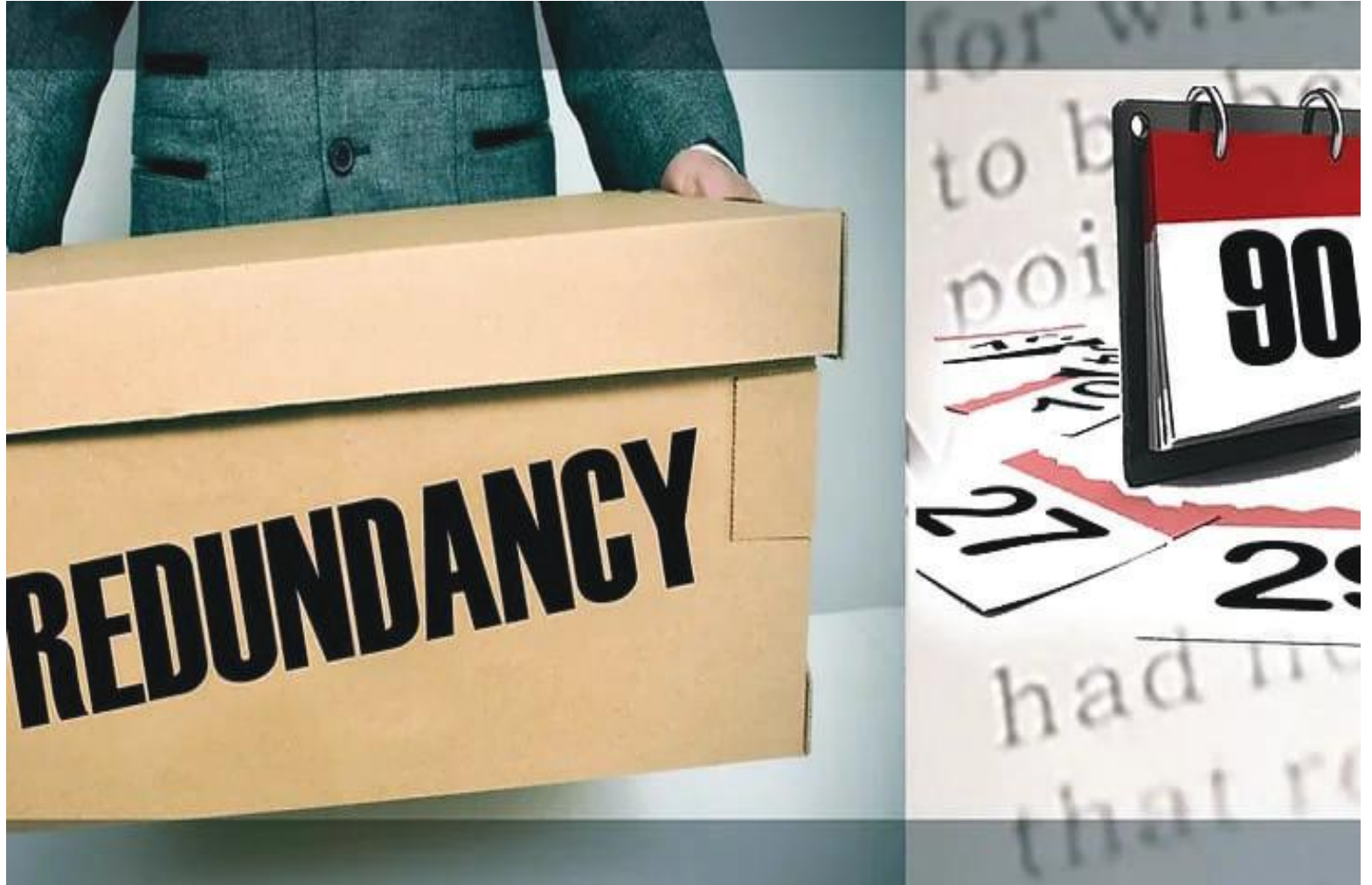
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Redundancy In Kenya And The Imperative Of Compliance



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- A key pillar of lawful redundancy in Kenya is the requirement for a valid and justifiable reason. Employers cannot simply declare positions redundant arbitrarily or discriminatorily. Common legitimate reasons include business closure, departmental restructuring, technological advancements rendering certain skills obsolete, or financial constraints that necessitate a reduction in the workforce. The onus is on the employer to prove the existence of such genuine operational requirements.

- Beyond a justifiable reason, procedural fairness is equally crucial. Section 40 of the Employment Act outlines the meticulous steps employers must follow. This begins with a written notice of the intended redundancy. If the employee is a member of a trade union, both the union and the Labour Officer in charge of the area must be notified at least one month prior to the intended date of termination.

Redundancy, an often-unavoidable reality in the dynamic landscape of modern economies, represents the termination of employment at the employer's initiative, not due to the employee's fault, but rather because their services are no longer required. In Kenya, this sensitive process is governed by stringent legal provisions designed to protect employees while allowing businesses the flexibility to restructure and adapt. Understanding these laws is paramount for both employers and employees to ensure fairness, legality, and mitigate potential disputes.

The legal framework for redundancy in Kenya is primarily enshrined in the Employment Act, 2007. This Act defines redundancy as the "loss of employment, occupation, job or career by involuntary means through no fault of an employee, involving termination of employment at the initiative of the employer, where the services of an employee are superfluous." This definition sets the stage for a process that, while necessary for business survival, must always be conducted with due regard for the affected individuals.

A key pillar of lawful redundancy in Kenya is the requirement for a valid and justifiable reason. Employers cannot simply declare positions redundant arbitrarily or discrimina-

torily. Common legitimate reasons include business closure, departmental restructuring, technological advancements rendering certain skills obsolete, or financial constraints that necessitate a reduction in the workforce. The onus is on the employer to prove the existence of such genuine operational requirements.

Beyond a justifiable reason, procedural fairness is equally crucial. Section 40 of the Employment Act outlines the meticulous steps employers must follow. This begins with a written notice of the intended redundancy. If the employee is a member of a trade union, both the union and the Labour Officer in charge of the area must be notified at least one month prior to the intended date of termination. For non-unionized employees, personal written notification to the employee and the Labour Officer is required within the same timeframe.

The essence of these notification requirements is to facilitate genuine consultation. This is not a mere formality but a vital opportunity for dialogue. Employers are expected to explain the reasons for the redundancy, the extent of the impact, and to explore potential alternatives, such as redeployment to other roles, reduced working hours, or even voluntary exit schemes. The courts in Kenya have consistently emphasized that con-

sultations must be meaningful and not just a rubber-stamping exercise, allowing employees or their representatives to engage actively in the process.

Selecting employees for redundancy also demands a fair and objective approach. Section 40(1)(c) of the Employment Act mandates that employers have "due regard to seniority in time and to the skill, ability and reliability of each employee of the particular class of employees affected by the redundancy." While the "last-in, first-out" (LIFO) principle is often considered, it is not absolute and must be balanced with other objective criteria such as performance, qualifications, and disciplinary records to avoid discrimination. Arbitrary or biased selection methods can easily render the redundancy unlawful.

Furthermore, employees declared redundant are entitled to specific terminal benefits. This includes payment in lieu of notice if the statutory one-month notice period is not observed, payment for any accrued but unutilized leave days, and crucially, severance pay. The Employment Act stipulates that severance pay must be calculated at a rate of not less than fifteen days' salary for every completed year of service. Where a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) exists

between an employer and a trade union, and it provides for more advantageous terms, those terms will supersede the statutory minimum.

Failure to adhere to these legal provisions carries significant consequences for employers. The Employment and Labour Relations Court has consistently penalized employers for unfair termination on account of redundancy, often ordering substantial compensation, and in some rare instances, even reinstatement. Recent rulings underscore the importance of meticulous documentation, genuine consultation, and the objective application of selection criteria to safeguard against legal challenges and reputational damage.

In conclusion, redundancy in Kenya, while a legitimate business tool, is a process laden with legal obligations and ethical considerations. Employers must approach it with diligence, transparency, and a commitment to fair labour practices. By understanding and strictly adhering to the provisions of the Employment Act and relevant legal precedents, businesses can navigate the complexities of redundancy lawfully, minimizing disputes and upholding the rights and dignity of their workforce.

The writer is a legal researcher and lawyer

DCP Women Slam Ichung'wah Over Personal Attack On Gachagua's Spouse, Pastor Dorcas

By: Phineas Munene
@themkenyatimes

DCP Women League has condemned recent remarks made by National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wah, accusing him of launching a personal and politically motivated attack against Pastor Dorcas Rigathi, spouse of their Party Leader.

The outrage by the Democracy for Citizens Party follows remarks Ichung'wah reportedly made during a recent political meeting in Narok, where he insinuated that Pastor Dorcas, the former Deputy President's spouse, was engaged in an extramarital affair.

The DCP leaders described the comments as "blatant, intolerant, and defamatory," warning that such rhetoric undermines not only women in leadership but also the dignity of public discourse.

"To belittle her work in the name of political rivalry is both reckless and dishonorable," the group said in a joint statement yesterday.

"We demand an immediate retraction and public apology from Ichung'wah. Leadership demands restraint, maturity, and respect—especially toward those who are making a difference while others remain silent."

International petition Njeri Kahiga, a prominent DCP women leader, warned that the party was documenting Ichung'wah's remarks for submission to international organizations.

She vowed to mobilize voters against leaders who perpetuate misogyny and disrespect toward women.

"If he's not going to be arrested, we have organizations beyond this country that we will continue documenting these utterances with," Kahiga said.

"We are going to ensure that come election time, such members are not re-elected. We cannot allow individuals who spew hatred and disrespect to continue being referred to as Honourable Members."

The women leaders also accused the Kenya Kwanza government of double standards, alleging that it turns



The DCP leaders described the comments as "blatant, intolerant, and defamatory," warning that such rhetoric undermines not only women in leadership but also the dignity of public discourse/DCP

a blind eye to misconduct within its ranks while cracking down harshly on dissenters.

They pointed to the government's silence over more than twenty-five reported cases of sexual assault during recent anti-government protests—cases flagged by organizations such as FIDA Kenya and Usi-kimye.

Jane Njeri, another DCP leader, said the administration's days were numbered, citing political missteps and growing public anger:

"The Kenya Kwanza regime is sinking, weighed down by arrogance, political blunders, and widespread intimidation of dissenting voices. No one will come to its rescue. The people of Kenya are awake. History

will not be kind to a government that chooses oppression over dialogue."

The women concluded by urging fellow women leaders across the political divide to speak out against Ichung'wah's conduct and any form of disrespect or violence toward women in leadership.

Universities Student Leaders Seek Protest Exit Plan To Lock Out Hijackers

By: Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Student leaders from some of Kenya's top universities have called for an urgent, non-political, and youth-led dialogue to address the country's deepening social and economic challenges.

Speaking at a press conference at the University of Nairobi yesterday, the leaders demanded youth inclusion in any planned national dialogue and rejected what they described as the political hijacking of recent protests.

Representing the University Students Leaders Council, the students said young people have borne the brunt of recent demonstrations and police violence, and must now take the lead in shaping real, lasting solutions.

Aron Odhiambo, self-styled Deputy Director for Broad-Based Government in Nyanza, emphasized the need to break the cycle of violence and confrontation.

"We're done with mandamano. We've seen enough deaths. It's time to sit down and address our issues—education, jobs, and the economy—peacefully," he said.

Joel Aloo, Chair of the Students Council, echoed the sentiment, accusing political leaders of exploiting youth protests for their own agendas: "We're tired. Tired of being used; tired of being killed. Tired of empty promises. We want a seat at the table—not political games, but real dialogue."

Dialogue demands

The student leaders demanded inclusion in national dialogue, meaningful youth empowerment and job creation initiatives, and compensation for victims of police brutality.

They also demanded accountability and prosecution of police officers involved in protest-related deaths, urgent reforms to fix the broken university funding model, and improved living conditions on campuses.

Issa Peace, from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Tech-



Representing the University Students Leaders Council, the students said young people have borne the brunt of recent demonstrations and police violence, and must now take the lead in shaping real, lasting solutions/CFM

nology (JKUAT), criticized the new higher education funding model, calling it a failure that has worsened students' living conditions.

"It's not working. Students are suffering. We need change now."

Karl Ogal, President of KCA University, reinforced the group's message, stressing the importance of peaceful, youth-driven solutions.

"We have one country. Demonstrating hasn't worked. Dialogue is the only way—and it must be led by us, the youth who are directly affected."

The student leaders announced plans to consolidate their proposals and indicated they will unveil a tentative date for a youth-led dialogue forum by August.

The group made the call amid uncer-

tainty over a spate of violent protests, with former Prime Minister Raila Odinga recently proposing an inter-generational conclave to chart the country's future in the wake of the chaotic June 25 and July 7 protests.

The students insist the centrality of their voices to any such conversation.

China Begins Building World's Largest Dam, Fuelling Fears In India

By: BBC

Chinese authorities have begun constructing what will be the world's largest hydropower dam in Tibetan territory, in a project that has sparked concerns from India and Bangladesh.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang presided over a ceremony marking the start of construction on the Yarlung Tsangpo river on Saturday, according to local media.

The river flows through the Tibetan plateau as well as the two South Asian nations. The project has attracted criticism for its potential impact on millions of Indians and Bangladeshis living downriver, as well as the surrounding environment and local Tibetans.

Beijing has said the development will prioritise ecological protection and boost local prosperity.

When completed, the \$12bn yuan (\$1.67bn; £1.25bn) project – also known as the Motuo Hydropower Station – will overtake the Three Gorges dam as the world's largest, and could generate three times more energy.

Experts and officials have flagged concerns that the new dam would empower China to control or divert the trans-border Yarlung Tsangpo, which flows south into India's Arunachal Pradesh and Assam states as well as Bangladesh, where it feeds into the Siang, Brahmaputra and Jamuna rivers.

A 2020 report published by the Lowy Institute, an Australian-based think tank, noted that “control over these rivers [in the Tibetan Plateau] effectively gives China a chokehold on India's economy”.

In an interview with news agency PTI earlier this month, Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu expressed concern that the Siang and Brahmaputra could “dry up considerably” once the dam was completed.

He added that the dam was “going to cause an existential threat to our tribes and our livelihoods. It is quite serious because China could even use this as a sort of ‘water bomb’”.

“Suppose the dam is built and they suddenly release water, our entire Siang belt would be destroyed,” he said. “In particular, the Adi tribe and similar groups... would see all their property, land, and especially human life, suffer devastating effects.”

In January a spokesperson for India's ministry of external affairs said they had expressed concerns to China about the impact of mega-dams and had urged Beijing to “ensure the interests of downstream states”



Worth Noting:

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were not harmed. They had also emphasised the “need for transparency and consultation with downstream countries”.

India plans to build a hydropower dam on the Siang river, which would act as a buffer against sudden water releases from China's dam and prevent flooding in their areas.

China's foreign ministry has previously responded to India, saying in 2020 that China has a “legitimate right” to dam the river and has considered downstream impacts.

Bangladesh also expressed concerns to China about the project, with officials in February sending a letter to Beijing requesting more information on the dam.

Chinese authorities have long eyed the hydropower potential of the dam's location in the Tibet Autonomous Region.

It's in a massive canyon that is said to be the world's deepest and longest on land, along a section where the Yarlung Tsangpo – Tibet's longest river – makes a sharp U-turn around

the Namcha Barwa mountain.

In the process of making this turn – which has been termed “the Great Bend” – the river drops hundreds of metres in its elevation.

Earlier reports indicated that authorities planned to drill multiple 20km-long tunnels through the Namcha Barwa mountain, via which they would divert part of the river.

Over the weekend a Xinhua report on Li Qiang's visit said that engineers would conduct “straightening” work and “divert water through tunnels” to build five cascading power stations.

Xinhua also reported that the hydropower dam's electricity would be mainly transmitted out of the region to be used elsewhere, while accommodating for Tibet's needs.

China has been eyeing the steep valleys and mighty rivers in the rural west – where Tibetan territories are located – to build mega-dams and hydropower stations that can sustain the country's electricity-hungry eastern metropolises. President Xi

Jinping has personally pushed for this in a policy called “xidiandong-song”, or “sending western electricity eastwards”.

The Chinese government and state media have presented these dams as a win-win solution that cuts pollution and generates clean energy while uplifting rural Tibetans.

But activists say the dams are the latest example of Beijing's exploitation of Tibetans and their land – and past protests have been crushed.

Last year, the Chinese government rounded up hundreds of Tibetans who had been protesting against another hydropower dam. It ended in arrests and beatings, with some people seriously injured, the BBC learned through sources and verified footage.

There are also environmental concerns over the flooding of Tibetan valleys renowned for their biodiversity, and the possible dangers of building dams in a region rife with earthquake fault lines.

How Maraga's Sh50-Bob Army Can Shatter Ruto's Rule

By: **Davis Ayega**
 @themtkenyatimes

Former Chief Justice David Maraga's Sh50-bob fundraising plan is quickly gaining support as more Kenyans back his 2027 presidential bid.

Within just 48 hours of launching his campaign website, davidmaraga.com, his team announced that they had raised over Sh500,000 from small donations, a sign of growing frustration with President William Ruto's government and a strong desire for change.

Maraga, branding himself as the "people's candidate," is betting on ordinary Kenyans to bankroll his campaign with contributions as low as Sh50.

"I will put in very little money, around Sh1 million or Sh2 million. I don't have much money. We will require a substantial amount of money, and we are going to appeal to Kenyans to contribute to our campaign," he stated during the website launch on July 18, 2025.

Running under the theme "Reset, Restore, and Rebuild Kenya," Maraga is targeting youth and frustrated

citizens who feel let down by Ruto's government.

Political analysts say that if his crowdfunding model holds, it could give him the resources to mount a serious challenge in 2027, contrasting sharply with President Ruto's 2022 campaign, which was financed by billion-shilling donations from wealthy allies.

Maraga's approach is a direct departure from Kenya's entrenched culture of money-driven politics.

By leaning on the country's long-standing tradition of harambee (community fundraising), which has built hospitals, schools, and even saved lives, Maraga hopes to spark a "people-powered movement" that rejects elite capture of political campaigns.

"I'm confident Kenyans will come through. With the suffering they have gone through, I'm sure they will contribute Sh50, Sh100, or more. Whatever is left after the campaigns will go back to a public cause," Maraga remarked, signaling transparency in how the funds will be used.

The early success of his fundraising drive is being viewed as an indicator of public frustration over the rising



Former Chief Justice and 2027 presidential hopeful David Maraga

cost of living, heavy taxation, and governance challenges under President Ruto's rule.

While critics like Nandi Senator Samson Cherargei dismissed Maraga's strategy claiming a presidential campaign needs at least Sh7 billion to be competitive, the former Chief Justice remains undeterred.

Maraga's campaign website, built by volunteers, is the main place

where supporters can donate, sign up to help, and share their ideas.

The quick response according to observers points to something bigger, that Kenyans are showing that even small contributions can shape the country's politics.

As the 2027 race heats up, the focus is not just on how much money Maraga can raise, but on whether his "Sh50-bob army" can keep the mo-

mentum and challenge a system long controlled by the wealthy.

However, his critics have dismissed the initiative, arguing that the amount raised so far is insignificant, pointing out that far larger sums have been collected for other causes in just a short time, even within minutes.

Sakaja Blames Guard Dogs, Locked Gates Amid Water Bill Manipulation Concerns

By: **Irene Mwangi**
 @themtkenyatimes

The Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company (NCWSC) is on the spot over Sh524 million in estimated water bills for over 112,000 accounts, raising concerns of weak oversight and possible manipulation. According to the 2024 Auditor-General's report, 112,620 customer accounts were billed using estimates, with 15,320 of them estimated consecutively for more than six months—a pattern flagged as a red flag for potential negligence or irregularities.

Appearing before the Senate Public Investments Committee on Monday, Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja faced tough questions over the prolonged estimates.

NCWSC management attributed the issue to inaccessible meters, blam-

ing locked gates and guard dogs.

But senators were unconvinced.

"Where are these accounts you couldn't access for six months? Is this State House or some security zone?" asked Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna.

"You break down gates for other operations, but you can't read 15,000 meters?"

NCWSC Managing Director Engineer Nahashon Muguna defended the agency, saying efforts were underway to relocate meters, leave written notices, and implement SMS alerts to notify customers of meter reading attempts.

The Auditor-General noted that NCWSC only submitted its explanation in February 2025, long after the audit window had closed.

A physical verification of 7,031 disputed accounts has since been ordered within fourteen days.

Senators also criticized the company's delay in adopting smart meter



Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja .

technology, which could reduce reliance on estimates.

Muguna argued the high cost—up to Sh20,000 per unit—made wide-

spread rollout nonviable, but senators disagreed.

"Smart meters are not a luxury. They are a necessity," said Senator

Godfrey Osotsi.

"The revenue lost every year due to non-revenue water is over Sh8 billion."

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Sports >> *The Kenyan team to the World Championships in Tokyo will hit residential camp training in Eldoret ahead of the global competition on September 13-21.

How CHAN Affects Team Kenya Preparations For World Championships



Athletics Kenya President Rtd Lt Gen Jack Tuwei address athletes. PHOTO/RAYMOND MAKHAYA.

The Kenyan team to the World Championships in Tokyo will hit residential camp training in Eldoret ahead of the global competition on September 13-21.

Athletics Kenya (AK) president Jack Tuwei said this has been necessitated by the African Nations Championships (CHAN), which will be held in Nairobi, rendering all venues in the city inaccessible.

“After this we will embark on the actual preparations for the team to go to Tokyo. We will take this team to go and train at the Kipchoge Keino Stadium in Eldoret because we do not want to waste any time. Immediately, after CHAN (Africa Nations Championships) is over, we will bring them back home for the final preparations before we take them to Tokyo,” Tuwei said.

CHAN is expected to kick off on August 2-30 across the East African countries of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

In Kenya, the matches are set to be staged at the Moi International Sports Centre Kasarani and Nyayo Stadium, with the Ulinzi Sports Complex, Police Sacco and Kasarani Annex being used as training grounds.

With no other venue in the vicinity of the city possessing a tartan track, Team Kenya have hence been forced to move to the North Rift to begin their preparations.

The federation held their national trials for the global competition at the Ulinzi Sports Complex on Tuesday, selecting 58 athletes to represent the country at the event.

Tuwei said the competition was fair, adding that all the athletes who made the team deserved to be on it.

“I want to wish them well and

believe they will do the country proud at the World Championships. This is a team of champions and all of you have seen how we have selected the team today...based on the tough competition that was witnessed today,” he said.

Capital Sport



GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Newly elected National Olympics Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) president Shadrack Maluki has warned errant federations to shape up or ship out.

‘Shape Up Or Ship Out:’ NOC-K Boss Maluki Lays Down Law For Errant Federations



New NOC-K president Shadrack Maluki celebrates. PHOTO/RAYMOND MAKHAYA

Newly elected National Olympics Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) president Shadrack Maluki has warned errant federations to shape up or ship out.

Maluki said it is going to be business unusual for federations that prioritise business interests over those of the athletes.

“It is time for them to shape up or ship out...it is not going to be business as usual. They have put the welfare of the athletes at the forefront. One thing we noticed about the elections was that it was more about personal interests rather than the welfare of the athletes,” he said.

Maluki triumphed in the long-awaited elections that had twice been postponed by different wrangles.

He garnered 15 votes compared to 12 for his closest competitor — immediate former secretary general Francis Mutuku.

The polls were initially scheduled for April 23 but were postponed on the material day after four federations failed to agree on which of their officials would vote on their behalf.

The federations included Kenya Handball Federation (KHF), Taekwondo Federation of Kenya (TFK), Kenya Volleyball Federation (KVF) and the Kenya Triathlon Federation (KTF).

A second attempt to hold the elections on June 19 became a cropper after Kenya Table Tennis Association (KTTA) president Andrew Mudibo obtained an injunction from the High Court of Eldoret

halting the polls.

This was after a Sports Disputes Tribunal (SDT) ruling that barred him from contesting the secretary general’s position on the basis that his parent federation did not comply with the Sports Act (2013) at the time that he was nominated for the position.

In lieu of these wrangles, Maluki admitted there are a lot of wounds in many federations.

He noted the need to heal these wounds to allow NOC-K move forward and prepare for upcoming competitions.

“These elections have left a number of federations divided and I want to take this opportunity in the first few months to ensure we are reading from the script. I want to see all of us working together as

a unit...focusing on sports development,” Maluki said.

He added: “First and foremost, we are late in organising for the Los Angeles Olympics because of this politics we have been involved in. We are going to work immediately...there is no room for laxity. The first thing is to put our house in order in every federation to ensure we are on course.”

The new president will also need to spearhead preparations for next year’s Commonwealth Games as well as the Dakar Youth Olympics.

Capital Sport



The Inspiring Journey Of May Ahmed



By: Anila Bukhari

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

• Through H&T, May strives to empower women through thoughtful design and meaningful style. Her creations reflect strength, creativity, and confidence, inspiring women to express their individuality with pride. May's mission is to grow H&T into a global name that inspires women everywhere to be their best selves.

• Today, H&T is a reflection of boldness, identity, and modern Arab creativity. May's journey has taken her from local beginnings to global collaborations, and she continues to push the boundaries of fashion and beauty. With her passion for creativity and innovation, May is poised to take H&T to new heights, inspiring women around the world with her designs and vision.



May Ahmed

Biography

May Ahmed is a trailblazing entrepreneur, engineer, and creative director who has made a name for herself in the beauty and lifestyle industry. As the founder of H&T, a renowned beauty and lifestyle brand, May has been instrumental in empowering women through thoughtful design and meaningful style.

Early Beginnings

May's journey began with a passion for creativity and innovation. With a background in engineering, she brought a unique perspective to the world of beauty and fashion. Her vision for H&T was to create a brand that would blend elegance, identity, and modern femininity, inspiring women to express their strength, style, and individuality with pride.

Growing H&T

Under May's leadership, H&T has grown from a local vision into a recognized name across the UAE and the region. The brand has been featured in exclusive fashion events and international brand showrooms, showcasing May's designs and creativity to a global audience.

Awards and Recognition

May's contributions to the beauty and fashion industry have been recognized through numerous awards and honors. She was awarded the title of "Ambassador of Innovation and Entrepreneurship" and received the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Award by His Highness Sheikh Rashid bin Nasser Al Nuaimi. In 2025, May was named the Best Entrepreneur in Bags Designing at the Global Women Leadership Awards, where she had the privilege of re-

ceiving the award from His Excellency Sheikh Faisal Bin Ahmed Al Qassimi.

Empowering Women

Through H&T, May strives to empower women through thoughtful design and meaningful style. Her creations reflect strength, creativity, and confidence, inspiring women to express their individuality with pride. May's mission is to grow H&T into a global name that inspires women everywhere to be their best selves.

A Global Presence

Today, H&T is a reflection of boldness, identity, and modern Arab creativity. May's journey has taken her from local beginnings to global collaborations, and she continues to push the boundaries of fashion and beauty. With her passion for creativ-

ity and innovation, May is poised to take H&T to new heights, inspiring women around the world with her designs and vision.

Conclusion

May Ahmed's story is a testament to the power of creativity, innovation, and determination. Through H&T, she has created a brand that inspires women to express their strength, style, and individuality with pride. As May continues to grow her brand and push the boundaries of fashion and beauty, she remains committed to empowering women and inspiring a new generation of leaders. With her passion, creativity, and vision, May Ahmed is a true leader in the beauty and lifestyle industry.