



Can Influencers Be Sued For Misleading Consumers? Lessons From Shaquille O'Neal's FTX Case And Kenya's Legal Landscape

In the digital age, social media influencers wield immense power, shaping consumer behavior with a single post. In Kenya, where influencer marketing has surged, with brands leveraging platforms like Instagram and TikTok to reach millions, this influence comes with significant responsibility. Page 18

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News>>Kindiki: Huge Development Projects To Spur Coastal Region Economic Growth

P. 8. The government is rolling out massive development projects in the coastal region to improve the economic status of the region that has suffered under-development for decades.



News>>Relief For Gatundu Family As Saudi Arabia Releases Kin's Body Held For Three Months Amid Calls To Protect Kenyans Working In The Middle East

P. 12. A family from Ngorongo village in Gatundu North, Kiambu County, can now heave a sigh of relief after the body of their kin that was held in Saudi Arabia for three months was released.

Opposition Demands An End To Covert Arrests

⚡ Opposition-backed restorative justice champion Justin Muturi has denounced what he describes as state-sponsored terror through covert arrests, warning that the country is dangerously veering toward authoritarianism. Muturi condemned the arrests amid an escalating standoff between the High Court and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) over the mysterious disappearance of blogger Ndiang'ui Kinyagia.



Former AG Justin Muturi

STORY ON PAGE 9



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Makongeni Residents Protest Evictions Over Affordable Housing Project, Demand Transparency

By: Christine Opana
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- According to the Makongeni Residents Association, the community was neither properly informed nor consulted about the process.
- “We woke up to find officials counting households without any prior notice. No one has explained where we are going or what we are getting in return. They say we’ll be compensated, but no clear figures. We’ve heard rumours of Ksh150,000, but that’s not even enough to rent in Nairobi,” one of the residents decried.



President William Ruto with Mukuru residents during the commissioning of the New Mukuru Housing Estate Lot 1

Tensions flared in Makongeni Estate in Nairobi after residents protested against what they termed as rushed and opaque evictions from their houses to pave the way for a government-backed affordable housing project under President William Ruto’s flagship programme.

The residents, many of whom are descendants of former Kenya Railways Corporation employees, claim that they were blindsided by an enumeration exercise meant to identify beneficiaries and prepare for relocation.

According to the Makongeni Residents Association, the community was neither properly informed nor consulted about the process.

“We woke up to find officials counting households without any prior notice. No one has explained where we are going or what we are getting in return. They say we’ll be compensated, but no clear figures. We’ve heard rumours of Ksh150,000, but that’s not even enough to rent in Nairobi,” one of the residents decried.

The situation escalated when the residents confronted officials and demanded answers. Police were deployed to the area to maintain calm.

The area OCPD Judith Nyongesa, urged the visibly angry residents to cooperate with the enumeration team.

“We want to ensure the right people are

compensated,” she said, “but we also ask for calm and order.”

The residents, however, were not convinced by the police. They argue that the land they occupy is tied to unpaid pensions and retirement benefits owed to their parents, many of whom worked for Kenya Railways.

“This land is our inheritance. Our fathers retired without pay, and now they want to evict us without a plan,” another resident said.

Makongeni Estate has been tapped as one of the areas for the Affordable Housing Programme (AHP), which aims to address Kenya’s urban housing deficit.

While the project promises low-cost

houses for Kenyans, its implementation process has been marred by controversy in several counties, including Nairobi, Kisumu, and Eldoret.

In Makongeni, residents say they have written over 20 letters to the Ministry of Lands and Housing, including Principal Secretary Charles Hinga, but have received no response or help.

The residents are concerned that the project may benefit private developers more than the community, especially due to the land’s worth, which is estimated at Ksh50 billion.

Editor’s Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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CBK Seeks Ksh50 Billion In Treasury Bonds To Fund 2025/26 Budget

By: Samuel Njuguna
@themtkenyatimes

The government is seeking Ksh50 billion in a fresh treasury bond auction as the new financial year begins. The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK), in a notice on Wednesday, said the Ksh50 billion will be directed towards budgetary support. The Ksh50 billion is to be raised in a bond auction for 20 year and 25 year fixed coupon securities that opened on June 24 and close on July 9, with coupon rates set at 13.2 per cent and 13.4 per cent respectively. "All successful bidders should obtain the payment key and amount payable from the CBK DhowCSD Investor Portal/App under the transactions tab on Friday, July 11, 2025, for FXD1/2018/020 and FXD1/2018/025," the bank stated. "Defaulters may be suspended from

subsequent investment in Government Securities," CBK warned. The 20 year bond will mature on March 1, 2038, while the 25 year instrument matures on May 25, 2043. According to CBK, Kenyans can participate via a non-competitive bid floor of just Ksh 50,000, although competitive bids require a minimum Ksh2 million per Central Securities Depository account. Settlement is scheduled for Sunday, July 14. "The Central Bank reserves the right to accept applications in full or part thereof or reject them in total without giving any reason," the CBK said. In the new budget passed last month, Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi indicated that the government aims to borrow a total of Ksh923.2 billion, with Ksh287.7 billion from external sources and a whopping Ksh635.5 billion from the domestic market. The Ksh4.2 trillion budget, Ken-



Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi holding the famous Budget briefcase ahead of the Budget .

ya's largest in history, the National Treasury has projected revenue collection of Ksh3.322 trillion for the fiscal year 2025/26, including ordinary revenue, appropriations-in-aid,

and grants. Already, Kenya is in advanced talks with the International Monetary Fund for a new monetary deal. These aim to replace the outgoing

\$3.6 billion (about Ksh466 billion in the current exchange rates) Extended Fund Facility and Credit Facility that expired in June.

Albert Ojwang's Father: You Will Not Have Peace For Spilling My Son's Blood

By: Moses Kinyanjui
@themtkenyatimes

Meshak Ojwang, the father of killed teacher Albert Ojwang, has noted that those responsible for his son's unexplained death will always remain troubled. Speaking during a requiem Service at Ridgeways in Nairobi on Tuesday, Meshack said that his son's blood was innocently spilled while those behind his demise remain unpunished. "The innocent blood of Albert that was spilled by those in power so that they remain in power and hide their evil deeds should know that they will remain with respect and riches but they will have no peace in their lives," he said. He drew reference from the story of Cain and Abel in the Bible, saying that Cain was always haunted for killing his brother. "God said that his blood is weeping for me, and I realized that spilled

blood can bring suffering. It is only the blood of Jesus that blesses," he noted. Albert's mother mourned his only son as a diligent man, noting that he always provided for the family. "My only dear son would send me money for food. I am so sorry, he was picked when he wanted to eat. Albert, don't sleep until justice is served," she said. His wife Nevnina Onyango said that his late husband was her strongest moral anchor and returning to calm will be an arduous effort in their home. Albert always told me to be courageous. It's heavy on me & my son. He doesn't even know what's going on. Albert's last words were 'I love you, I'll see you soon' and now I am seeing him in a coffin," she said. Leaders present in the service, former Public Service Cabinet Secretary Justin Muriuki and Mumias East MP Peter Salasya, vowed to ensure that justice is served. Ojwang was arrested in his home in Homa Bay after allegedly defam-



Albert Ojwang's father Meshack Ojwang and his mother Eucabeth Ojwang at a requiem mass in Nairobi on July 2, 2025.

ing Deputy Inspector General Eliud Lagat and later died while in police custody at the Central Police Station in Nairobi. Officer Commanding Station (OCS) Samson Taalam and Police Constable James Mukhwana have been apprehended and the Independent Po-

licing Oversight Authority (IPOA) has opposed an attempt by senior police officers to block their prosecution. The authority maintains that the ongoing prosecution stems from a thorough, independent investigation that uncovered sufficient grounds to

implicate the officers in Ojwang's death. Ojwang's death sparked public uproar, prompting demonstrations against police brutality and DIG Lagat's resignation.



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UK, South Sudan & US Among Top Destinations For Physical Cash From Kenyan Banks – CBK Report

By: Walter Ngano
 @themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The UK, listed as the main destination for physical cash outflows, accounted for 42 per cent of the total. The US accounted for 15 per cent, Switzerland for 12 per cent, and Germany for four per cent.
- Regionally, commercial banks primarily transported physical cash to South Sudan (15 per cent) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (eight per cent). Also, the most common currencies transported physically were US Dollars, euros, and Great British pounds.

The United Kingdom, the United States of America, and South Sudan have been listed as some of the main countries where Kenyan banks are transporting physical cash to.

According to the Survey on Cross-Border Movement of Cash, 15 commercial banks transported physical cash across the border, representing 39.4 per cent of licensed commercial banks in Kenya.

In the report released by the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) on Wednesday, July 2, the main reasons for banks to transport physical cash across borders were the repatriation of foreign currency and to promote operational efficiency by meeting the liquidity needs of their foreign subsidiaries.

CBK revealed the primary source of

this cash was customer deposits across branches, with other sources including group subsidiaries, currency exchange agencies, and central banks of other countries.

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The main source of cash transported

across borders is customer deposits across branches, while other sources are group subsidiaries, currency exchange agencies, and central banks of other countries.

In the report, the main recipients of physical cash transported across borders were financial services companies that specialise in cross-border payments and foreign exchange. Other recipients were bank customers, counterparties at group subsidiaries, and foreign correspondent banks.

Even so, the report did not explicitly reveal the amount of physical cash transported, but the figures are believed to be vast sums of cash in the region of billions.

To establish the legitimacy of the cash transported across borders, banks used

Know Your Customer (KYC) and Customer Due Diligence (CDD), the use of a counterfeit money checker machine sourced only from globally licensed currency note suppliers, and sought regulatory approvals from the originating country.

Nonetheless, 67 per cent of the banks were noted to have experienced instances of cash smuggling or irregularities in cash declarations. However, the banks indicated that these incidents rarely occurred.

CBK noted that the main challenges faced by banks in managing cross-border physical cash flows were a lack of technological solutions and insufficient cooperation from clients or other institutions.

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Kindiki: Huge Development Projects To Spur Coastal Region Economic Growth

By: DPCS

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Yesterday, the DP graced an Economic Empowerment meeting for women and micro and small scale traders at Garsen Grounds, Garsen constituency in Tana River County where he emphasized the quest to share national resources equally.
- He reiterated equitable development across the country during similar Empowerment events at Hola town in Galole constituency and Bura town in Bura Constituency in the same county.
- “Tana River will not be left behind in development and economic empowerment. This time round the country must develop equally and Tana River as well as other areas in the coastal region that have been underdeveloped for many years, we must make sure we work shoulder to shoulder for access to equal development,” he said.

The government is rolling out massive development projects in the coastal region to improve the economic status of the region that has suffered under-development for decades.

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki said the government has prioritized implementation of key infrastructure projects across the region to uplift the standards of citizens and open up the region to economic take off.

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“Tana River will not be left behind in development and economic empowerment. This time round the country must develop equally and Tana River as well as other areas in the coastal region that have been underdeveloped for many years, we must make sure we work shoulder to shoulder for access to equal development,” he said.

The DP enumerated ongoing development programs in the coastal county that target boosting its development and equipping the youth with various skills to advance their livelihoods.

New modern markets are coming up in Garsen, Hola, Bangale and Mando-go towns.

“These markets are equipped with critical facilities like adequate spaces for goods, cold rooms, lactating rooms, social halls and ICT hubs among others,” he revealed.

Also the government has constructed a Jitume lab and equipped it with 100 computers at Garsen Technical Institute. It is also constructing 580 units of hostels at the institute under the affordable housing program.

“We have also invested Sh151 million in grants to expand and empower fishermen and beach management units at Kipini in Tana River in order to improve their income and lives,” he added.

With the last mile electricity connection still low in the county, the government has set aside Sh205 million for Garsen constituency, Sh211 for Bura and Sh36 million for Galole.

“I promise you, we will talk to the President so we can increase the allocation for Galole and the other two constituencies because Tana Riv-



Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki addressing a meeting in Garsen yesterday.

er has been marginalized for long and deserves higher allocation,” he pledged.

Further, the government has allocated Sh411 million to complete construction of Garsen-Witu-Mukowe Road that links Tana River and Lamu counties.

The DP applauded the broad-based government saying it has set a conducive environment for nationwide development.

“We are in the broad-based government and we have agreed to work together for a one nation, one flag, one people. That is the way to go because we don’t want to divide the country along tribal, region or religious lines,” he stated.

The DP said he will continue to be a ‘Yes man’ to the President and wananchi who are their bosses all the time. “The empowerment program is aimed at supporting wananchi now not to wait until elections. We will stand with them all the time as we promised during campaigns,” he said.

He urged the residents to reject leaders preaching division and tribalism saying they don’t deserve their time.

“We cannot entertain tribalism again in this country. The tribalists will come here but tell them you are for one Kenya and you would not accept to be divided along tribal lines,” DP noted.

Accompanying the DP were Mining and Blue Economy Cabinet Secretary

Ali Hassan Joho, President’s Aide Farouk Kibet, Senator Danson Mungatana (Tana River), MPs Ali Wario (Garsen), Sylvanus Ogoro (South Mugirango, Majority Whip), Mishi Mboko (Likoni) Amina Mnyazi (Malindi), Sabina Chege (Nominated MP), Mark Nyamita (Uriri), Japhet Nyakundi (Kitutu Chache North), Didimus Barasa (Kimilili), Mohammed Fatuma Zainab (Migori County), Hiribae Said Buya (Galole), Mwen-gi Mutuse (Kibwezi West) Johanna Ngeno (Emurua Dikirr), Joseph Lekuton (Laisamis), Major Dekow Mohamed Barrow (Garissa Township), Mohamed Abdi (Lafey) and Kuno Yakub (Bura).



Likoni MP Mishi Mboko addressing the meeting as President’s aide Farouk Kibet (left) and Tana River Senator Danson Mungatana looks on. Photos/Courtesy..

Opposition-Backed Restorative Justice Champion Demands An End To Covert Arrests

By: Jeremiah Wakaya
 @themtkenyatimes

Opposition-backed restorative justice champion Justin Muturi has denounced what he describes as state-sponsored terror through covert arrests, warning that the country is dangerously veering toward authoritarianism.

Muturi condemned the arrests amid an escalating standoff between the High Court and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) over the mysterious disappearance of blogger Ndiang'ui Kinyagia.

In a tense session at Nairobi's Milimani Law Courts on Tuesday, Justice Chacha Mwita directed the DCI to produce the blogger — linked to an open invitation calling protesters to State House during the June 25 demonstrations — dead or alive.

In a hard-hitting statement released yesterday, Muturi challenged President William Ruto to rein in rogue plainclothes officers and covert police units accused of abducting gov-

ernment critics using unmarked vehicles.

"Abducting Kenyans is not law enforcement, it is state terrorism," the Chairperson of the People's Restorative Justice Commission (PRJC) stated.

"We have reached a point where ordinary Kenyans cannot differentiate between legitimate police work and criminal kidnapping. That is the tragedy. That is the danger," he cautioned.

Muturi accused the DCI of abandoning lawful criminal procedures in favor of terror tactics, including night-time raids, enforced disappearances, and operations involving heavily armed, disguised officers.

"This is not about crime prevention. It is about power preservation," the former Public Service Cabinet Secretary and House Speaker declared warned.

"The DCI is not above the law. It is a creature of the law. When it steps outside that boundary, it becomes an agent of oppression, not justice."

He emphasized that the wave of abductions should not be viewed as a partisan matter but rather as a na-



Former AG Justin Muturi

tional crisis concerning the erosion of constitutional rights.

"We must refuse to be ruled by fear and silence," he said. "Because when the law is suspended for one, it is suspended for all."

Court summons

Muturi's remarks come amid growing concern over a crackdown on dissent, with Justice Mwita summoning DCI Director Mohammed Amin to

appear in person on Thursday, July 3, to account for the blogger's whereabouts.

"The DCI officers were the last known individuals to visit his residence before he disappeared," Justice Mwita said. "We need an explanation as to where he is."

The directive came after Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja failed to produce Kinyagia on Tuesday, despite a court order issued the

previous day.

Senior Counsel Martha Karua, representing Kinyagia's legal team, accused the DCI of blatant defiance of judicial authority.

"They [police] are not taking the orders of this court seriously. It is their business to find him — that's why we pay them," Karua told the court.

USAID Officially Shuts Down After 64 Years, Sparking Global Humanitarian Crisis

By: Brenda Wanga
 @themtkenyatimes

Millions of people around the world are projected to lose their lives following the permanent withdrawal of American funding for aid.

After a 64-year run, the United States' foreign assistance administered through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has come to an end — permanently.

The Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, in pulling the plug on USAID, stated that instead, foreign assistance that aligns with the Trump administration and advances American interests will be administered by the State Department.

The agency provided aid to poor and third-world countries around the world, with missions primarily concentrated in Africa and Asia.

In most locations, USAID focused on the provision of food and free

vaccinations against diseases such as HIV, which is particularly prevalent in countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Families and refugees in the region have come to rely on this aid, and the withdrawal will hit Sub-Saharan Africa hard as a region.

Indeed, the permanent cessation of humanitarian aid through USAID is projected to have a morbid impact across the globe.

A report published in The Lancet projects that this will result in the deaths of 14 million people worldwide. The report shows that the withdrawal of humanitarian aid will adversely affect the health sector, especially HIV and AIDS management and prevention, as well as malaria.

In total, 14 million deaths are projected between now and 2030 — of these, 4.5 million will be children under the age of five.

The report further states that through USAID, 91 million deaths have been prevented, especially those that would have been caused by HIV/AIDS, malaria, and neglected tropi-



People protest against US President Donald Trump plan to shutdown USAID outside the US Capitol on February 5, 2025. (Photo by Drew ANGERER / AFP).

cal diseases.

Kenya is among the countries already reeling from the impact of the stoppage of this humanitarian aid, with programmes like healthcare, agriculture, and community initiatives left with funding gaps that have also led to job losses.

Rubio has justified this move, stating that while America has funded humanitarian assistance, the recipients have not reciprocated in kind. He says countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, despite receiving 165 billion dollars in aid, did not fully support US interests at the United Nations.

Meanwhile, countries in the Middle East and North Africa, despite receiving 89 billion dollars in aid, tend to favour China over the USA.

The US has also accused NGOs of misusing the funds, at the expense of the American taxpayer.

Compensation: KSh60 Million Human–Wildlife Conflict Payment Renews Hope in Kilifi

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

Communities in Kilifi County yesterday received over KSh 60 million in compensation for losses linked to human–wildlife conflict, marking a significant step in restoring trust and dignity among the affected families. [This was payment from 2014 to October 2020, clearing part payments for human deaths.

In the meantime, the government is committed to clearing all pending compensation claims.

Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife Rebecca Miano, accompanied by KWS Board of Trustees Chairman Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Walter Raria Koipaton and KWS Director General Prof. Erustus Kanga led the cheque issuance ceremony in Marafa.

Also present were Kilifi County Governor Josephat Biwott, his deputy Florah Mbetsa, Woman Representative Gertrude Mbeyu, National Assembly Deputy Leader of Majority and Kilifi North MP Owen Baya, other Kilifi County Members of Parliament, MCAs and national government offi-

cers.

The CS stressed that compensation is a constitutional right under the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, not a favour. She noted the government’s resolve to translate policy into tangible benefits for citizens, highlighting more than 1,300 human–wildlife conflict cases reported in Kilifi since 2021. Nationwide, the current administration has already disbursed KSh2.8 billion in compensation, with an additional KSh 1.36 billion under processing — a demonstration of sustained government goodwill to ease the burden on affected communities. Beyond compensation, she outlined a six-pillar prevention strategy, including corridor fencing, modern early warning systems, and enhanced ranger presence, while reaffirming the government’s commitment to community upliftment through Corporate Social Investment projects such as building classrooms, distributing water tanks, and supporting local development.

KWS Board Chairman Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Koipaton reinforced the Board’s pledge to guide KWS towards becoming a more community-oriented, solution-driven institution anchored



Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano and other stakeholders during the handing over of the compensation cheque..

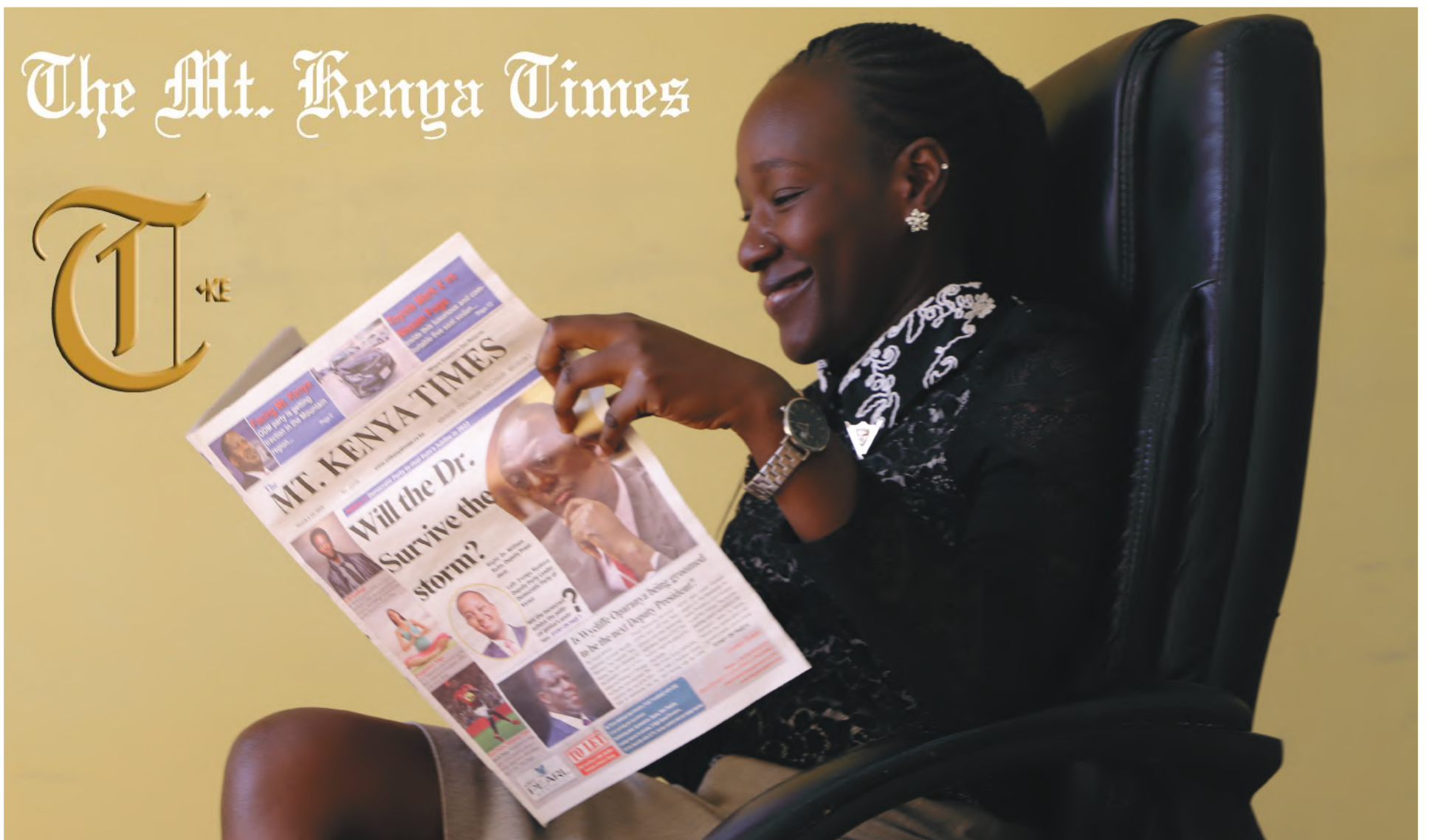
in transparency, partnership, and innovation. He assured the community that the Board is actively engaged in reviewing and supporting stronger measures to protect both people and wildlife, adding that inclusive, people-led conservation remains central to KWS’s mission.

Prof. Kanga acknowledged the hardship caused by recurring wildlife

incursions in Ganze, Magarini, and Vitengeni, pledging KWS’s unwavering commitment to protect communities while conserving Kenya’s natural heritage. [

He confirmed the deployment of a fully equipped Problem Animal Management Unit (PAMU) in Kilifi to improve rapid response and reduce fear among residents. These interven-

tions, anchored in the KWS Strategic Plan 2024–2028 and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, reflect a shared vision: a future where communities and wildlife not only co-exist, but flourish together in safety, harmony, and mutual benefit.



Lower Electric Motorcycles Tax, Operators Urges Government

By: George Mugo
 @themkenyatimes

Boda boda riders in the country have asked the government to lower tax on importation of electric motorcycles so as to enable them to purchase them.

They say a single unit going at a price which is equivalent to buying a second hand station wagon car.

A Nairobi based rider Simon Muturi says that most riders want to support President William Ruto's advice to them on procuring electric vehicles as well as motorcycles which are energy saving.

Speaking at an electric motorcycles show organised by Teachers Transporters Foundation located at Ngara area in Nairobi city, Muturi urged Ruto to strategise on how the electric motorcycles can be sold below sh 200,000 so that many of the riders can afford.

"Many riders would want to buy them owing to their consumption, but the price is so high. The current financial situation in our country has affected us so much, very few customers are opting to travel with motorcycles since they say they do not have money" he said.

The TTF executive director Peter Kihara says that the electric motorcycles had been introduced in the country at a time when fuel prices have gone up in many countries of the world.

"It is not Kenya alone. Fuel prices have gone up in many countries. Our President and his administration have all they can to see fuel prices lowered" he said.

"However, as transport stakeholders, we want to support our President who has moved forward to encourage riders to brace for change especially in the e-mobility" he said.

Kihara says riders will earn themselves a lot of profit, since the battery fixed in the units needs to be recharged and again the motorcycles do not produce smoke that destroy environment.

"They are energy saving and environment friendly. They will also alert you when the battery is depleting, thus one cannot go to longer distances" he noted.

Kihara reveals that several outlets like TTF sells the motorcycles on installment payments.

He also urged riders to always be armed with driving licenses, protective gears like gloves, reflective jackets and helmets while on the roads.

Another rider, Alphonse Nyae also urged the government to support local electric motorcycles dealers so as to ensure spare parts are easily available.

Ruto says that boda boda mode of transport is mostly used by Kenyans in both rural and urban areas.

He says the sector needs to be supported by all means since it has also created jobs for many Kenyans youths.

However, Kihara also urged motorcyclists to ensure they have all the required documents by the National Transport and Safety Authority and the police to be on the road so as to be on the safe side.

"It is very important for every rider to have a driving license, their motorcycles



A boda boda rider testing an electric motorcycle at Ngara area in Nairobi. Photos/George Mugo



Worth Noting:

- Speaking at an electric motorcycles show organised by Teachers Transporters Foundation located at Ngara area in Nairobi city, Muturi urged Ruto to strategise on how the electric motorcycles can be sold below sh 200,000 so that many of the riders can afford.
- "Many riders would want to buy them owing to their consumption, but the price is so high. The current financial situation in our country has affected us so much, very few customers are opting to travel with motorcycles since they say they do not have money" he said.
- The TTF executive director Peter Kihara says that the electric motorcycles had been introduced in the country at a time when fuel prices have gone up in many countries of the world.

are insured with valid insurance certificates and also have helmets, reflective jackets and gloves" Kihara advised. Kihara also urged the operators to also

partner with NTSA and the traffic police in their regions so as to be holding road safety campaigns after every year in order to refresh themselves about traffic rules.



Teachers Transporters Foundation executive director Peter Kihara addressing transport stakeholders and bodaboda operators in Nairobi.

Relief For Gatundu Family As Saudi Arabia Releases Kin's Body Held For Three Months Amid Calls To Protect Kenyans Working In The Middle East

By: John Kamau
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Family and friends who addressed journalists at KU Funeral Home where the body was taken for preservation ahead of burial on Friday this week said they had lost hope in having the body repatriated.

- They said they had conducted numerous harambees trying to raise the required fees in futility until the government gave them a shoulder to lean on.

- "We've had sleepless nights since my daughter passed on. The Saudi Government had indicated that they'd dispose of her body if we failed to remit the required amount to secure her body's release. We are however grateful that our leaders and especially our MP [Elijah Njoroge Kururia] made swift interventions and helped us get our daughter back," said Grace Wanjeri (the deceased's mother).



A family from Ngorongo village in Gatundu North, Kiambu County

A family from Ngorongo village in Gatundu North, Kiambu County, can now heave a sigh of relief after the body of their kin that was held in Saudi Arabia for three months was released.

The body of Lilian Kanyi was held by authorities in the Middle East country, since her demise in March this year, after her family failed to raise the sh 368,000 that was required for her hospital bills.

Her grieving family had struggled for months to repatriate her body, to give her a befitting send-off, until the Government through President William Ruto intervened and settled the bills as well as facilitated repatriation of her body.

On Tuesday, the harrowing three-month wait for her inconsolable family came to an end as they received a casket bearing Kanyi's remains at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA)

Family and friends who addressed journalists at KU Funeral Home where the body was taken for preservation ahead of burial on Friday this week said they had lost hope in having the body repatriated.

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the required fees in futility until the government gave them a shoulder to lean on.

"We've had sleepless nights since my daughter passed on. The Saudi Government had indicated that they'd dispose of her body if we failed to remit the required amount to secure her body's release. We are however grateful that our leaders and especially our MP [Elijah Njoroge Kururia] made swift interventions and helped us get our daughter back," said Grace Wanjeri (the deceased's mother).

Accompanying the family from JKIA, Gatundu North MP Elijah Njoroge Kururia urged the government to crack down on rogue labour agents after a spate of Kenyan domestic workers deaths in the Gulf. He noted that desperation and high unemployment levels have pushed many young people to take dangerous risks in hopes of better opportunities outside the country.

"We notified the Agent who took Kanyi to Saudi Arabia of her demise but they didn't respond. They never cared. This is a serious matter and it's high time the government cracks the whip on these rogue agents who abandon their clients in times of

need," Kururia said.

He made the statement as human-rights organisations continue to report dozens of similar cases in recent years, citing abuse, unpaid wages and denial of medical care.

Kururia criticized the lack of regulation in the labor export industry and called on the government to tighten oversight on agents recruiting Kenyans for jobs abroad.

He urged the government to come up with better mechanisms of protecting Kenyans who travel away from the country in search of greener pastures emphasizing the risks many face once abroad.

"We appreciate the help that was accorded to us by the Kenyan consulate in Saudi Arabia. However, the government should consider establishing a full-fledged Embassy in that country for the sake of protection among other needs of Kenyans working there," he said.

The MP also called on the government to ensure that Kenyans working abroad get proper medical cover and especially the Social Health Authority (SHA) to facilitate their access to healthcare.

"When a Kenyan working abroad doesn't have health cover, the burden

to facilitate medical care is usually shouldered by their relatives. This is a challenge to our government through the Ministry of Health to ensure that SHA covers all Kenyans working overseas," Kururia said.

Kanyi's death adds to a growing list of similar cases reported over the years involving Kenyan domestic workers in Middle Eastern countries, where many have faced abuse, overwork, withheld wages, and lack of medical care.

"There are numerous cases of Kenyans being subjected to brutality by their employers; many are nursing life-threatening injuries while others, like Kanyi, have lost their lives. The Government must work on ensuring that Kenyans working abroad and especially in the Gulf are protected," said resident Samuel Njenga.

While the Government has made numerous efforts to formalize labor migration through bilateral agreements, critics argue that enforcement and follow-up mechanisms remain weak, leaving many Kenyan workers vulnerable.

Civil Society Alliance Sues Murkomen Over ‘Shoot To Kill’ Directive

By: Phidel Kizito
 @themtkenyatimes

Civil society organizations, including the Katiba Institute, Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), and the Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU), have filed a petition in court against Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen over remarks perceived as inciting police brutality.

In a joint statement issued yesterday, the human rights watchdogs condemned Murkomen’s comments made on June 26 and 27, in which he issued “shoot to kill” instructions to security personnel targeting anyone who approaches a police station or threatens a police officer’s life.

The petitioners argue that the CS’s statements amount to incitement to violence and unlawful acts and fall well below the ethical standards expected of a public officer under the Constitution of Kenya.

They are seeking an immediate and

equally publicized retraction of the remarks and are asking the court to declare Murkomen unfit to hold public office.

“The CS’s comments constitute incitement under Article 33 of the Constitution and unethical conduct under Article 10 and Chapter Six, as he encourages the unlawful use of force in his initial comments and knew — or should have known — that he was citing outdated and unconstitutional legal provisions when trying to justify his remarks,” the statement reads in part.

The civil society groups argue that Murkomen’s statements directly contradict constitutional values and violate Articles 10, 33, and Chapter Six of the Constitution.

They contend that the CS knowingly misrepresented obsolete legal provisions in an attempt to justify unlawful directives.

Murkomen made the controversial remarks during the protests commemorating the one-year anniversary of the June 25 Gen-Z demonstrations,



Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen

where he instructed police to use firearms on anyone approaching police stations — a statement he has since walked back.

His sentiments have continued to

elicit mixed reactions amid a surge in reports of police excesses, including fatal incidents.

The most recent involved a slim mask vendor, Boniface Mwangi, who

was allegedly shot in the head by police and later succumbed to his injuries at Kenyatta National Hospital on Monday.

MoH Announces 10-Day Campaign To Immunize Children Against Typhoid, Measles

By: Agape Glory
 @themtkenyatimes

The Ministry of Health is set to roll out a national immunization campaign targeting Typhoid and Measles-Rubella (MR) from July 5 to July 14.

The campaign will target children aged 9 to 59 months for the MR vaccine, and those aged 9 to 14 months for the Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TCV).

Following the campaign, TCV will be integrated into the country’s routine immunization schedule for children at 9 months of age.

Typhoid and Measles-Rubella, both preventable diseases, have been described as serious threats to the health and lives of children.

In an announcement on Wednesday, MoH said Kenya is experiencing a rise in antimicrobial-resistant typhoid cases, with children under the age of 15 at significant risk — and those under five at the highest risk

of death.

A measles outbreak has also been confirmed in 18 counties, with 2,949 cases and 18 deaths recorded between January 2024 and February 2025.

The ministry further noted that poor uptake of the second dose of the MR vaccine, typically administered at 18 months, has left many children dangerously exposed.

The spread of typhoid, exacerbated by climate change and rapid urbanization, continues to pose a real and growing public health threat. However, the ministry emphasized that vaccination remains a powerful tool in halting the disease.

The campaign reflects the government’s commitment to protecting all children from vaccine-preventable diseases.

The Ministry of Health is now calling on parents, caregivers, and communities to ensure every eligible child is vaccinated, and to help mobilize support to make the campaign a success.



14 POEMS

Lifetime



Our destination is long, our path is long,
Modesty is my veil, loyalty is beautiful
Months and years pass, changing their
meaning,

I will be loyal to you for a lifetime

You are so restrained, so graceful,
Fate has bound us together without a mistake,
You are my melody, my melody, without limits,
without rules,

I will be your faithful partner for a lifetime.

May your house be my pure sanctuary
If you speak, may I have a graceful answer,
May the moment spent without you be my
pain
I will be your loving partner for a lifetime.

Botirova Anakhon Dilmurodovna. Born on November 1, 2005 in Urgench, Khorezm region. In 2023, she successfully graduated from school No. 5 in Urgench. Currently, she is a 2nd-year student of the Faculty of Philology and Arts of Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhon Beruni, Uzbek language department. To date, more than 10 articles have been published in republican and international journals in Uzbek and English. Several of her creative works have been published in various newspapers, magazines and anthologies.

We Need Only Peace, No Need For War



And show the world, a more peace

We need peace, to live in harmony
To grow, to dream, and to survive,
No more war, no more strife,
Just peace, and a world that's alive.

Let's strive for peace, and make it real,
A world where love is the ultimate
No more pain, no more fear,
Just peace, and love, that's all we need

We need only peace, no need for war,
Let's live in harmony, forever
United we stand, with no disparity,
Embracing love, and setting humanity free.

War brings only devastation, destruction and
damages
Bereft orphans, handicapped, poverty,
non growth and homeless
Scarcity of food, clothes, water, shelter

No guns, no bombs, no bloodshed
All we need is just peace and happiness
No more hatred, jealous just love and peace,
Need a world where compassion is there forever

Above all there is no peace of mind
Let us throw away ego and compromise

Enough of gunshots, and bomb blasts
No need to see, the pain and bloodshed
Let's break the violence and fear,
And build a bridge, for a peaceful world

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

In a world of differences, we can unite,
And find common ground, to end the fight,
Let's spread love, kindness, and gentle care,

Heaven Is Under The Feet Of Mothers!!!



No matter how much I talk about you,
The sweet words of the world are not enough.

Heaven is under the feet of mothers,
Respect your mother, appreciate her, Give
them, sweet words, words,
That world, this world, you will not see the pain.

The child who raised her with white milk,
His heart, his soul
Let the mother also give her dear soul!

Laylo Rustamjon Abdugafforova, a 10th grade student of the 2nd general secondary school of the Boyovut district of the Sirdarya region.

Women, dear women,
They give their lives for their children.
They wash their children white, raise them with
their mother's love.

Mother, I am writing this poem,
Even if it is a little, my heart's words,

Homeland



The country's history, a tale of triumph and
sorrow,
A journey of resilience, shaping tomorrow.
From ancient civilizations to modern-day grace,
Each chapter adds color to this vibrant place.

The cities pulse with life, a symphony of sound,
Where dreams are pursued, and opportunities
abound.
Yet in the countryside, time moves at its own
pace,
With fields of gold and open space.

The food is a fusion of flavors so bold,
Reflecting the heritage, centuries old.
Spices that dance on the tongue with delight,
A feast for the senses, morning to night.

The country's soul lies in its people's embrace,
Their warmth and kindness, a comforting grace.
They welcome strangers with open arms,
And share their stories, their joys, and their
charms.

As the sun sets on this land so fair,
And stars twinkle in the evening air,
The country whispers tales of old and new,
A testament to its beauty, tried and true.

So here's to the country, with its boundless
allure,
A place of wonder, so bright and pure.
May it thrive and prosper, forevermore,
A timeless treasure to adore.
Iskandarova Dilnoza
Student of the Uzbek National Institute of
Music Art named after Yunus Rajabi

In the heart of the land, where the rivers flow,
Lies a country, rich with stories to show.
It's a tapestry of cultures, woven with pride,
A place where diversity stands side by side.

From the bustling cities to the tranquil plains,
The country's beauty forever remains.
Mountains reaching high, touching the sky,
And valleys so deep, where rivers run by.

In the north, the snow-capped peaks stand tall,
While in the south, golden beaches enthrall.
The east is adorned with lush greenery,
And in the west, deserts stretch endlessly.

The people here, with their spirit so strong,
Sing songs of freedom, for which they long.
They celebrate traditions, old and new,
And honor the land, in all that they do.

Spend Time With Elders Because Everything Is Not Available In Google



Spend time with elders, and learn from their
ways,

For Google may provide answers, but they
don't share feelings and emotions
We get tips and knowledge from elders
But Google cannot impart what we need
Elders offer wisdom, born from the heart.

Their experience go beyond the screen,
They reveal life's truths, and make the unseen
seen,

A five-minute conversation, can teach us more,
More than hours of searching, on a digital

screen
Google provides answers, based on what's been
typed,
But elders share their stories, with emotions
deep
Their words are rooted, in reality and time,
Guiding us through life's complexities, and
making us shine.

So let's cherish their wisdom, and listen with
love and care,
In their words, we'll find a truth that's so rare,
That's born, from lived experience and age,
That wisdom is priceless, and transforms a
new page.

J.H.Aasiya
Class 10
Govt High school Melpattampakkam Cuddalore
district
Tamil Nadu, India

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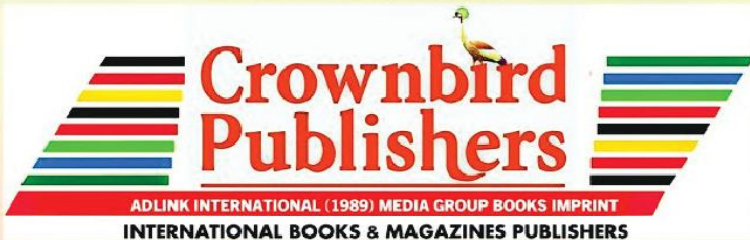
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Cummins C&G Display at the Power & Energy Africa 2025

By: Raphael Ndakala Atanda

[@themtkenyatomes](#)

Cummins Car & General displayed at the Power & Energy Africa 2025 exhibition, that took place from 26th to 28th June 2025 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) in Nairobi.

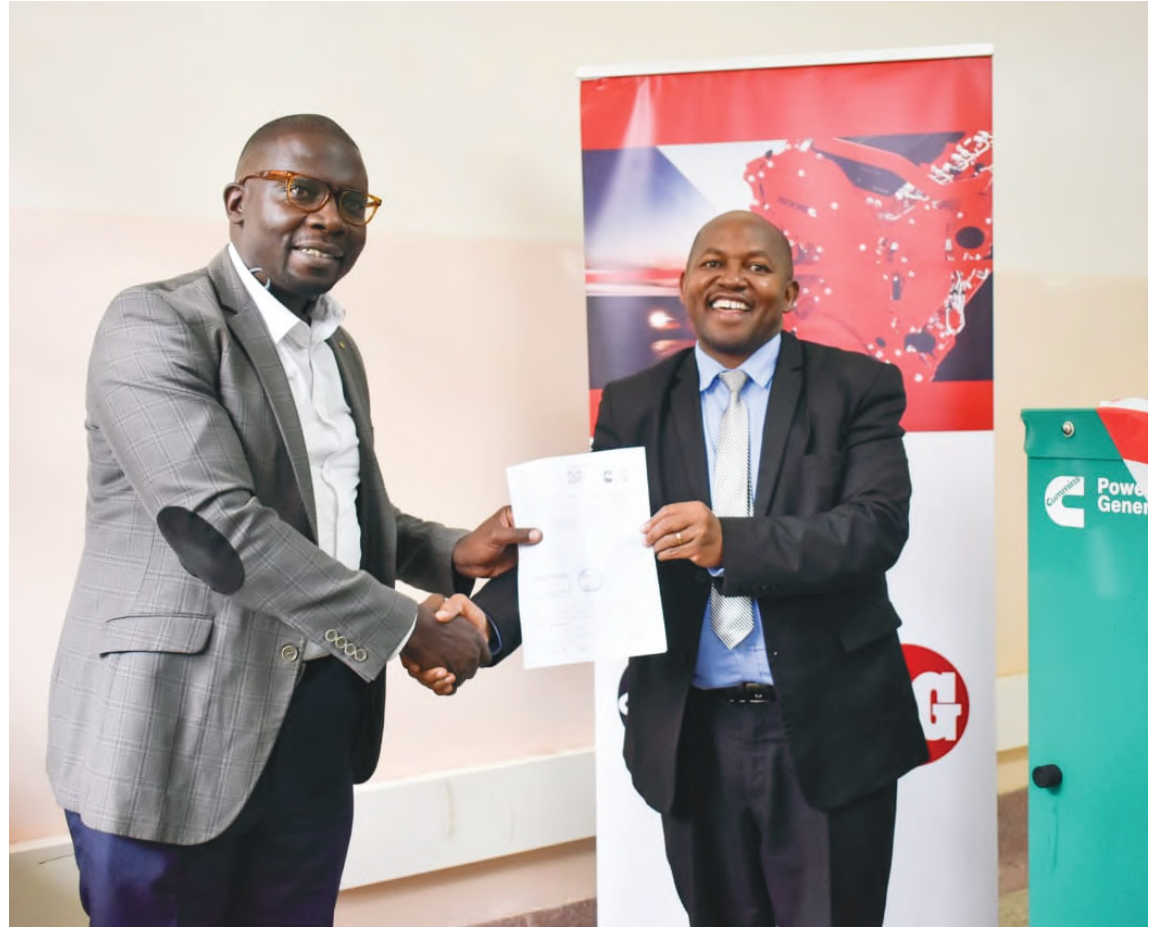
Cummins C&G showcased Cummins generators, known for their efficiency, durability and low emissions to industry players, government agencies and business owners who are attending the event. Cummins C&G representatives engaged with visitors, offering insights on generators specifications, applications and maintenance to help clients make informed choices for their power needs.

By participating in this event, Cummins C&G reinforced its position as a leading provider of reliable and sustainable power generation solutions across East Africa. The exhibition served as a valuable platform

for networking. Knowledge sharing and demonstrating innovation in energy technologies.

The Power & Energy Kenya is the only exhibition dedicated to the power and energy sector in the region. Being the largest power event in the industry the event showcases products and services to the industry's largest gathering of qualified decision-makers, buyers, service provider, importers and distributors.

Cummins C&G used the opportunity to highlight its commitment to supporting businesses and communities by delivering uninterrupted power and enhancing energy access across the region



Cummins C&G, Rotary Club of Nairobi Langata Handover Cummins Generator

By: Raphael Ndakala Atanda

[@themtkenyatomes](#)

Cummins Car & General, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Nairobi Langata handed over a Cummins generator to the Mechatronics class at Langata Technical and Vocational Training Institute. This was a much-needed boost for the institution's practical learning environment.

The generator C28 D5, will support hands-on learning for 44 students currently enrolled in the Mechatronics class. This donation marks a step forward in equipping the institution with resources that align with industry standards, ensuring students receive relevant and high-quality technical education.

During the handover, Mr. Simon Nyagah, Principal of Langata Technical and Vocational Training Institute, expressed his heartfelt gratitude. He noted that the donation would go a long way in enhancing learning outcomes for students, especially during practical lessons.

The donation reflects Cummins C&G's ongoing commitment to supporting education, skills development, and community empowerment, while aligning with the Rotary Club's mission of service and development in local communities.

This collaboration is a testament to the power of partnership between corporate institutions and community organizations in transforming lives and building a better future through education.





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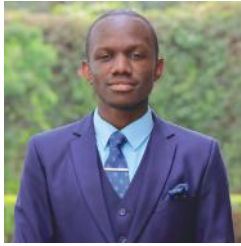
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Can Influencers Be Sued For Misleading Consumers? Lessons From Shaquille O'Neal's FTX Case And Kenya's Legal Landscape



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

In the digital age, social media influencers wield immense power, shaping consumer behavior with a single post. In Kenya, where influencer marketing has surged, with brands leveraging platforms like Instagram and TikTok to reach millions, this influence comes with significant responsibility. However, when influencers promote fake or misleading products, the consequences can be severe, both for consumers and the influencers themselves. A recent high-profile case involving NBA legend Shaquille O'Neal, who agreed to pay \$1.8 million to settle a class-action lawsuit related to the collapsed cryptocurrency exchange FTX, highlights the legal risks influencers face. This article explores whether influencers can be sued for misleading consumers in Kenya, drawing parallels with O'Neal's case and grounding the discussion in Kenya's legal framework, supported by data and evidence.

Shaquille O'Neal's legal troubles stem from his role in promoting FTX, a cryptocurrency exchange that collapsed in 2022, resulting in \$8 billion in customer losses. O'Neal, along with celebrities like Tom Brady and Stephen Curry, was accused of misleading investors by touting FTX as a safe and trustworthy platform through paid endorsements. The class-action lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, alleged that O'Neal's promotions, including social media posts and appearances at events like Shaq's Fun House, influenced consumers to invest in what was later deemed a fraudulent scheme. The settlement, finalized in April 2025, required O'Neal to pay \$1.8 million to cover legal fees and investor payouts, without admitting wrongdoing. This case underscores the liability influencers face when their endorsements lead to consumer harm.

In Kenya, influencer marketing is a booming industry, with the digital advertising market projected to reach \$500 million by 2025, driven largely by social media platforms. Influencers, ranging from micro-creators to celebrities, promote everything from fashion to health products. However, the lack of stringent regulation has led to instances of misleading promotions. For example, a 2023 case reported by The Star highlighted an influencer who falsely claimed her online shop was closing, manipulating followers into making purchases. Such actions raise questions about accountability, as consumers often rely on influencers' perceived credibility. The O'Neal case serves as a caution-



ary tale, illustrating how endorsements without due diligence can lead to legal repercussions when products fail to deliver promised value.

Kenya's legal framework provides a basis for holding influencers accountable. Article 46 of the Constitution of Kenya guarantees consumer rights, including protection against unfair, misleading, or deceptive advertising. The Consumer Protection Act of 2012 further mandates that advertisements must be truthful and not mislead consumers about a product's quality or benefits. Violators can face fines, imprisonment, or civil lawsuits. In the context of influencer marketing, this means influencers must disclose paid partnerships clearly, as outlined by the Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK), which aligns with global standards like the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) Endorsement Guides. Failure to comply can result in lawsuits, especially if consumers suffer financial or other harm.

The O'Neal case parallels potential scenarios in Kenya, where influencers could face class-action lawsuits for promoting fraudulent or substandard products. For instance, if an influencer promotes a health supplement claiming unverified benefits, such as curing chronic illnesses, and consumers suffer harm or financial loss, they could sue for damages under the Consumer Protection Act. Data from the CAK shows that consumer complaints about misleading advertisements rose by 30% between 2020 and 2024, with social media promotions increasingly cited. While no major influencer lawsuits have yet mirrored O'Neal's in Kenya, the growing scrutiny of digital marketing suggests that such cases are imminent as consumer

awareness and regulatory oversight increase.

Globally, the trend of suing influencers for misleading promotions is gaining traction. In the U.S., recent class-action lawsuits against brands like Shein and Revolve, alongside their influencers, allege violations of consumer protection laws for undisclosed paid endorsements. In Kenya, similar issues arise when influencers fail to use clear disclosures like "#ad" or "paid partnership." A 2024 study by the Kenya Institute of Mass Communication found that 60% of surveyed consumers felt misled by influencer promotions lacking transparency. This underscores the need for influencers to adhere to disclosure rules to avoid legal risks, as seen in O'Neal's case, where his failure to clarify the risks of FTX investments contributed to the lawsuit.

However, holding influencers accountable in Kenya faces challenges. Unlike the U.S., where class-action lawsuits are common, Kenya's legal system is less developed in this area, with fewer precedents for collective consumer lawsuits. Additionally, proving that an influencer's endorsement directly caused consumer harm can be complex, requiring evidence of intent or negligence. In O'Neal's case, plaintiffs argued that his high-profile status amplified the impact of his endorsements, a factor that could apply to Kenyan influencers with large followings. To address this, the CAK has called for stricter guidelines, and proposed amendments to the Consumer Protection Act aim to explicitly include influencer marketing under its purview.

To mitigate legal risks, influencers and brands in Kenya must prioritize

transparency and due diligence. The FTC's guidelines, which Kenya's CAK has referenced, require clear and conspicuous disclosures of material connections, such as payments or free products. Influencers should also verify the legitimacy of products they endorse, as O'Neal's lack of understanding about FTX's operations did not absolve him of liability. Training programs, like those recommended by global marketing platforms, can help influencers navigate legal requirements. Brands, too, must implement monitoring programs to ensure compliance, as seen in the Revolve lawsuit, where the company was accused of instructing influencers to obscure paid relationships.

In conclusion, influencers in Kenya can indeed be sued for misleading consumers into buying fake or misleading products, as demonstrated by the Shaquille O'Neal FTX case and supported by Kenya's legal framework. As influencer marketing grows, so does the potential for legal accountability. Consumers, empowered by Article 46 and the Consumer Protection Act, have the right to seek redress for deceptive practices. With rising consumer complaints and evolving regulations, influencers must act responsibly, ensuring transparency and authenticity in their endorsements. The O'Neal settlement serves as a global warning: influence comes with accountability, and in Kenya, the legal net is tightening around misleading promotions.

The writer is a legal researcher and lawyer

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Architect Of Thought And Generations: This Man Professor Peter Kagwanja

By **Gitaū Wa Kūng'ū**

I met him not in a lecture hall nor at a scholarly symposium, but on the red soil of Maragua, beneath campaign tents and the thrum of the 2022 Jubilee Party and Azimio la Umoja anthems. Professor Peter Kagwanja was then a candidate—vying for Muranga senatorial seat, though the party would eventually favor another.

But what I saw was not a politician, but a lighthouse. I walked up to him and introduced myself—not with fanfare, but with purpose. I told him I followed his Sunday columns religiously, that I aspired to become a custodian of Agikūyū history and a policy strategist in his mold. I told him he could count on me for his social media campaigns.

He gave me his contact. Months later, he gave me something far greater: mentorship, intellectual kinship, and access to worlds I had only imagined. He brought me in as his research assistant in December 2022, and beyond his words, he invested in my future—now sponsoring my education, nurturing not just a student but a successor.

Prof is a man who does not walk paths. He carves them. In him, I found not just an intellectual mentor, but a griot of statecraft, a seer fluent in the

grammar of both constitution and culture. His scholarship stretches like the ridges of Murang'a: deeply rooted and unapologetically layered.

One of the sharpest living Geopolitics geniuses in Africa, Prof not only served in the South African Think tank but also became a pioneering strategist in the development of the African Union today. He also served as Government Security Advisor during HE Mwai Kibaki's government, and immensely contributed to the development of the famous Kibaki government's security policy that saw the return of peace and sobriety in Nairobi and Mt. Kenya Region by crushing the infamous Mūngikī sect.

In the classroom, he cultivates more than pupils; he plants promise. At Moi, Kenyatta, Illinois, Rhodes universities—his mind has moved across continents, yet his gaze remains anchored in African futures.

Founding the Africa Policy Institute was not an institutional act, but a generational call: that we must theorize from home, not from borrowed rooftops.

The quiet architect behind Kenya's 2010 Constitution is also an astute diplomat with ink-stained fingers, scripting Kenya's first foreign policy blue-

print. The advisor who stood behind President Kibaki and before the African Union, continued to shape Uhuru Kenyatta's governance policies and always threads truth with patriotism.

But perhaps what defines Professor Kagwanja most is his courage to confront the shadows that others feared to name. In the early 2000s, when the Mūngikī sect had morphed from cultural revivalism into a violent underworld, it was Prof. Kagwanja who stepped forward, not with brute force, but with policy. His research dissected the ideological roots of the movement, tracing its evolution from spiritual dissent to urban militancy. And then, through statecraft and strategic reform, he helped craft the counter-terrorism framework that dismantled its grip on our youth and our streets.

This was not just security policy. It was cultural surgery. He understood that to defeat terror, one must also restore dignity.

To walk beside this man is to be constantly summoned to your highest self. Not only did he mentor me into research, but he insisted I dream larger. That my curiosity for Agikūyū history was not niche, but noble. That my hunger for policy reform was not youthful vanity, but ancestral assignment.



Africa Policy Institute CEO Prof Kagwanja (Sitting 4th from left) hosts Ambassador Xue Bing, China's Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa during the 3rd Annual Seminar on the Peace-Development Nexus in the Horn Africa on June 19, 2025.

Today, he seeks to serve Murang'a as Senator from 2027. And I, one of many whose lives he has shaped, do not walk alone. I am part of a quiet group of Prof's mentees—like Justus Thuthi, John Wanyoike alias Sokomoko amongst other youths—each learning from the professor's wisdom and shaping our respective spheres. We are not replicas, but reflections; not shadows, but echoes evolving.

(The author is an upcoming Pan-African thinker. The founder of Honia-Heal Afrika Initiative (HAI) and Regional Research and Policy Officer for Commonwealth Youth Council-CYC writes at the intersection of indigenous knowledge and modern renewal).

Redrawing The Lines Of Dissent: Esther Passaris' Bill Seeks To Cordon Off Critical Public Spaces

By: **Sheilah Ombongi**

In a move poised to significantly reshape the landscape of public demonstrations in Kenya, Nairobi Woman Representative Esther Passaris has sponsored a controversial Bill seeking to ban public gatherings within a 100-meter radius of Parliament, courtrooms, and all areas defined as "Protected Areas" under the Protected Areas Act. The Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 2025, currently before the National Assembly Committee on National Administration and Internal Security, has ignited fervent debate, with proponents arguing for the protection of national institutions and critics raising concerns about the curtailment of constitutional rights.

The proposed legislation, coming on the heels of recent nationwide protests that witnessed instances of chaos, destruction, and alleged infiltration by criminal elements, aims to revise the existing Public Order Act (Cap. 56). Passaris contends that the Bill is a direct response to such incidents, emphasizing the need to safeguard the "pillars of our democracy"

and ensure that the constitutional right to peaceful assembly is exercised with caution and responsibility.

Under the Bill's provisions, any individual found violating the 100-meter protest boundary would face a hefty fine of up to KSh 100,000, imprisonment for up to three months, or both. The Bill also seeks to grant the Cabinet Secretary for Interior the power to designate specific "assembly and demonstration zones" in consultation with county governments, effectively steering public gatherings away from sensitive sites and central government buildings. Furthermore, it mandates that gatherings take place only between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. and requires organizers to submit detailed advance notice including names, addresses, venue, and expected duration.

The Protected Areas Act (Cap 204) already allows the Cabinet Secretary of Interior to declare an area, place, or premises as "protected" if it is deemed necessary or expedient in the interests of public safety and public order to prevent the entry of unauthorized persons. This broad defini-

tion, coupled with Passaris' proposed 100-meter buffer, could significantly expand the zones where protests are prohibited. Protected areas under the existing Act can include government installations, security facilities, and other critical infrastructure.

While acknowledging the constitutional guarantee of the right to peaceful assembly and demonstration (Article 37), Passaris maintains that "order is not the enemy of democracy, but its foundation." She stressed that her intention is not to infringe on freedom of expression but to ensure demonstrations are conducted in an orderly manner and to protect the sanctity of institutions that hold the nation together.

The Bill has garnered support from some Members of Parliament, who view it as a timely and necessary measure to protect national institutions from civil disorder. However, civil society organizations and human rights advocates are watching closely, expressing concerns that the proposed amendments could be used to stifle legitimate dissent and limit the space for public expression, especial-



ly for spontaneous demonstrations. Critics argue that confining protests to designated zones, potentially in remote areas, could undermine the very essence of demonstrating for public attention and accountability.

As the Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 2025, progresses through the National Assembly, it is clear that it will continue to be a focal point of

discussion, balancing the imperative of public order and the fundamental right to peaceful assembly in Kenya's evolving democratic landscape. The outcome of this legislative push will undoubtedly have far-reaching implications for the future of civic engagement and protest in the country.

Dalai Lama Announces Clear Succession Plan

By: BBC

@themtkenyatimes

The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, says he will have a successor after his death, putting to rest all speculation over whether the 600-year-old institution will end with him.

"I am affirming that the institution will continue," he said in a video message at the start of a meeting of religious leaders in the Himalayan town of Dharamshala.

He added that members of the Dalai Lama's office would consult heads of Tibetan Buddhist traditions and other religious leaders to search and recognise a successor in accordance with past tradition.

In a message that is being seen as directed at China, he reiterated that "no-one else has any such authority to interfere in this matter".

The Dalai Lama fled across the border to India in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet. He set up a government-in-exile in Dharamshala and has been seen as an alternative source of power for those who resent Beijing's tight control of Tibet.

The announcement comes at a time when the Dalai Lama is celebrating a milestone 90th birthday on Sunday. Celebrations began on Monday – the Dalai Lama's birthday according to the Tibetan lunar calendar.

Celebrations will be attended by more than 7,000 guests, including a number of Indian ministers. Hollywood actor Richard Gere, a long-time follower, is also in attendance.

In the past, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhism has been torn between whether to continue with the 600-year-old institution or not. A few years ago, he said his successor might be a girl, or that there might be no successor at all.

But in recent years, he has also said that if there is widespread support among Tibetans-in-exile for the post – which there is – then it would continue and his office would choose a successor.

He has always insisted that his successor would be born outside China, something that has angered Beijing.

Even though the Dalai Lama has always advocated a "middle way" to resolve the status of Tibet – genuine self-rule within China – Beijing regards him as a separatist. It says the standard of living of people in Tibet has greatly improved under its rule.

How China's boarding schools are silencing Tibet's language

Youdon Aukatsang, an MP in the



The Dalai Lama. /BBC.

Worth Noting:

- The Dalai Lama fled across the border to India in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet. He set up a government-in-exile in Dharamshala and has been seen as an alternative source of power for those who resent Beijing's tight control of Tibet.
- The announcement comes at a time when the Dalai Lama is celebrating a milestone 90th birthday on Sunday. Celebrations began on Monday – the Dalai Lama's birthday according to the Tibetan lunar calendar.
- Celebrations will be attended by more than 7,000 guests, including a number of Indian ministers. Hollywood actor Richard Gere, a long-time follower, is also in attendance.

Tibetan parliament-in-exile, said the present Dalai Lama was a "binding and unifying force for the Tibetan movement" and some Tibetans feel somebody should be recognised soon as his successor because they worry that there may be an impact on the community and the movement going forward.

"The Dalai Lama institution is very important for the Tibetan struggle. It's also a symbol of Tibetan identity and a beacon of our spiritual refuge. That will continue. I think there will be a vacuum, but we have to continue, we don't have a choice," she said.

"We have very, very big shoes to fill but we have to fill them, right? I think many people will have to get into that role, one person will not be enough."

Experts, however, say China is also expected to name its own Dalai Lama.

"China will argue that only the Communist Party of China based in Beijing has the authority to find the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama," Dibyesh Anand, professor of International Relations at the University of Westminster, told the BBC.

"After a period of a few months or a few years, they will have their own proteges identify a small boy as the next Dalai Lama and impose that. Of course, a majority of Tibetans are going to reject it and the majority of people in the world are going to make fun of it. But remember China has immense authority in terms of resources so they will try to impose that."

Ms Aukatsang says that "despite all these years of trying to control the hearts and minds of Tibetan people

inside Tibet", Beijing has "completely failed".

A Dalai Lama chosen by China, she says, "will not be recognised, not only by the Tibetans but the world will not recognise it because China doesn't have the legitimacy to find the future Dalai Lama".

"We are concerned but we know that irrespective of our concern, China will come up with their own Dalai Lama, we will call it the Chinese-recognised Dalai Lama. I am not worried that Dalai Lama will have any credibility in the Tibetan world or the Buddhist world."

Tibetan Buddhists believe that their senior monks are reincarnated and a Dalai Lama is chosen by Buddhist officials if they are convinced that the one they are choosing harbours the soul of his predecessor.

The present – 14th – Dalai Lama was born on 6 July 1935 in a small Tibetan village in a farmer family and was named Lhamo Dhondub. When he was two years old, a search party of Buddhist officials recognised him as the reincarnation of the 13 previous Dalai Lamas.

According to his official biography, the clinching evidence came when the officials showed him a number of possessions that had belonged to his predecessor. The toddler correctly identified items belonging to the 13th Dalai Lama saying, "It's mine. It's mine".

Enthroned before he turned four, he was educated at a Tibetan monastery and has a doctorate of Buddhist philosophy.

But in 1950, when he was 15, the troops of Mao Zedong's newly-installed Communist government marched into Tibet. A year later,

China drew up a 17-point agreement legitimising Tibet's incorporation into China.

A Tibetan revolt in 1959, seeking an end to Chinese rule, was crushed and thousands of protesters were killed.

The Dalai Lama fled to India on foot along with 10,000 followers and settled in Dharamshala, running a government-in-exile from there. In 2011, he gave up his political role but remains Tibetan Buddhism's top spiritual leader.

Some of those who fled alongside him still dream of going home to Tibet.

"My faith is that I will return to Tibet. If not me, my younger generations will definitely return," said Lobsang Choedon, 84, who attended Monday's celebrations.

Choedon's daughter and grandchildren were all born – and have spent their entire lives – in India. Nevertheless, her 15-year-old grandson Ngawang Lhundup feels deeply connected to his ancestral homeland.

He has been listening to stories about Tibet since he was a child and says he would consider visiting Tibet even though it's under Chinese rule.

"But if it was free from the Chinese invasion, I would be more than delighted to go back to Tibet."

AU Helicopter Crash Kills Three In Somalia

By: AFP
 @themkenyatimes

An African Union helicopter crashed yesterday at the airport in the Somali capital Mogadishu, killing at least three people and injuring several civilians when munitions onboard detonated, officials and witnesses told AFP.

The aircraft was part of the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM), tasked with fighting the Al-Shabaab militant group.

The helicopter, operated by the Ugandan contingent, “crash-landed” at around 7:30 am (0430 GMT) at Mogadishu’s Aden Abdulle International Airport after departing from Baledogle military airbase, AUSSOM said.

“There were several people recovered from the scene of the crash, three of them were already dead, and

they were carried in stretchers,” police officer Abdi Ali told AFP.

The helicopter was conducting a routine combat escort mission, according to the Ugandan military.

“The impact triggered a detonation of onboard munitions, causing significant damage to nearby structures and injuring three civilians,” it said in a statement.

It said the pilot, co-pilot, and flight engineer survived the crash, “but sustained serious injuries and severe burns”.

They and the three civilians were taken to hospital for treatment, the statement said.

Witness Mohamed Yare, who was in the airport at the time, told AFP that some of those onboard had died “but I could not say how many”.

“There were ambulances and fire-fighting trucks rushing to the scene, and there was smoke and fire,” he said.

Somalia’s civil aviation authorities told reporters investigations were on-



going into the cause of the crash.

Ahmed Moalim Hassan, director-general of the Somali Civil Aviation Authority, said the airport remained operational despite debris on the runway.

Unverified clips and images shared online showed a plume of black smoke over the city.

The US embassy in Mogadishu expressed its “deepest condolences to the families of the brave warriors” in

a post on X.

The AUSSOM mission faces funding difficulties, even as fears of an Al-Shabaab resurgence are stoked by attacks in the Horn of Africa nation.

Family In Kirinyaga Seeks Justice For 28-Year-Old Killed During Gen Z Protests In Nairobi

By: Johnson Muriithi
 @themkenyatimes

A family in Kagumo, Kirinyaga Central Sub-county, Kirinyaga County is mourning the tragic death of 28-year-old Brian Maina, who was killed during protests in Nairobi on Wednesday, June 25, 2025.

According to family members led by his grandfather, Joseph Waweru Kinyua, Brian was allegedly clobbered by a police officer during the demonstrations. He was rushed to hospital by his friends around 3 p.m. but sadly succumbed to his injuries at approximately 8 p.m. while receiving treatment.

Mr. Waweru, who had been living with his grandson in Umoja One, Nairobi, said Brian had been helping him manage his properties after completing his Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE).

“He was not just my grandson—he was my personal assistant and took care of my properties. He was married and had two children. Why did the police officer have to hit him?” he lamented during an interview at their

home in Kagumo.

Brian’s mother, Peninah Wairimu, said she received the heartbreaking news while she was caught up in demonstrations in Kutus Town.

“I couldn’t believe it when my brother called to inform me that my son was no more,” she said tearfully. “He was my firstborn. Now I am left with only two children. I want justice for my son.”

The family plans to bury Brian on Friday.

Brian was among thousands of youths across the country who joined demonstrations marking the anniversary of last year’s protests, during which more than 60 lives were lost in various towns and cities.

His aunts and uncles, led by Nancy Wanjiku and Richard Waithaka, said Brian had every right to join the peaceful protests and called on the Inspector General of Police, Douglas Kanja, to ensure the officer responsible for his death is held accountable.

“This was a peaceful protest. Brian did not deserve to die,” they said, urging swift action and justice for their loved one.



28-year-old Brian Maina..

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Sports >> *Gor Mahia have sacked its entire technical bench, including head coach Zedekiah 'Zico' Otieno, after a trophyless season.

Gor Mahia Sack Entire Technical Bench After Trophyless Season



Immediate former Gor Mahia coach Zedekiah 'Zico' Otieno watches on during the FKF Cup final against Nairobi United. PHOTO/RAYMOND MAKHAYA

Gor Mahia have sacked its entire technical bench, including head coach Zedekiah 'Zico' Otieno, after a trophyless season. In a statement, club chair Amrose Rachier said the decision is part of a restructuring process as they seek to recover from a disappointing season in which they failed to win silverware since 2016.

"This decision follows a comprehensive internal review and is part of the club's broader restructuring process aimed at strengthening its technical and operational capacity in preparation for the 2025/26 season," Rachier said. The decision to disband the technical bench was always expected in light of the tumultuous season endured by K'Ogalo.

The 21-time Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Premier League champions began with Brazilian Leo Neiva at the helm

but was fired in November last year — four months after he arrived at the club.

In came Otieno in an interim capacity, holding the fort until the arrival of Croatian Sinisa Mihic in February this year.

The 48-year-old's reign was a turbulent one, characterised by friction between him and the two assistants — Otieno and Michael Nam.

At one time, the Croatian reportedly banished the duo from the training sessions, claiming they were sabotaging him.

It took the intervention of Rachier to calm the nerves among the trio but the tensions were always simmering just below the surface.

Mihic was later shown the door on May 19, following a poor run of results that saw K'Ogalo lose 2-1 to Nairobi City Stars before a drab 0-0 draw with Murang'a

Seal — where the fans poured their wrath upon him.

Otieno has been in charge of the team since then, leading them to a second-place finish in the league after garnering 59 points — six less than eventual champions Kenya Police.

The Green Army also suffered a 2-1 loss to Nairobi United in the FKF Cup final at the Ulinzi Sports Complex on Sunday.

It proved to be the final straw that broke the camel's back, Gor fans baying for the head coach's blood at full time.

Regardless of the drama, Rachier said that the decision to part ways has been reached amicably. He added that the management will build a solid foundation to enable them bounce back in emphatic fashion next season.

"As we begin a new chapter, Gor Mahia FC remains committed to building a solid foundation that

will support competitive excellence both on and off the pitch. Further announcements regarding the new technical bench set-up will be made in due course," the club supremo said.

Other than the technical bench, the club has also fired all of its stewards as they seek to professionalise the department.

This comes after the club complained of the huge revenue loss at the second leg of the Mashemeji Derby on June 2 at the Raila Odinga Stadium in Homa Bay.

According to vice chair Sally Bolo, the club collected just over Ksh 2 million compared to the over Ksh 7 million garnered by AFC Leopards in the first leg of the derby between the two teams at the Nyayo Stadium.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Athletics Kenya (AK) president Jack Tuwei says the ultimate aim is to grow the Nairobi City Marathon into a World Marathon Majors race.

Nairobi City Marathon Billed For Big Leagues Of World Majors



Athletics Kenya (AK) president Jack Tuwei and other officials pose with the official T-shirt for the Nairobi City Marathon. PHOTO/NAIROBI CITY MARATHON

Athletics Kenya (AK) president Jack Tuwei says the ultimate aim is to grow the Nairobi City Marathon into a World Marathon Majors race.

Tuwei said the annual event has grown immensely and will soon become a reference point on how to organise a world class marathon in Africa.

“Let’s make Nairobi a reference point...We want this marathon to match the best in the world—not just in competition, but in how we organize, how we welcome the world, and how we showcase our city,” Tuwei said.

The World Marathon Majors are the most elite of road races around the globe in terms of prize money, organisation and publicity, among other aspects.

They include London, Tokyo, Boston, Chicago, Berlin, New York and Sydney.

On the other hand, the Nairobi City Marathon in its fourth year of existence, having been first held in May 2022 as a means of showcasing the sights and sounds of the

capital atop the Expressway. Tuwei believes the huge strides made by the road race will soon put it in the big leagues with the other seven major competitions.

“The love and passion of Kenyans in running is not new to us. For the first time, we have 75 nationalities joining us for this event. Nairobi is becoming more and more attractive to runners from across the world,” he said.

This year’s edition will start and finish at Uhuru Park and will feature four race categories: the 42km, 21km, 10km, and a 4km fun run.

Organisers have announced a prize pool of Ksh 24 million for top performers.

Winners of the men’s and women’s marathon will each take home Ksh. 3.5 million, with second and third place earning Ksh. 2.25 million and Ksh. 1.5 million respectively.

On the other hand, the half marathon and 10km race champions will pocket Ksh. 150,000 and Ksh. 100,000, respectively.

The majority of the competition will be run on the Nairobi Expressway, which offers a fast and flat course.

It will include eight water stations spaced at approximately five-kilometre intervals to support athlete hydration.

Speaking at the same time, race director Kennedy Tanui said 15,000 participants have so far registered, with the number expected to rise to 16,000 by Thursday.

“This event has grown in leaps... the number has grown steadily. Already, we have sold out 15,000 tickets this year, up from 13,000 last year. We are hoping to reach 16,000 by the end of tomorrow. There are still 500 slots left for the 4km fun run. Otherwise, all the other categories are sold out,” Tanui said.

Some of the elite athletes who have confirmed participation include American-based Edward Cheserek, two-time Paris Marathon champion Paul Lonyangata and Leah Jeruto, among others.

Thousands being expected, the National Police Service (NPS) has given a detailed traffic advisory to ensure public safety and smooth race operations.

The Nairobi Expressway, from James Gichuru to JKIA, will be closed in both directions from Saturday 10PM to Sunday 3PM.

The inner lanes of Waiyaki Way will be inaccessible from Sunday midnight to 10 a.m as will be Mombasa Road crossings and Likoni Road from midnight to 11a.m.

Caroline Jerop from NPS advised road users to make their travel plans early in line with the arrangements.

“We urge the public to plan their movements early, as key roads including the Expressway and Mombasa Road will remain closed for safety and smooth flow of the marathon,” she said.

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Acceptance Speech: Mulher Forte African Authors Award



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana
Correspondence

To the guest of honour,
Invited guests
Dr Paula Otukile
Distinguished Members of the
Organizing Committee,
Esteemed Fellow Authors, Pub-
lishers, Literary Lovers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Standing here today, at the age of eighty four, receiving the prestigious Mulher Forte African Authors Award, is a moment that deeply humbles me and fills my heart with overwhelming gratitude. This honour resonates far beyond my weathered hands; it is a beacon of light shining on the rich tapestry of Zambian literature and storytelling. I accept it, therefore, not merely for myself, but with immense pride and humility, on behalf of Zambian storytellers – past, present, and those yet to emerge.

The journey of words, for me, has spanned decades. It began beneath the shade of trees in my village, listening to tales spun by elders, tales that carried the wisdom, the joys, the struggles, and the very soul of our people. To see that journey culminate here, on this platform, recognised by such a distinguished continental award, is truly a gift I could scarcely have imagined in my younger years.

This moment is made richer by the grace and hospitality we find ourselves embraced in the Tswana community. Therefore, my deepest gratitude flows first and foremost towards our generous hosts:

The guest of honour, Sir, your presence here today elevates this occa-

sion beyond measure. It signifies the importance Botswana places on the arts, on our shared African heritage, and on the power of the written word to unite and inspire. Thank you for honouring us, and Zambian literature, with your recognition. Your support is a powerful affirmation.

Dr Paula: Your commitment to fostering culture and literary excellence within Botswana and across our region is deeply appreciated. Your presence lends significant weight to this celebration of African voices. Thank you for championing the spaces where stories like ours can flourish.

The Dedicated Organizing Committee: To the brilliant minds and tireless hands behind the Mulher Forte Award – *Ke a leboga!* Your vision, planning, and dedication have created this magnificent platform. You have not only identified excellence but have woven an event that truly celebrates it. You have made us feel welcomed and valued. This award shines brightly because of your efforts.

This award, bearing the name “Mulher Forte,” speaks of strength and beauty – qualities inherent in the African narrative. It reminds us that our stories, born from diverse soils like the banks of the Zambezi or the expanse of the Kalahari, are not isolated streams, but tributaries feeding a mighty continental river of expression. Zambian stories – our myths, our histories, our contemporary struggles and triumphs – are integral threads in this vast, beautiful tapestry.

For decades, I have tried to capture a sliver of our Zambian experience – the resilience of our people, the whispers of our ancestors carried on the wind, the bright colours of our traditions, and the complex realities of our changing world. To have this endeavour recognised by such a prestigious pan-African body tells me that our specific Zambian voice echos within the wider African chorus. That is a gift beyond measure.



Dr Otukile in discussion with Author and legendary 5th Mulher Forte African Literature Awards winner Harry Nkuka Chibesakunda

Receiving this as an octogenarian adds a unique layer of reflection. I see the young writers in this room, the fire in their eyes, the keyboards and notebooks poised to capture new realities. This award is not just a crown for past efforts; it is a torch. I accept it with the hope that it brightens the path for future generations of Zambian writers. May it encourage them to dig deep into our heritage, to observe keenly our present, and to dream boldly for our future. Your stories are vital. Tell them with courage, tell them with truth, tell them with beauty.

The Mulher Forte Award is more

than an accolade; it is an affirmation that the stories nurtured in the heart of Zambia matter. That our perspectives enrich the grand narrative of Africa. That the written word, crafted with passion and integrity, retains its enduring power to move, to challenge, and to connect.

So, to Botswana, our gracious host nation – Re a leboga.

To the Mulher Forte Foundation and its visionary committee – twa-totela.

To the spirit of Zambian storytelling – Tiyende pamodzi

And to the enduring power of African literature – May it continue to

flourish and light our way forward. Paula! Thank you!

To my family; My wife of 53 years, Felistus, our children; Chabala and Victor, Nkuka and Holy, Chibesa and Kafula, Lombe and Cresta, Chiwala and Gorge, our last born Mulamba - thank you.

To my beautiful grandchildren – I love you.

And to my beloved Zambia – Aluta continua! The story continues!

Thank you, from the depths of my grateful, Zambian heart.