



**Finance Committee Engages National Treasury, Capital Markets Authority On Two Crucial Bills**  
The Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning today engaged the Ministry of the National Treasury and Economic Planning regarding two crucial Bills. These pieces of legislation are geared toward injecting governance reforms in State Corporations and facilitating the liberalization of financial services.

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**News>> Kindiki Chairs Various Gov't Strategic Meetings**


P. 8. Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki yesterday hosted various leaders for a series of strategic meetings at his Karen office.



**News>> Education Committee Inspects KICD Head Office, Calls For Equitable Supply Of Books**

P. 12. Members of the National Assembly Committee on Education have raised concerns over inconsistencies in the distribution of textbooks and learning materials across public schools during an inspection visit to the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD).

# Audit Bombshell: Sh7.7bn Shortfall Exposes SRC Flaws

 A new audit has revealed that the government still owes university staff Sh7.8 billion from the implementation of the 2017–2021 Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs) contradicting the Salaries and Remuneration Commission's (SRC) position that only Sh624 million remained unpaid. An assessment by a technical verification committee of the Joint Negotiations Committee (JNC) with membership from public universities and unions, found that the SRC's methodology was flawed.



The University of Nairobi

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# President Ruto Leads Military In Marking 2025 Kenya Defence Forces Day

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes

## Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto yesterday led the country's Military formation in marking this year's Kenya Defence Forces day.

The President who is the Commander In Chief of the Defence Forces emerged for the fete in style: donning Military fatigue for the first time since he took the position in 2022.

"Today, we honour our gallant men and women in uniform whose enduring courage and steadfast devotion to duty have safeguarded our sovereignty," he said, adding, "We recognise the immense sacrifices made by our brave soldiers, both present and past, often operating in punishing terrains far away from home to uphold the security and stability of our great nation."

The Head of State observed that the country's soldiers, "are the shield and sword of our Republic; they carry the hopes of generations, the pride of our people, and the dignity of our flag."

He called upon Kenyans to stand firmly behind the Kenya Defence Forces by according them the respect and gratitude they so richly deserve.

"As President and Commander-in-Chief, I am not only proud of what they have achieved defending our borders, but also celebrate them as exemplary agents of national unity and development."

The colourful event took place at Moi Barracks Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Kenya is deepening collaboration with Germany to advance Universal Health Coverage through technology transfer, skills development, and stronger health systems. On the sidelines of the World Health Summit 2025 in Berlin, we visited the Kenya Embassy and held discussions with Deputy Head of Mission Amb. Kipkosgei Toroitich and his team. Our discussions focused on expanding partnerships in digital health, climate-resilient infrastructure, and labour mobility for Kenyan health professionals. We reaffirmed our commitment to continued engagement with partners to strengthen health delivery and ensure accessible, quality care for all.



Wiper Patriotic Front party leader Kalonzo Musyoka is set to leave the country today for a 10-day visit to the United Kingdom. During this visit he is expected to engage with high-profile institutions, policymakers, and members of the Kenyan diaspora in a series of events. He is expected to deliver a keynote address at the London Political Summit and Awards that will be held at the UK Parliament, Westminster. He will also speak at Chatham House, The Royal Institute of International Affairs, and hold a consultative meeting with the Commonwealth Secretariat. In addition, Kalonzo will deliver a special lecture at Oxford University, one of the world's foremost academic institutions and engage in a Townhall meeting with the Kenyan diaspora under the theme "The Kenya We Want."



Principal Secretary for Irrigation Ephantus Kimotho yesterday chaired a high-level meeting with technical Heads of Departments and a team from the National Irrigation Authority (NIA) led by Chief Executive Officer Charles Muasya to review progress on the government's ambitious plan to construct 50 strategic dams across the country. The session focused on strategies to fast-track the ongoing and planned dam projects which are expected to facilitate irrigation on over two million acres, a major milestone in advancing Kenya's food security agenda. Among the priority projects reviewed were Galana Dam, Thuci Dam, Radat Dam, Lowaat Dam, Thwake Dam, and Daua Dam, among others. The PS underscored that the initiative directly aligns with President Ruto's directive to accelerate the construction of the 50 dams as part of the Kenya Kwanza Administration's agricultural transformation program.



A Flood management group from Merti Sub-County, Isiolo County is appealing for adequate financial support to ensure that over 3,000 people get cushioned against harsh rain-water runoff that cause havoc during wet seasons. The financial support will help in reversing the flood's flow and diverting the runoff from human settlements to avoid displacing local residents or marooning their homesteads. According to Cherab Flood Committee Chairperson Omar Sama, the area residents have been working on the riverbank mitigation through their own initiatives, which have shown some positive results adding that external assistance from the government and non-governmental organisations would boost their efforts. He disclosed that the local community had been occasionally contributing about Sh 200,000 to pay casual workers who manually create diversions for the excess river flows.

A United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-backed project is arming the flood-prone lakeside county of Kisumu with cutting-edge tools to predict disasters, protect lives and guide sustainable growth. Through the partnership, the county is implementing a multi-million-shilling initiative that uses drones and digital mapping to monitor risk zones and predict disasters before they strike. Dubbed 'Strengthening Urban Resilience to Emerging Disaster and Climate Risks', the project seeks to build Kisumu's capacity to anticipate, prepare for and respond to disasters particularly floods, which remain the city's most persistent threat. The programme, funded by the Governments of Denmark and South Korea, runs until March 2026 and targets urban centres vulnerable to climate impacts such as floods, heat waves and environmental degradation. As part of the programme, Kisumu's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) is being equipped with a flood-mapping drone and 3D modelling software capable of providing real-time data and imagery of flood-prone areas.



# NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



# The Mount Kenya Times

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# Relief For Ruiru Residents As Government Moves To Rebuild Derelict Rainbow–Juja Farm Road

By: John Kamau  
@themtkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- The road, once touted as a key connector between several villages and the Eastern Bypass, quickly deteriorated after completion, leaving residents stranded and businesses crippled.
- The poor workmanship led to massive potholes, flooding, and sections that became nearly impassable, especially during the rainy season.
- For years, locals have endured hardships ranging from inaccessibility to healthcare facilities to high transportation costs for farm produce and goods.

After years of neglect and frustration, residents of Rainbow, Agape, Bypass among other villages in Gatong'ora Ward in Ruiru Sub-County can finally breathe a sigh of relief as the government prepares to reconstruct the long-forgotten Rainbow–Juja Farm road.

The 27-kilometre stretch, which has been in a deplorable state since its botched construction during the reign of former governor Ferdinand Waititu, is now set for a complete overhaul under the supervision of the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) in collaboration with the Kiambu County Government.

The road, once touted as a key connector between several villages and the Eastern Bypass, quickly deteriorated after completion, leaving residents stranded and businesses crippled.

The poor workmanship led to massive potholes, flooding, and sections that became nearly impassable, especially during the rainy season.

For years, locals have endured hardships ranging from inaccessibility to healthcare facilities to high transportation costs for farm produce and goods.

The rehabilitation of the road marks a significant milestone in efforts to boost social and economic development in the area.

The improved infrastructure is expected to spur business growth, enhance mobility, and attract new investments, particularly in the expanding Juja and Ruiru regions.

Once completed, the road will provide an alternative route to the Eastern Bypass, helping to decongest traffic towards key destinations such as Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

During a public participation forum



A section of the Rainbow–Juja Farm Road.

convened by Gatong'ora Ward MCA Dan Gitau and residents expressed optimism that the new project will finally end the years of suffering they have endured.

“The County Governor [Kimani Wamatangi] has been knocking doors at the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) to have this road allocated resources for its construction. The persistence has borne fruits and the road has already been gazetted and it will be built,” Gitau said.

The ward rep noted that besides ending suffering for residents who ply the route, construction of the key road will open up the region for more investments and further boost the region's economic growth.

“We expect more investors to put up

factories in this region and create jobs for our youths. Businesses will also boom since accessibility will be eased. This project was long overdue and it will go a long way in changing the face of this region,” he noted.

He reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that the road is built to modern standards, noting that transparency and public oversight will be key to avoiding past mistakes.

“We will make sure that the work done is upto standard. We don't want a repeat of what we witnessed some years back where taxpayers money was misused and the road ended up being pathetic in less than six months,” Gitau maintained.

Locals led by Virginia Wambui termed the project godsent noting that

they have suffered for years. They said that the road is usually impassable during rainy seasons adding that during dry seasons they are left to grapple with clouds of dust.

“We can now see light at the end of the tunnel and our suffering will soon come to an end. This road has been the cause of our misery including lagging behind in terms of development,” Wambui noted.

They expressed optimism that the project, once complete, will turn-around their fortunes noting that even land prices will increase.

They also pleaded with the contractor doing the road to consider giving job slots to locals.

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# Kindiki Chairs Various Gov't Strategic Meetings

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes

Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki yesterday hosted various leaders for a series of strategic meetings at his Karen office.

He met Commission for University Education (CUE), universities, the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) and individual universities regarding licensing, inspection, course accreditation and recognition will ensure Kenya's education system remains of high quality and good international stature.

During the meeting, they agreed to develop criteria for harmonisation, recognition and accreditation of professional courses, and the licensing of professionals.

The DP was accompanied by among others Cabinet Secretary for Education Julius Ogamba.

The Second in Command also had a meeting with members of the Cabinet Committee on Finance, Infrastructure, Land and the Production Economy to review various policy proposals for onward transmission to

the Cabinet.

Among those present were Cabinet Secretaries Alice Wahome (Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development), Opiyo Wandayi (Energy and Petroleum), Davis Chirchir (Roads and Transport), Wycliffe Oparanya (Cooperatives and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Development), Rebecca Miano (Tourism and Wildlife), Hannah Cheptumo (Gender, Culture and Children Services) and Dorcas Oduor (Attorney General).

The DP further chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Governance, Social Sector and Public Administration that was attended by among others Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, Cabinet Secretaries Aden Duale (Health), Rebecca Miano (Tourism and Wildlife), Alfred Mutua (Labour and Social Protection), Julius Migos Ogamba (Education), William Kabogo (ICT & the Digital Economy), Salim Mvurya (Youth Affairs, the Creative Economy and Sports), Geoffrey Ruku (Public Service), Hannah Cheptumo (Gender, Culture & Children Services) and Dorcas Oduor (Attorney General).



Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki

# Solar Technology Delivers Vaccination Refrigeration To Remote Areas In Nakuru

By: Jane Ngugi  
 @themtkenyatimes

Nakuru County Government is adopting use of solar-powered vaccine storage refrigerators to strengthen vaccine storage and delivery particularly in remote areas with limited or no electricity in a bid to reduce vaccine wastage.

The initiative, according to County Biomedical Engineering Officer Mr Kibet Keitany, will significantly expand storage capacity at public health facilities in hard-to-reach and off-grid areas.

Already, a Solar Drive Vaccine Fridge has been installed at Ng' Ondu Dispensary in Rongai Sub-County by the devolved unit's Biomedical engineers in an exercise coordinated by Mr Keitany with support from the Ministry of Health and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

While describing installation of the new cold chain equipment as a mile-

stone that will significantly improve access to life-saving immunisation services for residents of Ng' Ondu and surrounding communities, Mr Keitany said the innovation ensures vaccines are safely stored at optimal temperatures without relying on electricity or fuel-powered generators.

"This equipment will provide continuous cold storage powered by solar energy, which we have in abundance. It will ensure vaccine quality as the solar-powered unit guarantees uninterrupted vaccine preservation, even in remote or off-grid areas, ensuring no child misses a vital immunization due to power outages," he stated.

The Biomedical Engineering Officer indicated that adoption of solar-powered vaccine storage refrigerators aligns with Governor Susan Kihika's commitment to strengthen primary healthcare systems and expand equitable access to essential health services across all the 11 Sub-Counties.

To maintain vaccine potency and availability, Mr Keitany underscored the need for a robust cold chain sys-



tem that reliably delivers vaccines on time and in optimal condition to every person.

He emphasised the often-overlooked importance of cold chain systems in public health.

"A reliable cold chain is one of the most vital aspects of public health. As we celebrate vaccines, we must

always remain alive to the fact that without a functional cold chain they lose their potency and the promise to save lives," said the official.

He added, "With this installation, Ng' Ondu Dispensary is now better equipped to serve its community, bringing essential health services closer to families and reducing the

need for long-distance travel in search of vaccination services."

A solar-powered refrigerator runs on electricity generated from the sun while the cooler operates with a compressor powered directly from sunlight.

# Audit Reveals Sh7.7bn Funding Shortfall For Universities CBA, Declares SRC Formula Flawed

By: CORRESPONDENT  
@themkenyatimes

A new audit has revealed that the government still owes university staff Sh7.8 billion from the implementation of the 2017–2021 Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs) contradicting the Salaries and Remuneration Commission's (SRC) position that only Sh624 million remained unpaid.

An assessment by a technical verification committee of the Joint Negotiations Committee (JNC) with membership from public universities and unions, found that the SRC's methodology was flawed.

It noted the SRC formula incorrectly summed up annual increments for staff over the CBA period, rather than applying the "diagonal method" mandated by the Employment and Labour Relations Court (ELRC).

"The SRC methodology was inconsistent with the diagonal method approved by the court and was therefore invalid," the committee stated in its report signed on Monday, October 13, in Machakos.

"Consequently, the conclusion by SRC that Sh624 million is the only amount owed to universities and their staff is incorrect."

The committee, comprising representatives from the Inter-Public Universities Councils Consultative Forum (IPUCCF), the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE), and staff unions UASU, KUSU, and KUDHEIHA, established that the total financial requirement for full implementation of the CBAs amounted to Sh16.57 billion.

The sum includes Sh13.81 billion in salary arrears, and Sh2.76 billion in pension obligations.

The government has already disbursed Sh8.8 billion, leaving a balance of Sh7.77 billion yet to be paid.

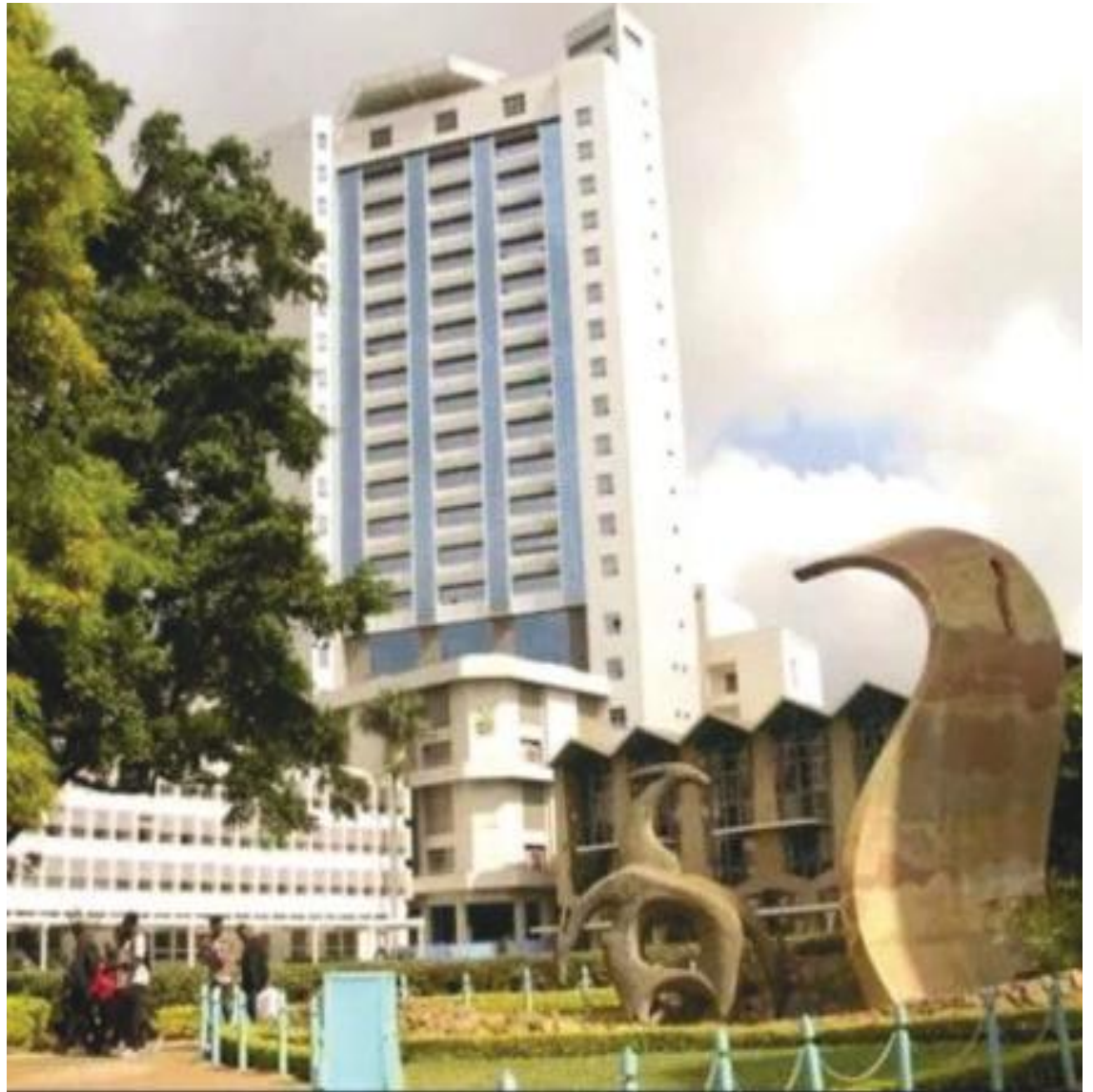
The CBAs, signed on October 28, 2019, were initially funded with an Sh8.8 billion allocation, released in three tranches starting July 2020.

However, a legal dispute over the implementation model led to prolonged delays.

The ELRC ruled in January 2021 that the CBAs should be applied using the diagonal method, which incorporates both annual and negotiated increments.

The Ministry of Education appealed the decision, and the judgment was stayed until the Court of Appeal dismissed the case on March 28, 2025, reinstating the original ELRC ruling.

The delay prompted widespread unrest across universities, with UASU, KUSU, and KUDHEIHA issuing strike notices in September



The University of Nairobi



## Worth Noting:

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ber 2025, demanding full payment of arrears and compliance with the court's judgment.

The audit details the financial requirements and disbursements for each of Kenya's 38 public universities and constituent colleges.

The University of Nairobi leads with the largest outstanding balance of Sh1.41 billion, followed by Kenyatta University (Sh798 million), Moi University (Sh719 million), and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (Sh645 million).

Other major arrears include Egerton University (Sh467 million), Maseno University (Sh301 million), and Technical University of Kenya (Sh377 million).

### 'Shortchanged'

Union officials welcomed the report's findings, saying it vindicates their long-standing position that the SRC and Treasury had underfunded CBA implementation.

"This report confirms what we have said all along — that university staff

were shortchanged through flawed calculations. The arrears must now be paid in full," said UASU Secretary-General Constantine Wasonga, following the audit's release.

The report recommends immediate reconciliation between the Ministry of Education, SRC, and public university councils to mobilize the Sh7.7 billion required for full CBA compliance.

The financial breakdown reveals a pressing fiscal challenge, with a total requirement of KSh 16.57 billion to address key obligations. The bulk of this amount—KSh 13.81 billion—is earmarked for basic salary arrears, while an additional KSh 2.76 billion is needed to cover pension liabilities, calculated at 20% of the salary arrears. Although the government has already disbursed KSh 8.8 billion, a significant outstanding balance of KSh 7.77 billion remains. Notably, the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) has put forth a disputed estimate of KSh 624 million, which falls far short of the

actual financial needs, highlighting a contentious gap in valuation and underscoring the urgency for resolution and transparency in the funding process.

The technical verification committee comprised Dr. Aggrey Kitoo (Chairperson, representing the IPUCCF), Prof. Constantine Wasonga (Secretary-General, UASU) Charles Mukhwaya (Secretary-General, KUSU) and Albert Njeru (Secretary-General, KUDHEIHA).

Other members are Joseph Mberia (FKE Representative), Dr. Benson Okumu (Ministry of Education Representative), Dr. Miriam Mueni (Treasury Representative), Josphat Ngeno (Universities Fund) and Dr. Julius Otieno (Public Universities Councils' Consultative Forum).

The committee also received technical assistance from officers seconded by the Commission for University Education (CUE) and the National Treasury.

# Kenya Power Chairperson Lauds BYD By Loxea Kenya For Advancing Electric Mobility

By: MKT Reporter  
@themkenyatimes

The Kenya Power Board of Directors chairperson, Ms Joy Masinde, has lauded the ongoing corporate efforts by local motor dealers to introduce Electric Vehicles and Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV) in the local market.

Speaking during a test-drive experience in the new BYD SHARK 6, a PHEV pickup truck, introduced in Kenya by Loxea Kenya, the Kenya Power Chairperson reiterated the power distributor's commitment to enhancing access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure countrywide. Kenya Power, she said, is focused on decarbonising the grid through a strategic commitment to climate action by enabling the electric-mobility agenda.

"I enjoyed my drive on the BYD Shark 6 this morning, which has impressive road handling and mind-blowing features at a very competitive price," Ms Masinde said. She added, "At Kenya Power, we are

working very hard to power a sustainable future for Kenya through electric mobility and the introduction of EVs and Hybrid vehicles by firms such as Loxea Kenya, which fits very well in our strategy."

Loxea Kenya, a subsidiary of CFAO Mobility Kenya, recently introduced the fast-selling BYD SHARK 6, which is proving to be a popular customer choice as charging and after-sales service infrastructure continues to grow countrywide.

BYD vehicles are rapidly becoming the preferred choice for Kenyan consumers who demand innovative, reliable, and sustainable mobility solutions. At Loxea Kenya, we are proud to lead the country's transition towards cleaner transportation by offering models like the BYD SHARK 6 and Sealion 6, which provide cutting-edge plug-in hybrid technology combined with affordability and performance. Ms Kinyoe said.

Alongside the BYD SHARK 6, BYD by Loxea in Kenya, the BYD Sealion 6, an SUV PHEV Model, is enjoying steady growth.

The company has also introduced the BYD Dolphin in the local market.



Kenya Power chairperson Ms Joy Masinde test driving the new BYD Shark 6 Pick Up.

TIME Magazine recently named the BYD Dolphin as one of the best inventions of 2025. It is the company's star and cheapest offering, priced at KShs 3.6 million locally. It's a compact hatchback, with the simplest version featuring a 30kWh battery, a 55kW motor, a range of 305 km, and a top speed of 130 km/h.



# The Mt. Kenya Times



# Mudavadi Hold Talks With Luxembourg Minister

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themkenyatimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Muadavadi yesterday had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Xaver Bettel, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Luxembourg.

He sought Luxembourg’s support to leverage Nairobi’s strategic position as UNEP’s host city to enhance the treaty’s global impact.

Mudavadi highlighted Kenya’s bold leadership in banning plastics and shared how Nairobi’s growing global stature will be showcased further when it co-hosts the Africa–France Summit in May 2026, the first time the summit will be held outside France or a francophone African nation.

They agreed to deepen bilateral ties and encouraged Luxembourg to establish a diplomatic mission in Nairobi to expand engagement between our nations. Prime CS also urged



Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Muadavadi with Mr. Xaver Bettel, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Luxembourg.

Luxembourg to back Kenya’s push to exit the Financial Action Task Force grey list, outlining the legislative and institutional reforms already undertaken, and noted our upcoming International Monetary Fund Governance Diagnostic Report expected later this year.

# Riggy G Marks His Territory: Kirinyaga Is Mine!

By: Kimani Muriithi  
 @themkenyatimes

Democracy for Citizens Party leader Rigathi Gachagua has reignited political tensions in Mt Kenya after boldly declaring Kirinyaga County his turf, brushing off backlash over his recent remarks targeting Governor Anne Waiguru.

Speaking in Mwea yesterday, the former Deputy President dismissed critics who condemned his attacks on Waiguru, labeling her a political pawn of President William Ruto. Gachagua doubled down, branding any Mt Kenya leader allied with the president a “traitor” to the region.

His comments sparked outrage, especially among women in Kirinyaga, who rallied in Kutus town to defend Waiguru’s legacy. They hailed her as a trailblazer — the only woman elected governor twice and a two-term



Former DP and Democracy for Citizens Party leader Rigathi Gachagua waves at the crowd during a meeting with rice farmers in Mwea, Kirinyaga county, yesterday. / RIGATHI GCAHGUA/X

chair of the Council of Governors — and accused Gachagua of undermining women in leadership.

Some residents went as far as vowing to block Gachagua from ever setting foot in the county. But he fired back with bravado, declaring Kirinyaga his “bedroom” — a place he

could enter at will.

“Katika siasa ya Kenya, Mwea na Kirinyaga ni bedroom ya nani?” he asked the crowd, who roared back, “Ni bedroom ya Riggy G.”

He challenged his detractors to face him directly, saying those questioning his political dominance should

have attended the same event, which focused on grievances from rice farmers — a group he claimed the government had abandoned.

“Rice farmers in Mwea deserve leaders who listen,” he said. “We must stand with those who feed the nation.”

Gachagua urged residents to remember who truly fights for them and hinted at a political reckoning in 2027. Meanwhile, Waiguru has yet to respond publicly, though her supporters’ reactions suggest a brewing battle for Mt Kenya’s political soul.

# Education Committee Inspects KICD Head Office, Calls For Equitable Supply Of Books

By: MKT Correspondent  
 @themtkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:**

- Melly called for the institution to conduct an audit of the KSh11.6 billion pending bill. He directed management to submit details on the pending bill and to work with the Ministry to resolve it.
- “This KSh11.6 billion should be audited afresh. Some schools have an oversupply of books while others have none. We need the details on the correct numbers of students and books required,” said Melly.
- Prof. Ong’ondo explained that the supply and distribution of books is based on data from NEMIS, which sometimes contains inaccuracies due to unregistered students.
- “We supply based on NEMIS data. However, some schools without NEMIS codes miss out on supplies, while others receive excess books. The Ministry is verifying the pending bills, and all deliveries are accompanied by signed receipts from school heads,” said Prof. Ong’ondo.

Members of the National Assembly Committee on Education have raised concerns over inconsistencies in the distribution of textbooks and learning materials across public schools during an inspection visit to the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD).

In a meeting chaired by Julius Melly, the Committee engaged KICD CEO, Prof. Charles Ochieng Ong’ondo, on the Institute’s performance, digital learning initiatives, and utilization of its KSh1.18 billion budget for the 2024/2025 financial year.

Melly called for the institution to conduct an audit of the KSh11.6 billion pending bill. He directed management to submit details on the pending bill and to work with the Ministry to resolve it.

“This KSh11.6 billion should be audited afresh. Some schools have an oversupply of books while others have none. We need the details on the correct numbers of students and books required,” said Melly.

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“We supply based on NEMIS data. However, some schools without NEMIS codes miss out on supplies, while others receive excess books. The Ministry is verifying the pending bills, and all deliveries are accompanied by signed receipts from school heads,” said Prof. Ong’ondo.

On the inclusion of APBET schools in distribution plans, the Committee Chair asked, “there was a time APBET schools in informal areas of the country were receiving learning materials, but that programme was stopped. These schools support hundreds of students on areas where public schools are few. What are you doing to reintegrate APBET schools and support them?”

Members of the Committee inspected the construction of a training center which had stalled for several years due to lack of funds to complete the project.

Abdul Haro and Julius Taitumu asked about equity in supplying books to hard-to-reach areas, “What are your plans for the hard-to-reach areas such as the North East part of Kenya? of collecting feedback from learners and teachers. The learning materials should be supplied equally to all schools.”

Joshua Makilap sought to know what measures were in place to curb book piracy and address the influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the publishing sector.



“In this digital era, where books can easily be copied or sold illegally, what are you doing to curb piracy?” asked Makilap.

The KICD CEO said the Institute has been working with publishers and law enforcement agencies to curb the circulation of fake and substandard learning materials.

“Every year, we encounter poor-quality and pirated books. We have arrested several offenders and are partnering with publishers to maintain standards,” he said.

Speaking on the curriculum for indigenous and foreign languages, Mary Emaase urged the Institute to expand the teaching of international languages such as French and Ger-

man to prepare Kenyan learners for global opportunities.

Prof. Ong’ondo said the Institute is developing more curriculum support materials for foreign and local languages. “We are promoting both international and local languages to empower learners and preserve Kenya’s linguistic diversity,” he noted.

The KICD CEO further highlighted that KICD faces staff shortages, with a need to recruit at least 100 additional personnel to bridge the human resource gap and support ongoing curriculum reforms.

According to the Institute’s financial report, KICD utilized 95.3% of its KSh1.18 billion budget in the 2024/2025 financial year, with the

2025/2026 budget set at KSh1.19 billion. The Institute also requested additional funding to complete the stalled Education Resource Centre, develop Grade 11 and 12 curriculum materials, and expand public engagement through county-level dialogues. “We play a strategic role in curriculum reform and digital content development. Enhanced funding will enable us to complete key projects and strengthen education delivery,” Prof. Ong’ondo said.

The Committee pledged to support measures that promote equitable learning resource distribution, improved teacher training, and full digital integration in schools.



# Senate ICT Committee Commends Meru's Revenue Management For Boosting Collections

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes

The Senate Standing Committee on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has praised Meru County's new automated revenue management system for contributing to a significant rise in its own-source revenue, which grew from KSh961.94 million to KSh1.16 billion in the last fiscal year.

The committee suggested that full digitization would further enhance the county's financial efficiency.

Led by the Vice Chairperson Senator Miraj Abdullahi, the committee began its three-day oversight visit in Meru on Monday, the visit being part of a broader inquiry into the effectiveness of county revenue systems and that falls under the Senate's constitutional duty to safeguard county interests. The tour will also include stops in Isiolo and Nyeri counties.

During the assessment, Governor



Isaac Mutuma informed the committee that the system was acquired for KSh55 million, with a maintenance agreement set at 4.8% of total revenue collected. He added that 90% of the county's services are already digitized, with complete system integration anticipated by the end of this month.

"A revenue management system is not only a tool but a bridge between citizens and government efficiency,"

Governor Mutuma said, welcoming the committee's oversight.

While the committee lauded the progress, Senator Ogolla advised the county administration to focus on building internal expertise to reduce long-term dependence on the system's vendor.

"As you train your people, remember to build capacity beyond the current vendor relationship," she cautioned.

"Vendors may limit knowledge trans-



fer, and that can affect sustainability." She also stressed that the increased revenue must lead to tangible improvements in public services.

County officials assured the Senators that the system is largely managed in-house, with staff receiving training as needed every three months. They confirmed that an ICT policy established in 2019 guides data security and system implementation. No hacking incidents have been reported, and mea-

sures such as USSD codes and offline synchronization are in place to ensure services continue in areas without reliable power.

Monica Kathono, the CEC for Finance, highlighted the county's emphasis on cashless payments to prevent financial leaks.

Other senators in the meeting included Senators William Kisang and Samson Cherarkey.

# Technical Committee Reviews Thika Smart City Infrastructure Projects

By: Andrew Mwasaru  
 @themtkenyatimes

The Thika Industrial Smart City Technical Committee in Kiambu County convened this week to review the progress of ongoing infrastructure projects and respond to concerns raised by residents during recent public participation forums.

The meeting, attended by Chief Officer for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Martin Kangiri and Thika Municipal Manager Gathii Kanyi, brought together key stakeholders to evaluate the implementation status of various development initiatives under the smart city transformation agenda.

Committee members conducted a comprehensive review of major infrastructure projects, examining timelines, budget allocations, and delivery schedules. The session placed particular emphasis on bottlenecks affecting project execution and strategies to overcome implementation challenges.

Central to the discussions were citizen concerns documented during



Chief officer for Municipal Administration Martin Kangiri chairing the meeting.

public participation forums, including issues related to water connectivity, drainage systems, road infrastructure, and street lighting in expanding residential and commercial zones. The committee acknowledged the importance of integrating community feedback into project planning and execution frameworks.

The meeting underscored the critical need for continuous monitoring and follow-up mechanisms to ensure that key development milestones are achieved within stipulated timeframes. Officials stressed that regu-

lar oversight would be essential to maintaining momentum and delivering tangible results to residents.

Local entrepreneur David Kimani, who operates a manufacturing plant in the industrial area, welcomed the committee's proactive approach. "The smart city vision holds great promise for businesses like ours. However, we need reliable infrastructure—especially water supply and quality roads—to operate efficiently. Regular follow-ups will demonstrate the county's commitment to seeing projects through to



Some of the participants

completion," he said.

Community leader Lilian Njeri, representing residents from the Makongeni ward, emphasized the importance of maintaining open communication channels.

"Public participation is meaningless if our concerns aren't translated into action. We appreciate that the technical committee is taking our input seriously, but what matters most is seeing actual progress on the ground. We're looking forward to regular updates and visible improvements in our neighborhoods," she noted.

The committee resolved to establish a structured monitoring framework with monthly progress reviews and quarterly public feedback sessions. Members also committed to addressing priority concerns identified during public participation while maintaining focus on long-term strategic objectives of the smart city transformation.

A follow-up meeting has been scheduled to assess implementation progress and review the effectiveness of corrective measures adopted during the session.

## Fresh Air



Feel the fresh cool breeze  
On my cheeks from the trees  
So refreshing sadness it buries  
Makes us forget all worries.

Is there any breeze to cool my heart  
Coz it is torn and shattered apart

In suffocation I suffer  
Without any happiness I shiver.

From outward all looks so lovely  
But heart aches inside so badly  
Just waiting for a cool breeze  
Which showers in the cheek from trees

Brinda. D  
GRADUATE TEACHER,  
GOVT HIGH SCHOOL,  
MELPATTAMPAKKAM  
CUDDALORE, Tamilnadu India  
creativewritersmag@gmail.com

## An Educated Girl Is The Pride Of The Nation



International Day of the Girl Child – is a celebration of every girl's dream and dignity! Every year, on October 11, the International Day of the Girl Child is widely celebrated around the world. This day was established to protect girls' rights, to help them reveal their talents, and to ensure their broad opportunities in society. In 2011, the United Nations (UN) officially declared this date as the "International Day of the Girl Child." Since then, many countries around the world have organized special programs, meetings, social projects, and scientific forums for girls.

A girl is a symbol of kindness and grace, the honor of the homeland, the pride of the family, and the dignity of society. Even in the Hadiths, we can see the great respect given to girls – in Islam, a girl is considered noble and precious. Our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said many beautiful Hadiths about daughters:

The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said:  
"Whoever has three daughters, raises them well,

treats them kindly, marries them off, and shows compassion to them – Paradise will be obligatory for him."

(Narrated by Imam Abu Dawood)

Another Hadith says:  
"Whoever has two daughters and raises them until maturity, I and he will be like this in Paradise."

– and he joined his two fingers together.  
(Narrated by Imam Muslim)

In another narration:  
"Whoever is tested with daughters and treats them well, they will be a shield for him from the Hellfire."

(Narrated by Imam Bukhari and Muslim)

To pay attention to a girl means to uplift an entire nation. That is why our ancestors wisely said:

"If you educate one girl, you educate an entire nation."

Nomazova Diyoraxon Begaliyevna was born on October 3, 2007, in Gulistan village, Yakkabog' district, Kashkadarya region. She is currently a first-year student at the Shahrizabz State Pedagogical Institute, majoring in Biology.

## Your Cellphone Has Already Replaced Your Watch, Camera, Calendar, Alarm Clock



Don't let it replace your family.

Brain child of an advanced technology born in  
to a family.  
It takes away everyone's time substantially.

A case so tiny with date, time, calendar and  
the whole world inside.

One who possessed it, displayed it to everyone  
with pride.

Brought everyone closer from far and near  
with strain.

Though closer, but drifted away from heart  
and brain.

In the warmth of a home, to have a family time.  
Family members sit together, but forget to talk  
and use cellphones online.

Cellphones have replaced books and letters,  
conversations and happy moments of life.  
It delicately replaced the moon from an infant's  
life.

Time once lost you can never regain to live  
family life again.  
Don't allow cellphones to steal your family time  
and reign.

By, Mrs. Gulzar Jahan.  
(English B T)  
PUMS Chinna Obulapuram.  
Gummidipoondi  
Tiruvallur Dt

## Today's World Is Pixels, Not People



Today's world is pixels, not people,  
Easy to share, but harder to care.

Filtered smiles, unfiltered pain,  
Living through screens again and again.

Likes and followers, but few true friends,

Where connection fades and pretending never  
ends.

In real life imperfect, but genuine,  
Noise outside, yet peace within.  
Conversations that don't need Wi-Fi,  
Laughter that echoes, reaching the sky.

Digital life moves quick but we miss beauty  
along the way.

Bright, but not warm; we scroll our hearts  
away.

Diving deep into data, yet never truly swim,  
Colorful pixels but truth looks dim.  
So full of words, yet empty of feeling within.

V. RANJANI VEERASAMY  
ENGLISH TEACHER  
PONDICHERRY  
INDIA

## Mother-- The Greatest Miracle !!!



It is the mother that is the most holy, the most precious in human life. No one can replace the mother in the world. Because He gives us life, gives us love, teaches patience. The word "mother" in everyone's heart is living in the most warmest, the most holy word. It is not a woman who gave birth to the birth of a child. He is a man who will live for his children, who will rejoice for his children, and weep, and weep for his happiness in his happiness. Every mother's heart is as broad, loving and purifying enough to accumulate the whole world. Hearts of heart, with a picture of a smile, a word. The child feels himself in the safest place in his mother's arms during his small. Because the brave is a place of peace and kindness. When the world seems to be cold, the mother's hands remained a warmest refuge.

The mother is ready for anything for her child. When he laughs laughing, he is happy; If we cry, his heart is crushed. Sometimes he is sick, even if he is sick, prepares food for his child, and closes

it, watching him at school. He never means "I'm tired." Because the love of her child in the heart of the mother is endless. It's always the first teacher of her child. He teaches us to say a good word, to treat people with kindness. Every word of the mother is life lesson. His "child, patiently", "Be good", "offend yourself," keeps remembering for the rest of his life.

Today we grow up and are on our way, our mothers pray for us every day. If we are not at home, it will be disturbed, wait for the phone, "Are you calm?" Expresses all his love with one question. In many cases, in most cases we understand the mother even later. Remembering them, we stand the reason or holiday call to thank them. In fact, every minute, in every minute, I love "thank you, love you". Because the mother's life is short, but the footsteps of his mercy is eternal. Even when he looks old, he still remains that kindness for his child. Prophet and prayers are always shiny in his eyes. That is why it is the most holy duty of everyone to bow down to the mother and appreciating it. Where there is a mother suppliant, there is a blessing. If you have a mother in your life – then you are the richest man. Because no wealth in the world can replace the love of any reputation.

Let us value our mother, no delay to show him kindness. Because we have any Eken, the supplication of our mothers!

Ahmedova Laylo, 1st year student of Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Beruniy

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# EDUCATION

## Meru University Holds Fourth Innovation And Research Week

By: Dennis Dibondo  
 @themtkenyatimes

Meru University of Science and Technology has launched the fourth innovation and exhibition week that started yesterday and ends tomorrow.

The institution's Vice Chancellor Romanus Odhiambo said they were showcasing some of the innovation from Undergraduate, Master and PHD students and even lecturers from different faculties at the university.

"We also have a lot of work from TVET institutions that we are working together with," Professor Odhiambo said.

He said they are trying to push the idea of research innovation commercialisation and extension (RICE).

Odhiambo said they are trying to open up the market for new innovators to showcase their work and access the market.

He said they are working with the ministry of higher education to get more funding for innovators.

Some of the innovations that were showcased included wine juice chewing gums and tea bags, capsules made from Miraa. Black soldier flies products such as animal and fish feeds that are made from waste were also showcased. Camel milk products such as lotion, soap and shampoo.

"We are also trying to get certification for some of our products. Last week I sent my team to the Kenya Bureau of Statistics as we have miraa products that have been value added and we need them to get to consumers," Odhiambo said.

Odhiambo said they are the first university to have an office that recognises innovations and research and supports them.

"We have an office that identifies the potential IP value of the products that we have and try to go to KEBS to have them patented and ready for the market," Professor Odhiambo said.

Odhiambo said the university is working closely with the Kenya National Innovation Agency.

He took the chance to welcome people to the 13th graduation where a total of 3112 students will graduate. 50 students will be graduating with masters and 7 with PHDS all in science and technology.

Chairman of the Council Professor James Nkanya said its a very important week for the institution.

"We want to change from where we were doing research and putting the books on the shelves. We want to be more practical and actualisation," Nkanya said.

Nkanya said the media should play an important role to amplify the innovations so that Kenyans can know what they are doing.

"For instance we have a machine that can diagnose cancer cells in a week while some patients go all the way to Nairobi and take weeks to be diagnosed," Nkanya said.

Nkanya said they are ready to partner with local hospitals to diagnose cancer cases.

Paul Potter from the British Council who was chief guest said they have been working with universities in Kenya to see how innovation can sustain the institution's ecosystems.

"We see ourselves as partners, collaborators and connectors not as funders as we are all living in a challenging world but if we work together we can better our world," Potter said.

He said kenyan should find out what works for them and focus on that innovation as innovation from Europe might not be ideal for Kenya.



Guests are shown miraa products such as wines,energy drinks chewing gums and capsules at the Meru University of Science and Technology. Photo Dennis Dibondo



Meru University of Science and Technology Vice Chancellor Romanus Odhiambo speaks to press yesterday at the institution. Photo/Dennis Dibondo.



Paul Potter from British Council speaks to press yesterday.



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# Finance Committee Engages National Treasury, Capital Markets Authority On Two Crucial Bills

By: PSCU  
 @themkenyatimes

The Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning today engaged the Ministry of the National Treasury and Economic Planning regarding two crucial Bills.

These pieces of legislation are geared toward injecting governance reforms in State Corporations and facilitating the liberalization of financial services. The ultimate goal is to attract foreign and institutional capital, positioning Kenya as a competitive regional financial hub.

In the session chaired by Kitui Rural MP David Mboni, the Committee first met with the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) to discuss the Capital Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2025. The CMA delegation was led by Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Wycliffe M. Shamiah.

Justifying the need for the proposed changes, Mr. Shamiah explained that stakeholder engagements undertaken earlier had revealed that certain sections of the existing Act were proving prohibitive to the Authority's goal of enhancing the ease of doing business in the country.

"A number of license applicants have complained that this provision is intrusive and restrictive to the ease of doing business hence the proposed amendments are aimed at aligning the Act with current market practices and regulatory needs, ensuring that the regulatory framework is both adaptable and effective in addressing the dynamic nature of the capital markets", he elaborated.

Specifically, Clause 2 of the Bill proposes to amend Section 29 of the Capital Markets Act by deleting paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7) and substituting them with a new paragraph.

This new provision would grant the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury, in consultation with the CMA, the power to prescribe shareholding limits for various license categories through regulations.

Mr. Shamiah informed the Committee that the proposed law would enhance flexibility by allowing the Cabinet Secretary to set shareholding limits through regulations. He further posited that the amendment provides greater flexibility to adapt to changing market conditions and regulatory needs.

Members, however, immediately raised issue with the proposal. They noted that it could further entrench

bureaucracy and grant the Cabinet Secretary immense powers to determine shareholding in companies.

Expressing concern that the provision was prone to abuse, they insisted that such authority should be prescribed in the primary law rather than through regulations.

"CEO, are you not entrenching further bureaucracy in the licensing process by proposing that such powers be vested on the Cabinet Secretary?" Mboni asked.

The concern was echoed by Committee Members Julius Rutto (Kesses) and John Ariko, who took the CEO to task over the provision's implications. The lawmakers stressed the need to relook at the proposal.

Butula MP, Joseph Oyula further observed that the proposal was tantamount to removing Parliament's power and donating them to the Cabinet Secretary.

"You are proposing to open a very dangerous ground. We're here to protect wananchi and now you want to take Parliament's role and give it to the Cabinet Secretary", he observed.

In his defence, Mr. Shamiah clarified that the Authority was not seeking to give the Cabinet Secretary powers to determine the shareholding of individual companies, but rather that of classes of businesses that the Authority licenses.

Following the CMA presentation, the Committee received submissions on the Government Owned Enterprises (GOE) Bill, 2025, from Mr. Lawrence Kibet, the Director General for Public Investments and Portfolio Management.

Mr. Kibet told the lawmakers that the proposed legal framework is necessary for enhanced corporate governance and greater accountability for the approximately 60 national Government entities established to operate on commercial principles. He stressed the financial necessity of the reforms, noting that they would push the corporations to profitability. "Hon. Chair we are of the opinion that should we introduce the proposed reforms, these entities should make a profit and pay reasonable dividends, rather than operating marginally, making losses, or relying on the exchequer and posing fiscal risks", he stated.

To achieve this, the Bill proposes that all GOEs be incorporated as companies under the Companies Act. This strategic move is intended to re-focus them on their commercial mandate, provide a better legal setting for good corporate governance practices, and place them on the



David Mboni



Wycliffe Shamiah

same legal platform as their private sector peers.

When asked to explain the difference between the GOE Bill and the recently concluded Privatization Bill, Mr. Kibet told the Committee that the GOE reforms are focused specifically on corporations created for commercial purposes, while privatization is focused on the wider reforms of all state corporations.

According to Mr. Kibet, the GOE Bill, 2025 will, for the time being, only apply to the approximately 60 national Government entities that were established to operate on commercial principles and generate a profit. It will not apply to the approximately 240 non-commercial state corporations.



Lawrence Kibet

# Mother: The Angel We Call Home



By: Kadirova Mahliyo  
@themtkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- There is no one in the world who is kinder, more forgiving than our mother. Only our mother gives us love without asking for it. They raise us carefully from childhood. They sleep only for us at night. Tell me, who else can love us like this? Who will continue to love us without any enlightenment? Only our mother.
- At this point, we should not forget our father. Many poets and writers honor mothers in their poems or short stories. What about our fathers? Our fathers also take care of us, no matter how old we are, just like when we were children. You are my wealth, mother, father. As long as you are there, I will stand tall

Mother.... When we hear this word, our own mother comes to mind. Some people's eyes fill with joy when they hear this word, while some people's eyes fill with tears. We are among the happiest people because our mother is with us. There are people in life who dream of talking to their mother, hugging her, even for a minute. Unfortunately, humans do not understand such things or loved ones until they lose them.

In fact, living in the same house with your parents is also a different kind of happiness. Those who live far from their home know this very well. In fact, after losing many things, we feel how important they are in our life. Therefore, let's appreciate our mothers while they are still here. Let's hug them and tell them that we love them every day. Because let's not let this be a dream. Our mothers are our closest friends in our lives. We may not know what we are doing wrong, but our mothers notice it right away. They notice fake people in our lives faster than we do. But sometimes we don't listen to them when we are young. And in the end we regret it. I apologize to my mother for everything. Mom, forgive me if I have hurt you knowingly or unknowingly. I have not found a kinder person in this world than you. There are so many people in this world who pretend to be kind but backbite you behind your back. Friends who never stop doing things behind your back.

There is no one in the world who is kinder, more forgiving than our mother. Only our mother gives us love without asking for it. They raise us carefully from childhood. They sleep only for us at night. Tell me, who else can love us like this? Who will continue to love us without any enlightenment? Only our mother. At this point, we should not forget our father. Many poets and writers honor mothers in their poems or short stories. What about our fathers? Our fathers also take care of us, no matter how old we are, just like when we were children. You are my wealth, mother, father. As long as you are there, I will stand tall. I thank you a thousand times for always supporting me and believing in me, for working so that I am not inferior to my peers.

In fact, only your parents are truly happy with your successes. Others congratulate you simply or to avoid expressing their anger or envy. I am not saying these things for nothing. I am saying this because I have experienced many betrayals in friendship until I was 18. My interest in you is that you should never hurt your par-



ents. Even if you are not in the mood, refrain from saying bad things to them.

When we achieve something in our lives, we think that we achieved it with our own strength. But we do not realize how much our mothers pray for us to achieve even a small success. Let's even use the example of the prophet Moses. One day, Gabriel came to Moses and said, "Protect yourself." Then Moses asked why he had never said this before, Gabriel replied, "Your mother used to ask Allah to protect you every day in her prayers." This shows that the prayers of our mothers are capable of anything.

Mom, I will try to justify your trust. I am ready to do my best to always see joy in your eyes. And I will never stop trying to make you happy with my successes. It is enough that you are healthy. May Allah grant you the opportunity to perform Hajj. I ask Allah that you always live as one of the happiest people in this world. Many people think that I have achieved all my achievements by my own efforts. They do not know that not only our efforts but also the prayers of your parents are among them. Therefore, none of our successes are ours

alone. In addition, my successes are also my parents'. If it were not for them, if they had not created all the conditions for me, I would not have achieved any success. I am indebted to my parents for always supporting me and believing in me until this day.

I am the happiest person in this life because my mother is with me. But there are people among us who are ashamed of their parents' appearance or lack of education or lack of good work. But this is very wrong, every parent wants their child to be good. And for this they are ready to work even in a job that they do not like. But why should we be ashamed of them? After all, they are ready to do everything for us, only for us! Hey people, you may not know your own faults, but if you look at others, you will understand your mistakes. You know how sacred parents are for us. I am proud to have my parents. And I always try to make their dreams come true. Our mother is the most precious person in our life. Even when we come home, we look for our mother at home first. Even when we go on a trip, we miss our mother first. We cannot imagine this world without our mother. Because our mother is given only once in our life. And

later, we will not find a person like our mother for the rest of our lives. A mother is such a person who feeds her child without eating herself. If she cooks a meal for four people and there are five people in the family, our mother refuses to eat. No one's love in this world is as pure as our mother's. In this world full of lies, only our mother is true. It is said about a mother: One day, Allah tells the unborn child that after birth, he will face various trials and see different people in the world. Then the child asks who will protect me there, who will help me. And Allah will also have an angel with you. He says that he will raise you and help you. The child asks: where can I find him? Allah Almighty replied to the child that you simply call her mother. Truly, our mother is an angel. And the love of our mothers is beyond words.

As long as there is a mother, everyone in this world lives as if she were their child. Be it a human or a creature. Even animals are kind to their child. As long as there is a mother in this world, the world is beautiful.

Kadirova Mahliyo, 1st year student of the Faculty of Philology and Arts

# Nearly 890,000 People Affected By Floods In South Sudan

By: Xinhua  
@themtkenyatimes

Nearly 890,000 people in South Sudan have been affected by floods, more than twice the number recorded three weeks ago, a UN spokesperson has said.

Farhan Haq, deputy spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General, told a daily briefing that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that flooding continues across South Sudan due to heavy rains and rising water levels along the Nile River. The vast majority of the people affected are in the states of Jonglei and Unity, and nearly a third of them have been displaced and are seeking shelter on higher ground, he said. The floods have caused extensive damage to homes, crops,

schools, health facilities, roads and other critical infrastructure, further complicating humanitarian access, said the spokesperson.

“Despite these challenges, the UN and its humanitarian partners continue to deliver life-saving assistance, including shelter, food and nutrition support, cash assistance, health and water and sanitation services,” as well as sandbags and other flood control materials, Haq said. Above-average rainfall is expected across most of South Sudan, heightening flood risks, he added. As of Oct. 13, the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for South Sudan, which seeks 1.7 billion U.S. dollars to assist 5.4 million people, is only 30 percent funded, hampering the ability to scale up emergency interventions, pre-position supplies and sustain operations, according to the spokesperson.



# Former French President Sarkozy To Begin Prison Term On Tuesday

By: Xinhua  
@themtkenyatimes

Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy has been informed that he will begin serving his prison sentence on Tuesday, Oct. 21, following his conviction in the case concerning alleged Libyan financing of his 2007 presidential campaign, French media reported.

Sarkozy was notified of the conditions of his incarceration at the request of the National Financial Prosecutor’s Office (PNF). For reasons of security and discretion, details regarding the arrangements will not be made public.

According to a source close to the case cited by BFMTV, Sarkozy is expected to serve his sentence at La Sante Prison in Paris.

The interval before Oct. 21 will allow him time to organize his personal and professional affairs.

Once in custody, his defense team will be able to file a request for release before the Court of Appeals,

which will have two months to issue a ruling.

On Sept. 25, the Paris Criminal Court sentenced Sarkozy to five years in prison for criminal conspiracy related to alleged Libyan financing of his 2007 campaign. Although he has appealed, the judges ordered that the sentence be enforced immediately, citing the “exceptional seriousness” of the offenses.

Sarkozy will become the first former French president in contemporary history to serve a prison sentence.

Nicolas Sarkozy



# Duale vs Kibagendi: Parliament Erupts In Fiery War Of Words

By: Edith Moraa  
 @themtkenyatimes

A routine health committee session turned into a political firestorm yesterday as Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale and Kitutu Chache South MP Anthony Kibagendi clashed in a dramatic exchange that left Parliament stunned.

Tempers flared when Duale, under scrutiny over alleged corruption and private hospital registration conflicts, lashed out at Kibagendi, branding him an “extortionist” and “a thief.” The MP fired back with equal force, accusing Duale of dodging accountability and abusing his position.

“You are the cause of it. You are an extortionist,” Duale shouted, visibly enraged. Kibagendi retorted, “Duale, you cannot intimidate me. I fear no

one. We are not your children.”

The explosive confrontation, caught on video and now viral online, disrupted the National Assembly Health Committee’s proceedings. Duale denied any wrongdoing, insisting he owns no hospitals and accusing unnamed MPs of weaponizing oversight for personal gain.

“This nonsense must stop,” he said. “Charge me if you wish — I have nothing to hide.”

Committee Chair James Nyikal stepped in to restore order, urging both sides to drop personal attacks and refocus on the session’s agenda. Despite the tension, the meeting resumed, but not before Duale vowed to petition the Speaker to remove Kibagendi from the committee.

“This gentleman should not be in this committee,” Duale declared, signaling that the political fallout from this clash is far from over.



Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale

# Uganda Court Orders Police to Produce Missing Kenyans In 7 Days Amid Abduction Claims

By: Kenneth Matinga  
 @themtkenyatimes

The High Court in Kampala has issued a dramatic ultimatum to Ugandan police, demanding they produce two missing Kenyan activists—Bob Njagi and Nicholas Oyoo—dead or alive within seven days. The court order, delivered by Justice Peter Kinobe, follows growing public outcry and legal pressure over the activists’ disappearance, which has sparked regional concern and diplomatic unease.

Njagi and Oyoo were reportedly abducted on October 1 while attending a political campaign event in Kaliro District, Eastern Uganda. They were scheduled to meet with National Unity Platform presidential candidate Bobi Wine, a prominent opposition figure. Witnesses claim the two were taken by unidentified individuals and have not been seen since. Human rights group Freedom Hive Uganda confirmed the court’s directive, stat-

ing that the activists are suspected to be held at a military detention facility in Mbuya, Kampala.

“Justice Peter Kinobe ordered the government to produce Bob Njagi and Nicholas Oyoo dead or alive within seven days,” the group said in a statement. “The Honourable Judge expressed his commitment to upholding the constitutional rights of the two activists, who have been held in unlawful military detention for 14 days.”

The habeas corpus application was filed on October 6 by two Ugandan advocates, who argued that the activists’ continued detention violates Uganda’s constitutional requirement that any arrested individual be presented before a court within 48 hours. The legal team emphasized that Njagi and Oyoo have not been formally charged or seen in any courtroom since their alleged arrest.

Ugandan National Police spokesperson ACP Kituuma Rusoke denied any involvement in the disappearance, stating during a press briefing, “I am not briefed by the police that we have them in our custody. So at



Kenyan activists Bob Njagi and Nicholas Oyoo who were reportedly abducted in Uganda while attending a political campaign on October 1, 2025. Photo ~ Bobi Wine

the moment, I do not have any information to the effect that they are in police custody.”

The case has ignited widespread concern among human rights organizations, civil society groups, and regional observers, who view it as part of a troubling pattern of enforced

disappearances and suppression of political dissent in Uganda. As the seven-day deadline approaches, pressure is mounting on Ugandan authorities to comply with the court order and provide clarity on the activists’ whereabouts.

The outcome of this case could have

significant implications for Uganda’s human rights record and its relationship with neighboring Kenya, where calls for accountability and justice continue to grow louder.

# SPORTS NEWS

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**Sports >>** \*Home player John Lejirma produced a masterful performance on round two of the Johnnie Walker Classic, the sixth leg of the Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing

## Home Player Lejirma Takes Charge Heading Into Final Round Of Johnnie Walker Classic

Home player John Lejirma produced a masterful performance on round two of the Johnnie Walker Classic, the sixth leg of the Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing, taking control of the tournament heading into the final round at the Royal Nairobi Golf Club.

Lejirma, representing the host club, fired an impressive 6-under par 66 in his second round, taking his overall tournament total to 8-under par and a commanding four-shot lead.

His round featured birdies on holes 2, 3, 7, and 11, an eagle on the 15th, and another birdie on the 16th, before dropping a shot on the final hole.

Speaking after his round, Lejirma said:

“I am grateful for the round today. It was a solid round, and I had hoped to have a bogey-free round, but unfortunately, on hole 18, I got away with a bogey. I started very well, and I’ve gotten my putting stroke fire back, which really came in handy today. It’s always pressure heading to the final round when everyone is expecting you to deliver, but this is golf, and anything can happen. Tomorrow I’ll stick to my game plan and hopefully lift the trophy.”

In second place, Njoroge Kibugu of Windsor Country Club carded a 2-under par 70, courtesy of birdies on 7, 8, 9, and 15, offset by bogeys on 1 and 18, for a 4-under par total.

Rizwan Charania, also from Windsor, sits third after a 1-under par 71, built on early birdies at 1, 2, and 3, and two more on 13 and 14, though late bogeys on 16 and 18 cost him momentum, taking him to 3-under par overall.

Reflecting on his performance, Charania said:

“I started with three birdies, a



*John Lejirma follows the path of his tee shot at the Royal Nairobi Golf Club during the second round of the Johnnie Walker Classic, the sixth leg of the Sunshine Development Tour - East Africa Swing*

dream start for me this morning. I was hitting the ball very well, just as I did yesterday, and I’m happy with the consistency in my game. I dropped a couple of shots, made a few mistakes, but it’s all to play for tomorrow. The last two events I’ve barely cut, so being in contention now is really special. Tomorrow I’ll go in with the same positive attitude and just hope for the best.”

Veteran Dismas Indiza of Kakamega Sports Club and Erick Ooko are tied for fourth at 1-under par. Indiza returned to a 1-under 71, while Ooko shot level par for the second consecutive day.

Uganda’s Grace Kasango and Zimbabwe’s Victor Mapwanya were the highest-placed non-Kenyan players, finishing tied for sixth at level par (144) after steady performances across both rounds.

Mapwanya said:

“It was a tough day out there. I

started with a bogey on the first nine, which was a bit disappointing, but I managed to steady myself and finish one under. If I can get my putting to click tomorrow, I believe I can post a really strong score.”

Kasango, thrilled with his progress, added:

“I’m really happy with how I played. This is my sixth time competing in this tournament, but the first time I’ve cut, so that feels like a big milestone. I’m proud of how I handled myself out there and hopeful for an even better round tomorrow.”

A total of 30 players have made the cut to contest the final round on Wednesday, where they will battle for a share of the Ksh 2 million prize purse, with the winner taking home KSh 400,000. The event also offers Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) and World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) points, along with

Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing Order of Merit points.

The Johnnie Walker Classic is supported by East African Breweries Limited (EABL) through its Johnnie Walker brand as the title sponsor, alongside Vivo Energy Kenya, Pure Travel, and Magical Kenya.

This leg of the Sunshine Development Tour reinforces Johnnie Walker’s ongoing commitment to the growth of golf in Kenya and across East Africa — fostering professional development, regional collaboration, and opportunities for African golfers to gain international exposure.

*Capital Sport*

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>>** \*Kenyan women's football star Esse Akida has made a triumphant return to the game, signing for Kibera Soccer Women FC after taking a year-long sabbatical from football to focus on her family and mental well-being.

# I'm In A Good Space Again: Akida's Emotional Return To Kenyan Football



Esse Akida signing for Kibera Women's football club. Photo/ESSE AKIDA INSTAGRAM

Kenyan women's football star Esse Akida has made a triumphant return to the game, signing for Kibera Soccer Women FC after taking a year-long sabbatical from football to focus on her family and mental well-being.

Akida, one of the most decorated players in Kenyan women's football, announced her comeback through an emotional statement, revealing she feels "in a good mental space to continue again" after a difficult period balancing her father's health and her professional career.

"My dream has always been to play football until I can't play anymore. After a tough period juggling between the health of my old man and my career, I feel I'm in a good mental space to continue again," Akida said on her Instagram page.

The 32-year-old forward joins Kibera Soccer Women FC, mark-

ing her return to the Football Kenya Federation Women's Premier League, the competition where her career first flourished.

The move also reunites her with Coach George Robert Okallo, a long-time mentor who played a pivotal role in her early football journey.

"I'm happy to join Kibera Soccer Women FC and to be back playing in the Kenyan Women's Premier League. This is more special because I'm reuniting with Coach Okallo, someone who truly understands my game," she said.

Akida's signing is a major boost for the Kibera-based club, which has built a reputation for nurturing young talent and empowering girls from Nairobi's informal settlements through football.

The team's entry into the top-flight league has been one of the most inspiring stories in Kenyan women's sport.

Born in Kilifi, Akida began her career with Moving The Goalposts (MTG) before rising through the ranks at Spedag and Thika Queens.

Her impressive performances earned her moves abroad first to Ramat HaSharon in Israel, then to Besiktas JK in Turkey, and later to PAOK FC in Greece, where she made 64 appearances and netted 38 goals, helping the team win major titles.

On the international stage, Akida has been a cornerstone of the Harambee Starlets, representing Kenya at the 2016 Africa Women's Cup of Nations and scoring memorable goals in continental competition.

For Akida, this comeback isn't just about personal redemption. She views it as a platform to inspire the next generation of Kenyan girls who aspire to make football a career.

"This is also a chance to inspire young girls who dream of playing football and making a career out of it. With hard work and belief, anything is possible," Akida said.

As she dons the number 14 jersey for Kibera Soccer Women FC, Akida brings not just experience and leadership but also a renewed sense of purpose. Her return adds firepower to a side that continues to grow in stature and ambition within the Kenyan Women's Premier League.

And for Akida, who has conquered challenges on and off the pitch, the next chapter is about one thing: playing the game she loves, on her own terms, once again.

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# SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



# Michelle Curtis A Brilliant Woman Who Inspired The World



By: Anila Bukhari

@themkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

Born with a passion for excellence and a heart committed to service, Michelle built her career over three decades in the high-paced world of retail and brand marketing. She earned a reputation for building high-performing teams, elevating customer experiences, and leading with integrity and compassion. Her work in iconic retail environments showcased her natural ability to inspire others and create impactful change. Yet, amid the hustle and bustle of corporate life, Michelle faced personal challenges that prompted her to question the very definition of success.

A major personal and financial reset became the catalyst for her transformation. It sparked a desire to live and lead differently—to design a life rooted in freedom, fulfillment, and authenticity.

Michelle Curtis is a remarkable woman whose journey from corporate leadership to personal empowerment has touched and transformed countless lives around the globe. As the founder of Graceful Flow—a lifestyle and leadership movement dedicated to helping women create lives they love—Michelle embodies the spirit of authentic success, blending strategy with soul to inspire women to trust themselves, lead boldly, and live with purpose.

Born with a passion for excellence and a heart committed to service, Michelle built her career over three decades in the high-paced world of retail and brand marketing. She earned a reputation for building high-performing teams, elevating customer experiences, and leading with integrity and compassion. Her work in iconic retail environments showcased her natural ability to inspire others and create impactful change. Yet, amid the hustle and bustle of corporate life, Michelle faced personal challenges that prompted her to question the very definition of success.

A major personal and financial reset became the catalyst for her transformation. It sparked a desire to live and lead differently—to design a life rooted in freedom, fulfillment, and authenticity. This pivotal moment led to the creation of “Michelle V4.0,” a conscious redesign of her life and work around her core values. She stepped away from conventional paths and embarked on a journey of self-discovery, purpose, and service, ultimately founding Graceful Flow.

### \*The Birth of Graceful Flow\*

Graceful Flow is more than a movement; it is a philosophy and lifestyle that empowers women to craft a life they don't need a vacation from. It emphasizes the importance of flow—aligning with one's true self—and creating a life of freedom and fulfillment. Michelle's approach is rooted in the belief that success is not about hustle and pressure but about sovereignty—living in harmony with your values and purpose.

Her vision for Graceful Flow combines strategy with soul, leadership with lifestyle, and ambition with authenticity. Michelle's goal is simple yet profound: to help women trust themselves, make brave decisions, and build momentum that leads to

genuine transformation. Her work encourages women to move beyond hesitation, embrace their potential, and lead with confidence.

### \*Partnerships and Global Impact\*

To amplify her impact, Michelle partnered with Prosperity of Life, a platform renowned for its integrity, results, and global reach. This collaboration provides women with access to world-class curriculum, mentorship, scalable systems, and community support. Michelle values these resources because they align with her standards for growth—personal responsibility, decision-making, and consistent action.

Through this partnership, Michelle has built a diverse, international team of purpose-driven women (and men) committed to leading themselves first before inspiring others. Her mentorship emphasizes clarity of vision, inner resilience, and simple, repeatable actions that create lasting change. She believes transformation is a rhythm—thought, decision, action, and consistency—that, when practiced daily, leads to extraordinary outcomes.

### \*Advocacy and Humanitarian Efforts\*

Beyond her entrepreneurial work, Michelle is an ardent advocate for women's leadership and education. She believes that education is the most reliable path to dignity, agency, and generational change. Her humanitarian efforts are deeply personal; she has seen firsthand how an empowered decision can alter a person's life trajectory.

Michelle's leadership circles, community initiatives, and speaking engagements all reflect her core truth: when women rise, everyone benefits. Her advocacy is driven by compassion, integrity, and a steadfast commitment to creating a world where women are celebrated as leaders and change-makers.

### \*The Philosophy of Graceful Flow\*

At the heart of Michelle's work are three pillars: flow, freedom, and fulfillment. She encourages women to align with what is true for them, create portable and values-driven work and wealth, and build success that nourishes the soul. Her signature question—“What are you affirming daily—abundance or limitation?”—reminds women to speak their desires into existence and act as if their dreams are already unfolding.

Michelle's message to women everywhere is clear: you do not need

permission to live your best life. You need to make a decision—one that affirms your potential and commits to your growth. Technology, community, and personal responsibility have created an unprecedented era of possibility. Michelle's work through Graceful Flow and her partnership with Prosperity of Life exists to meet women at that decision point and guide them toward a life by design.

### \*A Woman Who Inspires the World\*

Michelle Curtis is a beacon of hope, resilience, and empowerment. Her story is a testament to the power of transformation and the importance of living authentically. She has inspired women across the globe to trust themselves, lead with purpose, and embrace their unique flow of life.

Her legacy is not just in the businesses she has built or the lives she has touched but in the ripple effect of empowered women who are now leading families, communities, and industries with grace and conviction. Michelle's life and work remind us all that true success is about alignment—living in harmony with our highest selves and inspiring others to do the same.



Michelle Curtis .