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News>> The Mt. Kenya Times' Elizabeth Angira Shines On The Global Stage At The 2025 Energy Of Words International Media Contest

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News>> Presidential Heroes And Heroines Awards: Kenyans From Different Backgrounds Feted

P. 12. This year's Mashujaa Day celebrations concluded with decorations of a few Kenyans and a Nigerian citizen who were beneficiaries of impacts National Heroes Awards for their outstanding contributions that have made a significant impact in the country.

Mutahi Kahiga Under Siege

Dozens of leaders yesterday hit out at Nyeri County governor Dr Mutahi Kahiga over his attributes on the death of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga last week. Kahiga ignited a national firestorm following remarks he made that appeared to celebrate the death of Raila. Speaking at a funeral in Nyeri County, Kahiga suggested that Raila's passing was a divine intervention that would redirect government development projects back to the Mount Kenya region. His comments, delivered in Kikuyu and captured on video, were interpreted by many as rejoicing over Odinga's death.



Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga

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"ALL BUSINESSES
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President Ruto Hosts Top Senegal And Mozambique Officials

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some of the Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto yesterday hosted his colleague from Senegal Bassirou Diomaye Faye where after deliberations, they announced the commencement of Visa free visits to the two nations. The Head of State also hosted Mozambique Prime Minister Maria Benvinda Levy where he noted that the two countries have strong and cordial bilateral and diplomatic relations that go back 50 years which have been boosted by trade and economic agreements on agriculture, the blue economy and investment.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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

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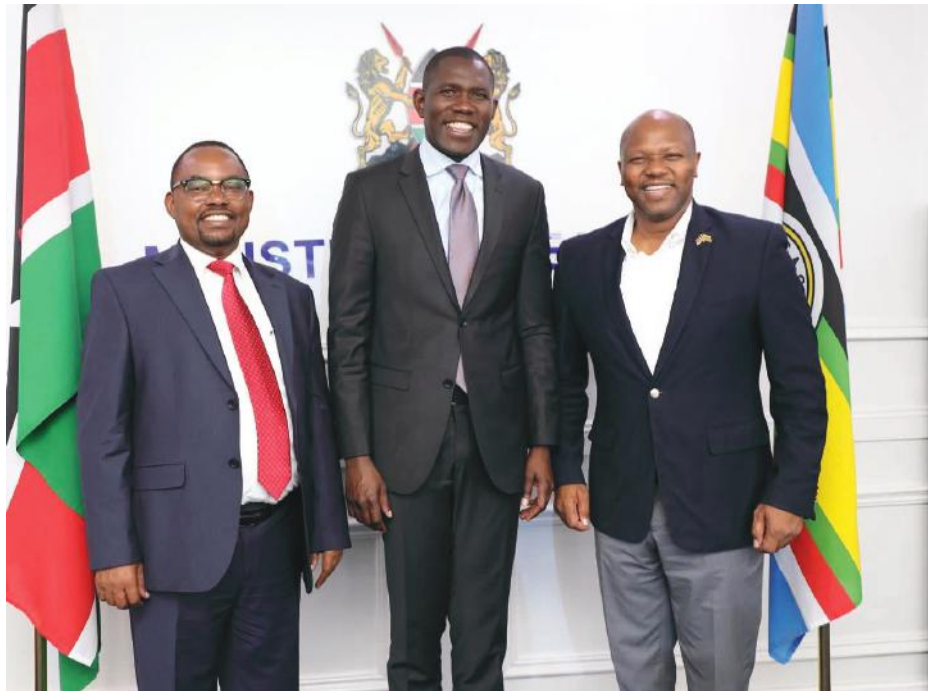


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NEWS IN BRIEF



The family of the late Hezekiah Nyamao, one of Kenya's earliest Olympic gold medalists, is appealing for financial assistance to settle medical bills and bury their kin. Nyamao, a sports legend aged 88 years from Kiogoro Ward in Kisii County, died at a hospital in Nakuru County after a long battle with cancer. The Olympic gold medalist had previously sought financial aid, saying his illness had drained their resources. Nyamao was one of the Kenyan quartet (Hezekiah Nyamao, Robert Ouko, Julius Sang and Charles Asati) of the legendary 4x400m relay team that won Olympic gold at the 1972 Munich Games and silver at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics. For assistance to clear the KSh700,000 bill and accord him decent sendoff, funds can be channelled to M-pesa Number 0728967653 - Felister Samuel.



The Ministry of Health is advancing plans to strengthen local vaccine manufacturing through enhanced collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and key national stakeholders. During a meeting at Afya House, the Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Dr. Ouma Oluga (centre), met with Dr. Emmanuel Nzani (right), Chair of the Kenya Vision 2030 Delivery Board, and Dr. Charles Githinji (left), Chair of the Board of Directors at the Kenya Biovax Institute, to discuss strategies for expanding local manufacturing capacity and achieving self-reliance in health commodities. The discussions built on previous engagements held in Washington, D.C., and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to positioning Kenya as a regional hub for vaccine research, development, and production in line with the Kenya Vision 2030 framework.

A delegation from the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) visited KALRO Headquarters to explore potential value chains and strengthen ongoing collaboration. Discussions focused on the upcoming Post-Harvest Development Hub at KALRO Horticulture Research Institute, Kandara, aimed at reducing post-harvest losses and improving value addition. Through partnerships like CIRAD, KALRO continues to drive innovations that enhance productivity, quality, and market access while accelerating digital transformation in Kenya's post-harvest sector.



Machakos Talent Academy (MTAFC) and MAS Queens are the new Eastern Region football champions after triumphing during the regional finals held at the Kenyatta Stadium, Machakos on Sunday. MTA beat Milimani United 5-4 on post-match penalties after both teams had played to a one-all draw in regular time to win the men's title. The new champions scored in the seventh minute through Morrison Mutiso, but Ryan Ochieng levelled matters 20 minutes later as the two sides headed to penalties. In the women's contest, MAS Queens hammered Kibauni Queens 3-1. Diana Namiti netted twice, with Wilkister Shimwati scoring the other goal for MAS as Tracy Adata grabbed the consolation for Kibauni. The two winners pocketed Sh1 million each, while Milimani United and Kibauni Queens were awarded Sh500,000, with third-placed MAS FC and Athi River Queens settling for Sh250,000.



Kenya is strengthening collaboration with global partners to advance Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and ensure equitable access to quality sexual and reproductive health services for all. Yesterday, Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale hosted a delegation from the Global Steering Committee of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Supplies Partnership, led by Mr. Anders Thomsen, to reinforce ongoing partnerships that align with Kenya's UHC priorities. The meeting reaffirmed the Government's commitment to reproductive health commodity security and celebrated key milestones achieved through the Compact Agreement — a framework that has fostered accountability and strengthened sustainable domestic financing for family planning commodities. Kenya's consistent adherence to this Compact, through counterpart funding and progressive budget allocations, continues to position the country as a regional model for stewardship and country ownership.



NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



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A Case In Which High Court Granted Pesticides Petition Class-Action Status To Resume Tomorrow

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

In a ruling delivered last month, the judge granted a request by the African Center for Corrective and Preventive Action (ACCPA) to expand Petition E048 of 2022 into a class-action suit.

The petition filed by ACCP through its director James Mwangi Macharia alongside activist Kelvin Mugambi Kubai is seeking to ban the use of dangerous pesticides in the country and hold both the State and agrochemical firms accountable for their failure to protect citizens from pesticide-related damage.

An environmental petition challenging the use of highly hazardous pesticides is expected to resume tomorrow before the High Court in Nairobi.

Lady Justice Grace Kemei is set to mention the matter and give directions, weeks after she ruled that the landmark petition should proceed as a class action, a move that opened the way for individuals and communities affected by exposure to join the case and pursue compensation.

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The petition filed by ACCP through its director James Mwangi Macharia alongside activist Kelvin Mugambi Kubai is seeking to ban the use of dangerous pesticides in the country and hold both the State and agrochemical firms accountable for their failure to protect citizens from pesticide-related damage.

The petitioners filed at the case while acting on behalf of communities said to have been harmed by exposure to hazardous pesticides, including glyphosate, paraquat, and chlorpyrifos.

The petition has named several respondents, among them multinational agrochemical giants Monsanto Kenya, Syngenta East Africa, Bayer East Africa, BASF East Africa, and Twiga Chemicals, as well as regulatory and state bodies including the Pest Control Products Board, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Council of Governors, and the Attorney General.

The petitions avers that continued exposure to harmful pesticides violates Article 42 of the Constitution, which guarantees every Kenyan the right to a clean and healthy environment.

At the heart of the case is a call for a judicial order to outlaw specific pesticides, including glyphosate, paraquat,



African Centre for Corrective and Preventive Action (ACCPA) official James Mwangi Macharia demonstrating to farmers in Mwea, Kirinyaga County on how to effectively use protective gears last month. Photo/Courtesy.

imidacloprid, chlorpyrifos, fipronil, and thiamethoxam.

These chemicals, the petition states, are banned or heavily restricted in other countries but remain in widespread use in Kenya on essential crops.

According to the petitioners, prolonged exposure to such chemicals has been linked to serious health risks, including cancer, lung damage, and reproductive harm.

Communities living in agricultural zones, where spraying is most common, are said to be disproportionately affected.

“The science is clear, and the risks are real,” the petition reads. “Farmers, workers, and consumers face daily exposure to chemicals that compromise their health and degrade the environment.”

The petition also accuses the government of failing to enforce adequate regulation or provide protective measures for those most exposed. It points to a lack of transparency and limited public consultation in decisions involving pesticide approvals, leaving farmers with little information about the dangers they face.

Another central argument is what the petition describes as “double standards,” where products banned in markets such as the European Union are still marketed and used in Kenya. “This practice treats Kenyan lives as less valuable and exposes the population to preventable risks,” the filing states.

As part of its relief, the petition not only seeks a ban on the named pesticides but also calls for compensation for individuals and communities already harmed.

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Kenya's Elizabeth Angira Shines On The Global Stage At The 2025 Energy Of Words International Media Contest

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

The award ceremony of the 2025 Energy of Words International Media Contest took place at the Manezh Central Exhibition Hall in Moscow, Russia.

The annual contest, organized by the Global Energy Association, seeks to recognize and support journalists who cover key processes and emerging trends in the global energy sector. This year's competition attracted 210 entries from 31 countries, showcasing diverse perspectives on how the energy industry is evolving across the world.

Among the outstanding winners was Kenya's Elizabeth Angira, a multimedia journalist with The Mount Kenya Times, who proudly secured third place in the category of "The Best Energy Story in Foreign Media."

The winners in the category were announced as:

1st Place: Divash Gahatraj, Asia Democracy Chronicles (India)

2nd Place: Hector Juan Zarsosa Gonsales, ICN (Spain/Uruguay)

3rd Place: Elizabeth Angira, The Mount Kenya Times (Kenya)

For Angira, this recognition was more than just an award – it was a symbol of perseverance, growth, and faith in her calling as a storyteller.

"Receiving this international award has had a great impact on my life," she said, reflecting on the moment. "I have witnessed myself growing day by day in my journalistic journey. This recognition defines patience, hard work, and the power of believing in one's purpose."

Angira's award-winning story explored how renewable energy innovations are transforming rural communities in Kenya – powering smallholder farms, improving livelihoods, and driving climate resilience.

Her ability to humanize complex energy issues through the voices of ordinary citizens struck a deep chord with the judges.

"This award means a lot to me as a professional journalist," she shared. "It reminds me that every story told with passion and authenticity can inspire change. It is also a reminder to keep pushing forward, no matter the challenges."

She credits her journey to the unwavering support of those who have walked alongside her – editors who refined her storytelling craft, mentors who guided her vision, friends and family members who never stopped

believing in her.

"I'm deeply grateful to my editors, mentors, friends and family who have been my backbone. Their encouragement has kept me moving even when the road seemed uncertain," she said warmly.

To her fellow journalists, Angira offered heartfelt words of encouragement:

"To my colleagues everywhere never give up. Journalism may not be an easy path, but it is a powerful one. With God, everything is possible," she affirmed.

The Global Energy Association, which organizes the Energy of Words contest annually, continues to support journalists who shine a light on innovations, policy shifts, and the human stories behind the global energy transition.

For Angira, this recognition marks a new chapter – one filled with hope, opportunity, and purpose.

"This award opens doors to new opportunities and motivates me to continue producing impactful, solution-based stories that connect people, energy, and sustainable development," she concluded.

As the curtain fell on the glittering ceremony in Moscow, Elizabeth Angira's achievement stood as a beacon of excellence – a reminder that powerful journalism knows no borders and that passion, perseverance, and purpose can indeed light the world.

Angira is a multiple award-winning multimedia journalist based in Kenya, accredited by the Media Council of Kenya (MCK).

Her work focuses on climate change, science, Environment, Agriculture, Health, gender equality, Sexual Reproductive Health Rights, and community development, with a passion for telling solution-based stories that drive public awareness and policy change.

Angira has received several prestigious recognitions, including:

- African Journalist Gender Equality Award (2021) by FEMNET
- Agenda 2063 African Women in Media Pitch Zone Award (2021 & 2022)
- Media Council of Kenya Digital Awards in Agriculture, Food Security, and Sports Reporting
- MERCK Foundation "More Than a Mother" Media Recognition Award (Print & Online).
- National Association of Science Writers (NASW) Award - Science Writing

A believer in continuous learning and mentorship, Angira continues to inspire young journalists through her resilience, excellence, and commitment to impactful storytelling.



Elizabeth Angira shines with a third-place win for "The Best Energy Story in Foreign Media" by the Global Energy Association at the Manezh Central Exhibition Hall in Moscow, Russia.



Elizabeth Angira
 Senior Climate Reporter at The Mount Kenya Times

Congratulations on your amazing achievement!

"Powerful storytelling meets global recognition! Elizabeth Angira shines with a third-place win for "The Best Energy Story in Foreign Media" at the prestigious Manezh Central Exhibition Hall in Moscow by the Global Energy Association."

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Mutahi Kahiga Under Siege

Leaders Condemn Nyeri Governor's Remarks On Raila Odinga's Death Terming Them As Reckless And Uncalled For

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Dozens of leaders yesterday hit out at Nyeri County governor Dr Mutahi Kahiga over his attributes on the death of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga last week.

Kahiga ignited a national firestorm following remarks he made that appeared to celebrate the death of Raila. Speaking at a funeral in Nyeri County, Kahiga suggested that Raila's passing was a divine intervention that would redirect government development projects back to the Mount Kenya region. His comments, delivered in Kikuyu and captured on video, were interpreted by many as rejoicing over Odinga's death.

The video quickly went viral, sparking widespread condemnation from leaders across the political spectrum. Kahiga's remarks came just days after Odinga's sudden death on from cardiac arrest while walking at an Ayurvedic facility in India. Odinga's passing triggered a wave of national mourning, with tributes pouring in from across Kenya and around the world. Raila was widely regarded as a statesman who shaped Kenya's political landscape for decades, championing democracy, constitutional reform, and national unity. His death was seen as a moment for reflection and healing, not political point-scoring.

The backlash against Kahiga was swift and fierce.

From Council of Governors caucus, his colleagues across the country, Members of Parliament, Senior government officials and bloggers affiliated to the current administration, Kahiga was not spared.

The council of Governors through its chairman has called for a special sitting today to discuss the issue.

Some Governors want Kahiga to relinquish the vice chairman's position at the caucus.

Anne Waiguru, Governor of Kirinyaga and a prominent figure in the Mount Kenya political bloc, expressed deep disappointment in Kahiga's comments. She emphasized that leadership demands empathy, especially during moments of national mourning. Waiguru stated that such remarks undermine the values of unity and respect that should guide public service.

Nyeri County leaders led by MPs; Wambugu Wainaina (Othaya), Njoroge Wainaina (Kieni),

Eric Wamumbi (Mathira), Maina Mathenge (Nyeri Town) as well former Rigathi Gachagua's advisor Ngunjiri Wambugu condemned the utterances hitting out at Kahiga for being insensitive.

The Mathira MP called on Nyeri County Assembly MCAs to immediately impeach the governor.

Saboti MP Caleb Amisi also criticized Kahiga for politicizing a tragedy and using a moment of grief to advance regional interests. Amisi called for leaders to rise above petty politics and honor Raila Odinga's legacy.

The Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), which Raila Odinga led for decades, issued a strongly worded statement condemning Kahiga's remarks. The party described the governor's comments as "morally repugnant" and "an affront to the dignity of the Kenyan people." ODM highlighted Raila's contributions to constitutional reforms, devolution, and national reconciliation, asserting that his death should be a moment of reflection and unity, not political opportunism.

Civil society organizations also joined the chorus of condemnation. The Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) called for disciplinary action against Kahiga, arguing that his remarks violated the ethical standards expected of public officials. KHRC urged the Council of Governors to censure Kahiga and demanded that the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission investigate his conduct. The Council of Governors responded by distancing itself from Kahiga's remarks, stating that his comments did not reflect the collective values of the governors' forum. In a brief statement, the Council emphasized the importance of respectful discourse and national unity, especially during periods of mourning.

Leader of Majority in the National Assembly, Kimani Ichung'wah, also weighed in. While he did not directly reference Kahiga's remarks, Ichung'wah emphasized the need for leaders to exercise restraint and uphold the dignity of public office. He urged politicians to avoid inflammatory statements that could divide the country, especially at a time when Kenyans are grieving the loss of a national icon. Ichung'wah's comments were seen as a subtle rebuke of Kahiga's rhetoric, reinforcing the call for responsible leadership.

Kapseret MP Oscar Sudi, known for his outspoken style, took a more direct approach. In a video shared on social media, Sudi criticized Kahiga's remarks and called for unity



Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga.

among leaders. He acknowledged Raila Odinga's role in shaping Kenya's political history and urged fellow politicians to respect his legacy. Sudi's comments were notable given his reputation for fiery political commentary, signaling the seriousness with which many leaders viewed Kahiga's statements.

Political analysts have weighed in, noting that Kahiga's remarks reflect a troubling trend in Kenyan politics where regionalism and ethnic loyalty often overshadow national unity. Some commentators argued that the governor's comments were not just disrespectful to Raila Odinga but also harmful to the broader goal of building a cohesive and inclusive Kenya. They warned that such rhetoric could inflame ethnic tensions and undermine efforts to foster national healing following Raila's death.

In the days following Raila's death, memorial services were held in Nairobi, Kisumu, and other major cities, drawing thousands of mourners from all walks of life. Tributes poured in from global leaders, including former U.S. President Barack Obama, South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa, and Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni. Within Kenya, Raila's legacy was celebrated as one of resilience, reform, and reconciliation.

Against this backdrop of national mourning, Kahiga's remarks struck a discordant note. Many Kenyans took to social media to express their outrage, with hashtags like #ShameOnKahiga and #RespectRaila trending for days. Some called for Kahiga's resignation, arguing that his comments were incompatible with

the dignity of his office. Others demanded that he issue a public apology to Raila's family and the nation.

Kahiga, however, has remained defiant. In a follow-up statement, he claimed that his remarks were taken out of context and that he did not intend to disrespect Raila Odinga. He accused his critics of politicizing the issue and insisted that he was merely expressing gratitude for what he perceived as a shift in political dynamics. This explanation has done little to quell the outrage. Critics argue that Kahiga's refusal to apologize demonstrates a lack of accountability and a disregard for the emotional pain his comments have caused. They contend that leadership requires humility and the ability to acknowledge mistakes, especially when those mistakes have national implications.

The controversy has also reignited debates about the role of religion in politics. Kahiga's framing of Raila's death as a divine intervention has drawn criticism from religious leaders, who caution against using faith to justify political agendas. The National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) issued a statement urging politicians to exercise restraint and respect the sanctity of life. NCCCK emphasized that death should never be celebrated, regardless of political differences, and called on leaders to promote messages of peace and reconciliation.

As the nation continues to mourn Raila Odinga, the incident involving Governor Kahiga serves as a stark reminder of the importance of ethical leadership. It highlights the need for public officials to uphold the values

of respect, empathy, and national unity, especially during moments of collective grief. While political competition is an inherent part of democracy, it must never come at the expense of human dignity.

The calls for accountability are growing louder. Some legal experts have suggested that Kahiga could face disciplinary proceedings under the Leadership and Integrity Act, which sets standards for the conduct of public officers. Others have proposed that the Senate investigate the matter and recommend appropriate sanctions. Whether these calls will lead to concrete action remains to be seen, but the public pressure is undeniable.

In the meantime, Raila Odinga's legacy continues to inspire Kenyans across the political divide. His vision for a united, democratic, and just Kenya remains a guiding light, even in death. As the country grapples with the loss of one of its most influential leaders, the hope is that his memory will serve as a catalyst for healing and a renewed commitment to the values he championed.

Governor Kahiga's remarks may have sparked outrage, but they have also prompted a national conversation about the kind of leadership Kenya needs. It is a conversation that goes beyond politics and touches on the very soul of the nation. In moments like these, the true measure of leadership is not in political maneuvering but in the ability to bring people together, to honor the past, and to build a future rooted in respect and unity.

No More Visa Requirements For Kenya And Senegal Citizens

By: PCS
@themkenyatimes

Kenya and Senegal have lifted visa restrictions for their citizens travelling between the two nations.

President William Ruto and President Bassirou Diomaye Faye of Senegal also witnessed the signing of the agreement at State House, Nairobi yesterday.

The President said the visa-free travel arrangement for up to 90 days will strengthen bilateral relations between Kenya and Senegal.

“This important milestone will foster stronger people-to-people ties and boost tourism, trade and collaboration,” he said.

President Faye is in the country on an Official Visit and was the chief guest at Monday’s Mashujaa Day celebrations in Kitui County.

The two leaders reaffirmed their joint commitment to closer collaboration in trade, peace and security, energy, sports and multilateral affairs.

“Our collaboration in these sectors aims not only to enhance prosperity, but also to promote sustainable development between our two nations,” he said.

The President noted that a Joint Cooperation Commission (JCC) will play a key role in strengthening ties between the two nations.

He said Kenya is ready to host the inaugural JCC meeting in early 2026, whose aim is to deepen cooperation in sectors that are mutually beneficial.

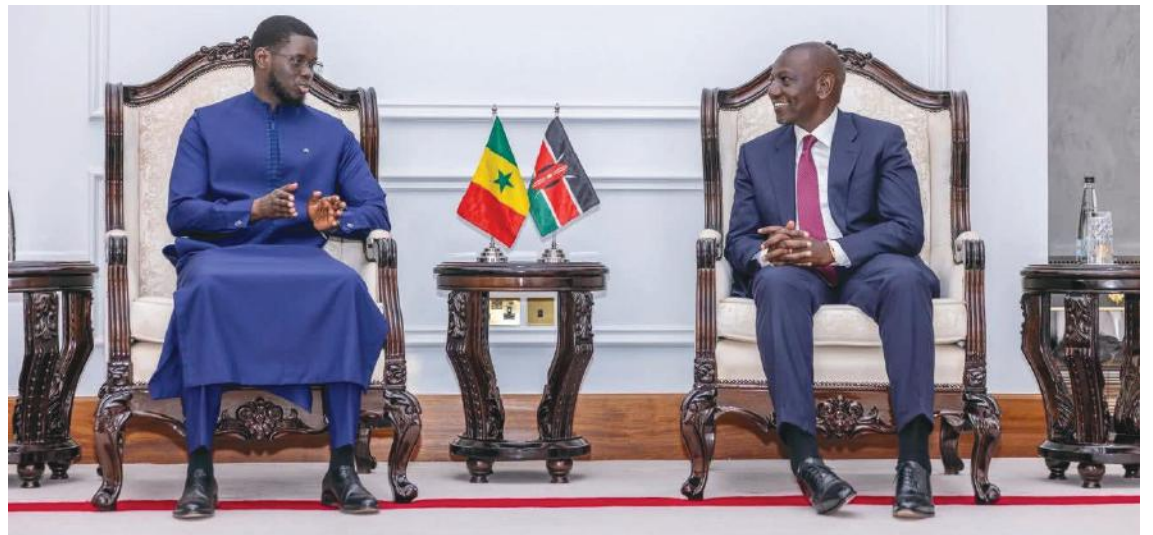
“In particular, we will engage and seek to conclude new instruments that will expand our bilateral cooperation,” he added.

President Ruto said Kenya and Senegal will also work on eliminating barriers that have limited trade between the two countries.

“To address this, we commit to working together to remove barriers, enhance transport and digital infrastructure, harmonise standards and promote business-to-business engagement,” he said.

Additionally, the two leaders pledged to uphold the goals of Agenda 2063 and support the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, aimed at driving continental industrialisation, trade and economic integration.

President Ruto also said Kenya and Senegal will cooperate in sports, leveraging Senegal’s expertise in infrastructure development, event management and building lasting sports legacies ahead of AFCON 2027.



President William Ruto and President Bassirou Diomaye Faye at State House, Nairobi yesterday.

The President said Kenya is committed to exploring joint initiatives such as exchange programmes for coaches and athletes, co-hosting regional tournaments and establishing joint training camps.

“By combining Kenya’s strength in athletics and Senegal’s prowess in football, we aim to uplift our youth and enhance cultural diplomacy,” he said.

On peace and security, the two leaders pledged to collaborate in resolving regional conflicts, noting that there cannot be development, trade,

and regional integration without peace and stability.

On the multilateral front, Presidents Ruto and Faye agreed to advocate a more representative and effective United Nations to make it fully capable of streamlining operations, modernising structures and making the organisation fit for purpose.

On his part, President Faye commended the relationship between Kenya and Senegal, saying it is built on peace, stability, good governance and African integration.

On trade, President Faye echoed

President Ruto in noting that bilateral relations, trade and investment do not yet reflect the full potential. He pointed out that more needs to be done.

“We have agreed to work on organising the Joint Cooperation Commission, which I hope will help identify and explore concrete areas of partnership that need to be built or innovated,” he said.



Government officials from Senegal and Kenya during the consultative meeting yesterday.

Worth Noting:

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- The two leaders reaffirmed their joint commitment to closer collaboration in trade, peace and security, energy, sports and multilateral affairs.

- “Our collaboration in these sectors aims not only to enhance prosperity, but also to promote sustainable development between our two nations,” he said.

Kirinyaga Residents Endorse Plan To Upgrade Sagana, Kagio And Wang'uru Into Municipalities

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

Residents of Sagana, Kagio and Wang'uru towns have supported a proposal by the County Government of Kirinyaga to create two new municipalities.

The move seeks to strengthen urban planning, enhance infrastructure, and open up access to funding from the national government and development partners.

Under the proposal, Sagana and Kagio will be merged into one municipality, while Wang'uru will stand independently.

County officials say the plan is driven by rapid population growth, increased business activity, and the need for better urban management to support expanding economies in the three towns.

Speaking during the public participation forums held across the towns, County Executive Committee Member for Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Rev. Samuel Kajobe, said the engagement was key in ensuring residents' views inform major development decisions as required by Article 10 of the Constitution.

"We began this process to assess the feasibility of creating two new municipalities. Sagana-Kagio as one and Wang'uru as a stand-alone," he said.

Kajobe mentioned that Sagana, Wang'uru, and Kagio are poised for rapid urban growth, with expanding populations and strong economic activity driven by trade and industrial development.

"Sagana's population is projected to reach about 175,000 due to the ongoing construction of an industrial park while Wang'uru's catchment area extends to Murang'a, Nyeri and Embu, bringing its expected population to over 100,000. Kagio is expanding rapidly due to the fresh produce market," he added.

Rev. Kajobe noted that the county is already reaping big from the Kerugoya-Kutus Municipality and expanding municipal coverage will promote balanced development across the county.

The mapping and boundary review process is being led by a committee chaired by Irene Kiatu from the IEBC, who said the team was established in April this year to guide the process and collect residents' views.

"We are pleased with the turnout in Sagana. Residents are showing real interest in shaping the future of their towns," she said.

Kariti Ward Member of the County Assembly (MCA) Jeremiah Makimi, welcomed the initiative, recalling that Sagana and Kagio once had a



town council before devolution.

"Only Kerugoya and Kutus currently enjoy municipal benefits in Kirinyaga. If full municipality status is not possible, at least granting town status will help us qualify for KURA-constructed roads, set up local management committees, and establish facilities such as fire stations and reliable water supply," he said.

Residents and business owners also expressed optimism that the elevation will transform their towns and create new opportunities.

Mary Nyawira, a trader from Kagio, said the plan will attract investors and generate jobs.

"This is good news for us. With additional funding from develop-

ment partners and the national government, we expect better markets, proper planning and more business spaces," she said.

Wachira Njogu, a trader, said upgrading of the town's status were long overdue.

"You cannot plan for Kagio without its people. Municipality status will bring better roads, sewer systems, and improved public amenities," he said, adding that it will also help resolve jurisdictional challenges since Kagio lies between Mwea West and Kirinyaga West sub-counties.

Similar sentiments were echoed in Wang'uru town.

James Murimi proposed that neighboring centres such as Kimbimbi,

Mutithi, Kiamanyeki, Gathigiriri and Thiba be included in the municipality to boost development.

Grace Wanja said residents have long waited for the upgrade.

"A municipality will allow us to build better towns, attract investors and access essential services like fire response locally instead of relying on Kerugoya," she said.

Once approved, the municipalities will qualify for additional funding to improve roads, sewer systems, drainage, waste management and markets.



Worth Noting:

- Under the proposal, Sagana and Kagio will be merged into one municipality, while Wang'uru will stand independently.
- County officials say the plan is driven by rapid population growth, increased business activity, and the need for better urban management to support expanding economies in the three towns.
- Speaking during the public participation forums held across the towns, County Executive Committee Member for Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Rev. Samuel Kajobe, said the engagement was key in ensuring residents' views inform major development decisions as required by Article 10 of the Constitution.
- "We began this process to assess the feasibility of creating two new municipalities. Sagana-Kagio as one and Wang'uru as a stand-alone," he said.

Presidential Heroes And Heroines Awards: Kenyans From Different Backgrounds Feted

By: PCS and MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The late former Prime Minister Raila Odinga was posthumously given the Chief of the Order of the Golden Heart of Kenya (C.G.H.), First Class, the nation's highest civilian honour.
- From the celebrations host county of Kitui, two trailblazers were celebrated. Dr Joyce Daudi Nzulwa was recognised for advancing good governance, diversity and inclusion, while embodying integrity and service excellence.
- Ms Eunice Koli Kimwele was honoured for her charitable work with young people, mentoring them in civic knowledge and entrepreneurship.
- From the Coast, Mr Shukri Baramadei was commended for strengthening national stability through leadership in security and maritime infrastructure.
- Baringo's Caroline N Lentupuru earned recognition for her tireless campaign against female genital mutilation and her efforts to secure education for vulnerable girls.

This year's Mashujaa Day celebrations concluded with decorations of a few Kenyans and a Nigerian citizen who were beneficiaries of impacts National Heroes Awards for their outstanding contributions that have made a significant impact in the country.

The ceremony, held at Kitui State Lodge in Kitui County where some of the beneficiaries interacted with President William Ruto and other guests.

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Ms Eunice Koli Kimwele was honoured for her charitable work with young people, mentoring them in civic knowledge and entrepreneurship.

From the Coast, Mr Shukri Baramadei was commended for strengthening national stability through leadership in security and maritime infrastructure.

Baringo's Caroline N Lentupuru earned recognition for her tireless campaign against female genital mutilation and her efforts to secure education for vulnerable girls.

Dr Chris Kiprotich Kiptoo of Elgeyo Marakwet, the National Treasury Principal Secretary, was awarded the honour for environmental conservation through the Kaptagat Integrated Conservation Programme, which has restored thousands of hectares of degraded forest and promoted clean energy use.

International honours went to Nigerian diplomat Jonathan Emmamuzo Ojadah for championing peace and good governance across Africa.

In Murang'a, Dr Dianah Wanjiku Kamande was honoured for her work with the "Come Together Widows and Orphans Organisation", which has supported widows and children for more than a decade.

Mr Elias Jama Noor from Wajir got a feather in his cap for the central role he played in reconciliation after the 2007 post-election violence through peace education campaigns.

On his part, Mr Adan Hassan Sagar was recognised for reconciling communities in North-Eastern Kenya through grassroots activism and spiritual leadership.

For efforts in cultural preservation in Nandi, the Rev Javan Kiprotich Tarno was commended for modernis-



Some of those feted in a group photo with senior government officials led by President William Ruto.

ing the rites of passage and instilling discipline and harmony among young men.

Former National Police Service member, retired Inspector of Police Joshua Indimuli was feted for his exemplary service of more than three decades.

From Nyeri County, John Mwangi Munyiri, and aspiring governor was honoured for his commitment in peace making during the Post Election Violence of 2007 where he led teams in the Sabaot area to amend relations with neighbouring communities and his overall contribution

towards the youth agenda of this country.

In sports, Nairobi's Mildred Omari Cheche was recognised for guiding the U17 Starlets to their first-ever appearance at the Ladies World Cup, while Mombasa's Abud Omar Khamis was awarded for captaining national team Harambee Stars to the quarter finals of the 2024 CHAN tournament.

In education and philanthropy, Prof Bosire Monari from Kisii was commended for more than three decades of scholarship and his role in shaping the Competency Based Curriculum.

Kisumu's Peter Odhiambo Okul was recognised for uplifting communities through safety training, youth employment, and tree planting.

Mr Lenonid Ashindu of Nairobi was rewarded for engineering excellence, expertise in construction and leadership in professional organisations where he has pushed for ethics and mentorship.

Dr Nyakona Roselyne David from Kisii was hailed for her fearless advocacy of women's rights and her fight against gender violence.



Retired Inspector of Police Joshua Indimuli (2nd right) celebrating with other beneficiaries. Photos/Courtesy.

Fresha Milk Makers Grapple With High Feed Costs, Reduced Output

By: Felix Njenga
@themtkenyatimes



John Ndichu chairman Githunguri dairy farmers cooperative society during the annual general meeting.

Worth Noting:

- Speaking at the society's annual general meeting held at Githunguri Stadium, chairman John Ndichu highlighted the high cost of animal feeds as the paramount challenge, attributing it to a scarcity and increased taxation of raw materials imported from neighboring countries.
- "The animal feeds raw materials, most of them come from Tanzania and Uganda," Mr. Ndichu told farmers.
- "Last year, the Tanzanian government banned the sale of raw materials to Kenya and the Ugandan government raised taxes on the raw materials. The two aspects have become a challenge, hence leading to the high cost of animal feeds."

Githunguri Dairy Farmers Co-operative Society, the makers of the popular 'Fresha' milk products and Kenya's third-largest milk production society, is battling significant headwinds caused by soaring animal feed costs and a drop in milk deliveries.

Speaking at the society's annual general meeting held at Githunguri Stadium, chairman John Ndichu highlighted the high cost of animal feeds as the paramount challenge, attributing it to a scarcity and increased taxation of raw materials imported from neighboring countries.

"The animal feeds raw materials, most of them come from Tanzania and Uganda," Mr. Ndichu told farmers.

"Last year, the Tanzanian government banned the sale of raw materials to Kenya and the Ugandan government raised taxes on the raw materials. The two aspects have become a challenge, hence leading to the high cost of animal feeds."

Further compounding the high cost of production is the strong US dollar against the Kenyan shilling, which has increased the cost of value addition for their milk products. Additionally, the elevation of Githunguri sub-county to a municipality has contributed to higher operational costs within the society, the chairman noted.

Despite these challenges, farmers were informed that the market price for their milk has remained unchanged, squeezing profit margins at the farm gate.

The society registered a decrease in milk remittance over the past year. Farmers delivered 91,069,554 kilograms of milk to the society, down from 92,188,882 kilograms in the

2023/2024 period. This represents a reduction of 1,119,328 kilograms.

"Remittance of milk to the society went down by 1,119,328 kilograms. We are urging farmers to be remitting all their milk to the society," Mr. Ndichu pleaded.

The reduced output translated to a slight dip in the society's turnover, which decreased by KSh2,739,826, moving from KSh10,594,404,812 to KSh10,591,664,986.

However, the chairman expressed optimism, noting a recent increase in supplies. "We are optimistic that the milk will increase as there is an increase of 75,000 kilograms every month in the last three months," he stated.

The society is actively seeking new export destinations after facing challenges in existing markets. Supply to their markets in Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Yemen became difficult due to ongoing conflict in those regions.

"We are looking for market in DRC

Congo and other African countries, and we are still in negotiations with business people," the chairman confirmed, adding that the society currently holds 3,952,929 kilograms of milk in its stores.

On a positive note for farmers, the average payment per kilogram of milk slightly improved to KSh49.47, up from KSh49.3 in the previous year.

To mitigate costs, the society has begun using firewood for its boiler to reduce electricity bills and has upgraded its milk packaging machinery.

The society is also focused on farmer education, having partnered with Swedish organisations like UNIDO and SIDA. This collaboration will support the construction of a learning hall for farmers, the employment of extension officers, and the provision of electric motorcycles and laptops. The partnership will also increase the herd at the society's model farm.

"Our main aim of the society is to ensure all farmers get educated on agribusiness," Mr. Ndichu said.

The co-operative's efforts in capacity building were recently recognised at the Ushirika Day celebrations, where it was awarded the best in capacity building. The society also secured multiple accolades at the Nairobi Show, including the second position for the 'most striking display demonstration of locally manufactured products'.

During the meeting, farmers voiced their frustrations directly. John Warui, a farmer, urgently called on the government to lower the cost of taxes on animal feeds to alleviate the burden on producers.

"We are being hurt as farmers due to the high cost of feeds, and the government should come in to help farmers," he appealed.

Caroline Wangari echoed this sentiment, calling for a reduction in the "too high" costs of other animal inputs.



Githunguri dairy farmers shareholders follow proceedings during the annual general meeting.

The Stampede Of Fervor



There in the ground
Great desire found
Where fervour meets
The idolatory's greets.
No one knows
The forthcoming blows
People do pose
Under someone's nose.

A scene unfolds, both tragic and grand
A tale of crowd's in chaos' hand.
Here in the house, the child with great zeal,
Doth drag his mother in a frantic appeal,

To meet the star, the hero of his sight,
Unaware of the wait, a torment that doth
test his might.
The mobiles flash, in frenzied delight,

capturing moments, in fleeting light,
The announcement comes, the actor's near,
And chaos erupts in a maddening fear.

The stampede, a beast unleashed and wild,
Doth trample all, with a merciless child.
The innocent, the young, the old, the weak,
Do suffer and some, their lives do shriek
Oh, the tragedy, that doth befall,
Due to to the herd's folly and a fatal call,
The 'goat mind' of crowd's, that doth prevail,
Doth lead to ruin and a tragic tale.
Let this be a lesson, to all we hold dear,
To balance zeal with compassion's tear.
For in the fervor of the fanatic's fire,
We must not lose our sense in gyre,
And may we learn to love and adore,
Without losing sight, of what is truly more.

N. Sumathi
Graduate Teacher (English)
Government High School
Segampalayam, Palladam Block
Tiruppur District
Tamilnadu, India.

The Owner Of Light-Spreading Eyes, Words That Give Confidence



Umirbayeva Barno Jamshid kizi
Chirchik State Pedagogy University
speech therapy route 1st stage student

This in the article author own in life important
place caught to teachers was sincere gratitude
the feeling expression Alisher Navoi in the work

wisdom based on of the teacher spiritual the
essence of the teacher society and person in
life place illuminated . Author one how many
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is emphasized . the student to teachers love ,
respect and loyalty in the spirit educates .

Each human in life road pointer , guide lost at the
time From his hand to the heart , to the heart
warmth lucky provider one light This light is the
teacher . The teacher is life.

Ask Me....



Ask me....
Not about my nation
It's going on into destruction.
Not about the current leaders.
They are not patriotic feeders.
Ask me not about our politicians
They are very brutelling our nation.

Not about our education
It is completely eradication.
Not about the judiciary

It is tied as slavery.
Not about the humanity...
It is vanished away from human virtuality.
Not about the spirituality.
It collapsed the nation's integrability.

Ask me about the corruption.
Ask me about the child abuse.
Ask me about the brutality.
Ask me about the violence.
Everything going on good and Healthy.

R. Mumtaj Begham.
BT Assistant
Trichy
Tamilnadu
India

Fight Silently, Win Loudly



No matter how hard the trials come,
With patience and strength, we shall overcome.
Success will find its shining way,
Brighter than the brightest day.

When hardship comes, don't be afraid,
Patience is the bridge success has made.
When sorrow fades and shadows flee,
Glory will shine surrounding thee.

The silent weight of pain you bear,
One day will turn to triumph rare.
All the darkness will melt away,
As dawn brings light to bless your day.

V. Ranjani Veerasamy
English teacher
Pondicherry
India.

Bravery, Thy Name Is Woman....



There rings a long, long bell,
What does its sweet tone tell it speaks of a
grand old story,
That never leaves human memory.

Born in the land of Kota, Rajasthan,
Lofty dreams of the skies, mera Hindustan,
She flew high with NCC's microlight team, She's
indeed
Deepika Misra, the Commander beam.

Braving strong challenges ahead in miniature,
Her tenacious life, an example to us in stature.

She saved people's lives from torrential rains,
The relief on the people's faces still remains.

Deepika Misra, the lady of bravery, is my role
model,
She stands as an epitome of all,
Her bravery proves her caliber,
I admire her, the first woman in caricature.

The Wing Commander turned an ace pilot,
A decorated IAF officer, great laurels in respect,
Fear blocks the way in tight, Courage is still her
flight!

Great women are around the world,
I, being a girl, love to admire in hoard,
Women are the bravest folk,
Bravery, thy name is woman, you are born to
rock.

The Wing Commander Deepika Mishra

Usha Ramesh

The River



From the heart of the Earth a river springs
flowing freely in its own gentle way,
unafraid of obstacles.
It moves forward, overcoming every struggle with
silent strength.
With honesty and purpose,
it carves its path, singing its own music as it
travels on .
The trees sway to the rhythm of the wind,
leaves draft upon its surface like tiny boat,. And
fallen branches swim along by its side.
"The river wandered everywhere with joy ."

Mohana K ,B T Asst, Middle school, kovakulam.

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Hope For Raila Odinga’s Book And Peaceful Campaign

By: George Mugo
 @themtkenyatimes

The participation in the struggle of democracy will leave Orange Democratic Movement leader Raila Odinga aspirations written in books of history, a politician said yesterday.

Accountant George Gitau said that Raila’s contributions will be highlighted well by writers and that his participation in the road to democracy will be read by many scholars for years.

Gitau added that, even though Raila was eulogised by Kenyans, local and international politicians, people will need to tell his story in a book.

“Even though he was buried, people will live to discuss him. Renown writers will write his story. He has nurtured so many politicians, encouraged many people and had so many people who followed him,” he said.

“Some of the issues that people are mentioning are the space for democracy and the Constitution 2010. These are other important issues to

this country he participated in,” Gitau said.

He was speaking at Kerwa area in Kikuyu constituency where he will seeking the parliamentary seat on the Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) ticket.

He will battle out with among others, the National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung’wa who has held the seat for three consecutive terms.

Gitau urged the local to pray for peaceful campaigns as it was being advocated by his party’s top brass.

“Even as we campaign, we are urging our people and especially the youth to remain peaceful since we need each other before, during and after the elections,” he said.

He called on Kenyans to support the United Opposition caucus saying it had a strategy that will liberate the whole country, once they take over the nation’s leadership.



Kikuyu constituency parliamentary aspirant George Gitau with Kikuyu Council of Elders when he was endorsed as a leader.

Maraga Terms Cybercrimes Act Assent A Betrayal Of Kenyans, Faults Provisions On Website Closures

By: Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

Former Chief Justice David Maraga has criticised President William Ruto’s assent to the amended Cybercrimes Act, terming it a betrayal of Kenyans and a setback for digital freedoms.

Maraga said the law’s new provisions — allowing authorities to shut down websites and online platforms cited for “violations” — open the door for abuse, censorship, and political manipulation.

“The Cybercrimes Act, as signed, betrays the spirit of the Constitution and the values of democracy,” Maraga said.

“Granting the Executive unchecked power to close websites is not about protecting Kenyans; it’s about silencing dissent and controlling information.”

The former Chief Justice argued that such clauses contradict Article 33 of the Constitution, which guar-

antees freedom of expression, and warned the state could use the law to intimidate journalists, bloggers, and online publishers critical of government policies.

“This is a dangerous precedent,” he added. “Today it’s about websites, tomorrow it will be social media accounts and digital newsrooms. We cannot build a transparent nation by criminalising opinion.”

President Ruto assented to the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes (Amendment) Bill on October 15, which government-leaning lawmakers defended as necessary to combat online fraud, fake news, and hate speech.

Maraga vowed to back efforts to annul “oppressive provisions” of the law that undermine Kenya’s democratic gains and constitutional freedoms.

“The government should focus on enforcing existing laws to protect citizens from cybercrime, not on expanding powers that threaten civil liberties,” he said.



Retired Chief Justice David Maraga/FILE



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Strategic Funding For Affordable Broadband: Kenya's Economic Growth Catalyst



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

The expansion of affordable broadband internet in Kenya represents a critical juncture for economic transformation, where strategic capital deployment through equity and debt financing can unlock unprecedented growth opportunities. When low-cost internet service providers secure growth capital through rigorous due diligence processes and satisfaction of condition precedents, they create a foundation for sustainable market expansion that benefits consumers, investors, and the broader economy. This structured approach to financing ensures that capital flows to viable enterprises capable of delivering quality internet services at competitive prices, thereby accelerating digital inclusion across urban and rural communities alike.

From a legal perspective, the due diligence process serves as a crucial safeguarding mechanism that protects both investors and regulatory interests while ensuring compliance with Kenya's telecommunications framework. The satisfaction of condition precedents including regulatory approvals, licensing requirements, and adherence to competition law standards creates a transparent investment environment that attracts both domestic and international capital. This legal rigor ensures that funded operators maintain compliance with the Kenya Information and Communications Act, the Competition Act, and related regulatory instruments, thereby preventing market distortions and anticompetitive practices that could undermine the sector's development.

The Competition Authority of Kenya stands to benefit significantly from increased funding to low-cost broadband providers, as such investments inherently promote market pluralism and reduce concentration risks. When multiple well-capitalized internet service providers compete for market share, dominant players face pressure to improve service quality and reduce prices, creating a dynamic competitive environment that serves consumer interests. This competitive tension dismantles monopolistic tendencies and encourages innovation, as established operators must continuously enhance their value propositions to retain customers in an increasingly crowded marketplace.

Financial analysis reveals that equity and debt funding for broadband infrastructure generates multiplicative economic returns through direct investment, employment creation, and enabling effects on other economic sectors. Equity financing provides



patient capital that supports long-term infrastructure development, while debt instruments offer leverage that accelerates deployment timelines without excessive dilution of founder equity. The blended finance approach optimizes capital structure, reduces the weighted average cost of capital, and creates sustainable business models that can weather market volatility while maintaining affordable pricing for end consumers.

The economic multiplier effect of affordable broadband penetration extends far beyond the telecommunications sector, catalyzing growth in e-commerce, digital financial services, remote work, online education, and technology-enabled agriculture. When internet access becomes affordable for small businesses, farmers, students, and entrepreneurs, productivity gains ripple through the economy, enhancing Kenya's competitiveness in regional and global markets. Research consistently demonstrates that a ten percent increase in broadband penetration correlates with measurable GDP growth, making strategic investment in this sector a high-impact economic development strategy.

From a competition law standpoint, the entry of well-funded low-cost providers serves as a natural remedy to market failures and barriers to entry that have historically concentrated internet service provision among a few large operators. The Competition Act of 2010 explicitly prohibits abuse of dominance and anticompetitive conduct, yet effective enforcement

requires credible competitive alternatives that can challenge incumbent market power. When new entrants secure adequate financing to build infrastructure, acquire spectrum, and market their services, they create the competitive pressure necessary to keep established players accountable, thereby operationalizing competition law principles through market mechanisms rather than solely through regulatory intervention.

The satisfaction of condition precedents in funding transactions including technical capability assessments, financial projections validation, management capacity evaluation, and regulatory compliance verification ensures that only credible operators receive capital, thereby protecting consumers from service disruptions and substandard offerings. This gatekeeping function performed through due diligence processes aligns investor interests with public policy objectives, as funders naturally gravitate toward operators with sustainable business models and genuine capacity to deliver quality services. The result is a self-regulating mechanism that complements statutory oversight, creating a robust ecosystem where market discipline reinforces regulatory standards.

Kenya's digital economy strategy explicitly recognizes affordable broadband as foundational infrastructure for achieving the nation's development goals, including those outlined in Vision 2030 and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda. Strategic funding for low-cost inter-

net providers directly advances these policy objectives by democratizing access to digital tools, reducing the urban-rural digital divide, and creating pathways for inclusive economic participation. When capital markets channel resources to broadband infrastructure, they become instruments of national development policy, translating abstract strategic goals into tangible connectivity that transforms lives and livelihoods across the country.

The confluence of legal compliance, financial sustainability, competitive market dynamics, and economic development objectives makes strategic funding for affordable broadband providers one of the most compelling investment theses in Kenya's current economic landscape. By ensuring rigorous due diligence and satisfaction of condition precedents, the financing ecosystem protects stakeholder interests while channeling capital toward ventures that simultaneously generate commercial returns and profound social impact. This alignment of profit motive with public good represents the ideal intersection of market efficiency and developmental economics, positioning Kenya's telecommunications sector as an engine of inclusive growth that leverages competition law principles to deliver quality internet services at prices that expand access to the digital economy for all Kenyans.

The writer is a legal researcher and writer

Worth Noting:

- The Competition Authority of Kenya stands to benefit significantly from increased funding to low-cost broadband providers, as such investments inherently promote market pluralism and reduce concentration risks. When multiple well-capitalized internet service providers compete for market share, dominant players face pressure to improve service quality and reduce prices, creating a dynamic competitive environment that serves consumer interests. This competitive tension dismantles monopolistic tendencies and encourages innovation, as established operators must continuously enhance their value propositions to retain customers in an increasingly crowded marketplace.

- Financial analysis reveals that equity and debt funding for broadband infrastructure generates multiplicative economic returns through direct investment, employment creation, and enabling effects on other economic sectors.

NPS, NPSC Contest Employment Court's Jurisdiction On Police Recruitment

By: Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

The National Police Service (NPS) and the National Police Service Commission (NPSC) have jointly challenged the jurisdiction of the Employment and Labour Relations Court (ELRC) in a case that led to the suspension of the planned recruitment of 10,000 police officers across the country.

The two institutions filed responses before the court yesterday arguing that the petition, lodged by former legislator John Harun Mwaui, falls outside the mandate of the ELRC, which temporarily halted the nationwide recruitment exercise earlier this month.

NPSC contended that the matter does not arise from any employment or labour relations dispute, but instead touches on constitutional and administrative issues concerning national security and police governance.

"The NPSC respectfully submits that this Honourable Court lacks jurisdiction to entertain, hear, and determine the present petition and application," the Commission stated

in its filing.

Restricted jurisdiction

The Commission cited Section 12(1) of the Employment and Labour Relations Court Act and Article 162(2) of the Constitution, arguing that the ELRC's powers are confined to disputes between employers and employees, or involving trade unions and labour organizations.

"The petition before this court does not meet this threshold. It does not involve an employment relationship, collective bargaining, or any dispute between a worker and an employer," the NPSC maintained.

Instead, the NPSC and NPS assert that the case concerns the constitutional functions of the Inspector General, the police service, and the Commission itself—including recruitment, promotion, discipline, payroll, and human resource management—issues they say are within the jurisdiction of the High Court under Article 165 of the Constitution.

The agencies warn that allowing the ELRC to proceed with the case could disrupt the established chain of command and civilian oversight structures governing the police service.



The Commission cited Section 12(1) of the Employment and Labour Relations Court Act and Article 162(2) of the Constitution, arguing that the ELRC's powers are confined to disputes between employers and employees, or involving trade unions and labour organizations/FILE/NPSC

However, Mwaui opposed the jurisdictional objection, insisting that the ELRC is legally empowered to hear the petition.

He accused the Commission of violating constitutional principles of transparency, fairness, and accountability in the recruitment process.

Mwaui also claimed the NPSC failed to conduct adequate public participation before publishing the 2025 Police Recruitment Regulations, and has asked the court to declare the exercise null and void, maintaining the interim suspension orders.

The ELRC in Nairobi, presided over by Lady Justice Hellen Wasilwa, had

on October 2, issued the temporary suspension of the recruitment, which was set to begin the following day, October 3.

The case will proceed to a full hearing to determine whether the ELRC can retain jurisdiction over the matter.

NACADA Leads Maseno Operation To Dismantle Student-Targeted Drug Network

By: Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

A multi-agency operation led by the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) has dealt a major blow to a drug trafficking network targeting university students in Maseno, Kisumu County.

Acting on credible intelligence, the enforcement team comprising NACADA officers, the Anti-Narcotics Unit (ANU), and the National Police Service (NPS) conducted a midday raid in the Maseno area that resulted in the recovery of a significant consignment of narcotics and illicit substances.

During the operation, officers recovered two basins full of bhang, 55 packets of export cigarettes, 20 litres of chang'aa, and several Rizlers, all

believed to be part of an organized distribution network targeting students in learning institutions.

The seized items have an estimated street value of Sh800,000. One suspect was arrested at the scene, while another escaped and is being pursued by law enforcement officers.

Investigations have revealed that the consignment had been partly dispatched to Manyatta, Kisumu, and another outlet within Maseno town, to supply students in and around the university area. Authorities believe this operation forms part of a broader effort to intercept drug cartels exploiting young people in institutions of higher learning.

Speaking after the operation, NACADA Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Anthony Omerikwa, reaffirmed the Authority's unwavering commitment to the ongoing 100-Day Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) against drug and substance abuse, as directed by the Cabinet Secretary for Interior



and National Administration, Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen.

"This operation underscores our resolve to dismantle criminal drug networks that prey on the youth. The Rapid Results Initiative remains in force, and NACADA will continue coordinating multi-agency efforts to ensure our communities and learn-

ing institutions are free from drugs," said Dr. Omerikwa.

He further noted that the Authority will sustain intelligence-led enforcement while strengthening collaboration with local communities, universities, and security agencies to curb the spread of narcotics in academic environments.

The operation at Maseno adds to a growing list of nationwide enforcement activities under the RRI framework aimed at restoring public safety and protecting the country's young population from the grip of addiction.

Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy Starts Five-Year Jail Term

By: Agencies
@themkenyatimes

Sarkozy Was Convicted Of Criminal Conspiracy For Seeking Campaign Funds For The 2007 Election From Libya's Strongman Muammar Gaddafi



Nicolas Sarkozy entering the prison yesterday.



Worth Noting:

- Sarkozy was sentenced to five years after being found guilty last month of criminal conspiracy, due to having accepted millions of euros in illegal payments from the late Libyan ruler, Muammar Gaddafi, to fund his 2007 election campaign.
- As he arrived to serve the sentence, his lawyers said he has always denied the charges and that a request for release had been immediately filed.
- "It is not a former president of the republic being jailed this morning, but an innocent man," he said on X on his way to prison. "Truth will prevail."
- Dozens of supporters and family members had stood outside Sarkozy's home from early yesterday, some holding up framed portraits.

France's former president Nicolas Sarkozy yesterday arrived at a prison in Paris to start serving a five-year jail sentence.

The 70-year-old leader arrived at La Sante prison in a police car, becoming the first former head of an European Union state to be jailed.

Sarkozy was sentenced to five years after being found guilty last month of criminal conspiracy, due to having accepted millions of euros in illegal payments from the late Libyan ruler, Muammar Gaddafi, to fund his 2007 election campaign.

As he arrived to serve the sentence, his lawyers said he has always denied the charges and that a request for release had been immediately filed.

"It is not a former president of the republic being jailed this morning, but an innocent man," he said on X on his way to prison. "Truth will prevail."

Dozens of supporters and family members had stood outside Sarkozy's home from early yesterday, some holding up framed portraits.

"Free Nicolas," they shouted as he departed to head to the jail. Earlier, they had sung the French national anthem, as neighbours looked on from their balconies.

"This is truly a sad day for France and for democracy," said Flora Amanou, 41, who came to show her support.

Sarkozy is the first French leader to be imprisoned since Philippe Pe-

tain, the Nazi collaborationist head of state, who was jailed after World War II.

He told Le Figaro newspaper he will be taking with him a biography of Jesus and a copy of The Count of Monte Cristo, a novel in which an innocent man is sentenced to jail but escapes to take revenge.

He is likely to be held in a nine-square-metre (95-square-foot) cell in the prison's solitary confinement wing, prison staff told the AFP news agency.

This is a security measure, meaning he will avoid contact with other prisoners, according to staff.

In solitary confinement, prisoners are allowed out of their cells for one walk a day, alone, in a small yard. Sarkozy will also be allowed visits three times a week.

It is unclear how long he will remain in jail.

Presiding judge Nathalie Gavarino said during sentencing that the offences were of "exceptional gravity", and therefore ordered Sarkozy to be jailed even if he filed an appeal.

The court has two months to examine the release appeal lodged by his lawyers



The late Muammar Gaddafi

Public Prosecutor Files Extradition Request For British Soldier In Agnes Wanjiru Murder Trial

By: Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) has written to the State Law Office seeking the extradition of a British soldier accused of murdering Agnes Wanjiru in Nanyuki more than a decade ago.

ODPP informed the court yesterday it had, through a letter dated October 9, 2025, asked the Attorney General, via the Solicitor General, to initiate the formal extradition process to have the fugitive brought to Kenya to face trial.

Appearing before Justice Alexander Muteti, victim's lawyer Mbiu Kamau faulted the government for taking over ten years to begin proceedings in the high-profile case.

"Agnes Wanjiru disappeared on March 31, 2012, and her body was found two months later dumped in a septic tank," Kamau told the court.

The lawyer urged the court to com-

pel the ODPP and Attorney General to fast-track the extradition process, arguing that justice has been delayed for too long.

He also asked that the victims be supplied with all documentary evidence and exhibits that will be used during trial.

Kamau noted that an inquest held at the Nanyuki Law Courts had already found the fugitive soldier culpable for the offence of murder, setting the stage for possible prosecution if extradition is successful.

Justice Muteti directed all parties involved to expedite the process and file regular progress updates with the court.

He further ordered that documentary evidence shared by the ODPP with the victims should not be made public before trial.

The judge slotted the case for mention on November 24, 2025, for an update on the status of the extradition.



Court Slashes Litein High School Damage Fee To Sh10,000, Voids Sh49,000 Demand

By: Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

The High Court sitting in Kericho has granted relief to parents of Litein High School students after ordering an unconditional payment of Sh10,000 each to cover the destruction of school property — nullifying the institution's earlier demand of Sh49,000 per student.

Delivering the ruling yesterday, Justice Joseph Serگون said the school's earlier directive was unreasonable and unrealistic, especially at a time when Form Four candidates are preparing to sit for their national examinations.

The judge noted that even after the school management attempted to revise the figure downwards to Sh25,000, the amount still remained burdensome under the current economic conditions.

Lawyers representing the parents told the court that the decision by the

school administration led by Principal Kiprotich Sang was oppressive and risked locking out more than 2,500 students from continuing with their education.

The advocates told the court that over 800 Form Four students who had reported to school for examination rehearsals last Friday were turned away for failing to meet the financial demand.

They further urged the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) to investigate the school's administration, questioning why Litein High School, out of more than 6,000 secondary schools nationwide, was the only one facing persistent unrest.

"The Teachers Service Commission should look closely at the management of Litein High School to restore order and protect parents from exploitation arising from repeated strikes," the lawyers said.

Justice Serگون directed both parties to file their submissions by November 21, 2025, ahead of the court's final judgment on the matter.



Justice Joseph Serگون said the school's earlier directive was unreasonable and unrealistic, especially at a time when Form Four candidates are preparing to sit for their national examinations/FILE

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Sports >> *Controversy around Team Kenya to this year's Deaflympics in Tokyo continues to grow murkier with claims of nepotism and favouritism in the selection process.

Wrangles Persist In Team Kenya Deaflympics Preps As Stakeholders Cry Foul Over Exclusion

Controversy around Team Kenya to this year's Deaflympics in Tokyo continues to grow murkier with claims of nepotism and favouritism in the selection process.

Sources within the Kenya Sports Federation for the Deaf (KSDF) — the local governing body — indicate that the process has been fraught with biasness and favouritism, certain officials accused of fixing their relatives into the team.

"There are people who gave the top Kenya sport Federation of the Deaf money to be included in the list, but they are afraid to give evidence. Some bribed but have been left out," the source, who prefers to remain anonymous, indicated.

The source adds: "The top officials have included their friends on the list. There are people who are never in sports and have no leadership but are there as family in the camp (mother, father and daughter)."

Elsewhere, Kenya Deaf Basketball Federation (KDBF) member Ruth Akinyi accused senior officials of the body of skewed selection of players for the national team ahead of the global championships.

In a letter addressed to Sports Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya, Akinyi alleges she was omitted from the final team after she was initially selected as an official as were her two children.

"During the national Deaflympics women's basketball trials held at USIU University two months ago, my children were selected and I was officially appointed as part of the team staff. However, we were later removed without any explanation and denied entry into the training camp," Akinyi says in her letter dated October 19, 2025.

Additionally, there are concerns over the inclusion of deaf handball, which was allegedly sus-



Team Kenya for the 24th Summer Deaflympics in Caxias do Sul, Brazil returning home to a heroic welcome at the JKIA.

ended for misappropriation of funds.

"There is a concern that Handball was suspended for misappropriation of funds, yet the same Handball is in the list with team leaders selected by the same suspended officials, which contradicts the sports acts," the source alleges.

At the same time, the exclusion of certain disciplines from the final team to compete in Tokyo has ruffled feathers with stakeholders questioning why the same always happens to deaf sports.

Cry for justice

The Kenya Badminton Federation of the Deaf, in particular, have sought the assistance of prominent lawyer PLO Lumumba to contest their exclusion from the final team.

In a letter dated October 20, 2025, the federation say they feel discriminated against, accusing KSDF of reneging on their earlier commitment to support their preparations.

"He (the KSDF secretary Johnson Mutua) further stated that all deaf federations with events scheduled 25th Summer Deaflympic Games and whose team had received invitation should

prepare to participate. All teams to send video clips of their ongoing training. The government of Kenya, through Sports Fund, had made formal commitment to support all the teams participating in the games," the letter reads.

Also lamenting are the Kenya Deaf Volleyball Federation who have sought answers on why the discipline has been cut off from the final team of disciplines.

Indeed, the ministry, while appearing before the National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Sports and Culture in August this year, promised to facilitate a 21-day training camp for all the 12 disciplines.

"The Ministry through the State Department of Sports has been supervising the ongoing selection and preparations of 2025 Deaflympics, organised at individual federations level. Once selection is completed and handed over to KSDF which then tables to the Steering and Operations Management Committee, the Ministry will facilitate a 21-days residential camp training prior to teams' departure to the games," the statement indicated.

Trouble from the start

The latest controversy surround-

ing the team's preps follows that of deaf golfer Isaac Makokha who a fortnight ago criticised KSDF chair Daniel Ogembo of interfering with trials held in Mombasa.

In a letter to Sports Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya, the Deaflympics bronze medalist accused Ogembo of selecting his family members and friends into the team.

"Our Chairman, Daniel Ogembo, selected his family members, interpreter, and friends to be in the team. During this time, I was subjected to distressing communication video chats with Deaf golfers in Mombasa County. They were angry, accusing me of deliberately dropping their names from the official list of golfers and caddies selected to attend the upcoming Deaflympics event," Makokha said.

In lieu of the challenges, the ministry has planned a meeting with stakeholders on Wednesday afternoon after which they will release a statement.

This year's Deaflympics is set for November 15-26 in the Japanese capital.

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Sports >>> *Étoile Sportive du Sahel defender Alphonse Omija has vowed that the Tunisian giants will deliver a stronger and more aggressive performance when they host Nairobi United in the return leg

Omija Promises Fierce Étoile du Sahel Response Against Nairobi United in Tunis

Étoile Sportive du Sahel defender Alphonse Omija has vowed that the Tunisian giants will deliver a stronger and more aggressive performance when they host Nairobi United in the return leg of their CAF Confederation Cup second-round clash in Tunis, this weekend.

Omija, who featured prominently in Sunday's first leg, insisted the tie is far from over despite his fellow countrymen claiming a 2-0 victory at the Ulinzi Sports Complex.

"We were very lucky because they missed many chances. We lost in Nairobi, but we're determined to make things right in Tunis. Expect a different team, one that's sharper, more focused, and ready to fight," Omija said.

The Kenyan defender, who joined the Tunisian club earlier this year, praised Nairobi United for their composure and home advantage but warned that the atmosphere in Tunis would be "completely different."

"They played well at home and took their chances, but the return leg is another story. We'll be at home with our fans behind us, and we're going to give everything. We're still in it," he added.

Omija, a former Gor Mahia player, has become a key part of Étoile's backline, bringing both composure and experience to the North African side.

He believes that the first-leg defeat has only fueled their hunger to bounce back.

The Tunisian outfit now face a must-win situation as they aim to overturn the deficit and progress to the group stages.

Meanwhile, Nairobi United, making their continental debut, will look to defend their two-goal cushion in what is expected to be a fiery second leg in Sousse.

The decisive encounter is scheduled for Saturday at the Stade Olympique de Sousse, where both sides will be battling for a place



Harambee Stars defender Alphonse Omija poses in the jersey of his new team. PHOTO/ETOILE SPORTIVE DU SAHEL FACEBOOK

in the next round of Africa's second-tier club competition

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The Mt Kenya Times



Dawanna S. Alexander; CEO And Founder Of Lady Shannel



By: Anila Bukhari

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

Dawanna's purpose-driven life is intertwined with her current role as a CST II at UNC Hospital, where she walks in her calling every day—touching lives and guiding others toward recovery and renewal. Her heartfelt dedication to motivating and encouraging others is a testament to her compassionate spirit, as she pushes others to reach their next level through her innovative coaching programs.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Dawanna is a devoted woman of faith, wife, and mother. She is actively involved with Deliverance Through Christ Outreach Ministry in Pittsboro, North Carolina, where her faith continues to guide her path. Family remains her greatest blessing, and she cherishes the moments spent with loved ones and friends.

Dawanna S. Alexander, CEO and Founder of Lady Shannel Coaching & Consulting LLC and CEO of Real Talk With Lady Shannel Podcast, is a shining example of strength, compassion, and unwavering faith. As an Accredited & Certificated Life Recovery Coach, Mental Health Specialist, Christian Counselor, and Certified Trauma Informed Coach, Dawanna dedicates her life to empowering others to rise above their challenges.

Her journey has been marked by trials and tribulations, yet each obstacle has only fueled her passion to serve. Through her own experiences of hardship, she has cultivated a deep understanding of pain and healing, transforming her struggles into a source of strength for those she mentors. Her work as an international motivational speaker and best-selling author extends her message of hope across borders, inspiring countless individuals to believe in their own power to overcome.

Dawanna's purpose-driven life is intertwined with her current role as a CST II at UNC Hospital, where she walks in her calling every day—touching lives and guiding others toward recovery and renewal. Her heartfelt dedication to motivating and encouraging others is a testament to her compassionate spirit, as she pushes others to reach their next level through her innovative coaching programs.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Dawanna is a devoted woman of faith, wife, and mother. She is actively involved with Deliverance Through Christ Outreach Ministry in Pittsboro, North Carolina, where her faith continues to guide her path. Family remains her greatest blessing, and she cherishes the moments spent with loved ones and friends.

Her life story is a powerful reminder that although life may bend us, it will never break us. Dawanna's unwavering belief that she shall not be defeated inspires others to find resilience in their own journeys. Her story is a testament to the transformative power of faith, perseverance, and a heart committed to service.



Dawanna S. Alexander; CEO And Founder Of Lady Shannel