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News >> CS Duale Engages Ministry Staff To Reinforce Health Sector Transformation

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Ruto Launches Mau Plan, OKs Logging

The government has begun the restoration of 33,000 degraded hectares in Mau Forest. President William Ruto said the government has adopted a whole-of-government and community approach to restore Mau Forest and use it as a source of livelihood and water. In the new plan, the President said, every year, the government will restore over 3,000 hectares so that in 10 years the 33,000 hectares will be fully restored.



President William Ruto planting a tree at Mau Complex yesterday.

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President Ruto Unveils Mau Forest Complex Integrated Conservation and Livelihood Improvement Programme

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto yesterday launched the Mau Forest Complex Integrated Conservation and Livelihood Improvement Programme in Nakuru County. “We have started the journey to restore the Mau Forest Complex as part of our plan to plant 15 billion trees in the country within the next 10 years,” he said during the ceremony. He added, “To ensure this initiative is successful, we have adopted a whole-of-society approach, bringing together government, the private sector, and communities to plant and grow trees.” Once restored, the more than 33,000-hectare complex will raise water levels in our rivers, boost food production, and support over 5 million livelihoods in Nakuru County and beyond.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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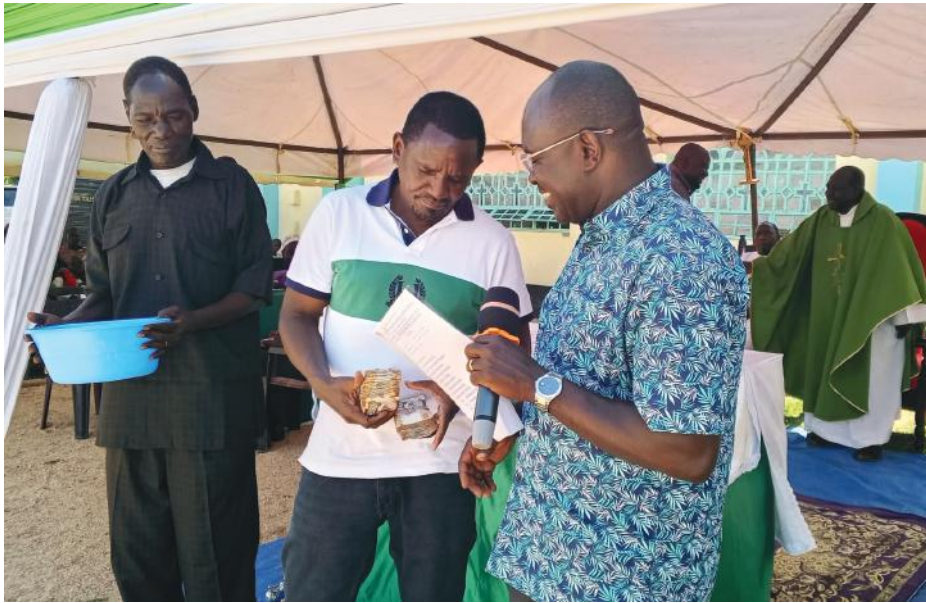


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NEWS IN BRIEF



Two legislators from Siaya have cautioned former prime minister, Raila Odinga supporters to be wary of politicians taking advantage of Raila's death to tear apart his support base. Gem member of Parliament, Elisha Odhiambo and his Ugenya counterpart, David Ochieng said that even known tribalists were now spewing propaganda aimed at ensuring that Raila's support base stop backing the broad-based government that the former premier left them in. They were speaking at St. Teresa Kawuondi catholic church in Rarieda constituency during a funds drive in aid of the church.



Posta Kenya workers downed their tools to protest the non-payment of their salaries and the non-remittance of statutory deduction by their employer for the last six months. The Central Region branch Secretary, Communication Workers Union of Kenya (COWU), Solomon Shikanda has said that the workers will continue to paralyse all operations at the Postal Corporation of Kenya until such a time that their salary arrears are paid in full. The strike comes after the expiration of a strike issued Communication Workers Union issued more than a month ago asking the government settle the Sh 1.5 billion debt owed to workers. Last week COWU Secretary General Besnon Okwaro gave the government until last Sunday to settle the arrear failure to which they would down their tools starting yesterday.



Counselors and life coaches in Kiambu County have raised concern over the growing number of young men sinking into depression, drug abuse, and even near-death experiences following emotional and financial exploitation by women who enter relationships purely for material gain. According to relationship counselor Dr. Susan Gitau, cases of men suffering emotional breakdowns after being deceived by partners pretending to love them have sharply increased, with many victims reporting financial ruin and suicidal thoughts. Several men narrated painful experiences of betrayal after investing heavily in women they thought loved them.



A case filed by a group of Othaya residents to protest the increase in water tariffs by Othaya and Mukurweini Water and Sanitation Company failed to proceed in the Environment and Labour Court yesterday. Presiding Judge, Lady Justice Lilian Kimani was informed of a preliminary objection regarding the court's jurisdiction, submitted by the Water Regulation Board. Thus, the judge deferred the hearing until the court addresses the issues raised and ordered both parties to file their submissions. During a press briefing, the residents' lawyer, Charles Mbao (left), stated that preliminary objection submissions will be heard on January 29 next year. The residents, with the support of aspiring MP Othaya constituency, Edmond Gathiru (right) took legal action following the tariff increase, which they claim was implemented without adhering to proper procedures.



A woman believed to be dealing in illicit business of drug trafficking was yesterday arraigned before the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport Court following a swift raid conducted by Anti-Narcotics detectives over the weekend. Safia Burhan Marjan was nabbed on Saturday in her house in Raila Estate where two packets containing 462 grams of suspected cannabis and 240 grams of suspected cocaine were recovered. A four-day custodial order was granted to detain the suspect as the detectives finalise investigations.

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



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Over 2.4 Million Learners Sit CBE Exams In Historic National Assessment

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- These exams are pivotal in determining learners' progression into junior and senior secondary school under the new Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC). According to the Ministry of Education, 1.29 million Grade 6 learners are sitting for KPSEA, while 1.13 million Grade 9 learners are taking the inaugural KJSEA.

- Basic Education Principal Secretary Julius Bitok assured the public that all logistics had been finalized, including the release of capitation funds to schools, deployment of invigilators, and secure distribution of exam materials.

Kenya's education system marked a major milestone this week as over 2.4 million candidates began sitting for Competency-Based Education (CBE) examinations across the country. The assessments, which kicked off on Monday, include the Kenya Primary School Education Assessment (KPSEA) for Grade 6 learners and the Kenya Junior School Education Assessment (KJSEA) for Grade 9 students.

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are sitting for KPSEA, while 1.13 million Grade 9 learners are taking the inaugural KJSEA.

Basic Education Principal Secretary Julius Bitok assured the public that all logistics had been finalized, including the release of capitation funds to schools, deployment of invigilators, and secure distribution of exam materials. "Everything is ready. The learners have been prepared, the exams have been delivered, and all officials are in place. We expect a smooth and professional exercise," Bitok stated during the launch at Olympic Primary School in Nairobi.

The Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) confirmed that over

3.4 million learners are registered for various assessments this year, spanning primary, junior, senior, special needs, and pre-vocational levels. The Grade 9 learners already have 40% of their marks from continuous assessment, with the remaining 60% determined by the KJSEA.

This year's exams are not only a test of academic readiness but also a litmus test for the CBC rollout, which aims to shift the focus from rote learning to skills development, creativity, and learner-centered approaches. The Ministry of Education emphasized that the assessments are designed to evaluate competencies rather than memorization, aligning with global

education trends.

Security around exam materials has been tight, with containers unlocked at dawn across the country under supervision from education and interior ministry officials. The government has also deployed additional resources to ensure the integrity of the process, especially in remote and underserved areas.

As the exams continue, education stakeholders are closely monitoring the implementation to identify areas for improvement. The results will not only influence individual learner placement but also inform future policy decisions on curriculum development and resource allocation.

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CS Duale Engages Ministry Staff To Reinforce Health Sector Transformation

By: MoH
 @themkenyatimes

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale yesterday convened an inaugural meeting with Ministry of Health staff to strengthen Kenya's healthcare agenda and reaffirm the collective commitment to deliver quality, accessible, and people-centred healthcare services for all Kenyans, anchored on Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

The meeting underscored that the success of the country's healthcare system depends on unity, professionalism, and teamwork across all cadres, programmes, and institutions within the Ministry.

In his keynote address, the CS emphasised the need for open communication, collaboration, and mutual respect, calling on staff to create a work environment that prioritises patient outcomes and efficiency in service delivery.

He further reiterated the importance of upholding public service values as



Health CS Aden Duale addressing the meeting yesterday. Photos/Courtesy.

outlined in Article 232 of the Constitution; transparency, professionalism, integrity, and accountability, which are essential to building trust and ensuring effective health service delivery.

The CS also echoed President William Ruto's vision of transforming Kenya into a first-world nation through economic reform, industrial-

isation, and investment in education, technology, and agriculture, noting that health remains a critical enabler of this transformation under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Interactive sessions during the meeting fostered teamwork, problem-solving, and alignment with the Ministry's strategic vision.



Dr Patrick Amoth with Ms Mary Muthoni at the Ministry headquarters yesterday.

Duale commended all Ministry staff for their dedication in safeguarding the health of the nation and urged continued collaboration to achieve Kenya's health transformation goals. The meeting was co-chaired by Principal Secretaries Dr Ouma Olu-ga (Medical Services) and Ms Mary Muthoni (Public Health and Profes-

sional Standards). Dozens of staff, led by the Director General of Health Dr Patrick Amoth attended the meeting that took place at the Ministry headquarters at Mili-mani area, Nairobi

DPP Seeks 30-Day Detention For Six Foreigners In Sh8 Billion Drug Bust

By: Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) has applied for a 30-day detention of six foreign nationals arrested in connection with a massive Sh8 billion narcotics haul seized at Kilindini Port, Mombasa. The suspects were arraigned before the Shanzu Law Courts following a multi-agency operation that uncovered over a ton of suspected synthetic drugs.

The operation, which was triggered by intelligence from the Kenya Navy, led to the seizure of 769 packages of crystalline substances weighing approximately 1,035.9 kilograms. Authorities believe the substances are synthetic narcotics, although forensic analysis is ongoing to confirm their composition.

The DPP's office cited the need for extended detention to allow inves-

tigators time to verify the suspects' identities and complete inquiries under Section 4(a)(ii) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act, 1994. The prosecution also requested the appointment of an independent interpreter to ensure a fair hearing, given the suspects' foreign nationalities.

The bust is one of the largest in Kenya's recent history and underscores the growing concern over the country's vulnerability as a transit point for international drug trafficking networks. The suspects were reportedly arrested on Friday during a coordinated sting operation involving the National Police Service, Kenya Revenue Authority, and other security agencies.

The court is expected to rule on the DPP's application in the coming days. If granted, the 30-day detention will provide investigators with a critical window to build a comprehensive case, trace the drug shipment's origin



The National Police Service (NPS) launched the operation after the Kenya Navy intercepted a vessel suspected of ferrying narcotics into the country/NPS..

and destination, and potentially uncover a broader criminal syndicate. This case has reignited calls for tighter maritime surveillance and en-

hanced inter-agency collaboration to combat transnational crime. It also places renewed pressure on Kenya's judicial system to deliver swift and

transparent justice in high-stakes narcotics cases.

Ruto Launches Mau Complex Conservation Initiative, Allows Controlled Logging

By: PCS
@themkenyatimes



President William Ruto and other leaders at the Mau Complex yesterday. Photos/PCS.

Worth Noting:

- In the new plan, the President said, every year, the government will restore over 3,000 hectares so that in 10 years the 33,000 hectares will be fully restored.
- He explained that this is part of the government's plan to grow 15 billion trees, supported by every government institution, the private sector and Kenyans.
- "This exercise will be conducted by all Kenyans and the entire government. We want this exercise to be inclusive," he said.
- He spoke during the launch of the Mau Forest Complex Integrated Conservation and Livelihood Improvement Programme in Nakuru County.
- He was accompanied by among others, Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika, Cabinet Secretaries Deborah Barasa and Lee Kinyanjui, Senate Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot, Principal Secretaries and Members of Parliament.

The government has begun the restoration of 33,000 degraded hectares in Mau Forest.

President William Ruto said the government has adopted a whole-of-government and community approach to restore Mau Forest and use it as a source of livelihood and water.

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At the event, over 5,000 tree seedlings were planted. The programme integrates community livelihoods into forest restoration to provide citizens with sustainable sources of income.

It included the distribution of tree seedlings, 10,000 pyrethrum splits, 5,000 tea seedlings, milk coolers, 50 beehives, and a last-mile connectivity initiative that will benefit more than 3,500 households.

In the Mau Forest ecosystem, 148,000 farmers are being supported to strengthen their livelihoods through 50 nature value chains.

The President said the National Youth Service will work with the Kenya Forest Service to re-establish 300 nurseries and 17 mega nurseries across the country to generate one billion seedlings to support the tree planting exercise.

This, he pointed out, will address the shortage of seedlings that derailed the exercise in the past.

"This exercise is on course. A Memorandum of Understanding has already been signed," he said.

The Head of State called on Kenyans to participate in tree planting exercises at home so that the country can continue to get adequate rainfall and wood to support the economy.

President Ruto also said the govern-

ment is setting up a fence in Narok to protect Mau Forest by ensuring no one encroaches.

At the same time, President Ruto said the government is pursuing alternative sources of infrastructure funding to accelerate infrastructure development.

He said over-reliance on the government budget has slowed down infrastructure development, noting it is time to think outside the box.

The President said the government is establishing a National Infrastructure Fund that will ensure infrastructure development programmes do not stall.

"We have to think outside the box if we are to build enough roads in Kenya. We have to bring investments from the private sector and go to the capital markets to raise resources," he said.

The President noted that the country needs a minimum of 10,000 km of roads worth Sh1.5 trillion.

"If we rely on the government budget, we will not build these roads," he said.

The President said the Rironi-Nakuru-Mau Summit road that will go all the way to Malaba will commence next month under the Public Private Partnership.

He said the road has been expanded

to a six-lane highway to accommodate more vehicles.

The President asked Kenyans to register for the Social Health Authority, noting it will help the government better plan for the country's healthcare.

President Ruto reiterated that no Kenyan should be charged to access primary healthcare.

The President reiterated that no part of the country will be left behind in national development.

He said he is keen on uniting Kenyans and rallying them behind the country's development agenda.

On Nakuru County's development, President Ruto said the government will construct 230 kilometres of road in Nakuru County.

He said the government is making the highest investment in Nakuru County, Sh28 billion, for the construction of affordable housing, 25 markets, and student hostels for 6,000 students.

He said the government is also investing Sh2.6 billion to connect 22 new households to power in Nakuru

Ruto Launches Mau Complex Conservation Initiative, Allows Controlled Logging

Contd from page 9

County.

The President also launched the construction of the 12-kilometre Kinamba-Murinduku road.

He noted that the road will facilitate the movement of agricultural produce, including onions, potatoes, tomatoes, pyrethrum and vegetables, and enhance farmers' incomes.

At Elburgon town, Molo Constituency, the President laid the foundation stone for the KSh4.2 billion Michinda Social Housing Project.

The development will deliver 2,680 modern housing units, which will accommodate over 10,000 residents when complete.

He also commissioned the 220-unit Elburgon Affordable Housing Estate, which was put up at a cost of KSh500 million.

President Ruto announced the lifting of the logging ban which had se-

verely affected the town's economic activities.

"We do not need to import furniture from abroad anymore; we shall use our own timber to make furniture for our affordable housing projects," he said.

Governor Kihika said the Mau Forest Complex Integrated Conservation and Livelihood Improvement Programme will ensure environmental conservation is inclusive.

"It ensures conservation is not exclusion but inclusion, not punishment but opportunity," she said.

Mr Kinyanjui asked leaders to work together to deliver services, reminding them that there is a time to politic and a time to work.

"We must put our nation first," he added.

Ms Debora said the government is committed to restoring ecosystems with the aim of turning green growth into green wealth.

She said forest restoration becomes both an environmental and economic revolution aligned to the Bottom-Up



Leaders and residents planting trees at the Mau Complex yesterday.

Economic Transformation Agenda. "As we launch this Mau Initiative, we are not just planting trees, we are growing livelihoods, we are restoring ecosystems and securing Ken-

ya's climate future," she said. Senate Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot noted that integrating livelihoods with environmental conservation will ensure citizens have

alternative sources of income. This, he explained, is what has been lacking, as citizens would encroach on forests to seek livelihoods.



ODM Vows To Carry Raila's Torch, Unite Party Amid Transition

By: David Kimani
 @themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- ODM Secretary General Edwin Sifuna, speaking with conviction and reverence, declared that the party would remain steadfast in defending the moral and democratic principles that Raila championed throughout his decades-long career. "It is our moral duty to continue with that struggle for the moral ideals for which the late Raila stood for," Sifuna said, emphasizing the party's resolve to honor Odinga's legacy through action, not just words.
- Raila Odinga, a towering figure in Kenyan politics, was known for his relentless pursuit of good governance, civil liberties, and democratic space. His leadership inspired generations and shaped the opposition's role in holding governments accountable. With his departure, ODM faces both a challenge and an opportunity—to preserve his legacy while evolving to meet the demands of a changing political environment.

In a defining moment for Kenya's political landscape, the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) has pledged to uphold the values and ideals of its late leader, Raila Odinga, while reinforcing unity among its members. This commitment, made during the party's Central Committee meeting in Nairobi, marks the beginning of a new chapter for ODM following Odinga's passing—a moment that has left a profound void in the country's opposition politics.

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The Central Committee's meeting was not only symbolic but strategic. It brought together key party figures to chart a course forward, focusing on internal cohesion, grassroots mobilization, and ideological clarity. Sifuna stressed that unity would be the cornerstone of ODM's future, especially as internal divisions and leadership ambitions begin to surface. "The struggle for good governance, greater freedoms, and wider democratic space is a lifelong undertaking," he said, urging members to rise above factionalism.

In a move aimed at ensuring continuity, the National Executive Council (NEC) installed Siaya Senator Oburu Odinga as the interim party leader. Oburu, Raila's elder brother and a seasoned politician, is seen as a stabilizing figure who can guide ODM through this transitional phase. His appointment was met with mixed reactions—some



ODM Central Committee's inaugural meeting after Odinga's death

lauded it as a wise choice rooted in experience and loyalty, while others questioned whether the party should look beyond the Odinga family for leadership renewal.

The NEC also outlined a roadmap for party reforms, including strengthening county-level structures, enhancing youth and women representation, and revamping the party's communication strategy. These reforms are designed to make ODM more responsive, inclusive, and competitive ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Sifuna, who has emerged as a key voice within ODM, reflected on his eight years of service under Raila's leadership. He described Odinga as a leader who listened to Kenyans and encouraged open dialogue within the party. "Raila believed in the power of ideas and the importance of engaging with the people. We must uphold that spirit," Sifuna said during Odinga's funeral service.

The funeral itself was a moment of national reflection. Leaders from across the political divide paid tribute to Raila's contributions, with many acknowledging his role in shaping Kenya's democratic journey. ODM supporters, clad in orange, gathered in large numbers to mourn and celebrate a man they considered a symbol of resistance and hope.

As ODM looks ahead, the question of succession looms large. While Oburu's interim leadership provides stability, the party must eventually decide on a permanent leader who can galvanize support, articulate a compelling vision, and navigate the complex terrain of Kenyan politics. Names such as Sifuna, Mombasa Governor Abdulswamad Nassir, and former Kakamega Governor Wycliffe Oparanya have been floated, each representing different facets of the party's future.

Political analysts argue that ODM's ability to remain united will determine its relevance in the post-Raila era. The party must balance tradition with innovation, loyalty with meritocracy, and legacy with progress. It must also contend with external pressures, including competition from emerging parties and shifting voter demographics.

The youth vote, in particular, presents both a challenge and an opportunity. ODM has historically struggled to connect with younger voters, many of whom are disillusioned with mainstream politics. By embracing digital platforms, promoting youth leaders, and addressing issues such as unemployment and education, ODM can rebrand itself as a party of the future.

Meanwhile, the party's commitment to Raila's values must trans-

late into tangible policy positions. This includes advocating for electoral reforms, defending devolution, and pushing for social justice. ODM must also continue to play its watchdog role, holding the government accountable and providing alternative policy solutions.

In the coming months, ODM plans to embark on a nationwide listening tour, engaging with members and supporters to gather input on the party's direction. This participatory approach is intended to foster ownership and rebuild trust, especially in regions where ODM's influence has waned.

The stakes are high. With the 2027 elections on the horizon, ODM must not only preserve its legacy but also reinvent itself. Raila Odinga's shoes are impossible to fill, but his vision can still guide the party. As Sifuna aptly put it, "We are not just mourning a leader; we are inheriting a mission."

In the end, ODM's pledge to uphold Raila's values and enhance unity is more than a political statement—it is a moral commitment to the ideals of democracy, justice, and inclusion. Whether the party can live up to this promise remains to be seen, but one thing is clear: the journey continues, and the torch has been passed.

Scholar Raises Alarm Over Premature 2027 Campaigns, Rising Political Temperatures

By: James Wakahiu
@themtkenyatimes

Renowned legal scholar and governance expert Prof PLO Lumumba has raised alarm over the rising cases of tribal rhetoric and political polarization in the country, warning that the country risks slipping into dangerous ethnic divisions if the trend is not urgently contained.

He said the recent political outbursts witnessed in the country have reignited ethnic-based exchanges that threaten national unity and development.

Speaking during the third annual African Youth Leadership Forum at Mount Kenya University (MKU), Lumumba warned that the tribal discourse, coupled with the heightened political temperatures despite being two years away from the next general election, paints a grim picture of a nation trapped in toxic identity politics.

Lumumba called on the youth to reject manipulation by politicians who exploit tribal sentiments for personal gain.

“If you read today’s Kenyan newspapers, you might think we have a general election tomorrow yet the elections will be held in 2027,” he said.

Lumumba regretted that in Kenya, everything is looked at from a tribal prism.

In some local universities, he noted, students organize themselves in tribal groups. “How primitive can a people be?” he asked.

“Each time a national cabinet is constituted or judges are appointed, we ask how many are from our tribe? Even when lawyers and doctors graduate, we ask how many are our tribesmen? We must liberate ourselves from tribal manacles!” he cautioned.

Prof Lumumba was speaking as the Chief Guest at the Africa Youth Leadership (AYLF) Summit at the main campus of Mount Kenya University (MKU)’s Mwai Kibaki Convention Centre in Thika town.

The theme of the Third Annual leadership summit was; Building a New Africa for the 21st Century’.

Lumumba challenged young people to get involved in leadership and governance, saying they must rise and shape the nation’s future instead of waiting for change to happen.

He urged the youth to take an active role in demanding accountability, transparency and good governance.

Prof Lumumba emphasized that politics should be about development and transformation, not ethnicity or hate speech. “The youth must liberate this country from the chains of tribalism. Don’t allow yourselves to be put into tribal cocoons. If you permit poor governance, you will pay the price. Lamentations won’t help,” he



PLO Lumumba addressing students at the Mwai Kibaki Convention Hall, Mount Kenya University.



PLO Lumumba poses for a photo with Mount Kenya University students after his address at the Mwai Kibaki Convention Hall.

warned.

He charged the students to ask themselves how Africans can liberalise themselves. He cautioned against continued neo-colonialism which ensures continued racism against Africans. “African problems cannot be solved by holding international forums. We are holding too many workshops and meetings, but not enough symposiums,” he added.

Professor P L O Lumumba urged Africans to double-down on plans to



Dr. Felix Kiruthu, Chairman, Students’ Welfare Committee Council - MKU. Photos/ Courtesy.

Worth Noting:

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- Lumumba regretted that in Kenya, everything is looked at from a tribal prism.

Housing Committee Inspects Affordable Housing Projects And Markets In Nairobi, Urges Faster Completion

By: PSCU
 @themkenyatimes

Members of the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Housing, Urban Planning & Public Works have urged the State Department for Housing & Urban Development to fast-track completion of the ongoing Affordable Housing and Economic Stimulus Program (ESP) market projects in Nairobi County.

Led by the chairperson Johanna Ng'eno, the Committee inspected South B ESP Modern Market, Mukuru Metereological Social Housing, Shauri Moyo A & B Affordable Housing projects, Jogoo Road Phase 1 Housing project and Riruta Modern ESP Modern Market.

During the visits, the Committee Members raised concerns about the capacity of the social amenities like Schools and Hospitals for the prospective home owners and market traders.

Ng'eno underscored the need for timely project delivery, noting that contractors have no payment or labour constraints to warrant projects delay.

"You have no challenge of payments nor labour, so these projects should not stall. This Committee expects that you complete the projects in good time," Ng'eno told the contractors.

While commending the overall progress of projects visited, the Committee observed that the Shauri Moyo Affordable Housing project had initially stalled but has since resumed construction.

According to the State Department for Housing and Urban Development, the delay was caused by a change of Development Model from the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model to the Milestone payment model which equally affected the contractual agreement framework.

The MPs further advised the officials from the State Department to work with the local leaders in identifying nearby schools for expansion to accommodate the upcoming house own-



Members of the committee at one of the projects site.

ers in sites where there is no enough space for developing new schools.

The day's visits are part of the week-long oversight visits to Affordable Housing projects and ESP Markets in Nairobi and Kiambu Counties.

Members of the Committee present

during the exercise in addition to the chairperson were: Kakai Bisau (Kimini MP), Joshua Kimilu (Kaiti), Caleb Mule (Machakos Town) and Jane Kagiri (Laikipia County MP).

Also present were Dagoretti MP John Kiarie, the Security team led by the

County Commissioner and local residents.

The Committee continues its inspection visits to Projects today.

Scholar Raises Alarm Over Premature 2027 Campaigns, Rising Political Temperatures

Contd from page 12

use the 21st century effectively so as to re-define the future of the continent. He said though Africa is rich in natural resources and it's a blessed continent, the biggest challenge is bad leadership.

He noted that Africans are nearly dominated in their own country by other people from other continents bringing back the colonial era as a result of bad governance. He urged African leaders to embrace their national languages and to stop involving matters of tribalism in every aspect, including speaking their own mother tongues in public gatherings.

The youth, who attended the forum led by Leona Chebet and Harrison Njoroge, said the discussions transformed their mindset and understanding of leadership, governance, and nation-building. The youth, however, emphasised that there is

a need for them to be included in leadership positions and key decision-making spaces so they can play a role in addressing the challenges facing the nation.

"The youth are looking forward to a better Africa but need better representation in leadership," said Chebet.

They lamented that despite having the capacity and skills to handle various issues and offer solutions, they are rarely given opportunities to showcase their abilities in meaningful roles. "We need to change our mindsets, to look for new solutions. We have talented people, intellectuals. The youth should get jobs and opportunities for training so that barriers can be overcome," said Njoroge.

"My prayer and hope is that this assembly of youth will not be enticed by ethnicity as the basis for making judgement," concluded Prof Lumumba.

The Africa Youth Leadership Forum (AYLF) is a Kenya-based collaborative initiative that brings together university students, their leaders and



Prof. Deogratius Jaganyi, Vice Chancellor - MKU.

alumni from both public and private universities, for mentorship, training, networking and capacity building. It seeks to advance values and principles that promote transforma-

tional and servant leadership.

It aims to be a movement of friends to nurture a new breed of leaders in Africa, by focusing on developing young leaders in Kenya through pro-

grammes such as student leadership development and university debates based on Christian values.

Don't Walk To Teach Lessons To People



Don't strain to teach people, because they won't listen if we teach
It is better to just walk away
you've to learn a lesson every where
If you start teaching, they won't understand without their own bitter and painful experience
Unless and until they get own lessons, they can't truly comprehend

Lessons may be bitter involving hardships
But the Fruits of true understanding will be sweet and ultimately worthy

Teaching often closes doors of many people,
leading to distanced relationship
It's better not to be involved too much
Keep respect some boundaries

Even if experience is shared generously, they won't understand immediately
Only when they experience themselves, they will come to know
So better walk away from them
Let them gather their lessons personally
Sweet or bitter .
Let them find wisdom at their own space

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

Once In A Blue Moon



Once in a blue moon do we enjoy,
A parrot or a sparrow chirping by.

Days are absorbed by chaotic furrow,
And nights pass in planning for tomorrow.
Once in a blue moon is there a free hour,
Wish there was more leeway in my power.

Life will continue to move on similarly.
If we don't do something about it quickly.
Let's pick up this once in a blue moon somehow,
And come what may, make it our now!

By Shamim Merchant
A teacher and an author
Self-employed - Mumbai

Today's life is busy like a bee,
The hustle bustles don't let me be.
Once in a blue moon do I get time,
To relax and admire nature's prime.

Honking vehicles and people's chatter,
All day long, the only cacophony & clatter.

Lotus



Lotus is the national flower.
It grows in ponds and pools.

It has sweet smell.
It is a beautiful flower.

It is in pink colour,
It grows in water with power.

It has many petals,
In the middle of the flower.

The rain drops often tease,
Their stems are thick and long.

And wait for the next day to dawn,
The rain drops we do lease.

The roots are very strong
And our roots are very strong.

Lotus is also in dearms, home and temples.
The lotus flower is symbol of purity, beauty and knowledge.

K. Sai Charan
7th Standard
Panchayat Union Middle School, Eripatti,
Pollachi North, Coimbatore Dt, Tamilnadu

Giovanni's Journey



Born in the hills where Teso pride lies,
A soul full of warmth, under Busia's skies.
With hands that craft flavors, a chef in the making,
Pilau's aroma and strawberry cakes baking.

In the future community, his passion does bloom,

Creating joy and comfort in every room.
A heart so pure, with dreams that soar,
Building a future, with love at its core.

In 2024, destiny gave a sign,
A love so true, a bond divine.
Together they plan, with hope and care,
A life of joy, a future to share.

Giovanni by name, and Giovanni by fate,
His journey of greatness shall never abate.
Through food, through love, through dreams so bright,
He lights up the world, a guiding light

OCHEKIT GIOVANNI
STUDENT-LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY

Creative Ability And The Stages Of Its Development In Students

CHAPTER 2. STAGES OF DEVELOPING CREATIVE ABILITIES IN STUDENTS

The development of creative abilities occurs through three main stages:

1. Motivational stage – The student develops an internal need for learning, exploring, and thinking creatively.
2. Practical stage – The student learns to express their ideas, test hypotheses, and approach problems in creative ways.
3. Reflective stage – The student analyzes their own activity, evaluates results, and works on self-improvement.

This process is enhanced by the teacher's creation of an inspiring environment, encouragement, and independent tasks that stimulate creativity.

CHAPTER 3. INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND MODERN APPROACHES IN THE UZBEK EDUCATION SYSTEM

One of the most effective global models of creative education is the STEAM approach (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics). This system integrates analytical and artistic thinking to foster creativity and problem-solving skills.

In Uzbekistan's education system, attention to creative thinking has increased significantly in recent years. Educational institutions such as Presidential Schools, Creativity Schools, and the New Uzbekistan University operate based on modern pedagogical technologies.

Moreover, methods like CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) are being used to develop students' linguistic competence alongside creative and critical thinking skills.

INTRODUCTION

In today's era of globalization, one of the most important tasks of the education system is to develop students' creative thinking, independent decision-making, and innovative skills. The term "creative" is derived from the English word "create", meaning "to make" or "to produce," and it denotes an individual's ability to think unconventionally and find original solutions to problems.

As President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized:

> "Our children must be capable of independent thinking and must acquire modern knowledge and professions."

Therefore, creative approaches are becoming one of the key principles of the modern educational process.

CHAPTER 1. THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF CREATIVE ABILITY

Creative ability is the capacity of an individual to generate new ideas, approach existing situations in an unconventional way, and solve problems creatively. Scholars such as J. Guilford, E. Torrance, and H. Gardner have recognized creative thinking as the highest form of human cognition.

According to Guilford, creativity is closely linked to divergent thinking, which allows a person to find multiple possible solutions. Torrance, in turn, developed special tests to measure creativity. From a pedagogical perspective, creative ability is strongly associated with students' motivation, curiosity, and independence of thought.

CONCLUSION

Creative ability is one of the essential competencies of the 21st century. Its formation requires a systematic pedagogical approach that integrates motivation, practice, and reflection. By implementing innovative teaching methods, fostering independent thought, and creating a creative learning environment, educators can help students unlock their full creative potential.

Author: Elbekova Shohsanam Ne'matjon qizi is a 2nd-year Master's Student, Namangan State Pedagogical Institute

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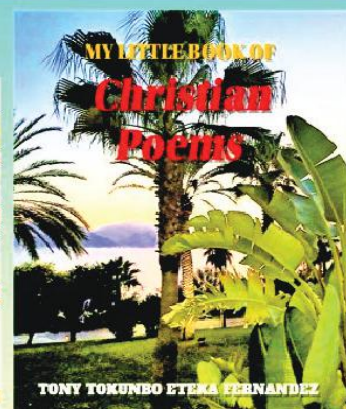
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KMPDU Nyanza Branch Seals Cooperation Deal With JOOTRH

By: Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

The Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU), Nyanza Branch, has opened a new chapter of cooperation with the management of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital (JOOTRH), following a high-level meeting aimed at strengthening doctors' welfare and streamlining the hospital's transition to a Level 6 facility.

The meeting, held yesterday, brought together KMPDU's Nyanza leadership and the hospital's top administrative team.

Both sides described the discussions as constructive and promising, setting the stage for formal recognition of the union and the negotiation of a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

Speaking after the meeting, KMPDU Nyanza Branch Chairperson Dr. Steve Onyango Ndong'o said the union's top priority was to establish official recognition at JOOTRH, a move that management had embraced positively.

"The first thing we put as a prior-

ity is to have recognition with the JOOTRH team, which I want to say happily is something they have received very well," Dr. Ndong'o said.

He added that the union was pleased with management's assurance on resolving welfare concerns, particularly the issue of medical insurance for doctors who have faced challenges during the hospital's transition period.

"Our members have not been enjoying health insurance during this transition period. I want to confirm that the CEO of JOOTRH has given us positive news that our members have been onboarded to the SHA public service comprehensive scheme," he said, noting that the hospital was fast-tracking activation of the cover.

Among other key outcomes from the meeting was a commitment to sign a Recognition Agreement within the next four weeks, paving the way for a formalized relationship between the hospital and the union.

The hospital also pledged to issue new appointment letters reflecting JOOTRH's upgraded Level 6 status and to begin CBA negotiations soon after.

Dr. Ndong'o said KMPDU would continue to engage closely with the hospital to safeguard members' wel-



Jaramogi Oginga Odinga and Teaching Referral Hospital (JOOTRH)/FILE

fare during the ongoing transition, especially in the absence of a substantive hospital board.

"We are going to push, we are going to lobby, and we are going to organize to make sure our members do not suffer adversely," he said.

"That means their loans and insurance policies will be paid, and any member who misses out on salary payments will be regularized."

He also commended the hospital's management for recent improvements in salary disbursements.

"For the very first time in the past two to three months, our members have received their salaries before the end of the month," he said.

"That's a good sign that the hospital is looking after the welfare of our members, and it makes us very hopeful that our future engagement will

be cordial and fruitful."

KMPDU Nyanza expressed optimism that the strengthened partnership will ensure a smooth transition for JOOTRH and ultimately improve healthcare delivery across the region.

Mali Shuts Schools And Universities As Jihadist Blockade Worsens Fuel Crisis

By: BBC
@themkenyatimes

Mali has suspended schools and universities nationwide due to a severe fuel scarcity caused by a blockade on fuel imports imposed by Islamist insurgents.

Education Minister Amadou Sy Savane announced on state television that all education institutions would remain shut until 9 November, saying the movement of staff and students had been affected by the blockade.

He said the authorities were "doing everything possible" to end the crisis so that classes could resume on 10 November.

For weeks, Mali has been hit by a fuel shortage, especially in the capital Bamako, after militants from an

al-Qaeda affiliate imposed a blockade by attacking tankers on major highways.

Mali is landlocked, so all fuel supplies are brought in by road from neighbouring states such as Senegal and Ivory Coast.

Long queues have been snaking around petrol stations in Bamako in recent weeks, and the city's usually crowded streets have now reportedly fallen quiet.

The military government had earlier this month assured residents that it was only a temporary issue, but the crisis has persisted.

Last week, the US Embassy in Bamako announced that non-essential diplomatic staff and their families would leave Mali amid the worsening fuel shortage and growing security concerns.

It said the fuel disruptions had affected the supply of electricity and



had the "potential to disrupt the overall security situation in unpredictable ways".

Mali is currently ruled by a military junta led by Gen Assimi Goïta, who seized power in a coup in 2021.

The junta had popular support when it took power, promising to deal with the long-running security crisis

prompted by a separatist rebellion in the north by ethnic Tuaregs, which was then hijacked by Islamist militants.

The UN peacekeeping mission and French forces had been deployed in 2013 to deal with the escalating insurgency.

Both have left since the junta took

over, and the military government has hired Russian mercenaries to tackle the insecurity.

However, the jihadist insurgency has continued and large parts of the north and east of the country remain outside government control.



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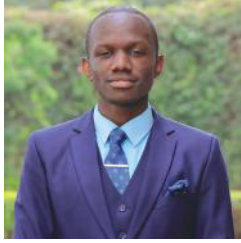
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Ownership In The Age Of Airwaves: Protecting Kenyan Music From Copyright Theft



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor

@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Under Kenyan law, copyright protection arises automatically upon creation. The Copyright Act (Cap 130) provides that the moment an original musical work is composed and fixed, be it in writing, sound, or video ownership vests in the author. You do not need to register it for your rights to exist.
- This principle aligns with the Berne Convention, to which Kenya is a signatory, affirming that artistic ownership is born out of creation, not paperwork. However, while the law recognizes your rights instantly, the reality of proving and enforcing them is another matter entirely.
- When a dispute arises, such as in the case of "Titakipula," the burden of proof falls heavily on the true creator.

Imagine you have poured your heart into composing a song, let's call it "Titakipula." You've written the lyrics, created the melody, recorded it, and shared it with the world. The streets start humming it; the airwaves catch on. Then, to your disbelief, another person steps forward and registers "Titakipula" under their name with the Kenya Copyright Board (KECOBO), asserting ownership. Suddenly, what was once your artistic expression is being performed, monetized, and credited to someone else. This scenario, though painful, is not uncommon in Kenya's music landscape.

Under Kenyan law, copyright protection arises automatically upon creation. The Copyright Act (Cap 130) provides that the moment an original musical work is composed and fixed, be it in writing, sound, or video ownership vests in the author. You do not need to register it for your rights to exist. This principle aligns with the Berne Convention, to which Kenya is a signatory, affirming that artistic ownership is born out of creation, not paperwork. However, while the law recognizes your rights instantly, the reality of proving and enforcing them

is another matter entirely.

When a dispute arises, such as in the case of "Titakipula," the burden of proof falls heavily on the true creator. You must show credible evidence original drafts, studio recordings, digital timestamps, witness statements, or publication history to establish authorship. Unfortunately, in an industry where ideas spread quickly and technology allows instant replication, demonstrating who created a song first can become a grueling battle. It is here that registration, though not legally required, becomes a crucial strategic tool.

First, registration provides formal evidence of ownership. When you register your work with KECOBO, you obtain an official record that bears a date and your name. This record serves as a trusted reference in court or negotiations, simplifying the process of proving that you are the rightful creator. Second, registration helps deter infringement. Potential infringers are far less likely to claim or copy your work when it is publicly documented and searchable under your name.

Third, registration strengthens your position when seeking royalties from

collective management organizations such as MCSK, PRISK, or KAMP. These bodies rely on verified ownership data to distribute payments. Without registration, your earnings might be delayed, misdirected, or lost. Fourth, registration supports contractual negotiations. When engaging with producers, labels, or broadcasters, a registered copyright adds professional weight and clarity to your agreements.

Fifth, registration facilitates international protection and recognition. If your song crosses borders, perhaps gaining popularity in Tanzania, Nigeria, or the UK: your registration with KECOBO can serve as an anchor for asserting your rights under reciprocal agreements. Finally, registration helps preserve your legacy. For artists building a catalogue, registered works form part of a verifiable creative portfolio that can be passed on, licensed, or valued for future opportunities.

In the unfortunate event that another party registers your song, your course of action should be swift and decisive. File a complaint with KECOBO, providing your proof of authorship. Notify relevant CMOs to halt any unauthorized royalty collection.

Where necessary, send a cease-and-desist letter and, if unresolved, take legal action in the High Court seeking an injunction, compensation, and a declaration of ownership. The law ultimately protects the creator but it favors the one who can demonstrate preparedness.

Kenya's music industry is brimming with talent, yet also fraught with risks of misappropriation. Many artists lose their creative wealth not because they lack skill, but because they fail to formalize their rights. In the digital age, where a song can travel faster than its creator, documentation has become as important as inspiration. Protecting your art is not merely a legal formality; it is an act of self-respect and foresight.

So, as you craft your next masterpiece, remember Titakipula. Let it be more than a song; let it be a reminder that in music, creation gives you the soul of ownership but registration gives you the shield.

The writer is a legal writer and researcher

Paul Biya Re-elected President Of Cameroon

By: Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyatimes

Paul Biya was re-elected president of Cameroon for an eighth term, after securing 53.66 per cent of the votes, the country's Constitutional Council announced yesterday.

The candidate of the Cameroon National Salvation Front, Issa Tchiroma Bakary, finished second with 35.19 per cent of the votes.

More than 4.6 million Cameroonians cast their ballots out of over eight million registered voters, bringing the turnout rate to 57 per cent, compared with 53.85 per cent in 2018 and 65.82 per cent in 2011. Biya, 92, who has been in power since 1982, leads the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement.

According to the Constitution, the newly elected president must be sworn in within 15 days of the official announcement of the results.

The swearing-in ceremony will take place before the Cameroonian people, in the presence of Members of Parliament, the Constitutional Council and the Supreme Court.

President Paul Biya



China Has Much To Offer For Those Investing Long-Term In Land Of Opportunity

By: Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyatimes

As China moves forward with new plans for the next five years, its status as a major investment destination stays strong. For global companies that prioritize long-term, high-quality development, the Chinese market will remain not just relevant, but crucial for seizing fresh growth opportunities.

In a key political meeting held last week, China said it will share opportunities and achieve common development with the rest of the world during the 15th five-year-plan period (2026-2030). Detailed recommendations for the plan outlining the development priorities of various sectors during the period will be released later, serving as a "treasure map" for global businesses to explore the potential "gold" in a market of 1.4 billion people. As the Chinese economy marches toward a new period in its high-quality growth, the message for foreign boardrooms is clear: China is still a land of opportunity welcoming global businesses. The new "gold" is anchored in a market of extraordinary scale. China's pledge to meet the aspirations of its people for a better life underpins a mega-market that has held its position as the

world's second-largest importer for 16 consecutive years. From 2021 to 2025, China's imports of goods and services are expected to exceed 15 trillion U.S. dollars, and the country has vowed to step up efforts in expanding imports from 2026 to 2030.

A core value-creator is China's middle-income group of over 400 million people with immense purchasing power, which is set to grow to over 800 million in the next decade or so. In 2024, more than 21.6 million new consumer product varieties were registered in China, a 14-percent year-on-year increase and the highest figure in half a decade. This explosion of options is not coincidental; it is a direct response to a middle-income demographic whose priorities are evolving from mere acquisition to a focus on quality, sophistication, and personalized experiences. From a global perspective, China still has vast structural potential to tap in boosting consumption, which has become a policy priority in recent years. For instance, authorities have rolled out measures to boost spending on services, and the government explicitly encourages foreign investment in sectors such as telecoms and healthcare.

Such pro-consumption policies mean more businesses for global firms. In the country's consumer goods trade-in program for automot-

ive, foreign brands such as Tesla account for one-third of vehicle trade-in sales. Crucially, China is building formal, high-profile channels to connect this demand with global supply. Events like the China International Import Expo, China International Fair for Trade in Services, and the China International Consumer Products Expo go beyond being mere trade shows; they serve as platforms that prioritize high-quality imports and foreign expertise, and facilitate direct marketplaces where global companies can build connections with Chinese buyers and distributors. The country's thriving e-commerce ecosystem is also connecting international brands with a growing community of online consumers. A brand influence ranking by Peking University, based on an online shopping research reflecting the consumption preferences of millions of Chinese consumers, found 156 international brands from 17 countries among the top 500 performers in e-commerce. "The ability to operate in China's fiercely competitive market remains non-negotiable for American companies, allowing them to access a burgeoning middle class while honing new technologies and practices essential for maintaining global competitiveness," the U.S.-China Business Council's president Sean Stein noted after the



body's recent survey.

Executives at the consulting firm Bain & Company have echoed this view, arguing that China remains a massive, potentially lucrative market and that "abandoning it would leave that value on the table." In this shifting market, however, value may no longer stem from broad, one-size-fits-all strategies; instead, it lies in specificity and localization. Winning foreign firms are embedding themselves in China's ecosystem rather than merely exporting goods. This involves investing in local R&D, forging strategic partnerships, and competing on value and brand heritage rather than solely relying on logo recognition. Many foreign brands have embraced China's changing market scenario and

secured initial success. Walmart has leaned into China's digital ecosystem, striking local partnerships to reach consumers where they shop. Adidas has granted its Chinese team autonomy over local design and manufacturing, tailoring products to domestic tastes. Global pharmaceutical firms like Pfizer have established new R&D or innovation institutions in China. For these companies, China is not a mere sales outlet, but a critical strategic hub. For those prepared to embrace China's new gold rush for emerging opportunities with a deeper dig, the Chinese market still offers one of the world's most substantial rewards. To walk away from China is to cede the future.

Namibia's Black Economic Empowerment And The Public Service: A Failing Experiment?



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- NEEEF was envisioned as a transformative blueprint to guide both public and private sector compliance with empowerment objectives. It proposed measurable targets, compliance incentives, and a national scorecard to assess progress. Yet, despite its strategic importance, NEEEF has never been enacted into law. Over a decade later, it remains a draft framework without legal teeth, binding obligations, or institutional enforcement mechanisms.
- This legislative vacuum has left NEEEF in a state of policy limbo—ambitious in rhetoric but weak in execution. Ministries and agencies interpret its provisions inconsistently, and compliance is often voluntary or politically motivated. Without statutory authority, there is no standardized mechanism to verify BEE credentials, audit performance, or penalize non-compliance.

Namibia's independence in 1990 marked a pivotal moment in the nation's quest for justice, equity, and inclusive development. Among the transformative tools envisioned was Black Economic Empowerment (BEE), a policy framework designed to redress historical exclusion and promote the participation of previously disadvantaged Namibians—particularly Black citizens—in the mainstream economy. BEE was not merely an economic instrument; it was a moral imperative rooted in the promise of dignity and restitution.

Yet, more than three decades later, the implementation of BEE in the public service sector has revealed troubling contradictions. While the policy's intent remains noble, its execution has been marred by inefficiency, political patronage, and technical shortcomings. Numerous public projects awarded under BEE principles have failed to meet basic standards of delivery, often collapsing midstream or producing substandard outcomes. This has led to a growing perception that empowerment, as currently practiced, compromises service quality and public trust.

The Promise of BEE: Policy Intentions and Frameworks

Namibia's Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) framework draws conceptual and ideological inspiration from South Africa's post-apartheid transformation agenda, particularly its Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) model. Like its southern neighbor, Namibia recognized that political liberation without economic redress would entrench inequality and undermine the promise of independence. Thus, BEE emerged as a policy vehicle to promote inclusive participation in the economy, rectify historical injustices, and foster a more equitable distribution of wealth and opportunity.

However, while the philosophical underpinnings of Namibia's BEE mirror South Africa's, the implementation has evolved with distinct nuances shaped by Namibia's demographic composition, political culture, and institutional capacity. Unlike South Africa's legislated BBBEE Act and accompanying scorecard system, Namibia's approach remains largely aspirational and discretionary. The centerpiece of this framework—the New Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework (NEEEF)—was introduced in 2011 to consolidate empowerment

efforts across four key pillars: ownership, management control, skills development, and preferential procurement.

NEEEF was envisioned as a transformative blueprint to guide both public and private sector compliance with empowerment objectives. It proposed measurable targets, compliance incentives, and a national scorecard to assess progress. Yet, despite its strategic importance, NEEEF has never been enacted into law. Over a decade later, it remains a draft framework without legal teeth, binding obligations, or institutional enforcement mechanisms.

This legislative vacuum has left NEEEF in a state of policy limbo—ambitious in rhetoric but weak in execution. Ministries and agencies interpret its provisions inconsistently, and compliance is often voluntary or politically motivated. Without statutory authority, there is no standardized mechanism to verify BEE credentials, audit performance, or penalize non-compliance. This has opened the door to widespread fronting, where nominal Black ownership masks actual control by non-Black entities, and to the politicization of procurement, where tenders are awarded based on affiliations rather than merit.

In effect, the absence of enabling legislation has undermined the credibility and impact of Namibia's empowerment agenda. It has created a fragmented landscape where empowerment is invoked but rarely institutionalized—where the goals of inclusion are proclaimed but not structurally pursued. For BEE to fulfill its transformative promise, Namibia must move beyond symbolic frameworks and toward enforceable, transparent, and merit-based systems that balance redress with delivery.

Key Pillars of BEE

- **Ownership:** Intended to shift economic control to Black Namibians, especially in sectors reliant on public contracts. However, ownership often remains nominal, with real control retained by non-Black entities through fronting arrangements.
- **Management Control:** Aimed at increasing Black representation in executive roles. In practice, many firms appoint figurehead directors without decision-making authority.
- **Skills Development:** Envisioned as a cornerstone of empowerment, yet underfunded and inconsis-



Namibia's first woman president, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

tently applied. Many BEE firms lack structured training programs.

- **Preferential Procurement:** The most visible pillar, used to award government tenders to BEE-compliant firms. Unfortunately, it has become a conduit for political favoritism and underperformance.

Without a binding legal framework, BEE remains vulnerable to manipulation. Compliance is often superficial, and enforcement mechanisms are weak or nonexistent.

Systemic Failures in Public Service Delivery

The public service sector has become a litmus test for BEE's effectiveness. Numerous projects awarded to BEE firms have failed to meet basic standards, resulting in wasted resources and unmet community needs.

1. Roads Authority Contracts

In regions such as Ohangwena and Omusati, rural road projects awarded to BEE firms have been plagued by delays, poor planning, and financial mismanagement. Contractors often lack the equipment and expertise to execute large-scale infrastructure projects. In some cases, roads were left incomplete, becoming hazardous during rainy seasons and impeding access to schools, clinics, and markets.

The Roads Authority has had to reassign contracts to more experienced firms, leading to duplication of costs and extended timelines. These failures not only undermine development but also erode public confidence in empowerment policies.

2. School and Hostel Construction

Education infrastructure has suffered significantly under poorly executed BEE contracts. In Kavango East, a contractor abandoned a hostel project midway, citing cash flow issues. Learners were forced to sleep in overcrowded classrooms, compromising both safety and learning outcomes. Similar incidents in Kunene and Zambezi have exposed structural defects, lack of supervision, and non-compliance with building codes.

These failures disproportionately affect rural learners, deepening educational inequality and undermining the credibility of government interventions.

3. Health Infrastructure

Clinics built under BEE contracts in Otjozondjupa and Omaheke have been delivered without essential utilities, rendering them non-operational. In one case, a clinic was inaugurated with political fanfare but remained closed for over a year due to missing equipment and staff housing. Such outcomes reflect a disconnect between procurement decisions and community needs.

The human cost is profound—patients are denied timely care, and health workers operate in unsafe or ill-equipped environments.

Root Causes

Namibia's Black Economic Empowerment And The Public Service: A Failing Experiment?

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- **Fronting and Political Patronage:** Many BEE firms are politically connected but lack technical capacity. Contracts are awarded based on affiliations rather than merit, undermining the principle of empowerment.
- **Lack of Oversight:** Ministries and local authorities often fail to monitor project progress. Site visits are rare, and reporting mechanisms are weak.
- **Limited Skills and Experience:** Some BEE firms lack qualified engineers, project managers, and financial controls. Without mentorship or joint ventures, capacity remains stagnant.

Comparative Performance: White and Chinese Contractors

The contrast between BEE firms and their white-owned or Chinese counterparts is stark. While BEE firms struggle with delivery, other contractors often demonstrate superior performance.

Chinese Contractors

Chinese firms such as China Jiangxi and China Henan have built a reputation for efficiency and technical excellence. Their projects include:

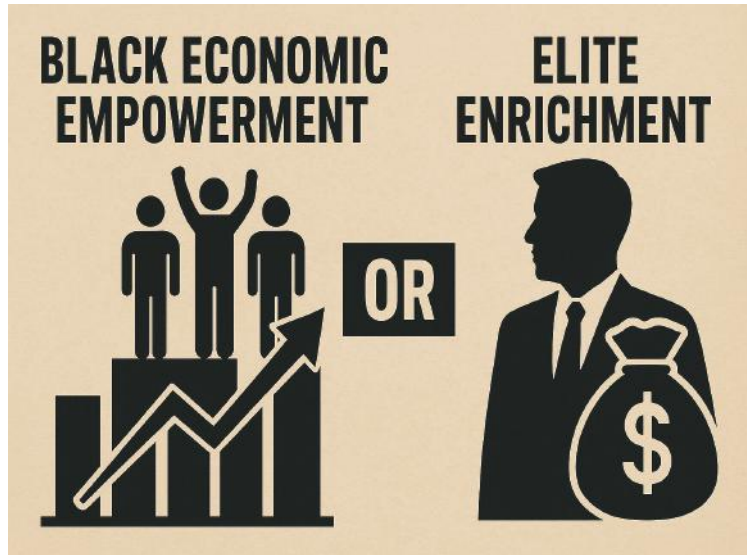
- **Windhoek-Okahandja Dual Carriageway:** Completed ahead of schedule with high engineering standards.
- **Oshakati State Hospital Expansion:** Delivered with modern facilities and minimal cost overruns.
- **Water Reticulation Projects:** In remote areas of Ohangwena, Kunene and Erongo, Chinese firms have installed durable systems that continue to serve communities reliably.

These firms benefit from centralized planning, access to capital, and strong internal oversight.

White-Owned Firms

Namibian firms with white ownership, such as Nexus Group and Murray & Roberts (Namibia), have consistently delivered quality infrastructure. Their projects include:

- **University of Namibia Campuses:** Built with full amenities and structural integrity.
- **Airport Upgrades:** Ren-



ovations at Hosea Kutako International Airport were completed efficiently and within budget.

These firms often have decades of experience, robust project management systems, and a culture of accountability.

Structural and Governance Challenges

The failures of BEE are not isolated—they reflect deeper governance deficits as follow:

1. Weak Oversight

Government agencies often lack the capacity or will to monitor BEE projects. Site inspections are sporadic, and progress reports are either falsified or ignored. This creates a permissive environment for underperformance.

2. Political Interference

Tender boards and procurement committees are susceptible to political pressure. Contracts are awarded to allies, and whistleblowers face retaliation. This undermines meritocracy and institutional integrity.

3. Lack of Skills Transfer

BEE partnerships rarely include mentorship or joint ventures with experienced firms. As a result, technical skills are not transferred, and capacity remains stagnant. Empowerment becomes symbolic rather than developmental.

4. Absence of Performance Audits

There is no standardized mechanism to evaluate contractor performance post-delivery. Failed projects are quietly buried, and the same firms reappear in future tenders. This perpetuates a cycle of mediocrity.

The Human Cost: Impact on Citi-

zens and Public Trust

The consequences of BEE failures are borne by ordinary Namibians:

- **Learners:** Incomplete schools and hostels compromise education and safety.
- **Patients:** Clinics without equipment or staff delay critical care.
- **Communities:** Abandoned roads and water projects isolate rural populations.

Beyond physical infrastructure, these failures erode public trust. Citizens perceive tenders as corrupt, and the promise of empowerment rings hollow when services collapse. This disillusionment threatens democratic legitimacy and social cohesion.

Toward a More Accountable Empowerment Model

To salvage the goals of BEE and restore faith in public service delivery, Namibia must reform its approach.

1. Skills-Based Empowerment

Empowerment should prioritize technical competence, not just ownership. Firms must demonstrate capacity before being awarded contracts. Certification, track records, and independent assessments should guide procurement decisions.

2. Transparent Tendering

Procurement processes must be open, with public access to bid evaluations, contractor histories, and project milestones. Digital platforms can enhance transparency and reduce manipulation.

3. Post-Award Monitoring

Government must conduct regular site inspections, enforce penalties for non-performance, and publish

Comparative Analysis

Metric	BEE Firms	White-Owned Firms	Chinese Firms
Project Timeliness	Frequently delayed	Generally on time	Often ahead of schedule
Quality of Work	Inconsistent	High	High
Cost Overruns	Common	Moderate	Rare
Technical Capacity	Limited	Strong	Strong
Accountability	Weak	Moderate	High (due to state ties)

Sources: Field reports, ministry audits, and contractor performance reviews.

delivery scorecards. Community feedback should be integrated into monitoring frameworks.

4. Mandatory Joint Ventures

BEE firms should be required to partner with experienced contractors for large projects. This ensures mentorship, quality assurance, and skills transfer. Joint ventures should be audited for genuine collaboration.

5. Community Oversight

Local communities should have representation in monitoring committees. Their insights can ensure that projects serve intended beneficiaries and reflect local priorities.

Conclusion

Namibia's Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) policy was born from a profound vision—one rooted in justice, restitution, and the inclusive reimagining of a society long fractured by colonial dispossession and apartheid exclusion. It sought to correct historical imbalances by opening doors to economic participation for those who had been systematically denied access to capital, opportunity, and decision-making power. At its core, BEE was not merely a policy instrument; it was a promise—a national commitment to uplift, empower, and restore dignity to the majority of Namibians.

Yet, in the realm of public service delivery, this vision has too often been betrayed. Instead of catalyzing excellence and transformation, BEE has in many instances devolved into a mechanism for underperformance, political patronage, and public disillusionment. Projects awarded under the banner of empowerment have stalled, collapsed, or delivered substandard outcomes—leaving communities underserved and the credibility of the state diminished. The very people BEE was meant to uplift are now the ones bearing the

brunt of its failures: learners without classrooms, patients without clinics, and citizens without roads or water.

The contrast with white-owned and Chinese contractors—who frequently deliver projects on time, within budget, and to high technical standards—is not an indictment of empowerment itself. Rather, it is a mirror reflecting the urgent need for reform. It reveals that empowerment, when stripped of accountability and competence, becomes a hollow gesture. It reminds us that transformation without delivery is not justice—it is deferred hope.

Empowerment must therefore be redefined—not as a handout or entitlement, but as a structured, merit-based pathway to excellence. It must be anchored in skills, integrity, and performance. True empowerment equips individuals and enterprises to compete, deliver, and lead—not merely to benefit from proximity to power. It demands that we build institutions that reward competence, foster mentorship, and uphold the public interest above all.

Namibia deserves a public service that is not only representative but also responsive, capable, and trustworthy. Its citizens deserve infrastructure that works, services that uplift, and policies that deliver on their promises. The future of empowerment lies not in abandoning its ideals, but in reclaiming them—through reform, transparency, and a renewed commitment to excellence. Only then can BEE fulfill its original purpose: to be a bridge from exclusion to opportunity, from symbolic inclusion to substantive transformation.

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Sports >> *Harambee Starlets defender Enez Mango says the team remain fully focused and determined ahead of their decisive Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) qualifier against The Gambia today in Thiès, Senegal.

Nothing Left To Chance: Mango Rallies Starlets For Historic WAFCON Return



Harambee Starlets in training in Senegal. PHOTO/HARAMBEE STARLETS

Harambee Starlets defender Enez Mango says the team remain fully focused and determined ahead of their decisive Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) qualifier against The Gambia today in Thiès, Senegal.

The national women's football team carry a 3-1 first-leg advantage from last week's victory in Nairobi and only need to avoid defeat to seal their long-awaited return to continental football, their first since 2016.

Despite the advantage, the Romania-based Mango insists the players are not getting carried away and are approaching the return leg with total concentration and hunger.

"We are 100% focused. Yes, we won the home game 3-1, but this is a new match, and we still have a long 90 minutes ahead. We are excited, but at the same time, we know what's at stake, we can't afford to lose focus," the Farul Constanta wingback said.

Mango reflected on Kenya's 10-

year wait to return to the Africa Women's Cup of Nations, saying the team is determined to make history this time around.

"It has been a very long 10 years. We've come close before and fallen short, but this year we are giving everything our blood, sweat, and tears, to make sure we qualify," the former Vihiga Queens skipper emphasized.

Under head coach Beldine Odemba, the Starlets have displayed renewed discipline and belief, combining experience

with young talent as they push to reclaim their place among Africa's elite.

A win or draw in Tuesday's return leg will see Kenya qualify for the 2026 WAFCON in Morocco, which for the first time will feature 16 teams.

The top four teams will earn automatic qualification to the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup in Brazil.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Kenya's Cynthia Chelangat Chepkwony came close to making history at the Hyundai Half Marathon in Lisbon, Portugal on her way to victory in the women's race.

Chepkwony Comes Close To History In Win At Hyundai Half Marathon



Cynthia Chelangat Chepkwony wins the women's race at Hyundai Half Marathon. PHOTO/HYUNDAI HALF MARATHON

Kenya's Cynthia Chelangat Chepkwony came close to making history at the Hyundai Half Marathon in Lisbon, Portugal on her way to victory in the women's race.

The 21-year-old clocked a personal best (PB) of 1:07:20, only a minute shy of the course record (1:06:54) set by her fellow coun-

trywoman, Olympic champion Peres Jepchirchir, at this competition in 2019.

In second place was Chaltu Dida Diriba of Ethiopia who also clocked a PB of 1:08:12 as Glenrose Xaba of South Africa came third in 1:08:55.

In the men's race, Esau Kipkorir Kemboi clocked 1:02:03 to cross

the finish line in third place.

Tanzania's Emanuel Daoudi Dinday took the top honour in what was his debut in the race, clocking 1:00:30 to finish first.

Ethiopia's Mikiyas Barega Shirtaga came second after clocking a PB of 1:01:55.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



When Time Catches Up With Power: A Call For Peaceful Transitions In Eldoria And Beyond

By: Bonface Kitonyi
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Worth Noting:

- The political elite in Eldoria — ministers, party officials, governors — face a tough choice. For decades, they have served under one man. Now they must decide whether to preserve his legacy or prolong their privileges.
- If they choose self-interest, they risk tearing the nation apart in succession battles. But if they rise above ambition and guide Eldoria through a fair transition, they could secure something even greater: honor in history.
- A smooth transfer of power would not erase the old leader's achievements; it would crown them. Every wise ruler knows that the greatest legacy is not how long one ruled, but how peacefully one left power.

In the heart of Africa sits a country called Eldoria — a land of promise, resilience, and unbroken continuity. For more than four decades, one man has ruled it — a president now well into his nineties. To some, he is a symbol of endurance and wisdom. To others, he represents a political era that has lasted too long.

As age takes its toll, one truth becomes undeniable: no leader can outlive time. And when time catches up with power, what matters most is not how long someone ruled, but how well they prepared their nation to live without them.

The Illusion of Stability

For years, Eldoria has been praised for its calmness in a region that often trembles with political storms. Supporters say the president's long rule has kept the country stable. But stability that depends on one man's health is a fragile peace — a peace that cracks the moment he is gone. Real stability does not come from the length of one leader's stay. It comes from strong institutions, fair systems, and citizens who trust their laws more than they fear their leaders.

If Eldoria's calm rests only on the shoulders of a 90-year-old man, then the calm is an illusion — beautiful, but temporary.

The Constitution: A Roadmap, Not Decoration

Like many nations across the continent, Eldoria's Constitution provides a clear guide for what should happen when a sitting president dies, resigns, or becomes too weak to lead.

It says the President of the Senate shall take over temporarily and that a new election must be held within ninety days.

Simple, right? But the power of this clause depends on whether it is respected.

In many African countries, the Constitution is treated as a decoration — praised in public, ignored in private. Yet it is our most sacred contract. It is the bridge between the living and the future.

If Eldoria's leaders follow the law



when the time comes, the nation will prove that the system is stronger than any single person. If not, chaos will fill the vacuum.

The Military's Moment of Truth

Eldoria's military has long stood behind its aging leader. Many of its commanders built their careers during his time. But the true test of loyalty is not loyalty to a man — it is loyalty to the nation and its constitution.

When a leader departs, the military must remain the silent guardian, not the loud judge.

History has shown that when soldiers step beyond their duty, democracy dies quickly.

Eldoria's generals must understand that their greatest act of patriotism is restraint. A neutral army is the backbone of a peaceful transition.

The Political Class: Between Loyalty and Legacy

The political elite in Eldoria — ministers, party officials, governors — face a tough choice. For decades, they have served under one man. Now they must decide whether to preserve his legacy or prolong their privileges.

If they choose self-interest, they risk tearing the nation apart in succession battles. But if they rise above ambition and guide Eldoria through a fair transition, they could secure something even greater: honor in history.

A smooth transfer of power would not erase the old leader's achievements; it would crown them. Every wise ruler knows that the greatest legacy is not how long one ruled, but how peacefully one left power.

Lessons for Africa's Aging Empires

Eldoria is not alone. Across Africa, several nations are led by presidents who have outlived generations of voters. Their experience is vast, but their refusal to let go has become a curse disguised as loyalty.

When leadership becomes permanent, creativity dies. Young minds lose hope. Opposition is seen as rebellion, not as contribution.

The result? Nations that move but do not progress.

Every government on the continent should take Eldoria's situation as a gentle warning — a reminder that time is the only leader we cannot vote out. Preparing for the inevitable is not weakness; it is wisdom.

The Path Forward

For Eldoria and others like it, the path to a peaceful transition is not a mystery. It only requires courage and honesty.

- Respect the Constitution fully — no shortcuts, no manipulations.
- Prepare succession mechanisms early, not in secret but through open national dialogue.
- Empower independent institutions — courts, electoral bodies,

and parliament — to act freely.

- Ensure the military's neutrality in politics.
- Include all voices, especially the youth and regions that feel excluded.

When these steps are followed, a leader's death or resignation will no longer be a national crisis but a normal democratic process — as it should be.

A Legacy Worth Leaving

Every ruler dreams of being remembered kindly. But monuments crumble and slogans fade. The only legacy that endures is a nation that stands firm when its leader falls.

If Eldoria's aging president were to hand over power constitutionally and peacefully, he would not just end an era — he would begin a new one. He would move from being a mere leader to becoming a founding father of democracy.

In the end, power is not truly measured by how long it is held, but by how gracefully it is released.

Final Word:

Africa's future depends on transitions that heal, not break. The test of true leadership is not in the holding of power, but in the wisdom to let it go before time does it for you.

By Bonface Kitonyi — Educator, Socio-political Commentator, and Author