

Mainland vs. Island: Tanzania's Tug-of-Power



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Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu casting her vote last Wednesday.



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News: Mama Ngina Celebrated For Championing Women's Welfare In Security **P.10 & 13**

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Kimathi Festival: Hundreds Mark 105th Posthumous Freedom Fighter's Birthday

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Hundreds of Kenyans yesterday marked the 105th Posthumous birthday of former freedom fighter, the late Field Marshall Dedan Kimathi. The ceremony, held at Mukami Kimathi's residence in Njambini, South Kinangop in Nyandarua county was preceded by planting of thousands of trees at a local forest station. Through various sponsorships, the event that was organised by Ms Evelyn Wanjugu Kimathi saw hundreds of former freedom fighters met to eulogize the late Kimathi. Leaders led by former Head of Public Service who also served as Nyandarua County Governor Francis Kimemia hailed Kimathi as a true patriot who sacrificed his life for Kenyans.



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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NEWS IN BRIEF



Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka on Friday hosted his DCP and DP counterparts, Rigathi Gachagua and JB Muturi respectively, at his Karen home. They were joined by former Meru Senator, and DCP's National Organising Secretary, Mithika Linturi. Their talks centered on the impending Mbeere North by-election, with the joint opposition team resolving to rally behind DP candidate Newton Karish.



Government Spokesman Isaac Mwaura on Friday revealed that KSh880 million has been disbursed to 440,020 households under the Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CT-OVC) Programme for Sept 2025, reaffirming its commitment to the Inua Jamii agenda. This initiative boosts education, nutrition and child protection for Kenya's most at-risk kids.



The Ministry of Health, in partnership with Amref Health Africa, World Bicycle Relief, and Buffalo Bicycles Kenya on Friday flagged off 500 bicycles for Community Health Promoters (CHPs) in Kwale County to enhance their mobility and efficiency in delivering essential healthcare services at the community level. Speaking during the event, Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni, underscored that improved mobility is vital in strengthening Primary Health Care (PHC) a key pillar of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). She noted that with the new bicycles, CHPs will be able to reach more households, conduct timely follow-ups, support disease prevention initiatives, and respond swiftly during health campaigns and outbreaks. The initiative reinforces the government's commitment to empower CHPs with the tools, skills, and logistical support they need to ensure that every Kenyan regardless of location can access quality healthcare without financial hardship.

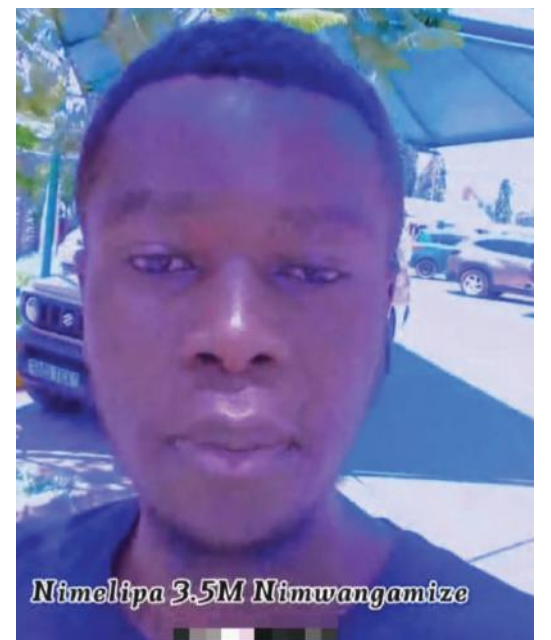


Othaya constituency Member of Parliament Wambugu Wainaina alias Kirima has organised a major Darts tournament this weekend. Through his Wambugu Wainaina Foundation, scores of Darts players are set to meet at Othaya CDF Hall for the two-day event whose culmination will be awarding of winners with cash prizes ranging from KSh30,000 for the top player to KSh1,000 for the participant who will be number 32 in the winning list. On Friday, the MP revealed that hundreds of Darts players from different parts of the country had arrived in Othaya for the third tournament under his Foundation's wing. He said the event was expected to boost hospitality industry in Othaya town.



Kenya's Principal Secretary for Environment and Climate Change, Festus Ng'eno, has called for stronger investment partnerships to accelerate the global transition to a circular plastics economy. Speaking during the Plastic Circular Investment Initiative session on "Accelerating Plastic Pricing and Financing Mechanisms" at Global Green Growth Week 2025, Dr. Ng'eno outlined Kenya's support for the Plastic Pricing and Financing Program (PPFP)—a new framework designed to turn plastic-pricing instruments into bankable circular-economy projects. He explained that the PPFP bridges the gap between policy and finance by channeling funds collected through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) fees, plastic levies, pay-as-you-throw tariffs, and deposit-refund systems into investments that directly reduce plastic consumption and leakage.

Detectives arrested Roy Otieno Odhiambo for allegedly publishing false information on his TikTok page. In a viral video posted on October 20, 2025, the outspoken TikToker claimed that he had been paid KSh3.5 million to assassinate a prominent individual. Following investigations into the allegations, detectives nabbed the suspect at his hideout in Malindi and has since been processed pending arraignment. Report anonymously through our toll-free number 0800 722 203 or via WhatsApp at 0709 570 000



NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



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Kihika Strengthens Education Investment With KSh440 Million Bursary Allocation

By: Suleiman Mbatiah
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- “Our efforts have been directed toward strengthening the foundation of education and skills development across the county to ensure every child and youth has access to quality learning opportunities,” she said.
- The increased allocation marks a steady rise in the county’s investment in education since Governor Kihika took office. In her first year, the county set aside KSh177.8 million for bursaries before raising the figure to KSh342 million last year.

The County Government of Nakuru has increased its bursary allocation to KSh440 million for the current financial year, up from KSh342 million last year, in a move aimed at expanding access to education across all levels.

Governor Susan Kihika said the funds will benefit 49,865 students in secondary schools, colleges, and universities across the county. She noted that the first tranche of Sh165 million had already been disbursed earlier in the year to ensure timely support for learners.

“Our efforts have been directed toward strengthening the foundation of education and skills development across the county to ensure every child and youth has access to quality learning opportunities,” she said.

The increased allocation marks a steady rise in the county’s investment in education since Governor Kihika took office. In her first year, the county set aside KSh177.8 million for bursaries before raising the figure to KSh342 million last year.

According to the governor, the bursary programme has been instrumental in keeping thousands of learners in school, especially those from low-income families. She added that the county will continue strengthening early childhood and vocational training initiatives to build a strong educational foundation.

“This milestone reflects our unwavering commitment to improving the quality of early childhood education by ensuring that our learners are guided by qualified and motivated educators,” she said.

Education stakeholders in the county have welcomed the initiative, noting that the bursary fund continues to ease the financial burden on parents and guardians struggling to meet the rising cost of education.



Governor Kihika distribution bursary cheques in Naivasha Sub-County..

Governor Kihika urged community leaders, education officials, and parents to take an active role in monitoring the bursary programme, emphasizing that collective oversight is essential for transparency, accountability, and fairness in the allocation and distribution of the funds.

The bursary application process for the first tranche of the 2025/2026 Financial Year is underway. Applicants are required to return duly filled forms to their respective Ward Administrators by Tuesday next week.

Ward Bursary Committees will review and generate ward lists from November 3 to November 7, followed by the submission of forms and data

to the County Secretariat between November 10 and November 12, 2025. The County Bursary Committee will then scrutinize and verify the ward lists from November 13 to November 26, after which county-wide lists will be generated and funds requisitioned by November 28, 2025.

Signing of cheques, vouchers, and applicant lists will take place from December 8 to December 19, paving the way for the official launch and disbursement of funds to learning institutions between January and February 2026.

Governor Kihika encouraged parents, students, and community leaders to take part in ensuring transparency and

fairness in her administration’s effort to empower families through education and guarantee that no child misses school due to financial hardship.

“Education remains the most powerful tool we can offer them; through it, we break the chains of poverty and open doors to a brighter, more hopeful future,” she stated while appraising President William during a three days development tour of Nakuru County.

The county has also invested heavily in ECDE and vocational training, employing 498 new teachers, building additional classrooms, and expanding vocational centres to equip learners with skills for the job market.

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Mudavadi Assures President Ruto Of 100 Per Cent Support From Western In 2027

By: OPCS Press Service
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking at Bunge National Polytechnic in Funyula constituency in Busia County during the second day of the President's tour of Western, Mudavadi said the Head of State had continued to deliver the 30 percent negotiated by him and the National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula.
- "You remember Wetangula and I negotiated for 30 percent of development in the Western region. The President is delivering the same percentage while we did not keep our part of the bargain," said Mudavadi.
- Mudavadi urged Western region's residents to join the big ship built through the broad-based government between the President and the former Prime Minister the late Raila Odinga, and disregard political canoes.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has asked the Luhya Nation to provide President William Ruto their tacit support as he unites and develops the country equitably.

Mudavadi said that President Ruto had continued to spearhead development across the country, including areas where he did not get votes from, and he called on the Mulembu Nation to ensure that they vote for President 100 percent when the time for reelection comes.

Speaking at Bunge National Polytechnic in Funyula constituency in Busia County during the second day of the President's tour of Western, Mudavadi said the Head of State had continued to deliver the 30 percent negotiated by him and the National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula. "You remember Wetangula and I negotiated for 30 percent of development in the Western region. The President is delivering the same percentage while we did not keep our part of the bargain," said Mudavadi.

Mudavadi urged Western region's residents to join the big ship built through the broad-based government between the President and the former Prime Minister the late Raila Odinga, and disregard political canoes.

"We must remain in the big fish that is the broad-based government. As a fisherman, you cannot disembark from a ship and jump into a canoe in a lake with strong currents, and with sharks, you will not survive," said Mudavadi.

He wondered how some politicians in the Western Region were fixated with joining smaller political parties instead of reading the signs of time, and joining bigger, stronger, and ideology-based political units.

Mudavadi said projects including roads, Affordable Housing, building of hostels, and markets were part of the grand plan by the Kenya Kwanza government to ensure an improved quality of life for Kenyans.

He said the equitable implementation of development across the country was one of the ways to bring cohesion and unity in the country.

President Ruto is in the Western region for a five-day tour that saw him visit Kakamega, and Busia, before he will host 6000 leaders from the region at the Kakamega State Lodge.

On Thursday, the President officially commissioned the upgrading of the 23-kilometre Malava-Samitsi-Navakholo Road to bitumen standards in Kakamega County, a project that promises to enhance connectivity, ease transportation, and stimulate economic activities between Ka-

kamega and Bungoma Counties.

The President inspected the ongoing upgrading works on the 39-kilometre Turbo-Pan Paper-Makutano-Naitiri-Sikhendu Road, ensuring that construction standards are upheld and that the road will serve the residents efficiently once completed.

Later in the evening, the Head of State presided over the groundbreaking ceremony for the tarmacking of the 25-kilometre Kakamega Airstrip-Shinyalu-Chepsonoi Road, a project set to boost access to air transport facilities and improve local trade and mobility, and connect Kakamega and Nandi Counties.

This series of landmark events underscores the administration's focus on transforming Western Kenya through critical road networks that enhance economic growth, reduce travel times, and improve the quality of life for communities across Kakamega County.

On Saturday afternoon, the President will also visit the development projects in Vihiga County on the Saturday afternoon and wrap up the tour with a Sunday service at the African Divine Church (ADC) church within the county.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi addressing the gathering.



President William Ruto, Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and other leaders during a tour in one of the projects on Friday.

The Great Tanzania Mainland And Zanzibar Island Political Divide



By: Joseph Kamuto
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The year is 2011 and I'm at the Indian ocean "spice" Island famous for its cloves production alongside its "sister" Islands of Unguja and Pemba, for a key East African Community integration conference.
- I was in the company of a high powered Kenya government delegation, consisting of the then EAC Minister, Musa Sirma, his Assistant Minister, Peter Munya and his PS, the late David Nalo. I was then, one of the Public Communications Officers in the Ministry's communications unit.
- We arrived in Zanzibar for the week-long conference aboard a Precision Air flight at around 8pm on a Sunday evening. The conference was to kick off the following Day which was a Monday.

The current political crisis in Tanzania reminds me of my first and only trip to Zanzibar Island, which is an "appendage" of Tanzania mainland.

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We arrived in Zanzibar for the week-long conference aboard a Precision Air flight at around 8pm on a Sunday evening. The conference was to kick off the following Day which was a Monday.

I was afraid the immigration officers at the Airport would deny me entry into the spice Island, because I had misplaced my Yellow fever certificate, which is a mandatory requirement for one to enter Tanzania, but thank God I was in the company of VIPs and the immigration officers at the Airport allowed all of us in the group into the scenic Island without putting us through the normal routine checks.

"Talk of free movement of people and services in the Common East Africa market in the real sense of the word."

I found accommodation at a guest house known as Heritage Guest House, which is not very far from the venue of the EAC meeting, while the rest of my colleagues in the delegation found accommodation in other nearby hotels and guest houses.

To my pleasant surprise, the attendant at the guest house on checking my ID happily announced to me that he was actually a Kenyan and in fact from my home county of Nyeri.

She in fact accorded me a "VIP" welcome and promised to introduce me to her boss, the owner of the guest house the following day. She hinted to me that her boss was quite an influential figure in the Island, having been a former member of the local national assembly for a long time under the dominant party in Zanzibar, CUF.

And true to her word, on returning back to the guest house in the evening, after my first day one at the EAC integration conference, the guest house owner, Mzee Ali Yusuf, a jolly good old man, who was well past his mid seventies was waiting for me. He ushered me into a small office which belonged to his young son who was assisting him to run the guest house.

I instantly struck a special rapport



Former President John Pombe Magufuli.

with the elderly Zanzibari politician who invited me for supper in his modest home, just across the road opposite the guest house, the following day. He subsequently introduced me to both his young wife who together they had a bubbly young son aged about 5 years.

The veteran politician told me he had married his young wife sometime back, after his first wife succumbed to ill health.

The jolly old good man would go on to tell me about the long standing frosty relations between Zanzibar and Tanganyika, after what he described as a "forced" union between Zanzibar and Tanzania mainland, soon after independence of both "countries" from the British in the early 60s, and the subsequent army mutiny led by Army General John Okello against the new joint "revolution" government of the Island's President Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume and Mwalimu Julius Nyerere of the Tanganyika.

He explained to me that most Zanzibaris did not subscribe to the policies of the ruling party CCM, which he said were only in favour of mainland Tanzania and not the Island.

In our subsequent meetings at both his house and the guest house, Mzee Ali would go on to tell me that the

union between the two "countries" only benefited Tanzania mainland and not Zanzibar the Island, both politically and economically. He told me though the union appeared to be firm and solid, Zanzibaris were not happy with it at all, for what he called dominance of the Islanders by the mainlanders. To make matters worse, Mzee Ali told me that business between peoples of the two "countries" were in favour of the mainlanders due to what he called "unfair trade practices" driven by the Dar Administration.

Mzee Ali argued that Zanzibar would be better off without the mainland insisting that all Tanzania's Presidents except Ali Hassan Mwinyi came from the mainland. He and his fellow Islanders also had a problem with the proposal to make Dodoma, which is deep in Tanzania mainland the new Tanzanian capital, replacing Dar es Salaam.

He told me that Zanzibaris were however optimistic that they would one day in the near future regain autonomy by pulling out of the "forced" union between them and mainland Tanzania.

This reminded me of the brutal violence unleashed on peaceful opposition demonstrators, mainly CUF supporters by former President Ben-

jamin Mkapa, following the controversial 2000 General elections.

The excessive violence then meted by the Tanzanian government on unarmed protesters in Zanzibar attracted worldwide condemnation, just like in the present situation, only that this time around, the protests are happening in mainland Tanzania and not Zanzibar and mark you, they are not so "peaceful."

Or is it because this time the incumbent President, Samia Suluhu is herself a Zanzibari and at that time the incumbent President, the late Mkapa was from the mainland.

Going by Mzee Ali's insights at the time, and what is happening in Tanzania now, it appears to me that the deep political schism between the Islanders and the mainlanders is far from over, and that it ought to be fixed now and not tomorrow.

It appears to me that the majority of the mainlanders are not only unhappy with Suluhu excesses, but also because she is from the Island and not from mainland Tanzania.

Otherwise, how would one explain the "uneasy" calm being witnessed in Zanzibar amidst the chaos in mainland Tanzania.

Joseph Kamuto, a former editor, is a Political and Social Commentator

Mama Ngina Celebrated For Championing Women's Welfare In Security

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Former First Lady Mama Ngina Kenyatta has been honoured for championing the inclusion of women in security services during the tenure of the late President Mzee Jomo Kenyatta.

The recognition was presented during the Ushiriki Wema Initiative's annual sporting event, Staara ya Wazee, held at the Ulinzi Complex grounds in Lang'ata, Nairobi on Thursday.

And in a speech delivered on her behalf by her daughter Kristina Pratt Kenyatta, Mama Ngina praised women for breaking gender barriers in Kenya's traditionally male-dominated security forces.

She hailed retired Armed Forces women for proving to be pillars of national security, recognising their vital role in upholding peace and stability.

Mama Ngina also recalled the challenges women faced in the 1970s and 80s in the army, including limited recruitment opportunities and barriers related to marriage or raising young families while pursuing careers in the disciplined services.

Pratt noted that Mama Ngina's advocacy extended beyond recruitment, playing a critical role in championing social policies for women security forces, including welfare support, protection from unfair dismissal, and opportunities for career progression.

"You are the pioneers and should be looked after well. Many of you served at a time when women had to leave the forces if you wanted to start a family," she noted, adding, "Her vision ensured that women could serve their country without having to choose between family and career. Expectant officers were no longer



Kristina Pratt Kenyatta receives an award during the Ushiriki Wema Initiative's Staara ya Wazee event at the Ulinzi Complex grounds in Lang'ata on Thursday.

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The Mt. Kenya Times



Western Region Leaders Vow To Stick With Broadbased Government

By: PCS
@themtkenyatimes

Leaders from Western Kenya have pledged to continue working with the broad-based government.

Most of them members of the ODM party, pointed out that their late leader, former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, made a bold move to unite the opposition and the government for the sake of national unity and inclusive national transformation.

The leaders spoke on Friday at various stops during President William Ruto's development tour of Busia County on the second of his four-day visit to the Western region that began on Thursday in Kakamega County.

Busia Governor Paul Otwoma said leaders from both the opposition and the government would continue working together to advance the development agenda in line with Mr Odinga's wishes.

He commended President Ruto, saying he had shown commitment to serving all regions and cited the government's development record in Busia County.

"We were in different camps! We were in Mr Odinga's camp. However, Mr Odinga joined hands with President Ruto. Unfortunately, he left us, but he left us in government," he said.

Trade Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya, who is also a former ODM deputy party leader, said party members had resolved to remain in the broad-based government where Mr Odinga left them.

"For 13 years, I was Mr Odinga's deputy. He left us with President Ruto. We will therefore work towards fulfilling what he agreed with President Ruto - to unite the country," he said.

Mr Oparanya explained that President Ruto has a bold vision to lift Kenyans out of poverty, citing the building of markets and roads to boost trade.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi said President Ruto and Mr Odinga formed the broad-based government to unite the country.

He urged Kenyans to shun small, divisive political groupings and join hands in advancing the national development agenda.

Speaking in symbolic imagery, Mr Mudavadi said: "Let us not ditch the big ship for a small boat amid strong waves in the sea."

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula called for unity of purpose and urged leaders to leverage the broad-based government to work towards a common goal.

During the 2022 election, he pointed out, there were two main political

camp: Kenya Kwanza and Azimio la Umoja, which have since come together.

"As a community and as people in this region, let us unite and support our President, foster peace in our nation so that development can reach everyone. Let us reject those pushing politics of hatred and shareholding. They have no agenda beyond the 'Ruto must go' slogans," he said.

At the same time, President Ruto said the government is implementing development programmes equitably across the country to ensure no region is left behind.

He said he had teamed up with Mr Odinga to form a broad-based government that brings all Kenyans together.

The President described tribal, divisive, and "shareholding politics" as outdated and retrogressive.

"By God's grace, as the leader of our nation, I will ensure no region is left behind," he said. "We won't discriminate against or leave any region behind," he explained.

He cautioned Kenyans to be wary of leaders bent on dividing the country and promoting politics of discrimination.

On those angling to compete with him in the next election, President Ruto reminded them that this is not the time for politicking.

He also pointed out that those pushing slogans like "Ruto must go" have proven that they lack an agenda, saying they will be rejected by Kenyans.

"Those saying 'must go' will lead the way," he said.

The President announced that the Standard Gauge Railway would be extended from Naivasha to Malaba to connect Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, and Central Africa Republic, easing movement of goods and services and promoting trade.

"You will see me in December in Naivasha launching the extension works of the Standard Gauge Railway," he said.

President Ruto launched and inspected the construction progress of several affordable housing projects, modern fresh produce markets and students' hostels being built in Busia County.

He also laid the foundation stone for a 340-bed capacity hostel at Bumbe National Polytechnic, Funyula Constituency, an investment worth KSh154 million.

The President also inspected progress at the Funyula Affordable Housing Project, where 955 units are under construction.



President Ruto addressing one of the meetings.



President Ruto and other leaders in one of the housing projects.



President Ruto and other leaders being taken through architectural design of one of the projects in the region. Photos/Courtesy.



Worth Noting:

- Busia Governor Paul Otwoma said leaders from both the opposition and the government would continue working together to advance the development agenda in line with Mr Odinga's wishes.
- He commended President Ruto, saying he had shown commitment to serving all regions and cited the government's development record in Busia County.
- "We were in different camps! We were in Mr Odinga's camp. However, Mr Odinga joined hands with President Ruto. Unfortunately, he left us, but he left us in government," he said.
- Trade Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya, who is also a former ODM deputy party leader, said party members had resolved to remain in the broad-based government where Mr Odinga left them.

Additionally, he announced that the government is investing KSh18 billion to build 10,000 housing units, 14 markets, and hostels with a total capacity of 6,000 beds in the county.

At Alupe University in Matayos Constituency, the President inspected hostel facilities under construction at a cost of KSh1.17 billion. The project will deliver 1,025 hostel beds and be complemented by amenities such as a student centre, swimming pool, and basketball court.

President Ruto said the government has embarked on an ambitious upgrade of hostel facilities across institutions of higher learning in Kenya, including universities and technical colleges.

In Amukura, Teso South, he laid the foundation stone for a 340-bed stu-

dent's hostel at Kamunuoit Teachers Training College.

Furthermore, he said the government has allocated KSh1.3 billion to connect 15,000 households to electricity in the county.

He also confirmed that the government would build a stadium in Busia town at a cost of KSh900 million to nurture youth talent in the region.

In Teso North, he laid the foundation stone for the KSh350 million Malaba County Strategic Market, and also launched construction of the Busia ATC Complex Affordable Housing Project, which will comprise 1,025 units.

Domestic Violence And Alcohol Abuse In Murang'a County



By: Mary Karau Ngethe
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- A Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) survey reveals that at least 56 per cent of families in Murang'a County mainly experience conflicts between spouses; (KDHS, 2022).
- According to the US Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2023, "authorities have cited domestic violence as the leading cause of preventable, non-accidental death for women in Kenya (US 2024-04-22, 27). According to Freedom House, "rape and domestic violence remain common and are rarely prosecuted" (2024-02-29, Sec. G3). In correspondence with the Research Directorate, LVCT Health, a Nairobi-based NGO that delivers health programs to Kenyans in the areas of HIV, sexual health, maternal health, GBV, etc. (LVCT Health n.d.a), indicated that sexual violence and GBV is "widespread" in Kenya, with varying levels across different communities and regions (LVCT Health 2024-09-05).

The month of October which has just ended is Domestic Violence awareness month and the action that was expected from all women, men, boys and girls is to take part in fighting against the vice for safe homes and families!

The author of this article is an advocate for safe homes and aims to take action by creating awareness through sharing information on domestic violence.

The article is as a result of desk analysis of the various surveys done in Kenya on domestic violence, with a special focus to Murang'a County in Central Kenya

A Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) survey reveals that at least 56 per cent of families in Murang'a County mainly experience conflicts between spouses; (KDHS, 2022).

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The 2022 KDHS [1] interviewed 16,926 women and girls aged 15 to 49 as part of its module on GBV and found that 34 per cent in this demographic have experienced physical violence since they were 15 years old (KNBS of Kenya & ICF 2023-01, 83, 84). The same source provides the following statistics on physical or sexual violence, experienced by women and girls ages 15 to 49:

"An analysis of femicide cases reported by Kenya media sources found out that 75 % of the 502 cases of murdered women between January 2016 and December 2023 were perpetrated by a person who knew the victim, i.e an intimate partner, relative, or a friend. (ADH, et al. 2024-01)."

Forms of domestic violence analyzed in the various surveys

(i) Physical Violence: A perpetrator, man or woman, who is reported to: push you, shake you, or

throw something at you, slap you, twist your arm, pull your hair, punch with his or her fist or with something that could hurt you, kick you or drag you, or beat you up, try to choke you or strangle your neck with his or her hands, burn you on purpose, attack you with a weapon like a knife, axe, panga, gun.

(ii) Sexual Violence: A perpetrator, man or woman, who is reported to: Physically force you to have sexual intercourse with him/her when you did not want to, physically force you to perform any other sexual acts you did not want to, or force you with threats in order to perform sexual acts you did not want to, or manipulates you to perform sexual acts against your will in order to agree to perform sexual acts against your will, whatever form of manipulation

(iii) Emotional Violence: a perpetrator, man or woman, who is reported to: say or do something that makes you feel bad about yourself, humiliate you in front of others, threaten to hurt you or harm you or even threaten to hurt you indirectly by harming other family members significant to you

Victim Vis perpetrator:

In the various studies, two terms are defined to make domestic violence clearer in order to answer questions as objectively as possible. Victim and perpetrator. A victim of domestic violence is defined as woman or man; boy or girl, who experiences physical, sexual or emotional violence/abuse from a family or household member including spouses (current or former), parents, children or other relatives, Cohabitants or former cohabitants (Intimate partners), dating partners or former dating partners (boyfriend or girlfriend), individuals with a child in common, among other family members. Perpetrator of domestic violence, on the other hand, is someone who systematically abuses another person to gain power or control in a domestic or intimate relationship. This abuse can take any of the above stated forms, including financial abuse. They abuse other members in order to sustain control and dominance over the victims especially partners. Some perpetrators may have underlying issues like anger management problems, low self-esteem, or a history of known or unknown trauma including childhood wounds. A child who witnessed or experienced parents fighting is most likely to abuse his family in adulthood. Others may have mental disorders, or they may even be under the



influence of alcohol and drug abuse, which triggers violent behaviors.

Link between Alcohol Abuse and Domestic Violence

Research has shown a strong link between the two. Excessive alcohol consumption is a contributing factor to the occurrence and severity of domestic violence, and studies have found that controlling alcohol use can help reduce intimate partner violence. Several reports from 2023 highlighted that domestic violence remains a major concern in the Kenya, despite its high rates and the link between it and alcohol, and there is a call for more targeted interventions.

The link between alcohol abuse and domestic violence. Excessive drinking by partners can increase the occurrence and severity of IPV, as it exacerbates financial difficulties and other stressors that can contribute to conflict. Studies in Kenya have focused on specific populations, such as women engaged in sex work, where unhealthy alcohol use is associated with intimate partner sexual violence.

(KDHS 2023)

Need for intervention:

Experts continue to stress the need for tailored interventions that address the link between alcohol and IPV, along with other factors like economic vulnerabilities and weak institutional support. Studies published in 2023 and 2024 are providing new data on the influence of drug and substance use on gender-based violence among intimate partners in specific regions of Kenya (KDHS

Mary Karau Ngethe can be reached on marykaraungethe@gmail.com

Mama Ngina Celebrated For Championing Women's Welfare In Security

Contd from page 10

forced to leave the service, and policies began to take shape, allowing women to continue contributing to national security while raising families," Pratt explained.

She described Mama Ngina's pivotal role in influencing a historic decision that opened the doors for women to be recruited into the Army in 1971, praising retirees for emerging as trailblazers in Kenya's security sector.

"It all began as a simple but powerful conversation between Mama Ngina and Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, aimed at ensuring that women, too, could be included in the army," Pratt narrated.

"From that moment, the first women were recruited into the Armed Forces, and over the years, many more have become trailblazers in Kenya's security sector," she added, noting that many were later able to raise families and lead successful lives.

She said, "You are veterans. Pioneers are called Mashujaa, and you are the Mashujaa of the Army, treasures who must be well cared for."

According to Pratt, Mama Ngina believed that pregnancy should never be a reason for dismissal. "She stood for the dignity of women, ensuring they could serve in the army, raise families, and continue contributing to the nation.

"Her advocacy helped shift perceptions and laid the foundation for the maternity and welfare policies that protect Army women officers today," Pratt went on.

The event, organised by Tessie Musalia, Chairperson of the Ushiriki Wema Foundation and spouse of Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi, honoured retired women from the security sector for their dedicated service to the nation.

"Many of you served diligently until retirement, yet your contributions often went unrecognised. Platforms like the Ushiriki Wema Foundation play a vital role in recognising the efforts of 'the unsung heroes of Kenya', she said, calling on more organisations to join in supporting this cause.

She urged the government to establish mechanisms to recognise and protect veterans, including fast-tracking pension and medical schemes immediately upon retirement, noting that many have to wait

long periods to receive their benefits. "They deserve recognition and respect as part of Kenya's true Mashujaa," she added.

Ms Pratt further encouraged veterans to form savings and credit cooperatives (SACCOs) to enhance their economic independence. "Even after retirement, you have the strength and skills to rebuild," she said. "With a little seed capital, you can sustain yourselves and your families," she advised.

The event also underscored the importance of preserving their legacy as role models for younger officers.

In her remarks, Tessie Musalia commended former First Lady Mama Ngina for championing the rights of women in the disciplined forces.

Mrs Musalia at the same time congratulated veteran uniformed women for their resilience and distinguished service, noting that their courage and leadership paved the way for more inclusion.

"Your actions did more than open doors; they broke barriers and lit a path for future generations, rooted in the belief in the strength, capability, and potential of women," she said.

She highlighted the steady progress in gender inclusion, pointing out women who have risen to senior command positions, including Major General Fatuma Ahmed, the first woman Air Force Commander, and former Deputy Inspector-General of Police Grace Kahindi.

She added that women have also led key roles in the Defence Ministry, including Ambassador Raychelle Omamo, Monica Juma, and the current Cabinet Secretary, Soipan Tuya. "Leadership knows no gender, and the path of service is open to all who walk it with courage," Tessie Mudavadi added, commending President William Ruto's administration for appointing women to key security roles.

Through their testimonies, they expressed gratitude to the late founding father President Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, who authorised the recruitment of women into the armed forces in 1971, describing it as a turning point that changed many lives.

"We are grateful to Mama Ngina Kenyatta and her family for championing the inclusion of women in the armed forces. Because of that decision, we stand here today as proud veterans," they said.

Tessie urged Parliament to expedite the Older Persons Bill, 2024, which seeks to safeguard the rights of senior citizens against exploitation, abuse, and neglect. "The Bill seeks to



Some of the leaders during the ceremony.



Kristina Pratt Kenyatta visits a clinic tent to check on medical services provided during the Ushiriki Wema Initiative's Stara ya Wazee event at the Ulinzi Complex grounds in Langata on Thursday.

protect senior citizens from neglect and abuse and ensure their access to health and social support," she said.

Former Deputy Inspector General of Police Grace Kahindi commended the stakeholders for recognising veteran officers. "We have contributed immensely to this nation and helped move it forward, and in the history of

this country, a chapter will be written about us," she said.

Major General Fatuma Ahmed challenged retired officers to use their wealth of experience to uplift their communities. She praised Ushiriki Wema for "rejuvenating the sense of belonging and dignity among female veterans" and urged participants to

continue giving back through mentorship and community service.

The Stara ya Wazee celebrations, held under the theme "Women in Security", brought together retired officers, government representatives, and members of the public to honour the legacy of women who served in uniformed security docketts.

Life Is Short, So Live It Well



Life is short. Live in that time,
There is no time for regrets,
Time once gone will not come again,
Time shows no partiality, it treats all equally.

Don't worry about anything,
Present life is a precious one,
No more fears, no more doubts,

Admire all, love all, live for all.

Make the most of every moment
Treasure love, kindness, and memories
For in the end, it's not the years we live,
But the life we live in those years that truly
gives
We get a lot of reminiscences

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

Life Has A Simple Formula



Looking back,
A path unwound
Gratitude abounds,
And heart profound

Thank God for every step on the way
For lessons learned, through each day

Looking ahead, a future bright
Trust in God's guidance, with out fright
He is there to pamper you day and night
Be faithful and true, He'll lead the way
Through life's journey, come what it may
With gratitude, we face the past
With trust, we step into the future vast
God's love and care, our guiding light

Shining bright, through darkest night"
Thank God for every step, every fall,
Every lesson learned, through it all.
As I look back on life's journey so far,
I'm filled with gratitude, near and far.
Looking ahead, I trust in His plan,
For a brighter tomorrow, a helping hand.
Through every up and down, I'll hold on tight,
To the promises that guide me through the
night.

With faith and hope, I'll face the test,
And trust in His goodness, I'll find my best.
As God's love and care, my guiding light,
Shining bright, through darkness and plight.
So I'll look back with thanks, and ahead with
trust,

And walk in faith, with a heart that's just.
For in His love, I find my way,
And a brighter future, starting today.

[SAVAAL SATHIYA]

Sathiya V
B. T assistant,
GHS Themmavur,
Kunrandar Kovil Block,
Pudukkottai district.

A Last Warning



You must have come across groups of people
fighting in the name of religion and invoking their
deities. But how many of you have seen people
rallying for the environment with the same
fervor? Why are we not giving the environment
the same importance as religion? Why don't
political parties promise to plant 1,000 trees
instead of distributing money?
The appreciation for trees and nature seems
confined to a short period each year. Many
people, cocooned in air-conditioned rooms,
don't feel the immediate need to care for the
environment. The urgency of need is often only
felt in times of scarcity. With abundant food and
comfortable living conditions, the necessity of a
healthy environment fades from our priorities.
Nature does not respond to human pleas or

economic incentives. Our immediate demands will
be futile when we truly face environmental crises.
Despite the dire situation, advertising billboards
promoting consumerism overshadow messages
about sustainability. Economic benefits drive
most of our actions, leaving efforts like planting a
neem tree undervalued.

While it may seem daunting to plant a tree for
every individual, aiming for one tree per joint
family is a practical start. We have been quick to
blame the government for heatwaves, but how
many trees have we planted ourselves? Was it
for the environment, or economic gain?

Our survival depends on action, not blame.
Planting trees is essential, not just for economic
gain, but for our future. If we struggled with the
coronavirus, how will we withstand temperatures
above 60 degrees? Blaming concrete structures
won't help.

Let's act now. Plant a tree. Not for profit, but
for the planet.

Bindesh Kumar Jha

If I See A Ghost



Please sit down, hmm or float as you wish,
I haven't hosted a ghost, So this is a twist.
What's your favorite dish, if I may ask?
Floating while fasting must be a big task.

I see you have no legs...how sweet !!
No knee pain and no tired feet.
So bony and slim, forever trim,
No diets and workouts..what a win!

I'll ask many more questions one by one,
Until the poor ghost's patience is done.
It'll sigh and moan in utter despair,
'No more questions please' and vanish in thin
air.

If I see a ghost I won't scream in Fright,
For I have scarier humans in my life,
Being a chatterbox, I will do what I do best,
Keep on talking and give it no rest.

'Hi ghost....do you have a name?
Shall I choose something gender neutral?
For I don't know if you're a male or female.
But never mind, you may have a big tale.

Raddhika. M
Creative Writers,
Freelance content creator,
Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu,
India

A Single Act Of Kindness Can Echo In A Thousand Hearts



A true act of kindness is fair,
Nothing can be given to it as fare.

The essence of our life is peace,
The pious, selfless deed is our life's piece.

Benevolence is the heart's soul,
None can match, for it is the only sole.

The kind act melts the heart, I knew,
A thousand hearts echo every day new.

Compassion and warmth are what we buy,
Let us avoid bitterness and harsh words, and
say goodbye.

KUMARESWARI S
Graduate Teacher -English
VKGHSS AYYANKALIPALAYAM TIRUPPUR
TAMILNADU

Happiness Starts With H . Why Does Mine Start With U?



You are very special to me
You made me shine and achieve.

Without you I am zero
With you I am you(E)uro.

You nurture and guide me
To look forward as a part of us .

I can survive even the absence of
air, water, food and shelter.

But I can't survive without you
You are the essence of my life.

I feel comfortable and happy
When you are with me.

You are my favourite and happiness
You maximize my energy level.

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

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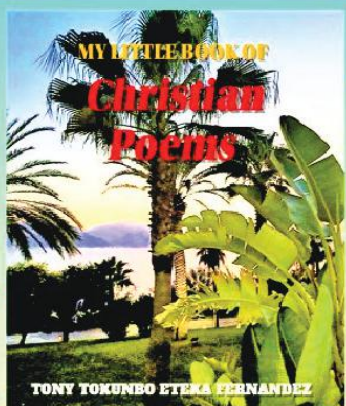
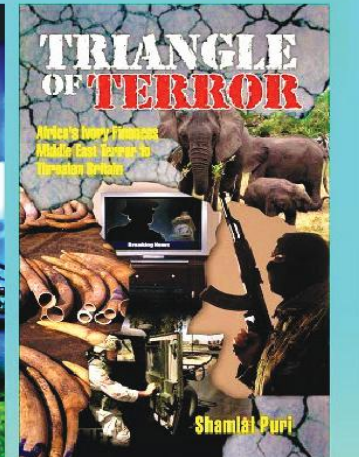
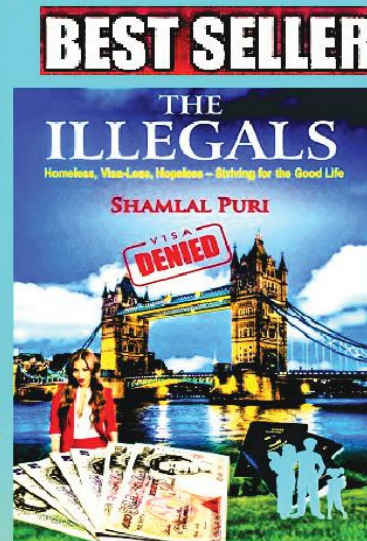
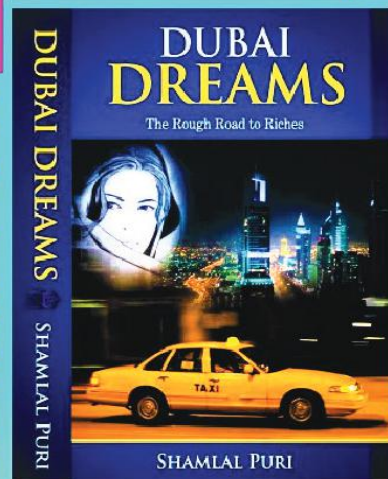
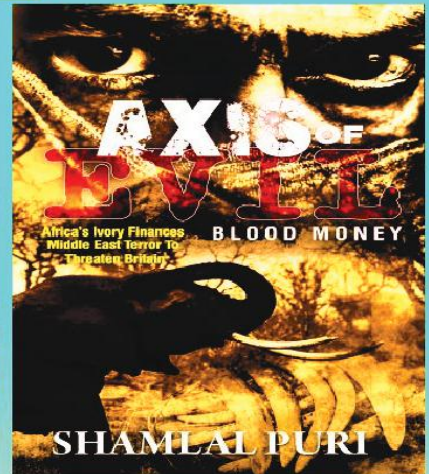
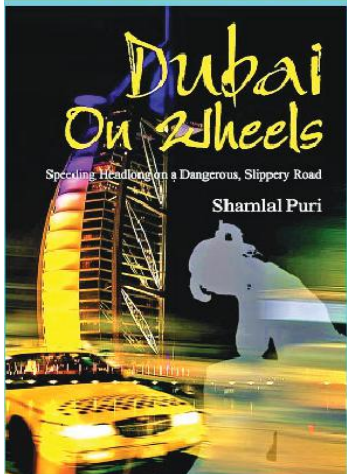
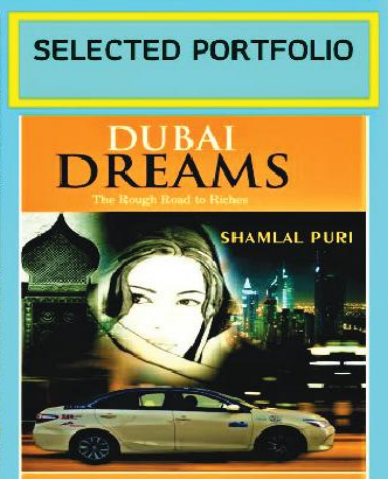
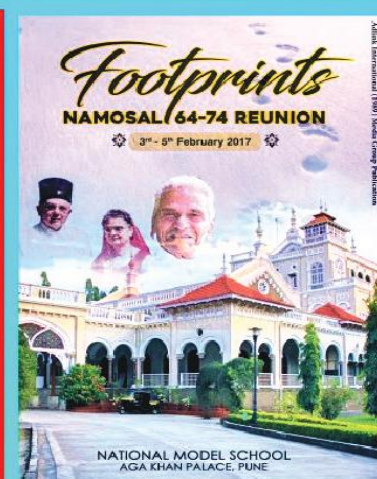
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BUSINESS

Tea: KTDA Sends 30,000 Tonnes Of Fertiliser To Smallholder Farmers

The Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) on Friday flagged off the first consignment of 30,000 metric tonnes of fertiliser at the Port of Mombasa to be distributed to 71 KTDA-managed factories across the country

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Smallscale tea farmers who are affiliated to Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) will start receiving fertilizer next week.

This is after a ship carrying a consignment of 30,000 metric tonnes of fertilizer docked at the Port of Mombasa, bringing relief to tea farmers.

On Friday, KTDA top management led by chairman Chege Kirundi were at the Port of Mombasa where they witnessed the offloading and thereafter flagged off the consignment which is expected to reach tea farms in the next few days

Briefing journalists after the event, Kirundi added that another consignment consisting of 33,000 metric tonnes of fertilizer had already left China, while an additional 36,000 tonnes would be dispatched within the next eight days.

He noted that the fertiliser shipment from China marks a significant step in supporting smallholder tea farmers with affordable and quality farm inputs aimed at improving productivity and tea quality.

“We are here today to oversee the dispatch of 30,000 metric tonnes of fertiliser destined for all KTDA-managed factories across the country. This exercise reflects KTDA’s commitment to supporting smallholder tea farmers with affordable and quality inputs,” he said.

He noted that the offloading of the fertilizer has been slowed down by the onset of the short rains season.

The chairman was accompanied by several directors who included Gatumu South MP G.G. Kagombe who observed that delays in the arrival of the fertilizer had been caused by persistent court cases filed by businessmen who missed out on the fertilizer tender.

He explained that the case had dragged on for ten months, eating into valuable logistical time that could have ensured farmers received their fertilizer on time.

KTDA officials disclosed that this is the third time in the last four years that court cases have slowed down the process of obtaining fertilizer for farmers.

KTDA is said to be exploring ways to mitigate such litigation in the future.

Farmers are expected to access the



KTDA Holdings chairman Chege Kirundi briefing journalists at Port of Mombasa.

fertilizer at KSh2,500 per 50kg bag, following government subsidization of the input. The consignment received consists of NPK fertilizer 26-5-5.

KTDA assured farmers that the fer-

tilizer is of high quality and said they should expect improved yields in the new season.

Farmers welcomed the initiative saying it had come in the right time and would assist them boost production.

Other officials at the ceremony included former KTDA Holdings chairman and Embu zone board member Enos Njeru and his Kirinyaga counterpart John Mithamo WaSusana.



KTDA Chairman Chege Kirundi (right) sharing a light moment with his predecessor Enos Njeru at the Port of Mombasa on Friday.
Photos/Courtesy.

Worth Noting:

On Friday, KTDA top management led by chairman Chege Kirundi were at the Port of Mombasa where they witnessed the offloading and thereafter flagged off the consignment which is expected to reach tea farms in the next few days

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Kenyan Vernacular Radio: The Slow Death Of Journalism And The Rise Of Mediocrity



By: Maina Wahome
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Most vernacular stations today operate without any ideological backbone. They have devolved into “fluff media,” lukewarm, bland, and easily consumed by audiences unwilling to engage with substantive ideas. In these spaces, pettiness thrives where principle should govern.
- The few thoughtful voices that survive are quickly sidelined, their contributions dismissed as irrelevant to mass appeal. Tune in for just a few minutes, and the decay is undeniable: content riddled with errors, ethical compromises, and a complete absence of intellectual sophistication.
- Investigative journalism, the lifeblood of any credible media ecosystem, has all but disappeared. In its place are self-styled “broadcasters” who gained fame through social media stunts and street slogans.

Kenyan radio, particularly vernacular stations that historically functioned as instruments of cultural preservation and civic engagement, is increasingly implicated in the erosion of journalistic integrity. What was once a medium for public enlightenment has been supplanted by an echo chamber dominated by triviality, gossip, and intellectual bankruptcy. Of greater concern is not merely the surge of frivolous content on the airwaves but the degree to which mediocrity has been normalized by society, thereby undermining the standards of informed and critical public discourse. When mediocrity becomes acceptable, the public loses not just information, but the very tools to discern truth from falsehood.

Listeners have become addicted to the shallow, the sensational, and the scandalous content, conditioned to consume mediocrity as entertainment. In this toxic ecosystem, presenters who dare challenge prevailing narratives or expose uncomfortable truths are swiftly silenced: either they toe the line, or they are shown the door. Men, in particular, have emerged as the primary casualties of cancel culture, dismissed as misogynists or as incels the moment they voice unpopular opinions. On the airwaves and social media, toxic feminists and their allies often rally to defend their own, championing misplaced notions of “respect” and “equality” for women, while skillfully leveraging the gender card to suppress dissent. How did society become so hypersensitive, so allergic to truth, that honesty now demands a guillotine for the messenger?

Most vernacular stations today operate without any ideological backbone. They have devolved into “fluff media,” lukewarm, bland, and easily consumed by audiences unwilling to engage with substantive ideas. In these spaces, pettiness thrives where principle should govern. The few thoughtful voices that survive are quickly sidelined, their contributions dismissed as irrelevant to mass appeal. Tune in for just a few minutes, and the decay is undeniable: content riddled with errors, ethical compromises, and a complete absence of intellectual sophistication. Investigative journalism, the lifeblood of any credible media ecosystem, has all but disappeared. In its place are self-styled “broadcasters” who gained fame through social media stunts and street slogans. Today, virality trumps credibility, charisma replaces competence, and tomorrow, a comedian with a viral TikTok clip could be your next radio host. This is not journal-



Radio

ism; it is opportunism parading as entertainment, and it is eroding the very foundation of public discourse.

The peddling of stereotypes and gossip has become the prevailing business model. Vernacular stations, once celebrated for promoting ethnic and linguistic identity, now amplify tribal biases and gendered insults with reckless abandon. A troubling double standard underlies this trend: when a male presenter makes a controversial remark, he is publicly crucified and swiftly dismissed. In contrast, when a female presenter crosses the same ethical line, society often excuses her behavior, labeling her as “just emotional,” “only joking,” or a “victim of online hate.” Fairness in Kenyan radio is alive and well, as long as you’re the right gender.

The hypocrisy is staggering. A closer look at some Kikuyu-language stations reveals the depth of this decay. They hire comedians and social media influencers, some semi-illiterate, others with no higher education background or training in journalism or media ethics, simply because they “appeal to the audience.” Intellectualism is strangled in its infancy, while moral erosion is peddled and harbored on the airwaves. For example, individuals can expose their nudity publicly and, in return, be rewarded with a piece of land, a title deed, or even an ambassadorial position in a company. This is a blatant endorsement of immorality and mediocrity.

The more one listens to these sta-

tions, the less informed one becomes. This is not accidental; it is a deliberate cultivation of ignorance. Rather than empowering their audiences, these presenters offer a steady diet of gossip, personal vendettas, and moral posturing. Their programs are filled with superfluous political commentary, marital ridicule, and unfiltered vitriol directed at anyone who challenges their views. Comedians masquerading as journalists dominate the airwaves, transforming once-respectable frequencies into arenas of triviality and performance. Listening to these shows provides little engagement with professional journalism and instead exposes audiences to sensationalism and superficial content. The consequences are clear: Kenya is fostering a generation that accepts mediocrity, a populace whose egos are inflated by constant noise while their critical thinking and intellectual sophistication remain stifled.

Censorship in Kenyan radio operates with alarming selectivity. Female presenters can use expletives on live air and in their social media pages with impunity, facing no reprimand, investigation, or accountability. In contrast, male presenters who challenge the system or speak candidly are often abruptly dismissed. Their careers are curtailed not through scandal but through enforced silence, reflecting a stark gendered double standard. This hypocrisy undermines fairness in the media industry and fosters resentment among male broadcasters who

perceive themselves as expendable. In this distorted environment, equality has become one-sided: freedom of expression exists only until a man exercises it.

The commercialization of Kenyan vernacular radio has further diluted the role of the media as a public watchdog. Advertisers now dictate content more than editorial judgment, leading to self-censorship and moral compromise. Critical issues such as governance, public health, and social justice are either ignored or sensationalized to fit entertainment templates. The pursuit of ratings has replaced the pursuit of truth, creating a vicious cycle in which the more absurd and provocative the content, the higher the listenership. This fosters a distorted sense of reality for audiences, who are conditioned to value spectacle over substance and laughter over learning. This trend is particularly evident in debates hosted on these stations, where journalists are often undermined by poor moderation, a lack of fact-checking, and an emphasis on confrontation rather than informed discourse.

Moreover, the erosion of professional standards has consequences that extend far beyond the studios and airwaves. Aspiring journalists are increasingly incentivized to emulate mediocrity rather than pursue excellence, perpetuating a cycle of intellectual stagnation. The long-term result is a society disengaged from informed debate and critical thought,

Free IDs For All: Government Scraps Fees For 6 Months!

By: MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

The government has announced a six-month waiver on fees for ID replacement and changes to personal particulars, offering a major relief to citizens across the country. Whether you've lost your ID, need to correct your name, update your birth date, or fix a small error, the process is now completely free until April 30, 2026. This move is part of a broader initiative to streamline access to essential services and eliminate financial barriers that have long hindered many from updating their identification documents.

Citizens can now walk into Huduma Centres or registration offices and request replacements or updates without paying a cent. The waiver covers lost or damaged IDs, name corrections, gender updates, and other personal detail changes. Officials are urging people to take advantage of the window early to

avoid last-minute congestion as the deadline approaches.

"No Kenyan should be locked out of opportunity because of a missing or outdated ID," said a senior government official, emphasizing the importance of inclusive access to identification. The waiver is expected to benefit thousands, especially youth and low-income earners, who often struggle with the cost of document updates.

With the clock ticking toward April 2026, this is the time to act. Update your identity, reclaim your access, and do it all for free.



Kenyan Identity Cards/FILE

Kenyan Vernacular Radio: The Slow Death Of Journalism And The Rise Of Mediocrity

Contd from page 18

where tribalism, populism, and misinformation flourish unchecked. Without decisive interventions, ranging from policy reforms to audience education, Kenyan vernacular radio risks solidifying as a permanent monument to mediocrity, leaving a generation of listeners ill-equipped to navigate the complexities of modern civic life. If the airwaves remain this way, intellect will be strangled, and critical thinking smothered.

Kenyan radio must be rescued from the grip of moral decay and intellectual laziness. Reform is no longer optional; it is urgent. Stations must restore journalistic ethics, implement transparent hiring practices, and prioritize competence over cha-

risma. Regulatory bodies should intervene and demand accountability, not as an act of censorship, but as an act of preservation. Listeners, too, must stop treating radio as oxygen, something they cannot live without, and begin demanding content that informs, educates, and challenges. The airwaves should not serve as playgrounds for comedians and clout chasers; they should be classrooms of thought, platforms of truth, and mirrors of conscience. Until such reforms are realized, Kenyan journalism, particularly on vernacular radio, will remain an industry of noise without depth, laughter without learning, and freedom without responsibility.

Short Bio

Maina Wahome is an author, linguist, and columnist. He also serves as a lecturer of the English language.



Prince Andrew To Lose Prince Title, Move Out Of Royal Lodge: Buckingham Palace

By: Xinhua News Agency
 @themtkenyatimes

Prince Andrew will lose his prince title and move out of Royal Lodge, according to a statement from Buckingham Palace on Thursday. Britain's King Charles has initiated a formal process to remove "the Style, Titles and Honours of

Prince Andrew," said the statement. "Prince Andrew will now be known as Andrew Mountbatten Windsor," said the statement, adding that he will move out of Royal Lodge, his Windsor mansion, to "alternative private accommodation." The move came amid intense scrutiny in the past weeks upon the scandal over his association with deceased American financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. "These censures are deemed necessary, notwithstanding

the fact that he continues to deny the allegations against him," said the statement. Prince Andrew will move to a property privately funded by the King, and have not objected to the King's decision to remove his titles, according to British media.



Prince Andrew

U.S. Senate Votes To Eliminate Trump's Global Tariffs

By: Xinhua News Agency
 @themtkenyatimes

U.S. Senate voted 51-47 on Thursday to eliminate the national emergency cited by U.S. President Donald Trump to impose global tariffs in early April.

The votes are symbolic as the U.S. House has passed a rule against legislation to block Trump's tariffs through March, The Washington Post reported Thursday. While most Republicans voted against the measure, four Republicans joined Democrats to vote for the ending of the national emergency. Earlier this week, the Senate, with bipartisan support, has passed two other resolutions aimed to eliminate duties on goods from Canada and Brazil, respectively. This in-

dicates that more U.S. lawmakers are disagreeing with the Trump administration's aggressive use of tariffs to reshape U.S. trade relationships, said The Washington Post.

Declaring an international emergency over the "large and persistent trade deficit" in international trade relationships, Trump imposed a 10-percent tariff on all countries and additional "reciprocal" tariffs on countries that had the largest trade imbalances with the United States in early April. The U.S. Supreme Court will hold a hearing on Trump's tariff on Nov. 5. Two lower courts ruled Trump's tariff illegal and Trump has appealed the case to the Supreme Court. The United States has collected about 88 billion U.S. dollars in tax revenue from the tariffs through August, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The Tax Foundation estimates



U.S. President Donald Trump

that tariffs are expected to increase household annually and shrink the cent over the next decade. taxes by more than 1,600 dollars per gross domestic product by 0.5 per-

Tanzania's Zanzibar President Mwinyi Wins Reelection, Vows To Put National Interest At Forefront

By: Xinhua News Agency
 @themtkenyatimes

Tanzania's Zanzibar President Hussein Ali Mwinyi has won a second term in office, the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) announced on Thursday night.

ZEC Chairperson George Joseph Kazi said Mwinyi, the candidate of the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi party, won 74.8 percent of the vote in Wednesday's elections, beating 10 contenders from opposition parties. Voter turnout stood at over 88

percent across the semi-autonomous islands, Kazi said. In his acceptance speech, which was broadcast live, Mwinyi pledged to put the national interest at the forefront of his new administration. He asked the 10 opposition presidential candidates to work closely in protecting the country's national interest. "Let us forget the past and open a new chapter of rebuilding the archipelago," Mwinyi said. Mwinyi, first elected in 2020, will serve another five-year term leading the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government. Flanked by first lady Mariam Mwinyi, he thanked voters for their confidence and pledged to

continue strengthening good governance, economic growth, and social development.

Tanzania's Zanzibar President Hussein Ali Mwinyi



84 Golfers Set For Betika Masters Tournaments

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyetimes

84 golfers from across Africa and beyond are set to tee off in the Betika Masters tournaments, the seventh and eighth legs of the Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing, taking place at Vetlab Sports Club from November 2 to 4 and at Limuru Country Club from November 9th to 11th, 2025.

The doubleheader, backed by Betika as title sponsor, has attracted a strong field of elite amateur and professional golfers from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Malawi, India, and the United States, all competing for a share of the Sh2 million prize purse in each leg and crucial Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) and World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) points.

The Kenyan contingent will feature a blend of the country's top amateurs and experienced professionals, led by John Lejirma, the newly crowned Johnnie Walker Classic champion, and Michael Karanga, the reigning Kenya Amateur Golf Championship (KAGC) Series winner.

Lejirma, who recently beat professional Njoroge Kibugu in a sudden-death playoff at Royal Nairobi Golf Club earlier this month to claim his maiden Sunshine Development Tour title, said he is looking forward to continuing his good run.

"Just fresh from winning at my home club, it's been a tremendous journey so far, full of lessons,

growth, and belief. Every leg of the Sunshine Development Tour has pushed me to become better, both mentally and technically. My goal heading into Vetlab and Limuru is to maintain the momentum and stay true to my game plan," he said.

He added, "Nothing has changed on my end. I've just been fine-tuning all aspects of my game, from my long shots to my short game, and I feel ready. These events mean a lot to us as players because they're helping us gain confidence and experience at a professional level. For me, it's all about staying patient, trusting the process, and giving my best on every shot."

Karanja, who has consistently made the cut in three of his four tour appearances so far, echoed similar sentiments, praising the Sunshine Development Tour for creating meaningful opportunities for amateurs to compete and grow.

"This Tour has changed the game for us amateurs. It has given us a proper platform to test our skills against professionals from across Africa," said Karanja, adding that playing alongside top pros challenges you to raise your standard, to stay focused, and to believe that you can also compete at the highest levels.

He divulged that for years, they played mostly within their amateur circuit, and the exposure was limited. "Now, with the Sunshine Development Tour, we're gaining experience that helps bridge the gap between amateur and professional golf.

"I've learnt a lot in these past four



A golfer poses after teeing off in a past tournament. Photo/Courtesy.

events. I've made the cut in three, and I can feel that my game is growing stronger with every round. I'm trusting the process, staying disciplined, and I believe a big win is just around the corner," he said.

Other notable Kenyan names include Dismas Indiza, winner of the Ruiru leg; two-time Tour champion Njoroge Kibugu (Thika and Nyali); Greg Snow, Mutahi Kibugu, Edwin Mudanyi, David Wakhu, C.J. Wangai, Jastas Madoya, and Nelson Simwa.

Also in the spotlight are elite junior golfers Junaid Manji, Ishan Sama-

ni, and Tsevi Soni, who will look to make their mark on the international stage.

The international lineup features strong contenders from across the region. Phillip Kasozi, Ronald Otile, Gaita Tadeo Rodell, and Abraham Ainamani lead the Ugandan contingent while Rajab Pembe, Nuru Molllel, Angel Eaton, and Isaac Wanyeché are representing Tanzania. From Rwanda are Celestin Nsanuwera, Nsabimana Aloys, and Dusabe Felix. Others are Paul Chidale from Malawi, elite junior golfer Mitansh Thacker from India and Willy Deus

from the United States.

The female line-up includes Kenya's Naom Wafula, Jacquelyne Walter, Margaret Njoki, Joyce Wanjiru, and Tanzania's Angel Eaton in the field, underscoring the Tour's ongoing commitment to inclusion and diversity.

The Sunshine Development Tour is also supported by EABL through its Johnnie Walker brand, Magical Kenya, Pure Travel, and The Golf Company.

Shabana Suffers Third Consecutive Loss at Home

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyetimes

Kisii-based side Shabana FC suffered a third successive defeat at home after falling 2-1 to AFC Leopards in a thrilling match at Gusii Stadium.

The Glamour Boys as they are popularly known started the game with high intensity and Austine Odongo scored the opener in the 10th minute.

However, the AFC Leopards' coach Fred Ambani made tactful substitutions at the start of the second half and the equalizer came in the 72nd minute through captain Victor

Omune.

Ingwe snatched the late winner from a corner which was delivered by Jeff Kinyanjui and tapped into the back of the net by a Shabana player.

The result leaves Shabana in seventh place with seven points in the standings while AFC Leopards are in fifth with nine points, just four behind league leaders Kakamega Homeboyz, who have played an extra game.



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Sports >> *West Ham United midfielder Lucas Paqueta has been reprimanded and warned about his future conduct – but has not been fined – for his failure to comply with a Football Association investigation into allegations of spot-fixing.

West Ham's Paqueta Warned Over FA Rule Breaches



West Ham signed Lucas Paqueta from Lyon in 2022

West Ham United midfielder Lucas Paqueta has been reprimanded and warned about his future conduct – but has not been fined – for his failure to comply with a Football Association investigation into allegations of spot-fixing.

In July, an independent regulatory commission cleared the Brazil playmaker of four charges that he deliberately got booked in four separate matches in 2022 and 2023 “for the improper purpose of affecting the betting market”.

However, the 28-year-old was found guilty of two breaches of FA Rule F3; failing to comply with a requirement to answer questions and provide information to the FA’s investigation into breaches of the rules.

Paqueta gave “no comment” answers to the majority of questions in two FA interviews during the investigation, both of which took place before he was charged.

In its written reasons, external for the decision published on Friday, the independent commission said it “accepted that the player was acting on advice at all times but, nevertheless, as a participant he has an obligation to respect and abide by the regulations”.

It said the “starting point for sanction was a financial penalty”, however, it added that several mitigating factors led it to take the decision not to impose a fine. Among them was Paqueta’s “limited knowledge of English” and it being “fanciful” to expect

the player, with no legal training, to do anything other than follow the advice of the leading counsel appointed by his club.

The commission observed that the FA was “apparently not interested in what the player had to say at the second interview when he offered to answer questions arising from the disclosure which had taken place after the first interview”.

It added: “In any event, the player provided answers to the matters raised by the FA by his provision of a witness statement on 15 December 2023, thus in reality complying with the request for information. He had previously volunteered the production of his mobile devices for interrogation.

“Significantly, this was all pri-

or to charges being brought and did not ultimately frustrate the investigation. No evidence of prejudice has been advanced by the FA.”

Also taken into account were the “weighty” legal fees Paqueta had encountered during the case and the “mental stress” suffered by the player because of the “extremely serious” nature of the allegations against him.

“We recognise that an element of the mental stress suffered by the player included his realisation that, had the [spot-fixing] charges been found proved, his footballing career would almost certainly have come to an end,” said the commission.

BBC

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Sports >>> *Football Kenya Federation (FKF) have fined Gor Mahia Ksh 300,000 for a security breach during their Kenyan Premier League opener against Bidco United on September 21 at Kasarani Stadium.

FKF Slap K'Ogalo With Hefty Fine Following Ticketing Chaos In League Opener Against Bidco



Gor Mahia players line up before their match against Posta Rangers

Football Kenya Federation (FKF) have fined Gor Mahia Ksh 300,000 for a security breach during their Kenyan Premier League opener against Bidco United on September 21 at Kasarani Stadium.

In a statement, the federation's Disciplinary Committee said the 21-time league champions violated FKF Regulations and the Confederation of African Football (Caf) Disciplinary Code by failing to put in place adequate measures for ticketing and crowd control.

"The Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Disciplinary Committee has found Gor Mahia FC in vio-

lation of FKF Regulations and the CAF Disciplinary Code following a security breach that occurred during the match against Bidco United on 21 September 2025 at Kasarani Stadium," it said.

Furthermore, the committee noted that while Gor Mahia had delegated the ticketing process to a third-party vendor, this does not absolve them of responsibility for the resultant disorder.

"The Committee determined that while Gor Mahia had engaged third-party vendors to manage ticketing and access control, the club retained a non-delegable duty

of care to ensure safety, order, and effective supervision during official matches," the committee said.

The match, was characterized by chaotic scenes beforehand during which a section of fans forcefully attempted to access the stadium without tickets.

Police were forced to lob teargas as the situation spiraled out of control.

Gor went on to lose the match by a solitary strike.

The latest fine comes in the wake of this year's Mashemeji Derby on Madaraka Day at the Raila Odinga Stadium in Homa Bay.

Fans were seen accessing the venue through various means, including scaling the perimeter wall at the stadium to gain entry.

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A Journey Of Resilience, Advocacy, And Global Impact



By: Anila Bukhari

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Lea's professional career is equally impressive, spanning both the NGO and journalism sectors. Her work has been characterized by a commitment to social justice, human rights, and community development. She has worked with various NGOs, where she played pivotal roles in fundraising, communication, and project management.

- Her ability to craft compelling narratives and mobilize resources has made her a valuable asset in advancing social causes. Currently, she works remotely as a Fundraising & Communication Manager at Reddo Care in London, where she continues to leverage her expertise to support innovative healthcare initiatives.

- In addition to her professional work, Lea founded Boukra Nour NGO in Lebanon, aiming to empower vulnerable communities through sustainable development projects, education, and social support.

Lea Jabre's life is a testament to resilience, compassion, and unwavering determination. Her story is one of a global citizen, a dedicated professional, and a passionate advocate for those affected by rare diseases, particularly Stiff Person Syndrome (SPS). Through her diverse experiences and inspiring journey, Lea embodies the power of hope and community in overcoming life's greatest challenges.

Born and raised in a multicultural environment, Lea's early years were marked by extensive international exposure. She has lived in France, Spain, the United Kingdom, Lebanon, and The Gambia, experiences that enriched her understanding of different cultures, languages, and societal issues. This global upbringing fostered her deep curiosity about the world and fueled her desire to make a meaningful impact on society. Her passion for social issues led her to pursue higher education at University College London (UCL), one of the most prestigious universities in the world. There, she earned her MSc in International Public Policy, equipping her with the skills and knowledge to navigate complex global challenges and advocate for positive change.

Lea's professional career is equally impressive, spanning both the NGO and journalism sectors. Her work has been characterized by a commitment to social justice, human rights, and community development. She has worked with various NGOs, where she played pivotal roles in fundraising, communication, and project management. Her ability to craft compelling narratives and mobilize resources has made her a valuable asset in advancing social causes. Currently, she works remotely as a Fundraising & Communication Manager at Reddo Care in London, where she continues to leverage her expertise to support innovative healthcare initiatives. In addition to her professional work, Lea founded Boukra Nour NGO in Lebanon, aiming to empower vulnerable communities through sustainable development projects, education, and social support.

Despite her professional accomplishments, Lea's life took a pro-

foundly personal turn in May 2021 when she was diagnosed with Stiff Person Syndrome (SPS), a rare neurological disorder characterized by muscle stiffness and spasms. Her journey to diagnosis was arduous, spanning approximately five to six years of uncertainty, misdiagnoses, and emotional turmoil. The rarity of SPS and the lack of accessible resources meant that Lea often felt isolated and misunderstood. However, her resilience and determination propelled her to take action.

After her diagnosis, Lea decided to channel her experiences into advocacy and awareness. She created an Instagram page to document her journey, share information about SPS, and connect with others living with the condition. Her platform, Bent Not Broken, symbolizes her philosophy that despite the physical and emotional struggles, one can remain resilient and unbroken. The phrase is a play on words, emphasizing that while SPS may challenge the body, it does not define the spirit.

Lea envisioned Bent Not Broken as more than just a personal diary; she aspired to build a comprehensive resource for SPS patients and their families. Over time, her platform evolved into a supportive community where individuals impacted by SPS can share their stories, seek advice, and find comfort in knowing they are not alone. For Lea, the act of sharing her journey and listening to others has become a powerful tool for healing and empowerment. She believes strongly that "we are stronger together," and her advocacy efforts exemplify this conviction.

Her work extends beyond social media. Lea actively participates in rare disease awareness campaigns, collaborates with medical professionals, and speaks at events to raise understanding about SPS and similar conditions. Her goal is to reduce stigma, improve diagnosis times, and promote research into rare neurological disorders. Through her advocacy, she hopes to inspire others to find hope and strength amid adversity.

Lea Jabre's story is also a narrative of hope and transformation. Her life's work—spanning international development, journalism, healthcare



Lea Jabre

advocacy, and community building—reflects her unwavering commitment to making a positive difference. Her leadership in founding Boukra Nour NGO in Lebanon underscores her dedication to empowering marginalized populations and fostering sustainable development. At the same time, her personal battle with SPS has deepened her empathy and understanding of the challenges faced by those with chronic illnesses.

Throughout her journey, Lea has remained committed to her core values of resilience, community, and hope. Her experiences have shown her that even in the face of rare and complex health conditions, it is possible to find purpose and strength. Her story continues to inspire countless individuals around the world, demonstrating that adversity can be a catalyst for advocacy and change.

Today, Lea Jabre is recognized not only as a skilled professional but

also as a compassionate advocate whose voice amplifies the needs of the rare disease community. Her ongoing efforts to raise awareness, support patients, and foster a sense of solidarity exemplify her dedication to making the world a more understanding and inclusive place. Her journey reminds us all that while life may take unexpected turns, resilience, community, and hope can illuminate the path forward.

In summary, Lea Jabre's biography is a story of a woman who turned personal challenges into powerful advocacy. Her international background, professional achievements, and unwavering commitment to the rare disease community make her a role model for many. Her life continues to inspire others to stand strong, support one another, and believe in the possibility of a brighter, more inclusive future.