



### When Leadership Feels Like a Scam: The Perils of Empty Promises

Leadership is more than rhetoric. At its core, it is a contract of trust between those who lead and those who follow. When a leader speaks, citizens listen not merely to hear words but to discern intent, character, and direction. Words can inspire, unite, or comfort, but they can also deceive, mislead, or alienate.

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### News>> Waiguru: How 'Wezesha Kirinyaga' Is Rewriting The Story Of Smallholder Farmers


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### News>> Court Affirms Public Participation In Landmark Pesticide Class Action In Kenya

P. 12. The Environment and Land Court has confirmed that a public notice inviting affected farmers, workers, and community members to join a petition seeking to outlaw several hazardous agrochemicals in Kenya was properly published in a local newspaper.

# Catholic Bishops Demand Law Review

 The Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops yesterday called for an urgent review of two recently amended laws, warning that the manner in which they were passed risks undermining fundamental freedoms and eroding public trust in governance. In a strongly worded statement read by Archbishop Philip Anyolo in Nairobi, the Bishops said the Computer Misuse and Cyber-crimes Amendment Act and the Land Amendment Act Number 21 of 2025 were crafted and enacted hastily, without sufficient consultation, and could easily be misused if not revisited.



Archbishop Philip Anyolo

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# Mudavadi Visits The 24/7 Diaspora Affairs Call Centre

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes

## Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi on Wednesday evening visited the Diaspora Affairs Call Centre that runs for 24 hours in a day.

The facility, housed at the State Department for Diaspora Affairs headquarters in Old Mutual Towers serves as a vital lifeline for Kenyans living, working, or travelling abroad.

It operates around the clock to provide timely consular and welfare assistance to citizens in distress, regardless of time zones or location. Its establishment reflects the government's unwavering commitment to protecting the rights and welfare of our diaspora community, a true extension of Kenya's care beyond our borders.

The centre offers a comprehensive range of services, including emergency and consular support for critical incidents such as arrests, medical emergencies, natural disasters, and the repatriation of mortal remains. It also provides guidance on lost or stolen passports, welfare checks, and human trafficking cases, ensuring that every Kenyan abroad can access help when they need it most.

He commended the staffs professionalism and compassion in providing tele-counseling and psychosocial support to Kenyans abroad.

He noted that their efforts go beyond crisis response, addressing mental health, emotional well-being, and social reintegration, areas often overlooked but deeply important to our citizens overseas.

The PCS also held a meeting with the entire staff of the State Department for Diaspora Affairs, where he applauded their commendable work in creating pathways for international job placements.



Editor's Desk




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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Authorities have expressed concern over the increasing number of road accidents involving pedestrians in the Kiambu region, attributed to failure to use designated crossing points and footbridges. National Traffic Safety Authority Regional Manager Kendi Mutuma noted that many accidents have been reported along the Thika Superhighway and some sections of the Nairobi-Nakuru highway. Police data indicates that at least 243 fatalities were recorded in the region over the past year. The report points to reckless pedestrian behaviour, speeding motorists, and poor road discipline as key contributors to the growing number of accidents. Speaking during a candle-lighting session held in memory of road crash victims, Mutuma said despite the highways having several footbridges, pedestrians continue to dash across even as vehicles move at high speed, as others cross while using earphones or mobile phones, making them less alert.



Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOUST) is set to establish a research-based nursing school to address health challenges in the Lake Victoria basin. The institute, which is at the final stages of getting clearance, is scheduled to open its doors for the first nursing students in May 2026 with initial thirty students expected to be admitted. The School of Nursing established through sponsorship of the Belgian government via the VLIR-UOS programme, has already been given the green light by the Kenyan Commission for University Education (CUE). The nursing school, which is a component of Health subproject, is a deliverable in the ten-year collaboration program between JOUST and Flemish universities coordinated by the Vrije University of Brussels (VUB). According to Jooust Prof. Denis Ochuodho, the nursing school's core mandate besides training will be health research, unlike conventional nursing schools which are solely focused on training health practitioners.



The construction of the Isiolo–Modogashe road, a key segment of the Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project (HoAGDP), has reached 45 percent completion, marking a major milestone in efforts to boost connectivity and economic transformation across Northern Kenya. According to Resident Engineer Justus Otwali, who oversees the Kulamawe–Modogashe section, the project has made steady progress as the government remains committed to completing it within the stipulated timeline. The road is part of the 750-kilometer Isiolo–Mandera corridor, a flagship infrastructure project jointly funded by the Government of Kenya and the World Bank. Once complete, the road is expected to open up northern Kenya to trade, investment, and essential services, linking local markets to the greater Horn of Africa region. Already, the project is changing lives in Isiolo, Kulamawe, and Garbatula, where communities that once faced isolation due to poor infrastructure are reaping social and economic benefits through improved access, employment and community development initiatives.



The Public Service Commission is conducting a capacity building exercise for the North Rift counties of Uasin Gishu, Turkana, West Pokot, Trans Nzoia, Elgeyo Marakwet and Nandi on human resource matters arising from county appeals. The retooling exercise is targeting County Public Service Boards (CPSBs), County Assembly Service Boards (CASBs) and County Executives on human resource matters and is aimed at capacity building the participants on all human resource matters. The capacity-building exercise also seeks to identify the challenges experienced by counties in handling appeals before the Commission with a view of improving processes, enhancing capacity of county human resource personnel and improving efficiency, while at the same time enhancing skills as well as knowledge sharing and adoption of best practices. Speaking during the launch of the 3-day sensitisation forum at the Rift Valley Technical Training Institute (RVTTI), Eldoret, Uasin Gishu, the Public Service Commission Vice Chairperson, Mary Kimonye indicated that the decision was made after the Commission observed a serious gap in the management of human resource functions and unfair labour practices in the counties.

A Kithimani court has sentenced a man to death for attacking and stealing from the mother of former Member of Parliament Charles Kilonzo. Josephat Mutuku Kasyema was sentenced to serve a death sentence for attacking Agnes Njeri Kilonzo, an 80-year-old woman. The court heard that the accused robbed the victim of her mobile phone, a Samsung Galaxy J2 valued at KSh15,000, and an unknown amount of cash and cut her on her head using a panga. The offence was committed on 8th December 2023, at the Ndarani area in Yatta Sub-County in Machakos. The matter was prosecuted by Fred Nderitu, Lydia Wang'ombe, and James Gachoka.



# NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



# The Mount Kenya Times

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# Cross-Border Collaboration Key To Strengthening Horn Of Africa Livestock Sector

By: MKT Correspondent

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## Worth Noting:

Experts warn that Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia experience similar climatic and weather conditions but lack coordinated rangeland management, despite sharing common borders and facing the same environmental challenges that affect pastoral livelihoods across the region.

Dr. Guyo Roba, Head of the Dryland Development Unit at IGAD's Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD), explained that political borders restrict livestock movement across countries, even though the regions are ecologically connected.

Poor crossborder rangeland governance has emerged as a major challenge facing pastoral communities across the Horn of Africa, undermining sustainable resource management and threatening the livelihoods that depend on these shared grazing lands.

Data from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) show that more than half of Africa's livestock is found in East Africa, with 55 percent of IGAD's total livestock resources located in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia.

Despite this wealth, the region continues to suffer huge losses due to recurrent droughts. Between 2020 and 2023, the three countries lost about 13 million animals valued at USD 1.2 billion, excluding the massive loss in milk production. The crisis also left about five million children malnourished across the three countries.

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Dr. Guyo Roba, Head of the Dryland Development Unit at IGAD's Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD), explained that political borders restrict livestock movement across countries, even though the regions are ecologically connected.

He also decried that punitive regulations have discouraged investment in the animal feed sector across the region, noting that most countries still lack proper forage seed certification systems to support commercial production.

"It's very hard for someone who produces feed in Kenya to trade across Ethiopia because it becomes a contraband. Yet each of the countries that we work in in the IGAD region have a



Professor Ahmed Elbeltagy, the APMD Platform Policy Pillar Lead. Photo/Courtesy..

feed deficit of almost 50 percent, depending on the season," he stated.

Dr Guyo was speaking during a regional workshop by the African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), through the African Pastoral Markets Development (APMD) Platform on strengthening feed and rangeland security in pastoral regions of the Horn of Africa, held in Naivasha.

The meeting brought together technical experts, government officials, pastoralists and regional organizations to assess the implementation of feed and rangeland strategies and agree on coordinated measures to enhance feed security in pastoral regions.

Professor Ahmed Elbeltagy, the APMD Platform Policy Pillar Lead underscored the importance of pastoralism saying it was not only a livelihood system but also an important engine of economic, social, and ecological resilience for millions across the Horn of Africa.

He noted that the region faces growing pressures from recurrent droughts, land degradation, climate variability, and inconsistent policy implementation, all of which threaten livestock productivity, market competitiveness, and the livelihoods.

"At AU-IBAR, we recognize that achieving feed and rangeland security requires more than technical solutions. It demands partnership, between governments, communities, and markets; between science and policy; and between Africa's continental vision and the everyday realities of pastoralists," he stated.

Participants also warned that without a workable investment plan and stronger advocacy for resource mobilization, the region's livestock sector, its economic backbone, would continue to face devastating losses during droughts.

Mr. John Maina, Senior Deputy Director of Livestock Production, emphasized the need for practical region-

al policies that can effectively guide pastoralists in implementing sustainable livestock production and rangeland management practices across the region.

He also urged the identification of key services where private investors can participate to help address challenges affecting livestock feed production, rangeland management, and pastoralism across the region.

The forum aims to review progress in implementing continental and regional feed and rangeland policies, identify gaps and opportunities for coordinated action, strengthen private sector involvement in feed production and trade, and develop a unified regional feed and rangeland security roadmap.

The workshop's outcomes will inform the creation of an AU feed security coordination task force, translating policy coherence into tangible impact, while the best practices, policy briefs, and private sector frameworks will guide lasting continental action.

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# Waiguru: How ‘Wezesha Kirinyaga’ Is Rewriting The Story Of Smallholder Farmers

By: MKT Reporter  
@themkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:**

- The initiative dubbed, “Wezesha Kirinyaga,” by Governor Anne Waiguru has supported more than 100,000 households engaged in multiple agricultural value chains to increase production and market their produce.
- The farmers have been funded by the county government to the tune of KSh540 million to venture into tomato, rice, dairy, poultry, coffee, avocado, apiculture, aquaculture, goat and pig farming among others.
- “When we launched Wezesha Kirinyaga, our goal was simple to make farming profitable again. Today, our farmers are organized, productive, and earning more than ever before. Agriculture has become the heartbeat of our local economy,” Waiguru said.
- Started in 2020, the program has funded 804 farmers’ groups with Sh.253 million and an additional 19 Farmers’ Producer Organisations, with Sh.266 million to strengthen production and marketing of farm produce.

A Kirinyaga County incubated economic empowerment programme is rewriting the story of smallholder farmers into an engine of growth that has increased earnings and lifted families out of poverty.

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Governor Waiguru said her administration has also pumped in KSh21 million for establishment of 20 multi-value chain Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization (SACCOs) in every ward to enhance access to affordable credit and markets. The money has been used in supporting the cooperatives to setup offices, farmer’s mobilization and financial services.

Speaking during the 2025 State of the County Address at the Kirinyaga County Assembly, Waiguru said the empowerment program has helped increased farmers earnings.

She said such initiatives have partly contributed to the reduction in of county poverty index, which has dropped from 23% to 21%, lifting approximately 52,000 households out of poverty.

“Our farmers are no longer farming for survival, they are farming for profit,” she emphasized. “The results are visible in every ward, every cooperative, and every household that has benefited from Wezesha Kirinyaga.”

The governor said the County economic growth rate now stands at 5.4%, surpassing the national average of 4.9%.

Further, she said the Gross County Product has increased from



Wezesha Kirinyaga farmers groups with an incubator.

KSh114.9 billion in 2017 to KSh190.79 billion in 2024, injecting significant liquidity into the local economy.

She underscored the remarkable growth in rice production, which has more than doubled from 90,000 metric tons to 210,000 metric tonnes annually, generating over KSh15 billion.

On coffee, the Governor said farmers are now receiving payout of up to KSh148 per kilo, which she termed as “the highest payout in the country.” She attributed the improvement to the county’s support in cooperative management and direct marketing that ensures farmers reap maximum value from their produce.

She said through the County Government’s support, tomato production had surged from 46,000 to

116,000 tonnes, earning local farmers about KSh6.9 billion annually. She pointed out that modern pest management, improved seed varieties, and better market coordination had reduced losses and boosted profits.

The dairy sector, she added, had experienced a similar boom. Average milk yields per cow had grown from 2.5 litres to 7 litres daily, translating to KSh3.1 billion in annual income. Waiguru said the rise was a direct result of county-led interventions such as provision of subsidized artificial insemination services, subsidized animal feeds and fertilizer and milk cooling equipment for cooperatives.

Avocado production, she said, had also become a key income source for farmers, currently standing at 15,000 metric tonnes valued at

KSh300 million, with ongoing expansion expected to push output to 21,000 tonnes in the coming year.

“Our farmers have embraced avocado farming as the new green gold,” Waiguru said. “We are supporting them with certified seedlings and linking them to export markets so they can fully benefit from the global demand.”

She added that the County will continue investing in supporting smallholder farmers in value addition, post-harvest handling, and access to stable markets to protect farmers from price fluctuations and middlemen exploitation.

“Our next phase is about sustainability ensuring every farmer continues to grow their income and every village becomes part of the agricultural success story,” she said.



Governor Anne Waiguru handing over a cheque to one of the groups.

# Catholic Bishops Push Review Of Cybercrime, Land Laws

By: David Kimani  
@themtkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- The Bishops cautioned that some provisions in the cybercrime law could be weaponized by state agencies to silence critics, infringe on privacy, or even interfere with the electoral process. They stressed that fears expressed by citizens should not be brushed aside, urging leaders to listen and take corrective measures where necessary.

- The statement emphasized that meaningful public participation must be central to any review, insisting that citizens cannot be excluded from legislative processes that directly affect their rights. Their intervention adds moral weight to a debate that has already drawn sharp reactions from civil society, legal experts, and ordinary Kenyans.

The Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops yesterday called for an urgent review of two recently amended laws, warning that the manner in which they were passed risks undermining fundamental freedoms and eroding public trust in governance. In a strongly worded statement read by Archbishop Philip Anyolo in Nairobi, the Bishops said the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Amendment Act and the Land Amendment Act Number 21 of 2025 were crafted and enacted hastily, without sufficient consultation, and could easily be misused if not revisited. "We raise serious concerns about the way these amendments were crafted and enacted in a hurry," Archbishop Anyolo told journalists. "Kenyans have raised substantial concerns about the amendments which were signed into law. We strongly recommend a necessary review lest they be abused to curtail the very freedoms they ought to protect."

The Bishops cautioned that some provisions in the cybercrime law could be weaponized by state agencies to silence critics, infringe on privacy, or even interfere with the electoral process. They stressed that fears expressed by citizens should not be brushed aside, urging leaders to listen and take corrective measures where necessary. The statement emphasized that meaningful public participation must be central to any review, insisting that citizens cannot be excluded from legislative processes that directly affect their rights. Their intervention adds moral weight to a debate that has already drawn sharp reactions from civil society, legal experts, and ordinary Kenyans.

President William Ruto signed the amendments to the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act into law on October 15, granting investigators and courts broad powers to delete online content deemed illegal and even shut down digital platforms preemptively. Under the new provisions, content involving child pornography, terrorism, or extreme religious practices can be removed from websites or digital devices if authorities believe it violates the law. Courts may also compel offenders to delete harmful material or face prosecution. Section 46A of the Act allows investigators to seek court orders to delete content, block websites, or disable digital accounts believed to be promoting illegal activities, even before the content spreads. While the government insists the law is designed to combat cyberbullying, online fraud, and extremist propaganda, critics argue that it grants unchecked discretion to determine what constitutes illegal or false content. The law also compels social media users to verify their accounts using government issued identification, a clause that digital rights groups say opens the door to state surveillance and profiling.

Civil society groups have already



The Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB)

moved to court to challenge the law. Among them are gospel singer Reuben Kigame and the Kenya Human Rights Commission, who argue that the amendments grant the state sweeping powers to monitor and silence citizens. Their petition states that the mandatory verification requirement constitutes a blanket infringement of the right to privacy under Article 31 of the Constitution, forcing unnecessary revelation of private affairs and directly infringing upon the privacy of communications. The petitioners warn that the law could be used to intimidate journalists, activists, and ordinary citizens who rely on digital platforms to express themselves.

In Parliament, the amendments have sparked heated debate. Dagoretti South MP John Kiarie, who chairs the National Assembly ICT Committee, defended the changes, saying they are necessary to counter rising online crime. "Phishing and data theft are becoming the order of the day. With more than eight out of every ten posts likely to be fake or toxic, we are simply fortifying our laws," he said. However, Funyula MP Wilberforce Oundo cautioned that using terrorism as a justification for regulating online activity could open the door to abuse. "We already have an Anti Terrorism Act. Introducing terrorism here is making a rope, and it will hang us very soon," Oundo warned, reflecting fears that the amendments could be exploited to suppress legitimate political discourse.

The Bishops also raised concerns about the revised Land Act, noting that land remains one of the most sensitive issues in Kenya, tied to identity, livelihood, and social stability. They warned that the amendments appear to weaken safeguards against historical injustices and could open loopholes for exploitation of vulnerable

communities. Clauses that streamline compulsory acquisition processes without adequate compensation mechanisms, as well as provisions reducing oversight in land transactions, were singled out as particularly troubling. The Bishops urged legislators to revisit the amendments with input from civil society, faith groups, and affected communities, stressing that justice must not be sacrificed for expediency. "We cannot afford to pass laws that risk dispossessing communities or entrenching corruption in land administration. The government must listen to the cries of the people," Archbishop Anyolo said.

Public reaction to the Bishops' statement was swift. Civil society leaders welcomed the intervention, saying it reflects a growing consensus that the revised laws are problematic. Legal experts noted that the Bishops' concerns echo constitutional principles and could form the basis for legal challenges if the laws are implemented without revision. Ordinary citizens interviewed in Nairobi expressed relief that the Church had joined the debate, saying it gives them confidence that their voices are being amplified. "We were worried about these laws, especially the cybercrime one. Now that the Bishops are speaking, maybe the leaders will take us seriously," said Grace Achieng, a university student.

Government officials, however, defended the revised laws, arguing that they are necessary to address emerging challenges. A senior official in the Ministry of ICT said the cybercrime law is designed to protect citizens from online fraud and digital threats. "We are not targeting free speech. We are targeting criminals who exploit technology to harm others," the official said. On land matters, the Ministry of Lands insisted that the

amendments are meant to streamline processes and reduce bureaucracy. "Our goal is efficiency, not dispossession. We will continue to engage stakeholders to address concerns," the official added. Despite these assurances, the Bishops maintained that the laws must be reviewed urgently to prevent abuse.

The Catholic Bishops concluded their statement with a call for dialogue and unity. They urged leaders to embrace humility and listen to the people, reminding them that governance is a sacred trust. "We appeal to our leaders to act with wisdom and compassion. Laws must serve justice, not power. Let us build a Kenya where rights are respected, and where every citizen feels protected," Archbishop Anyolo said. They also encouraged citizens to remain vigilant and to participate actively in shaping the nation's future. "Democracy thrives when citizens are engaged. Let us not be silent when our rights are threatened," he added.

As the debate continues, the Bishops' intervention is likely to intensify pressure on Parliament and the Executive to revisit the contested laws. Analysts say the issue could become a litmus test for Kenya's commitment to constitutionalism and human rights. If the government responds positively, it could strengthen trust and demonstrate responsiveness. If it resists, it risks deepening public mistrust and fueling political tensions. For now, the Catholic Bishops have set the tone, reminding the nation that justice, rights, and dignity must remain at the heart of governance.

# From Tea to Avocados: KTDA Foundation Helps Farmers Grow A Brighter Future

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themkenyatimes

For decades, tea has been the lifeblood of communities across Kenya's highlands.

But volatile markets and unpredictable weather have left many small-holder farmers struggling to make ends meet, with up to 70 per cent living income gaps still a harsh reality.

Now, the KTDA Foundation is helping farmers chart a new path and it starts with a fruit that's taking the world by storm: the avocado.

Earlier this week, the Foundation held milestone meetings with the boards and management of Momul Tea Factory and Kapkoros Tea Factory introducing the CASA Avocado Diversification Project.

Partnering with TechnoServe and SokoFresh, the initiative aims to create climate-smart, sustainable income streams for tea farmers, giving them a buffer against the ups and downs of

the tea market.

The project received warm endorsement from factory leaders. Mr. Isaiah Langat, Chairman of Momul Tea Factory, and Mr. Leonard Korir, Vice Chairman of Kapkoros Tea Factory, hailed it as a game-changer for rural development.

"This initiative not only strengthens farmers' financial resilience, but it also opens doors to new employment opportunities in our communities," said Mr. Korir.

As part of the rollout, the factories will provide land for certified avocado nurseries and solar-powered cooling and aggregation centers, enabling farmers to grow, store, and market avocados efficiently. These centers, based at factories and community organizations, will serve as hubs for innovation and growth.

Sudi Matara, General Manager of KTDA Foundation, described the expansion as a pivotal moment in the Foundation's mission to secure a diversified and prosperous future for tea-growing communities. With

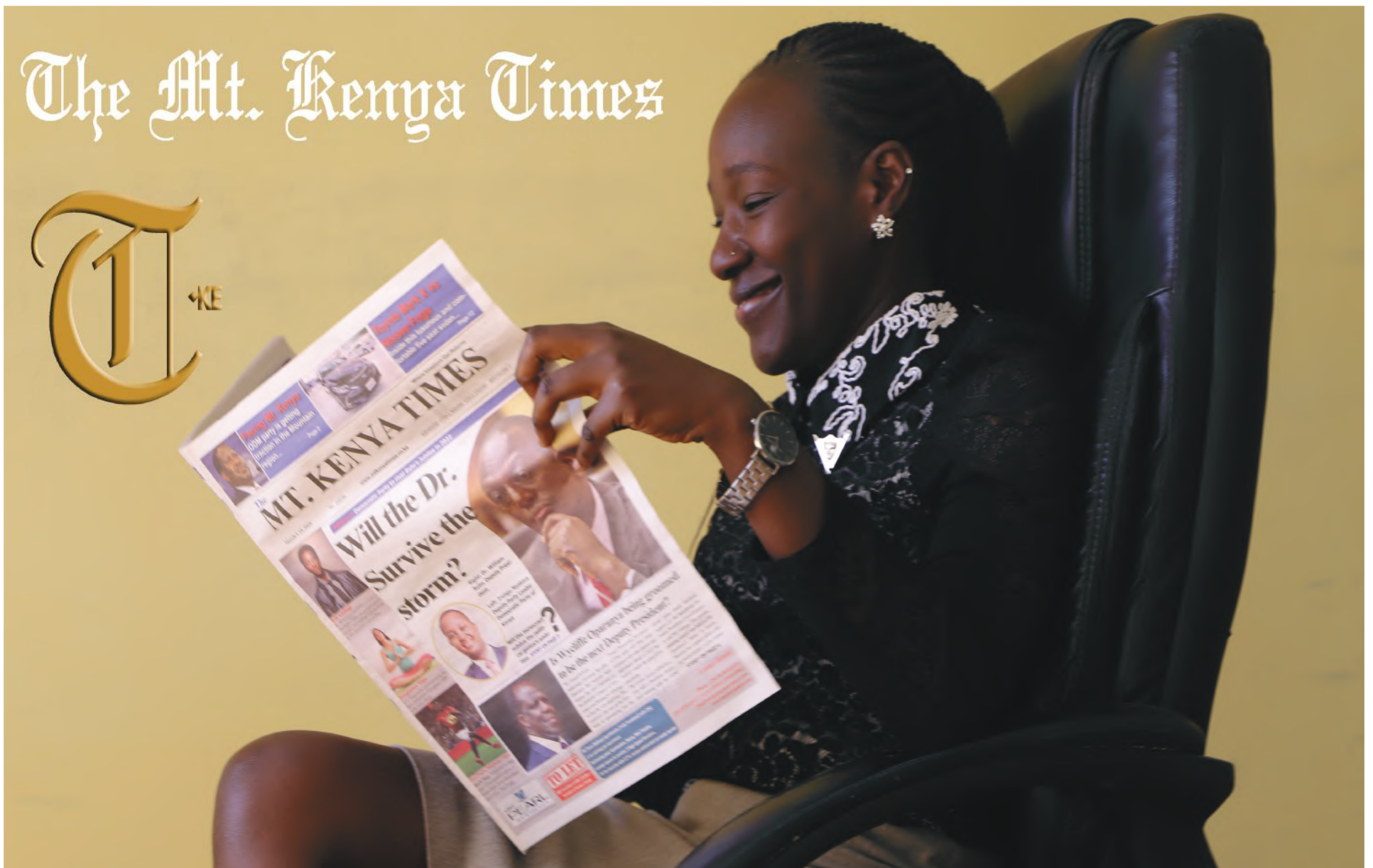


KTDA Foundation officials and other stakeholders at Kapkoros Tea Factory on Wednesday. Photo/Courtesy.

plans already underway in Kiru and Gacharage Tea Factories, the CASA Avocado Project is set to transform the economic landscape of Kenya's tea regions.

By combining sustainable agriculture, market-driven solutions, and climate-smart technology, KTDA Foundation and its partners are helping farmers move beyond tea, ensur-

ing a future where their communities can thrive no matter the price of a cup of tea.



# Governor Njuki Reaffirms Counties' Commitment To End Preventable Maternal And Newborn Deaths

By: Alex Njeru  
@themtkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

- Speaking during the unveiling of the Intercounty Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (Intercounty MPDSR) Dashboard in Nairobi, Governor Njuki said that mothers across Kenya trust the county health systems and walk into health facilities with confidence, knowing they are in safe hands.
- “We therefore have a sacred duty to meet their expectations and provide the best possible care that upholds life, dignity, and hope for every mother and child,” he said.
- The Governor decried the continued loss of lives among expectant women and newborns, saying such tragedies should never be normalized.
- He called on counties to unite, leveraging their collective expertise and innovation to end preventable maternal and perinatal deaths once and for all.

Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki has reaffirmed counties' collective commitment to strengthening maternal and newborn health systems, emphasizing that every mother and child deserves the highest standard of care and a chance to thrive.

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He called on counties to unite, leveraging their collective expertise and innovation to end preventable maternal and perinatal deaths once and for all.

Governor Njuki commended the Council of Governors (CoG) and development partners for their leadership and collaboration in developing the transformative MPDSR platform.

The live dashboard, embedded within the CoG system, allows governors to access real-time data on maternal and perinatal deaths in their respective counties, a move aimed at strengthening accountability, enabling timely interventions, and promoting shared learning across counties.

In addition to the dashboard, Governor Njuki noted that the launch also included the Investment Case for Intercounty MPDSR, which highlights the urgent need for targeted resources and sustained funding to bolster maternal and newborn health systems.

He said the investment case would ensure that every resource allocated translates into tangible, measurable reductions in preventable deaths.

“As governors, we take leadership in addressing existing gaps and investing in health systems that protect mothers and newborns,” Gov-



The unveiling of Intercounty Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response Dashboard. Photos/Alex Njeru.

ernor Njuki said. “In Tharaka Nithi and across all our counties, we reaffirm our commitment to EWENE — Ending Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths to ensure that ev-

ery mother and every newborn not only survives but thrives.”

He urged continued collaboration among counties, health workers, and partners, expressing confidence that

through shared commitment and innovation, Kenya can make preventable maternal and newborn deaths a thing of the past.



Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki during the unveiling of Intercounty Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response Dashboard.

# Court Affirms Public Participation In Landmark Pesticide Class Action In Kenya

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:**

- The petition focuses on highly poisonous and widely used chemicals, including glyphosate, paraquat, imidacloprid, chlorpyrifos, fipronil, and thiamethoxam, which remain in use in Kenya on essential crops despite being banned or heavily restricted in other countries.
- The petitioners argue that prolonged exposure to these chemicals has been linked to serious health risks, including cancer, lung damage, Parkinson's disease, and lymphoma, with agricultural communities disproportionately affected. To date, 1,200 victims have registered and 700 of them have been tested and confirmed to be suffering from pesticide-related ailments.
- The Environment and Land Court, led by Judge Grace Kimei, was satisfied with full compliance with class action orders issued on September 18, 2025, and allowed affected individuals and communities to be formally enjoined in the petition.

The Environment and Land Court has confirmed that a public notice inviting affected farmers, workers, and community members to join a petition seeking to outlaw several hazardous agrochemicals in Kenya was properly published in a local newspaper.

The confirmation came in a case filed by the African Centre for Corrective and Preventive Action (ACCPA) through its director James Mwangi Macharia, alongside environmental activist Kelvin Mugambi Kubai, who are challenging the continued use and distribution of a range of pesticides they describe as defective and dangerous.

The petition focuses on highly poisonous and widely used chemicals, including glyphosate, paraquat, imidacloprid, chlorpyrifos, fipronil, and thiamethoxam, which remain in use in Kenya on essential crops despite being banned or heavily restricted in other countries.

The petitioners argue that prolonged exposure to these chemicals has been linked to serious health risks, including cancer, lung damage, Parkinson's disease, and lymphoma, with agricultural communities disproportionately affected. To date, 1,200 victims have registered and 700 of them have been tested and confirmed to be suffering from pesticide-related ailments.

The Environment and Land Court, led by Judge Grace Kimei, was satisfied with full compliance with class action orders issued on September 18, 2025, and allowed affected individuals and communities to be formally enjoined in the petition.

The judge directed the petitioners to file a formal application for victims to join the case and to serve all parties involved.

The petition will be mentioned again on February 5, 2026.

The petitioners filed the case on behalf of communities said to have been harmed by exposure to hazardous pesticides. The petition seeks a judicial declaration that constitutional rights have been violated, an immediate suspension of the contested pesticides, compensation for affected individuals and communities, and the implementation of new food safety regulations and environmental protection measures.

The petitioners maintain that continued exposure to these harmful chemicals violates Article 42 of the Constitution, which guarantees every Kenyan the right to a clean and healthy environment, as well as rights to life, health, and food safety.

Respondents named in the petition include multinational agrochemical companies such as Monsanto Ken-



ACCPA director James Mwangi Macharia briefing journalists at Milimani court, Nairobi yesterday. He is with lawyers Kelvin Kubai and Gilbert Njoroge..

ya, Syngenta East Africa, Bayer East Africa, BASF East Africa, and Twiga Chemicals, alongside regulatory and state bodies, including the Pest Control Products Board, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Council of Governors, and the Attorney General.

The petition accuses the government of failing to enforce adequate regulation, provide protective measures for those most exposed, and conduct meaningful public consultations in pesticide approval decisions.

It also highlights what the petitioners describe as a double standard, where products banned in other countries, including the European Union, continue to be marketed and used in Kenya, exposing citizens to preventable risks.

In September 2025, Judge Kimei ruled that the petition should proceed as a class action, allowing individuals and communities affected by pesticide exposure to participate and pur-

sue compensation.

The ruling delivered yesterday on compliance confirms the Court's oversight and allows victims of highly poisonous pesticides to join the landmark suit.

The petitioners have emphasized the widespread use of chemicals such as glyphosate and paraquat, which they say have violated Kenyans' constitutional rights to life, health, food safety, and a clean environment. So far, the case has identified hundreds of victims suffering from illnesses caused by pesticide exposure, and the Court has allowed them to be formally included as parties in the class action.

With thousands of Kenyans potentially affected, the case represents a pivotal moment in the country's efforts to regulate hazardous pesticides, ensure public health, and enforce accountability from both the State and agrochemical firms. The next steps in the petition will focus on ex-

panding participation, assessing the impact on victims, and determining appropriate compensation for those already harmed, while also seeking the suspension of the most dangerous chemicals and implementation of protective measures for communities at risk.

The ACCPA director noted that EU, USA and other developed countries have banned numerous pesticides due to health and environmental concerns, including substances like paraquat, cyanamide, acetochlor, and chlorothalonil in their countries but despite these domestic bans, companies from these developed countries continue to manufacture and export tens of thousands of tons of these banned chemicals to other regions, particularly Africa. He wondered why they practice such form of hypocrisy racist double standards policy of ban home but export abroad.



Some of hazardous pesticides victims following yesterday's proceedings at Milimani court, Nairobi.

# Mudavadi Urges Clergy To Champion Youth Change

By: OPCS Press Service

@themkenyentimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, has urged religious leaders to use their pulpits, mosques, and other worship spaces to preach messages of hope, truth, and transformation, especially among the youth.

Speaking when he met the Inter-Religious Council of Kenya, led by Bishop Dr. Geoffrey Njuguna of Deliverance Church International, Lang'ata, and Hassan Ole Naado, SUPKEM Chairman, Dr. Mudavadi said the clergy play a vital role in guiding the nation's moral direction. "To build a just and morally upright nation, we need our religious leaders to help the youth find their moral compass," he said.

He shared a Ministry of Foreign and

Diaspora Affairs report highlighting how some young Kenyans had been lured into online fraud, illegal crypto trade, forced labour, organ harvesting, and other crimes abroad. He warned that sexual exploitation, drug trafficking, and wildlife product trafficking threaten both national and global security.

Dr. Mudavadi also expressed concern over Kenyan women giving birth out of wedlock in the Middle East, revealing that the government has conducted over 700 DNA tests before deporting mothers and their babies due to strict religious laws.

He assured that the Religious Organisations Bill 2024 would undergo public participation, allowing clergy to give their input.

The clergy pledged to work with the government to mold a responsible youth. Bishop Njuguna and Ole Naado vowed to use worship forums to advocate positive change and guide young people.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi with the clergy yesterday

# Kenyan Agri-Exports Now Heading To U.S Retail Giants, Starting With Walmart

By: MKT Reporter

@themkenyentimes

Kenyan agricultural exports are set for a major breakthrough into the United States retail market following a successful visit to Nairobi by the U.S. Africa Trade Desk (USATD) delegation, formally received by Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture Mutahi Kagwe.

The high-level team, led by Gavin van der Burgh (CEO), Bill Fanjoy (VP, Trade Programs), Jeanah Lacey (Director, Special Projects), Frances Fraser (Director, Continental Services), and Shane Townsend held extensive engagements with government agencies and private-sector leaders across floriculture, coffee, macadamia, apparel, grains, and animal feed sectors.

Kagwe emphasized the need for a private-sector-led approach to strengthen mutual trade and ensure Kenyan pro-

ducers meet global standards through better pest control, post-harvest handling, and value addition.

"Kenya is ready, and we want this partnership to transform livelihoods for our farmers," he said.

He added that the Ministry is enhancing traceability, compliance, and market-readiness systems under President William Ruto's BETA agricultural transformation agenda.

USATD announced priority sectors for U.S. retail markets including major chains like Walmart, focusing on fresh-cut flowers, coffee, macadamia nuts, and, in the second phase, tea.

This follows Kagwe's September trip to the U.S., where he secured an expanded import window for Kenyan products.

Nouvelle Blooms Ltd, based at JKIA, secured deals to export over 4 million premium Kenyan rose stems monthly and supply specialty coffee directly to U.S. buyers.

The firm also coordinated farm and factory visits in Naivasha and Nairobi



Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe with U.S Africa Trade Desk (USATD).

for the visiting delegation.

In the macadamia sector, exporters including Macnut Consortium demonstrated strong capacity to meet U.S. demand.

Beyond exports, Kenya will import cotton and livestock feed materials from the U.S. to strengthen local manufacturing and food security.

Both sides hailed the mission as a

turning point, marking Kenya's rise as a global agri-export powerhouse and opening U.S. premium retail shelves to Kenyan products.

## Rain



We love the rain; it's a beautiful sight,  
But too much of it, becomes a flood  
Water gets stagnant, and life's  
happiness is lost  
While limited rain is good, excess water  
brings problems

You're the life giver, and the life taker,

You help plants and trees grow, and all  
creatures live  
You quench the thirst of animals and  
birds,  
You are a blessing but too much rain, is  
not good

In moderate, you're a gift, a treasure  
But in excess, you're a destroyer,  
So balance, that we must live happily  
For life and growth, you are a treasure

You're a force of nature, so powerful  
A reminder of balance is all we need  
Ragavan .E  
Class 7B

G.H. S. Melpattampakkam,  
Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, India

## The Apple



Apple, oh apple, you are the best fruit in  
my life  
We all love you, you have a wonderful  
taste  
You are Sweet, tasty and juicy,  
You have lots of vitamins  
You nourish our bodies, and delight our  
soul

You come in shades of green, yellow, and

red  
You shine like a gem; it is a treasure in  
sight.  
I like the red ones, with a passion  
But green apples, oh so sweet, I love  
them too.

Your fragrance is awesome; it is a scent  
so sweet,  
It is a healthy delight,  
No one can beat you  
A fruit so wonderful,  
It is a treat for me,  
Apple, oh apple, you're the best, I bet

Mouleeshwaran , Class 7A  
G.H. S. Melpattampakkam,  
Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, India

## Plants



There are so many trees and plants.  
We use plants and trees for many  
things.  
Without trees and plants we cannot live.  
Humans need trees to breathe.

Without trees we cannot get rain.  
Trees give shelter to animals and birds.  
Trees give us oxygen.  
So let us grow more trees.

Then the whole world will be very fertile  
and green.  
If there are no trees, the world will be  
dry.

Let us plant more trees  
And make the Earth clean and green.

Sudheen , Class 7B  
G.H. S. Melpattampakkam,  
Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, India  
7b GHS Melpattampakkam

## Mountains



Dear mountains, you're majestic and  
grand,  
I love to look at you, again and again,  
The water that flows from you, is sweet  
and pure,  
It is a treasure for all, I'm sure.  
When the rain falls on you, do you get  
wet?  
Do you feel the chill, or is it just a gentle  
touch?  
May I spread my umbrella, to shield you  
from rain?  
You're strong and mighty, and don't need  
my umbrella.

Many plants and trees grow on your  
slopes  
Many animals and birds find shelter in  
you  
Do you feel happy, or heavy with the  
weight?  
All creatures find joy, in your majestic  
state.  
I too want to touch your peak, but it's  
hard to climb,  
There are rocks and cliffs that make it  
difficult to come  
You're a wonder of nature

I'll just look at you, from far with  
happiness  
And admire your beauty, which you bring  
to our life  
Rakshitha . S 7B,  
G.H. S. Melpattampakkam,  
Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, India

## Flowers

Flowers are good and beautiful to see,  
Their smell is sweet, and fills the air  
My favorite flowers are rose and jasmine  
Their scent and beauty, bring joy to me

Honey bees visit flowers, to collect nectar  
And make honey that's sweet,  
All flowers are lovely, and pretty in their  
own way,  
Each one unique, and beautiful, every  
single day.

My garden is full, of colourful flowers  
A rainbow of flowers, that dance in the  
light,  
They bring happiness, to a sad mind,  
Flowers fill my heart with joy,

I love all flowers, in every way  
Their beauty and fragrance, bring love  
and peace

S. Rakshitha, Class 7B  
G.H. S. Melpattampakkam,  
Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, India

## My Native Place



My dad got a promotion,  
He had a new role to play,  
Got transferred to a hilly area, far away.  
We followed him, leaving behind  
everything

A new place waited for us  
Those memories were unclear.  
I miss my friends, teachers, and school

and all  
The food, the dress, the climate, and  
language

We miss the trees, the fruits, the flowers  
But most of all, we miss our dear dog's  
loving light.

The memories linger, again and again  
As we adjust to new surroundings,

Everything is so different here  
Though change can be hard,  
we'll try to adjust in all ways  
We love our native place  
Ninish .M  
Class 8A

G.H. S. Melpattampakkam,  
Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, India

## Education Is Our Right



Education is our right.  
Once we acquire it,  
no one can take it from us.  
It is our own right.

Only education is our asset;  
No one can take it from us.  
It makes us distinguish right and wrong,  
It makes us distinguish good and bad.

It gives good knowledge,  
Wisdom to rule the world.  
Education makes one stand unique,  
It makes our future bright.

It never sees any partiality

It is the key to any big lock.  
Use it wisely, always.  
Get name, fame, and glory;

It is a crown on everyone's head.  
Wealth and gold may diminish  
But education will not be taken away  
No thief will take away this education  
So acquire it

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



## To Father



Dear Father, we love you so much,  
But why do you drink, we don't know?  
It harms your body, it is not right,  
We are afraid for your health,  
We pray for you day and night.  
You know what's good and bad, what is  
right and wrong  
Then why do you drink, we don't know  
what to do?  
We see your kindness, your loving side,

But when you drink, our hearts aches  
Mother, sister, brother, we all admire  
you  
Your presence, your love, we can't  
ignore,  
But your drinking brings us pain,  
We feel helpless, our hearts is sad  
You sell mother's things, my books too,  
How can I study, what am I to do?  
We can't bear this, our hearts ache,  
Please, dear father, for our sake.

Stop drinking, dear father, we pray,  
We'll be happy, every single day,  
We'll support you; we'll be by your side,  
Together, we'll face life.  
Ram kumar .D , Class 7B  
G.H. S. Melpattampakkam,  
Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, India

# Happy Children's Day



My dear sweet children, HAPPY CHILDREN'S DAY  
Unbound happiness I feel on this auspicious day  
To greet you, wish you on this blessed day  
Many many happy returns on this CHILDREN'S DAY

This day uncle Nehruji was born  
Seeds of freedom and responsibility were sown  
Children seated on Nehruji's coat  
As red red rose so bright

Inside his heart as never fading Bower  
To see the children come up in various colours  
A special and holy day for children  
To celebrate and recognize them a bit higher

The way you all celebrated Teachers' day  
Made me really stand in awe  
Selflessly plucking and decorating with Bowers, cutting cake  
I can never forget your kind gesture

We were born in different places  
But we met together in one classroom  
Children with different types of nature  
We enjoyed like members of one family

It's really a blessing to get children like you  
I enjoyed it very much as one among you  
We have spent the time together  
Sharing our happiness and sorrows

You all made the class lively and interesting  
Sharing ideas and interrogating  
Till my death I'll pray for you I owe a lot for your affection.

The days you spent in the school  
Is ever green in our memories  
You all fly higher and higher adding feathers of various colors

Whenever you committed a mistake, I punished  
It's not at all out of hatred but out of love and concern  
I scolded and advised you for your benefit

To mould you all to be wonderful citizens  
My wholehearted wishes for your bright future  
To reach the desired destination  
May your name, fame spread in all directions  
Come out in flying colours in the sky

Always be brave, accept any challenges  
Be wise and behave well to be loved by all  
Always be happy with an ever smiling face  
You shall definitely achieve everything in life

You all fly higher and higher  
Come up adding feathers of various colours  
If a tear drop comes out of your eyes  
It must be of a happy one and not a sorrow one

Keep up the name of the institution  
Even after you reach your desired position  
Get wishes from all your teachers  
And be blessed abundantly in your future.

We are really proud to have such gems of children in our school  
You are all the asset of the institution and nation  
Mould yourself a bit to be seated in high position

No mother, no teacher, no elder  
Wants you to lag behind or to be spoilt  
So obey them without reasoning  
You shall reap the harvest manifold

Sacrifice a bit of pleasure now  
Achieve a whole lot of happiness then,  
Be wise in your dealings  
Be gentle in your ways.

The road to success is not broad and soft,  
To get a rose you have to feel the thorn prick,  
So face the challenges bravely,  
Accept the disappointments cheerfully.

Be not like a wood in running stream  
Be like a fish to swim against the waves  
Always be a winner and achiever  
Do something different from other

Raise your heel a bit higher  
Automatically your head will be lifted  
Light the lamps of many lives  
And erase the darkness from others life

This day is a memorable one for you and me  
From now on you'll face the realities of life  
Don't be deceived by the trick of light  
Be wise enough to recognize wolf in sheep's clothing

Distinguish between right and wrong  
Good and evil with your seventh sense  
Sweet in the beginning may alter to bitter  
But bitter has proved better forever

Love your mother, Love your mother,  
Love your country  
Do something for your county in your future  
Give a helping hand for those who want

Do not listen or act upon others advice  
Listen to your self-conscience, be your supreme judge  
Walk with your shoulder raised; Talk with your eyes in other

Never point your finger to another  
Get away from selfishness and self-praise  
Regret your mistake when you go wrong  
You will be man my child!

Discover and utilize your hidden talents  
Without wasting the precious time  
Place a landmark wherever you go  
And live after the worldly death:

Prove your worth and adjust with any

circumstances  
Be independent and stand on your own leg  
Love everyone equally and gather as many friends as you can  
Always be cheerful with an ever-smiling face

Enjoy life thoroughly in future  
Do remember all your teachers

Remember God never shuts one door  
Without opening another,  
Keep in mind a loving God is always there  
To lift you up on his tender shoulder

May your name and fame spread throughout  
May success shower upon your life  
All our wishes for your bright future  
May God bless you and shield you beneath his warm feathers

We wish you all a prosperous blessed peaceful happy future  
God be with you  
With love and prayers  
On behalf of all teachers

WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHILDREN'S DAY  
ON BEHALF OF ALL THE LOVING TEACHERS ON 14 Nov 2025

Brinda. D  
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African Women in Europe  
A reflection of the strength and possibility of African women and men  
Editor: SHAMELAL PURI



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## BUSINESS

# PS Susan Mang'eni Unveils Countrywide Rollout Of NYOTA Project Business

By: Aoma Keziah  
 @themtkenyatimes



Principal Secretary for the State Department for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Susan Mang'eni during a press briefing at Nyota Offices in Nairobi.

## Worth Noting:

- The NYOTA Project, officially launched on November 7 at the Mumias Sports Complex in Kakamega County, marks a major step in empowering vulnerable youth across the country. During the launch, over 12,000 beneficiaries from the Western cluster — covering Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma and Busia received startup capital totalling KSh 303.8 million. Each participant accessed KSh 22,000 through their NYOTA Pochi la Biashara accounts, with a small portion dedicated to a structured savings plan.
- According to the PS, the savings model has been designed to encourage financial discipline and resilience among the participants.

The government has announced the nationwide rollout of business training under the NYOTA Project, a key initiative aimed at equipping thousands of young Kenyans with the skills and seed capital needed to start and sustain small enterprises.

In a press briefing yesterday, Principal Secretary for the State Department for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Susan Mang'eni, said the next phase will reach 25 counties starting today. The sessions will run for four days, targeting over 63,000 beneficiaries across 754 wards.

The NYOTA Project, officially launched on November 7 at the Mumias Sports Complex in Kakamega County, marks a major step in empowering vulnerable youth across the country. During the launch, over 12,000 beneficiaries from the Western cluster — covering Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma and Busia received startup capital totalling KSh 303.8

million. Each participant accessed KSh 22,000 through their NYOTA Pochi la Biashara accounts, with a small portion dedicated to a structured savings plan.

According to the PS, the savings model has been designed to encourage financial discipline and resilience among the participants.

“We want these young entrepreneurs to learn how to build a safety net for their businesses. The savings component is also a gateway to future credit from formal financial institutions,” she said.

Beneficiaries from the Western region have now entered a two-month mentorship period, supported by Business Development Service providers, before undergoing a second round of classroom training. Upon completion, they will receive their final tranche of capital and continue receiving guidance to help integrate them into the broader business ecosystem.

The rollout beginning Friday 14th will cover counties including Kitui, Machakos, Makueni, Uasin Gishu, Trans Nzoia, West Pokot, Turkana, Baringo, Laikipia, Meru, Embu, Nakuru, Narok, Kajiado, Siaya, Kisumu, Homabay, Migori, Kisii, Nyamira, Kericho and Bomet, among others. The training will be conducted at constituency level, with 222 training centres mapped out nationwide.

“The beneficiaries have already received invitations indicating their training venues. Those who attend at least three out of four days will qualify for the startup support. The disbursement of funds will follow soon after the completion of training,” Mang'eni explained,

The PS also confirmed that preparations for the refugee component of the programme are ongoing, with intakes for Kakuma and Dadaab camps set to be completed shortly. Each camp will host training sessions benefiting 5,000 refugees and an addi-

tional 5,000 members of nearby host communities.

In total, the NYOTA Project seeks to reach over 100,000 youth across all 1,450 wards in Kenya, with at least 70 beneficiaries per ward. The final phase will target 18 counties including Nairobi, Kiambu, Nyeri, Mombasa, Kilifi, Tana River, Wajir, Mandera and Garissa, which will be scheduled at a later date.

“The rollout is on course, and we are committed to ensuring every beneficiary receives the training, mentorship, and capital they need to build sustainable livelihoods,” Mang'eni concluded.



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# When Leadership Feels Like a Scam: The Perils of Empty Promises

By: Martin Masinde  
 @themkenyatimes

Leadership is more than rhetoric. At its core, it is a contract of trust between those who lead and those who follow. When a leader speaks, citizens listen not merely to hear words but to discern intent, character, and direction. Words can inspire, unite, or comfort, but they can also deceive, mislead, or alienate. The true test of leadership lies in alignment: between promises and action, between rhetoric and reality.

In contemporary Kenya, this alignment is under severe stress. The observation made by Advocate Saitabao Ole Kanchory, that our president “sounds more like a salesman trying to sell a bad product at a bad price, at the wrong time, in the wrong place, in the wrong way, for the wrong reason” is as colorful as it is accurate. Citizens increasingly feel that the spoken assurances of leadership are detached from the realities on the ground. Every public statement, every orchestrated appearance, risks being interpreted not as guidance or governance but as an attempt to sell an idea, a policy, or a narrative that citizens neither need nor trust.

The consequences of this dissonance are profoundly Kenyan. In a nation where hope, opportunity, and national cohesion remain fragile, leadership that resembles a “scam” undermines social confidence. It erodes trust in institutions, confuses citizens about priorities, and diminishes the moral authority of governance. When leaders focus more on selling perception than delivering results, the public is left negotiating between promises and lived reality, unsure which to accept.

Morally, this state of affairs is corrosive. Leadership that prioritizes image over integrity diminishes the ethical fabric of society. Citizens naturally mirror the conduct they observe; when deceit, half-truths, or obfuscation are normalized at the top, they seep into civic behaviour, private enterprise, and even the culture of accountability. Integrity is contagious, but so too is pretence. A leader who is perceived as “scamming” in the nation inadvertently teaches citizens that ends justify means, no matter how misleading or harmful.



The reflection here is both personal and collective. Personal, because every citizen bears the responsibility of discerning truth from spin, of interrogating policy and rhetoric, and of insisting on accountability. Collective, because society as a whole can not thrive when trust in leadership is transactional, conditional, or performative. Real governance demands clarity, transparency, and alignment between what is said and what is done. Anything less is not only a po-

litical misstep. It is a moral failing. If Kenya is to move beyond cynicism and fractured trust, its leaders must speak with substance, act with integrity, and respect the intelligence of the citizenry. Empty sales pitches, no matter how polished, cannot substitute for effective, ethical, and consistent governance. Citizens, too, must exercise vigilance: listen, question, verify, and hold accountable. Democracy, after all, is both a right and a responsibility, requiring active engage-

ment rather than passive consumption of rhetoric. Ultimately, a nation that feels scammed is a nation in peril; a nation that demands accountability is a nation with hope. The choice is ours to make. Words may inspire, but only aligned action sustains. Leadership, in its truest sense, is never a product to sell. It is a promise to uphold.

**Worth Noting:**

- In contemporary Kenya, this alignment is under severe stress. The observation made by Advocate Saitabao Ole Kanchory, that our president “sounds more like a salesman trying to sell a bad product at a bad price, at the wrong time, in the wrong place, in the wrong way, for the wrong reason” is as colorful as it is accurate.
- Citizens increasingly feel that the spoken assurances of leadership are detached from the realities on the ground. Every public statement, every orchestrated appearance, risks being interpreted not as guidance or governance but as an attempt to sell an idea, a policy, or a narrative that citizens neither need nor trust.

# NPS Unveils Robust, Multi Faceted Security Plan To Safeguard By Elections

By: MKT Correspondent

📍 @themkenyentimes

The National Police Service (NPS) has assured Kenyans of its readiness to maintain security ahead of the November 27 by elections, pledging comprehensive measures before, during, and after polling. In a statement issued yesterday, NPS Spokesperson Muchiri Nyaga emphasized that the Service has put in place a “robust, multi faceted security plan” in coordination with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to guarantee a peaceful, free, fair, and credible electoral process.

“The National Police Service wishes to assure the public and all stakeholders of its comprehensive preparedness and unwavering commitment to providing adequate security before, during, and after the upcoming by elections,” Nyaga declared, underscoring the seriousness with which the Service is approaching the exercise.

The Inspector General’s office reinforced this message, stressing that officers will remain neutral while acting firmly against violence, incitement, hate speech, destruction of property, or any disruption of public order. Nyaga urged politicians and their supporters to conduct campaigns peacefully and respect the rule of law, warning that “any unlawful actions will be met with the full force of the law.”

The NPS also appealed to citizens to exercise their democratic rights responsibly and to report suspicious activities or attempts to spread alarmist information through emergency hotlines 999, 911, 112, or anonymously via the FichuaKwaDCI platform. These assurances come at a time when tensions are escalating in several parts of the country, raising concerns about whether the by elections will proceed smoothly.

The urgency of the police message was underscored by a violent incident in Kasipul constituency, Homa Bay County. On Wednesday, three officers from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) were seriously injured during a raid at the home of former Kasipul MP Ong’odo Were. County Police Commander Lawrence Koilem reported that the officers were ambushed by a mob while attempting to arrest sus-

pects linked to the recent killings of two youths in Opondo. One suspect managed to escape, while three officers, including Rachuonyo South DCI boss Daniel Muhuhi, were hospitalized. Koilem confirmed that a manhunt is ongoing.

The gunfight has heightened security concerns in Kasipul, where ODM’s Boyd Were is set to face Independent candidate Philip Aroko in the parliamentary by election. The incident illustrates the volatile environment in which the polls will be conducted and the challenges facing the police as they attempt to secure the process.

Beyond Kasipul, other by elections are scheduled in Malava, Mbeere North, Ugunja, Magarini, Baringo Senate, and several wards in Nairobi, Nyamira, Kajiado, Kitui, and Elgeyo Marakwet counties. Each contest carries its own political stakes, and in some constituencies, rival supporters have already clashed during campaign rallies. In Malava, the race pits DAP K’s Seth Panyako against UDA’s Peter Ndakwa, a contest expected to draw significant attention given the national parties involved.

The NPS has reiterated its impartiality, promising equal deployment of personnel across all constituencies to safeguard voters and ensure that the electoral process proceeds without disruption. “The National Police Service remains neutral and dedicated solely to its duty of maintaining law and order,” Nyaga said, attempting to dispel fears that officers might favor one side over another.

For many Kenyans, the promise of robust security is both reassuring and sobering. It reassures because it signals that the state is aware of the risks and is taking proactive steps to safeguard democracy. It sobering because it underscores the fragility of the electoral environment, where political competition can so easily tip into confrontation. Traders in Kisumu have reported declining sales as customers avoid crowded campaign venues, while transport operators complain of harassment by rival supporters. Farmers in Meru worry that political violence could spill into rural areas, disrupting harvests. For them, the police promise is not just about ballots but about safeguarding livelihoods.

Civil society groups have welcomed the police commitment but urged caution. Human rights defenders argue that “robust” must not trans-



NPS Spokesperson Muchiri Nyaga/FILE

late into heavy handedness. Kenya’s electoral history includes painful episodes where excessive force by security agencies led to tragic outcomes. Activists are calling for proportional responses, de escalation strategies, and community engagement to ensure that voters feel protected rather than intimidated.

The IEBC has echoed the importance of security, noting that its officials rely on police protection to secure polling stations, ballot materials, and staff. Without effective coordination, the credibility of the process could be compromised. An IEBC official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, “We depend on the police to guarantee our staff can work without intimidation. Their cooperation is essential.”

Observers point out that the by elections are more than local contests; they are a test of resilience for both the ruling coalition and the opposition. Each side is eager to claim momentum, and the outcomes could shape narratives heading into future national contests. This explains the intensity of the campaigns and the willingness of supporters to push boundaries. For the police, the challenge is to ensure that this political energy does not cross into lawlessness.

The NPS has also acknowledged the digital dimension of the challenge. With misinformation and inflammatory rhetoric spreading rap-

idly online, Nyaga said officers are monitoring social media platforms for incitement. “We respect freedom of expression, but direct calls to violence will not be tolerated,” he warned. Communication experts argue that unchecked online incitement can quickly translate into real world confrontations, making digital monitoring a critical component of the security plan.

Despite these assurances, skepticism persists. Opposition leaders have accused the police of bias in past elections, and some fear that “robust” security could be used as a cover for suppressing dissent. Civil society groups are calling for independent monitoring of police conduct, urging the deployment of observers to document interactions between officers and voters. They argue that transparency is the best antidote to suspicion, and that the police should welcome scrutiny as a way of proving their neutrality. Nyaga responded by saying the Service is open to collaboration and believes oversight strengthens democracy rather than undermines it.

As November 27 approaches, the atmosphere remains tense but hopeful. Campaigns continue with vigor, rallies attract large crowds, and debates rage in marketplaces and on radio stations. The police presence is visible, sometimes reassuring, sometimes intimidating, depending on perspective. What is clear is that the

promise of robust security has raised expectations. Voters now anticipate a process free from violence, and any failure to deliver could erode trust not only in the police but in the democratic system itself. Conversely, if the police succeed in managing the chaos with fairness and restraint, they will enhance their reputation and contribute to a stronger democratic culture.

Ultimately, the story of these by elections is not just about ballots and winners. It is about the resilience of institutions, the maturity of political actors, and the determination of citizens to defend democracy. The police, by promising robust security management, have placed themselves at the center of this narrative. Their actions in the coming days will either validate or undermine that promise. For Kenya, the stakes could not be higher: peace, stability, and the credibility of democracy itself hang in the balance. The hope is that the chaos will be contained, the process will be protected, and the people’s voice will be heard without fear or intimidation. If that hope is realized, then the pledge of robust security will have been more than words — it will have been a cornerstone of democratic resilience.

# Nearly 25M People Facing Acute Food Insecurity In DR Congo

By: Xinhua  
@themtkenyatimes

Nearly 25 million people, over 20 percent of the population, are facing high levels of acute food insecurity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a UN spokesperson said Wednesday.

The DRC remains one of the countries most affected by food insecurity, with the situation particularly severe in the east, said Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN secretary-general, at a daily briefing. According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification analysis, the number is projected to rise to nearly 27 million people in the first half of 2026, he said. Dujarric said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) remains deeply concerned about continued attacks against civilians in Beni and Lubero territories in North



Kivu and also in Ituri province, with more than 1,000 people reportedly killed in the two provinces since the beginning of this year. The impact on health services has been devastating, with at least six facilities attacked

since the beginning of 2025 and a total of at least 28 health sites affected by armed attacks since 2024, said the spokesperson. He said OCHA reiterated its call on all parties to respect international humanitarian law and

ensure the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure. Since January, the security situation in eastern DRC has worsened sharply amid renewed fighting involving the March 23 Movement rebel group, which seized

several key towns, including Goma and Bukavu. Humanitarian agencies say the escalating violence has displaced hundreds of thousands of civilians, deepening an already dire crisis.

# Israel Bans Families Of Deported Palestinian Prisoners From Traveling

By: Xinhua  
@themtkenyatimes

Israeli authorities are preventing dozens of families of Palestinian prisoners deported to Egypt from traveling from the West Bank, head of the Palestinian Prisoners Club Abdullah al-Zaghari has said.

Describing the Israeli move as "a systematic policy of collective punishment," Al-Zaghari said some of the prisoners are suffering from severe health conditions and are in dire need of continuous medical care and the presence of their families. He urged relevant parties to stop the Israeli move, noting that several issues related to the deportees' fate remain unclear, including the possibility of their resettlement in other countries. Israel deported 383 prisoners to Egypt this year as part of its prisoner-hostage exchange deal with



Hamas, and most have remained there since their release, al-Zaghari said in a press statement. Israel required that Palestinians convicted of killing Israelis must be permanently deported if released under the Gaza ceasefire agreement and will not be allowed to return to their homes in

the occupied West Bank. So far, Israeli authorities have not commented on the alleged ban.

# House Democrats Release Emails Linking Trump To Epstein

By: Xinhua  
@themtkenyatimes

Emails released by House Democrats suggest U.S. President Donald Trump may have known about sex offender Jeffrey Epstein's abuse of underage girls, raising new questions about their relationship.

Democrats released messages showing Epstein wrote to author Michael Wolff in 2019 that Trump "knew about the girls," a phrase of unclear meaning. This disclosure may tip the scales toward a vote on releasing all non-classified Epstein files, reviving a scandal that has been a major political headache for Trump. Trump has consistently denied knowing about Epstein's crimes, acknowledging a past friendship that ended in a falling-out before Epstein's 2019 jail-cell suicide. He accused Democrats of releasing the



U.S. President Donald Trump

emails to divert attention from the government shutdown, despite polls showing more Americans blame Republicans. "The Democrats are trying to bring up the Jeffrey Epstein Hoax again

because they'll do anything at all to deflect on how badly they've done on the Shutdown, and so many other subjects," Trump said on Truth Social on Wednesday.

# Murkomen Deploys Six New County Commissioners To Strengthen Local Governance

By: KT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

Transport Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen has announced the deployment of six new County Commissioners, a move he described as part of the government's broader effort to strengthen local governance, improve service delivery, and enhance coordination between national and county administrations.

The appointments, unveiled this week, are expected to inject fresh energy into the public service and address long standing challenges in counties where administrative gaps have slowed development and weakened oversight. Murkomen emphasized that the new commissioners will play a critical role in ensuring that government programs are implemented effectively, particularly in areas of infrastructure, security, and public accountability.

He noted that the commissioners are seasoned administrators with proven track records in managing complex assignments, and he expressed confidence that their leadership will help bridge the gap between policy and practice at the grassroots level. The deployment comes at a time when counties are grappling with issues

ranging from stalled projects to rising insecurity, and the government is keen to demonstrate responsiveness to citizens' concerns.

Murkomen explained that the commissioners will be tasked with monitoring the progress of national projects within their jurisdictions, coordinating with governors and county executives, and ensuring that resources allocated for development are used transparently. He added that the appointments reflect the administration's commitment to decentralization and inclusivity, as the new officials hail from diverse backgrounds and bring varied expertise to the table.

The announcement has sparked discussion among political observers, with some noting that the move could also be aimed at tightening national oversight in counties where political tensions have complicated service delivery. In several regions, disputes between county assemblies and governors have stalled budgets and delayed projects, leaving residents frustrated.

By deploying commissioners with clear mandates, the government hopes to stabilize operations and reassure citizens that development will not be derailed by political wrangles. Residents in affected counties have expressed cautious optimism, saying they hope the new commissioners



Kipchumba Murkomen/FILE/MINA

will prioritize local needs and engage communities directly.

Traders in one county said they expect improved infrastructure oversight, while youth groups called for stronger support in employment programs and security initiatives. Civil society organizations have urged the commissioners to adopt transparent approaches and to involve citizens in decision making, warning that top down directives without consultation could undermine trust.

Murkomen, however, insisted that

the appointments are not about centralizing power but about reinforcing accountability and ensuring that national priorities are aligned with local realities. He pointed out that the commissioners will be evaluated based on measurable outcomes, including project completion rates, public satisfaction, and adherence to ethical standards.

The deployment of six new County Commissioners is therefore more than a bureaucratic reshuffle; it is a signal of the government's intent to

recalibrate its relationship with counties and to demonstrate that service delivery remains at the heart of its agenda. As the new officials take up their posts, all eyes will be on how they navigate the complex terrain of local politics, citizen expectations, and national directives.

Their success or failure will not only shape the perception of Murkomen's leadership but also influence the broader narrative of Kenya's decentralization journey.

# KRA Officer Charged In Kisumu For Soliciting Sh500,000 Bribe

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

A Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) officer has been arraigned in Kisumu after allegedly soliciting a Sh500,000 bribe from a local businessman in exchange for leniency in a tax compliance case. The officer, whose identity was withheld pending further investigations, appeared before the Kisumu Anti Corruption Court yesterday where prosecutors outlined the charges of abuse of office and corruption.

According to the prosecution, the officer approached the businessman earlier this month during a routine

audit and demanded the payment to "settle" outstanding tax issues. The businessman, however, reported the matter to the Ethics and Anti Corruption Commission (EACC), which set up a sting operation. The officer was arrested shortly after receiving marked currency notes, and investigators confirmed the amount was intended as a bribe.

In court, the prosecution argued that the case highlights the need for vigilance in protecting taxpayers from exploitation. "Public officers entrusted with revenue collection must uphold integrity. Soliciting bribes undermines confidence in government institutions and denies the country much needed revenue," the prosecutor stated.

The defense requested bail, insisting the officer was innocent and that the allegations were fabricated. The magistrate granted bail but ordered the accused to refrain from contacting witnesses or interfering with investigations.

The EACC has welcomed the swift arraignment, saying it demonstrates the government's commitment to fighting corruption at all levels. Kisumu residents expressed mixed reactions, with some praising the businessman's courage in reporting the incident, while others lamented that corruption remains entrenched in revenue offices.

The case will be mentioned again in two weeks as investigators finalize evidence. If convicted, the officer



Evans Agumba Oriato, based in Kisumu, demanded the bribe to "assist" Jane Memorial Secondary School in filing tax returns for the years 2016 to 2020/EACC

faces dismissal from service, fines, and possible imprisonment under Kenya's anti corruption laws.

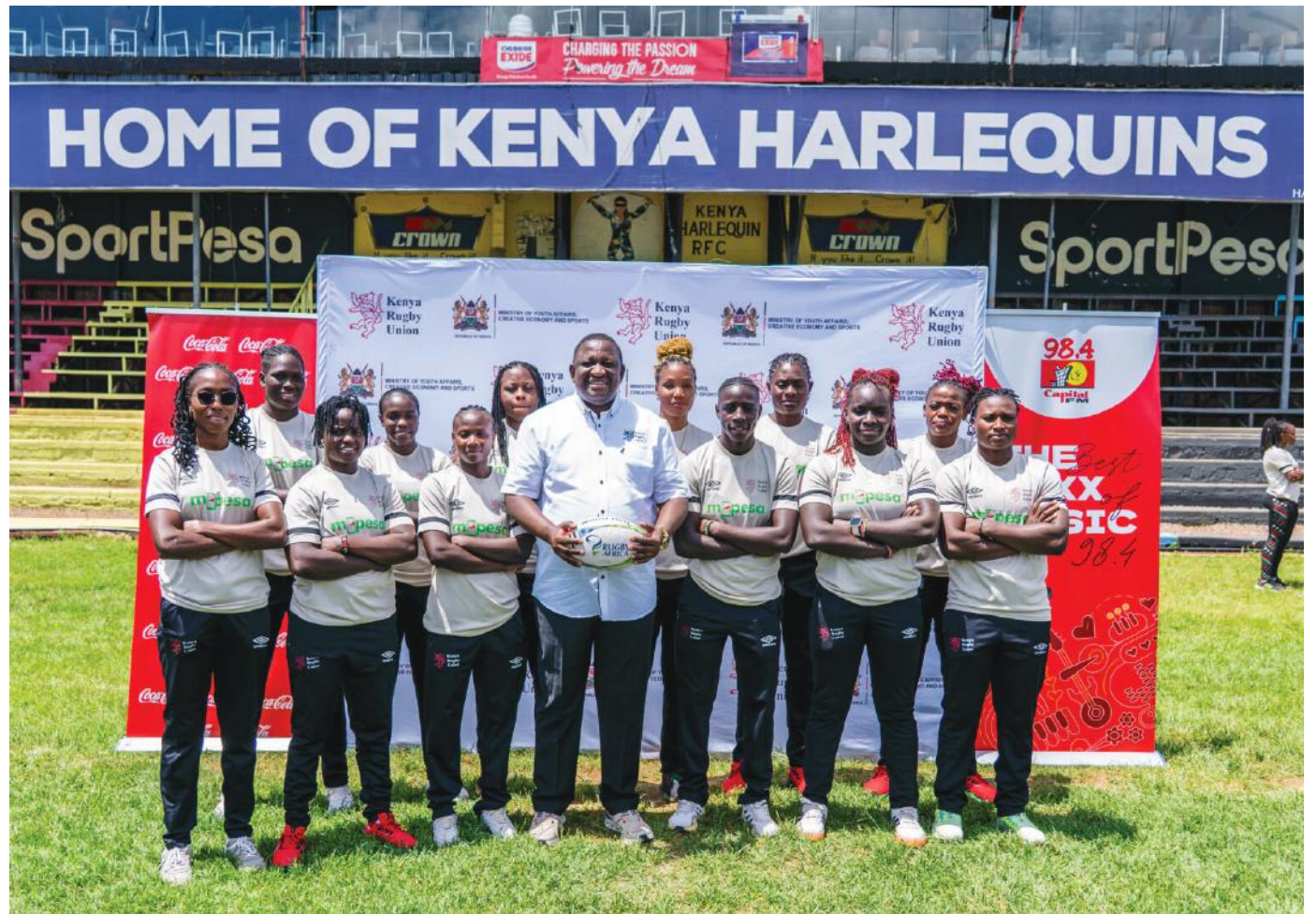
# SPORTS NEWS

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**Sports >>** \*Sports Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya has revealed that Kenya will host a leg of the World Rugby Series at the Talanta Stadium, which is currently under construction.

## Talanta Stadium To Host World Rugby Series Leg In New Year



Sports Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya with members of the national women's rugby 7s team. PHOTO/KRISTIAN MALUMBE

Sports Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya has revealed that Kenya will host a leg of the World Rugby Series at the Talanta Stadium, which is currently under construction.

Mvurya says the government has already given the go-ahead to Kenya Rugby Union (KRU) on the same, and will fully support the bid.

"We have approved the Kenya Rugby Union's request to host a World Series leg and hopefully Talanta Stadium will be ready. It will be a 60,000-seater stadium that will be exclusively for football and rugby. We will be ready and as government, we will be fully behind this event," he said.

The CS added the government will work closely with various stakeholders to ensure that the tournament becomes a success.

"This (HSBC tournament) will be a whole government approach that will involve a number of agencies, including the security apparatus. We will collaborate fully with KRU and Rugby Africa on the success of the same," Mvurya said.

Mvurya was responding to a request by Rugby Africa president Herbert Mensah who had expressed the desire to see Kenya host World Rugby Series competition in the near future.

"We as Rugby Africa are determined to give Kenya the chance to host at least two or three competitions. Even better than that... last Saturday I was with a representative from World Rugby and there is a desire to have Kenya host a leg of the HSBC Series," Mensah said.

The Ghanaian pointed to Ken-

ya's burgeoning stature as a sports events destination as the rationale for his request.

"We only do this because we have confidence in the Kenyan government...because we have confidence in the leadership of Kenyan rugby," he said.

Speaking at the same time, Kenya Rugby Union (KRU) chief executive officer Thomas Odundo confirmed that they have submitted a bid to host a Division 2 competition of the World Rugby Series.

They are awaiting a response from the global governing body.

"World Rugby invited bids for either Division 1 or Division 2 of the World Rugby Series and Kenya applied for Division 2. The government gave us a letter of support for the bid and we awaiting a response from World

Rugby," Odundo said.

Even as the country keeps its fingers crossed for the prestigious tournament, Kenya will this weekend be hosting the 14th edition of the Rugby Africa 7s at the RFUEA Grounds in Nairobi.

The two-day tournament will feature 12 top teams from the continent, including defending champions South Africa as well as the hosts.

### Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*South African rugby legend Cecil Afrika is looking forward to reuniting with his Kenyan counterparts Collins Injera and Andrew Amonde at this weekend's Africa Women's 7s.

# Boks Legend Afrika Eager To Break Bread With Injera, Amonde At Africa Women's 7s



South Africa women's rugby 7s head coach Cecil Afrika speaks to the media upon arrival at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. PHOTO/RUGBY AFRICA

South African rugby legend Cecil Afrika is looking forward to reuniting with his Kenyan counterparts Collins Injera and Andrew Amonde at this weekend's Africa Women's 7s.

Afrika hopes to catch up on lost times with the two former Shujaa players even as he leads his Lady Boks side at the continental competition.

"I have been to Kenya before and played here. I am looking forward to meeting up with some of the players I knew from my playing days like Collins Injera and Andrew Amonde," the 2010/11 International Rugby Board (IRB) Sevens Player of the Year.

The 37-year-old enjoyed a suc-

cess-laden career with his rugby 7s side, including clinching an Olympic bronze with his national team in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro.

He was also a Commonwealth Games champion, two years earlier, in Glasgow, Scotland.

At an individual level, Afrika, who hang up his boots in 2020, was his country's all-time top try scorer with 179.

Of immediate concern for Afrika is Lady Boks' defence of their crown, which they won courtesy of a 17-10 victory over Kenya at last year's edition in Accra, Ghana.

The South Africans are the record champions, having won 11 out of the previous 13 editions.

Afrika concedes that pressure to keep this unblemished run will always be there but is nonetheless confident of the girls' ability to deflate the pressure and rise to the occasion.

"There will always be pressure coming into this tournament but our focus is on our first game, which will be against Mauritius. Then, we will take it from there," Afrika, who began his playing career at Griffons, said.

The gaffer believes an added advantage to his gameplan for the weekend will be the presence of a number of Boks fans in the stands.

He called on the South African community residing in Kenya to crowd the RFUEA Grounds and

cheer on their countrywomen to success.

"To the South African community living in Kenya, please come out and support the girls. It would mean so much to have you in the crowd rallying behind them on Saturday and Sunday," he said.

The defending champions are in Pool A where they face Mauritius and neighbours Zimbabwe.

*Capital Sport*

# SPORTS NEWS



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# The Unstoppable Ascent Of Breda McCague



By: Ayesha Talib

@themkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- Breda's professional journey is rooted in a fundamental understanding of structure, leadership, and change.
- Lieutenant McCague: For two decades, she served in the Reserve Defence Forces, achieving the distinction of being the first female Officer to be commissioned in her unit. This military background instilled a powerful style that is focused, driven, and committed to motivating and inspiring people to overcome hurdles.
- Global Financial Specialist: Following her military service, Breda spent nearly 24 years in CEO-2 positions within Global Financial Services. She was a key architect in driving and embedding extensive critical Transformation programmes across major international banking brands, specializing in Technical, Innovative, Strategic, and Cultural change.

Breda McCague is not just a speaker; she is a Transformation Specialist and a living testament to the power of a Growth Mindset. As the dynamic CEO of her company, AIMING4AWESOME Ltd, Breda electrifies audiences globally with a signature blend of military discipline, financial services expertise, and infectious motivational energy.

Her story is a rare mosaic of leadership across multiple demanding fields, making her one of the most compelling voices in contemporary business and personal development.

## A Career Defined by Firsts and Change

Breda's professional journey is rooted in a fundamental understanding of structure, leadership, and change.

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## Driving Mindset and Equality

Today, Breda synthesizes her vast experience into powerful keynote talks on topics like Agile, Growth Mindsets, Emotional Intelligence, and Leadership. Her talks are not academic; they are grounded in real-world application, helping individuals and corporates process and manage radical change.

In 2022, her influence reached the global stage when her popular talk on Mindset & Perspective Swaps was published on the TED.com platform. This focus on mental resilience is supported by her accreditation as an Emotional Intelligence Coach.



Breda McCague

Beyond the keynote circuit, Breda is a dedicated advocate for gender parity, having Co-Founded and Co-Chaired the Lean-In-Ireland organisation since its launch in 2017. Her commitment here involves creating peer mentoring networks that empower women across various industries and communities, ensuring a more level playing field for all.

## The Secret to Her Energy

Breda manages to maintain her incredible pace while running her business, traveling extensively, and raising three young boys as a single mother. She even finds time to be a musician, playing in two bands (one rock and one traditional).

Whether she is discussing strategic goal setting or sharing practical tips for a better work-life blend, Breda McCague's message remains consistent: she drives audiences to find

a new appetite for change and the motivation to achieve awesome outcomes in their careers and lives. An evening with Breda is guaranteed to be energetic, entertaining, and profoundly inspiring.