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ODM Party Leader Dr Oburu Odinga, after he was sworn in during the National Governing Council in Mombasa.



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Mudavadi Leads Kenyans In Celebrating King Charles III's Birthday

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi led Kenyans in celebrating the birthday of King Charles III. The PCS noted that the bond between Kenya and the United Kingdom remains one of our most enduring partnerships, built on history, mutual respect, and shared aspirations. He said that for over six decades the cooperation has grown across key sectors including trade, ICT, health, energy, climate action, and security. The colourful event took place at the UK Embassy residence, reflecting on the renewed Kenya-UK Strategic Partnership signed in July 2025 in London. The framework outlines our priorities for the next five years under four pillars: Trade, Investment and Green Growth; Climate and Nature; Science and Technology; and Security and Stability. It provides a strong foundation for deeper economic cooperation, including green investments such as the ongoing Nairobi Railway City project.



Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), the National Police Service (NPS), and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) have assured Kenyans that the 24 by-elections scheduled for 27 November 2025 will be conducted peacefully, transparently, and in full compliance with the law. Speaking at a joint press briefing in Nairobi, IEBC Chairperson Erastus Etheke said preparations are complete, with returning officers appointed, staff trained, and electoral materials ready. He urged political parties and candidates to adhere strictly to harmonised campaign schedules and warned that violations of the Electoral Code of Conduct could attract fines or disqualification. Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja said the security situation is stable and confirmed that officers have been deployed to safeguard campaigns, election materials, and voters. He urged suspects involved in campaign violence, particularly in Kasipul, to surrender and warned that decisive action will be taken against offenders.



NCIC Chairperson Prof. Samuel Kobia says the Commission is monitoring hate speech, ethnic profiling, and incitement to violence across all by-election regions. He noted that several breaches of the Electoral Code of Conduct have already been identified, including incidents in Bure where individuals attempted to block certain candidates from campaigning. Prof. Kobia emphasised that no Kenyan has the authority to prevent others from engaging in lawful political activities, stressing that such acts undermine national cohesion and democratic freedoms. He also expressed concern over the growing presence of organised criminal groups hired to disrupt campaigns, warning that these networks, increasingly visible ahead of the 2027 elections, will face firm action as NCIC, NPS, and IEBC intensify joint operations. All participating candidates will be required to sign a Political Decency and Accountability Charter, affirming their commitment to lawful, respectful, and peaceful engagement throughout the campaign period.



Two police officers were seriously injured after heavily armed bandits ambushed a security patrol along the Baragoi–Barsaloi–Maralal road in Samburu County. The officers sustained multiple gunshot wounds, but nothing was reported stolen as the attackers fled into nearby thickets. Samburu County Commissioner John Cheroiyot confirmed the incident, adding that security teams had been dispatched to track the bandits while another team combed the scene for evidence. The injured officers were later airlifted to Nairobi for specialized treatment.



Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Dr Ouma Oluga on Friday met Heads of Units under the Administration Department to assess ongoing work and strengthen coordination across the Ministry. Each unit provided updates on their activities, achievements, and challenges, allowing the Ministry to identify what is working well and where support is needed. These regular reviews help improve efficiency, enhance accountability, and ensure that administrative functions are fully supporting health services across the country. Dr Oluga emphasised the importance of teamwork, open communication, and continuous improvement as the Ministry works to deliver accessible, high-quality, and sustainable healthcare to all Kenyans.

The National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) has raised the alarm over a surge in pedestrian deaths, revealing that 1,460 pedestrians have been killed since January, making them the most at-risk group on Kenyan roads. According to NTSA data, 3,890 people died in road crashes between January 1 and October 22, 2025 — an increase from the 3,805 fatalities recorded over the same period in 2024. The latest figures show rises across several categories, including drivers, pillion passengers and motorcyclists. Of the 3,890 fatalities logged this year, 351 were drivers, 378 pillion passengers, 57 pedal cyclists and 1,000 motorcyclists.



NEWS PAPER

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ODM To Mark 20 Years Of Existence

By: MKT Reporter

@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

- The hallmark of the celebration, dubbed ODM@20, will be at the Mama Ngina Waterfront, where members will be reflecting on the late party leader Raila Odinga's legacy and vision for Kenya's future.

- On Thursday, during the National Governing Council meeting, new ODM leaders were sworn in, led by Dr Oburu Oginga as the ODM Party Leader, followed by three Deputy Party Leaders: Governor Abdulswamad Shariff Nassir, Senator Godfrey Osostsi from Vihiga county and Paul Simba Arati.



Party members, leaders and supporters from across the country are trickling into the Port City of Mombasa for the 20th anniversary of the Orange Democratic Movement.

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Others were National Chairperson, Gladys Nyasuna Wanga (Homabay Governor), Ahmed Mohammed, National Organising Secretary, Ruth Odinga, Deputy Organising Secretary and Rose Akinyi Mbuyu as the Secretary for political affairs.

Prof Peter Anyang' Nyong'o handed over instruments of power to the new ODM party leader, Dr Oburu Oginga.

ODM Deputy Party Leader and Mombasa Governor Abdulswamad Shariff Nassir lauded the party's journey and called on members to remain steadfast in promoting justice, equality, and good governance.

"For two decades, ODM has stood as the pillar of Kenya's democracy, a party that has never wavered in its fight for justice and equality," Governor

Nassir said.

"This celebration is not just about our past, but about our future. It is a call to every ODM member to recommit to the values that have defined our movement and service to the people, transparency, and unity," Nassir added. He also paid tribute to the party's founding leader, Raila Amolo Odinga, acknowledging his lifelong contribution to Kenya's political transformation.

"We celebrate the vision and courage of our leader, Baba Raila Odinga, whose resilience built this movement. As we mark 20 years, we honour his legacy by ensuring that ODM remains the beacon of hope for millions of Kenyans," he stated.

He urged members to strengthen the

party at the grassroots, noting that ODM must play a central role in shaping Kenya's next development chapter.

"Our duty now is to fortify our structures and ensure that ODM not only participates but leads in the next phase of Kenya's democratic growth," said Nassir.

Mombasa Women Representative Zam Zam Mohammed noted that as ODM celebrates 20 years, Kenyans should remember that democracy is about service to every Kenyan, regardless of tribe or status.

"I am proud to see leaders and citizens coming together in peace to honour a movement that has shaped our country's democratic space," she said.

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The Mt Kenya Times



10th

*Anniversary
Celebration*

Veteran Politician GG Kariuki Honoured Ny Zetech University With Annual Educational Award For His Contribution To Education

By: John Kamau
 @themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Prof Munene who spoke during the University's 9th graduation ceremony in Mang'u on Friday, Juja sub-county, said that through this initiative, the institution seeks to preserve its remarkable legacy while inspiring future generations to pursue excellence, service, and leadership.
- Some 3,216 graduands were conferred with degrees, diplomas and certificates in various fields of study.
- The VC noted that the veteran politician left a legacy that has touched lives of thousands of Kenyans, and especially in Laikipia County, through establishment of schools and facilitation of education for locals.
- GG Kariuki, who became Laikipia's first Member of Parliament at the onset of independence in 1963, played a key role in the development of Laikipia County and is synonymous to the livelihood and development in the region.



Veteran politician GG Kariuki's son, James Waigwa (left) and Joseph Njuguna, a family member, at Zetech University where the former MP was honoured.

Zetech University has introduced an annual educational excellence award in honor of former Laikipia MP Godfrey Gitahi Kariuki for his contribution in the education sector.

The award according to Vice Chancellor Prof Njenga Munene will celebrate outstanding achievement in the field of education and pay tribute to the late Dr Kariuki's (widely known as GG Kariuki) lifelong dedication to advancing learning and community development.

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lives of thousands of Kenyans, and especially in Laikipia County, through establishment of schools and facilitation of education for locals.

GG Kariuki, who became Laikipia's first Member of Parliament at the onset of independence in 1963, played a key role in the development of Laikipia County and is synonymous to the livelihood and development in the region.

He was instrumental in setting up schools to enable the children of his constituents to access formal education. Some of the Secondary Schools he helped establish are Rumuruti, Ngumo Secondary School, Gatero Girls, Mwenje, Njorua, and Njonjo Girls.

Some of the primary schools he helped establish and build include: Rimururuti, Kiguro and Waigwa Primary. He also played a pivotal role in ensuring that students from his constituency accessed commonwealth government scholarships, offered through the ministry of education.

Also, GG Kariuki is hailed for establishing craft training centers in a bid to help youths from his region play their role in the society by equipping them with the necessary skills in technical fields. Some of them include Igwamiti, Rumuruti, Kinamba and Muthengera.

James Waigwa Kariuki, [GG Kariuki's son], who was received the honors of his late father hailed the University for recognizing his work and contribution to the society and especially in enhancing access to education for his constituents in the remote areas of Laikipia county.

He averred that his father donated his resources including land for construction of schools.

"We have carried on the legacy that my father left over the years and people from Laikipia can relate more with the work and contributions that he made in the society," he said.

Waigwa at the same time called on leaders and especially politicians to

emulate the footsteps of GG Kariuki, of total commitment, sacrificing and upholding high levels of integrity, so as to foster key developments in their respective regions.

"In the past, there was no Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and the leaders then were receiving about sh 6,000 as their pay and yet the managed to do a lot that touched and changed the lives of many people. Nowadays our politicians receive hefty perks and they have the funds but the commitment and willingness to work is not there. Our leaders must be people-centered," Waigwa said.

Similar sentiments were echoed by Joseph Njuguna who urged leaders to focus on projects that will improve the livelihoods of Kenyans as well as advance education in the country.

Supreme Court Rules Banks Need No New Securities For Extra Loans

By: Phidel Kizito
@themtkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- The sector has also faced heightened scrutiny, with CBK recently fining several lenders for regulatory breaches, highlighting the need for predictable, cost-efficient lending processes.
- The judgment stems from a long-running commercial dispute between Standard Chartered Financial Services Limited and Manchester Outfitters (Suiting Division), in which the Supreme Court overturned a 2022 Court of Appeal ruling that had invalidated the bank's appointment of receivers on grounds that securities for a converted local loan were not separately registered.
- By reinstating the High Court judgment, the apex court affirmed that a debenture or charge remains valid and enforceable until it is formally discharged, and that lenders are not obligated to create new security instruments when restructuring or advancing subsequent facilities tied to an existing borrower relationship.



The Supreme Court has handed a major win to lenders after ruling that banks are not required to register fresh securities every time they issue additional credit, a decision expected to sharply cut compliance costs and reinforce confidence in long-term lending instruments across the financial sector.

The ruling comes at a time when lenders are grappling with rising regulatory and operational pressures, including the Central Bank of Kenya's push to shift licensing fees from a branch-based model to one pegged on gross annual revenues — an overhaul that could raise annual costs for large banks.

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an existing borrower relationship.

The case dates back to a Euro Currency Loan issued in 1982, which Standard Chartered later settled and converted into a Sh9 million local facility in 1987.

Manchester Outfitters defaulted, prompting the bank to issue multiple demands before appointing joint receivers under a debenture and legal charge executed in 1982.

The Court of Appeal later declared that appointment invalid, arguing that no fresh security had been registered for the localized loan — an interpretation that alarmed the financial sector, which warned it could destabilize secured lending and complicate multi-year credit arrangements.

In its ruling, the Supreme Court clarified that existing securities retain their full legal effect until formally discharged through the proper statutory processes.

The Court further held that even if a loan was intended to be secured but the security was not perfected, this does not extinguish the borrower's obligation to repay, as the repayment covenant exists independently of any collateral.

The Court declared the 1982 debenture and accompanying legal charge over two parcels of land valid, continuing, and enforceable securities for the advances made to Manchester Outfitters.

It set aside the Court of Appeal judgment, reinstated the High Court

decision, allowed the petition of appeal, directed each party to bear its own costs, and ordered the refund of Sh6,000 deposited as security for costs.

Recent cases have questioned how far existing securities can stretch, while the shifting regulatory landscape has made cost predictability a central concern for the banking industry.

The Supreme Court's decision is now expected to influence how financial institutions structure future credit facilities, particularly where multiple advances are issued over several years, and is seen as restoring commercial certainty to Kenya's secured lending market.



EACC Arrests Anti-Counterfeit Authority Board Chair Over Bribery Claims

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) arrested the Chairperson of the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) Board, Josphat Gichunge Kabeabea, following allegations of bribery, extortion and accumulation of unexplained wealth.

EACC detectives on Friday conducted coordinated search operations at Kabeabea's residence and offices after securing court orders linked to the ongoing probe.

The Commission says preliminary investigations revealed that on Tuesday, Kabeabea allegedly demanded a KSh5 million bribe from a Chinese investor operating as Hongda Automotive Limited.

According to the complaint, the official is accused of threatening to arrest the investor over claims of involvement in counterfeit trade unless the bribe was paid. EACC reports

that the demand was later reduced to KSh150,000, which was allegedly sent to a mobile number believed to belong to Kabeabea's personal driver.

Investigators say the incident appears to be part of a broader pattern, as additional allegations against the chairperson have surfaced during the course of the inquiry.

Upon arrest, Kabeabea was taken to Integrity Centre Police Station, where he recorded a statement.

The EACC said it remains committed to combating corruption and protecting public resources, noting that such investigations are key to ensuring accountability in public service.



Josphat Gichunge Kabeabea.



Ruto Hands Over Homes In Machakos

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto has handed over 176 keys to new home owners at the Machakos Affordable Housing Phase 1 following the successful completion of the project in Machakos County.

The President said the housing programme is making home ownership for low-income earners a reality, moving them from paying rent to owning homes.

He said the houses have been built using local resources and have created hundreds of thousands of jobs for Kenyan youth.

Across the country, the government is building 230,000 units, close to 4,000 of which have been completed, creating more than 330,000 jobs.

“To the new home owners, congratulations. I am a very proud person that through the efforts of the Government of Kenya, under my leadership, there are Kenyans who today are home owners,” he said.

He went on: “It is our responsibility to make sure that millions join you as home owners in the Republic of Kenya.”

Speaking during the handover ceremony in Machakos town on Friday, President Ruto said the government is keen on eradicating slums and informal settlements in the country.

“That is our mission; that is our commitment; that is our plan and vision and we intend to deliver on it,” he said.

He also issued certificates of qualification to workers in the Machakos Town Affordable Housing Project under the government’s Recognition of Prior Learning initiative, noting that many had started as casual workers and are now qualified professionals.

He also launched the construction of 570-unit Phase 2 of the Machakos Town Affordable Housing Project.

Earlier during a development tour of various parts of the county, the President launched the construction of the 13km Kangundo-Kivaani road, spanning Mwala and Kangundo constituencies.

He also launched the construction of the 22km Kivandini-Miseleini road in Mwala Constituency, a KSh1.7 billion project that will enhance connectivity, ease movement and stimulate trade and investment in the region.

The President inspected the Mutituni Modern Market in Machakos

Town Constituency, a KSh52 million facility that will accommodate 200 traders.

He announced that the government is building 15 markets in Machakos County, fulfilling the commitment to provide mama mboga and other small scale traders with a dignified and secure working environment.

In response to the high demand for trading space, the President approved a request by traders to expand the Mutituni market to accommodate 600 traders and increase opportunities for local enterprise.

The President also said the government is investing KSh25.5 billion to build more than 30,000 affordable housing units, 15 markets and students’ hostels.

“We want to make sure that Machakos County is not left behind in the development going on in Kenya,” he said.

He also announced that KSh1.4 billion has been allocated for the Machakos County Last Mile Electricity Project to connect more than 10,000 households to power.

At the same time, President Ruto cautioned Kenyans against leaders spreading divisive narratives to advance their political agenda.

He pointed out that these leaders lacked any agenda for the country.

“They have no agenda and all they preach is ‘one term’ and ‘must go’. This is not enough. They must tell Kenyans what they will do for them,” he said.

President Ruto said leaders will be elected based on their track record rather than empty rhetoric, pointing out that it was unfortunate that the opposition was opposed to government programmes that are transforming the lives of Kenyans.

He cited the Affordable Housing Programme, fresh produce markets, student hostels and health programmes.

The President reiterated that Kenya is not a shareholding country but an inclusive one with a government that serves all Kenyans equally.

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki urged Members of Parliament to support the establishment of the Infrastructure Fund once it is brought to Parliament.

He said the fund will help the country speed up the development of key infrastructure projects, including roads, energy and water.

The Deputy President said the government is committed to serving all Kenyans equally to foster national unity.



President William Ruto, his Deputy Kithure Kindiki and other officials during the handing over of Affordable Houses in Machakos on Friday.

“Our country needs unity and the way to ensure unity is not through words but action in equal distribution of development,” he said.

Machakos Town MP Caleb Mule said the Affordable Housing Programme is creating jobs for youth in the region, with at least 520 young people working at the Machakos Affordable Housing Programme.

Mwala MP Vincent Musyoko called on the people of lower Eastern

Counties to be wary of leaders who only want to use them to advance their political interests without a development agenda for the region.

He noted that those claiming to be their friends had previously frustrated the region’s efforts to secure development on the basis of shareholding politics.

Labour Cabinet Secretary Alfred Mutua said the counties of Machakos, Makueni and Kitui will no

longer be held hostage by those who benefit from the politics of opposition at the expense of residents.

He described it as a political poverty strategy designed to keep citizens poor so that a leader can present himself as their saviour.

“We reject this plan. We have been deceived for far too long. We will no longer be used,” he said.



Barbados High Commissioner Challenges Kenyan Graduates To Be Architects Of Progress, Invent For The Future

By: John Kamau
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Addressing some 3,216 graduands, who were conferred with degrees, diplomas and certificates in diverse disciplines, at Zetech University in Juja, Kiambu County on Friday, MacDonald quipped that graduates must maintain creativity, vision and courage in their areas of specialization so as to influence, shape, create and implement the future they want.
- “Carry with you the skills, values, and resilience needed to shape a brighter tomorrow, not just for yourselves, but for the communities and industries you will serve. Inventing the future is a noble task; it is a call for every one of us across the globe,” the High Commissioner said.

The High Commissioner of Barbados to Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania, and Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations at Nairobi, William Alexander McDonald, has challenged Kenyan graduates to be ready to adapt and face the future.

The Commissioner maintains that graduates must align with the ever-evolving job market to better adapt to the demands of the modern workforce.

Addressing some 3,216 graduands, who were conferred with degrees, diplomas and certificates in diverse disciplines, at Zetech University in Juja, Kiambu County on Friday, MacDonald quipped that graduates must maintain creativity, vision and courage in their areas of specialization so as to influence, shape, create and implement the future they want.

“Carry with you the skills, values, and resilience needed to shape a brighter tomorrow, not just for yourselves, but for the communities and industries you will serve. Inventing the future is a noble task; it is a call for every one of us across the globe,” the High Commissioner said.

He averred that all graduates being churned out by higher learning institutions must remain abreast with the rapidly changing technological trends, especially during this era of Artificial Intelligence (AI), so as to remain afloat in the job market across the global stage.

“We must ask ourselves where do we fit in, in a world of AI and mechanization in almost all sectors. We should use the latest technologies to complement the human resource and make life better,” he noted.

MacDonald challenged graduates to be future-oriented thinkers who are able to design innovative solutions that address real-world challenges.

“Reimagine possibilities, embrace creativity, and lead change in an evolving world. Be architects of progress, equipped to shape a future defined by purpose, impact, and transformation,” he said.

His sentiments were echoed by Zetech University Chancellor Prof Susan Alfano Nkinyangi who said that higher learning institutions must continue to stand at the forefront of innovation and global engagement to ensure that students are well prepared to compete and contribute on a global scale.

She averred that in an era of advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and global collaboration, focus must go beyond classrooms so as to nurture innovators, policy shapers, and solution builders.



The High Commissioner of Barbados to Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania, and Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations at Nairobi William Alexander McDonald.

The Chancellor at the same time challenged the graduates to apply soft skills in their area of specialization and be able to create a network of relevant people in order to succeed. “Your future will be shaped by who you collaborate with. Invest in healthy relationships. Seek mentors. Uplift peers. Collaborate across disciplines, sectors, and borders. The future is not solo; it is symphonic,” she said.

The Event was also graced by Prof Mike Kuria, the CEO of Commission for University Education and Dr Agnes Wahome, the CEO of Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Services .



The High Commissioner of Barbados to Kenya William Alexander McDonald with Zetech University Chancellor Prof Susan Alfani Nkinyangi and Vice Chancellor Prof Njenga Munene awarding a top student. Photos/Courtesy.

CS Kagwe Flags-Off Milk Coolers To Empower Nyeri Dairy Farmers

By: MKT Correspondents
@themtkenyatimes

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe on Friday flagged off a new batch of milk coolers to dairy farmers in Mwicwiri center, in Naromoru, Kieni Constituency, Nyeri County.

The rollout is fulfilling a commitment made by President William Ruto to transform the lives of dairy farmers by putting more money in their pockets, through improved milk productivity, reduced post-milking losses, diversification enhanced value addition.

A total of 12 bulk milk coolers have been allocated to Nyeri County, and the latest beneficiaries included Destiny Dairy, Mia Mia Dairy, Karatina University and Senior Nyeri Dairy Groups.

More than 3,600 farmers will benefit from the coolers, enabling aggregation of an additional 30,000 litres of milk daily, valued at KSh1.35 million

which translates into 10.95 million litres annually, earning farmers an extra KSh492.8 million.

The coolers are solar powered and will save farmers KSh3.3 million in energy costs while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The new aggregation hubs will stimulate local economies, create new business opportunities, and jobs.

Kagwe also announced that the government is distributing subsidized farm inputs like fertilizer and seedlings, through the Kenya Integrated Agricultural Management Information System (KIAMIS). He therefore urged farmers to register en masse in order to benefit.

A stronger, more resilient dairy sector is taking shape, one cooler at a time.

He was flanked by the area MPs: Eric Wamumbi (Mathira), Njoroge Wainaina (Kieni) and Wambugu Wainaina (Othaya).



Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe with some Nyeri leaders in Kieni on Friday.

Regenerative Medicine Ushers In A New Era Of Healing In Kenya

By: KBC
@themtkenyatimes

A quiet revolution is taking shape in Kenya’s medical field – one that promises not just to manage illness but to help the body heal itself. Known as regenerative medicine, this emerging branch of science is redefining how doctors and patients approach recovery, vitality, and long-term health.

The renewed public interest in medical wellness — seen recently as celebrities opened up about using modern treatments such as Ozempic for weight regulation — reflects a broader shift toward scientifically guided healthcare. Across Kenya, clinics and research centers are increasingly adopting advanced therapies that combine metabolic, functional, and regenerative medicine to achieve lasting results.

According to Dr. Ashne Malde, a regenerative and functional medicine specialist at Tia Clinics Muthaiga, regenerative medicine represents one of the most transformative movements in modern healthcare.

“For decades, medicine has focused on managing symptoms,” says Dr. Malde. “Now we are using the body’s own biology — stem cells, peptides, and plasma — to regenerate tissue, restore function, and revive systems once thought irreparable.”

Regenerative medicine works by enhancing the body’s natural ability to self-repair. Through treatments such as platelet-rich plasma (PRP) therapy, peptide therapy, and cellular regeneration, specialists can stimulate the repair of damaged tissue and accelerate healing without invasive surgery.

At Tia Clinics, these innovations are already being applied in areas such as chronic pain management, orthopedic recovery, post-surgical healing, skin rejuvenation, and metabolic support. Complementary approaches like hormonal balance optimization, nutrition therapy, and medically guided weight management — including treatments like Ozempic — are also being used to restore overall wellness.

“Health is more than treating disease,” Dr. Malde explains. “It’s about restoring balance at the cellular level — improving energy, men-

tal clarity, and quality of life.”

Globally, regenerative medicine has shown promise in rebuilding cartilage, restoring nerve function, and regenerating damaged organs. In Africa, experts see it as a powerful response to the continent’s growing burden of chronic diseases such as arthritis, diabetes, and cardiovascular conditions.

Dr. Malde believes Kenya is well positioned to lead this movement if the medical community invests in research and training.

“We have the expertise and the patients,” she says. “What we need now is collaboration and proper regulation to make these therapies accessible and safe.”

As Kenya embraces modern wellness science, regenerative medicine is emerging as a symbol of the future — one focused not on surviving disease, but on restoring life itself.

“Every patient who heals naturally proves how intelligent the human body is,” Dr. Malde concludes. “Regenerative medicine gives that intelligence a voice — and a chance to heal.”



Dr. Malde believes Kenya is well positioned to lead this movement if the medical community invests in research and training.

Hongera Kaka Alfie



njema.

Umesoma na vitabu, darasani kujituma
Hata muda wa taabu, domo
hukuumauma
Tunayo kila sababu, wewe kukuita
chuma
Hongera kaka hongera, umefanya kazi
njema!

Kata keki kata keki, Kufuzu umediriki
Vyeti saP sio feki, umevipata kwa haki
Mungu akupige jeki, kazi nzuri umeliki
Hongera kaka hongera, umefanya kazi!

Nayara Mtaalamu, redioni shika zamu
Kusikiza tuna hamu, maneno yako
kalamu

Kipindi chako kitamu, lugha nzuri
wafahamu
Hongera kaka hongera, umefanya kazi!

Mtunzi: Duncan Mulu
Mahali: Lungalunga

Kaka AlPe Nayara, Leo chuo umefuzu
Nakuambia Hongera, wewe tena sio
zuzu
NIBS umetia fora, Kwa kishindo
umefuzu
Hongera kaka hongera, Umefanya kazi
njema!

Kwenye vyumba vya habari, si redio si
runinga
Tupashe kwa umahiri, sauti nzito ya
ninga
Umejawa uhodari, umeuchonga mzinga
Hongera kaka Hongera, umefanya kazi

Children Are The Pillars Of The Nation



Children are the pillars of the nation,
They grow with boundless spirit,
They are like wet cement
Whatever falls on them makes an
impression.

They dream high; in every step
there is a promise in everything they do.
Their dreams, their hope nothing can
beat them.
They are strong pillars of the nation,

They are innocent yet innovative in many
things.
Let's cherish them, protect their smile and
growth.
The entire nation rests in the hands of the
children.
Let them grow in a good, conducive
atmosphere.

Let's show good path for the children.
they are the pillars of the nation

Brinda. D
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What Refreshes My Mind



Speaking and spending time
with spouse and children,
Weekend trips with them
Refreshes the mind and soul.

On hearing our favourite song from afar
Our thoughts move towards the song.
The voice touches the hearts
Refreshes the mind and soul.

Rajesh Kanna B N

RAJESH KANNA.B N
M.Sc.,M.A.,M.A., B.Ed., PGD G&C, CELT.,
BT Asst
GMHSCHOOL,
TIRUR.
TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT.
Tamil Nadu. India

Tunes from favourite musician
Melodious voice of singers
Voices from the drizzling rain
Refreshes the mind and soul.

Completion of target,
Posting poem in the CW group,
Receiving reviews from the fellow poets,
Refreshes the mind and soul.

Happy Children's Day



A Day With Mermaids



Mystical beauty dancing to the mystic
tune for long.

Shell-shocked and thunder struck with
out a storm.
To witness the beautiful mermaid on
the sea so calm.

Surreal beauty and an artistic scene.
Disappeared and gone yet to be seen.

By, Mrs. Gulzar Jahan.
English BT
PUMS Chinna Obulapuram
Tiruvallur Dt
Tamil Nadu
India.

Cool breeze and the pleasant morn.
I sat on the sea shore with memories
furlorn.

Golden rays with glittering waves.
Wondering the wonders of nature with
awe.

Silvery sand and tranquil sky.
Sun rising slowly and high.

Seashell scattered on the silvery sand.
Like delicate pearls slipped out of
nature's hand.

There I saw a beautiful mermaid
furlong.



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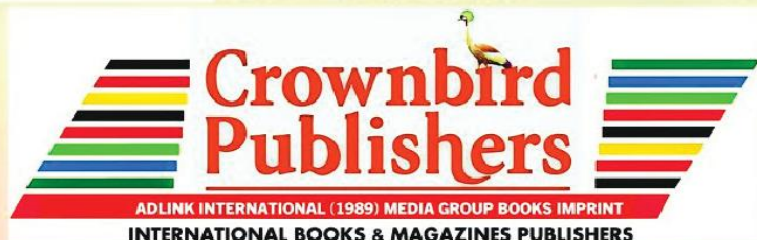
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POLITICS

Hope Is Not A Method: Stop Signing Deals With Masquerades



By: Maina Wahome
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

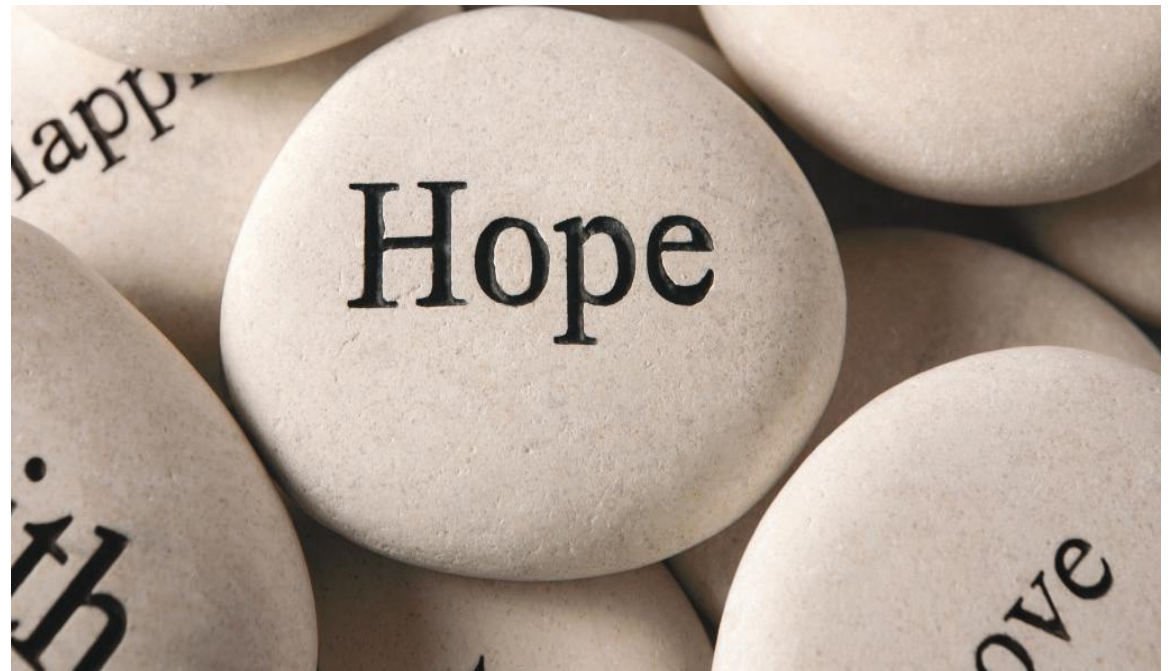
- Kenyan voters who fail to scrutinize the promises made to them are, in effect, complicit in their own disappointment. Blind trust allows leaders to disguise empty rhetoric as policy, and when these promises fail, voters find themselves questioning fate rather than reflecting on the choices they made.
- Each ignored manifesto, each unverified claim, creates a pattern where hope is mistaken for action, and negligence is rewarded with another cycle of unfulfilled promises. Without vigilance, the electorate sets the stage for repeated betrayal. Thereafter, the electorate questions God for the causes of their suffering while simultaneously entrusting their future to those who exploit their ignorance.

Hope becomes dangerous when it replaces introspection, memory, and accountability. Hope is not a method to solve anything progressive. It is a comforting illusion for the desperate and the manipulated, a substitute for critical thinking and action. Since independence, Kenyan voters have never consistently gotten it right at the ballot box. Too often, they have entered into deals with the wrong leaders, those who promise transformation but prioritize personal gain, indulgence, and self-interest over national development. Countries that got it right, like South Korea and Singapore, invested in accountability, discipline, and long-term vision, and today they are far ahead of Kenya.

The Kenyan political cartels, networks of self-interested elites masquerading as leaders, have mastered the art of impersonating visionaries. They invoke South Korea, Singapore, and Israel, nations whose economic transformations were built on discipline, meritocracy, and national ethos. However, in Kenya, the same aspirants and candidates walk into debates without manifestos, armed only with unsubstantiated dreams and slogans. When they eventually draft bedazzled manifestos full of poetic illusions, the public seldom revisits them. Kenyan voters forget. The cartels thrive. The electorate that never counterchecks a manifesto is the electorate that manufactures its own disappointment.

Kenyan voters who fail to scrutinize the promises made to them are, in effect, complicit in their own disappointment. Blind trust allows leaders to disguise empty rhetoric as policy, and when these promises fail, voters find themselves questioning fate rather than reflecting on the choices they made. Each ignored manifesto, each unverified claim, creates a pattern where hope is mistaken for action, and negligence is rewarded with another cycle of unfulfilled promises. Without vigilance, the electorate sets the stage for repeated betrayal. Thereafter, the electorate questions God for the causes of their suffering while simultaneously entrusting their future to those who exploit their ignorance.

However, the national paradox goes deeper. Kenyan voters often externalize blame, attributing systemic failure to divine will while overlooking the tangible decisions they make



at the ballot box. By placing trust in leaders without integrity, they willingly hand their fate to those who manipulate poverty, ignorance, and fear for personal gain. The irony is cruel: hope becomes both their comfort and their chain, and the cycle of political exploitation continues unchallenged. Believing in empty manifestos is not hope; it is a rehearsal for disappointment. The chains of piety, unquestioned faith, unexamined loyalty, and abdication of civic responsibility act as de facto instruments of consent, binding the electorate to repeated breaches of public trust and enabling the Kenyan political cartels to operate with impunity. At the same time, the principles of accountability and the rule of law remain largely unenforced.

Manifestos are not sacred texts; they are contracts between leaders and the electorate. However, when voters accept grandiose promises without verification, hope is reduced to mere rehearsal. Each election becomes a predictable performance of failure. The bedazzled words, poetic and enticing as they are, serve only to mask the absence of real strategy or measurable outcomes. Kenyan voters repeatedly train themselves to expect disappointment, mistaking it for democracy in action. If the purported leaders' passion for governance matched their passion for excess, Kenya would already be the Singapore they fantasize about.

Leaders flaunt wealth, maintain multiple illegal marriages, and indulge in luxury abroad while claiming commitment to national devel-

opment. If the same energy devoted to their high proclivity for children and sexual gratification were applied to governance, Kenya could achieve the progress they endlessly promise but never deliver. Meanwhile, Kenyan voters are left with crumbs as the cartels pursue their fantasies, and the nation's potential is squandered. The problem is not a lack of vision, but the misallocation of effort, ambition, and priorities. A society that over-celebrates the bare minimum becomes fertile ground for kleptocracy, normalizing mediocrity, and rewarding exploitation.

Kenyan voters have been conditioned to normalize mediocrity. Celebrating basic services like a functioning water tap or a newly paved road as extraordinary accomplishments teaches complacency. Leaders exploit this conditioned gratitude, using minimal action to generate excessive praise. The result is a society where standards are low, accountability is absent, and kleptocrats roam freely. By applauding the bare minimum, voters unwittingly empower those who should be held responsible. Putting hope in leaders without integrity is like expecting history to favor the careless. It is placing faith in illusions while ignoring the lessons carved by time and experience. Substantive progress is not born from wishful thinking but from reflection, accountability, and moral courage. Until Kenyan voters confront the past, question the present, and demand leaders worthy of trust, hope will remain a fragile sentiment, beautiful in theory, but

destructive in practice.

Hope without verification or accountability is not only futile; it is dangerous. Leaders who lack integrity are fundamentally incapable of implementing meaningful change. Just as one cannot rely on a sick person to teach health, so too can corrupt leaders not guide a nation toward prosperity. However, Kenyan voters continue to place their trust in those who have repeatedly failed them, clinging to hope as if it alone could replace competence, ethics, and deliberate effort.

The future belongs to a citizenry that refuses to forget and refuses to hope blindly, for hope alone is not a method to solve problems, empirically, theoretically, or morally. The path forward is clear, though demanding: Kenyan voters must remember past betrayals, examine every candidate critically, and hold leaders accountable for their promises. Blind hope serves only as a tool of manipulation; informed vigilance is true empowerment. Only a citizenry willing to learn from history, scrutinize manifestos, and reject empty rhetoric can break the cycle of political exploitation. The nation's future depends not on passive faith but on active, engaged participation.

Short Bio

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

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The Geometry Of Betrayal: How Kenya's Political Architecture Perpetuates Its Own Collapse



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

Kenya's political theatre operates like a mathematical proof of its own futility, each theorem of reform, each axiom of change, arriving inevitably at the same predetermined conclusion. Between June 2024 and January 2025, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights recorded 89 enforced disappearances and 63 extrajudicial killings, a grim arithmetic that punctuated a year in which young protesters believed they had finally disrupted the equation. Yet by March 2025, President Ruto had deepened his alliance with former rival Raila Odinga, announcing a new agreement to form a "broad-based government" and appointing additional Odinga allies to senior government posts, a recapitulation so precise it might have been lifted from previous decades. The brittleness of Kenya's politics is not accidental disorder but engineered design: a system constructed not to serve the nation but to preserve itself, metabolizing every challenge into fuel for its own perpetuation.

The genesis of this brittleness lies in the sedimentary layers of Kenya's constitutional history, where each reform meant to strengthen democracy instead calcified structures of ethnic clientelism. Throughout the post-colonial era, patronage networks made it difficult for political parties to form and develop, sustaining ethnic alliances and appropriating public resources for private gain. When Jaramogi Oginga Odinga broke with Jomo Kenyatta and founded the Kenya People's Union in the 1960s, he no longer had access to patronage and development resources, and ultimately the party was banned in 1969, at which point Kenya became once more a de facto one-party state. This pattern established the template: politics as transaction, loyalty as currency, ideology as decoration. The 2010 Constitution hailed as transformational promised to dilute executive power and strengthen Parliament, yet corruption limits the independence of the legislative branch, and in practice, Parliament is generally subordinate to the president. Constitutional reform in Kenya resembles architectural renovation on quicksand; no matter how elegant the new structure, it inevitably settles into the same compromised foundation.

Kenya's electoral system operates as what scholars term an "ethnic census," though this characterization, while useful, risks obscuring the self-perpetuating mechanisms that make it so. Presidential candidates are overwhelmingly supported by people living in their own ethnic heartlands,



Extrajudicial killings protests

and voting patterns are majorly based on ethnic affiliation. Yet this is neither primordial tribalism nor simple prejudice, it is rational calculation within an irrational system. Political mobilization along ethnic lines is perpetuated both from above and below, even as voters are motivated by evaluations of past performance, economic considerations, and policy proposals. Kenyans vote defensively in ethnic blocs not because they are incapable of transcending ethnicity, but because they correctly perceive that others will do so, and that a winner-takes-all system punishes those who fail to organize accordingly. Kenya's winner-takes-it-all electoral arrangement means the candidate or party with the largest number of votes emerges as the winner, irrespective of the margin of win, transforming every election into existential mathematics where abstaining from ethnic mobilization is tactical surrender.

The transactional nature of Kenyan politics achieves its purest expression in the phenomenon of coalition-building, where yesterday's bitter enemies become today's governing partners with a speed that defies even the most cynical expectations. Kenyan parties represent a range of ideological, regional, and ethnic interests, but are notoriously weak and are often amalgamated into coalitions designed only to contest elections. The 2013 Jubilee Alliance offers an instructive case study: it strategically brought together candidates Uhuru Kenyatta and William Ruto both facing International Criminal Court charges with Kenyatta running for president and Ruto for vice president. Their partnership was built not on shared vision but on mutual vulnerability, a marriage of convenience that would later dissolve with the same casual brutality with which it was formed. In October 2024, Kenya's parliament

voted to impeach Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua on allegations including corruption, inciting ethnic divisions, and support for the 2024 protests the same Gachagua who had ridden to office on promises of ending ethnic marginalization now accused of perpetuating it.

This transactional logic extends beyond electoral coalitions to infect the very concept of opposition itself. By March 2025, Ruto and Odinga's rapprochement resulted in ODM receiving 50 percent of government positions, effectively neutering the opposition and demonstrating what one analyst characterized as politics of accommodation rather than accountability. The parallel to the 2018 "handshake" between Uhuru Kenyatta and Raila Odinga is so precise it approaches parody yet this is precisely the point. In Kenyan politics, patterns repeat not despite their previous failures but because of them; the system's brittleness derives from its players having learned only how to survive, never how to transform. Between 2008 and 2013, Kenya was governed by a grand coalition established by a power-sharing agreement signed by President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga after the 2007-2008 post-election violence. These arrangements consistently mistake the absence of immediate conflict for the presence of genuine stability.

The self-absorption of Kenya's political class manifests most starkly in its response to legitimate grievance. When young Kenyans mobilized protests in June 2024 against legislation proposing new taxes, at least 60 people died and over 600 were injured, with more than 1,370 people arrested. The government's initial response was not reform but recruitment: Ruto formed an alliance with Raila Odinga's ODM, showing the

continuing importance of communal politics and their strong regional bases to the shifting coalitions in Kenya. Rather than addressing the substantive concerns that drove young people into the streets, the political class simply absorbed potential opposition leadership into the existing structure. Former Attorney General Justin Muri levelled serious corruption allegations against Ruto in early 2025, accusing him of direct involvement in controversial government deals worth over \$2 billion with India's Adani Group. Ruto's response was to cancel the Adani deals only after international pressure mounted, then to sack Muri in late March, a pattern of reactive rather than proactive accountability that characterizes Kenyan governance.

The shamelessness with which Kenya's politicians conduct their transactional business has evolved from embarrassment to strategy. Deputy President Gachagua's controversial "shareholding" statements and talk of "pan-Bantu" and "pan-Nilotic" alliances risk reviving the sectarian tensions that led to violence following the 2007 elections. That such inflammatory rhetoric could be deployed by a sitting deputy president and that it would be met not with unified condemnation but with its own counter-mobilization speaks to a political culture in which provocation has become a legitimate tool of negotiation. The ethnic arithmetic is conducted openly, without pretence: Leaders seek support from different parts of the country, with regional politics playing a crucial role and political leaders forming coalitions that could

Avenews, KMC, KLMC Launch KSh 2.2B Trade-Financing Model To Transform Kenya's Livestock Sector

By: KBC
@themtkenyentimes

Avenews in partnership with the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) and the Kenya Livestock Marketing Council (KLMC), has launched a first-of-its-kind trade-driven financing initiative aimed at strengthening the country's livestock value chain. This is in a move to modernize one of Kenya's most valuable yet under-served industries. The collaboration seeks to unlock access to flexible, transaction-based capital for producers, traders, and aggregators aligning finance with the actual flow of livestock commerce. Formalized at a signing ceremony attended by Nancy Kinyanjui (Managing Director, Avenews Kenya), Maj. Gen. Jattani Gula (Managing Commissioner, KMC), and Abdikadir Mohamed (Chief Executive Officer, KLMC), the partnership underscores Avenews' commitment to deploy KSh 2.5 billion in financing for Kenyan agri-SMEs in 2025.

Speaking during the event, Nancy Kinyanjui said, "Access to credit has long been a barrier, especially for pastoralist and trading communities that rely on fast, trust-based transactions rather than formal collateral. This partnership provides a solution, a financing model that works the way the livestock market actually operates." The Kenya Meat Commission observed that although livestock trade remains one of Kenya's oldest and most vital economic drivers, many pastoralist and trading communities still struggle to access financing because traditional financing has lagged behind the sector's pace and evolving structure. Avenews' trade-linked financing model directly addresses this gap, turning daily transactions into instant access to working capital. "We are grateful to offer a solution that truly fits the livestock sector," she explained. "Our innovative financing model provides access to capital at the point of sale, not after, making it faster, simpler, and more in tune with how the livestock market actually works."



Kenya Livestock Marketing Council CEO Mr. Abdikadir Mohamed, Kenya Meat Commission Managing Commissioner Maj. Gen. Jattani Gula, and Avenews Kenya Managing Director Nancy Kinyanjui during the signing of a strategic partnership to enhance Kenya's livestock value chain through flexible, trade-driven financing

She added, "By aligning finance with real trade activity, we're helping producers, traders, and processors build stronger, more reliable value chains and improve the overall quality and consistency of livestock supply." This collaboration is set to transform Kenya's livestock value chain,

making it more dynamic, investable, and inclusive. By providing capital at the point of sale, Avenews, KMC, and KLMC are improving access to finance, fueling trade, and helping livestock businesses grow and strengthen Kenya's food systems. "We're at the cusp of a new era for Kenya's livestock sector," said Nan-

cy in her concluding remarks. "Together with KMC and KLMC, we're building a trade-driven, fast, flexible, and fair financing model that reflects how the market truly operates and rewards trust, productivity, and innovation at every level."

The Geometry Of Betrayal: How Kenya's Political Architecture Perpetuates Its Own Collapse

Contd from page 18

switch votes in their favor. Voters are not citizens to be convinced but votes to be collected, their interests relevant only insofar as they contribute to the ethnic headcount. This brittleness extends into Kenya's relationship with its own institutions, which are alternately weaponized and ignored depending on political convenience. President Ruto publicly threatened people who filed court petitions to challenge the 2023 Finance Bill, and when police ignored a court order regarding abducted activists, authorities responded by withdrawing the judge's security details. The rule of law in Kenya functions less as a constraint on power than as a resource to be deployed selectively. Kenya holds regular and competitive multiparty elections, yet pervasive corruption and brutality by security forces remain serious

problems. The facade of democratic process obscures its substantive absence; elections occur on schedule, courts issue rulings, parliament convenes, but these rituals have been hollowed out, their forms maintained while their functions atrophy. The brittleness here is not weakness but rigidity: institutions brittle enough to crack under pressure yet incapable of the flexibility genuine democracy requires. What makes Kenya's political brittleness particularly tragic is its predictability. As political analyst Paul Goldsmith reflected, "The political elite have countered the trajectory of reforms dating back to the 1990s: multi-partyism, liberalization, the 2002 victory, institutional restructuring, a coalition government and the new constitution have all failed to unlock the population's aspirations". Each generation of Kenyans rediscovers this truth through bitter experience, the students who protested in the 1990s, the activists who championed the 2010 Constitution, the Gen Z protesters of 2024. By early 2025,

Kenyan politics reorganized into familiar configurations in preparation for the 2027 elections, with ethnic arithmetic once again the primary calculation. The system's genius lies in its capacity to absorb and neutralize reform impulses, transforming revolutionary energy into mere personnel changes while leaving structures intact. The path forward, if such a path exists, requires confronting uncomfortable truths about how political incentives actually function in Kenya. The problem is not that Kenyan politicians lack integrity, though many do; it is that the system rewards their lack of integrity more richly than it would reward its opposite. The multiplicity of Kenya's ethnic clusters and non-ideological voting patterns leaning on ethnically formed political parties make it difficult for a single political party to have outright win of an election, complicated by electoral law which demands a candidate have at least 25 percent of votes cast in at least half of the counties. This constitutional requirement,



designed to ensure broad support, instead incentivizes the very ethnic coalition-building it supposedly transcends. Until Kenyan politics develops mechanisms that reward long-term nation-building over short-term ethnic mobilization until transaction costs for betrayal exceed its benefits, until institutions possess genuine independence, the geometry of betrayal will continue producing the same elegant, devastating proof

of its own inevitability. The question is not whether Kenya's current political architecture can survive; it demonstrably can, indefinitely, feeding on its own failures. The question is whether Kenyans will demand something better than mere survival. The writer is a legal writer and social commentator

U.S. Tariffs Squeeze European High-End Manufacturers, Dimming Industry Prospects

By: Xinhua
@themtkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- Nick Hayek, CEO of Swatch Group, owner of Omega and Breguet, described the added cost burden as unsustainable, noting that production in Switzerland is already expensive. Tariffs approaching 40 percent make it impossible to absorb the additional cost.
- While raising prices may temporarily protect margins, economists caution that overreliance on price adjustments could damage brand loyalty and alienate younger consumers. Luxury groups face a difficult balancing act: holding prices may squeeze profits while increasing them risks losing the next generation of buyers. The United States accounts for more than 23 percent of global personal luxury spending, according to consulting firm Bain & Company. But European brands' decision to pass tariff costs to consumers is cooling demand in what was once their most profitable market.



Europe's flagship luxury and high-end manufacturing sectors, from French leather goods and Swiss watches to German premium cars, are under growing pressure from U.S. tariffs on European exports.

Once seen as pillars of "Made in Europe," these industries now face falling profits and declining market confidence. Analysts warn that prolonged tariff tensions could reshape production strategies, cost jobs and weaken Europe's cultural influence rooted in craftsmanship.

The world's largest luxury goods group, LVMH, said revenue from its core fashion and leather goods division reached 27.6 billion euros (32.02 billion U.S. dollars) in the first three quarters, down about 8 percent from a year earlier. Executives said the U.S. market remains challenging and that uncertainty over tariffs is weighing on demand. French rival Kering fared even worse, with group sales down about 12 percent to 11 billion euros (12.76 billion dollars). Its flagship brand Gucci saw a plunge of 22 percent year-on-year in revenue. The downturn has spread beyond fashion. Porsche's automotive operating profit slumped nearly 99 percent, down from 4.04 billion

euros (4.69 billion dollars) to 40 million euros (46.4 million dollars). Jochen Breckner, the company's finance and IT chief, said U.S. tariffs could cost the carmaker around 700 million euros (812 million dollars) in 2025. Switzerland's watch industry, a cornerstone of European craftsmanship, has also suffered. Since August, the United States has imposed a 39 percent tariff on Swiss watches and related goods, sending September exports to the U.S. down 56 percent year-on-year.

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of global personal luxury spending, according to consulting firm Bain & Company. But European brands' decision to pass tariff costs to consumers is cooling demand in what was once their most profitable market. Porsche said it will raise prices for its U.S. lineup in the coming months, while Swatch plans to lift prices by 5-15 percent. Analysts expect U.S. luxury consumption to contract this year as shoppers become more cautious.

According to the Boston Consulting Group, the combined pressures of tariffs and a slowing economy are prompting American consumers to scale back luxury purchases. High-end spending is especially sensitive to confidence, which tends to fall quickly in periods of economic or policy uncertainty. Industry consultants noted that middle-class consumers who once saved for entry-level luxury items, such as handbags, are now delaying purchases. This shift in buying behavior could indicate a broader cooling of the luxury market, potentially weighing on sales growth for European brands in the United States and beyond.

Some European companies have explored shifting production to the

United States to bypass tariffs, but results so far have been mixed. Reuters reported that Louis Vuitton's Texas factory, opened in 2019, has faced low productivity and a shortage of skilled workers. Porsche has ruled out building cars in the United States, citing limited export volumes and the complexity of its production lines. Industry analysts warned that relocating production would also challenge the essence of luxury branding, which relies on authenticity rooted in European craftsmanship. Such a move could weaken the qualities that make these brands highly valued worldwide. Kering executives have emphasized that their products are made in Italy and France to reflect European culture, and producing them in the United States would undermine that heritage.

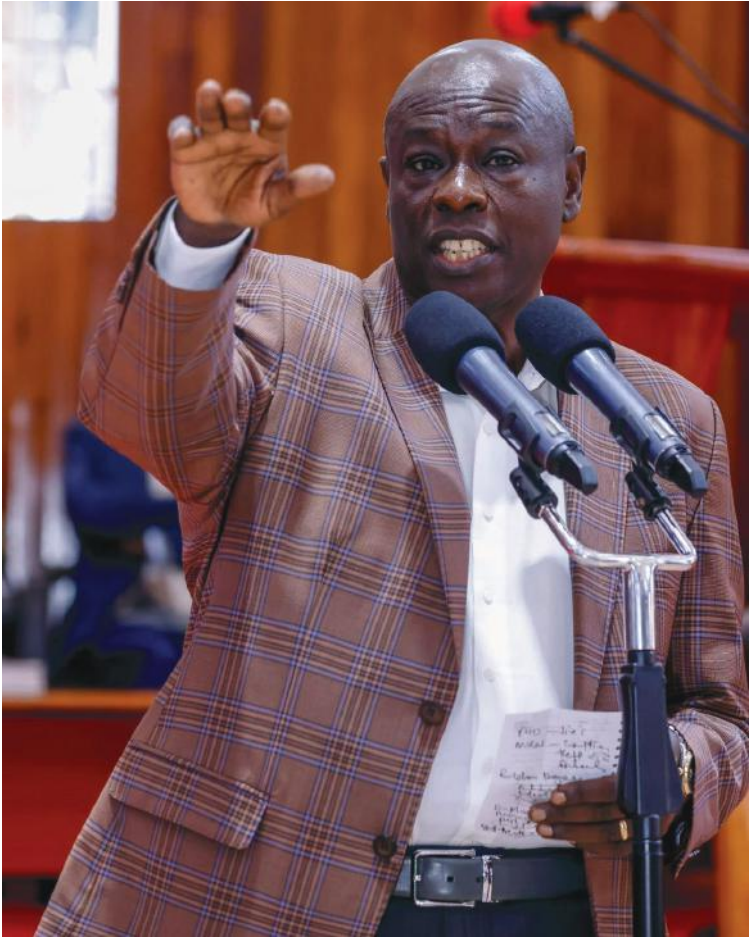
As Europe's high-end manufacturers navigate this dilemma, the global luxury market faces growing uncertainty. For an industry built on heritage, scarcity and emotional appeal, adapting to a world of tariffs and protectionism could prove a significant test of resilience

The Crucible Of Mbeere North: What's At Stake For Ruto, Gachagua And Mbarire

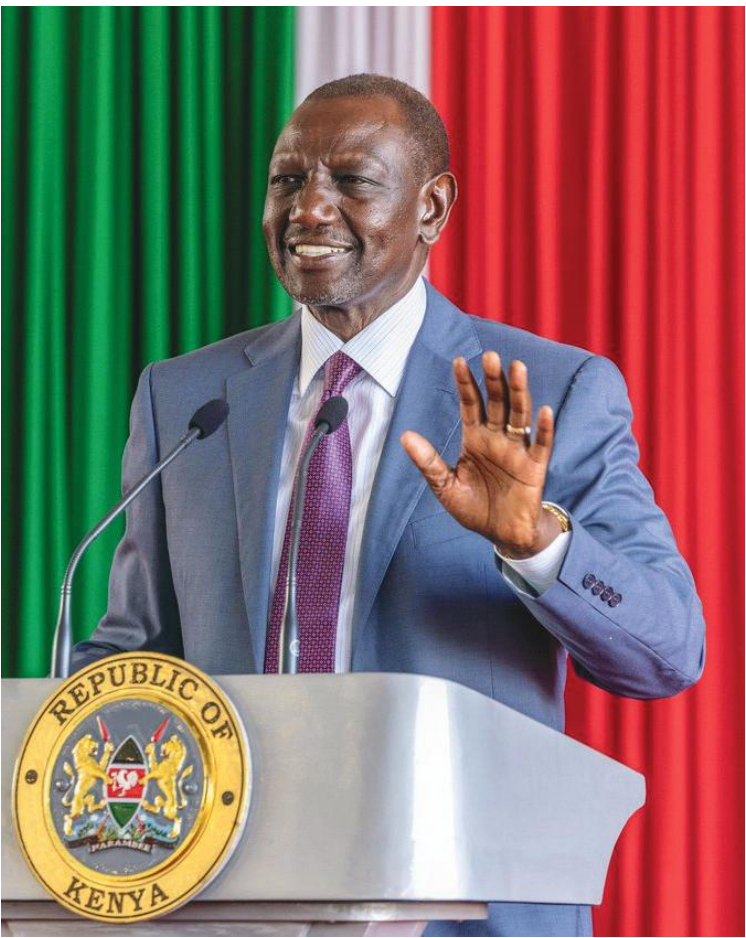
By: Martin Masinde
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- By the time of his impeachment, however, the political mood in the mountain had already shifted. The people who had rallied behind Ruto's campaign of economic empowerment, the so-called "hustler nation" were beginning to feel betrayed. The promises of affordable living, fair taxation, and revival of small enterprises had collapsed under the weight of new taxes, shrinking opportunities, and perceived marginalization. The mountain, proud and politically conscious, quietly walked away.
- It is in this climate that the Mbeere North by-election has acquired national significance. For Ruto, it is not simply about retaining a parliamentary seat. It is a desperate attempt to project control over a region that no longer believes in his leadership. A defeat here would expose the fragility of his coalition and confirm that his once-formidable Mt. Kenya base has slipped beyond retrieval.



Former DP Rigathi Gachagua



President William Ruto

The forthcoming Mbeere North by-election is far more than a local parliamentary contest. It is a political crucible that will reveal the real balance of power in the Mt. Kenya region. For President William Ruto, Governor Cecily Mbarire, and the ruling coalition, it is a desperate bid to reclaim a region that has quietly but decisively turned away. For the newly emboldened Rigathi Gachagua, it is a test of whether his popular resurgence can be transformed into a durable political movement. And for the United Opposition, it is the first must-win contest in the mountain a chance to prove that the winds of change are no longer blowing from State House but from the people themselves.

When Rigathi Gachagua was impeached at the behest of the president, it was widely assumed that his political career had been buried. Yet, as so often happens in politics, power's attempt to destroy a rival only made him stronger. In the months that followed, Gachagua emerged not as a fallen deputy but as the most popular leader in Mt. Kenya. A region that delivered the decisive bloc of votes that made William Ruto president in 2022.

By the time of his impeachment, however, the political mood in the mountain had already shifted. The people who had rallied behind Ru-

to's campaign of economic empowerment, the so-called "hustler nation" were beginning to feel betrayed. The promises of affordable living, fair taxation, and revival of small enterprises had collapsed under the weight of new taxes, shrinking opportunities, and perceived marginalization. The mountain, proud and politically conscious, quietly walked away.

It is in this climate that the Mbeere North by-election has acquired national significance. For Ruto, it is not simply about retaining a parliamentary seat. It is a desperate attempt to project control over a region that no longer believes in his leadership. A defeat here would expose the fragility of his coalition and confirm that his once-formidable Mt. Kenya base has slipped beyond retrieval.

Governor Cecily Mbarire, a loyal lieutenant of the president and one of his most visible allies in the region, faces her own test. Her political influence and capacity to rally Embu behind the ruling party will be measured by this result. Should the government-backed candidate fall, the loss will not only dent her authority but also signal the waning influence of the entire pro-Ruto network in the region.

For Gachagua, the by-election is a proving ground. A chance to translate mass sympathy into measur-

able political muscle. His defiance has resonated with a region that sees in his fall the larger story of betrayal and injustice. If the candidate aligned to his cause triumphs, it would be a political earthquake: proof that Mt. Kenya has decisively broken ranks with Ruto and reclaimed its autonomy.

But perhaps the most strategic player in this unfolding drama is the United Opposition. Mbeere North presents an opportunity for the opposition to convert national discontent into an organized political front. It must seize the moment to demonstrate unity, clarity, and courage to show that it can speak not just against government excess but for a coherent vision of economic justice and democratic renewal.

If the opposition wins, it will signal that the mountain is ready for a new conversation, one not framed by tribal loyalty or fear of retribution but by shared frustration and the hunger for genuine leadership. A victory here would energize the movement, giving it the moral and political momentum to consolidate the broad national coalition required to challenge Ruto in 2027.

For the ruling side, the stakes could not be higher. Mbeere North is now the frontline in a legitimacy war. The outcome will either restore the illusion of control or shatter it com-

pletely. Even with state machinery, money, and propaganda, the government faces a restless electorate who has grown tired of being taken for granted.

For Gachagua and the United Opposition, a joint or complementary effort could redefine Kenya's political map. The mountain's defection from Ruto's orbit, coupled with rising national discontent, could usher in a new political alignment, one that unites citizens around values rather than vested interests.

The crucible of Mbeere North, therefore, is not merely about who wins the seat. It is about who captures the imagination of the people, who can embody their pain, their hope, and their defiance. For Ruto, it is a battle to delay decline. For Gachagua, it is a fight for redemption and recognition. For the United Opposition, it is a test of whether it can rise above rhetoric and organize victory from conviction. The people of Mbeere North may soon cast their ballots, but in truth, the entire nation will be watching. This by-election will tell us where the mountain stands and, perhaps more importantly, where Kenya is headed.

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Sports >> *Harambee Stars lost 1-0 to Equatorial Guinea in an international friendly in Antalya, Turkey on Friday evening.

Miranda Strikes As Harambee Stars Lose To Equatorial Guinea In International Friendly



Harambee Stars players line up before their match against Seychelles. PHOTO/RAYMOND MAKHAY

Harambee Stars lost 1-0 to Equatorial Guinea in an international friendly in Antalya, Turkey on Friday evening.

Jose Miranda converted from the spot for the central Africans at the end of the first half, sending goalkeeper Byrne Omondi the wrong way.

Before then, Jonah Ayunga had a glorious chance to put Benni McCarthy's charges in the lead, drawing a wonderful save from Jesus Lazaro Owono, midway through the first half.

Having fallen behind, Harambee Stars improved in the second half, enjoying the lion's share of possession but with little end product to show.

Substitute Ovella Ochieng' added more pace to the frontline, his cross hitting the arm of a Guinean defender, which was waved away by the centre referee.

Another one of the substitutes, Austine Odhiambo, had great chance to level the scores in the 80th minute but fired his shot over the bar after being set up

by Rooney Onyango on the right flank.

Harambee Stars will return to action on Tuesday when they face Senegal at the same venue.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *The national women's rugby 7s team, Kenya Lionesses, have won the hearts of millions of fans for their fearlessness on the pitch and determination to fly the national flag high on the international stage

Of “Vienyejis” And Surprise Delicacy Of Frogs: Little-Known Facts About Kenya Lionesses

The national women's rugby 7s team, Kenya Lionesses, have won the hearts of millions of fans for their fearlessness on the pitch and determination to fly the national flag high on the international stage.

Beyond the ironclad mentality that belies the sevens queens, lies an unbeknown soft and fun side.

Ahead of the weekend's Africa Women's 7s, France-based Grace Adhiambo and Christabel Lindo let in on their lives as rugby players, hobbies, team chemistry, and role models, among other hitherto little-known facts.

What motivated you to join rugby?

Adhiambo: For me, it was so that I could board a plane... (laughs)

Lindo: It was the idea that I could get to run as much as possible.

Who is your role model?

Adhiambo: I think I will go with Willy Ambaka (former national men's rugby 7s player)... because he is fearless and very fast. He is my go-to role model. I hope he gets to see this.

Lindo: My late mum was my role model... yeah

What are your hobbies?

Adhiambo: I'll say dancing and cooking... and doing hair

Lindo: Nature...travelling... yeah... and swimming

What is the one thing that people don't know about you?

Adhiambo: If I don't know you, I will struggle to kickstart a conversation with you.

Lindo: People don't know whether I am an introvert or an extrovert. Most of them think that I am quiet, but that is not the case

Any other sport you have played apart from rugby?

Adhiambo: Football.

Lindo: Football as well.

How was it? Why did you eventually choose rugby?

Adhiambo: I fell in love with rugby from Day One



Kenya Lionesses huddle up at the Challenger Series in Krakow. PHOTO/KENYA RUGBY UNION

Lindo: Because my mom was also a rugby player, that's why I decided to stop playing football and join her.

Who is the funniest player in the squad?

Adhiambo: I think I will go with Janet Okello as well...and Stella Wafula

Lindo: Hahaha! Top shot-ta!...'Shebesh' (Janet Okello). If you don't know her well, you'd think she is a very quiet person, which is not the case. She is funny.

Who is the 'pastor' of the team?

Adhiambo: Yeah... Sheila, Moreen... plus me

Lindo: Hahaha! Sheila (Wafula) and Moreen (Muritu)

What is your favourite verse in the Bible?

Adhiambo: I'd say Philippians 4:13 is our theme verse. We always say this before a game.

Lindo: Philippians 4:13 (I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me)

What is the funniest thing you

ever did that had everyone laughing?

Adhiambo: Actually, this happened to me when I was in France... just a few weeks ago... we went to a buffet, and I didn't know what people were eating, and I found myself eating a frog. Hahaha! I ate a frog for the first time in my life and I cried

You discovered this afterwards?

Adhiambo: After...they told me afterwards that it was a frog. Please don't remind me... (laughs)

Lindo: On my first tour, I got lost on my way to the washroom... (laughs)

What is the one thing that makes you mad?

Adhiambo: Nowadays, I don't get mad, so even if you are going to make me mad, I won't be mad at you.

Lindo: When someone keeps shouting at me because we are all adults, so just explain your point in a mature way.

What is the one thing that makes

you happy?

Lindo: I am happy when I am eating, so you better feed me well. Food is my source of happiness.

What is your favourite food?

Lindo: Kienyeji chicken because I am 'kienyeji' (traditional Kenyan girl)... with ugali.

Adhiambo: Since I love cooking, I'll say curry... like everything for me is curry.

What is the one food that you cannot put in your mouth?

Adhiambo: Unfortunately I did (laughs)... I ate a frog, so I don't know what else I can't eat.

Lindo: Nothing...

Adhiambo: She should try (eating) a frog... (laughs)

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Backpage



How Much Is A Minute Of Your Time Worth?



By: Uktamova Sevinch Uktam
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- To the lifespan of a butterfly." Through these lines, we understand how short and fragile human life is. In other words, time is not merely a flow of seconds, but an opportunity to create, to feel, and to live. Every moment, as the poet says, is a "golden pebble," and each time it comes, it creates new worlds.
- While reading these lines in the poem, we realize that we should view time not only as a fleeting event but also as a source of creativity and labor: "Some are born, grow, live, and pass away in half an hour." These lines remind us of the different ways human life unfolds—some value time and achieve greatness, while others waste it. Thus, the worth of time depends on how we spend it.

G'AFUR
G'ULOM
1903-1966

There are things in a person's life whose value we only realize after losing them. Time is one such invaluable blessing. The poem "Time" by the well-known Uzbek writer and poet G'afur G'ulom expresses this truth with deep, heartfelt words. Written in 1936, this poem makes the reader pause for a moment, helping them feel the immeasurable worth of every moment, every minute, even every blink of an eye.

In the opening lines of the poem, the author confronts us with the fleeting nature of life: "Compare the time that passes until the bud blooms,

To the lifespan of a butterfly." Through these lines, we understand how short and fragile human life is. In other words, time is not merely a flow of seconds, but an opportunity to create, to feel, and to live. Every moment, as the poet says, is a "golden pebble," and each time it comes, it creates new worlds.

While reading these lines in the poem, we realize that we should view time not only as a fleeting event but also as a source of cre-

ativity and labor: "Some are born, grow, live, and pass away in half an hour." These lines remind us of the different ways human life unfolds—some value time and achieve greatness, while others waste it. Thus, the worth of time depends on how we spend it.

One of the most striking features of G'afur G'ulom's poem is the aesthetic beauty of each moment. For instance, in the line "A young man is captured by the girl's eyes..." we feel how an emotion experienced in a single moment can become a memorable memory for a lifetime. This is about human love and the fleeting yet beautiful moments of life itself.

Moreover, the poem contains historical and social meaning. The poet recalls the great moments in human history with the lines "A victory wreath over the Reichstag, The arrow of justice aimed at oppression." It reminds us that in just "three seconds," the fate of an entire nation can change. Thus, a single second can carry the weight of an entire century. This idea reflects that time

has not only personal but also historical significance.

At the end of the poem, the author turns to life, labor, and love with an appeal: "Every moment is as long as a lifetime, The destinies of centuries are decided in moments." These lines urge people to value time and direct it towards goodness, creativity, and constructive action. In the words of G'afur G'ulom, every moment is an opportunity to create a monument and a reason to give meaning to life.

Indeed, while carrying out the promotion of G'afur G'ulom's life and work to the 6th-grade students of School No. 289 in the Shayxontohur district, I paid particular attention to the poet's poem 'Time' and wanted to know the students' thoughts on the role of time in our lives. As I recited the poem expressively, I observed them trying to grasp its essence and getting lost in thought. When I asked them about their thoughts, they remained silent for a moment. After that, everyone shared their opinion. Indeed, in the moments that may seem insignifi-

cant to us, countless people are born into this world, and countless others pass away... At the end of the reflections, I asked them this question: 'If you could, for how much money would you sell an hour of your time?' However, except for one student in the class, everyone said they would not want to sell even a single minute.

In conclusion, we can say that the poem "Time" by G'afur G'ulom is not only about the relentless movement of the clock hands, but also about life, humanity, happiness, labor, and love. It seems as if the poet reminds us of one truth: time cannot be stopped, but filling it with meaning is in our own hands. Every minute is an opportunity, and every opportunity is a gift of life.

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