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P. 12. President William Ruto has urged political parties in Kenya to take a leaf from the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), commending its ability to rise above personality, regional, and tribal politics over the past 20 years.

Succession Tensions Rock ODM As 2027 Looms

 The Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) marked its 20th anniversary in Mombasa with celebrations that were supposed to honor its legacy and chart a path forward. Instead, the event exposed deep divisions within the party, laying bare the rift over whether to support President William Ruto's second-term bid or to go it alone and field a presidential candidate in the 2027 General Election. The absence of Raila Odinga, who passed on earlier this year, loomed heavily over the gathering, with his memory invoked by both sides of the debate as they sought legitimacy for their positions.



Oburu Oginga reacts after Winnie Odinga seemed to question his ability to steer ODM

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Thousands At Pastor Dorcas Rigathi’s Ordination Ceremony

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Thousands of Christians, United Opposition leaders and Supporters on Saturday graced the ordination of Pastor Dorcas Rigathi to a Reverend. The colourful event took place at Wamunyoro at the foot of mount Kenya in Mathira constituency. Hundreds of clergy from diverse denominations took part in the event. United Opposition leaders, led by their host Rigathi Gachagua affirmed their commitment to remain focused in their quest to make President William Ruto a one term occupant of State House. These included Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, Eugene Wamalwa, Dr. Fred Matiang’i, Mithika Linturi and Cleophas Malala.



Editor's Desk

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Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson

Our Contacts
P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262
Editorial Desk: editorial@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke,
News Desk: news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Web:** www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The journey to elevate Kenyan tea into the global spotlight continues, with last week’s focus on Kiru and Gatanga Tea Factories, which are key sites in the ongoing feasibility study supported by AFD France and the French Embassy in Kenya. As part of exploring Geographical Indication (GI) for teas produced along the Aberdare ranges in Muranga County, the team visited the two factories to assess origin-linked attributes and understand how regional characteristics influence tea quality and identity. During the visit, the team engaged with managers and stakeholders to gain deeper insights into the distinctive features of teas from these regions and to explore opportunities for GI certification, collective trademark registration, and market positioning strategies aimed at strengthening Kenya’s presence in premium global tea markets.



Government Spokesman Isaac Mwaura open the World Dwarfism Awareness Day 2025 under the theme ‘Celebrating pride in disability’. Stakeholders had a procession before gathering to shine a light on the challenges faced by people living with dwarfism and to amplify their voices in our fight for a more inclusive society. Mwaura noted that from medical access to employment opportunities, people with dwarfism continue to face barriers that hinder their full participation in society. Members gave out powerful stories of determination, resilience, and pride with Mwaura reminding them that human beings were all created in diversity to improve the expansion of humanity. He also encouraged the Persons Luvving with Disabilities to apply for NYOTA funds given the age requirement is for the youth up to 35 years unlike others that is at 29 years for startups funding and business advancement. Some of the stakeholders present were; Boys and Men with Disabilities Kenya, Gifted Community Kenya, National Council for People with Disabilities, Kenya Airways, Kenya Society of the Blind and Sight Savers.



More than 160,000 coffee seedlings were last week distributed to farmers in Meru county in the initiative aimed at reviving the sector through Cooperatives Programme with the support of New KPCU. The event was officially led by the Principal Secretary, State Department for Co-operatives, Mr. Patrick Kilemi who reaffirmed the government’s commitment to strengthening farmer institutions and boosting coffee production. Also present were area governor Isaac Mutuma and his Deputy Linda Kiome who received the seedlings on behalf of the farmers. This initiative brings farmers closer to among other things; Increased productivity, Access to certified, disease-free seedlings, Lower cost of farm establishment and Stronger cooperative structures.



The Federation of Women Lawyers (Fida-Kenya) is fast-tracking the completion of an Sh80 million family mediation centre, which is expected to be operational by January next year. Head of Programmes Janet Anyango said the facility which is 70 per cent complete will provide an alternative justice pathway for families seeking faster, affordable and dignified dispute resolution, particularly for women and girls who often struggle with costly and lengthy court processes. She added that the centre will also support virtual mediation sessions from any part of the world, enhancing access to justice for women and girls across the country.



The government’s efforts to ease regulations, reduce taxes, and lower power tariffs at the expansive Naivasha Special Economic Zone have attracted 19 investors who have already begun operations. Located in Mai Mahiu near the Inland Container Depot, the zone has been allocated over 6,000 acres to accommodate the growing number of investors seeking land for their projects. The Naivasha facility is one of 38 special economic zones across the country where the government aims to boost local investments, reduce import bills, and create job opportunities for Kenyans. During a tour of the facility last Friday, CS for Trade and Investment Lee Kinyanjui, accompanied by Nakuru County Chief Executive Member for Lands John Kihagi, engaged with investors to assess progress and opportunities at the zone.

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS

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United Opposition Endorses DP Candidate For Mbeere North By-Election, Urges Residents To Stand Against Intimidation

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Drawing parallels with the 1994 Kipipiri by-election, Gachagua urged Mbeere North voters to emulate the Kipipiri electorate, who resisted pressure and elected a Democratic Party (DP) candidate despite attempts by former President Daniel Moi's government to sway the results through intimidation and incentives.
- Gachagua also criticized President William Ruto for allegedly disrespecting leaders from Mbeere North, referencing the sacking of former Cabinet Secretary Justin Muturi.

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, has urged the residents of Mbeere North in Embu County to back Newton Kariuki as their next Member of Parliament in the upcoming by-election.

Speaking during a church service at Kanyuambora A.C.K Mbeere North Diocese Church, Gachagua emphasized that Kariuki is the candidate best suited to provide effective oversight of the government.

He revealed that he had stepped down his own candidate to promote unity among the people of Mbeere.

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Gachagua also criticized President William Ruto for allegedly disrespecting leaders from Mbeere North, referencing the sacking of former Cabinet Secretary Justin Muturi.

He appealed to constituents to honour their leaders by voting for Kariuki.

The DCP leader dismissed the government-backed candidate, claiming he lacks a genuine connection with Mbeere North residents and questioned his commitment to representing the constituency.

Gachagua condemned the use of intimidation and force to disrupt political gatherings, stressing that democracy requires the will of the majority to prevail and all voices to be heard.

Accompanied by other unites opposi-



United Opposition leaders at ACK, Kanyuambora church yesterday. Photos/Courtesy.

tion leaders including Kalonzo Musyoka, Eugene Wamalwa, Lenny Kivuti, and Justin Muturi, Gachagua reiterated calls for unity and responsible voting, urging residents to resist undue influence.

Later, the team conducted an extensive meet-the-people campaign trail in the constituency, encouraging support for the United Opposition candidate.

They framed the by-election as a rehearsal for the 2027 General Elections, highlighting the importance of a decisive and informed electorate.



United Opposition leaders addressing Mbeere North residents yesterday.

The

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10th

*Anniversary
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CS Kagwe Calls For Long-Term Leadership To Spur Development

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has appealed to political leaders in Central Kenya to give room for sustained leadership, arguing that long-term leadership breeds stability, nurtures merit-based governance, and enables development planning that transcends electoral cycles.

Speaking at Ihwagi Secondary School in Mathira constituency, Nyeri County while flagging off two bulk milk coolers; one for Mia Mia Dairy Cooperative Society and another for Karatina University, Kagwe urged the region to resist the pattern of electing new leaders after every election.

“When leadership changes every five years, many good projects are abandoned,” he said, noting that continuity produces battle-tested leaders and predictable governance, both of which are vital for sustained development.

Kagwe was joined by Nyeri Senator



Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe addressing farmers in Mathira constituency on Saturday. Photos/Courtesy.

Wahome Wamatinga and MPs Eric WaMumbi (Mathira), Njoroge Wainaina (Kieni), and Wambugu Wainaina (Othaya) who all urged the locals to support President William Ruto’s administration as it meant well, with various development initiatives being undertaken in the region.

The milk cooler donation forms part of a broader KSh1.45 billion national project under the Livestock Value Chain Support Project (LVCSP),

launched by Kagwe in July 2025.

The government plans to roll out 230 bulk milk coolers across different counties in the country.

With capacities ranging from 1,000 to 10,000 litres, the coolers initiative aims to reduce post-harvest losses, improve milk storage and quality and increase national milk-chilling capacity by an estimated 475,000 litres per day.

Closely tied to the government’s



CS Mutahi Kagwe with MPs Eric Wamumbi, Wahome Wamatinga and Wambugu Wainaina on Saturday.

Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the project seeks to commercialize smallholder dairy farming and elevate farmers’ incomes.

Similar coolers have already been distributed in other counties, benefiting thousands of dairy farmers.

In addition to the coolers, Kagwe pledged continued support for dairy farmers through subsidies for vaccinations, access to sexed semen,

and affordable animal feeds, aiming to strengthen the entire dairy value chain.

By situating his call for stable, long-term leadership within the context of this major dairy-sector investment, Kagwe underscored how economic infrastructure and good governance go hand in hand, especially in rural, agrarian regions.

Kindiki Urges Political Leaders To Tone Down Rhetoric, Pledges Development

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has called on political leaders to exercise restraint in their public statements, warning that inflammatory rhetoric risks undermining the progress made toward national cohesion.

Speaking during a church service at the ACK Diocese in Kapsabet, Nandi County, yesterday, Kindiki emphasized the importance of responsible leadership in sustaining unity across the country.

“I am requesting all the political leaders to be cautious on how they talk so they don’t harm the progress made in bringing the country together,” he said.

The Deputy President affirmed the administration’s commitment to equitable development across all regions, regardless of political or ethnic

affiliations, and credited President William Ruto with fostering inclusivity.

“The President has ensured a united country. He has made sure every part of the country is wholly included in the government’s development agenda without discriminating against any for their political, religious or regional affiliations,” said Kindiki.

Kindiki, who has been entrusted with overseeing key reform areas, pledged to intensify follow-up on development projects to ensure all government promises are fulfilled.

“We are rolling out a robust development programme on roads, electricity, and markets. As the DP, I am working with the CSs and PSs to ensure the President’s directives are implemented. I will follow up all the promises and ensure they are implemented in Nandi County and everywhere in this country,” he noted.

On the persistent issue of low tea bonuses a major concern for farm-



ers in the tea-rich regions of the Rift Valley, Kindiki said the President had delegated agriculture reform oversight to his office.

“We will find a lasting solution to the low tea bonuses. Implementation of Agriculture reforms have been delegated to me by the President. I have

taken up the issue. I will hold a meeting with leaders from the West of Rift to find a solution to this issue,” he pledged.

The Deputy President stressed that the executive would remain focused on performance and supporting the President’s agenda.

“We remain focused on doing the right thing, building our country, accounting for our time in office and supporting our President who is the vision carrier of our country’s unity. We must support him to deliver and everything else will fall in place in the days to come,” he said.

ODM At Crossroads: Raila's Troops Divided On Future Game Plan

By: Maria Nekesa
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Mining Cabinet Secretary Hassan Joho, once a fierce critic of government, has now emerged as a leading voice for cooperation with Ruto's broad-based administration. His message to the delegates was clear: ODM should embrace pragmatism and avoid returning to the politics of confrontation. "Sisi haturudi kwa maandamano... Raila alituwacha kwa broad-based government... haturudi kutupa mawe," Joho declared, signaling a shift toward accommodation. His stance was echoed by allies who believe ODM must secure influence within government rather than risk isolation.
- But Siaya Governor James Orengo, a veteran of ODM's street battles, rejected Joho's position outright. In fiery remarks, he insisted that ODM must remain independent and prepare to challenge Ruto head-on in 2027. "There is no way ODM can bembeleza Ruto. ODM is the party with the troops.



The Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) marked its 20th anniversary in Mombasa with celebrations that were supposed to honor its legacy and chart a path forward. Instead, the event exposed deep divisions within the party, laying bare the rift over whether to support President William Ruto's second-term bid or to go it alone and field a presidential candidate in the 2027 General Election. The absence of Raila Odinga, who passed on earlier this year, loomed heavily over the gathering, with his memory invoked by both sides of the debate as they sought legitimacy for their positions.

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But Siaya Governor James Orengo, a veteran of ODM's street battles, rejected Joho's position outright. In fiery remarks, he insisted that ODM must remain independent and prepare to challenge Ruto head-on in 2027. "There is no way ODM can bembeleza Ruto. ODM is the party

with the troops. I am not a coward to mention that we will not sell our party... why do we have cowards in this party? Who said ODM will not front a presidential candidate? Wale wanasema ODM will not have a presidential candidate, hiyo ni upumbavu sana. Let our party not go to the dogs... kama mna uoga, msiuze uoga kwetu... I'm prepared to go back to the streets," Orengo thundered, drawing applause from delegates who still see ODM as the vanguard of resistance.

Orengo's defiance found support from Secretary General Edwin Sifuna, who reminded members that Raila's public pronouncements should guide the party, not whispered claims of private conversations. "Sasa kila mtu anasema aliongea na Raila kisiri, sasa si tufuate ile Baba alisema mbele yetu wote?" Sifuna posed, underscoring the need for collective discipline. Winnie Odinga, Raila's daughter, added her voice, warning against boardroom deals that undermine ODM's principles. "You cannot come up with boardroom decisions... ODM has its principles and fundamentals," she said, reflecting the sentiment of younger members who want the party to remain true to its activist roots.

The succession question has further complicated matters. Oburu Odinga, Raila's elder brother, was formally endorsed as ODM's new party leader during the anniversary, a move that was meant to stabilize the party but has instead intensified factionalism. While Oburu carries

the Odinga name, questions remain about whether he can command the same national stature and charisma that Raila embodied. His leadership is already being tested by the competing camps, with Joho and Orengo pulling in opposite directions.

Millie Odhiambo, a vocal ODM MP, urged unity but cautioned against abandoning the party's identity. James Orengo and Anyang' Nyong'o, both long-time stalwarts, emphasized that ODM's strength lies in its grassroots mobilization, not elite bargains. Meanwhile, Simba Arati, the Deputy Party Leader, attempted to strike a middle ground, saying ODM would remain broad-based until 2027 but would eventually field its own candidate. "Sisi tuko broad-based hadi 2027, hapo mbele tuta field candidate and we will only work with friends of ODM," Arati said, reflecting the balancing act within the party.

President Ruto's shadow loomed large over the celebrations. His overtures to ODM figures have been interpreted by critics as attempts to weaken the opposition and consolidate his own power. The divisions in Mombasa seemed to confirm that strategy is bearing fruit, with Joho and his allies leaning toward cooperation while Orengo's camp vows resistance. The clash between Joho and Abdiswamwad, another ODM figure, further highlighted the intensity of internal wars, with accusations of betrayal and cowardice flying across the floor.

The anniversary was meant to

celebrate ODM's journey from its founding days of resistance to its current role in national politics. Instead, it became a stage for competing visions of the future. The youth, women, and persons living with disability who attended were assured that ODM would continue to advocate for their rights, but the leadership wrangles overshadowed those commitments.

As ODM turns 20, the question of "Which way, ODM?" has never been more urgent. With Raila gone, the party must decide whether to embrace cooperation with Ruto, reinvent itself under Oburu Odinga, or rally behind a new generation of leaders like Winnie Odinga and Edwin Sifuna. The stakes are high: unity could position ODM as a formidable force in 2027, while division could consign it to irrelevance.

The echoes from Mombasa were unmistakable. ODM is at a crossroads, torn between pragmatism and principle, between continuity and renewal. The battles between Joho and Orengo, the sentiments of Winnie Odinga, the leadership of Oburu, and the interference of President Ruto all point to a party struggling to define itself in a post-Raila era. Whether ODM emerges stronger or fractured will depend on how it navigates these storms in the months ahead.

Mudavadi Feted With Honorary ODM Certificate At ODM Founders Dinner

By: Jacob Ng'etich
@themtkenyatimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi was feted with honorary ODM Certificate at a colourful founders' dinner.

He was among hundreds who gathered in Mombasa to celebrate 20 years of ODM, and a reunion of the founding members of the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), in a glamorous evening that rekindled the spirit and solidarity of the Chungwa family.

Mudavadi said they used the moments to reflect on the ODM journey from the 2005 referendum campaigns to the emergence of a movement that has shaped Kenya's politics for two decades.

"The absence of the late Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga was deeply felt, reminding us of a leader whose courage, sacrifice, and unwavering patriotism steadied our nation through de-

fining moments," said Mudavadi. PCS reflected on Raila's selflessness, recalling how he consistently chose Kenya first.

"During the constitution-making process, he stepped back from the push for a parliamentary system but firmly safeguarded the inclusion of devolution, a choice that transformed our governance structure," said Mudavadi.

He said Raila in his quest for power respected constitutionalism, always wanting to ensure that any political decisions were grounded on the constitution.

"When we first attended the Kofi Annan talks, Raila ensured that it went through parliament where he ensured that it was adopted by the House so that it would have legal backing," said Mudavadi.

He commended ODM's leadership for nurturing a party that has endured where many others have faded.

With ODM now in its maturity stage, he encouraged the leadership to champion pro-people programmes,



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi receiving a certificate from President William Ruto. Photo/Courtesy.

advance progressive policies, and strengthen unity through constant consultation.

"The Orange spirit remains vibrant, and the journey ahead is filled with

promise," said Mudavadi.

The meeting brought together former ODM founders, and it's current leaders.

During the event, the party gave Dr.

Mudavadi, alongside President Ruto, and former Minister Henry Kosgey honorary certificate for their founding role of the party.



Kieni Philanthropist Champions Water, Youth And Community Development

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- From addressing water shortages to youth empowerment and sports development, Choromai’s visits highlighted his commitment to sustainable development and community well-being.
- Over the weekend, Choromai had lined up several initiatives in the two sub-counties that form Kieni Constituency, covering about 52 per cent of Nyeri county’s area.
- He met met with grassroots leaders in Mweiga to discuss pressing issues in the area.
- With water scarcity remaining a major challenge and Choromai outlined his comprehensive water project plan aimed at transforming water access in the constituency.
- The plan includes drilling medium-sized dams for Kimunyuru and Embaringo residents and constructing an eight-acre dam at Watuka to supply water to Sangare residents, ensuring a reliable water supply for the region.

Residents of Nyeri’s Kieni Constituency have been experiencing events of hope and empowerment as a local philanthropist and community leader John Kariuki Choromai engages them in a series of development initiatives across the vast area.

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“I am committed to ensuring certainty in farming in Kieni by providing access to local and international markets for our produce,” Choromai assured the leaders.

“We will also create industries for value addition and generate employment opportunities for our youth both locally and internationally.”

He later visited Gichigo in the Endarasha/Mwiyo area, where residents have endured prolonged water shortages. To ease the situation and support irrigation, he donated four rolls of 3-inch HDPE pipes (400 metres) along with three connectors.

“This support will significantly improve water access for households and farmers, boosting agricultural productivity and livelihoods in the area,” he noted.

He also paid a visit to Watuka, where he empowered over 100 youths from the New Gen Watuka Youth Group with poultry farming inputs. Each youth received 20 one-month-old chicks and 10kg of starter feed to kickstart small-scale poultry enterprises.

The youth group has been actively engaged in various social and economic initiatives, and Choromai encouraged them to remain focused on positive and constructive activities.

At Mbiriri Grounds, Choromai turned his attention to sports development where he provided brand-new



John Kariuki Choromai handing over some chicks to Kieni Constituency residents.



Choromai with some beneficiaries of water projects materials. Photos/Courtesy.

uniforms and footballs teams participating in County and Sub-County leagues, benefiting 22 teams from Kieni East and West Sub-Counties.

“This is to encourage our youth to remain committed to productive activities while nurturing their talents,” he said as he urged the young athletes to form groups that can engage in social and economic initiatives to strengthen community development.

Yesterday, Choromai’s day also included visits to several churches. He attended worship at J.C.C. Mount of Olives (Mweiga) led by Rev. Jeff, celebrated Holy Mass at Mweiga Catholic Church with Father Njigua, and participated in a fellowship at PCEA Ngonde Church, Kiganjo Parish where he encouraged congregants to continue praying and supporting government efforts to improve the lives of all citizens.



The philanthropist during a consultative meeting with grassroots leaders.

Ruto Urges Political Parties To Learn From ODM's 20-Year Resilience

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking at the ODM Founders Dinner during the party's three-day, 20th anniversary celebrations in Mombasa County, President Ruto said: "I have come here to celebrate ODM as a strong party, not a briefcase party, not a regional party, but a national party."
- He noted that strong national political parties are the foundation of democracy, without which there cannot be a strong democratic state.
- The President highlighted that ODM's success demonstrates it is possible to rise above tribalism and build a movement rooted in ideology. He lauded the late former Prime Minister and founding party leader, Raila Odinga, for putting Kenya's interests above politics, saying, "Raila Odinga was not a tribalist. He believed in Kenya. He always extended his wings to cover as many people as possible."

President William Ruto has urged political parties in Kenya to take a leaf from the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), commending its ability to rise above personality, regional, and tribal politics over the past 20 years.

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President Ruto called on ODM leaders to uphold the party's legacy, urging them not to allow internal disagreements to lead to disintegration. He appealed for continued collaboration with the broad-based government, noting that the manifestos of the ruling United Democratic Alliance (UDA) and ODM are about 80 percent similar.

"We have the same agenda. Let us therefore forge forward," he said.

ODM leaders affirmed their commitment to working with the government.

Party Leader Oburu Oginga said the party aims to implement policies through government participation rather than street protests. "All political parties aspire to be in government. Our party is not excluded. Our party is fighting to be in government in the broad-based arrangement now and in future, as ODM or in coalition with other political parties," he said.

National Assembly Minority Leader Junet Mohammed added, "We want to be in power; we do not want to be in the streets."

Present at the event were ODM Party Leader Oburu Oginga, Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, deputy party leaders Abdulswamad Sheriff Nassir and Simba Arati, who are governors of Mombasa and Kisii respectively, Vihiga Senator Godfrey Otsi, Governors Anyang' Nyong'o (Kisumu) and Gladys Wanga (Homa Bay), and former ODM deputy leaders now Cabinet Secretaries Ali Hassan Joho (Mining and Blue Economy)



President William Ruto, ODM officials and Raila Odinga Junior cutting a cake to mark the celebrations.

and Wycliffe Oparanya (Cooperatives and MSMEs).

Treasury CS John Mbadi and founding ODM Chairman Henry Kosgey were also present.

Several speakers reminded members of ODM's roots and resilience. Governor Nyong'o said the party's journey began in 2005 during the fight against a flawed constitution, injustice, and unfair governance, driven by the vision of a people-centered government. Governor Wanga highlighted the role of coalitions such as CORD (2013), NASA (2017), and Azimio la Umoja (2022) in ensuring ODM's survival and success, emphasizing the need to continue building partnerships with like-minded allies.

Treasury CS Mbadi and Mr Joho urged party members to honour Raila Odinga's legacy of dialogue and collaboration, cautioning against street protests. "Dialogue is the ODM way. Raila Odinga worked with Presidents Moi, Kibaki, Uhuru, and even President Ruto to achieve progress," Mbadi said.

Kosgey praised the party's 20-year resilience, calling it a remarkable achievement and urging members to stay united. Governor Wanga also stressed that unity is key if the party is to survive and thrive over the next 20 years.

As ODM marks two decades, President Ruto and party leaders underscored unity, political tolerance, cooperation, and national development as the guiding principles for the party's next chapter.



President William Ruto and Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi during the event on Saturday night. Photos/Courtesy.

Govt Unveils National Platform To Unify Software, AI Ecosystem

By: Duncan Sikoyo
@themtkenyatimes

The government has unveiled a national platform designed to unify the country's rapidly expanding software and artificial intelligence (AI) industry under a single ecosystem. The platform bringing developers, technological companies and government agencies into a single collaborative ecosystem for the first time. The initiative was launched during the inaugural Software Industry Summit, where Principal Secretary for ICT and the Digital Economy, Eng. John Tanui, said the platform emerged from extensive consultations with industry stakeholders. He noted that players across the sector had consistently identified the lack of a central convening space as a major impediment to growth, innovation and strategic collaboration. "We realised that although other sectors like agriculture have structured collaboration frameworks, the software and AI industry had none," the PS said. "Our goal is to bring the en-

tire ecosystem together so that Kenya can be ranked globally in technology the same way we are in athletics." The summit attracted innovators from across the country, among them Askari Cloud, a developer of cloud-based security solutions. The Askari Cloud, Co-founder and CEO Denis Mwebia said the company attended the forum to explore partnerships with security firms and county governments, particularly in Uasin Gishu. Mwebia divulged that Askari Cloud aims to support authorities in crime mapping and incident response through digitized guard management systems. He said, "Most of the security companies in Kenya still operate manually, relying on books and WhatsApp." Adding that, "Our platform allows guards to check in digitally, report incidents via a mobile app, and provide real-time data to security managers and the National Police Service." He revealed that the firm targets at least 50,000 guards using its platform by the end of 2026. The summit also featured Olympic champion Eliud Kipchoge as the key-



Stakeholders during the launching process.

note speaker. Olympic King highlighted the growing role of technology in sports, particularly as climate change increasingly affects training and competition. Kipchoge said AI and data tools are transforming athlete monitoring, performance analytics and event logistics.

"If we do not adapt, we risk losing the joy and fairness that sport brings," he warned, urging stronger investment in innovation across African athletics. The three-day Kenya Software and AI Summit, which kicked off from Monday to Wednesday, was co-hosted by the ICT Authority in partnership with the Ministry of Information,

Communication and the Digital Economy in Uasin Gishu County. Organisers said the summit will now be held annually, positioning Kenya as a hub for software and AI development in Africa.

COTU Wants Foreign Investor Filmed Assaulting Kenyan Worker Deported

By: Phidel Kizito
@themtkenyatimes

The Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU) has demanded the immediate deportation of a Chinese manager filmed assaulting a Kenyan worker at the TCM Mabati Factory in Eldoret, escalating pressure on the government to crack down on alleged labour abuses by foreign investors. COTU Secretary General Francis Atwoli, in a letter to Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen, said the viral video—which shows the man slapping and shoving a Kenyan employee—reflects a worsening pattern of mistreatment of local workers in some foreign-run factories. "The Government of Kenya must guarantee the dignity of Kenyans working in various locally based foreign investments," Atwoli said. "We also call upon you to deport

other rogue Chinese investors, including those running some entities in EPZs who force Kenyans to sing Chinese songs." COTU noted that the assault incident mirrors another case reported last week involving a Chinese investor at an Export Processing Zone (EPZ) factory, accused of forcing workers to sing Chinese songs "before, during, and after work" and verbally abusing union officials. In a separate letter to Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, COTU detailed allegations against the Chinese investor identified as Xiao Jianzhoun, accusing him of widespread labour violations, including excessively long working hours without pay, intimidation, denial of toilet breaks, and creating "an environment of psychological and physical distress." The federation argued that such cases undermine Kenya's investment climate and violate both national labour laws and international standards governing foreign-owned enterprises operating locally. Atwoli warned that failure to act decisively would amount to "a betrayal of the trust Kenyan workers have placed in your Ministry and the Government at large," urging stricter enforcement, inspections, and compliance measures across enterprises



COTU Secretary General Francis Atwoli/COTU

run by foreign nationals. COTU has called on both the Interior Ministry and the Ministry of Labour to urgently intervene and ensure that all foreign investors operating in Kenya "respect the dignity, rights, and sovereignty of Kenyan workers."

The developments come in the wake of a viral video showing the assault of a Kenyan worker, which continues to draw condemnation from across the country and renewed calls for his deportation.

Trying To Study Everything Just Before The Exam



Trying to study everything just before
the exam

This practice is only taking place in
most places,
Be it child or adult, wasting all time
simply,
and in the eleventh hour

Preparing in a hurry-burry,
Ultimately nothing stays in mind.
Poor mind couldn't store it all—
All data sorted in mind, disc is erased.

Even if we study all just before exam,
There is no use at all.
Cramming all night,
Drinking coffee and tea,

Books piled up like a mountain,
Memorizing formulae, data, will not
work.
Don't heat up brain,
Just breathe cool.

Start study from early stage
To achieve success

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

Eternally Shining



"LITTLE STARS"

The very first teacher who takes the
tiny hands of children just stepping
into school, teaches them the alphabet,
and helps them distinguish black from
white, will always remain a precious and
respected figure in our eyes.

Muhayyo Nekova, the leader of
the "School Preparation" circle at the
"Barkamol Avlod" Children's School in

Romitan district, is also among those
teachers who have dedicated many years
to introducing letters to their students
and serving as an exemplary educator.

The members of the "School
Preparation" circle, led by the esteemed
teacher, proudly participated and won
honorable places in the nationwide
online contest "LITTLE STARS" under
the nomination "Whose handwriting is
beautiful?"

Our wish is that these little stars,
who have learned to write with their tiny
hands and can already compete with
their beautiful handwriting, continue to
shine brightly in the vast blue sky in the
future!

Methodologist of "Barkamol Avlod"
Children's School,
Romitan district, Bukhara region: Zilola
Saidova

Youth Diplomacy



In the 21st century, diplomacy is no
longer limited to politicians in suits or
formal meetings behind closed doors.
A new generation of diplomats has
emerged — young students, activists,
and innovators who are reshaping global
understanding through education,
communication, and cultural exchange.
For decades, Central Asia was seen by
the world as a distant and silent region
— rich in history but disconnected from
global narratives. Today, that perception
is changing. Thousands of young
people from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan,
Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan
are studying abroad, participating in
international forums, and collaborating
on global projects. They speak multiple
languages, understand cross-cultural
communication, and use social media
to share their region's stories. These
students are not only learning from the
world — they are also teaching the world
about Central Asia's values: hospitality,
friendship, and respect for diversity. They
are becoming cultural ambassadors who
replace stereotypes with understanding.
Education is the most powerful form of
diplomacy. Programs like El-Yurt Umid in
Uzbekistan, Bolashak in Kazakhstan, and
various exchange initiatives are giving
young people opportunities to study in
world-class universities. Upon returning
home, they bring not only knowledge but
also new ways of thinking — tolerance,
innovation, and global awareness.

Uzbek students, for instance, play an
increasingly active role in international
conferences on climate change, gender
equality, and sustainable development.
Their participation ensures that Central
Asia's voice is heard in solving global
problems. Every presentation, project, or
dialogue becomes a small but meaningful
act of diplomacy — one that builds
bridges between nations.

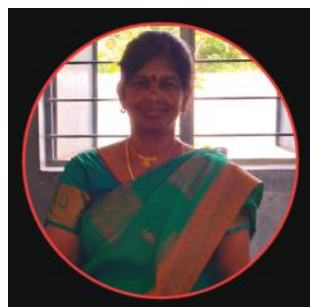
Youth diplomacy also flourishes through
cultural interaction. From international
festivals in Samarkand and Tashkent to
student exchanges in Paris, Tokyo, or
Ankara, young people are connecting the
world through music, art, and storytelling.
Such exchanges show that culture can
achieve what politics sometimes cannot:
genuine human connection.

The internet has given youth diplomacy
a powerful new dimension. Central
Asian students are increasingly active on
platforms like Instagram, YouTube, and
LinkedIn — not for entertainment only,
but to share ideas, lead discussions, and
collaborate on global initiatives. Through
blogs, podcasts, and online communities,
young people are creating a new
image of their countries — progressive,
innovative, and open-minded. However,
youth diplomacy also faces challenges.
Limited financial resources, unequal
access to global programs, and language
barriers still prevent many talented
students from participating fully. In some
cases, traditional views underestimate
the influence of young voices in decision-
making processes. Despite these
challenges, the determination of young
Central Asians is inspiring. They are
proving that diplomacy is not only about
agreements between states but also
about understanding between hearts.
Each young person who studies abroad,
participates in a UN event, or leads a
cultural project contributes to a peaceful
and connected world. This generation
believes that dialogue is stronger than
division. Their mission is not to change
the world through force, but to improve
it through friendship, empathy, and
cooperation. Youth diplomacy is the
new Silk Road — a network of minds
and ideas that connects people across
continents. In this journey, Central Asian
students stand as bright ambassadors
of tolerance and innovation. They are
showing that peace is not a distant
dream, but a daily effort built on respect
and communication.

Uzbekistan, with its ancient spirit of
hospitality and its modern generation of
globally-minded youth, is at the heart
of this transformation. The bridges they
are building today — through education,
culture, and technology — will shape the
world of tomorrow.

Xo'jyozova Dildora
Uzbekistan

Parents, Know Your Children



Morals fade and values fall,
When no one guides them through it
all.

Sit beside them, hear their voice,
Help them make the wiser choice.
Give them time, a gentle ear—
Your presence is what they hold dear.

Know their dreams, their little fears,
Their hidden pain, their silent tears.
For children bloom with care and grace,
When parents walk with them every
place.

So hold their hands, lead them strong,
Teach them right, correct the wrong.
A loving home, a guiding heart—
That's where a bright future starts.

— Creative Writer V. JAYANTHI Graduate
Teacher
PUMS KONGANANCHERRY
CHENGALPATTU DISTRICT

In the rush of every day,
Time just slips and fades away.
Parents busy, running fast,
Forget the moments that should last.

Doctor, engineer, lawyer too,
No matter what the parents do—
A child needs love, a guiding light,
Someone to show what's wrong and
right.

Fashion pulls them here and there,
Trends that trap them everywhere.

Live In The Moment

We dwell in the past,
We feel stressed.
We imagine our future,
We feel scared.

We worry about the present moments;
Most of us actually fret about a mirage
That never really happens.

Life moves gently as destined.
The river flows and stays clear,
Until a stone is dropped in it.

Let us be serene and clear.
Hold on to faith and patience.
Say goodbye to worries,
And live in the moment at hand.



KUMARESWARI S
Graduate Teacher -English
VKGHSS AYYANKALIPALAYAM
TIRUPPUR TAMILNADU

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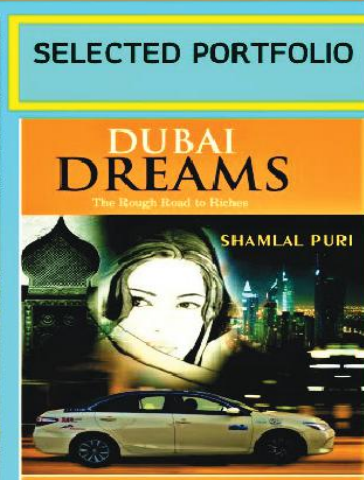
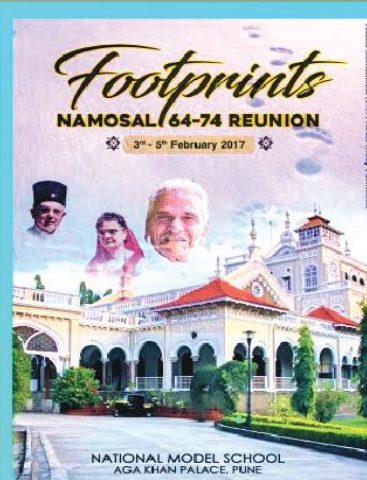
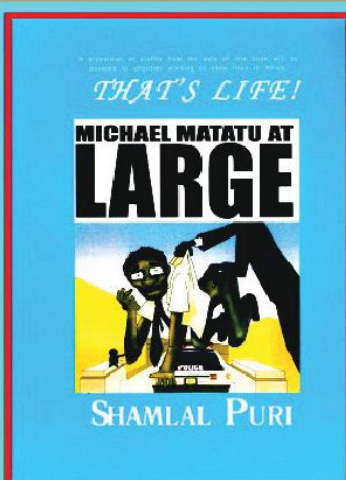
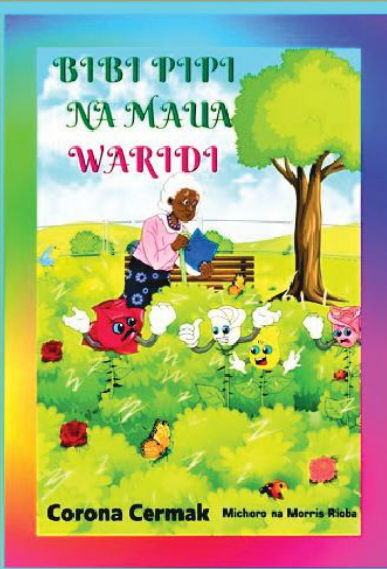
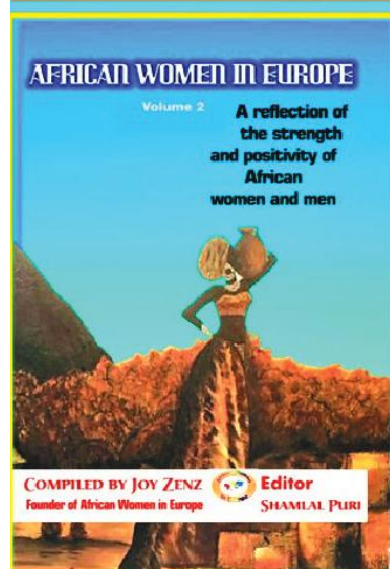
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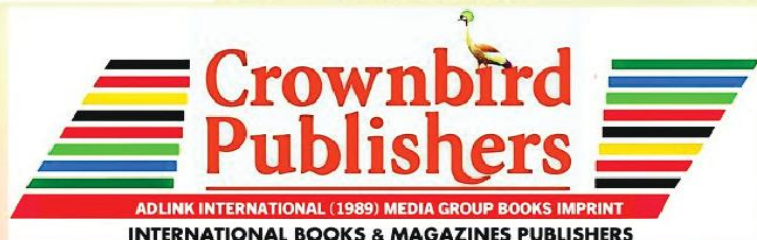
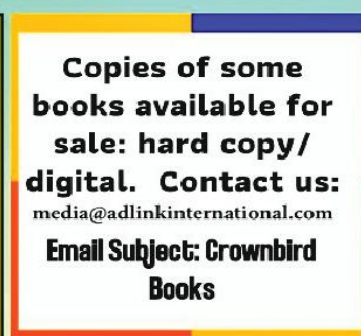
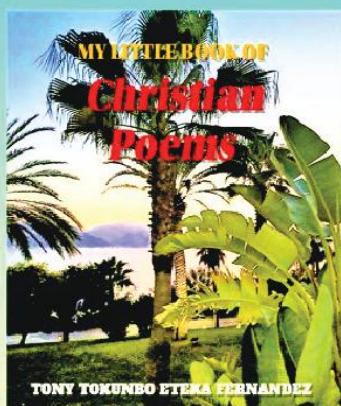
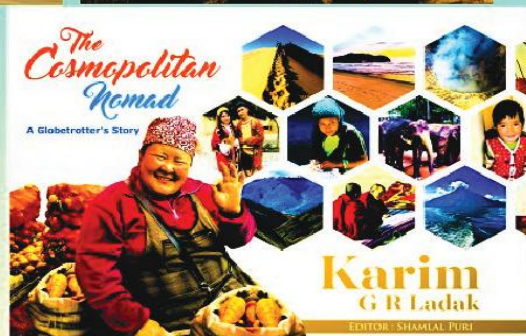
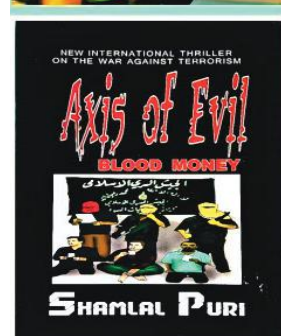
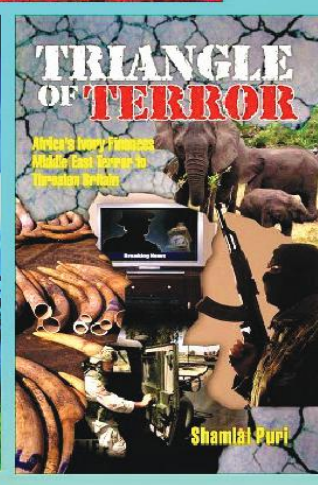
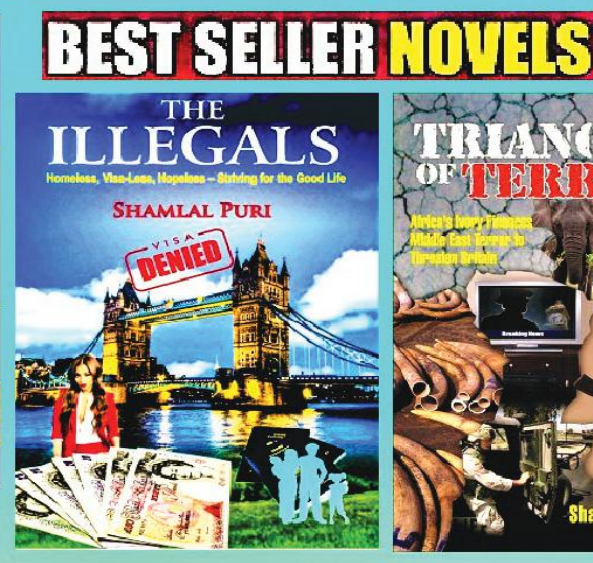
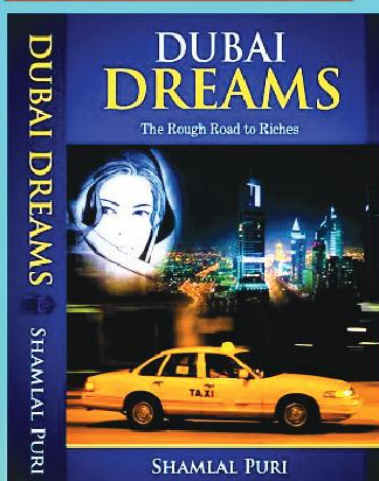
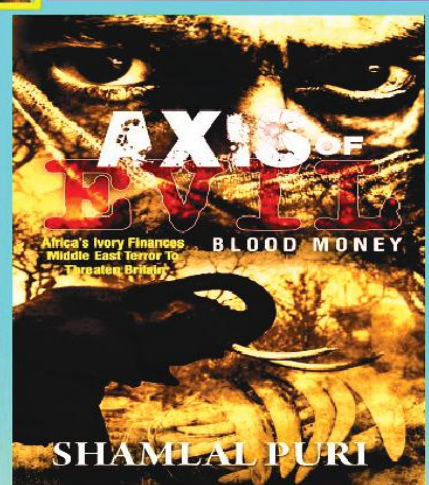
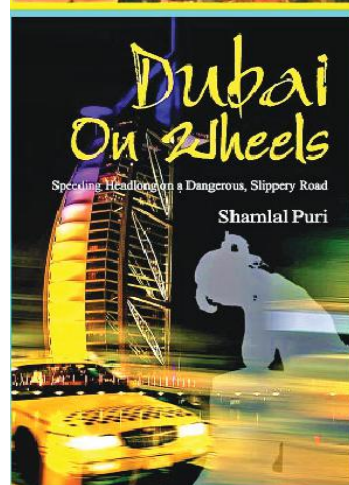
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POLITICAL

When The Lion Wakes Inside The Tent: ODM's Post-Baba Rebellion And Ruto's Political Miscalculation

By: Martin Masinde
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

• President William Ruto must be realising, perhaps too late, that he misread the chemistry of the moment. When he declared casually that "ODM shall be in government," he imagined himself as the generous host inviting a humbled guest into his tent. He expected gratitude, compliance, and political quiet. What he did not expect was that the guest would enter the tent not to sit but to rise and now threatens to become the lion inside the tent.

• ODM's response, delivered with the clarity of a movement rediscovering its mission, has stunned the political class. From Mombasa, the message was unmistakable. James Orengo announced that ODM will not be in government as passengers but as drivers.



Some political moments whisper before they roar. Others erupt with the force of a continent shifting. What we have witnessed since the burial of Raila Odinga belongs to the latter category. A sudden, seismic reawakening of ODM that has redrawn Kenya's 2027 battlefield overnight. For a party that many assumed was entering retirement mode, the post-Baba moment has proven instead to be a rebirth, a reminder that ODM remains one of the most potent political organisms this country has ever produced. President William Ruto must be realising, perhaps too late, that he misread the chemistry of the moment. When he declared casually that "ODM shall be in government," he imagined himself as the generous host inviting a humbled guest into his tent. He expected gratitude, compliance, and political quiet. What he did not expect was that the guest would enter the tent not to sit but to rise and now threatens to become the lion inside the tent.

ODM's response, delivered with the clarity of a movement rediscovering its mission, has stunned the political class. From Mombasa, the message was unmistakable. James Orengo announced that ODM will not be in gov-

ernment as passengers but as drivers. Oburu Oginga sharpened the point. ODM will not play second fiddle to anyone. These are not statements of courtesy; they are declarations of intent, signals that ODM views 2027 not as a negotiation but as a transition it intends to lead.

Then came the true detonator, Winnie Odinga's warning about internal betrayal. She spoke of individuals who march with ODM during the day only to negotiate its auction at night. Her words were a strike of lightning that illuminated the internal fissures long hidden under the party's public discipline. That sentence instantly became the organising slogan of the ODM base: defend the legacy, expose the sellouts, and reclaim the party.

ODM officials took that spirit and ran with it. One proclaimed that the party cannot be sold, that the sacrifices that built it cannot be traded for seats, handshakes, or dinners. A strategist went further, declaring that the future belongs to ODM and that 2027 is not up for negotiation. These sentiments are not mere bravado. They reflect a party that has rediscovered its ideological roots and moral legitimacy.

This is precisely what Ruto did not

anticipate. He expected a subdued ODM seeking accommodation. He now faces an unyielding ODM seeking power. He expected a quiet political proximity. Instead, he has unleashed a renewed political insurgency. The irony is poetic: Ruto is now experiencing what Uhuru experienced in 2018, the shock of realising that a political partner has grown too large, too ambitious, and too restless to be contained.

What is unfolding now rests on four decisive dynamics. First, ODM has anchored itself in Raila's memory, framing 2027 as a battle to protect the party's inheritance from internal opportunists and external predators. That emotional framing is politically potent; it transforms the election from a contest into a moral mission.

Second, the succession question has matured overnight. Orengo brings intellectual authority; Oburu carries historical legitimacy; Winnie channels generational energy. Together, they give ODM a leadership constellation that can reimagine the party's future without abandoning its past.

Third, Nyanza's mood has hardened into defiance. Betrayal, real or perceived, tends to forge political steel. The sense that ODM is under coor-

dinated attack has become the fuel for renewed mobilisation. This is the kind of energy that can reorganise national alliances.

Fourth, the framing of 2027 has shifted completely. ODM is no longer speaking the language of cooperation. It is speaking the language of takeover. It does not want to sit near power. It wants to become power.

For Ruto, the danger is existential. The very act meant to neutralise ODM has energised it. The tent he built has become the arena in which a lion has awakened. And once awakened, lions do not negotiate their place. They assert it.

ODM's message after Baba's burial is unambiguous:

They do not want space in the Kenya Kwanza government. They want to form the next government.

In this new landscape, 2027 is no longer a race between an incumbent and a scattered opposition. It is a confrontation between a ruling coalition struggling to control the centre and a revitalised ODM determined to claim it. And the tremors shaking the ground now are only the beginning.

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Legal Points On Buying A Property Off-Plan In Kenya



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The bedrock of a successful off-plan purchase in Kenya is comprehensive due diligence on both the developer and the project itself. This process is non-negotiable and must be led by an independent Kenyan conveyancing lawyer.
- First, the Developer's Credibility must be established. The buyer's lawyer should conduct a search at the Registrar of Companies to confirm the developer's legal registration, directorship (via a CR12 form), and corporate history. This step aims to verify that the entity is legitimate and has a stable legal standing.
- Furthermore, an investigation into their track record is crucial: reviewing completed projects for timely handover and quality of finishes and seeking information on any past or ongoing litigation concerning their projects. An experienced, financially stable developer with a verifiable portfolio poses a significantly lower risk.

The off-plan property market in Kenya presents a compelling investment proposition, primarily due to the potential for discounted pricing and substantial capital appreciation upon project completion. Buying a property off-plan means you enter into a contract to purchase a house or apartment before its construction is finished, or sometimes even before it has begun.

In simple terms: you are buying a vision based on blueprints, floor plans, and artistic impressions, not a completed physical home. You typically pay the purchase price in staggered installments over the construction period. The main appeal is often a lower purchase price and the potential for the property's value to increase by the time you receive the keys.

However, this sector carries significant legal and financial risks, evidenced by numerous cases of project delays, non-completion, and developer insolvency. To secure a credible house and protect one's investment, a rigorous legal and regulatory approach, customized for the Kenyan environment, is absolutely essential.

The bedrock of a successful off-plan purchase in Kenya is comprehensive due diligence on both the developer and the project itself. This process is non-negotiable and must be led by an independent Kenyan conveyancing lawyer. First, the Developer's Credibility must be established. The buyer's lawyer should conduct a search at the Registrar of Companies to confirm the developer's legal registration, directorship (via a CR12 form), and corporate history. This step aims to verify that the entity is legitimate and has a stable legal standing. Furthermore, an investigation into their track record is crucial: reviewing completed projects for timely handover and quality of finishes and seeking information on any past or ongoing litigation concerning their projects. An experienced, financially stable developer with a verifiable portfolio poses a significantly lower risk.

Secondly, the Project's Legal and Regulatory Compliance must be verified. This involves confirming that the developer has secured all necessary statutory approvals before commencing construction and certainly before signing the Sale Agreement. The buyer must insist on seeing copies of:

Clean Title: A Title Search must be conducted at the relevant Lands Registry to confirm the developer is the registered proprietor of the land and that there are no undisclosed encum-



brances, such as mortgages or cautions, registered against the mother title.

2. Land Use and Zoning Approvals: Verification of the approved Change of User and zoning permissions from the County Government is vital to ensure the multi-unit development is legal on that parcel of land.

3. Building and Environmental Permits: The developer must possess approved building plans from the County Government and a valid National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) license.

4. National Construction Authority (NCA) Registration: Confirmation that the project is registered with the NCA, assuring that the construction adheres to national standards. The absence of any of these is a major legal red flag that could lead to project halt or even demolition.

The Sale Agreement is the single most powerful legal tool for the buyer, and it must explicitly address the inherent risks of the off-plan model. Buyers must resist signing one-sided contracts often presented by developers and ensure the following protective clauses are included:

Payment Security (Escrow): To mitigate the risk of developer insolvency or fraud, the payment structure should ideally incorporate an Escrow Account. Payments made by the buyer should be held by a neutral third party (like the buyer's lawyer or a trusted bank) and only released to the developer upon verification by an independent Quantity Surveyor (QS) that specific construction mile-

stones have been achieved. This ties the buyer's capital release to tangible project progress.

Time and Penalties: The agreement must stipulate a fixed Completion Date and a "Long Stop Date," which is the final permissible date for completion. Crucially, it must include a clear and enforceable clause for Liquidated Damages (a pre-agreed financial penalty) payable by the developer for every day or month the handover is delayed past the contractual date. Without this penalty, the developer has little financial incentive to deliver on time.

Detailed Specifications and Misrepresentation: The contract must attach a comprehensive Schedule of Finishes and Fittings detailing the brand, quality, and colour of everything from floors to sanitary ware. This legally binds the developer to the advertised quality and provides a clear basis for legal action if the delivered unit is substandard, a common complaint in the Kenyan market.

Dealing with Encumbrances: If the project land is charged to a bank (a common practice for construction financing), the contract must include a legally binding undertaking from the developer and the bank to issue a Partial Discharge of Charge for the buyer's specific unit upon payment of the purchase price. This ensures the buyer receives a clean title, free from the developer's pre-existing debt.

The final stage involves securing the house and the title. Upon Practical Completion, the buyer must conduct a thorough Joint Inspection with the

developer to create a Snagging List of defects. The developer is legally obligated to rectify these snags before final handover.

After handover, the contract must define the Defects Liability Period (DLP), typically a period of between 6 to 12 months, during which the developer is responsible for fixing any patent (visible) or latent (hidden structural) defects that emerge. Recent Kenyan regulations have sought to strengthen protection against structural defects, highlighting the developer's responsibility here.

The final legal objective is Title Perfection. For apartment blocks, the developer must adhere to the Sectional Properties Act, 2020, which mandates the issuance of a Sectional Title to each unit owner. This is a critical protection, granting direct ownership and shared interest in common areas, replacing the less secure Sub-Lease model. The Sale Agreement must specify the timeline for the registration and issuance of this individual title deed.

By diligently verifying the developer's stability, ensuring all regulatory compliance, structuring payments via an escrow mechanism, and securing robust contractual protections regarding time and quality, the buyer maximizes their legal and financial security, moving from a mere promise to the acquisition of a credible house in the Kenyan property landscape.

The writer is a legal researcher and writer

Ramaphosa: G20 Summit To Proceed Despite U.S. Absence

By: Xinhua
@themtkenyentimes

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has reaffirmed that the upcoming Group of 20 (G20) Leaders' Meeting will proceed as planned despite the United States' decision not to participate.

Speaking in Kliptown, Johannesburg, Ramaphosa said South Africa is ready to welcome world leaders and deliver a successful meeting.

"The summit will go on. We are not going to stop because they are not here," he said, adding that most G20 leaders have confirmed their attendance.

Ramaphosa noted that U.S. President Donald Trump had withdrawn all U.S. representatives, citing alle-

gations of ill-treatment of Afrikaners and "genocide."

Stressing "boycott politics never work," Ramaphosa said, "If you boycott an event or a process, you lose because the show will go on."

The G20 Leaders' Summit is scheduled for this weekend in Johannesburg, South Africa's largest city and economic hub.

US president Donald Trump with his Vice-President JD Vance. Photo/File.



Africa CDC Confirms Marburg Virus Outbreak In Southern Ethiopia



By: Xinhua
@themtkenyentimes

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has acknowledged the confirmation by Ethiopia's Ministry of Health and the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) of a Marburg virus disease outbreak in Jinka, southern Ethiopia.

Further epidemiological investigations and laboratory analysis are underway, and the virus strain detected shows similarities to those previously iden-

tified in East Africa, according to a statement released by the Africa CDC on Saturday. The initial alert of a suspected viral hemorrhagic fever was shared with the Africa CDC on Nov. 12, the African Union's specialized health agency said in the statement. It added that Ethiopia's health ministry, the EPHI, and regional health authorities have activated response measures, including enhanced surveillance, field investigations, strengthened infection prevention and control, and community engagement efforts. Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya will meet with Ethiopia's health minister to

assess additional support needs and reinforce cross-border readiness with neighboring countries. The Africa CDC will continue to work closely with the Ethiopian government and partners to ensure a rapid, coordinated, and effective response, according to the statement. The Marburg virus, a highly infectious pathogen with a high fatality rate, causes hemorrhagic fever. Symptoms, including high fever and severe headache, typically appear within a week of exposure.

It belongs to the same virus family as Ebola, according to the World Health Organization.

Erdogan Delivers Post-Quake Homes In Southern Türkiye, Vows Continued Support

By: Xinhua
@themtkenyentimes

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday attended a ceremony in Adiyaman province to deliver newly built post-quake homes, reaffirming the government's commitment to supporting survivors of the 2023 earthquakes.

Erdogan said that 38,157 new houses and workplaces had been delivered in Adiyaman over the past two years.

Across the 11 provinces affected by the February 2023 quakes, the government has handed over 350,178 housing units to eligible beneficiaries. Erdogan said the target is 453,000 units by the end of the year.

On Feb. 6, 2023, two powerful earthquakes measuring 7.7 and 7.6 struck southern Türkiye, killing more than 53,000 people in the country and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless. According to Türkiye's Disaster and Emergency Management



President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Authority, more than 715,000 civilian homes, requiring the buildings were affected, with construction of 680,000 new housing units.

200,000 destroyed or too damaged to repair. Most were ci-

Balancing Security And Civil Liberties: The Role Of Reforms In Protest Management

By: Daniel Kibiwott
@themkenyetimes

The discourse surrounding protest management in Kenya underwent a profound shift in 2024, as the nation witnessed an overwhelming uprising led by thousands of young activists predominantly from Generation Z. They took a stand against the proposed Finance Bill 2024, which they deemed financially burdensome. What initially started as peaceful protests against tax increases rapidly devolved into chaos, marked by heavy-handed responses from law enforcement. The police resorted to tear gas, water cannons, rubber bullets, and even live ammunition actions that tragically culminated in the loss of at least 60 lives and left hundreds more injured. This tragic escalation illustrates the deep-seated knee tensions that persist between the necessity of state security and the protection of civil liberties in Kenya. The right to peaceful assembly, guaranteed under Article 37 of the 2010 Constitution, is repeatedly undermined by the excessive use of force employed by the authorities. Article 37 explicitly affirms that every individual has the right to assemble peacefully, to demonstrate, to picket, and to present petitions to public authorities, unarmed and peacefully. However, the existing gaps in enforcement enable security forces to prioritize the maintenance of order above the protection of individual rights, often resulting in catastrophic consequences. This paper is dedicated to a thorough analysis of the ways in which the right to protest has been curtailed and outlines the necessary reforms that must be implemented to safeguard this right in alignment with Kenyan law.

INTRODUCTION

Protest is an intrinsic right, enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya, to which every citizen is entitled. At its core, the effective management of protests in Kenya hinges on the challenging task of balancing legitimate security concerns such as the need to prevent vandalism or outbreaks of violence with the protection of fundamental freedoms guaranteed to all citizens. Article 238 of the 2010 Constitution provides a crucial framework for achieving this delicate equilibrium by outlining the principles and responsibilities pertaining to national security. Titled "Principles and state of national security," Article 238(1) explicitly states that national security is a primary obligation of the Government, underscoring its responsibility to protect the nation and its citizens. Subsection (2) elucidates the aim of national security: to

promote and ensure the safety, economic stability, and social wellbeing of the people, the State, and society at large. This is to be accomplished through various measures, including (a) intelligence activities designed to inform policy decisions; (b) proactive measures to prevent and combat threats such as terrorism, violent crime, and natural disasters; and (c) the protection of individuals, property, and the State from both internal and external threats. Most significantly, Article 238(3) stipulates that the pursuit of national security must be conducted in accordance with the law and with due regard for the rights and freedoms of individuals and collective groups. This provision firmly links security strategies to constitutional protections, ensuring that actions taken in the name of security especially in the context of managing protests cannot be used as a justification for the infringement of civil liberties. Additionally, Article 238(4) mandates the State to cultivate mechanisms for civilian oversight and control over security forces, thereby mitigating the potential for abuse of power. Subsection (5) reinforces this framework by establishing that the national security apparatus must operate under the auspices of civilian authority, which is a cornerstone of democratic governance.

In the wake of the constitutional reforms instituted after 2010, notable initiatives have been launched to bolster these principles. One such reform is the establishment of the National Police Service (NPS) under Article 244, which outlines the expectations placed on law enforcement to strive for professionalism, root out corruption, and adhere to established human rights standards. This initiative aims to transform a police force that historically bore the legacy of colonial oppression into one that is accountable and committed to respecting the rights of citizens. The Public Order Act (Cap 56) plays a vital role in regulating public assemblies and processions by stipulating the requirement for permits for public gatherings and criminalizing what it defines as "unlawful assemblies" under Section 5. While this Act is intended to maintain a balance between order and the rights to assembly and protest, it has faced criticism for facilitating arbitrary restrictions on spontaneous protests. The success of these regulations and reforms, however, hinges on addressing ongoing systemic issues, including extrajudicial killings, the establishment of robust judicial oversight, and the consistent enforcement of reform outcomes. This article posits that while these reforms offer a framework with significant potential, the persistent shortcomings in addressing these challenges contribute to a culture of impunity and a gradual erosion of civil liberties. To



strengthen this argument, the analysis will draw upon various Kenyan laws, including the National Police Service Act (2011), the Penal Code (Cap 63), the Public Order Act (Cap 56), the Independent Policing Oversight Authority Act (2011), and others, to craft a comprehensive understanding of the legal landscape governing protest rights and security in Kenya.

Extra-Judicial Killings: The Ultimate Erosion of the Balance

Extrajudicial killings stand as one of the most profound violations of rights within the context of protest management in Kenya, transforming what should be peaceful expressions of dissent into alarming arenas of state-sponsored violence. The term "extrajudicial killings" refers to the illegal taking of life by agents of the state without following due legal processes. Such actions fundamentally violate Article 26 of the 2010 Constitution of Kenya, which enshrines the right to life and explicitly forbids arbitrary deprivation of life. Moreover, these actions contravene provisions found in Section 49 of the National Police Service Act (2011), which dictates that the use of lethal force is only permissible in situations that pose imminent threats to human life.

The regulatory framework around the use of force is further elaborated in the Sixth Schedule of the National Police Service Act, which restricts the use of firearms to instances of absolute necessity and promotes non-lethal alternatives, such as batons and tear gas, to manage crowds. However, despite these explicit guidelines, police officials frequently perceive protesters as significant threats, leading them to deploy considerably disproportionate levels of force. This not only creates a prevailing culture of impunity among law enforcement but also constitutes a direct infringement of Article 29, which safeguards individuals against torture as well as cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. Such egregious actions undermine the spirit of Arti-

cle 238(3), which emphasizes that all security actions must prioritize the protection of individual rights. In this troubling context, protests intended as demonstrations of democratic expression in accordance with Article 37 are reframed as existential dangers that warrant lethal responses. They operate in blatant disregard of Sections 202 and 203 of the Penal Code concerning manslaughter and murder.

The consequences of these practices have been catastrophic, particularly illustrated during the widespread protests against the Finance Bill in 2024, where reports indicated that at least 60 individuals lost their lives. Amnesty International meticulously documented 63 fatalities directly linked to these protests, in addition to 83 confirmed cases of abductions and more than 2,000 unlawful arrests, many of which involved police firing live ammunition at unarmed citizens. The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) confirmed these harrowing trends in its State of Human Rights Report for the period from July 2023 to November 2024, detailing cases of enforced disappearances that were followed by grim discoveries of execution-style killings. Many protesters were reportedly abducted from their homes or from public spaces, only to be found later with fatal gunshot wounds. These heinous acts starkly violate the provisions against murder outlined in Section 203 and manslaughter in Section 202 of the Penal Code.

In 2024 alone, the Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU) found evidence of over 100 extrajudicial killings, with a significant number being directly associated with the suppression of protests. Academic insights from scholar Mutuma Ruteere, who has extensively analyzed police accountability, indicate that these killings are part of a persistent mindset rooted in the colonial legacies that still shape the National Police Service (NPS). He highlights a troubling "shoot first" mentality that endures

despite reforms aimed at improving police conduct. The discourse around extrajudicial killings in Kenya is robust, particularly among scholars who critique the country's track record on civil liberties before the constitutional reforms of 2010. Their analyses link these acts to fundamental systemic failures, while more recent scholarship explicitly points out that the promised reforms have consistently fallen short in stopping ongoing violence both in counterterrorism operations and in protest management.

The historical patterns of such violence loom large over the present context. The post-election violence in 2007, for instance, resulted in over 500 reported extrajudicial killings, as detailed in the poignant report titled "Cry of Blood." This tragic chapter in Kenya's history catalyzed reforms, including the recommendations of the Ransley Task Force, which aimed to impose stricter regulations on the use of force. Nevertheless, the unfortunate reality of 2024 demonstrates that the same brutal tactics have re-emerged. Organizations like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have reported instances of abductions and killings aimed at obstructing the wheels of justice, suggesting that the state prioritizes counterterrorism or anti-riot approaches over adherence to fundamental human rights.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act (2012) has frequently been cited as an enabling framework for extrajudicial actions conducted under the pretext of ensuring national security. According to the court findings in the case *Coalition for Reform and Democracy (CORD) & 2 others v Republic of Kenya & 10 others* [2015] KEHC 7074 (KLR), a troubling acknowledgement was made regarding

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the current state of affairs in Kenya: "We are living in troubled times. Terrorism has caused untold suffering and greatly compromised national security and individual safety... It is how the State manages this balance that is at the core of the petition before us." This underscores the tension between security needs and the protection of rights, which has become a focal point of legal arguments in recent years.

In light of these ongoing atrocities, the KNCHR has urgently called for comprehensive investigations into these human rights violations, warning that without address, Kenya risks regressing into "the dark abyss of atrocities." The ramifications of these extrajudicial acts not only violate domestic laws but also breach international human rights standards, such as those established in the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force commitments that Kenya has formally recognized. As such, it is vital that the focus shifts towards ensuring accountability and protecting the sanctity of human life within the framework of law enforcement, to restore faith in justice and safeguard fundamental liberties for all citizens.

Judicial Oversight: The Cornerstone of Proportionality in Kenya's Policing

Judicial oversight plays an essential role in protecting citizens from potential police overreach, particularly in the context of managing protests in Kenya. This oversight is vital for maintaining proportionality and accountability within law enforcement agencies. The 2010 Constitution of Kenya, specifically Article 244, lays a foundational principle that mandates the National Police Service (NPS) to operate in accordance with human rights standards. This constitutional provision underscores the importance of ethical policing, particularly during situations that involve public demonstrations.

To further ensure accountability, the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) was established under the Independent Policing Oversight Authority Act of 2011. This body is tasked with investigating allegations of police misconduct, including instances of excessive force that may occur during protests. IPOA's mandate encompasses ex officio investigations, especially in cases of alleged police-related deaths, emphasizing the need for impartial and thorough investigations to eliminate impunity. The significance of this oversight mechanism is bolstered by Article

59(2)(d) of the Constitution, which authorizes the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) to probe human rights violations actively.

This system of oversight aligns with the principles outlined in Article 238(4), which advocates for the establishment of civilian control mechanisms. This positioning highlights the judiciary and independent bodies as critical defenses against any potential abuse of power by security forces. Additionally, the Criminal Procedure Code (Cap 75) further underpins these mechanisms by mandating timely investigations into deaths, emphasizing the importance of inquests as per Section 195, especially when fatalities are deemed suspicious.

In practical terms, IPOA has rigorously investigated abuses that occurred during protests in 2024, revealing a disturbing pattern of unlawful killings and making recommendations for prosecutions stemming from these findings. According to IPOA's performance report, a total of 1,943 complaints were processed, demonstrating the scale of concerns regarding police conduct. Significant high court rulings have underscored the judiciary's commitment to upholding constitutional rights. For instance, in the landmark case of Kenya Human Rights Commission & 8 others v Nchebere (2024), the court ruled that unprovoked police brutality aimed at violently dispersing peaceful demonstrations violated citizens' rights to freedom of expression as articulated in Articles 36 and 37 of the Constitution. The ruling emphasized that "The right to assembly, demonstration, and picketing is guaranteed by Article 37 of the Constitution" but also noted that any limitations imposed must be reasonable and justifiable within the framework of a free and democratic society that values human dignity and equality.

Similarly, in another pivotal case, Law Society of Kenya v Kithinji & 5 others; Katiba Institute & another (Interested Parties) (Petition E373 of 2024) [2025] KEHC 7957 (KLR), the judiciary stated in paragraph 78 that "It is the duty of the state to aid the exercise of rights and freedoms of speech rather than hinder them through executive or legislative actions that infringe upon citizens' freedoms." The court explicitly deemed the deployment of plain-clothes police officers to manage protests as unconstitutional and unlawful, as per paragraph 94.

Scholarly contributions to the discourse around policing and oversight, such as those by Mutuma Ruteere in his work Local Policing Accountability in Kenya, call attention to the pressing need to strengthen oversight mechanisms to address the grim realities of deaths resulting from police actions. Additionally, Kenyan aca-



demics advocate for a bolstered role for the judiciary in protecting civil liberties during protest events, drawing insights from critiques of opaque systems predating 2010 as well as evaluations of IPOA's effectiveness in the post-2010 landscape. Human rights organizations like Amnesty International have championed the idea of strategic litigation, exemplified by the Law Society of Kenya's lawsuit in June 2024 against the Inspector General, which challenged the unlawful arrest of over 400 protesters without charges, directly highlighting violations against Article 49 regarding the right to a fair trial.

However, real-world effectiveness of these judicial mechanisms is often impeded by various factors. A 2025 study conducted by the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum revealed that limited resources, political interference, and disappointingly low conviction rates plague the system, with only a small percentage of cases resulting in accountability for police misconduct. Compounding these challenges, IPOA's investigations frequently face delays stemming from a lack of cooperation from the NPS, a situation that undermines the transparency necessary for fostering public trust, as outlined in the UN Minnesota Protocol.

Moreover, the KNCHR's 2024 report on human rights affirms that complaints regarding excessive use of force persist, reiterating the urgent need for judicial independence to uphold the principles of justice as enshrined in Article 159 of the Constitution. The requirements for permits under the Public Order Act have also been legally contested on the grounds that they violate the rights to spontaneous assembly, as evidenced by rulings affirming the right to protest without prior notification. For instance, in Independent Policing Oversight Authority v Sidique w/o Arshad Sharif & 6 others (Civil Appeal E802 of 2024) [2025] KECA 1456 (KLR), the court pointed out significant shortcomings in police oversight, indicating a pressing need

for reassessment and reform to ensure citizens can exercise their rights without undue hindrance.

Enforcement of Reform Outcomes: From Promise to Precarity

Well-intentioned reforms in Kenya often fail due to enforcement gaps, exposing disparities between policy and practice in protest management. Post-2010 reforms, including merging police services, vetting officers, and use-of-force guidelines under the Ransley Task Force, aimed to enhance accountability as per Article 244(c), which requires compliance with constitutional standards. The National Police Service Regulations, 2012, supplement this by outlining disciplinary procedures for force violations. Yet, outcomes are mixed: while some training on de-escalation occurred, brutality persists, with 2024 protests revealing continued lethal force, contravening Article 238(5)'s subordination of security to civilian authority.

A 2025 study in the International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science highlights politicization and inadequate training as barriers, leading to over 500 extrajudicial killings since 2017 despite quotas. Kenyan scholar Wangui Kimari argues in The Conversation that enforcement fails due to colonial roots in the Penal Code and resistance from elites, with killings rising amid protests. Mutuma Ruteere's research on strengthening oversight underscores unmet goals of post-2010 reforms, while scholars like Fredrick Ogenga analyze how governance crises in protests reveal enforcement shortfalls, eroding civil liberties. Amnesty International's 2024 annual report critiques the low prosecutions for abuses, documenting 63 deaths and calling for accountability mechanisms under the NPS Act. KNCHR's July 2023–November 2024 report echoes this, reporting 18 updated cases of extrajudicial killings and disappearances, and urging enforcement of IPOA recommendations. Challenges include resource scarcity, union push-

back, and vague metrics, as noted in Amnesty's "A Drop in the Ocean" report on stalled investigations. The proposed Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which seeks to impose stricter penalties on "unlawful" protests, risks further entrenching impunity if enacted without safeguards. In Republic v Fredrick Ole Leliman & 4 others [2016] KEHC 992 (KLR), paragraph 119 warned, "It would be a grave error on the part of this Court to allow the said police Service and the Institutions named to revert back to that dark past," highlighting enforcement's role in preventing regression to pre-2010 abuses.

Enforcement demands institutional will and community monitoring: hybrid models blending IPOA mandates with civil society, as in KNCHR consultations, show promise. Without it, reforms exacerbate imbalances, fostering cynicism and escalation, as unchecked militarization prioritizes control over dialogue.

Conclusion

Reforms in Kenya's protest management offer a pathway to harmonize security with civil liberties, yet extrajudicial killings, weak judicial oversight, and enforcement deficits reveal their limitations. From 2024's deadly suppressions where scholars like Fredrick Ogenga note governance crises amid youth-led dissent these failures entrench impunity, transforming protests into peril. Journal analyses and works by scholars like Mutuma Ruteere call for decolonizing structures, emphasizing facilitation and ex officio probes to revive scuttled reforms.

As of 2025, with trust at lows and abuses unabated, multifaceted strategies empowering IPOA, tying budgets to compliance, and community involvement are vital. Only through enforced reforms can Kenya affirm security serves liberties, ensuring protests drive progress, not pretexts for violence. In this balance lies democratic resilience.



Sports >> *The Kenya Lionesses’ dream of lifting the Africa Women’s 7s crown on home soil ended in heartbreak as South Africa produced a commanding performance to retain their continental title with a 22-0 victory

Heartbreak For Lionesses As South Africa Clinch Africa Women’s 7s Title



By Joyce Wairimu

The Kenya Lionesses’ dream of lifting the Africa Women’s 7s crown on home soil ended in heartbreak as South Africa produced a commanding performance to retain their continental title with a 22-0 victory in the final at the RFUEA Grounds in Nairobi. The atmosphere was charged with anticipation as fans rallied behind the Lionesses, who had impressed throughout the tournament with emphatic wins against Ghana, Ivory Coast, and Zimbabwe. Yet when it mattered most, the Springbok Women showed their class, silencing the home crowd and reminding the continent why they remain the dominant force in African women’s rugby.

The final began with intensity as both sides tested each other’s defenses. Kenya’s star player Janet Okello, who had been in-

strumental in earlier matches, suffered an injury setback just before halftime, forcing coach Simon Odongo to bring in Edith Nariaka. That moment seemed to shift momentum. South Africa struck first through Shiniqua Lamprecht’s try, converted by Nadine Roos, giving them a 7-0 lead at the breakCapital News. The Lionesses, who had hoped to regroup in the second half, found themselves pinned deep in their own territory by relentless South African pressure.

Simamquele Namba’s powerful run extended the lead to 12-0, and Patience Mokone added another try soon after, effectively sealing the contest. Kenya’s attempts to mount a comeback were thwarted by the Springbok Women’s disciplined defense, which snuffed out every attacking move. Roos capped off the victory with a final score, ensuring South Africa not only

retained their crown but also secured their place in next season’s World Rugby Sevens Challenger SeriesCapital News.

For the Lionesses, the defeat was bitter, especially after their dominant run in the group stages where they showcased flair, speed, and resilience. Okello’s hat-trick against Ivory Coast and her five tries against Ghana had raised hopes that Kenya could finally dethrone South Africa. The team’s blend of experienced campaigners and emerging talent had captured the imagination of fans, and the final was seen as a chance to cement their status as continental champions. Instead, the loss highlighted the gap that still exists between Kenya and South Africa at the highest level of competition.

Despite the disappointment, there were positives to take away. The Lionesses demonstrated growth, tactical aware-

ness, and a fighting spirit that bodes well for the future. Their ability to dominate other African teams shows that they are closing in on South Africa’s dominance, and with continued investment in women’s rugby, Kenya can aspire to bridge the gap. Coach Odongo praised his players for their commitment, noting that the experience of playing in such a high-stakes final will serve as a valuable lesson for the squad.

The fans, though heartbroken, applauded the Lionesses for their courage and determination. The tournament itself was a celebration of women’s rugby in Africa, with Nairobi providing a vibrant stage for the continent’s best. While South Africa walked away with the trophy, Kenya’s Lionesses walked away with renewed belief and the knowledge that their time will come.

Sports >>> *Kenya Police Bullets continued their blistering start to the season with a commanding 4–0 victory over Bungoma Queens, tightening their grip at the top of the FKF Women’s Premier League table.

Relentless Police Bullets Sweep Aside Bungoma Queens To Stay Top Of FKFWPL



Kenya Police Bullets Diana Wacera in action against Bungoma Queens. PHOTO/POLICE BULLETS

Kenya Police Bullets continued their blistering start to the season with a commanding 4–0 victory over Bungoma Queens, tightening their grip at the top of the FKF Women’s Premier League table. The win, built on sharp finishing and total control from start to finish, underlined once again why the Bullets have earned the nickname “the goal-scoring machines.” Head coach David Vijago made four changes to his previous starting lineup, bringing in Norah, Juliet, Vida, and Diana Wacera, and it didn’t take long for the reshuffled side to find their rhythm.

Barely five minutes into the match, Puren Alukwe opened the scoring with a composed finish to give Police Bullets an early advantage. The hosts continued to dictate the tempo, and in the highlight moment of the first half, Margaret “Magical Maggy” Kunihira produced a moment of brilliance, unleashing a superb 30-yard strike that flew past the goalkeeper to make it 2–0. The Bullets pressed for a third, but the half ended with their two-goal cushion intact. Bungoma Queens returned from

the break determined to find a way back, but Police Bullets’ defensive organization held firm while their attack remained unforgiving. In the 72nd minute, Becky Okwaro put the result beyond doubt, slotting in the third goal after sustained pressure. Moments later, the champions turned on the style once more. After a perfectly weighted pass from Magical Maggy, Medina fired home a stunning finish to seal the 4–0 triumph. With another clean sheet and another emphatic performance, Kenya Police Bullets showed once

again that no one is bullet-proof. Their unbeaten run rolls on, and their attacking might continues to trouble defences across the league. For Bungoma Queens, it’s a long journey home after a tough afternoon against the league’s most ruthless side.

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The Educator Who Rewrote Her Own Story: Alexie Better's Rise As A Neurodiversity Champion



By: Ayesha Talib
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

Alexie's qualifications—including a *Master of Teaching* and specialized certifications in methodologies like *Orton Gillingham*—are matched by her profound empathy. She approaches every student with a commitment to finding tailored solutions, particularly those facing learning disabilities, language barriers, or other developmental challenges.

"I realized my true calling was to provide others with the support I had to search so hard for," Alexie states. "My goal was to ensure that children, parents, and educators had access to the tools and strategies that would make learning not only possible but enjoyable and empowering."

Her method focuses on *multisensory learning*, a proven technique that engages sight, hearing, touch, and movement to solidify concepts. This approach creates frequent "lightbulb moments," building profound confidence and empowering children to overcome academic obstacles and pursue lifelong learning.

*Alexie Better, Director of **Better Multisensory Learning Centre, is a beacon of hope and innovation. With over 16 years of experience and a powerful personal journey, Alexie has established herself as a leading developmental educator and a **Multisensory Literacy Specialist* dedicated to transforming the lives of neurodiverse learners.

The inspiration behind Better Multisensory Learning, which she founded in 2018, stems directly from Alexie's own childhood struggle with *undiagnosed dyslexia*. Rather than letting those challenges define her, she leveraged her expertise to build the supportive, effective learning environment she once desperately needed.

A Specialist Approach Rooted in Empathy

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Award-Winning Dedication to Inclusion

Alexie's dedication has earned her significant industry recognition, affirming her positive impact and resilience as a business owner and mother:

*2024 AusMumpreneur Awards:



Finalist for Children's Education Business of the Year and secured *3rd Place in the People's Choice Awards*.

*2024 Women's Business Overcomer Award: *3rd Place* for her perseverance in growing her business while championing inclusivity.

*2022 & 2024 Australian Champion Small Business Champion Finalist: Acknowledging the quality and growth of her specialized learning center.

The awards, Alexie notes, have been instrumental in *increasing credibility and visibility*, helping to raise awareness about the value of neurodiversity and multisensory education in the wider community.

Expanding the Vision: A Global Future for Learning

Looking ahead, Alexie Better is focused on major expansion to help more families globally. Her plans include:

*Digital Accessibility: Developing a *comprehensive online platform* featuring interactive courses and resources, making her multisensory methods available to families and educators worldwide.

*School Integration: Collaborating with educational institutions to provide *professional development

and training* for teachers, embedding inclusive strategies into mainstream classrooms.

*Holistic Partnerships: Forming alliances with speech, occupational therapists, and psychologists to offer multidisciplinary programs that support a child's entire developmental well-being.

Alexie Better is a prime example of how transforming personal adversity into professional purpose can create profound, positive change. She is committed to ensuring that every child, regardless of their learning path, is empowered to discover their full potential.

