

Debentures - Explained!!



Key Differences

Legal Points On Debentures In Kenya

Debentures in Kenya play a central role in corporate finance, offering lenders a structured and legally enforceable way to secure money advanced to companies. A debenture is essentially a written acknowledgement of debt accompanied by security typically over a company's assets. Kenyan companies rely heavily on debentures because they allow businesses to raise large amounts of capital without diluting ownership.

Page 18

THANK YOU FOR ADVERTISING WITH US

For any news you would wish us to publish,

email us: news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

For Adverts & Sponsorship

email us: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

The

MT. KENYA TIMES

Daily ePAPER

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

No. 01433 www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

[f](https://www.facebook.com/themkenyatimes) [ig](https://www.instagram.com/themkenyatimes) [tw](https://www.twitter.com/themkenyatimes) themkenyatimes

Creative Rewards

Fierce Clash Looms In Mbeere North

News>> Uphold Integrity In Decisions Affecting Refugees, Migrants, President Ruto Tells Judges

P. 8. President William Ruto has urged judges to continue upholding fairness, courage and independence in their decisions



News>> Kirinyaga County Signs Intergovernmental Agreement To Unlock Issuance Of Bursaries For Needy Students

P. 12. County Government of Kirinyaga has become the latest devolved unit to sign the Inter-Governmental Partnership Agreement (IPA) on support to education to allow resumption of issuance of bursaries.



The political ground in Mt. Kenya is shaking as the Mbeere North by-election morphs into a fierce contest that has captured national attention, with opposition leaders pledging an intense showdown against President William Ruto and his United Democratic Alliance (UDA). What was initially seen as a local parliamentary race has now escalated into the first major clash in the region since the President's dramatic fallout with his former deputy Rigathi Gachagua, turning Mbeere North into a symbolic battleground for influence, loyalty, and the future of Mt. Kenya politics.



Opposition parties backing Democratic Party (DP) candidate Newton Karish expressed confidence led by former deputy Rigathi Gachagua and DP party leader JB Muturi, (Inset) Deputy President Kithure Kindiki.

STORY ON PAGE 9

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"

Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438

+254 706 237 040 / +254 724 613 401

business@exponentialinternational.com



SCAN TO REGISTER



"ALL BUSINESSES
ONE PLATFORM"

President Ruto Opens The 14th International Association Of Refugee And Migration Judges World Conference

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto yesterday joined law custodians at 14th International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges World Conference in Nairobi.

“We are proud of our role in hosting refugees, with nearly 800,000 refugees and asylum seekers calling our country home, making Kenya one of the world’s largest host nations. To ensure refugees rebuild their lives with dignity, we are strengthening our legal and institutional systems through initiatives such as the Shirika Plan,” the President said during his official opening speech. He added, “With these efforts, we recognise our limits and urge the international community to share responsibility more fairly through financial support, resettlement, and technical cooperation. True solidarity is not charity, it is a commitment to justice for refugees as we pursue lasting and sustainable solutions that restore peace and stability in their home countries”.

He called on judges to uphold fairness, courage, and independence, ensuring that every refugee and migrant is heard and treated with integrity and dignity.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative. It is published by **Exponential International Limited**, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson

Our Contacts

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

Facebook: facebook.com/themtkenyetimes, **Instagram:** instagram.com/themtkenyetimes/, **Twitter:** twitter.com/themtkenyetimes
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/the-mt-kenya-times/>



NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"



"ALL BUSINESSES
ONE PLATFORM"



SCAN TO REGISTER

FREE
REGISTRATION



Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438



+254 706 237 040 / +254 721 274 369

+254 724 613 401 / +254 100 423 971

+254 724 613 401



business@exponentialinternational.com



www.businessavaibale.com

NEWS IN BRIEF

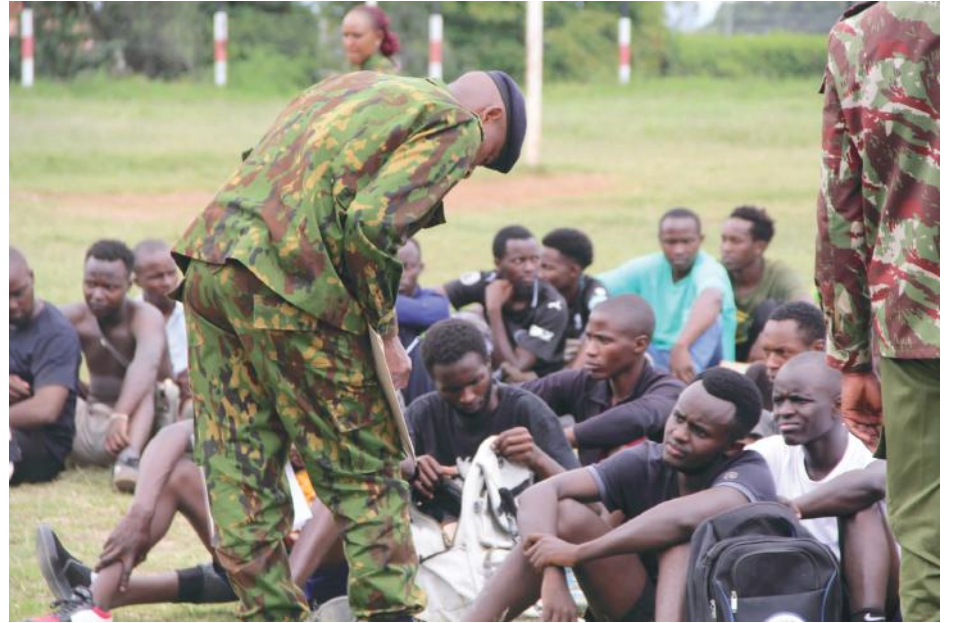


The Jubilee Party leadership, led by Deputy party leader and presidential candidate Fred Matiang'i, convened a strategic meeting with county chairpersons from all 47 counties. Secretary General Jeremiah Kioni said the unity is a clear signal of Jubilee's unwavering resolve to rescue Kenya from the incompetence, collapsing institutions, and economic free fall engineered by the current regime. "Kenyans are tired. Our institutions are weakened, corruption is thriving, the cost of living is unbearable, and national leadership is missing in action. Instead of solutions, this government offers excuses, PR, and reckless policies that continue to punish ordinary citizens while rewarding a select few," Kioni said after the meeting. He further noted that the party is stepping forward to provide the competence, stability, and accountability that the country desperately needs. He said the meeting marked the beginning of a coordinated national effort to restore integrity in leadership, rebuild the economy, and return power to the people.



Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, Eric Mugaa, together with the German Ambassador to Kenya, Sebastian Groth yesterday commissioned the Kandeki Irrigation Project and inspected the Mitooini Irrigation Project in Kirinyaga County. The visit follows a financing agreement signed in July 2023 between the Government of Kenya, through the State Department for Irrigation, the Government of Germany through KfW, and Equity Bank Group. The Smallholder Irrigation Program for the Mount Kenya Region is being implemented under a 50:50 cost-sharing model, where farmers access 50% of project financing through an Equity Bank loan while the Government covers the remaining 50% through a concessional loan from KfW. To enhance ownership and sustainability, farmers contribute 10% upfront and later assume full responsibility for scheme management, operations, and maintenance. They were accompanied by PS Irrigation Ephantus Kimotho, Head of German Cooperation, Ms. Maren Kneller; Equity Group CEO Dr. James Mwangi and Kirinyaga Deputy Governor, Mr. David Githanda.

Igembe South MP Johnpaul Mwirigi, has urged residents, especially the youth to take advantage of technical and Vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, noting that practical skills are becoming essential in the current job market, where white-collar opportunities continue to shrink. Speaking at a fundraising ceremony for St. Joseph Methodist Church in Maua, the MP said TVET Institutions, offer hands-on training that equips learners with high demand skills such as electrical installation, plumbing, hairdressing and beauty therapy, welding, carpentry, tailoring and fashion design among others. The MP highlighted ongoing development projects within the Constituency, including the partitioning of Igembe South into two Sub-counties, the ongoing construction of a modern market in Maua town, completion of a Huduma Centre, and the opening of Kindaani Technical Training Institute, with more institutions expected to expand training options for the youths.



The nationwide police recruitment exercise held yesterday recorded a notably low turnout across several regions. Most of the recruitment centres reported fewer youth presenting themselves compared to previous years.



The Public Service Commission (PSC) has strengthened its commitment to accelerating disability mainstreaming across the public service, reaffirming its readiness to collaborate with partners to advance inclusivity. This assurance was delivered by PSC Vice Chairperson Mrs. Mary Kimonye yesterday during a meeting with key development partners who paid a courtesy call at the Commission House. She noted that the Commission remains intentional about building strategic partnerships that support the implementation of constitutional and legislative mandates relating to disability inclusion. She emphasized that working closely with development partners is essential to ensuring that disability mainstreaming is not only prioritized but operationalized across all government institutions. The meeting brought together representatives from Light for the World, Christian Blind Mission (CBM), SightSavers, and the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD). The Commission invited the partners to explore areas of collaboration that will strengthen the institutional capacity of public bodies to integrate disability perspectives in policies, programmes, and service delivery. PSC Commissioner Harun Hassan, who serves as Patron of the Disability Mainstreaming Committee, highlighted the Commission's resolve to drive full implementation of the newly enacted Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025. He noted that advancing disability inclusion is both a constitutional imperative and a moral responsibility.



NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS

The Mount Kenya Times

+254 724 439 949, +254 720 918 828, +254 721 103 040, +254 713 318 438

website: <https://mountkenyentimes.co.ke>

Varsity Invests In Technology To Fix Skills Gap In The Job Market

By: John Kamau

@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

- Zetech Vice Chancellor Prof Njenga Munene said that the world has embraced technology and organizations are in constant demand of a tech-savvy workforce that adds value to the market.
- He spoke last Friday at the sidelines of the varsity's ninth graduation ceremony in Mang'u, Juja sub-county. The Graduation ceremony was graced by the High Commissioner of Barbados to Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania, and Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations at Nairobi, William Alexander McDonald, Chancellor Prof Susan Alfano and Chairman Eng Ken Mbiuki.

Zetech University has invested heavily in Information and Technology programmes to supplement and fix the skill gaps in the job market especially through its incubation hub that seeks to exploit innovation and technology as an enabler for job creation.

Zetech Vice Chancellor Prof Njenga Munene said that the world has embraced technology and organizations are in constant demand of a tech-savvy workforce that adds value to the market.

He spoke last Friday at the sidelines of the varsity's ninth graduation ceremony in Mang'u, Juja sub-county. The Graduation ceremony was graced by the High Commissioner of Barbados to Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania, and Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations at Nairobi, William Alexander McDonald, Chancellor Prof Susan Alfano and Chairman Eng Ken Mbiuki.

"Shortage of critical tech skills in the region is constraining local businesses and slowing economic growth. Individuals and companies must keep up with the technological disruptions, trends, problems, and opportunities to make better and sustainable career, commercial, and institutional decisions," Munene said.

He noted that the digital era continues to rapidly evolve; citing the emergence of Digital Governments, Digital Economies, Digital Currencies and Digital Societies.

"All these must leverage technology to effect transformation and impact health, transport, urban living, government services, climate change, environmental conservation, access to education and economic opportunities, among other societal needs,"



Zetech University, Mang'u campus in Witeithie, Juja Constituency

A recent report compiled by Google and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) shows that of the estimated 690,000 software developers in Africa, approximately 60,000 are from Kenya.

The VC pointed out that this means that Kenya accounts for about 9 percent of the software developers in the continent. The report ranks South Africa at the top with 120,000 software developers while Kenya falls in 5th place.

"Our country has witnessed a wave of global technology giants such as Microsoft and Google plunging to set up tech development centers in the Country, and it is no brainer that Kenya is on a journey to becoming East Africa's technology hub," he said.

He quipped that due to the Emerging Technological Trends issues such as Data Science & Analytics Internet of Things (IoT); Blockchain; Artificial Intelligence; Cybersecurity;

Cloud Computing; and the Gig Economy form the foundations of all the programs offered at Zetech University which include but not limited to among others, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Applied Physics, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Mathematics, Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, Bachelor of Business Information Technology and Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering.

Munene noted other skills driven Technological programmes include among others Diplomas in Computer Science, IT, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Software Engineering and other professionally certified courses like Cisco's range of programmes.

"To support the delivery of these progressive programs, the University has invested in modern computer laboratories, training software, engineering

workshops, an e-library and a highly qualified and experienced faculty that is equipped with both academic and industrial exposure," he said.

Additionally, the VC said that students participate in boot camp training, hackathons, both local and international apprenticeships and get mentorship through the University's Innovation and Entrepreneurship (iZet) hub.

"This not only enhances their employability but also nurtures an entrepreneurial culture among the students and faculty. Students, also get opportunities to take part in exhibitions where they showcase their projects, learn from peers and receive mentorship on the commercialization of their innovations," Munene said.

The university Chancellor congratulated the graduates for successfully completing their studies.

The

MT. KENYA TIMES

Where Investors Get Returns

To advertise in Mt. Kenya Times read by discerning Kenyan professionals and the business community contact our exclusive **UK & Europe** Advertising and Marketing representatives.



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
 16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF
 Phone: 0330 606 1438 (44 330 606 1438)
 Email: media@adlinkinternational.com
 www.adlinkinternational.com
 Contact: Mr Shamlal Puri

The Mt Kenya Times



10th

*Anniversary
Celebration*

Uphold Integrity In Decisions Affecting Refugees, Migrants, President Ruto Tells Judges

By: Michael Omondi
@themkenyentimes

President William Ruto has urged judges to continue upholding fairness, courage and independence in their decisions saying that where courts are free from political interference, they serve as safeguards against arbitrary action.

Speaking when he officially opened the 14th International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges (IARMJ) World Conference in Nairobi yesterday, the President observed that judges ensure that asylum procedures are credible, transparent, and just; and that justice is not only done, but seen to be done adding that this, in turn, fosters public confidence.

“Your obligation as judges is the solemn duty of ensuring that every refugee and migrant who comes before you finds justice, fairness, and the reassurance that their case has been heard with dignity and integrity,” urged the President.

He advised the judges to always remember that the decisions they make reverberate far beyond the courtroom because they shape lives, preserve families, and safeguard the credibility of the international protection regime.

Noting that judges also played a vital role in harmonizing the interpretation of refugee law across jurisdictions, President Ruto called on them to ensure that claims are heard fairly and that states uphold their obligations under both domestic and international law.

“Through cooperation and knowledge-sharing, judges can develop a consistent global jurisprudence that ensures fairness no matter where a claim is heard. Justice must not depend on geography or chance,” he reaffirmed.

Also speaking at the conference that brings together judges, jurists, development partners and international organisations from across the globe, Chief Justice Martha Koome underscored the centrality of fair, credible, transparent and humane refugee and migration systems which she argued, millions of people rely on for their safety and dignity.

The CJ emphasized that integrity of the Refugee and Migration systems is the foundation upon which the safety, dignity, and rights of refugees, migrants and host communities depend.

She expressed the need to have asylum and migration processes that are fair, credible and well managed say-

ing systems that function as intended protect those genuinely in need and are not undermined by abuse or politicization.

Further, Koome argued that systems weakened by backlogs, loopholes or inconsistent outcomes quickly lose public trust, adding that closing legal gaps, upholding the independence of adjudicators, and ensuring objective decision-making are essential steps in preserving credibility.

Equally, the CJ underscored the conference theme — Protecting the Integrity of the Refugee and Migration Systems — as a timely call to ensure that systems remain fair, credible, transparent and humane and expressed Kenya’s pride in co-hosting the global forum, emphasising the country’s long-standing commitment to refugee protection and judicial co-operation.

In addition, she noted that the conference comes at a time when global displacement has reached unprecedented levels, with over 120 million people uprooted worldwide.

This, she said, has placed extraordinary pressure on refugee and migration governance systems and highlighted the essential role of the judiciary in safeguarding fairness, due process and human rights.

Importantly, the CJ outlined the elements that uphold integrity in migration management, including impartial and accessible asylum procedures, credible and up-to-date legal frameworks, adequate resources, trauma-informed interviewing, reliable country-of-origin information and consistent decision-making.

Further, she stressed that transparency, accountability and accurate communication are essential in combating misinformation and xenophobia.

On the other hand, Justice Koome cited the High Court of Kenya’s landmark *Haki na Sheria* judgment delivered on 17 July 2025, where the Court affirmed that children born in Kenya to mixed-nationality couples where one parent is Kenyan and the other a refugee are citizens by birth, as a defining example of the judiciary’s role in protecting vulnerable populations.

According to Koome, the ruling struck down discriminatory practices that had effectively rendered many children stateless and reaffirmed the rights to dignity, family unity and equal treatment.

Equally, she noted that such jurisprudence demonstrates Kenya’s commitments under national and international law and reinforces the rule of law as the foundation of a credible and humane refugee protection regime.



President William Ruto addressing the session

In the meantime, Justice Koome called attention to emerging pressures facing refugee and migration systems globally, including climate-induced displacement, human trafficking, migrant smuggling and the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence.

She encouraged the development of principled approaches that address these challenges while safeguarding fairness, dignity and accountability.

Technology, she said, must support not undermine the delivery of justice.

As well, the CJ emphasised that no single country can address forced displacement or irregular migration alone as she called for stronger regional and international cooperation, judicial dialogue and shared standards, noting that networks such as the IARMJ play an essential role in strengthening jurisprudence and en-

hancing collective capacity.

“As judges, we are custodians of justice and human rights. By ensuring that laws are applied fairly and by protecting the vulnerable, we uphold the foundations of stable and democratic societies. Our vigilance is the hope of millions who seek safety and a better future,” Koome remarked.



President William Ruto with Chief Justice Martha Koome and other dignitaries. Photos/Courtesy.

Battle Lines Drawn: Opposition Leaders Promise Fierce Showdown In Mbeere North By-Election

By: David Kimani
@themkenyatimes

The political ground in Mt. Kenya is shaking as the Mbeere North by-election morphs into a fierce contest that has captured national attention, with opposition leaders pledging an intense showdown against President William Ruto and his United Democratic Alliance (UDA). What was initially seen as a local parliamentary race has now escalated into the first major clash in the region since the President's dramatic fallout with his former deputy Rigathi Gachagua, turning Mbeere North into a symbolic battleground for influence, loyalty, and the future of Mt. Kenya politics.

Opposition parties, rallying behind Democratic Party candidate Newton Karish, have declared that they are confident of wresting the seat from UDA. Their rallies across the constituency have been marked by fiery speeches, bold promises, and a narrative that frames the by-election as a defining moment for the region. Leaders from the united opposition coalition argue that the contest is not merely about electing a Member of Parliament but about testing the strength of Ruto's grip on Mt. Kenya and the resilience of Gachagua's influence after his estrangement from the President.

The stakes could not be higher. Political observers note that the by-election will serve as a litmus test for the ruling party's popularity in a region that has historically played a decisive role in national politics. For the opposition, victory in Mbeere North would signal a resurgence, a rallying point for broader unity, and a demonstration that the government's dominance is not unassailable. For UDA, defeat would be a symbolic blow, raising questions about the President's ability to consolidate support in Mt. Kenya amid growing internal rifts.

The opposition has vowed to intensify its campaigns ahead of the November 27 vote, promising to deliver a decisive defeat to UDA. DAP-K leader Eugene Wamalwa declared Mbeere North the symbolic birthplace of a revitalized opposition, insisting that the coalition's unity would be tested and proven in this contest. Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka echoed the sentiment, rallying supporters and affirming Newton Karish as the coalition's undisputed candidate. Their speech-

es have painted the by-election as a turning point, a moment when Mt. Kenya voters can assert their independence and reject what they describe as government manipulation.

The race is increasingly shaping up as a two-horse contest between UDA's Leonard Wamuthende and Newton Karish, though nine candidates are officially in the running. The government has reportedly boosted development initiatives in the constituency, with senior officials stepping up efforts to secure victory for Wamuthende. Roads, schools, and water projects have been highlighted in campaign speeches, with ruling party leaders urging voters to reward UDA for delivering tangible progress. Yet opposition leaders have dismissed these initiatives as election gimmicks, arguing that development should not be tied to political loyalty.

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has injected fresh energy into the opposition's campaign, emerging as one of President Ruto's most vocal critics. His fiery message to the head of state urged voters to use the by-election to demonstrate the region's political resolve. Gachagua accused Embu Governor Cecily Mbarire and Public Service Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku of being deployed to divide the Mbeere community, framing their involvement as evidence of government interference. His rhetoric has resonated with sections of the electorate who feel that Mt. Kenya's voice has been sidelined in national decision-making.

As opposition leaders moved from one rally to another drumming up support for Karish, CS Ruku led a parallel campaign trail for Wamuthende, following closely behind in an effort to blunt the opposition's momentum. The spectacle of dueling rallies, often held within hours of each other, has underscored the intensity of the contest. Each side has sought to outdo the other in mobilization, turnout, and messaging, creating an atmosphere of political theatre that has electrified the constituency.

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has also made his presence felt, vowing to remain in Mbeere North until UDA secures victory. His declaration that he would camp in the constituency until the ruling party's candidate triumphs has added weight to the government's campaign, signaling the seriousness with which the administration views the contest. Kindiki's involvement has en-



During a series of rallies across the constituency, Opposition parties backing Democratic Party (DP) candidate Newton Karish expressed confidence that they would wrest the seat from UDA, framing the by-election as a defining contest over political influence in Mt. Kenya.

ergized UDA supporters, who see his presence as proof of the party's commitment to defending its turf in Mt. Kenya. His pledge has also heightened the stakes, ensuring that the by-election is viewed as a test not only of UDA's local strength but of the Deputy President's ability to rally the region behind the government.

For the opposition, the by-election is about reclaiming space in Mt. Kenya and proving that the region is not monolithic in its support for the ruling party. Leaders have emphasized themes of justice, fairness, and empowerment, urging voters to reject intimidation and embrace change. They argue that Newton Karish represents a fresh start, a candidate who can champion local interests without being beholden to government dictates. For UDA, the message has been one of continuity and stability, portraying Wamuthende as the candidate who can deliver development by working closely with the President's administration.

The contest has also highlighted the broader dynamics of Mt. Kenya politics. The fallout between Ruto and Gachagua has created uncertainty, with voters questioning whether the region's unity can withstand the strains of national power struggles. The by-election has become a proxy war, with each side seeking to demonstrate its strength and legitimacy. For Ruto, victory would reinforce his claim to Mt. Kenya's loyalty despite the rift with his former deputy. For Gachagua and the

opposition, success would signal that the President's hold is weakening and that alternative voices are gaining traction.

Beyond the immediate candidates, the by-election has drawn in national figures who see Mbeere North as a stage for broader political narratives. Kalonzo Musyoka has used the campaign to reinforce his role as a coalition builder, while Eugene Wamalwa has positioned himself as a champion of opposition unity. Their presence has elevated the contest from a local race to a national spectacle, with implications that extend far beyond the constituency's borders.

The people of Mbeere North find themselves at the center of this political storm. For them, the by-election is not only about party rivalries but about tangible issues of development, representation, and dignity. Voters are weighing promises of roads and schools against calls for justice and empowerment, aware that their decision will reverberate across the region. The atmosphere is charged, with residents keenly aware that their ballots carry symbolic weight in shaping the future of Mt. Kenya politics.

As the campaign enters its final stretch, the intensity shows no sign of abating. Opposition leaders have pledged to fight fiercely, framing the contest as a battle for the soul of the region. The ruling party has mobilized its machinery, determined to secure victory and demonstrate the President's enduring influence. With

Deputy President Kindiki vowing to stay until UDA wins, the government has signaled that it will leave nothing to chance. Between these competing visions lies the will of the people, whose choice will determine not only the outcome of the by-election but the trajectory of political alignments in Mt. Kenya.

The Mbeere North by-election has become more than a contest for a parliamentary seat. It is a referendum on loyalty, leadership, and legitimacy. It is a test of whether the opposition can translate defiance into victory, and whether the ruling party can withstand the pressures of internal division. Whatever the outcome, the contest has already underscored the vitality of Kenya's democracy, where even local elections can ignite national debates and reshape political trajectories.

The battle lines are drawn, the rhetoric is fierce, and the stakes are high. As November 27 approaches, Mbeere North stands as the arena where opposition leaders and the ruling party will clash in a contest that promises to leave an indelible mark on the political landscape of Mt. Kenya and the nation at large.

Agriculture Sector Mourns AAKGrow-CropLife CEO Eric Kimunguyi

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

The agricultural sector is mourning the death of Eric Kimunguyi, the Chief Executive Officer of AAKGrow-CropLife Kenya, who passed away over the weekend after a short illness.

His death has sparked an outpouring of tributes from across Kenya’s agribusiness community, reflecting his respected leadership and long-standing commitment to promoting sustainable and science-driven agriculture.

In a statement confirming his passing, AAKGrow/CropLife Kenya Chairperson Wachira Mureithi described Kimunguyi as “a dedicated leader and a passionate champion of sustainable agriculture,” noting that his contribution had left “an indelible mark” on the industry.

Agribusiness leaders echoed the sentiment. ASNET Chair Bimal Kan-

taria hailed him as “a stalwart in the agrochemicals industry... very well respected in government and the private sector,” adding that the country had “lost a good agriculture leader.”

National Potato Council of Kenya CEO Wachira Kaguongo praised him as “an exemplary leader” whose collaborative approach inspired many working to advance sustainable agricultural practices.

FPEAK CEO Hosea Machuki, who had spoken with Kimunguyi just days before his passing, expressed shock at the news, calling him “a very astute and hardworking CEO,” and praying for comfort for his family and the AAK community.

From the horticulture sector, Avocado Society of Kenya CEO Muthomi Ernest remembered Kimunguyi as a steady voice of reason in Kenya’s pesticide debate. He noted Kimunguyi’s consistent advocacy for the “judicious use of pesticides” and his concern over the country’s declining fresh-produce exports amid tighten-

ing EU regulations.

The media fraternity also mourned a valued partner. Agriculture Media Society of Kenya Secretary Catherine Riungu said Kimunguyi’s death was “a profound loss,” describing him as an exceptional resource who demystified complex agrochemical issues and championed accuracy and evidence-based reporting. She highlighted his responsiveness, deep expertise, and courage in correcting misinformation.

Across the sector, tributes portray Kimunguyi as a highly respected professional whose humility, integrity, and dedication strengthened Kenya’s agricultural community.

Eric Kimunguyi



Acorn Secures CMA Approval For New Build-To-Rent REIT Backed By KSh2.2 Billion

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- The new REIT, known as the Acorn Build-To-Rent D-REIT (ABTR D-REIT), is designed to develop large-scale, professionally managed rental properties targeting young urbanites aged 20–30 who work in Nairobi’s formal and informal business hubs. The model aims to address a critical housing gap affecting recent graduates, early-career employees, entrepreneurs, and other young adults priced out of quality accommodation near their workplaces.
- To anchor the REIT, three entities have committed USD 17 million (KSh2.2 billion) in equity financing. The Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG), through its project development arm InfraCo, is the largest contributor with USD 10 million (KSh1.3 billion), Shelter Afrique Development Bank has injected USD 2 million (KSh258 million) while Acorn itself has committed USD 5 million (KSh645 million).



Qwetu Aberdare Heights.

Acorn Holdings Limited has received approval from the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) to establish a Build-To-Rent Development Real Estate Investment Trust (D-REIT), unlocking KSh2.2 billion to expand affordable rental housing for young urban professionals in Nairobi.

The new REIT, known as the Acorn Build-To-Rent D-REIT (ABTR D-REIT), is designed to develop large-scale, professionally managed rental properties targeting young urbanites aged 20–30 who work in Nairobi’s formal and informal business hubs. The model aims to address a critical housing gap affecting recent graduates, early-career employees, entrepreneurs, and other young adults priced out of quality accommodation near their workplaces.

To anchor the REIT, three entities have committed USD 17 million (KSh2.2 billion) in equity financing. The Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG), through its project development arm InfraCo, is the largest contributor with USD 10 million (KSh1.3 billion), Shelter Afrique Development Bank has injected USD 2 million (KSh258 million) while Acorn itself has committed USD 5 million (KSh645 million).

Stanbic Bank Kenya Limited and SBG Securities served as the Lead Transaction Advisor for the struc-

ture.

Acorn Group CEO Edward Kirathe said the approval marks a major step in expanding rental housing solutions across urban Africa.

“The launch of the Acorn Build-To-Rent (ABTR) D-REIT marks another important milestone in our journey to provide Urban Africa with rental housing solutions,” he said, adding, “We will be launching the REIT with upfront committed capital from institutional investors, including Acorn, PIDG and Shelter Afrique Development Bank. The new REIT continues to deepen our participation and innovation in the capital markets and wider Kenyan economy.”

Kirathe said the developments will be built to the same standards seen in Acorn’s Qwetu and Qejani student housing portfolio, which currently includes 20 IFC EDGE-certified properties.

The new accommodation will serve different market segments, including young professionals with higher incomes stuck in the “mortgage gap” and those seeking more affordable shared living options.

The projects will be located near Nairobi’s major employment centres and will emphasize safety, affordability, climate resilience and resource-efficiency.

PIDG Head of Investment Management for InfraCo, Claire Jarratt, said

the REIT represents both a housing solution and a capital markets innovation for Kenya.

“We are delighted to be building on our strong relationship with the team at Acorn to launch a new product in the Kenyan housing market,” she said, adding, “The initiative will not only enable young urbanites to live in closer proximity to work and social life, but will also develop Kenya’s domestic capital markets, unlocking further capital to scale access to such housing.”

Jarratt added that Acorn’s track record of EDGE-certified developments aligns with PIDG’s commitment to sustainable, climate-resilient cities.

The design of the housing also pays particular attention to the needs of young female professionals, focusing on secure access systems, well-lit common areas, and thoughtfully designed private spaces. The developments also incorporate inclusive features for male residents and individuals with disabilities.

Shelter Afrique Development Bank Managing Director, Thierno-Habib Hann said the partnership reflects the institution’s goal of expanding dignified, well-located housing for Africa’s growing urban youth.

“Nairobi is one of Africa’s fastest-growing cities, with a youthful population that is dynamic, entrepreneurial and increasingly urban,”

he said.

He added, “Yet for too many young professionals, the search for affordable, well-located and secure housing remains a daily struggle. Acorn has demonstrated a clear vision and a proven ability to deliver targeted housing solutions that meet the needs of Nairobi’s urban youth.”

Hann also praised Acorn’s use of innovative financing tools including green bonds and REITs, which he said raise the bar for transparency and sustainability in Africa’s housing sector.

PIDG has supported Acorn since 2019, including backing a pioneering green bond and two earlier REITs, which together have raised USD 31.36 million from Kenya’s capital markets.

The establishment of the new D-REIT was supported by a consortium of professional service providers including NCBA Bank Kenya PLC as Trustee; TripleOKLaw, Gowling WLG and Norton Rose Fulbright as Legal Advisors; Viva Africa Consulting as Tax Advisor; and PwC as Reporting Accountant.

The REIT is expected to unlock significant future investment as Acorn scales affordable urban housing for Kenya’s underserved youth segment.

Kirinyaga County Signs Intergovernmental Agreement To Unlock Issuance Of Bursaries For Needy Students

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

County Government of Kirinyaga has become the latest devolved unit to sign the Inter-Governmental Partnership Agreement (IPA) on support to education to allow resumption of issuance of bursaries.

The agreement comes as a relief to thousands of needy students who depend on the county support to continue with their education.

Disbursement of the bursaries by County Governments was stopped by the Controller of Budget (COB) last year over alleged contravention of the constitution which designates universities, tertiary education institutions, primary schools, secondary schools and special education as functions of national government.

In a circular dated January 14, 2025 to all County Executive Committee Members for Finance, Controller of Budget (CoB) Margaret Nyakang'o warned that the involvement of the devolved units in providing bursaries is unconstitutional and should stop.

Governor Anne Waiguru said the signing of the agreement with the Ministry of Education will allow her administration to disburse KSh126.5 million allocated for 2025/2026 financial year.

"Understanding the challenge that was there in disbursing the bursaries in the financial year 2024/25, we have endeavored to solve that by signing the agreement and we expect the process of gazettelement of the agreement to be finalized by the end of this month, ensuring funds are disbursed in time for school reopening," Waiguru said.

She said the once the gazettelement is done, the county will continue managing the bursary function in support of needy children who have gone without the support for a whole year.

"Through the County Bursary Program, we have cumulatively disbursed KSh540.7 million to needy students, a kitty that we improved from KSh49.1M in 2017/2018 to KSh146M in 2023/24," Waiguru said.

Backed by the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IG-RTC), the agreement now give counties legal mandate to undertake the bursaries program.

For the last seven years, close to 200,000 students from poor background have benefited from the bursaries

Waiguru said the County has constructed and renovated Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) classrooms, ensuring safe, child-friendly learning environments.

"The new facilities have been provided with furniture, water tanks



Governor Anne Waiguru with some of the beneficiaries.

and play equipment to enhance early learning," she added.

The investment in infrastructure, teaching and learning materials, the Governor said enrollment in ECDE has increased from 13,280 learners in 2017 to 16,398 learners in 2025.

About 15,000 ECDE learners have been provided with free school uniforms.

She said the absorption of teachers into the permanent and pensionable scheme has boosted morale and improved service delivery at the centres.

"We have consistently replaced exiting ECDE teachers, equipped them with CBC-aligned teaching aids, and offered refresher courses, boosting classroom engagement and improving learner outcomes," she noted.



Some of the furniture

Funding, Data Gaps Undermine Eastern Africa’s Livestock Feed Strategy

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) says the region’s livestock sector, a major source of livelihoods, food, and export earnings, continues to face chronic feed shortages, worsened by recurrent droughts, land-use changes, and degradation of rangelands.
- The region is one of the world’s strongest livestock hubs, holding more than half of Africa’s total livestock. It has about 14 million camels, which account for over 50 percent of the global population, 118 million cattle (11 percent of the world), 104 million sheep (10 percent) and 100 million goats (12 percent). Overall, 55 percent of these livestock resources are found in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

Limited financing, weak institutional coordination, and poor data systems are undermining the domestication and implementation of the Eastern Africa Livestock Feed and Feeding Strategy, a regional blueprint meant to improve feed security and resilience across the Horn of Africa’s drought-prone pastoral areas.

The 14-year strategy aims to build resilient, sustainable feed systems by improving feed and water availability, promoting sustainable processing, supporting agribusiness and value addition, and strengthening policy and institutional capacity, with focus on gender, youth, innovation, and monitoring.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) says the region’s livestock sector, a major source of livelihoods, food, and export earnings, continues to face chronic feed shortages, worsened by recurrent droughts, land-use changes, and degradation of rangelands.

The region is one of the world’s strongest livestock hubs, holding more than half of Africa’s total livestock. It has about 14 million camels, which account for over 50 percent of the global population, 118 million cattle (11 percent of the world), 104 million sheep (10 percent) and 100 million goats (12 percent). Overall, 55 percent of these livestock resources are found in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

The strategy took effect in 2023 and ends in 2037, developed through the IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), was designed to guide sustainable feed production, conservation, quality assurance, and trade across member states.

But two years after its launch, experts warn that implementation remains slow. Institutional coordination gaps between ministries and devolved units, limited private sector investment, and weak data systems for monitoring feed resources and livestock mobility have also hampered progress.

These concerns dominated presentations during a regional workshop on Strengthening Feed and Rangeland Security in Pastoral Regions of the Horn of Africa, held in Naivasha, Kenya convened by the African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), through the African Pastoral Markets Development (APMD) Platform, held in Naivasha, Kenya.

The meeting brought together pol-



Dr Guyo Roba, the Head of Dryland Development Unit at IGAD’s Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD).

icymakers, researchers, and private sector players to review progress in implementing regional feed strategies, share emerging evidence, and identify priority actions needed to strengthen sustainable feed production, rangeland management, and resilience across pastoral and agro-pastoral areas.

“The strategy is well designed and aligned with national and continental frameworks, but without adequate financing and clear institutional roles, its impact will remain minimal,” Dr Guyo Roba, the Head of Dryland Development Unit at IGAD’s Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD).

Despite the hurdles, Dr Roba reported notable progress in advocacy and partnerships, including collaboration with FAO, AU-IBAR, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), and private sector actors. Pilot projects on rangeland rehabilitation and fodder value chains have been rolled out in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia.

IGAD has initiated country-level consultations to align the strategy with national livestock development and drought resilience plans, ensuring its integration into policy frameworks that promote sustainable feed systems and strengthen the region’s overall livestock resilience.

Dr Roba urged governments to accelerate policy reforms between 2026 and 2030, harmonize feed standards, strengthen rangeland governance, and formalize cross-border grazing and mobility corridors. They also called for the institutionalization of feed security in national drought and resilience frameworks.

“We need to strengthen national and regional coordination mechanisms, expand public-private partnerships in feed production and processing, scale up community rangeland management and drought reserve models, and enhance capacity building, extension, and knowledge-sharing platforms,” he said.

If fully implemented, the strategy could transform feed management across the arid and semi-arid lands of Eastern Africa — supporting community-based rangeland governance, expanding fodder production and conservation, and enhancing early warning and climate-smart interventions to protect pastoral livelihoods.

APMD Platform Policy Pillar Lead, Professor Ahmed Elbeltagy said the resilience of Africa’s pastoralist systems, the productivity of the livestock sector and the prosperity of millions of pastoral householders depended on the decisions and commitments made.

“The feed security is fundamental to pastoralism. Livestock productivity, cross-border trade and regional stability. Strengthening this foundation is essential if pastoral communities are to continue contributing meaningfully to national economies and sustaining their rich cultural and ecological heritage,” he stated.

Dr. Ameha Sebsibe, a livestock trade and feed consultant said countries should institutionalize participatory rangeland management, formalize rangeland governance and ensure customary institutions are recognized and integrated into official systems, arguing that these steps would strengthen how communities manage and protect their grazing resources.

He said there was a need to secure policymakers’ support for establishing and running national animal feed reserves, drawing lessons from human food reserves, and to ensure pastoralists have clear land and resource rights, including protected mobility corridors and dry-season grazing areas.

If I Could Be Like You



If I could be like you,
I need not worry about anything,
Because you are so cool ever
I learn a lot from you.

I don't cry over small things,
I gain strength and confidence
from your inspiration.
I will move forward with ease,
With no doubts, I move on happily like

a lark.
I smile, laugh, clap, whether needed or not,
Because I'm differently-abled,
I don't have worries

I'm mentally challenged
I'd never worry for anything
I learn so much just watching you.
Your strength gives me confidence,

Your inspiration lights my way.
With you, I move forward with ease,

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

Moyo Una Mazoea



Moyo ninakutungia, tafadhali sikiliza,
Wapenda kujiwekea, shughuli usizoweza,
Ta'bani tumeingia, kutoka hatujaweza,
Wapenda bila 'Pkiria, jambo usifoliweza,
Uwanjani 'meingia, penzi kulicheza cheza,
Moyo waleta udhia, ya mapenzi hutoweza,
Moyo 'mezama hubani, kaziyo kusukuma damu,

Moyo unayo Papara, hebu jifunze tulia,
Utapata na madhara, kisa ni kutotulia,
Uzame kwenye hasara, ushindwe kujinasua,
Wazunguka pwani bara, hutaki kunisikia,
Kaziyo si ba'rabara, mengine wajiwekea,
Waifanya biashara, nyongo ilotumbukia,
Moyo 'mezama hubani, kaziyo kusukuma

damu

Moyo huna na idhini, kutenda unavyotaka,
Wazamaje mapenzini, na siyo yako huluka!,
Tena unajiamini, wajiona 'metukuka,
Na kumbe unatuhini, ili uje faidika,
Tumetambua kiini, kwa muda umetupoka,
Twakufanyia tathmini, tusije nasi athirika,
Moyo 'mezama hubani, kaziyo kusukuma damu,

Moyo umenisikia, kadi tama natimia,
Natumai unajua, nyongo unatumbukia,
Na umetuchafulia, haya tunajionea,
Chamboni tumeingia, mtego 'kitunasia,
Sasa tunaning'inia, na hali tukishtakia,
Ama kweli 'metutia, soni tusotarajia,
Moyo 'mezama hubani, kaziyo kusukuma damu,

MTUNZI: Momanyi Henry
LAKABU: Malenga Mtanashati
ENEO: Kesogon

The Puppy Who Taught Me Courage



A little boy sat sad and still,
Believing he could do no skill.
His legs were weak, his hopes were low,
He felt he had no place to go.

His mother came with gentle cheer,
"A gift for you, my dear, come here."
Inside the box, a puppy lay,
With one small leg missing away.

The boy looked down and turned his face,
"Just like me... it can't keep pace."

He went back to his video game,
His heart still carrying silent shame.

But the puppy hopped with all its might,
Pulling his socks, seeking his light.
With every hop and every try,
It shone like courage in the sky.

The boy then watched with softening eyes,
A spark of strength began to rise.
"If it can try with legs so few,
Maybe I can learn to try things too."

He held the pup and felt a start—
Warmth and hope lled up his heart.
Together now they laugh and play,
Learning courage day by day.

V. JAYANTHI
Graduate teacher
Pums Konganancherry
Chengalpattu district.

About



It has no bnal, solid spine,
No certain, single, steadfast sign.
It is the hum before the note,
The wobble in a spinning boat.

It is the gossip in the air,
The "nearly there," the "almost where."
A topic's orbit, loose and wide,

The turning of the great inside.

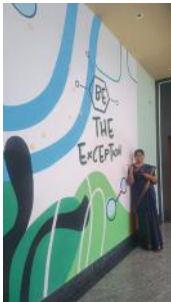
It is the number, not exact,
The thing the conversation tracked.
The summary of tale and theme,
The substance of a waking dream.

It is the search, the looking 'round,
For what is lost but must be found.
To be "about to" is to be
On the sharp edge of what you'll see.

So praise this word, this fuzzy core,
That knocks on meaning's closing door.
For "about" is where we live and doubt,
While Pguring the whole thing out.

By: Latibova Laylo

FEEDBACK



A letter to the editor

From
KUMARESWARI S
Graduate Teacher - English
VKGHSS AYYANKALIPALAYAM
TIRUPPUR TAMILNADU

Dear Sir,
From the bottom of my heart, I sincerely thank you for giving us the chance to see our poems published in the Mt.Kenya Times newspaper. It is a proud and unforgettable moment for all of us, and being featured on

an international platform has truly motivated every young writer.

Our Creative Writers' team is overjoyed to see their work in print, especially those being published for the Prst time. Your recognition has given us new confidence and inspiration to keep writing.

We deeply appreciate your hard work, punctuality, and the way you highlight young talents. Your dedication means a lot to us.

Special thanks to Brinda ma'am for her constant support and belief in our abilities. She has been our greatest strength throughout this journey.

We pray that the newspaper continues to grow and inspire many more young minds across the world.

KUMARESWARI S
Graduate Teacher - English
VKGHSS AYYANKALIPALAYAM
TIRUPPUR TAMILNADU

My Honey City



In the cradle of mountains, where the wild hawthorns blow,
And the apricot orchards in crimson sun glow,
There lies a sweet secret the high breezes know—
My golden Zomin, where the honey rivers bow.

The air is a spice, with a hint of pure clover,
From the hills where the diligent bees wander over.
Each blossom, a promise, each meadow, a lover,
Guarding sweet nectar for them to discover.

Your summer sun drips like a syrup so

warm,
A shield from the world, a safe, tranquil calm.
The dust of the pathways, a unique, rustic charm,
Wrapped in your arms, there can be no alarm.

At night, countless stars, like spilled honey and light,
Drip from the velvet of the profound mountain night.
The silence here isn't empty, but full and so bright,
A taste of pure sweetness, a deep, sweet delight.

So here's to my city, to your soil and your stone,
A place in my heart I call honey and home.
No matter how far my wandering may roam,
My soul tastes your sweetness, wherever I roam.

By: Inomjonova Dildora Rustam

DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

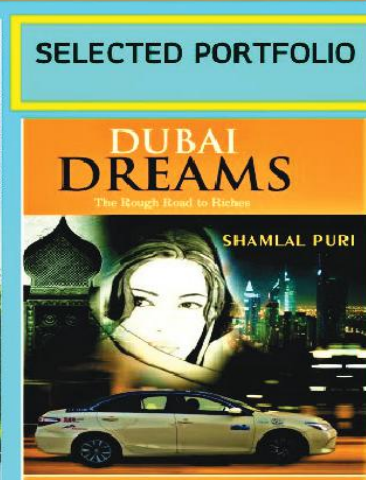
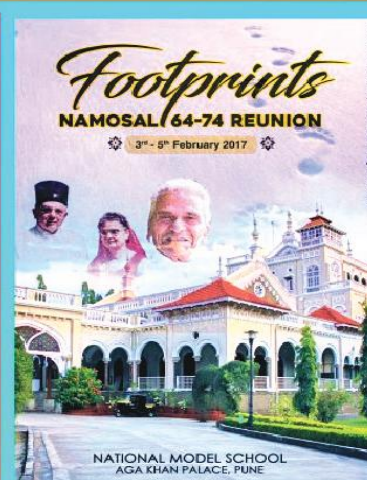
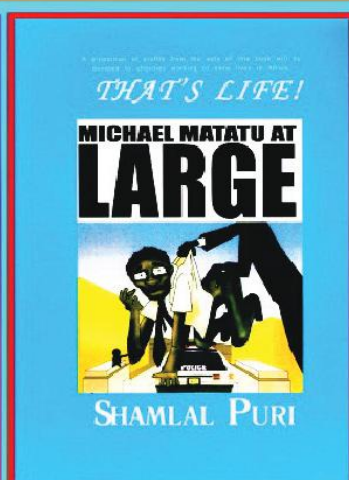
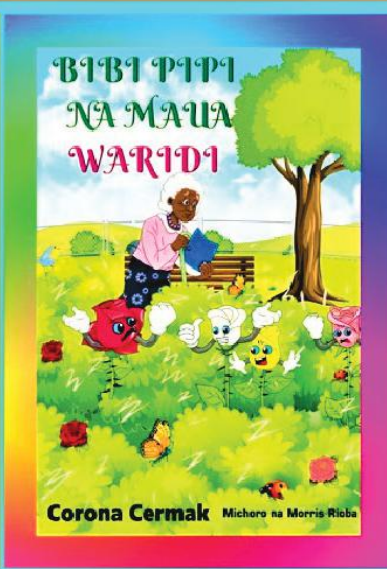
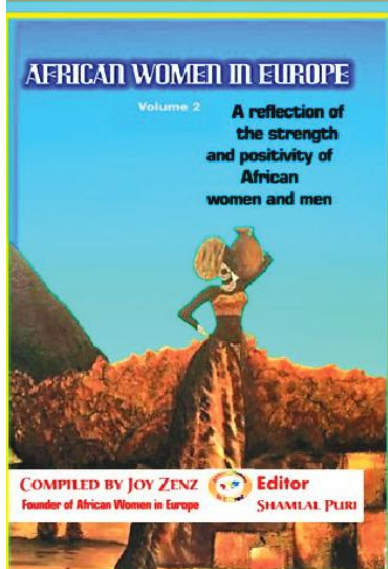
ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

Let Professional Editors and Authors turn your story into a Dream Book.

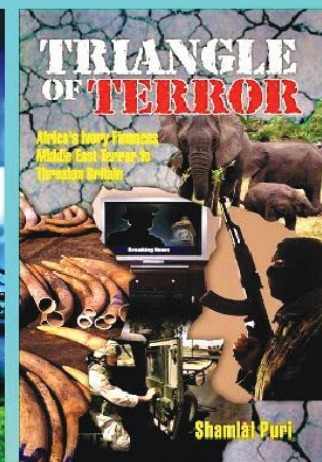
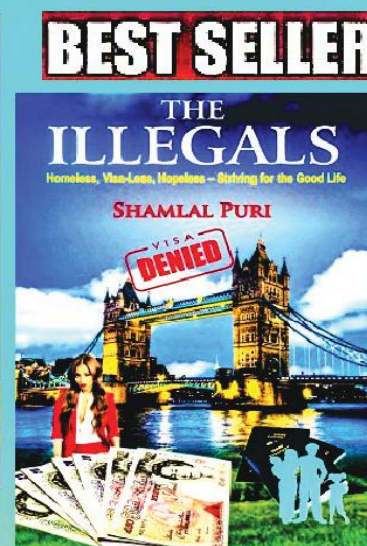
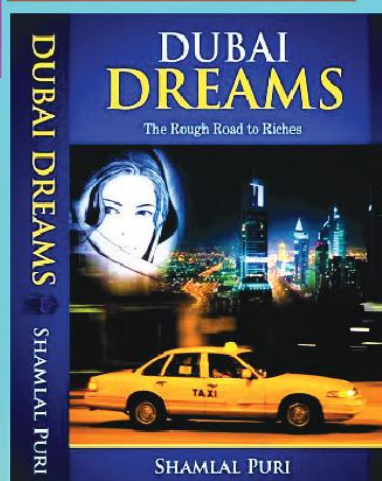
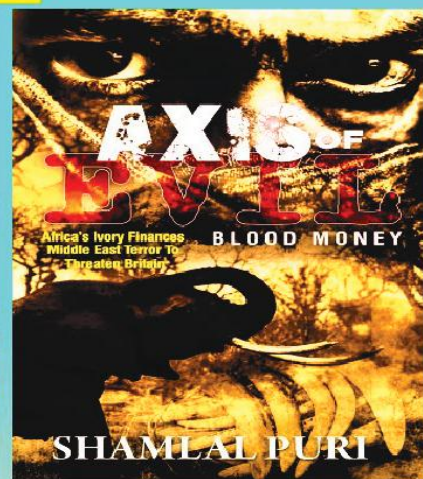
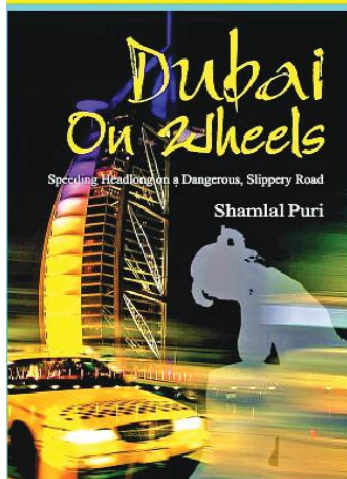
THRILLERS - FICTION - FACTION - BIOGRAPHIES - TRAVELOGUES - HUMOUR - COFFEE TABLE - BROCHURES

London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.

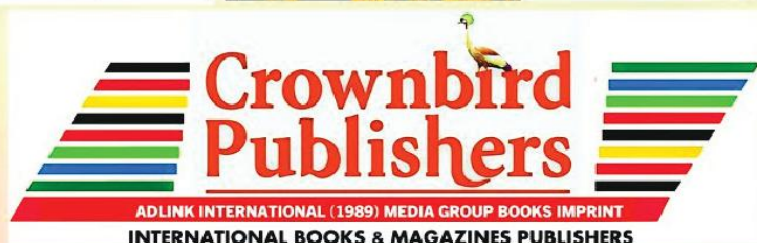
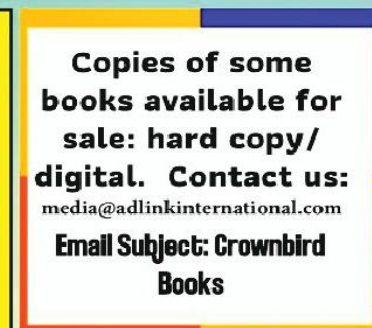
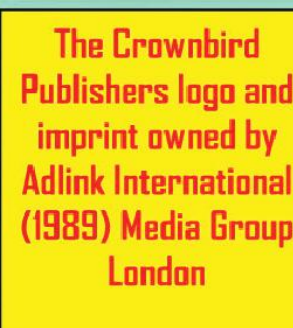
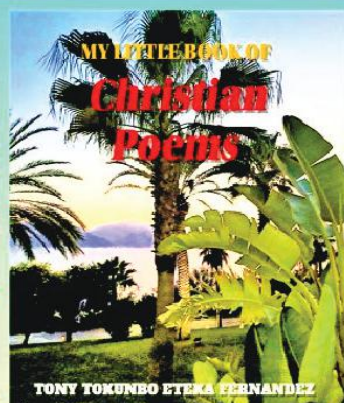
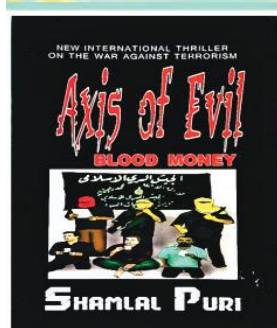
We offer one-stop top notch Editing, Expert Design, Proof Reading, Book Covers, Artwork, Digital, Litho Printing, E-Books, Corporate Brochures and UK ISBN number. Reasonable costs. We print and deliver books. Authors retain 100% sales profits.



SELECTED PORTFOLIO



BEST SELLER NOVELS



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP

Books Division

16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF (UK)

Tel: 44 330 606 1438

Email: media@adlinkinternational.com

www.adlinkinternational.com

Nyeri Leaders, Residents Back National Development As CS Kagwe Flags Off Milk Coolers

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatiimes

Nyeri County yesterday marked a major step in boosting its agricultural sector after Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mutahi Kagwe continued to flag off consignment of milk coolers.

Yesterday, the CS was at Gatitu area in Nyeri Town constituency after doing the same in Kieni and Mathira constituencies.

The initiative signals a renewed co-operation between local leaders, residents, and the national government.

The events have been drawing a strong show of unity from Nyeri's political and administrative leadership, who pledge to work closely with the State to advance development across the county.

The coolers, which will help improve milk storage and quality for local farmers, form part of a wider initiative aimed at strengthening agriculture, promoting crop diversification, and modernizing farming practices.

Kagwe said Nyeri's evolving agricultural landscape reflects the county's commitment to align with the national economic transformation agenda.

"Nyeri has been known for its coffee and tea, but today we see a county determined to diversify and modernize," Kagwe said. "The distribution of these coolers symbolizes a deeper commitment: Nyeri's leaders and people are choosing to work hand-in-hand with the national government and progressive Kenyans across the country, not just in agriculture, but in all areas of development."

Nyeri leaders reiterated that the county is united behind a shared development vision that extends beyond agriculture. They emphasized that collaboration with the national government would accelerate progress in infrastructure, education, health, and other key sectors of socio-economic growth.

Residents who have been attending the events have been expressing optimism that the coolers would uplift smallholder farmers by reducing post-harvest losses, improving milk quality, and strengthening the broader



Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe flagging off milk coolers at Gatitu near Nyeri town. Photo/Courtesy.

dairy value chain.

Many also welcomed the renewed message of unity, noting that development thrives when leaders and citizens work together.

Among those present were Principal Secretaries Jonathan Mueke (Live-

stock), Alex Wachira (Energy) and Dr. Salome Wairimu Muhia (Correctional Services); Nyeri Senator Wahome Wamatinga; Members of Parliament Eric Wa-Mumbi (Mathira), Anthony Njoroge Wainaina (Kieni), Wambugu Wainaina (Othaya), Rahab Mukami

(Woman Representative), and Duncan Maina Mathenge (Nyeri Town); together with MCAs and other community leaders also graced yesterday's event.

Shipping Will Drive Africa's Economic Ascent, PS Millah Says As Regional Maritime Experts Meet In Nairobi

By: Aoma Keziah
@themkenyatiimes

Shipping and Maritime Affairs Principal Secretary Eng. Aden Millah has underscored the growing importance of maritime transport to Africa's economic future, noting that global seaborne trade surpassed 12 billion tonnes in 2024 and is projected to keep expanding by at least 2.5% annually.

Speaking in Nairobi during the opening of a two-day consultative workshop hosted by the Maritime Organisation of Eastern, Southern and Northern Africa (MOESNA) in partnership with COMESA, Millah said Africa's contribution, currently at 7% of global shipping volumes was set to rise sharply as the continent industrialises.

"Africa, with its vast untapped resources, is the next global growth frontier," he said. "Our shipping contribution is growing at about 8% annually, much faster than the world average. Maritime transport will only become more dominant as

global trade expands."

The workshop that started yesterday and ends today has brought together government officials, port authorities, shipowners, freight forwarders, maritime legal experts and regional trade specialists. Their focus is to review two draft documents that could significantly reshape regional sea transport: a feasibility study on establishing regional shipping lines and a draft protocol on maritime cabotage for the wider ESNA bloc.

MOESNA Secretary General Kassim K. Mpaata told delegates that rising freight costs and increasing trade volumes make it necessary for the region to consider home-grown shipping solutions.

"Several countries want stronger coastal services and less dependence on foreign carriers," Mpaata said.

"A coordinated regional approach would streamline operations and make trade more predictable."

He added that the feasibility study under review outlines both opportunities and challenges, including gaps in port infrastructure, vessel financing, and regulatory frameworks that must be addressed to anchor viable



Principal Secretary for Shipping and Maritime Affairs Eng. Aden Millah, and MOESNA Secretary General Kassim K. Mpaata speaking to journalists during the workshop in Nairobi.

regional shipping lines.

"I urge our delegates to offer practical, detailed input that can help fine-tune these proposals before they move to the next stage," he said.

Over the two days, participants are expected to scrutinise the technical content of the draft reports, flag ar-

eas requiring deeper analysis, and craft recommendations to ensure future policies align with the realities and ambitions of the maritime sector.

The outcomes will be consolidated into revised documents to be presented to member states. Organisers say the consultative process is vital

for building consensus and ensuring that any eventual policies are workable, sustainable, and aligned with the region's long-term economic goals.

WEB SOLUTIONS



Oracom Web Solutions

**Relax....we take the
worries out of web**

Web Design

- Modern and classy website
- Easy to navigate
- Mobile ready and cross browser friendly

Web maintenance

- Search Engine Optimization
- Content Management Services
- Social Media Marketing

And many much more...

0729990583 | fb: Oracom kenya web solution | www.oracom.co.ke

Legal Points On Debentures In Kenya



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- A key legal point in Kenya's debenture landscape is the distinction between fixed charges and floating charges. A fixed charge attaches to specific, identifiable assets such as land, machinery, or vehicles and legally restricts the company from dealing with those assets without lender consent.
- In contrast, a floating charge hovers over changing assets like stock, receivables, or movable items, allowing the company to continue trading normally. This distinction is crucial in law because fixed charges take priority over floating charges during insolvency, but floating charges preserve business flexibility.
- Kenyan courts have consistently upheld the importance of clarity in drafting these charges, emphasizing that the intention of parties and the wording of the debenture determine the nature of the charge.

Debentures in Kenya play a central role in corporate finance, offering lenders a structured and legally enforceable way to secure money advanced to companies. A debenture is essentially a written acknowledgment of debt accompanied by security typically over a company's assets. Kenyan companies rely heavily on debentures because they allow businesses to raise large amounts of capital without diluting ownership. Unlike traditional bank loans that may be unsecured or heavily collateralized with specific assets, debentures create a more flexible security framework that can cover present and future assets, enabling companies to borrow while preserving operational control. From a legal perspective, a debenture is both a contract and a security instrument, and this dual character is what makes it powerful in commercial transactions.

A key legal point in Kenya's debenture landscape is the distinction between fixed charges and floating charges. A fixed charge attaches to specific, identifiable assets such as land, machinery, or vehicles and legally restricts the company from dealing with those assets without lender consent. In contrast, a floating charge hovers over changing assets like stock, receivables, or movable items, allowing the company to continue trading normally. This distinction is crucial in law because fixed charges take priority over floating charges during insolvency, but floating charges preserve business flexibility. Kenyan courts have consistently upheld the importance of clarity in drafting these charges, emphasizing that the intention of parties and the wording of the debenture determine the nature of the charge.

Another central legal consideration is registration. Under Kenyan company law, a charge created by debenture must be registered with the relevant registry within a prescribed period to be valid against third parties. Failure to register can render the security void against liquidators or other creditors, even though the underlying loan remains valid. This underscores how critical procedural compliance is: a lender may lose priority or even the entire benefit of the security simply through failure to perfect the charge. Registration, therefore, is not just a formality but a core legal step that protects the commercial expectations of lenders.

The legal rights and remedies available to a debenture holder in Kenya form another significant area of consideration. When a company defaults,



the debenture holder may appoint a receiver or administrator, depending on the terms of the instrument and the desired outcome. A receiver is appointed to take control of secured assets and realize them for the benefit of the lender, whereas an administrator's goal is often to rescue the company or achieve a better return for creditors as a whole. These remedies are powerful because they allow lenders to step into the company's operations without needing court orders, provided the debenture was properly drafted. The law places duties on receivers and administrators to act reasonably and in good faith, balancing the creditor's rights with the interests of other stakeholders.

Another important legal aspect is priority of claims, which determines who gets paid first when a company is insolvent. Debenture holders with a fixed charge typically rank at the very top, followed by preferential creditors like employees and tax authorities. Floating charge holders are subordinate to these categories unless the debenture includes clearly drafted provisions or negative pledge clauses. Kenyan case law recognizes

that lenders who take the time to perfect their security and structure their documents carefully are rewarded with superior priority. This ordering of priority is what makes debentures especially attractive to institutional lenders and bond investors: it gives them confidence that their position is protected even in distress.

Debentures also raise important legal questions around governance and disclosure. Publicly issued debentures require compliance with capital markets regulations, including mandatory disclosures, the appointment of a debenture trustee, and ongoing reporting obligations. This legal infrastructure is designed to protect investors and ensure transparency. For privately negotiated debentures, the parties have more freedom, but they must still adhere to general company law principles, including directors' duties, shareholder rights, and restrictions on financial assistance. This interplay between corporate governance and secured lending means debentures are not merely financial tools but instruments deeply embedded in the broader legal and regulatory framework.

Finally, Kenyan businesses must con-

sider the evolving legal environment affecting debentures, including shifting insolvency practices, regulatory oversight, and emerging financing models such as green or asset-backed debentures. The law continues to evolve to balance lender protection with the need to support economic growth and entrepreneurship. As companies explore innovative financing structures, understanding the legal foundations of debentures drafting, perfection, enforcement, priority, and governance remains essential. Debentures will continue to be a cornerstone of commercial finance in Kenya, but their effectiveness depends on the robustness of the legal structures that support them.

The writer is a legal writer and researcher.

Researchers Develop AI “Digital Twins” Of Patients To Predict Their Future Health

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

A research led by Australia’s University of Melbourne has developed an artificial intelligence (AI) tool capable of creating “digital twins,” or virtual patient replicas, to predict individual health trajectories.

Researchers used three datasets containing thousands of electronic patient health records to train an existing large language model, according to a university statement released yesterday.

The AI model called DT-GPT, hailed as “a potential gamechanger for the clinical trial sector,” analyzed medical data of patients with either Alzheimer’s disease or non-small cell lung cancer, as well as patients admitted to intensive care units, it said. The model created digital twins of patients and accurately forecast their health changes over time by leveraging pre-existing medical knowledge and analyzing patient histories, including lab results, diagnoses, and treatments, it added. The

model wasn’t provided information on the health outcomes of the patients, allowing researchers to validate its predictions, the statement said, adding the DT-GPT model outperformed 14 other state-of-the-art machine learning models in predictive accuracy. “This technology paves the way for a shift from reactive to predictive and personalized medicine,” said University of Melbourne Associate Professor Michael Menden, lead researcher of the study published in NPJ Digital Medicine. “It could enable doctors to anticipate if their patient’s health will deteriorate so they can intervene earlier,” Menden said, adding it could also predict medication side effects, helping doctors customize treatments to each patient’s unique profile and improve health outcomes. The model quickly interprets complex data and features a chatbot-like interface for users to explore its predictions, he said, adding DT-GPT uses generative AI to make “zero-shot predictions,” meaning it can make educated guesses about lab values even without prior training on them.



Indian Pilgrims Killed In Saudi Arabia Bus Accident



By: Xinhua
@themtkenyatimes

The Indian Consulate General in Jeddah issued a statement yesterday saying that a road accident involving Indian pilgrims occurred late on Sunday near Medinah, Saudi Arabia.

According to multiple Indian media reports, the accident had resulted in at least 42 deaths.

The Saudi General Authority of Transport said on social media that the Medinah regional transport department was handling a traffic accident involving a tanker truck and a passenger bus. According to media reports, the bus, carrying 43 passengers, collided with a diesel tanker.

The deceased were charred to death at the spot of the accident, added the media reports. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the deaths, saying in a post on X that he was “deeply saddened by the accident.” “My thoughts are with the families who have lost their loved ones,” he said.

Türkiye Detains 71 Suspects Linked To Failed Coup In Nationwide Operation



By: Xinhua
@themtkenyatimes

Turkish authorities yesterday detained 71 suspects, including public officials, in nationwide operations targeting the network behind the 2016 failed coup attempt, officials said.

Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya announced on the social media platform X that evidence against the suspects included al-

leged membership of the Gulen movement, past employment at organization-linked companies, use of its covert communication methods, and roles as high-ranking officials within the police who secretly carried out the group’s activities. According to the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office, detention orders were issued for 80 suspects, after which police units launched the operation covering 27 provinces. So far, 71 suspects have been detained, one remains at large in Türkiye, while eight

others are believed to be abroad, and efforts to apprehend them are ongoing. The Gulen movement, led by Turkish preacher Fethullah Gulen, who lived in the United States until his death in 2024, is accused by the Turkish government of orchestrating the 2016 coup attempt, which left more than 250 people dead and thousands of others injured. Authorities say operations against the network continue as part of efforts to dismantle its remaining structures.

Beyond Physical Prowess: Why Ideological And Political Training Is Essential For Modern Security Forces



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themkenyetimes

In an era defined by hybrid warfare, cognitive manipulation, and the blurring of traditional battle lines, the men and women who wear the uniform—whether as police officers or military personnel—face threats far more complex than any previous generation. While physical conditioning, weapons proficiency, and tactical expertise remain foundational to their effectiveness, these skills alone are insufficient to navigate the sophisticated challenges of 21st-century security environments. Today's geopolitical landscape demands that security forces receive comprehensive ideological and political training to complement their operational capabilities.

This requirement is not about indoctrination or partisan politics. Rather, it concerns equipping those who serve with a deep understanding of democratic values, constitutional principles, the nature of contemporary threats, and their role as protectors of civil society. The argument for such training rests on four critical pillars: the changing nature of modern warfare, the protection of democratic institutions, the prevention of extremism within the ranks, and the maintenance of public trust in an era of unprecedented scrutiny.

The nature of conflict has fundamentally transformed. Modern adversaries rarely rely solely on conventional military confrontation. Instead, they employ what security experts term "hybrid warfare"—a sophisticated blend of military and non-military tactics designed to achieve strategic objectives while remaining below the threshold that would trigger traditional armed response.

China's approach includes psychological, political, and legal warfare to achieve its goals, employing tactics like investment in the United Front department to control narratives and maximize Chinese influence overseas. Russia has demonstrated similar capabilities, using proxy forces, cyber operations, and information campaigns alongside conventional military power. In 2024, hybrid threats evolved from being dismissible concepts to mainstream threats to national security across Western democracies.

The Romanian presidential election of 2024 provides a stark illustration. Intelligence agencies revealed Russia had orchestrated a highly sophisticated social media campaign to boost a far-right, pro-Russian presidential candidate, exploiting TikTok's extreme popularity in the country. This operation represented not bullets or bombs, but informa-

tion warfare targeting the cognitive space—the realm of perception, belief, and democratic choice.

For security forces, this evolution presents unprecedented challenges. A police officer responding to civil unrest must now consider whether the protest has been amplified or manipulated by foreign actors seeking to destabilize society. A military commander must recognize that traditional battlefield victories can be undermined by information operations that shape how conflicts are perceived domestically and internationally. Without ideological and political training, uniformed personnel lack the conceptual framework to understand these dimensions of modern conflict.

Men and women in uniform derive their authority from the democratic societies they serve. They are not mercenaries or instruments of personal power; they are public servants entrusted with extraordinary powers that must be exercised within constitutional boundaries. This fundamental relationship demands more than perfunctory awareness—it requires deep, sustained education in democratic principles and values.

Law enforcement officers take an oath to uphold the Constitution, yet it's unlikely they have read it recently, if at all, and much police academy training treats the Constitution as an impediment to efficient police work rather than the foundation of their authority. This troubling reality places officers in direct opposition to their oath rather than focusing them on their primary responsibility as sworn guardians of constitutional liberty.

The consequences of this deficit are measurable. According to Gallup, only 49% of non-whites feel confident that police will protect them from violent crime, compared to 60% of whites, indicating a catastrophic breakdown in the reciprocal relationship between law enforcement and communities. This erosion of trust does not occur in a vacuum; it reflects, in part, a failure to ensure that those wielding state power understand the constitutional and moral basis of their authority.

Military forces face analogous challenges. Ethics training at institutions like the U.S. Army War College remains an elective rather than a core requirement, despite the institution's stated goal that graduates should exercise moral judgment and promote the values and ethics of the profession of arms. This approach treats ethical and political understanding as supplementary rather than central to military professionalism.

Comprehensive ideological and political training addresses these gaps by ensuring that uniformed personnel understand not merely what they can do, but why certain actions are legitimate in a democratic society and others are not. It reinforces that their powers exist to serve the public interest, not institutional convenience or personal preference. It cultivates what might be called "constitutional consciousness"—an internalized commitment to democratic values that guides decision-making even under pressure.



The threat to democratic institutions does not always come from external adversaries. Increasingly, security forces themselves face infiltration by extremist ideologies that fundamentally contradict their oath to defend constitutional democracy. This internal threat represents one of the most pressing reasons for robust ideological and political training.

The military, law enforcement, and other arms of government must continue recognizing the threat from extremist ideologies, resist instruction that aligns with those views, and implement programs that train law enforcement—from recruitment to return to civilian life—on these dangers. The January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol crystallized this concern when it emerged that some participants had military or law enforcement backgrounds, representing a profound betrayal of their professional obligations.

The vulnerability of security institutions to extremist influence is not new, but the current information environment has amplified the risk. Social media algorithms can radicalize individuals through echo chambers that reinforce extremist narratives while insulating them from alternative perspectives. Foreign adversaries actively seek to sow division and promote extremist content that weakens democratic societies from within. Without training that helps security personnel recognize and resist these influences, institutions face the danger of corrosion from the inside.

Ideological training serves as a prophylactic against radicalization. By providing security forces with a robust understanding of democratic values, constitutional principles, and the historical consequences of extremism, such training creates intellectual and moral antibodies. Personnel who understand why liberal democracy emerged, what it protects, and how easily it can be lost are better equipped to reject extremist appeals.

Moreover, this training must address the specific vulnerabilities of security professions. The hierarchical structure, emphasis on loyalty, and access to weapons and classified information that characterize military and police work can be exploited by extremist movements. Training programs must help personnel

distinguish between legitimate professional values like duty and loyalty, and the perversion of these values in service of anti-democratic ideologies.

Security forces operate within a global system characterized by great power competition, technological disruption, and contested narratives about governance and human rights. To function effectively, uniformed personnel require political education that provides context for their operational activities.

Hybrid warfare employs a wide range of overt and covert military, paramilitary, and civilian measures in a highly integrated design, with adversaries combining kinetic operations with subversive efforts to influence policymakers and key decision makers. Understanding this strategic context enables security forces to recognize their role within broader geopolitical competitions.

Consider a military unit conducting exercises in Eastern Europe or the South China Sea. Without political education, personnel might view these activities as routine training. With appropriate context, they understand these operations as elements of deterrence, signaling democratic resolve to potential adversaries while reassuring allies. This comprehension enhances mission effectiveness by connecting tactical actions to strategic purposes. Similarly, police officers benefit from understanding how domestic security challenges connect to international dynamics. The rise of transnational organized crime, including drug cartels and human trafficking networks, requires law enforcement to think beyond local jurisdictions. Terrorist organizations recruit within democratic societies, requiring police to understand ideological drivers of radicalization. Cybercrime respects no borders, demanding cooperation across international boundaries.

Political training also helps security forces navigate the complexities of civil-military relations in democratic societies. The military serves as a vital bridge between strategic goals and societal values, with this relationship becoming more complicated in the current context of geopolitical shifts in a volatile, uncertain, complex world. Understanding civilian control of the military,

the importance of non-partisanship, and the boundaries of appropriate political engagement protects both democratic institutions and military professionalism.

The exercise of state-sanctioned force carries profound moral weight. Security personnel routinely make decisions with potentially life-altering consequences: whether to use force, how much force to apply, whom to trust, and what information to act upon. These decisions occur in environments characterized by time pressure, incomplete information, and high stakes—precisely the conditions where moral reasoning is most difficult yet most necessary.

Moral leadership is leading by demonstrating virtue in thought and action that is both exemplary and actively persuasive in its execution, moving beyond behavior modification to shaping a person's true self. This concept recognizes that ethical conduct flows from character, not merely compliance with rules. Rules provide guidance for common situations, but they cannot anticipate every circumstance. In novel or ambiguous situations, character determines choices.

Consider the challenges facing a patrol officer in a diverse community. Constitutional knowledge tells the officer what actions are legally permissible, but ethical understanding guides how to exercise discretion in ways that build trust rather than resentment. A soldier facing an irregular warfare scenario where combatants hide among civilians confronts moral dilemmas that rulebooks cannot fully address. The ability to reason through such situations requires sustained education in ethical frameworks and values.

The Army's approach to values training has evolved to include experiential training that connects harmful behaviors to violations of core values while highlighting honorable actions that uphold those values. This shift recognizes that values education must go beyond memorization to genuine internalization. Security forces need opportunities to practice moral reasoning through

Beyond Physical Prowess: Why Ideological And Political Training Is Essential For Modern Security Forces

Contd from page 20

realistic scenarios, reflect on their responses, and develop the habits of thought that support ethical action under pressure.

Moreover, values training serves an important function in maintaining psychological health. Research shows that tactical leaders during two decades of war could not place the moral dimension of their wartime decisions in a separate bucket from tactical considerations. The integration of moral and operational decision-making means that ethical preparation is not merely about preventing misconduct—it is about equipping personnel to process the complex moral terrain they will inevitably navigate, reducing the psychological burden of these difficult choices.

In democratic societies, security forces operate with public consent. This consent, however, is not unconditional or permanent. It must be continuously earned through demonstrated commitment to democratic values, respect for civil liberties, and accountability for misconduct. Political and ideological training directly supports this imperative by ensuring that uniformed personnel understand why public trust matters and how to maintain it.

The crisis of confidence in American policing illustrates both the problem and the potential for training to address it. There is a crisis of trust between law enforcement and the public in many communities, with constitutional policing—or the lack thereof—at the heart of this distrust. Every news cycle that features misconduct widens the chasm between police and public, where citizens feel their rights are being violated by those tasked with defending them.

Training that emphasizes constitutional principles, civil liberties, and the historical context of communities' relationships with law enforcement can help bridge this divide. When officers understand not just the technical requirements of the Fourth Amendment but the historical reasons why protections against unreasonable searches and seizures exist, they are more likely to internalize these limits as legitimate rather than viewing them as obstacles to effective policing.

Military forces, while generally enjoying higher public confidence than many institutions, are not immune to similar challenges. Misconduct scandals, failures in accountability, and questions about the appropriate use of military force all affect public trust. Military and government relations require a high level of trust, and the call to shared ethical standards seeks effective understanding and trust in partners throughout the world. This trust extends to domestic populations who must believe that military institutions serve the public interest rather than becoming separate power centers.

Transparency and accountability are not possible without personnel who understand why these principles matter in democratic societies. Training that explores the relationship between military institutions and civilian oversight, the importance of honest reporting up the chain of command, and the dangers of closing ranks to protect misconduct creates a culture that supports accountability rather than resisting it.

What should such training actually include? The answer must be comprehensive, covering several essential domains:

Constitutional and Legal Foundations: All security personnel should receive sustained education in constitutional principles, civil liberties, and the legal framework governing their authority. This includes not merely memorizing rules but understanding the philosophical and historical reasons these protections exist. Police academy training covers learning state ordinances, local laws, and constitutional law, including the basic functions and processes of the legal system, but this foundation must be reinforced and expanded throughout careers.

Democratic Theory and Practice: Understanding how democratic institutions function, the role of security forces within democratic systems, and the dangers that arise when these forces become politicized or operate outside civilian control. This education should include comparative perspectives, examining how security institutions have supported or undermined democracy in various contexts.

Historical Context: Knowledge of how security forces have been misused in authoritarian systems, the historical development of civilian control of the military, the evolution of policing in democratic societies, and case studies of both exemplary and failed civil-military relations. This historical grounding helps personnel recognize warning signs when institutions drift toward anti-democratic practices.

Threat Recognition: Training on contemporary threats including hybrid warfare, cognitive operations, disinformation, extremist recruitment tactics, and the specific ways adversaries target security institutions. China's hybrid warfare strategy involves systematic phases including sabotaging critical infrastructure, waging cognitive warfare through disinformation, conducting cyber-physical attacks, employing military encirclement, and leveraging political subversion. Security forces must understand these multi-dimensional threats to respond effectively.

Ethical Reasoning: Education in ethical frameworks relevant to security professions, including just war theory, professional ethics, and practical moral reasoning. This should include realistic scenario-based training that allows personnel to practice ethical decision-making in simulated high-pressure situations.

Cultural Competency and Civil Liberties: Understanding diverse communities, recognizing unconscious



bias, and learning how to provide security in ways that respect civil liberties and human dignity. This includes awareness of how different communities may have historically fraught relationships with security institutions.

Geopolitical Context: Education in international relations, great power competition, and the strategic environment within which security forces operate. This contextual knowledge helps personnel understand how their activities connect to broader national objectives and how adversaries may seek to exploit or manipulate their actions.

Implementing comprehensive ideological and political training faces several practical challenges. Training time is limited, budgets are constrained, and there may be resistance from those who view such education as outside the core mission of security forces. These obstacles are real but surmountable.

Integration Rather Than Addition: Rather than treating ideological and political training as separate from operational training, it should be integrated throughout professional education. Ethics and values can be explored through tactical scenarios. Constitutional principles can be reinforced during training on search procedures or rules of engagement. This integration makes such training more relevant and less likely to be seen as bureaucratic obligation.

Career-Long Education: Political and ideological education cannot be confined to initial training. As personnel advance through their careers, they encounter new responsibilities and face different challenges. Senior leaders in particular need sophisticated understanding of civil-military relations, strategic communications, and institutional accountability. The U.S. Army War College has a core strategic leadership course with only one lesson on responsible stewardship of the profession, with ethics remaining an elective—an imbalance that should be corrected.

Quality Instructors: This training requires skilled educators who can navigate sensitive topics while respecting the practical demands of security professions. Chaplains are among the most well-trained speakers and teachers in the Army, making them valuable resources for moral

leadership training. Legal officers, academic partnerships, and senior leaders with operational credibility can all contribute to delivering this education effectively.

Measurement and Assessment: The effectiveness of ideological and political training must be assessed, not through simple knowledge tests, but through observed changes in institutional culture, decision-making quality, and public trust metrics. This assessment should be ongoing and should inform continuous improvement in training approaches.

The consequences of failing to provide comprehensive political and ideological training are severe and mounting. Security forces without such education are more vulnerable to extremist infiltration, more likely to erode public trust through constitutional violations, and less effective at navigating the complex strategic environment they inhabit.

When police officers lack constitutional grounding, they are more likely to employ tactics that courts later rule unconstitutional, leading to case dismissals, civil liability, and community alienation. When military personnel do not understand the political context of their operations, they cannot effectively contribute to strategic objectives that require more than kinetic effects.

Perhaps most dangerously, security forces without ideological training become vulnerable to manipulation by anti-democratic actors. Whether through foreign influence operations, domestic extremist recruitment, or simple institutional drift, organizations that lack shared commitment to democratic values can become threats to the very societies they exist to protect.

Democratic nations worldwide grapple with similar challenges in preparing their security forces for 21st-century threats. Some have developed innovative approaches worth examining. Several European democracies incorporate extensive civic education into military training, recognizing that defending democracy requires understanding what democracy is. Some police forces have developed community-oriented training that emphasizes the officer's role as a guardian rather than a warrior, fundamentally reframing the ideological basis of law enforcement.

International cooperation itself presents opportunities for ideological and political training. Joint exercises and exchanges with allied military and police forces provide opportunities to understand different democratic approaches to civil-military relations, learn from others' experiences, and build personal relationships that support cooperation in addressing transnational threats.

The argument for comprehensive ideological and political training for security forces is not about making them less effective at their core functions. Rather, it recognizes that in the 21st century, professional excellence requires more than physical conditioning and tactical proficiency. The men and women who serve in uniform must be critical thinkers, ethical decision-makers, and informed guardians of democratic values.

Ethics education has become a growing topic in many armed forces worldwide, with the new approach to modern ethics training ensuring ethical leadership and decision-making at all levels by targeting entry-level military members. This shift reflects growing recognition that character and judgment cannot be developed solely through operational training.

The geopolitical environment will only grow more complex. Adversaries will continue developing sophisticated methods to challenge democratic societies without triggering conventional military responses. The information space will remain contested, with truth itself becoming a casualty in conflicts where perceptions matter as much as facts. Extremist ideologies will continue seeking to infiltrate institutions and radicalize individuals.

In this environment, security forces equipped only with weapons and tactical skills, no matter how advanced, will prove insufficient. But forces that combine operational excellence with deep understanding of democratic values, constitutional principles, ethical reasoning, and the strategic context of their activities will be capable of meeting these challenges. They will be able to defend not merely territory or institutions, but the democratic values that give these things meaning.

SPORTS
NEWS

PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



Sports >> *Thomas Tuchel said "behaviour is key" and that he "will review" Jude Bellingham's unhappy reaction at being substituted during England's World Cup qualifier against Albania.

'Behaviour Is Key' – Tuchel To Review Bellingham Reaction

Thomas Tuchel said "behaviour is key" and that he "will review" Jude Bellingham's unhappy reaction at being substituted during England's World Cup qualifier against Albania.

Bellingham started his first England game since June in the 2-0 win in Tirana but was visibly irritated at being replaced by Morgan Rogers in the 84th minute.

The Real Madrid midfielder, who had already been booked, gesticulated with his arms that he did not want to be substituted.

Tuchel said before Sunday's game he would speak to his players about avoiding any needless red cards after Cristiano Ronaldo's dismissal on Thursday meant he will miss Portugal's opening two matches of the World Cup.

Another booking for Bellingham would have led to him being suspended for the start of the tournament.

"I don't want to make more out of it but I stick to my words – 'behaviour is key' and respect towards the team-mates who come in," Tuchel told BBC Radio 5 Live.

"Decisions are made and you have to accept it as a player.

"Morgan Rogers was for sure not happy when he couldn't start today because he deserves to play for us and he wants to play all the time. We gave him a bit of a rest because he came with a lot of minutes for his club and played against Serbia."

Bellingham was one of seven changes made by Tuchel for England's final qualifier and he showed signs of his brilliant best in both attack and defence.

His final act was celebrating Harry Kane's second goal, before his number was raised by the fourth official, leading to what former England defender Stephen Warnock described as a "furious" reaction from the Real Madrid man.

When asked about it in his post-match press conference Tuchel



Jude Bellingham celebrates his goal against Serbia. PHOTO/England/X

added: "I have to review it. I saw he was not happy, I don't want to make it bigger at the moment than it is.

"My words stand, we are about standards, level and commitment to each other and respect to each other. We will not change or decision just because someone waves their arms."

Tuchel has previously referred to Bellingham's on-field behaviour as "repulsive", something the German later apologised for.

Despite Bellingham's disappointment, he applauded fans as he went off and did the "right thing" according to Warnock by shaking Tuchel's hand on the touchline before taking his seat on the bench.

"There was an element where he was thinking 'how do I handle this'?", Warnock added on 5 Live.

"There were probably words said to him as he left the pitch. Dan Burn walked over to him, Phil Foden walked over to him as well because they could see how annoyed and disappointed he was. 'Don't do anything stupid' – that is probably what was said to him. The big word from Tuchel was respect.

"If you are going to win a World Cup you are going to have to play bit-part at times. You might not play every minute that you want to play, you have to do what is for the good of the team. The game has changed.

"Bellingham is going to have to take it on the chin and just say 'ok, I'm going to have to change a little bit to fit in'."

Conor Coady was in the England squad alongside Bellingham at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and said deep down Bellingham will know Tuchel made the correct decision.

"When the dust settles Jude will know it was the right decision to bring him off. What it is with Jude, he thinks at the minute he is playing catch-up," Coady told 5 Live.

"He missed the last camp, he knows Morgan Rogers has done really well. He wants to play every minute he possibly can to show the manager he can be the main man for England.

"We have seen it tonight with the balls he was losing, he was losing simple balls and trying to be too adventurous at times in his own half. I think he feels he is playing catch-up. Rogers is in a great position."

BBC

Sports >> *Former Chelsea and Brazil midfielder Oscar has been discharged from hospital after being admitted last week with a heart issue.

Oscar Discharged From Hospital After Heart Issue



Former Chelsea and Brazil midfielder Oscar, who has played for Shanghai SIPG for more than three years, says he would play for China if FIFA their changed eligibility rules

Former Chelsea and Brazil midfielder Oscar has been discharged from hospital after being admitted last week with a heart issue. The 34-year-old became unwell while undergoing physical testing before the new season at Brazilian side Sao Paulo’s training centre on Tuesday. Sao Paulo said in a statement Oscar left Einstein Hospital Israelita on Sunday and was “stable and clinically well” throughout his stay.

“Extensive investigation carried out at the hospital confirmed that the player experienced an episode of vasovagal syncope,” it added. Vasovagal syncope is a common type of fainting caused by a sudden drop in blood pressure and heart rate. The club said Oscar “will now follow a medical rest programme for the next few days”. Oscar began his career with Sao Paulo and returned to the club last year on a three-year deal running

until 2027 after spending eight years playing in China. BBC

SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Axiological Approaches In Literature Lessons



By: Sayfiddinova Mavluda
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The scope of values in curricula has expanded: Since 2020, literature programs have explicitly emphasized values such as patriotism, national pride, tolerance, and ecological responsibility.
- Students internalize values through artistic images: For example, Abdulla Qodiriy's "O'tkan kunlar" (Bygone Days) conveys devotion and love, while Cho'lpon's poetry instills the values of freedom and human dignity.
- Axiological approaches are effective in teachers' practice: 70% of teachers considered dedicating time to moral discussions in class to be highly effective.
- Interactive methods yield positive outcomes: Role-play, debates, and cluster methods help students actively engage in value-based learning.

In recent years, the issue of nurturing a well-rounded personality and shaping students' moral and spiritual values has become increasingly relevant in the educational process. The theory of axiology (value science) serves as a key scientific foundation in this regard. Literature lessons, in turn, are not only a means of analyzing artistic texts but also one of the most powerful tools for fostering values such as kindness, beauty, and patriotism in students' hearts.

This article analyzes the essence of axiological approaches in literature lessons, their methodological application, and practical effectiveness. The aim of the study is to develop the theoretical foundations for organizing literature lessons based on values and to assess their impact on students' personalities.

Methods

The following scientific and methodological approaches were applied in preparing the article:

Theoretical analysis: Scientific articles and monographs published between 2020 and 2024 were studied (Rakhmonov, 2021; Yusupova, 2022).

Pedagogical observation: Literature lessons in grades 8–9 of secondary schools in Namangan region were observed.

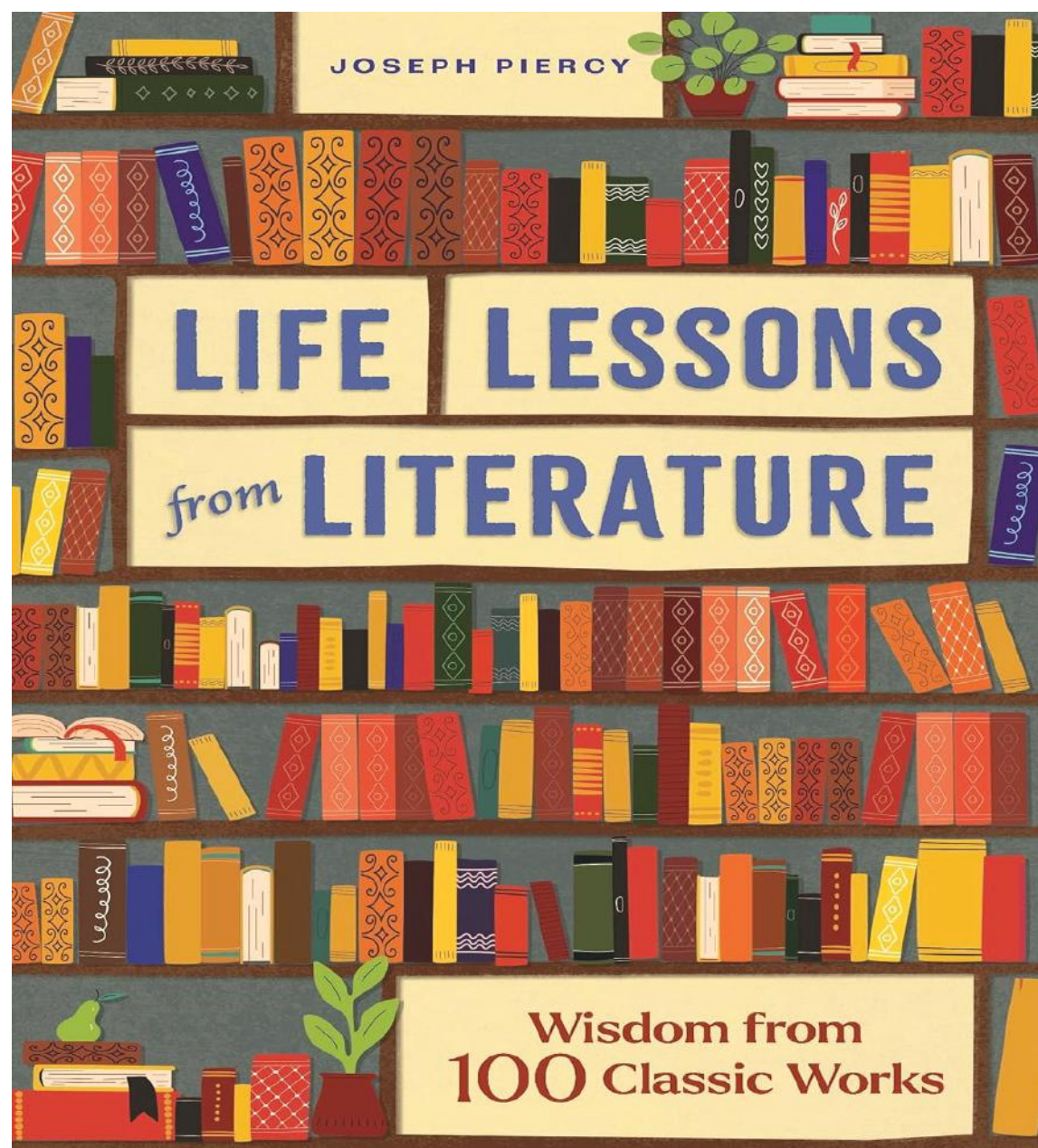
Content analysis: Educational programs and textbooks were analyzed for the presence of value-based content.

Survey: A questionnaire was conducted among 45 students and 10 literature teachers to gather opinions on the role of moral and spiritual values in lessons.

Results

The research yielded the following conclusions:

- The scope of values in curricula has expanded: Since 2020, literature programs have explicitly emphasized values such as patriotism, national pride, tolerance, and ecological responsibility.
- Students internalize values through artistic images: For example, Abdulla Qodiriy's "O'tkan kunlar" (Bygone Days) conveys devotion and love, while Cho'lpon's poetry instills the values of freedom



and human dignity.

- Axiological approaches are effective in teachers' practice: 70% of teachers considered dedicating time to moral discussions in class to be highly effective.
- Interactive methods yield positive outcomes: Role-play, debates, and cluster methods help students actively engage in value-based learning.

Discussion

Axiological approaches transform literature lessons from simple text analysis into a meaningful educational and social process. Research results demonstrate that value-oriented teaching enhances students':

Social activity: They tend to connect literary events with real-life

situations.

Aesthetic taste: Their ability to perceive beauty and analyze imagery strengthens.

Personal viewpoint: Students learn to justify their opinions and defend their moral perspectives.

To enhance the effectiveness of this approach, teachers should:

Link each lesson topic to a specific value.

Encourage open-ended discussions and free debates.

Incorporate works by contemporary writers and poets (published after 2020).

Use multimedia tools such as videos, audio materials, and electronic slides to make lessons more engaging.

Conclusion

Applying axiological approaches in literature lessons plays a vital role in shaping students not only as knowledgeable individuals but also as morally mature personalities. Through literary works, they deeply understand both national and universal values and strive to embody them in their lives.

Future research in this field could focus on exploring the long-term impact of such approaches on students' moral and ethical development, as well as developing value-oriented lessons based on digital technologies.

Author: Sayfiddinova Mavluda, Master's student, Namangan State Pedagogical Institute, Uzbekistan