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News>>Ruto Calls For Africa-EU Partnerships Rooted In Industrial Growth And Equality

P. 8. President William Ruto has urged Africa's development partners, particularly the European Union, to support industrial growth on the continent rather than perpetuating a culture of dependency.



News>> DCP Alleges State-Sponsored Violence Ahead Of Narok By-Elections

P. 12. The Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) has accused the National Police Service of orchestrating violence against its members and supporters in Narok Town during campaign activities on Monday.

By-Elections: IEBC Warns Staff On Collusion

⚡ The just concluded campaigns ahead of the November 27 by-elections across 22 electoral areas have left behind a trail of tension, violence, and bitter rivalries that now cast a heavy shadow over the exercise. What was meant to be a democratic contest to fill vacant seats quickly degenerated into chaotic scenes in several constituencies and wards, with rival supporters clashing, property destroyed, and lives disrupted. As the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) moves to assure Kenyans of a free and fair process, the memories of violence during the campaigns remain fresh, raising questions about whether the polls can truly be conducted peacefully.



Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission chairman Ersatus Etheke

STORY ON PAGE 9

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Kenya Champions Productive Partnerships At 7th AU-EU Summit In Luanda

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Kenya participated in the 7th African Union-European Union Summit and the Second Session of the Ad Hoc Oversight Committee on AU Institutional Reform in Luanda, Angola, emphasizing Africa's vision for stronger, mutually beneficial partnerships. The Summit offered a platform to review 25 years of Africa-Europe cooperation and address shifting geopolitical priorities, funding gaps, and rising security pressures.

Kenya underscored the need to transition from extractive partnerships to productive ones—moving from exporting raw materials to fostering innovation and finished products. Africa is ready to work with partners who invest on the continent, build industries, and create opportunities for young people. Deepening trade integration, anchored in regional economic communities and driven by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), remains central to maximizing cooperation with the EU. Kenya called on Europe to support digital transformation, climate adaptation, and fair, managed labor mobility.

On the sidelines, Kenya strengthened bilateral ties with regional partners. Meetings included among other leaders, President Macron of France, President Daniel Chapo of Mozambique, discussing expanded cooperation in agriculture, trade, maritime affairs, and tourism, and Prime Minister Americo Ramos of Sao Tome and Principe, whom Kenya invited to visit early next year.

Kenya continues to champion regional integration and collaboration, encouraging African nations to exchange experiences, learn from one another, and work collectively toward shared growth and prosperity.



Editor's Desk



The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), in partnership with the British High Commission and Trade Mark Africa, has launched an E-Customs mobile application aimed at enhancing efficiency, transparency and convenience for traders across border points. Speaking during the launch at the Busia One-Stop Border Point, British High Commission Chargé d' Affaires in Nairobi Dr. Ed Barnett said the innovation would revolutionize trade within the region. Dr. Barnett commended the progress achieved through the partnership with KRA, highlighting investments made in digital trade solutions including the Integrated Customs Management System, the Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System and the Trade Logistics Information Pipeline. TradeMark Africa Board Chair Hailemariam Desalegn Boshe said the app would significantly reduce expenses incurred by traders.



Kenya is hosting the 2nd Africa Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) Special Convention on Diagnostics this week in Nairobi, bringing together scientists, policymakers, industry leaders, civil society, and development partners under the theme: "Strengthening Diagnostics, AMR Surveillance and Innovative Financing for Impact." Held shortly after World Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Week, the Convention highlights the urgent need to bolster Africa's diagnostic capacity to combat AMR, enhance early outbreak detection, and build resilient health systems. Representing the Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards, Director for Public Health Dr Stephen Muleshe reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to placing diagnostics at the centre of Primary Health Care, Universal Health Coverage, and national health security. He noted Kenya's progress over the past decade through expanded laboratory networks, strengthened genomic and AMR surveillance, integration of diagnostics into PHC, and increased domestic investment in health emergency preparedness. The Convention is also spotlighting innovations in diagnostic technologies, integrated surveillance models, and sustainable financing, including efforts to mobilise resources to accelerate AMR progress across the continent.



Principal Secretary for Irrigation, CPA Ephantus Kimotho has reaffirmed the government's commitment to enhancing farmers' capacity to adopt modern and climate-resilient irrigation practices. He noted that equipping farmers with the right knowledge is essential to help them cope with changing climate patterns and fully benefit from ongoing public investments in irrigation. He made the remarks during an inspection tour of the Kamata Irrigation Project and Household Irrigation Projects in Mbeere North Sub-County, Embu County, where the National Irrigation Authority is leading implementation. The delegation engaged farmers already benefitting from irrigated water—many of whom are now venturing into high-value agricultural enterprises including tomatoes, maize, vegetables, wheat, avocados, macadamia, passion fruit and tree tomatoes. Accompanying the Principal Secretary were: PS for Energy Alex Wachira, PS for Blue Economy, Ms. Betsy Njagi CBS; Irrigation Secretary, Land Reclamation and Climate Resilience, Mr. Joel Tanui; National Irrigation Authority CEO, Eng. Charles Muasya. They were also joined by Kabete MP James Githua Wamucukuru, Laikipia MP Jane Kagiri, Kiambaa MP John Kawanjiku, Thika MP Alice Nganga, and senior officials from both national and county governments.



Busia Senator Okiya Omtatah has raised concerns over the recent hand-over of Amboseli National Park to the County Government of Kajiado. While seeking a Statement from the Senate Standing Committee on Lands, Environment and Natural Resources, the legislator questioned the constitutional, legal and environmental basis of the transfer, which was officiated by the President on 8th November 2025. Senator Omtatah noted that national parks are constitutionally vested in the national government, and altering their management touches directly on the mandates of the Kenya Wildlife Service, the National Land Commission, and compliance with the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, 2013. He further called on the committee to examine whether public participation and environmental assessments were conducted, outline the revenue management framework under the new arrangement, and assess the precedent this transfer sets for other counties regarding control of national conservation resources.

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EAC Trade Surges As Region Eyes Greater Integration Ahead Of 2026 Tripartite Summit

By: William Muchiri
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The growth was largely driven by exports, which jumped 40.5% to USD 18.6 billion, up from USD 13.2 billion the previous year, while imports rose by 18.8%, from USD 16.5 billion to USD 19.6 billion.
- Intra-EAC trade also showed positive momentum, growing 24.5% from USD 3.7 billion to USD 4.6 billion during the same period. However, its share of total trade remains modest at 12.1%, underscoring the need for deliberate measures to unlock the region's full trade potential.

The East African Community (EAC) has recorded remarkable trade growth in the first half of 2025, with total trade increasing by 28.4%, rising from USD 29.7 billion in Q2 2024 to USD 38.2 billion in Q2 2025, according to the latest EAC Statistics Bulletin.

The growth was largely driven by exports, which jumped 40.5% to USD 18.6 billion, up from USD 13.2 billion the previous year, while imports rose by 18.8%, from USD 16.5 billion to USD 19.6 billion.

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Dr. Caroline Karugu, Principal Secretary for EAC and Chairperson of the Coordination Committee, emphasized that tackling non-tariff barriers (NTBs), discriminatory levies, and other bottlenecks is critical for raising intra-EAC trade, potentially above 50%.

Speaking during the 47th Meeting of the Sectoral Council on Trade, Industry, Finance, and Investment (SCTIFI) in Nairobi, Dr. Karugu highlighted the strategic importance of advancing the Customs Union, enhancing trade in goods and services, operationalizing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), progressing Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) negotiations, and strengthening industrial and investment frameworks. She confirmed that Kenya will host the 4th Tripartite Summit in February 2026, which will provide market access to over 700 million people with a combined GDP



Dr Caroline Karugu

exceeding USD 1.4 trillion.

The summit and Tripartite framework are expected to generate significant economic benefits, fostering market integration, infrastructure development, and industrial capacity building. Deputy Secretary General for Customs and Trade Matters, Ms. Annette Ssemuwemba Mutaawe, noted that persistent NTBs continue to challenge regional trade despite ongoing efforts to enhance trade facilitation. She highlighted improvements such as digitalized simplified trade regimes,

e-certificates of origin exchange, increased collaboration between revenue authorities, and engagement with the private sector, all contributing to reduced border delays and enhanced trade efficiency.

Ms. Mutaawe also announced the launch of the EAC Customs Bond on 6th December 2025, aimed at easing cash-flow burdens for traders, streamlining transit operations, and facilitating smoother cross-border trade. The pilot phase has already been successfully completed, with sensitization

campaigns set to intensify during roll-out.

As the region strengthens trade facilitation, addresses NTBs, and aligns with continental frameworks, the EAC is positioning itself for greater competitiveness, regional integration, and shared prosperity, leveraging both intra-regional and continental opportunities.

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Ruto Calls For Africa-EU Partnerships Rooted In Industrial Growth And Equality

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

President William Ruto has urged Africa's development partners, particularly the European Union, to support industrial growth on the continent rather than perpetuating a culture of dependency.

Speaking at the 7th African Union-European Union Summit in Luanda yesterday, President Ruto called on African states and their partners to move from extractive relationships toward productive ones; shifting from exporting raw materials to exporting innovation and finished goods.

He said Africa's partnerships have for too long been shaped by charity, which he noted provides no lasting solutions to the continent's challenges.

"Each has what the other needs. Together, we are not two continents facing each other; we are two halves of a single horizon. So let this summit in Luanda be remembered not for prevarication, but for decisions," President Ruto said.

The President emphasised that Africa is offering genuine partnership



President William Ruto with other Heads of States and Governments in Luanda, Angola yesterday.

and is ready to shape a shared future as an equal, rather than remain tied to the past. He urged the continent to deepen regional economic integration through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), a single market of 1.4 billion people, noting that greater intra-African trade would also strengthen Africa-Europe economic relations.

President Ruto also highlighted the importance of digital transformation, climate adaptation, fair labour mobility, and reform of international institutions. He said Africa is already innovating in technology, with en-

trepreneurs from Kigali to Lagos reshaping sectors such as finance, agriculture, and education.

On climate change, he called for accessible, predictable, and fair climate finance, stressing that investing in Africa's climate resilience is an investment in global security and humanity's survival. On labour mobility, he advocated for recognition of qualifications across borders, establishment of migration frameworks, and protection of migrants' rights.

The President further urged the European Union to support reform of the UN Security Council to reflect



President William Ruto with other Heads of States and Governments in Luanda, Angola yesterday.

contemporary realities and to make the international financial architecture fairer and more responsive to Africa's needs.

"Africa asks only for fairness—for a seat at the table, not a place on the menu. For a partnership grounded not in pity, but in parity," he said.

He warned that illicit financial flows continue to undermine African countries' ability to fund essential public services and called for stronger action through intergovernmental platforms under the United Nations. He also stressed the importance of scaling up domestic resource mobilisation as

a reliable and predictable source of finance for sustainable development.

The two-day AU-EU Summit, which began Monday, was attended by Angolan President and African Union Chair João Lourenço, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, EU Council President António Costa, African Union Commission Chairperson Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, and other heads of state and government. Later yesterday, the president was scheduled to present a report on African Union institutional reforms, which he champions.

Gachagua Writes To IEBC Over Monday's Narok Town Violence

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

The Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) has accused state actors of planning electoral violence and vote rigging in Narok Town Ward ahead of the by-elections scheduled for tomorrow.

In a letter to the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) Chairperson, Erastus Edung Etheke, DCP Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua claimed that on Monday, hundreds of police officers, both in uniform and plain clothes, alongside state-sponsored militia, mounted roadblocks to prevent the party from campaigning for its candidate, Douglas Masikonde.

Gachagua alleged that the campaign meeting was violently disrupted,

with militia beating supporters, including women and children, using clubs, machetes, and whips, while police fired live ammunition and tear-gas canisters.

The letter further alleges that intelligence indicates the same militia and police officers plan to occupy polling stations to intimidate DCP supporters, harass polling agents, and potentially block the party's chief agent and candidate from accessing the tallying center. The aim, according to Gachagua, is to influence the outcome in favor of the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) candidate.

"Mr. Chairman, this is the exact playbook that has previously led to unthinkable bloodshed and tribal clashes in Narok, including the 1992 electoral violence," Gachagua wrote.

The DCP is demanding that IEBC provide full assurances that elections in Narok Town will be free, fair, and credible, with all parties given equal

access to polling stations and the tallying center, and that police and militia will not interfere with the electoral process.

Gachagua warned that public trust in the IEBC is at stake, urging the commission to take decisive action to prevent intimidation and violence, stressing that any perception of compromise would damage confidence in Kenya's electoral process ahead of the 2027 general elections.

The by-election in Narok Town Ward is shaping up as a high-stakes contest amid heightened political tensions and security concerns.



DCP party leader Rigathi Gachagua in Narok town on Monday.

IEBC Puts Staff On Notice Over Collusion In Tomorrow's Polls

By: Martin Mwangi
 @themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- In Kasipul constituency, the campaigns were marred by sporadic clashes between supporters of two leading candidates. Returning Officer Rebecca Abwaku confirmed that police had to break up confrontations in Oyugis town after rival groups attempted to block each other's processions. Shops were temporarily closed as traders feared escalation, and several arrests were made. Abwaku reiterated that the Commission would not tolerate misconduct from its staff or candidates, emphasizing that anyone found violating electoral rules would face immediate arrest.
- Narok County also witnessed ugly scenes when supporters of two aspirants clashed at William Ole Ntimama Stadium during a rally. Chairs were broken, and several vehicles parked outside the venue were damaged. Police officers stationed nearby had to intervene swiftly to restore order.

The just concluded campaigns ahead of tomorrow's by-elections across 22 electoral areas have left behind a trail of tension, violence, and bitter rivalries that now cast a heavy shadow over the exercise. What was meant to be a democratic contest to fill vacant seats quickly degenerated into chaotic scenes in several constituencies and wards, with rival supporters clashing, property destroyed, and lives disrupted. As the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) moves to assure Kenyans of a free and fair process, the memories of violence during the campaigns remain fresh, raising questions about whether the polls can truly be conducted peacefully.

In Kilifi County, where political competition has historically been fierce, rival supporters engaged in running battles after accusations of bribery and intimidation surfaced. Youths aligned to opposing camps hurled stones at each other in Rabai, forcing police to intervene with tear gas to disperse the crowds. Several people sustained injuries, and campaign vehicles were vandalized. The violence was triggered by allegations that one candidate's team was ferrying voters to rallies with promises of cash handouts, a claim that sparked outrage among opponents. The IEBC County Elections Manager Juma Musa later assured residents that security would be reinforced during the voting exercise, warning presiding officers against collusion with politicians.

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Narok County also witnessed ugly scenes when supporters of two aspirants clashed at William Ole Ntimama Stadium during a rally. Chairs were broken, and several vehicles parked outside the venue were damaged. Police officers stationed nearby had to intervene swiftly to restore order. The incident highlighted the deep divisions among voters, with accusations of ethnic mobilization and inflammatory speeches fueling tensions. Community elders later called for calm, urging politicians to tone down their rhetoric and allow residents to make their choices peacefully.

In Embu's Mbeere North constitu-



Electoral violence

ency, where the by-election has attracted national attention, violence erupted in Siakago after rival camps accused each other of ferrying outsiders to swell rally numbers. Stones were thrown, and one campaign lorry was set ablaze before police dispersed the crowd. Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, who has been vocal in the campaigns, condemned the violence and accused government officials of attempting to divide the community. Public Service Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku, who was also on the campaign trail, dismissed the claims and insisted that the government was committed to a peaceful process. The clashes underscored the high stakes in Mbeere North, where the contest is seen as a proxy battle between the ruling party and the opposition.

In Kisii County, supporters of two candidates in Bonchari constituency engaged in violent confrontations that left several injured. Police reported that machetes and clubs were used during the clashes, forcing them to arrest more than a dozen youths. The violence was linked to allegations of voter bribery and intimidation, with rival camps accusing each other of attempting to manipulate the outcome. Religious leaders in the area condemned the incidents, urging politicians to respect democratic principles and avoid inciting their supporters.

Elsewhere in Kakamega's Matungu constituency, tension flared when rival campaign teams crossed paths in a market center. What began as verbal exchanges quickly escalated into physical confrontations, leaving traders caught in the chaos. Police fired in the air to disperse the crowds, and several campaign posters were torn down. The incident highlighted the fragile nature of political competition in the region, where past elections have often been accompanied by violence.

In Nairobi's Embakasi ward, violence erupted after supporters accused each other of destroying campaign materials. Youths armed with crude weapons engaged in running battles, forcing police to intervene. Several arrests were made, and candidates were summoned by IEBC officials to sign peace pledges. The Commission warned that any candidate found inciting violence would be disqualified from the race.

Despite these disturbing scenes, IEBC Chief Executive Officer Hussein Marjan has assured Kenyans that the Commission has finalized all preparations for the by-elections. He emphasized that staff across all polling zones are fully trained and equipped, and that security agencies have put in place measures to guarantee peaceful voting. Marjan insisted that the by-elections will be conducted according to the law, promising a free, fair, and credible process. His words were meant to reassure a public shaken by the violence witnessed during campaigns, but skepticism remains among many voters.

The Commission's warnings to its staff have been stern. Presiding Officers and Deputy Presiding Officers have been told in no uncertain terms that collusion with politicians will not be tolerated. Musa in Kilifi and Abwaku in Kasipul both confirmed that staff risk arrest and prosecution if they attempt to steal votes or spoil ballots. The message is clear: IEBC is determined to safeguard the integrity of the process, even as tensions simmer in the affected areas.

The violence during campaigns has raised broader questions about Kenya's political culture. Why do elections continue to be accompanied by chaos, intimidation, and destruction? Analysts argue that weak enforcement of electoral laws, coupled with the high stakes of political contests, fuels desperation among candidates and their supporters. The

promise of power and access to resources often drives politicians to mobilize youths aggressively, sometimes encouraging them to confront rivals physically. Without strong deterrents, such behavior persists, undermining the democratic process.

As the November 27 by-elections approach, the memories of violence remain vivid. From Kilifi to Kasipul, Narok to Mbeere North, Kisii to Kakamega, and Nairobi, the campaigns have left scars that will take time to heal. The IEBC's assurances of security and fairness are welcome, but the responsibility also lies with politicians and their supporters to respect the rule of law. The clashes witnessed during campaigns are a reminder that democracy is fragile and must be protected through vigilance, accountability, and restraint.

For ordinary citizens, the hope is that the violence will not spill over into the voting day. Many Kenyans simply want to exercise their democratic right peacefully, without fear of intimidation or disruption. The IEBC's collaboration with security agencies will be tested, and the credibility of the Commission will hinge on its ability to deliver transparent results. The by-elections are not just about filling vacant seats; they are about reaffirming the nation's commitment to democracy and the rule of law.

The coming days will determine whether the violence of the campaigns was an unfortunate prelude or a warning of deeper instability. For now, the Commission's stern warnings, the presence of security personnel, and the resilience of voters offer hope that the by-elections can proceed without further disruption. But the scars of the campaign violence will linger, reminding Kenyans of the urgent need to reform political practices and strengthen institutions to ensure that elections are truly free, fair, and peaceful.

Kirinyaga 2027 Gubernatorial Race Takes Shape

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Kirinyaga county has been represented by two governors since the advent of devolution and is bracing for a third one come 2027.

The two, Joseph Ndathi and Anne Waiguru both hail from Gichugu constituency. Mwea constituency that has the largest voter base feels that it's their turn to produce a county chief.

It's perhaps out of this urge that a recent opinion poll put former Deputy Governor Peter Ndambiri ahead of the pack.

The poll carried out by Strawpoll between November 15 and 17 got Ndambiri a rating of 20.63% of the 26,018 of the voters polled.

He was followed closely former area Woman Representative Purity Wangui Ngirici who garnered 18.33% of the vote.

Incumbent Senator Kamau Murango followed closely with 17.40 percent of the vote.

Ndambiri who served as the deputy governor of Anne Waiguru between

2017 and 2022 is the Party Leader of Democratic Republic Movement will probably face the biggest change from Murango who is a close confidant of DCP leader and former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. However, yesterday, Ndambiri said that his party was a member of the United Opposition and hence not in direct competition with DCP and believes he would fly the opposition's flag as he was more experienced, focused and resilient.

Other aspirants polled included former Interior Ministry Principal Secretary Karanja Kibicho who received a rating of 14.84 percent and is believed to be Jubilee party's candidate in the gubernatorial race come 2027.

Two incumbent Members of Parliament George Kariuki of Ndia and Kirinyaga Central's Gachoki Gitari were mentioned as serious contenders with former getting 16.33 percent while the latter polled 6.36 percent.

According to the poll, 6.1 percent of the voters are yet to decide on a suitable, a number that can easily tilt the outcome with everything remaining constant.



Peter Ndambiri



Karanja Kibicho



Karanja Kibicho



Kamau Murango



G K Kariuki



Gachoki Gitari



Mudavadi Delivers Masterstroke After Returning To Malava, Urges Electorate To Vote In Ndakwa

By: OPCS PRESS SERVICE

@themtkenyetimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary and the UDA party patron for the Malava by election campaigns Musalia Mudavadi took centre stage as he camped in Malava for the final stretch of a series of campaigns for the UDA Candidate David Ndakwa.

Since Friday last week, Mudavadi has been traversing various areas within the bigger Malava constituency and leading key strategic meetings to give the last kick to Ndakwa's victory.

On Friday, Mudavadi led a brigade of senior politicians from Western Kenya to drum up support for Ndakwa at a mega rally held in Malava Primary School grounds.

"On 27th November 2025, the people of Malava will exercise their democratic right to choose the leader who will represent them in Parliament. The ballot paper will not have a photo of Mudavadi, Oparanya or Farouk. The ballot paper will have the faces of the sons of Malava, be wise and make the right choice," Mudavadi told the rally.

"The people of Malava now it is your time. For us we have campaigned and convinced you to vote for our candidate Ndakwa. Now, it is you to act like the traditional circumcisers since the initiates are before you on Thursday," urged Mudavadi.

The Prime CS has been consistent during the campaign trail saying from experience he firmly believes that Ndakwa embodies the values, clarity, and commitment needed to steer Malava toward a stronger and more prosperous future.

"Development must continue to guide the delivery of services to our citizens, and this can only be achieved when we remain united and support leaders who genuinely put Malava first," he said.

"Malava people you have always enjoyed being part of the Government. We are presenting Ndakwa as the broad-based candidate. He has the blessings of the President and all the players within the broad-based arrangement, tafadhali msiniabishhe," he remarked.

Mudavadi spent the entire Saturday campaigning for Ndakwa while on Sunday he engineered and witnessed the public withdrawal from the race of the popular candidate from the Democratic National Alliance (DNA), Joab Burudi Manyasi from the contest.

Analysts say the Sunday move by Manyasi, a preferably strong candidate in the race shook Malava's political landscape setting off waves of speculation across the constituency on what the outcomes will be.

They further pin-point that the twist came at a critical moment calling it a game-changing, strategic move that could redefine the final stretch of the Malava contest.

The Manyasi factor has been deeply analysed based on his loyal support base in the previous elections where by in 2022 he was 3rd when he vied under the ODM ticket garnering 11,983 votes against the late Moses Malulu Injendi (ANC) who won with 22,891 Votes and Seth Panyako under UDA got 20,133 Votes.

Further a trail, in 2017 Manyasi was 2nd to Malulu when he vied with FORD-K Party and garnered 18,796 Votes against Malulu who won with 21,344 Votes.

"This decision is not a sign of weakness from our brother Manyasi, but a sign of strength that demonstrates unity of purpose from a leader who is pragmatic and who has always put the interests of the people of Malava first," said Mudavadi on Sunday.

During the final campaigns Mudavadi has described Ndakwa as a trustworthy leader who will follow in the footsteps of the late Malulu Injendi in ensuring that the development projects initiated are completed, the education and agricultural sectors are stable and employment is created for the youth.

Mudavadi also said Ndakwa has a soft spot for the women of Malava and his leadership will see women groups and chama's empowered, and the women given equal opportunities like the men.

"We want the people of Malava to elect a leader whom the President will be comfortable to work with," Mudavadi added.

The Malava parliamentary seat fell vacant on February 17 this year following the death of local MP Moses Malulu Injendi of the Amani National Congress (ANC).

Like Malulu, Ndakwa was re-elected in 2022 on the ANC ticket, a party then led by Mudavadi.

Further Mudavadi's patronage has seen the UDA nomination losers throw their weight behind Ndakwa.

Through reconciliatory efforts masterminded by Mudavadi and President William Ruto's personal assistant Farouk Kibet, the UDA nomination losers Simon Kangwana, Leonard Shimaka and Ryan Injendi, the son of Malulu, agreed to give Ndakwa all their support.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi leads UDA final campaigns in Malava. Photos/Courtesy.

On Monday, Prime CS Mudavadi announced the appointments of, Simon Kangwana, who was picked as an Education Attachee in the Kenyan Mission in Uganda, while Rhyan Injendi Malulu will be a Trade Attachee in the Kenyan Embassy in South Africa.

Another aspirant, Leonard Shimaka was last month appointed a Commissioner at the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) for three years.

On paper, Ndakwa has all along been viewed as the front-runner. In addition to experience and State support, Ndakwa hails from the Bashuu clan, the most populous among the Kabras sub-tribe.

Should his entire ethnic group rally solidly behind him, then the Kabras West ward representative obviously

have a head start in the campaigns, considering that both Ryan Injendi and Joab Manyasi who are drawn from the Basonje clan, the second largest of 29 that firm the Kabras sub-tribe have also declared support for him.

Mudavadi has also been at the centre in making sure interventions made by the people of Malava requesting for the completion of Malava-Ikoli road, Malava-Samitsi road at Lukala, Namanja water project, Sikhuyu water project, Malava Medical Training College and the construction of students hostels at Shamberere National Polytechnic and Kabras West Sub-County headquarters are actualized.

He also successfully pushed for the gazette and staffing of the

new administrative units in East Kabras and Kabras West Sub-Counties namely; Chesero and Chivanga Divisions, Nguvuli Location and Mukhuyu and Shivagala Sub Locations in East Kabras; Shirugu/Mugai Division, Chevoso and Shikutse Locations, Indulusia and Bukhakunga Sub Locations in Kabras West.

All attention is on Malava now. It is only a matter of hours before the voters of Malava go to the ballot to elect a new Member of Parliament.

With the by-election taking a home-stretch, it remains to be seen whether the Opposition will fish out from its bag of tricks that can effectively counter Mudavadi's masterstroke in the 198 polling stations come tomorrow.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi leads UDA final campaigns in Malava. Photos/Courtesy.

DCP Alleges State-Sponsored Violence Ahead Of Narok By-Elections

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

The Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) has accused the National Police Service of orchestrating violence against its members and supporters in Narok Town during campaign activities on Monday.

In a strongly worded letter addressed to Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja, DCP Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua alleges that militia, uniformed police officers, and plain-clothed operatives, including members of the Rapid Deployment Unit, were deployed to intimidate DCP supporters ahead of the by-elections scheduled for tomorrow.

Gachagua claims the police blocked all highways into Narok Town and violently disrupted a DCP campaign meeting for the party's candidate in Narok Town Ward, Douglas Masikonde, using live ammunition and teargas canisters.



DCP Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua with his party's Narok Town ward candidate Douglas Masikonde.

The party leader also alleged that innocent traders, women, and children were beaten during the incident.

The letter singles out two police officers attached to Murang'a County Woman Representative Betty Maina, accusing them of coordinating the violence in Narok.

Gachagua claims these officers were previously involved in similar attacks in Murang'a County on 27th July and again on Friday last week.

"Your calculated silence and inaction impute involvement, irresponsibility, recklessness, or incompetence at play," Gachagua wrote in the let-



A scene during Monday's violence in Narok town on Monday. Photos/Courtesy.

ter, warning that any further violence ahead of the by-elections would be on the IGP's hands.

The DCP demanded the immediate withdrawal of the two officers from Narok and called on Inspector General Kanja to take decisive action.

The party also suggested that if the IGP cannot control the police service,

he should resign.

Attempts to reach the National Police Service for comment were unsuccessful at the time of publication.

The Narok by-elections, seen as a significant political contest, now face heightened tensions amid the DCP's allegations.

EPDE Delegation Meets Registrar Ahead Of By-Elections

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) on Tuesday hosted a delegation from the European Platform for Democratic Elections (EPDE), an Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC)-accredited observer mission that is in the country for tomorrow's by-elections and engagements with key electoral stakeholders.

The delegation represents more than 10 countries within EPDE's wider network, which spans over 13 European nations.

EPDE focuses on citizen-oriented election observation and promotes peer learning and collaboration among observer missions and electoral institutions.

Welcoming the delegation, the Registrar emphasized that independent scrutiny of Kenya's democratic processes is important for strengthening the country's institutions.

"Independent assessment of our democracy is welcome, acknowledging the milestones we have made as a country guided by the current constitutional order, including the wide array of political rights under our multiparty democracy," the Registrar said. The Office noted that it has hosted delegations from more than 15 countries for benchmarking since the last election.

Assistant Registrar Florence Biry highlighted ORPP's commitment to learning from comparable global best practices to enhance its efficiency and strengthen its statutory instruments.

"The ORPP Kenya is keen to take stock of best practices to improve its efficiency and statutory instruments relating to its role in the election from such observer missions, signifying Kenya's transparent electoral process," she said.

Her counterpart, Assistant Registrar CS Agatha, reaffirmed the Office's readiness to share knowledge and good practices with aligned agencies as part of ongoing efforts to improve the electoral process.

During the meeting, the ORPP team



EPDE and Registrar of Political Parties officials after their consultative meeting on Monday. Photo/Courtesy.

briefed the delegation on the full scope of political party management in Kenya. Areas covered included registration of political parties and coalitions, management of party membership, the political parties funding model, compliance and enforcement mechanisms, adherence to the Parties' Code of Conduct, capacity-building

initiatives, information-sharing, and citizen awareness.

The EPDE is a signatory to the Declaration of Global Principles for Nonpartisan Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for Nonpartisan Election Observation.

It is also a member of the Global Network of Domestic Election Mon-

itors (GNDEM).

The observer mission is expected to monitor the by-elections and continue engagements with institutions involved in safeguarding electoral integrity.

Nyandarua Farmers Embrace Climate-Smart Solutions To Boost Livestock Productivity

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Livestock farmers in Nyandarua County are being urged to adopt climate-smart innovations to safeguard their livelihoods and enhance productivity amid the challenges posed by climate change.

The call came during a Nyandarua County Farmers Field Day held in Olkalou, where key challenges facing the sector were discussed, including inadequate fodder storage and losses caused by spoilage.

Nyandarua Governor Moses Kiarie Badilisha highlighted that the county, despite being a leading milk-producing region, faces significant risks due to climate change, which has disrupted traditional farming practices. “Farmers incur huge losses when their silage and other fodder go bad,” he noted, emphasizing the importance of the field day as a platform for farmers to learn about modern technologies and innovations that can address such challenges.

One of the main issues discussed was



Farmers being taken through the process of making the best silage.

the inefficiency of traditional fodder storage methods, such as open-air drying and trench or pit silos, which often result in significant nutrient loss and wastage. To tackle this, innovators introduced The Silage Master, a modern silage bagging solution designed to preserve fodder by creating perfect anaerobic conditions, thereby reducing spoilage caused by oxygen exposure.

Ms. Teresiah Wanja from Silage Master3000 explained that the technology aims to make animal feeds more affordable, sustainable, and nutritionally high-quality through advanced

preservation methods. The machine converts crops such as maize and Napier grass into vacuum-sealed silage. Fodder is chopped into small pieces, mixed with other nutrients, weighed, and packed into 25–50kg bags for convenient storage, use, and transport. The machine then compresses and vacuums the silage to remove air, fostering essential bacterial growth for fermentation. The double-sealed bags can be used after 15 days or preserved for up to two years.

Beyond providing a practical solution for fodder preservation, the initiative incorporates education and training,



Nyandarua County Governor Kiarie Badilisha handing over some of the silage

empowering farmers to adopt resilient farming practices. Training sessions focus on modern techniques that enhance productivity, reduce vulnerability to climate-related shocks, and improve livestock health.

Governor Badilisha emphasized that these skills contribute not only to higher milk yields but also to better

household nutrition, particularly for children, who are most vulnerable to malnutrition. By combining technological innovation with farmer education, Nyandarua County aims to strengthen the livestock sector, enhance sustainability, and mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change on small-scale farmers and pastoralists.

Kenya Ramps Up Push For China To Drop Tariffs On Coffee, Tea And Avocados

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Kenya has intensified high-level negotiations with Beijing in a bid to secure zero-tariff access for some of its most valuable agricultural exports, as the country seeks to narrow its widening trade imbalance with China.

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe, who is overseeing aspects of trade facilitation for agricultural commodities, met senior officials from China’s General Administration of Customs (GACC) to press for faster clearance of Kenyan products into the world’s second-largest economy.

The Chinese delegation was led by GACC Vice Minister Wang Jun and included top officials overseeing duty collection, animal and

plant quarantine, and international cooperation, alongside Chinese Ambassador to Kenya Guo Haiyan and embassy staff.

During the talks, Mr. Kagwe raised concerns over what he termed “unfairly high” Chinese tariffs on Kenyan produce; 8% on non-roasted coffee, 20% on roasted coffee, 15% on tea, and as high as 20% on avocados, which he said continue to restrict Kenya’s export growth.

He argued that the tariffs stand in stark contrast to Kenya’s commitment to opening its own market to Chinese goods. In 2024, Kenya imported goods worth about USD 4.5 billion from China but exported only USD 290 million in return, largely raw agricultural commodities.

“The deficit is unsustainable,” the CS told the delegation, urging China to expedite the shift to zero duty promised during President William Ruto’s meeting with President Xi Jinping in Beijing.

“It is time for commitments to move from paper to real market access.”

Kenya and China are finalizing a bilateral trade framework expected to eliminate tariffs on key agricultural exports, but the agreement has faced delays, raising anxiety among farmers and exporters who had expected shipments to begin this year.

According to Kagwe, Kenya has already completed the technical submissions required by China, with the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (Kephis) confirming readiness of export protocols for fresh mangoes, dried chillies, green grams, dried fruits and plant-based medicinal materials. These items now await final GACC approval.

The CS added that Kenya is also seeking long-pending clearance for livestock products, some applications dating back more than two years noting that approval of Kenyan meat exports would mark a “historic breakthrough” for the country’s



livestock sector.

Beyond tariff reduction, Kenya is pushing for deeper collaboration in agricultural research, value chain development, laboratory strengthening and exchange of technical experts between the two nations.

“Kenya is ready,” Mr. Kagwe emphasized. “What remains is for policy commitments to translate into

real volumes, containers moving, and expanded access for Kenyan farmers in the Chinese market.”

If implemented, the proposed tariff cuts and clearances could reshape Kenya’s agricultural export landscape, opening the door to one of the world’s largest consumer markets and offering new opportunities for rural producers.

Focus On One Thing And Do It With Perfection



As the tracks help the trains,
As the navigators help the pilots,
Focus helps to reach our destination smoothly.

An eagle focuses on its prey from the far end
Ekalavya was the best example of focus.
Doing puzzles, vedic maths and answering riddles, helps improve focus.

Rajesh Kanna B N

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

Scanning helps everyone for better understanding.
Ploughing Deeper than wider helps the seed to give good yield.
Grazing edges of straws doesn't subside the hunger.
Hurrying up in the dinner, deliciousness of food and their hospitality can't be felt.
As the bridle, blinder help the horses,

Let The World Wait For You



But when I pause, my heart can hear
a truth that whispers soft and clear:
I'm tired of carrying silent weight,
I long for moments that gently wait.

Maybe I'm learning, slow and true,
I don't need to prove all I do.
I'm allowed to stop, to breathe, to stay—
the world won't break if I delay.

So now I speak to the child inside,
the one who's struggled hard to hide:
you're safe, you're held, you're growing
through...

let the world wait for you.
You don't have to run anymore.

Vidhya Nair
High School English teacher
Mkm hr sec school chennai

I sit alone and quietly think
why my days vanish in a blink,
why I keep running without a call
when life is gentle, calm, and small.

Nothing urges me to race,
no shadow follows, no storm to face.
Still I rush through every hour,
as if my speed could measure power.

I work so hard but don't know why,
as though my peace might pass me by,
as though my worth depends on pain,
as though my rest could bring me shame.

The Poetry Hidden Inside Ordinary Days



Raindrops tapping on windows like someone
trying to speak in the dim light,
Footsteps on a quiet road become a
heartbeat of the earth with might,
A streetlamp glowing like a patient
guardian in sight,
The sound of pages turning in a room that's
quiet,
Those humble whispers of moments are
pure delight!

Leaves swirling on the road in random
patterns near,
The sky changing colour during sunset clear,
A shopkeeper arranging fruits into neat
rows sincere,
A clock ticking in a still room that we hear,
When you realise a plant has grown a new
leaf without fear...

If you listen closely, even stillness has a
voice,
Whispering poetry in moments we don't
notice by choice.
The world writes poems in ways we fail to
see,
In tiny sparks of magic hiding in anonymity.
Maybe the world is always writing poetry...
we just forget to read that beauty!

-K.A. Santhoshi,
8th std,
GMHSS, Komarapalayam,
Namakkal, Tamilnadu, India.

Everyday, the world writes poems quietly in
unique and unseen ways,
If you listen close, even silence has a rhythm
that always plays.
Sunlights slipping through the curtains
where tranquility lays,
Boiling water becomes a small storm
learning to calm itself amidst its haze,
A dog sleeping becomes a warm
punctuation mark in the day with its
innocent gaze.
A cup of tea releasing steam like a soft
whispered prayer so warm,
Laundry fluttering like flags of small
victories with charm.
Children laughing in the distance with toys
in their palm,
Ordinary days are not empty... they are
just speaking soft and calm.
Perhaps the magic was never missing, only
unnoticed without qualm...

Another Step Towards The Future Of Youth!



By: Dilshod Majidov
"Mobilography course" has started in Bukhara!

Today, a broad path is being opened for the life and future of youth, towards new opportunities, new views and development in line with the times. The "Mobilography course" launched in Bukhara region is the brightest example of these opportunities. This initiative is not just a course, but a large platform that awakens the creative fire in young people, expands their worldview, and directs them to the stage of self-expression. Today, 50 talented young people are receiving free education in this course. They participate in offline training based on a month-long intensive program, deeply studying not only how to shoot video with a phone, but also how to turn it into art, choose the right frame, the secrets of video editing, and the process of creating modern content. Each lesson is a new skill, each task is a new step, and each experience is a solid foundation for future success.

The goal of this course is to support every creative youth who is working on themselves, who is in demand. To awaken their talent and creativity, to help them find their place in the

modern media space, and to form a culture of effective use of information technologies. Today, in the information age, whoever can create and dares to show the world their work is the one who takes another step forward. Mobilography is not just shooting videos. It is the most modern way to see the world with your own eyes, to capture the beauty of every moment in a frame, to express your thoughts. Today, young people participating in the classes are gradually learning to create their own stories. They are not only learning, but also expanding their capabilities by presenting their first creative works. This initiative is another step, another door, another opportunity for young people. Because they are trusted, conditions are created for them, and most importantly, their ideas are valued. Every skill learned, every experience gained will undoubtedly lead them to new heights in the future. This course, which began today in Bukhara, is a school that educates tomorrow's creators, bloggers, journalists, directors, and content creators. The most beautiful thing is that every young person has a chance, every young man and woman has a big dream in their heart, and today the first step is being taken to turn these dreams into reality!

Dilshod Majidov Head of the Bukhara Eco-Volunteer School, Chairman of the Bukhara Council of Young Tourism Ambassadors

Hymn For Fergana State University



Here countless scholars, honored minds,
Have poured their strength with boundless
grace.

Their wisdom lit the world of thought,
Their light still brightens every space.

All mentors, students, hand in hand,
Pursue one purpose, bold and true:
To dive into the depths of science,
And find discoveries anew.

For all share one devoted wish,
Deep-rooted in each beating heart:
To bring our homeland joy and peace—
A dream their souls will not depart.

Author: Soyibova Dilobarxon

Greetings to this noble place,
The finest haven ever known.
Its voice of knowledge soars above,
To where the brightest stars have flown.
No words suffice to praise its worth,
No end appears to all it gives.
Each inch of soil, pure and dear,
Within our nation's heartbeat lives.

FEEDBACK

Esteemed Editor,
Warm Greetings!
As I peruse the hallowed pages of Mt. Kenya Times, I am invariably struck by the sheer brilliance of the creative endeavors that find voice within its columns. Your publication is a veritable beacon, illuminating the path for nascent wordsmiths to share their luminous ideas with the world.
By championing the works of our creative writers, you have not only fostered a culture of creativity but also curated a compendium

of captivating narratives that enthrall and inspire. The editorial team's diligence and discernment are palpable, and I salute your unwavering commitment to excellence. May your endeavor continue to kindle the flames of imagination, empowering writers to weave their magic and enthrall readers far and wide.
Thank You,
With sincere admiration,
Usha Ramesh

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POLITICS

Three UDA Former Aspirants For Malava Seat Thank President Ruto, Mudavadi For State Jobs

By: Anders Ihachi
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The appointments, announced on Monday by Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, placed Simon Kangwana to serve as Education Attaché at the Kenyan Mission in Uganda, while Rhyan Injendi Malulu heads to South Africa as a Trade Attaché at the Kenyan Embassy in South Africa.
- “President William Ruto, I receive this appointment with loyalty, dedication and full commitment to work hard in realization of the vision of this nation. To my people of Malava, this achievement belongs to all of us,” acknowledged Kangwana.
- On Monday, Mudavadi paraded Kangwana and Injendi as they personally read their appointment letters to an anxious crowd during the final rally in support of David Ndakwa of UDA.
- Mudavadi earlier before the UDA primaries promised to be the advocate for the aspirants who won't make it.

The United Democratic Alliance (UDA) aspirants who lost in the party primaries in the Malava have thanked President William Ruto for honouring them with key appointments.

Simon Kangwana and Ryan Injendi Malulu have been appointed to diplomatic positions in Uganda and South Africa respectively.

The appointments, announced on Monday by Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, placed Simon Kangwana to serve as Education Attaché at the Kenyan Mission in Uganda, while Rhyan Injendi Malulu heads to South Africa as a Trade Attaché at the Kenyan Embassy in South Africa. “President William Ruto, I receive this appointment with loyalty, dedication and full commitment to work hard in realization of the vision of this nation. To my people of Malava, this achievement belongs to all of us,” acknowledged Kangwana.

On Monday, Mudavadi paraded Kangwana and Injendi as they personally read their appointment letters to an anxious crowd during the final rally in support of David Ndakwa of UDA.

Mudavadi earlier before the UDA primaries promised to be the advocate for the aspirants who won't make it.

He reminded them that he had fulfilled his part of the bargain adding that President Ruto had also fulfilled his promises to the aspirants and to the ongoing development projects in Malava.

Yesterday, during a media briefing at a Kakamega hotel the three aspirants pledged to stand with President Ruto's Government and work towards the realization of the broader vision for the Kenya Kwanza and Broad Bases government.

Leonard Shimaka was present as he had earlier been appointed as he joins the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) as a new member of the KRA Board of Directors.

“It is an honour to sit in the Kenya Revenue Authority Board courtesy of President William Ruto's appointment. Collectively with my colleagues we will not let the President down, we have to work around the clock and ensure that KRA meets and surpasses its targets since the economic growth of this country is looking at us,” said Shimaka.

“From a primary school teacher to a high school principal and now serving our nation abroad, my journey reflects the true spirit of humility,



From left: Simon Kangwana, Leonard Shimaka and Ryan Injendi Malulu at a Kakamega Hotel after addressa the media.

dedication, patience and excellent leadership. This is a demonstration that any Kenyan through hard work and faith can rise.” noted Kangwana at the Media briefing.

Injendi holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Nairobi, having worked in the Parliament of Kenya as a Policy and Research Analyst from August 2022, providing technical support to legislators on bills, policy briefs, and legislative proposals.

He has been involved analyzing socio-economic data and offering evidence-based recommendations to parliamentary committees.

“The position the President has bestowed on me is for the youth, the youth this bis our time our expertise, knowledge and skills are needed

more than ever before.” said Injendi Malulu.

“As I assume this role, I have an understanding of the bilateral agreements between Kenya and South Africa, the exchange volume between Kenya and South Africa is around Ksh 78 billion, skewed towards South Africa benefiting more where South Africa benefits from the largest share of around 70 billion while Kenya only gets around 7 billion.” he added.

He told journalists that his first duty once he settles in South Africa is to turn around the tables and ensure that Kenya begins to reap more from the Kenya-South Africa partnerships keeping in mind that we are working towards being and export country than an import economy in the near

future.

Kangwana said the over 40,000 Kenyan students undertaking their studies in Uganda are now his first customers once he lands in Kampala.

“I commit myself in joining other who have come ahead of me in advancing President Ruto's Bottom-Up Economic transformation agenda through strengthening education cooperation within the East African Community and bank on Kenya's rising influence within the continent and globally. I want to assure the President and the Prime Cabinet Secretary that I will not let them down.” said Kangwana.

Expert Urges Reforms to Curb Coffee Theft and Boost Farmer Earnings

By: Charles Kinyua
 @themkenyatimes

A coffee expert has called on both national and county governments to implement measures aimed at eliminating the theft of cherry and parchment coffee, which continues to undermine farmers' incomes and the broader coffee value chain.

Speaking on the TV morning show Inooro Ruciini, coffee expert Peter Githinji Njuki, popularly known as Githinji Tropical, emphasized that strengthening cooperative societies and banning the hawking of coffee were critical steps toward eradicating theft. He also urged the government to streamline the coffee value chain to ensure that farmers receive fair returns for their labor.

"Coffee, being the third-largest foreign exchange earner and a key pil-

lar of the national economy, requires concerted attention for the benefit of both farmers and the country," Githinji stated. With over 25 years of experience in the sector and as head of Alliance Berries Ltd, the largest coffee marketing agency in Kenya, he assured farmers of potentially record payments in the current season. Currently, clean coffee is averaging USD 8 per kilogram at auction, translating to about Ksh 150 per kilogram of cherry delivered to factories—an achievement historically reached by only a few cooperative societies. However, Githinji stressed the importance of improving both quality and quantity, noting a market shortage of high-grade coffee that has disappointed potential buyers. He cited an example where a buyer was willing to pay USD 800 for a 50kg bag, equivalent to over Ksh 290 per kilogram of cherry, but the produce did not meet the required

standards.

Githinji encouraged farmers to view coffee farming as a profitable business, pointing out that producing a kilogram of cherry costs approximately Ksh 23, making it a viable and lucrative venture if managed properly. He stressed that quality production not only enhances farmer earnings but also strengthens Kenya's position in the international coffee market.

On the topic of a recent High Court ruling allowing direct payments to farmers that bypass cooperative societies, Githinji warned that alienating cooperatives could be detrimental to the farmers themselves, as these societies play a vital role in aggregation, marketing, and quality assurance.

In conclusion, Githinji's recommendations focus on addressing coffee theft, improving production standards, and reinforcing cooper-



Peter Githinji Njuki alias Githinji Tropical when he was hosted by Inooro TV morning show host Kamau Wa Kang'ethe. Photo/Courtesy.

ative structures. If implemented, these measures could significantly boost farmer incomes, ensure Kenya retains its competitive edge in the

global coffee market, and strengthen coffee's contribution to national foreign exchange earnings.

Residents Urged To Embrace Vertical Gardening For Food Security

By: Florence Kinyua
 @themkenyatimes

Muranga'-based non-governmental organization, Women in Climate Change Organization (WICCO), has urged residents to adopt vertical gardening and water harvesting techniques as a sustainable way to improve food production and protect the environment.

Speaking in Githama Village of Kandara Sub County during a community training session, WICCO chairperson Diana Muthoni said agroecology offers long term solutions to food insecurity, shrinking land sizes and climate related challenges.

"We want to promote agroecology which plays a crucial role in protecting soils and reducing dependence on conventional agricultural chemicals as a key to building resilient communities."

She reiterated that through vertical gardens, water harvesting, and soil-friendly practices, households will secure food, improve nutrition,

and conserve the environment.

"In order to support households with limited land space, we are championing vertical gardening which is an innovative and highly productive method of growing food in cone-shaped gardens."

"These gardens, made from durable HDP polythene, can hold between 80 and 120 seedlings, with some models accommodating up to 150 plants of spinach and kales," she said.

Notably, a well-established cone garden can last up to 15 years, making it both economical and sustainable.

She noted that water harvesting remains one of WICCO's major innovations as climate change increasingly affects rainfall reliability in the region.

"We will also train residents on how to harvest water during the rainy season to ensure they have plenty even during dry months. This will greatly improve family nutrition," she said.

During a practical demonstration, agronomist Lawrence Njuguna emphasized the efficiency and nutritional benefits of the vertical gardens.

He noted that vertical gardens use very little water and can sustain up



to 150 plants of spinach or sukuma wiki—enough to feed a household of up to six people.

"A vertical garden with a circumference of about six metres can be harvested within 4 to 6 weeks," Njuguna said.

The ideal soil mixture is one-part soil to one wheelbarrow of manure, creating a strong multi-storey structure with excellent water retention," he explained.

Because of this, watering is required only once a week, reducing labour and conserving water.

Farmers were advised to ensure their sites are well drained and level before setting up the gardens.

Njuguna further counselled that if water contains chlorine, it should not be used directly on the plants, as it may inhibit growth.

To enhance natural pest control, WICCO has also encouraged farmers to plant onions within the cone gardens, as they help repel insects without the use of harmful chemicals.

The residents were also trained on water harvesting techniques, in-

cluding installing gutters and using storage tanks to collect rainwater—a step expected to significantly ease water challenges in many households.

Joseph Ng'ang'a Chege a resident expressed gratitude for the training saying, "We are happy to learn how to construct vertical gardens, nurture our plants, harvest water, and care for the environment. These skills will help our families get enough to eat and even sell the surplus," he said.

Capital Markets Dynamics In Kenyan M&A: Navigating Liquidity, Regulation, And Cross-Border Complexity



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

Kenya's capital markets have emerged as a pivotal arena for merger and acquisition activity in East Africa, with the Nairobi Securities Exchange facilitating transactions worth approximately KES 87 billion in publicly traded company acquisitions between 2020 and 2024. The intersection of M&A transactions and capital markets regulation presents unique challenges in this jurisdiction, where approximately 64 companies are listed on the NSE and market capitalization fluctuates around the \$20 billion mark. Unlike private M&A deals that occur outside public scrutiny, transactions involving listed companies trigger a cascade of regulatory obligations under the Capital Markets Authority Act, the Companies Act 2015, and the NSE's own takeover regulations. The mandatory tender offer requirements, disclosure obligations, and minority shareholder protections create a distinctly different landscape from private equity deals or unlisted company acquisitions.

The mechanics of acquiring a publicly listed Kenyan company require sophisticated navigation of the Capital Markets Authority's takeover framework, particularly the mandatory offer thresholds that kick in at 25% and 50% shareholding levels. When an acquirer crosses these thresholds, they must extend an unconditional offer to all remaining shareholders at a price not less than the highest price paid in the preceding twelve months. This regulation fundamentally shapes deal structuring in Kenya, as acquirers must carefully calibrate their initial stake purchases to avoid triggering premature mandatory offers before securing debt financing or regulatory approvals. The pricing mechanics become particularly complex when target companies trade at low liquidity or wide bid-ask spreads, common characteristics of smaller NSE-listed firms where daily trading volumes may not exceed a few million shillings. Strategic buyers often work with investment banks to accumulate creeping stakes through carefully

timed market purchases, building positions just below the 25% threshold before launching formal takeover bids.

Delisting considerations add another layer of complexity to Kenyan capital markets M&A, as acquirers frequently seek to take public companies private to avoid ongoing listing costs, disclosure burdens, and minority shareholder complications. The NSE and CMA have established voluntary and compulsory delisting procedures, but the practical challenges of achieving the requisite shareholder approvals often extend timelines by six to twelve months beyond initial projections. Voluntary delisting requires approval from 75% of shareholders present and voting at a general meeting, while the acquirer must also satisfy the CMA that minority shareholders have been treated fairly, typically through an independent valuation and exit offer. The thinly traded nature of many NSE listings creates valuation disputes, as minority shareholders often argue that illiquid market prices undervalue the company's true worth, while acquirers point to the same illiquidity as justification for delisting. These tensions have played out in several high-profile Kenyan delistings where dissenting shareholders successfully challenged initial exit offer prices through CMA appeals.

Cross-border M&A transactions involving Kenyan listed companies introduce foreign exchange considerations and capital controls that significantly impact deal economics and structuring. The Central Bank of Kenya's regulations on capital account transactions require approvals for significant outbound payments, while acquirers must navigate transfer pricing rules under the Income Tax Act when structuring post-acquisition intercompany arrangements. Foreign strategic buyers acquiring Kenyan listed companies typically establish local special purpose vehicles to hold the target shares, avoiding the administrative complexity of direct offshore ownership and facilitating easier repatriation of dividends through established treaty networks. The shilling's volatility against major currencies experiencing depreciation of approximately 25% against the US dollar between 2020 and 2024 creates hedging imperatives for foreign acquirers, who must lock in acquisition financing costs while managing post-closing currency exposure on the target's local currency cash flows.

Due diligence in capital markets



M&A transactions requires particular attention to continuous disclosure compliance, as listed companies in Kenya must immediately announce price-sensitive information to the NSE and CMA. Acquirers scrutinize whether target management has properly disclosed material contracts, related party transactions, and financial performance, as any historical disclosure failures create potential regulatory liability and litigation exposure. The CMA's enforcement actions have increased in recent years, with penalties for late or inadequate disclosure reaching up to KES 5 million for companies and KES 1 million for individual directors. Smart acquirers conduct forensic reviews of all NSE announcements, annual reports, and board minutes from the preceding three years, looking for gaps between what was disclosed publicly and what internal documents reveal. This disclosure archaeology often uncovers material information asymmetries that provide negotiating leverage or, in worst cases, grounds for deal termination.

Financing structures for Kenyan capital markets M&A differ substantially from private company acquisitions, as lenders and investors require greater transparency and face mark-to-market risk on listed securities used as collateral. Kenyan banks typically advance acquisition financing at lower loan-to-value ratios for listed company takeovers often 50-60% compared to 70-80% for private company deals reflecting the perceived volatility and liquidity risk of NSE securities. Acquirers

increasingly utilize bridge-to-bond structures, where initial bank debt finances the acquisition and tender offer, followed by a corporate bond issuance to refinance the bridge facility at longer tenors and potentially lower rates. The development of Kenya's corporate bond market, with outstanding issuances exceeding KES 600 billion, has created refinancing alternatives that were unavailable a decade ago, though the market remains dominated by financial institutions and lacks depth in the corporate industrial sector.

Minority shareholder activism has emerged as a significant factor in Kenyan capital markets M&A, with institutional investors and shareholder rights groups increasingly challenging acquisitions they view as undervaluing companies or inadequately protecting minority interests. The CMA's Minority Shareholders Watchdog Group has intervened in several recent transactions, filing objections to tender offer prices and demanding independent valuations. These challenges can delay deal closing by three to six months and frequently result in price increases of 10-20% above initial offers. Acquirers now routinely engage with major institutional shareholders before announcing bids, testing price expectations and building support coalitions that can deliver the necessary approval thresholds. The fairness opinion, an independent expert's assessment of whether the transaction terms are fair to minority shareholders has evolved from a pro forma document into a substantive analytical tool that

the CMA scrutinizes closely, with several transactions rejected or delayed due to perceived inadequacies in valuation methodology or comparable company analysis.

The future trajectory of capital markets M&A in Kenya will likely be shaped by the CMA's ongoing regulatory modernization efforts, including proposed amendments to streamline takeover timelines and introduce squeeze-out rights that would allow majority shareholders to compulsorily acquire remaining minorities at fair value after crossing 90% ownership. The integration of East African capital markets under the East African Securities Exchanges Association creates potential for cross-listing and regional M&A activity that could transform deal dynamics, though harmonization of regulatory frameworks remains incomplete. As Kenyan companies face increasing competition from regional peers and international entrants, capital markets M&A will continue serving as a critical mechanism for industry consolidation, foreign investment, and corporate restructuring, with the regulatory framework evolving to balance investor protection against the legitimate needs of strategic buyers seeking to deploy capital efficiently in East Africa's most developed equity market.

The writer is a legal scrivener

Kenya's Phantom Debts And The Case For A Public Debt Truth Commission

By: Martin Masinde

@themkenyatimes

There are moments in a nation's life when the truth stops knocking politely and instead kicks the door down. The latest report by the Auditor General is one such moment. The revelation that Ksh 2.7 trillion of domestic borrowing cannot be tied to any development expenditure is not a footnote. It is an indictment. It is a flashing red light indicating that Kenya's public debt story is no longer merely a fiscal challenge. It is a crime scene. For years, Kenyans have been told a simple story: we borrow to build. Roads, hospitals, water systems, dams, and power plants, this is what debt is supposedly for. But what happens when the debt grows exponentially while the infrastructure in our counties remains exactly as broken as it was before? What happens when the economy, the lifeblood of taxation, cannot keep up with the appetite for loans? What happens when numbers stop adding up? We are now living inside that "what happens."

Kenya's economy stands at about Ksh 16.3 trillion. Our public debt is Ksh 12 trillion. But here is the scandal: by 2023, we had already paid Ksh 8.8 trillion in debt service and amortisation. If you pay Ksh 8.8 trillion of a Ksh 12 trillion debt, you should naturally expect relief, declining debt, expanding fiscal space, reduced borrowing, and improved confidence. Instead, debt keeps rising faster than the economy itself, while development stagnates. Something is deeply wrong.

There is an unsettling logic beginning to emerge in political and financial circles, a theory whispered first in frustration and later in fear: that Kenya may be paying for the same debt twice.

Here is how the scheme allegedly works. External loans, many of them procured in opaque, unlawful, or irregular ways, should legally be deposited into the Consolidated Fund. That is the law. But what if some of these loans never reach the National Treasury at all? What if the money is wired into private offshore accounts belonging to politically connected individuals? Those individuals then lend it back to the government, not as external debt, but as domestic debt, T-bills, T-bonds, private placements, and other instruments. The government borrows this "domestic debt" at high interest, pays it from taxpayer revenue, and even refinances it at maturity.

In such a scenario, the thieves make money twice. First, by diverting the original external loan. Second, by earning interest from lending it back

to the public through domestic instruments.

Meanwhile, Kenyans pay twice. First, for the external loan that never reached the exchequer. Second, for the domestic loan taken from the thieves themselves. This is not merely corruption; it is a form of financial treason.

Is this theory proven? Not yet. But is it plausible? Painfully so. The fact that the Auditor General cannot trace Ksh 2.7 trillion of domestic borrowing to any meaningful development is not a clerical error. It suggests a parallel budgetary universe. An underground fiscal architecture where loans do not build schools or roads or hospitals, but private empires.

To understand the scale, look at the numbers again:

A Ksh 16.3 trillion economy carrying Ksh 12 trillion in debt after paying Ksh 8.8 trillion. The debt curve rises like a mountain; the development curve is flat like a desert. Kenya is borrowing like a nation at war, but living like a nation in famine. Yet no one can explain what we built for Ksh 21 trillion (debt plus repayments).

What have we built worth 21 trillion shillings? Where are the expressways?

Where are the dams?

Where is the world-class healthcare system? Where is the agricultural transformation?

The truth is we cannot see the projects because they do not exist. This is why Kenya must demand a comprehensive public debt audit. It's not a cosmetic review. Not another parliamentary committee that produces a 500-page report no one reads. We need an independent, forensic, transparent Public Debt Truth Commission, modelled after truth commissions in societies emerging from systemic plunder. This Commission must trace every loan from signature to destination. Who signed? Who received it? Which consultants were paid? Which banks handled the transfers? Which companies acted as intermediaries? Which politicians facilitated the deals? Who benefitted?

We must follow the money the way investigators chase proceeds of crime because this is exactly what much of Kenya's public debt appears to be: proceeds of state capture.

A debt audit is not about embarrassing a sitting government or glorifying a previous one. It is about rescuing a nation on the brink of insolvency. It is about restoring public trust. It is

about protecting future generations from being enslaved by obligations they never benefitted from. It is about finally separating genuine national debt from odious debt.

Odious debt is debt incurred not for public benefit but for the enrichment of rulers and their networks. International law is clear: nations are not obligated to repay odious debt. The people of Kenya must not be chained to debts they never authorised, never saw, and never benefitted from. The time for polite requests is over. We cannot continue servicing phantom debts that enrich a political elite while impoverishing a nation. We cannot continue borrowing to pay thieves. We cannot continue allowing the economy to be drained through well-tailored, carefully orchestrated, and professionally executed financial schemes masquerading as public finance management. This is the moment for clarity. For courage. For truth.

Kenya must uncover the architecture of its debt crisis. We demand a debt audit, not tomorrow, not next year, but now.



Worth Noting:

- Kenya's economy stands at about Ksh 16.3 trillion. Our public debt is Ksh 12 trillion. But here is the scandal: by 2023, we had already paid Ksh 8.8 trillion in debt service and amortisation. If you pay Ksh 8.8 trillion of a Ksh 12 trillion debt, you should naturally expect relief, declining debt, expanding fiscal space, reduced borrowing, and improved confidence. Instead, debt keeps rising faster than the economy itself, while development stagnates. Something is deeply wrong.
- There is an unsettling logic beginning to emerge in political and financial circles, a theory whispered first in frustration and later in fear: that Kenya may be paying for the same debt twice.

Trump Signs Order To Pursue Terror Labels For Multiple Muslim Brotherhood Units

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

U.S. President Donald Trump has signed an executive order to launch the process of designating multiple Muslim Brotherhood branches, including those in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt, as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists.

“President Trump is confronting the Muslim Brotherhood’s transnational network, which fuels terrorism and destabilization campaigns against

U.S. interests and allies in the Middle East,” the White House said in a fact sheet issued on Monday.

According to the order, the military wing of the Lebanese chapter joined Hamas, Hezbollah and Palestinian factions to launch multiple rocket attacks on Israel following the assault on Oct. 7, 2023, while a senior Egyptian Brotherhood leader called for attacks on U.S. partners on that day. It also accused Jordanian Brotherhood leaders of having long provided material support to Hamas. “It is the policy of the United States to cooperate with its regional partners to eliminate the capabilities and operations

of Muslim Brotherhood chapters designated as foreign terrorist organizations,” the order states. Under the order, State and Treasury secretaries must submit a joint report to Trump within 30 days recommending which chapters of the organization should be designated. Final actions on designations are required within 45 days after the report is delivered. The Muslim Brotherhood, founded in Egypt in 1928, has evolved into a transnational network with chapters across the Middle East and beyond. It was previously banned in Egypt and Jordan.



Khartoum’s Sky Comes Alive With Flying Pigeons Despite Sudan’s Conflict

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Across the neighborhoods of East Nile locality, east of Sudan’s capital Khartoum, tall wooden towers rise from the rooftops -- clusters of intertwined boxes punctuated by tiny window-like openings. From within them comes the soft flutter of wings and gentle coos, a quiet reminder that this place, despite the war, still holds on to its own private sky. Here, at sunrise, a daily ritual unfolds, part habit, part hope: cages opening, pigeons are released into the air, soaring before circling back, as if rehearsing a ceremony of freedom and loyalty.

On the roof of his home in the Al-Haj Yousif neighborhood, Hasabal-Rasoul Salem stands poised. He lets out a sharp whistle, waves his hand, then lifts the upper hatch of one of his wooden cages. In an instant, a flock of homing pigeons bursts out like a drifting cloud, swirling in a widening circle before steadily rising, as though following a secret path only they can read. “The best moments of my day are when I see my birds fly and return. Flying is the test of intelligence; returning is the test of loyalty,” Salem said with a smile, watching them with the eye of a seasoned breeder. He continued, “I’ve loved raising pigeons since childhood, especially fancy breeds. But 2014 was the turning point when I specialized in homing pigeons and began com-

peting in races in Darfur.” Pointing to rows of cages housing Belgian, German and Arab lineages, he added, “These birds don’t just return to a place, they return to their owner.”

On another rooftop, inside a room dedicated entirely to racing pigeons, the cages are arranged meticulously, some wooden, some made of wire, but all containing birds with striking beauty: sharp beaks, powerful wings and eyes gleaming like polished agate. Mohamed Ali Abdul-Rahman moves between the cages, gently checking feathers and inspecting wings. “Homing pigeons aren’t just about looks,” he explained. “You have to know their stamina, memory, age and endurance. Before the war, our races headed west toward Darfur or south toward Blue Nile. Now the direction has changed, northward, to the Northern State.” A major race is scheduled for December, he noted. It will be the first official event launched from Khartoum and landing in Dongola city in northern Sudan, drawing clubs from several states. Beyond the rooftops, the heartbeat of the hobby is also felt in the weekly pigeon market in Bahri city, north of Khartoum. Cages line the ground and crowd onto small carts -- homing pigeons displayed beside fancy breeds: Fantails, Pouters, Shkodra pigeons and butterfly-patterned varieties in dazzling colors. “Before the war, this hobby was thriving. The war halted imports and activity, but now we’re trying to breathe life back into it,” said Hassan Wad Al-Rayes, one of



Photo taken on Nov. 20, 2025 in the Um Dawan Ban area, east of the Sudanese capital Khartoum, shows a child training pigeons at his home in preparation for an upcoming homing-pigeon race. Photo/Mohamed Khidir/Xinhua..

the city’s prominent traders and importers.” Fancy pigeon breeding is a global hobby, and some breeds are priceless. We hope the authorities re-open import channels again,” he added, holding a thick-feathered Fantail pigeon.

In East Nile locality, five breeders gather daily at sunset to train their birds, releasing them at varying distances, checking responsiveness to calls, confirming navigational memory and tracking timing. “Racing pi-

geons are our first passion -- an endless love,” said Lotfi Ezzeddine, one of the breeders. “We still hold local competitions within Khartoum State, and despite the war, the hobby survived. We even managed to import stronger, more competitive bloodlines,” he noted. As he released another flock into the sky for training, he added, “The pigeons fly with confidence, as if they don’t see the war -- only the memory of their way home.” Now, as Dec. 5 approaches, the date

of the first homing-pigeon race to be held from Khartoum, breeders are conducting daily training sessions, logging data, attaching metal rings and debating the race route from Khartoum to Dongola, a journey that may exceed 500 km. “For us, the race isn’t just a competition,” Salem said. “It’s the announcement that life has returned to Khartoum’s sky -- that the heart of the hobby is beating again.”

StarTimes Unveils Exciting Christmas Holiday Lineup For Kids

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

StarTimes Media has launched a Christmas lineup for children's programming, promising families across the country a festive season filled with fun, adventure, and entertainment.

The broadcaster adds that the program features a wide range of popular kids' shows along with a special holiday upgrade promotion to enhance the viewing experience.

Myke Mwai, Head of PR and Content Syndication at StarTimes, said the initiative is aimed at bringing families together and creating joyful memories during the holiday season.

"We want this festive season to be a time where children can laugh, play, and explore their favorite charac-

ters, while parents enjoy the peace of knowing their families are entertained and engaged. Our holiday upgrade promotion is our way of giving back and making the season even more special," he said.

The company said that throughout the holiday period, children will be able to immerse themselves in a world of imagination with beloved characters such as SpongeBob SquarePants, The Powerpuff Girls, Superman, CJ, Jett and Dizzy from Super Wings, Leo and his team from Robocar Poli, Ben 10, and many more exclusively on StarTimes Kids Channels.

"The programming includes laughter-filled episodes, action-packed adventures, and heartwarming stories of friendship and courage to keep children entertained all season long," he said.



Myke Mwai, Head of PR and Content Syndication at StarTimes. Photo/Courtesy.

Nationwide Youth Business Drive Enters Last Lap With New Nyota Trainings

By: Aoma Keziah
 @themkenyatimes

The government's Nyota Project is set to begin its last round of business skills training this week, covering 17 counties drawn from Central Kenya, Nairobi, North Eastern and the Coast. The sessions will run from today to Saturday at constituency centres in the participating regions.

In a statement sent to the media by the Principal Secretary for MSMEs Development Susan Mang'eni, the counties lined up for this final round include Garissa, Kiambu, Kilifi, Kirinyaga, Kwale, Lamu, Manderu, Marsabit, Mombasa, Murang'a, Nairobi City, Nyandarua, Nyeri, Samburu, Taita Taveta, Tana River and Wajir. This phase brings the total number of counties that have already gone through the business support component to 46.

Training for Elgeyo Marakwet County, which was disrupted by recent landslides, will be organised at a later stage once local conditions

stabilise.

"In this round alone, 42,735 selected applicants have been invited for classroom sessions taking place in 510 wards. Each ward is hosting 70 participants, in line with programme guidelines. Those chosen have been notified individually and must attend at least three of the four training days in the constituency they selected during registration. Only then will they qualify for the business grant attached to the programme," said Mang'eni.

The Principal Secretary said all training centres are prepared and will open their doors on Wednesday. Once the sessions conclude on Saturday, the project will begin releasing the start-up capital to qualifying trainees.

"Just last week, similar training took place in 25 counties across the Eastern, Rift Valley, Nyanza and Western regions. Those sessions drew participants from 151 constituencies and 754 wards, marking a significant step towards the programme's national target," she added.

The Nyota Project aims to equip more than 100,000 vulnerable young



Principal Secretary for the State Department for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Susan Mang'eni during a past event.

people across all 1,450 wards with basic business skills and small enterprise support. Each beneficiary will also be paired with a mentor for two months, linking them with local entrepreneurs and business development professionals to help them settle into their chosen ventures.

SPORTS NEWS

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STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
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Sports >> *Unlocking the potential of sports to drive economic and social development, the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) and FIFA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding

Saudi Fund For Development And FIFA Join Forces To Provide Financial Support For Sports Infrastructure In Developing Nations



Unlocking the potential of sports to drive economic and social development, the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) and FIFA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to allocate up to Ksh 129 billion (USD 1 billion) in concessional loans for the construction and rehabilitation of sports stadiums and essential surrounding infrastructure in developing countries around the world.

The agreement underscores a shared commitment to support developing nations in strengthening their sports ecosystems as part of broader efforts to advance social and economic development.

The programme will prioritise developing nations and their respective FIFA Member Associations (MAs), helping them invest in facilities that drive growth, create opportunity, and inspire participation at every level.

This commitment is backed by compelling evidence of sport's economic impact as independent

reports estimate that the global sports economy contributes nearly 2 percent of world gross domestic product, underscoring its growing role as a driver of employment, tourism, and community development.

With 211 MAs worldwide, the gap between nations with world-class facilities and those without remains wide.

This partnership seeks to support national governments in designing, financing, and building modern multi-sport venues that meet international standards and serve as hubs for community life, education, and inclusion.

The new facilities will create jobs, stimulate local businesses, and strengthen social cohesion by giving young people safe and modern spaces to convene, train and compete.

Through these concessional loans, SFD and FIFA will actively collaborate with national authorities to deliver projects that contribute to long-term economic resilience and local capacity

building.

The initiative will also act as seed financing to attract other development institutions, private-sector partners, and regional organisations, creating a scalable model for sustainable sports development across emerging economies.

Sultan bin Abdulrahman Al-Marshad, CEO of the SFD, said: "Sport is more than competition—it's a catalyst for development and inclusion. Through concessional financing, we are helping countries build the infrastructure they need to unlock potential, empower young people, and strengthen communities for generations to come."

Gianni Infantino, President of FIFA, added: "FIFA's role is to develop football worldwide, and many of our FIFA Member Associations need additional support for the infrastructure necessary to host competitions.

Through this memorandum of understanding with the Saudi Fund for Development, up

to USD 1 billion will be made available via concessional loans to finance the construction and enhancement of FIFA-certified stadiums.

This agreement is a crucial step in ensuring our FIFA Member Associations have the facilities to make football truly global."

For the SFD, this partnership is elevating sport infrastructure as a core component of its development agenda, recognising the sector's unique ability to generate employment, boost tourism, promote health, and strengthen community ties.

Building on over five decades of impact—supporting more than 800 development projects worth over USD 22 billion across 100 countries—SFD continues to drive sustainable growth through development financing and projects that improve lives and foster lasting prosperity.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *League leaders Gor Mahia were left reeling after a shock 4-1 defeat to relegation-threatened APS Bomet in a Football Kenya Federation Premier League catch-up fixture at the Nyayo National Stadium yesterday evening.

Bomet Stun Gor Mahia In Four-Goal Thriller At Nyayo



Gor Mahia players line up before their match against Posta Rangers

By **Kevin Otieno**

League leaders Gor Mahia were left reeling after a shock 4-1 defeat to relegation-threatened APS Bomet in a Football Kenya Federation Premier League catch-up fixture at the Nyayo National Stadium yesterday evening. The result sent shockwaves across the league as the defending champions, who have dominated the season, were humbled by a side that had only managed one win before this encounter.

K'Ogalo looked to be in control early on when Ghanaian forward George Amonoo struck just five minutes after kick-off, giving the green army faithful reason to be-

lieve it would be another routine victory. But APS Bomet, fighting to climb off the bottom of the table, responded with resilience and hunger. Hansel Ochieng turned the tide with a stunning brace in the 39th and 42nd minutes, punishing Gor's defensive lapses and ensuring the visitors went into halftime with a 2-1 lead that few had predicted.

The second half saw Gor Mahia attempt to regroup, but their efforts were thwarted by a disciplined and determined Bomet side. APS Bomet capitalized on counterattacks and added a third goal in the 77th minute before sealing the rout with a fourth in the 87th, leaving Gor's defense

in tatters and their supporters in disbelief. The emphatic victory marked APS Bomet's second win of the season and lifted them off the foot of the table to second last on eight points, one ahead of Kariobangi Sharks.

For Gor Mahia, the defeat raises questions about complacency and their ability to maintain consistency as the season progresses. Despite their commanding position at the top of the league, the manner of the loss exposed vulnerabilities that rivals will be eager to exploit. For APS Bomet, however, the triumph was more than just three points; it was a statement of intent and a morale booster for a side battling to avoid relegation.

The Nyayo Stadium witnessed a rare upset that will be remembered as one of the highlights of the season, a reminder that in football, determination and belief can overturn even the most daunting odds. Gor Mahia will now have to regroup quickly to protect their lead at the summit, while APS Bomet will look to build on this momentum as they fight to secure survival in the top flight.

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OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Strength, Storytelling, And Hope: The World Of Kshama Rao

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

I am not a writer who writes only for children, but I didn't want to exclude them. That's why I chose to write for them too; so far, I have written four books for children, one of which is a novel. Next, I am focusing on short story books for adults again, because I feel it is time to explore new themes and voices that speak to grown-up readers.

My childhood was not all privileged. I did homeschooling in Africa until the fifth standard, and when I suddenly joined school in the fifth standard in India, I had no experience of classroom life. It was difficult, and I even faced bullying. Those challenges shaped me and made me stronger.

Today, we have Kshama Rao, an established author with us, whose voice has reached readers through books, blogs as well as national and international newspapers.

Hi Kshama Rao, it is wonderful to have you with us today. Let's start with the book, which was released recently- your collection of modern-day fairy tales for children.

What inspired you to reimagine these timeless stories for today's children?

I wanted to rewrite them as modern-day stories. Instead of waiting for a prince to come, like in Cinderella, girls should see that they have the strength within themselves. These tales should relate to the challenges children face today, while still keeping the magic of kindness, courage, friendship, and hope alive.

Do you see yourself continuing with modern fairy tales or exploring other genres in the future?

I am not a writer who writes only for children, but I didn't want to exclude them. That's why I chose to write for them too; so far, I have written four books for children, one of which is a novel. Next, I am focusing on short story books for adults again, because I feel it is time to explore new themes and voices that speak to grown-up readers.

When we Google you, we can already find details about your childhood and education. But is there something about your journey that readers don't know yet?

My childhood was not all privileged. I did homeschooling in Africa until the fifth standard, and when I suddenly joined school in the fifth standard in India, I had no experience of classroom life. It was difficult, and I even faced bullying. Those challenges shaped me and made me stronger.

You have a grown-up daughter. Can you share what your parenting journey has been like, and the challenges you faced raising your daughter?

I took on the role of parenting at an early stage in life. My spouse was often away on duty, so most of the responsibility of raising my daughter was mine. It was not about finances, but about nurturing her in every way — teaching, guiding, and being present. I had to manage it all myself. It was a challenge, but those experiences taught me endurance and helped me grow as a parent.

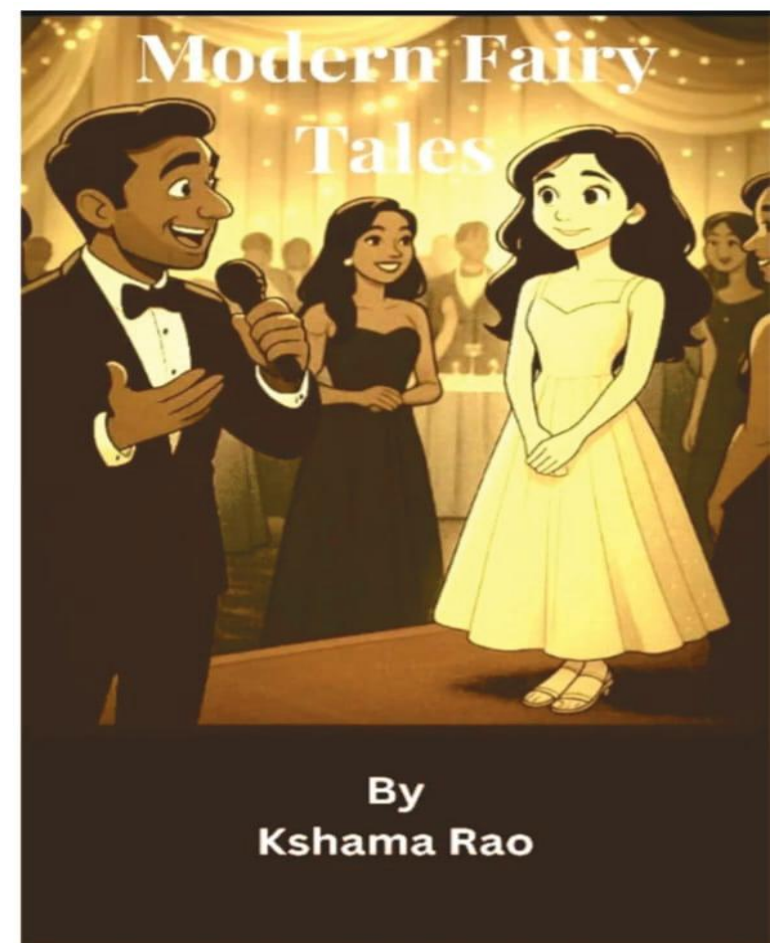
My daughter, like any child, had moments of feeling unsatisfied with me, but as she grew older, she began to understand the perspective and difficulties I carried. She, too, made sacrifices along the way, and I truly admire her for that. Now she is studying in college. Looking back, I know my own upbringing shaped the way I parented, and while it was not perfect, it taught both of us strength in different ways.

Your journey shows remarkable courage — from overcoming childhood challenges to balancing motherhood and writing. You have given children four wonderful books, including a novel, and even for adults. It is inspiring to see how you turned personal struggles into creative strength. Readers will surely admire not only your stories but also the endurance and dedication behind them. Thank you, Kshama ma'am.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share my journey. I truly appreciate the thoughtful questions, and I hope my experiences and stories can inspire readers in their own ways.



Kshama Rao



By
Kshama Rao