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By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

The Kenya Kwanza administration on Friday marked a major step toward easing traffic congestion and improving road safety along one of Kenya's busiest and most dangerous highways. President William Ruto, accompanied by several senior government officials launched the rehabilitation of the highway whose upgrade covers the 175km Nairobi-Mau Summit road and the 58km Nairobi-Maai Mahiu-Naivasha stretch, routes notorious for heavy traffic and fatal accidents. In 2024 alone, 284 people lost their lives on these sections, with another 168 deaths recorded in 2023. While unveiling the KSh200 billion project, the President termed it a transformative investment that will enhance mobility, stimulate trade, and boost regional connectivity. The 94km Gilgil-Mau Summit section will be expanded into a dual six-lane highway, including a 3.34km viaduct through Nakuru City and a 900-metre retaining wall. Construction by Shandong Hi-Speed Road and Bridge International will cost KSh88 billion and take two years. The President also launched the tarmacking of the 15km Ngata-Roret-Njoro road, reaffirming the government's commitment to improving feeder roads alongside major infrastructure projects.



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Kenya has marked a major global milestone after Kenya Sugar Board CEO Jude Chesire was unanimously elected Chairman of the International Sugar Organization (ISO) for 2026, the first Kenyan and first African to ever lead the world’s top sugar governance body. As ISO Chair, Chesire will guide the recruitment of a new Executive Director, oversee the rewrite of the ISO Constitution, and influence global sugar trade policies, sustainability standards, and market access, alongside Ivory Coast’s Ambassador Ali Touré as Vice Chair. Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock termed the election as a milestone that positions Kenya to secure better market terms, attract new investment, accelerate sugar self-sufficiency by 2027, and solidify its reforms as a global case study. It added that Chesire’s election was more than a personal win, and signals Kenya’s rise as a global leader shaping the future of the sugar industry.

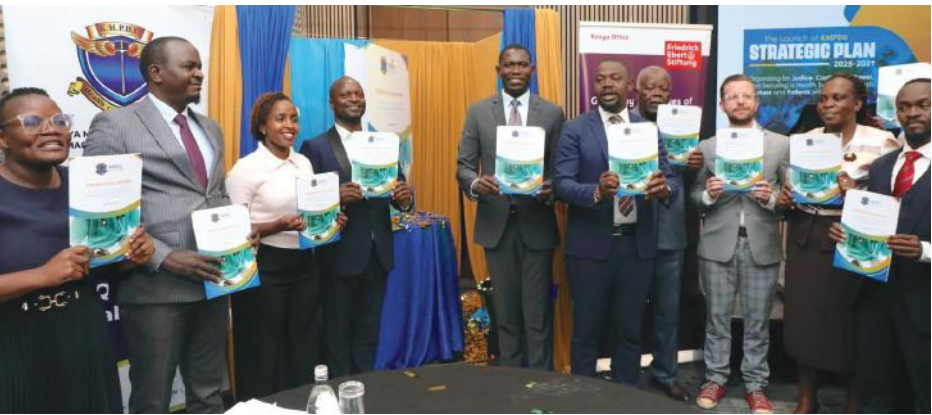
Deputy Head of Public Service Amos Gathecha, has urged government officers to deepen collaboration and align their efforts towards the realization of the Kenya Kwanza’s transformation agenda. He made the call at the Kenya School of Government, Embu, where he officially closed a four-day induction workshop for newly engaged Government Delivery Unit (GDU) staff, on behalf of the Chief of Staff and Head of the Public Service, Felix Koskei. He said the officers carry the responsibility of turning the Government’s bold vision into a living reality for every Kenyan, a Kenya that is not just growing, but transforming; rising from potential to reality and, ultimately, from the Third to the First World. He emphasized the need to fully embrace the Whole-of-Government Approach (WoGA).



Concern is growing among small business owners and the Campaign for Safer Alternatives (CASA) over a tobacco amendment bill sponsored by Senator Catherine Mumma. The groups warn that sharp tax hikes on tobacco and nicotine products could unintentionally fuel the illicit market. They argue that when legal products become too costly, consumers often shift to cheaper, illegal alternatives, cutting into government revenue rather than increasing it. Stakeholders say this trend also undermines public health efforts and weakens regulatory oversight, and they are urging policymakers to consider the potential unintended consequences before moving forward with the proposal.

A crucial machine in administering medical services has eventually been installed at Mwai Kibaki Hospital in Othaya. Area Member of Parliament Wambugu Wainaina said the installation of a 128 Slice CT Scan Machine has been complete and patients requiring its services will soon start using it. He noted that the state-of-the-art imaging system marks another milestone among the many installations, strengthening diagnostic capabilities and supporting improved healthcare services for not only Othaya constituents but those in the mountain region and beyond.

The machine is one of the three that the MP has successfully lobbied from President William Ruto’s government for their installation in the facility, named after the former area MP and third president in the country. *In the photo is the MP on the left while in Nyamari area on Friday and on the right is a patient is being examined using the new machine on Thursday*



The Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Dr Ouma Oluga, has reaffirmed the Government’s strong commitment to building a resilient and well-supported health workforce as a central pillar of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Speaking during the launch of the KMPDU Strategic Plan 2025 - 2029 strategic plan, Dr Oluga highlighted the leadership of President Ruto, noting that the he has prioritised the welfare, development, and deployment of health workers as part of ongoing health sector reforms. He cited key milestones achieved under the current administration, including the operationalisation of the Health Human Resource Advisory Council, appointment of a national taskforce on health worker welfare, and progress in clinical placement, UHC staffing arrangements, and internship placements. The launch marks a significant step towards strengthening Kenya’s health workforce and advancing quality healthcare delivery nationwide.



The Kenya Water Institute (KeWI) on Friday held its 37th graduation ceremony at its Nairobi main campus, celebrating 1,286 graduands under the theme “Empowering Water Professionals for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development.” Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Eric Mugaa, joined by Principal Secretary for Irrigation Ephantus Kimotho, commended KeWI’s role in developing skilled professionals to support climate-resilient water infrastructure and Kenya’s goal of universal access to clean water and sanitation by 2030. The CS congratulated the graduates for their resilience, urging them to apply their knowledge with integrity and innovation to safeguard the country’s water resources. He emphasized that clean water, sanitation, and sustainable irrigation remain a shared national responsibility, calling for collective effort toward a water-secure, climate-resilient future. The event brought together sector leaders, including CEOs and chairpersons of water institutions, as KeWI reaffirmed its commitment to becoming a globally competitive centre of excellence.

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Africa Charts A New Path For Global Biosecurity As Biological Weapons Convention Conference Opens In Nairobi

By: John Kamau

@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The forum, sponsored by the United Nations Office for Disarmament (UNODA), has brought together ambassadors, senior government officials, BWC focal points, scientists, and international partners.
- The conference confirms Africa's growing commitment in global biosecurity and disarmament efforts.
- The official opening was led by Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, Principal Secretary, State Department for Science, Research and Innovation (SRI), who delivered the Government of Kenya's opening remarks on behalf of Prime Cabinet Secretary and CS for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi.

The African Region Conference on the Universalization and Effective Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) has commenced in Nairobi with an aim of strengthening Biosafety, biosecurity, and biological disarmament across the continent.

This conference is the first of its kind to be held in the continent. Delegates from 49 African countries are in attendance.

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Prof Shaukat highlighted and affirmed Kenya's commitment to the objectives of the Biological Weapons Convention.

As the National BWC Focal Point, the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) played a central role in hosting and coordinating the conference.

The Acting Director General of NACOSTI, Dr. David Ngigi, reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to strengthening the implementation of the Convention in their respective states.



Delegates attending the continental Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Conference in Nairobi

The opening ceremony featured high-level remarks from Izumi Nakamitsu, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Joshua Tabah, the High Commissioner of Canada to Kenya, as well as representatives from the United States, the United Kingdom, Brazil and Italy.

In her keynote address, Nakamitsu highlighted lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic. She noted that the crisis exposed weaknesses in global health and security systems and stressed the need for stronger biosafety and biosecurity measures.

She commended Africa's progress in national legislation, the establishment of focal points, improved reporting through Confidence-Building Mea-

sures (CBM), and increasing regional coordination.

The UK Ministry of Defence through Lord Coaker, reaffirmed its long-standing support for the BWC, highlighting strengthened African networks through joint programs and ongoing engagement.

It expressed its commitment to BWC universalization and implementation.

Prof Shaukat highlighted key national achievements such as the Biosecurity Bill, the Strategic Goods Control Bill, strengthened laboratory Biosafety and biosecurity systems, the CBRN Preparedness and Response Action Plan, and the launch of Africa's first university degree programme in Biosafety and Biosecurity at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology.

He emphasized the importance of science diplomacy, regional cooperation, innovation and investment in capacity development.

Participants at the forum are expected to engage in technical exchanges, regional consultations and forward-looking discussions aimed at identifying challenges, sharing best practices and strengthening Africa's collective contribution to global biosecurity.

"The message from the opening session is clear. Africa is advancing with unity, expertise and strong partnerships to safeguard the continent and contribute to global peace and biological security," Prof Shaukat said.

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The Mt Kenya Times



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Celebration*

Kagwe Urges Counties And Private Sector To Rethink Agriculture

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- Addressing governors, senior government officials, agricultural agency chiefs and private sector leaders, Kagwe said IGAF was not a ceremonial gathering but a constitutional mechanism meant to strengthen cooperation and protect counties as the drivers of national food security.
- “We are here not just to discuss agriculture,” he said. “We are fulfilling a constitutional mandate. We must protect counties. We must work in tandem. We cannot do things normally and expect different results,” he said in Naivasha on Thursday.
- The forum brought together Council of Governors Chair Ahmed Abdullahi, Vice Chair Muthomi Njuki, Agriculture Committee Chair Ken Lusaka, Livestock PS Jonathan Mueke, Governors Andrew Mwadime and Nathif Jamaa, CECs from all 47 counties, and leaders from major agricultural value chains.

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe opened the Intergovernmental Agriculture Forum (IGAF) 2025 with a blunt warning that Kenya’s agricultural sector will not withstand future shocks unless county governments and the private sector abandon “business-as-usual” thinking.

Addressing governors, senior government officials, agricultural agency chiefs and private sector leaders, Kagwe said IGAF was not a ceremonial gathering but a constitutional mechanism meant to strengthen cooperation and protect counties as the drivers of national food security.

“We are here not just to discuss agriculture,” he said. “We are fulfilling a constitutional mandate. We must protect counties. We must work in tandem. We cannot do things normally and expect different results,” he said in Naivasha on Thursday.

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Kagwe delivered some of his strongest remarks to the private sector, saying government cannot sustain Kenya’s agricultural transformation on its own. He argued that counties must create investor-friendly environments capable of attracting capital, new technologies and market-ready innovations.

“Unless and until the private sector is fully enthused and joins agriculture, we cannot achieve results,” he said. “Government cannot endlessly hire or provide more and more money. The vacuum must be filled by the private sector. That is where success will come from.”

The CS also challenged leaders to confront Kenya’s persistent production deficits, questioning why countries with far harsher conditions manage to feed themselves and even export food to Kenya.

“How can India—with over a billion people—and the US with more than 300 million export grain to Kenya? How can Egypt, a desert country, grow enough food?” he asked. “Let us not point fingers. Let us think. Let us innovate.”

Kagwe warned that soil degradation is becoming a national threat, insisting that fertilizers and seeds must be region-specific and guided by science. He said Kenya must fast-



CS Mutahi Kagwe addressing the conference.

track technology-driven soil testing, fertilizer matching and the wider adoption of certified seeds.

He also called for stronger county-led climate adaptation plans to end the recurring cycle of drought-driven livestock losses, and urged action to modernize value chains and build resilience across arid and semi-arid regions.

The CS further raised concern about a looming workforce crisis, noting that half of the Ministry’s staff will retire within five years and key research institutions such as KALRO lack sufficient scientists. He urged curriculum reforms, modernized extension services and the recruitment of young researchers and technicians.

As IGAF 2025 continues today, participants are expected to outline concrete commitments to strengthen national–county collaboration and accelerate Kenya’s shift toward a more productive, resilient and technologically driven agricultural sector.



CS Mutahi Kagwe with some of the senior government officials on Thursday. Photos/Courtesy.

By-Election Victories Redraw Kenya's Political Map As Ruto And Gachagua Celebrate

By: David Kimani
@themkenyentimes

Kenya's political landscape has been jolted by the outcome of the recent by-elections, with President William Ruto and former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua both celebrating what they described as historic victories. The results, which saw candidates aligned to the broad-based government coalition sweep seven parliamentary seats and Gachagua's fledgling Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP) clinch three Member of County Assembly (MCA) positions, have set the stage for a new era in Kenya's politics. The wins are not only symbolic of the current balance of power but also project a future where alliances, grassroots mobilization, and the rise of new parties will redefine the country's democratic trajectory.

Speaking at the launch of the Rironi-Mau Summit road, President Ruto declared the by-elections a resounding endorsement of his administration. He emphasized that all seven parliamentary seats had gone to candidates aligned with the broad-based government, which includes his United Democratic Alliance (UDA) and the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM). Victories by Leo Wamuthende in Mbeere North, David Athman in Malava, Ahmed Hassan in Banissa, and Kiprono Chemitei in the Baringo senatorial race were complemented by ODM's Boyd Were in Kasipul, Moses Omondi in Ugunja, and Harrison Kombe in Magarini. Ruto framed the outcome as a message from voters to the opposition, accusing his rivals of lacking substantive policy ideas and instead engaging in divisive rhetoric. His remarks underscored his confidence that the electorate is increasingly aligning with his government's agenda of unity and development.

At the same time, Rigathi Gachagua's DCP celebrated its own breakthrough, winning three MCA seats in Kariobangi North, Narok Town, and Kisa East. David Wanyoike Warui's victory in Kariobangi North, Douglas Makonde's triumph in Narok Town, and Aduda Okwiri's success in Kisa East were hailed by Gachagua as proof that the new party, barely seven months old, had the capacity to challenge established outfits. Gachagua praised his candidates for resisting voter bribery and intimidation, portraying DCP as a grassroots-driven movement committed

to integrity and direct engagement with the electorate. His statement highlighted the party's ambition to grow into a national force, with plans to expand into regions like the Coast where Stanley Karissa Kenga's strong showing in Magarini provided a foothold despite falling short of victory.

The dual celebrations by Ruto and Gachagua reveal a complex picture of Kenya's political future. On one hand, the broad-based government coalition appears to have consolidated its dominance, winning across diverse regions and demonstrating the strength of its alliance between UDA and ODM. On the other hand, the emergence of DCP signals that new political players are capable of disrupting traditional patterns, particularly at the grassroots level. This dynamic suggests that Kenya's politics is entering a phase of heightened competition, where established parties must contend not only with each other but also with rising movements that appeal to voters disillusioned with old structures.

For President Ruto, the victories reinforce his narrative of a government that enjoys widespread support and is delivering on its promises. His emphasis on unity and development resonates with voters who are weary of divisive politics. However, the inclusion of ODM in the broad-based coalition's success raises questions about the future of opposition politics. ODM's wins in Kasipul, Ugunja, and Magarini show that the party retains strong regional bases, yet its alignment with government victories blurs the lines between opposition and ruling coalitions. This could reshape Kenya's political landscape by weakening traditional opposition roles and creating a more fluid environment where alliances shift depending on electoral calculations.

For Gachagua, the by-election results mark the beginning of a new chapter. DCP's success in Nairobi, Narok, and Kakamega demonstrates that the party can mobilize support across different regions, challenging the dominance of UDA and ODM. His plans to expand into the Coast region signal a strategy of building a national presence through grassroots recruitment and disciplined campaigns. If successful, DCP could become a formidable player in future elections, offering voters an alternative to the established parties. This development could fragment Kenya's political scene further, increasing competition and forcing major parties to adapt to new realities.



President William Ruto speaks to Nakuru residents during the launch of the Nairobi-Mau Summit road upgrade on Friday.
Photo/PCS

The broader implications of these results are significant. Kenya's democracy is being reshaped by the interplay of established coalitions and emerging movements. The victories of UDA and ODM show that alliances remain powerful tools for securing electoral success, while DCP's rise highlights the potential of new parties to capture voter imagination. This dynamic will likely influence future elections, where the balance of power could shift rapidly depending on grassroots mobilization, regional dynamics, and the ability of parties to present credible agendas.

Moreover, the by-elections underscore the importance of voter expectations. Candidates who emphasized local issues, integrity, and direct engagement were rewarded, reflecting a growing demand for accountability and service delivery. This trend suggests that future politics in Kenya will be shaped less by party loyalty and more by the ability of leaders to connect with communities and deliver tangible results. For Ruto, Gachagua, and other political actors, this means that sustaining voter trust will require continuous engagement and responsiveness to grassroots concerns.

The victories also raise questions about the role of opposition in Kenya's democracy. With ODM winning seats as part of the broad-based government's success, the traditional distinction between ruling and opposition parties is becoming less clear. This could lead to a reconfiguration of political alliances, where opposition parties either align with government coalitions or risk being marginalized. At the same time,

the rise of DCP offers a new form of opposition, one that is rooted in grassroots mobilization and challenges the dominance of established parties. This dual dynamic could create a more competitive environment, but it also risks weakening the ability of opposition to provide coherent checks on government power.

Looking ahead, Kenya's politics is poised for transformation. The by-election victories of UDA, ODM, and DCP reflect a shifting landscape where alliances, grassroots movements, and voter expectations are redefining the rules of the game. For President Ruto, the results provide momentum and legitimacy, reinforcing his government's narrative of unity and progress. For Gachagua, they mark the emergence of a new

party with national ambitions. For voters, they signal a demand for integrity, accountability, and tangible development.

The future of Kenya's politics will likely be characterized by increased competition, fluid alliances, and the rise of new movements. Established parties will need to adapt to these changes, while emerging outfits like DCP will seek to expand their influence. The by-elections of November 2025 will be remembered not only for the victories themselves but also for the broader message they send: Kenya's democracy is dynamic, unpredictable, and open to new possibilities.



DCP party leader Rigathi Gachagua during a consultative meeting with various aspirants from across the country at the party headquarters in Nairobi. PHOTO | COURTESY

Kiambu Launches Countywide Bar Inspection Ahead Of Licence Renewals

By: Felix Njenga
@themtkenyetimes

The Kiambu County Government has commenced a comprehensive inspection of all bars and entertainment joints to assess their compliance with the Alcoholic Drinks Control Act ahead of the annual licence renewal period.

According to Alcoholic Drinks Control Director Michael Kang’ethe, the month-long exercise is traditionally conducted in November and December, aligning with the expiry of bar licences at the end of the year.

“We started the exercise last week where a team is going round inspecting all bars in the county to ensure compliance and also prepare owners for licence renewal next year,” Kang’ethe said.

Kang’ethe noted that the inspections help the county identify bars adhering to the law and expose illegal outlets operating without approval.

“Our officers get to know which establishments are compliant, those that are not, the illegal dens selling unreg-

ulated alcohol, and the hygiene status of the premises,” he added.

He revealed that the County Assembly recently amended the law to introduce Alcoholic Drinks Control Ward Committees, which are mandated to vet and inspect bars at the ward level. Previously, inspections were conducted at the subcounty level.

“The law now requires inspections to be done from the ward level because different areas have unique dynamics. The committees vet the bars but do not issue licences—they only make recommendations which are later verified and approved at the county level,” he said.

The director raised concern over a growing trend where large bars licensed as restaurants have introduced keg beer sales without authorisation.

“Many bar-and-restaurant establishments have introduced keg beer, which is against the regulations. We are engaging the County Assembly to clearly outline which outlets should sell keg beer,” he explained.

He added that some bars have also started selling muratina, a traditional alcoholic drink, contrary to the law.

“Muratina is not illegal, but it is not

supposed to be sold inside bars. Unfortunately, some outlets have disregarded this rule,” he said.

Kang’ethe disclosed that the county has already revoked licences of four notorious bars, following complaints from residents and incidents reported within the establishments.

“We have had bars that have been extremely notorious, including some where deaths were allegedly reported. We have closed four of them and are pursuing others,” he stated.

However, he pointed out that the county has faced challenges with some outlets that reopen through court orders despite previous closures for noncompliance.

Noise pollution remains another contentious issue between county officials and bar owners. Kang’ethe said the county has held meetings with proprietors to address the issue, resulting in progress in soundproofing and noise reduction.

He identified Kinoo and Ruaka, especially areas bordering Nairobi, as hotspots for alcohol regulation violations.

“We involve chairpersons of bar owners’ associations in our commit-



Michael Kang’ethe

tees to address emerging issues. But still, some establishments break the law. Once we act, the association helps ensure owners understand we are not maliciously targeting them,” he said.

Kang’ethe also called on national government security administrators to ensure police-run canteens comply with county regulations. He noted that some police canteens have opened their doors to the public, contrary to the provisions of the Act.

“We have challenges with how some police canteens operate. They must abide by the law. We have received complaints about three of them and

have held talks with the County Commissioner. We expect they will follow the regulations,” he said.

With the festive season approaching, Kang’ethe said a multi-agency committee has been formed to enforce alcohol laws, regulate operating hours, and ensure that all alcoholic products sold are safe for consumption.

“The goal is to ensure alcohol is taken within the prescribed times and that what residents consume is fit and safe,” he said.



Nyeri Becomes First In Mt. Kenya To Launch Military Veterans Chapter In Historic, Unity-Filled Ceremony

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The colourful event, filled with pride, camaraderie, and heartfelt appreciation, positioned Nyeri as the fourth county in Kenya and the first in the Mt. Kenya region to formalize a veterans chapter under the Kenya Military Veterans Act, 2022.
- Far from being simply retired officers, the veterans were celebrated as leaders, mentors, and active community contributors whose service to the nation continues beyond the uniform.
- Their chapter's motto, "Proud We Served," echoed throughout the ceremony, capturing the shared sense of honour and identity among those who have dedicated their lives to protecting the country.
- The County Government of Nyeri was represented by County Secretary Edward Irungu, who attended on behalf of governor Mutahi Kahiga. He congratulated the veterans and underscored the county's commitment to ensuring their welfare, empowerment, and social reintegration.

Nyeri on Friday witnessed a vibrant and historic moment as the Kenya Military Veterans officially launched the Nyeri Chapter, marking the county's entry into a national framework dedicated to honouring and supporting former service members. The colourful event, filled with pride, camaraderie, and heartfelt appreciation, positioned Nyeri as the fourth county in Kenya and the first in the Mt. Kenya region to formalize a veterans chapter under the Kenya Military Veterans Act, 2022. Far from being simply retired officers, the veterans were celebrated as leaders, mentors, and active community contributors whose service to the nation continues beyond the uniform. Their chapter's motto, "Proud We Served," echoed throughout the ceremony, capturing the shared sense of honour and identity among those who have dedicated their lives to protecting the country. The County Government of Nyeri was represented by County Secretary Edward Irungu, who attended on behalf of governor Mutahi Kahiga. He congratulated the veterans and underscored the county's commitment to ensuring their welfare, empowerment, and social reintegration. He affirmed that the county would work closely with the new chapter to strengthen opportunities for former service members. Delivering a keynote address, Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Lucas Tumbo, Director of Military Veterans, emphasized the need for enhanced efficiency and better coordination in delivering services to veterans across the country. He described military veterans as an "invaluable national asset"; well trained, disciplined, and equipped with skills that continue benefiting society long after their active duty. He reiterated the Directorate's dedication to "caring for those who have put their lives on the line to protect the freedom we enjoy." The launch also spotlighted the long journey leading to the enactment of the Kenya Military Veterans Act, 2022, a law born out of sustained advocacy. Its origins date back to 2012 when retired officers came together to form the Military Veterans Forum (MVF), seeking to champion the welfare of veterans, their widows, and dependants. Their petition, presented to Parliament as the Military Veterans Bill 2013, sought formal recognition of veterans' contributions, solutions to retirement challenges, and a clear



County Secretary Edward Irungu.



Nyeri on Friday witnessed a vibrant and historic moment as the Kenya Military Veterans officially launched the Nyeri Chapter

structure for support services. Although the Bill was initially shelved, it was later revised by the Ministry of Defence and eventually enacted in 2022, paving the way for initiatives such as county chapters. Leaders of the Nyeri Veterans Chapter expressed confidence and readiness to collaborate with both the Directorate and the County Government on programmes centred on mentorship, skills development, business empowerment, community service, and social support. The event featured emotional testimonies as veterans shared stories of resilience, sacrifice, and patriotism, reinforcing the significance of the day's milestone. Also present at the ceremony were Brigadier Moses Reliani, Lieutenant

Colonel (Rtd) Joseph Mutua, Chairman of the Nyeri Veterans Chapter Colonel (Rtd) Mwaula Gatimu, Secretary Major (Rtd) Francis Matu, Treasurer Warrant Officer Class 1 Charles Wanjohi, Assistant County Commissioner George Ndura. The event took place at The White

Rhino hotel in Nyeri town. The launch marked not just the birth of a chapter, but a renewed promise to honour, empower, and stand with those who once stood in defence of the nation.



CJ Calls For Societal Transformation To End Domestic Violence And GBV In Kenya



By: Mary Karau Ngethe

@themkenyatimes

STOP GENDER- BASED VIOLENCE



Worth Noting:

• In Embu, a 22-year-old girl student of Embu University, Jackline Ruguru, innocently left home to go and buy lotion at a nearby shopping center but never returned, and her phone was picked but no one spoke. Ruguru's body was later discovered dumped in a coffee farm in Gichugu, Kirinyaga, bearing signs of extreme violence, including rape, mutilation, and face burnt with acid.

• This is the worst form of emotional, physical, mental and spiritual pain that a young woman should ever encounter. This is why the fight against GBV should be a concern for all citizens including fathers, brothers, sons and all faith-based leaders.

The country is marking 16 days of activism against Domestic Violence & Gender Based Violence. This is happening as GBV continues to increase at an alarming rate, with the latest horrific incident in Embu still clear in our minds, even as we appreciate Mbuvi Sonko, the former Governor for Nairobi County for standing up as a father to defend her daughter against domestic violence.

He publicly joined women in breaking the silence. Such acts from national leaders going public will enhance efforts to fight GBV and Domestic Violence.

In Embu, a 22-year-old girl student of Embu University, Jackline Ruguru, innocently left home to go and buy lotion at a nearby shopping center but never returned, and her phone was picked but no one spoke. Ruguru's body was later discovered dumped in a coffee farm in Gichugu, Kirinyaga, bearing signs of extreme violence, including rape, mutilation, and face burnt with acid.

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The 16 Days of Activism Against

Domestic Violence spanning from 25th November to 10th December was deliberate to include three other major global events: International Human Rights Defenders Day (29 November), World Aids Day (1 December) and the anniversary of the Montreal Polytechnique Massacre (6 December). The period highlights the connection between human rights and domestic violence.

Ruguru was violated as a human being and more so as a woman and youth. Ruguru's gender based murder affected herself, her family, her community, her classmates and her entire community.

The National Police Service Report reveals that at least 97 women have fallen victims of femicide and gender based violence in the last three months, indicating that the violence trend is highly alarming.

Call by the CJ to end GBV

In response to the alarming trend of femicide and GBV, the Chief Justice Martha Koome has called on Kenyans to speak out and break the silence that enables these acts to go unchecked.

"I call upon all law enforcement agencies in the justice sector, social services and civil society organiza-

tions to intensify our vigilance and protective measures. Police officers, community leaders, Nyumba Kumi organizations, and all of us citizens must join hands to ensure our girls are safe in their homes, schools, workplaces" Koome said during a stakeholder meeting advocating for women justice.

Action by CKDN to end Domestic Violence

To respond to the call for action against Domestic Violence, Central Kenya Development Network (CKDN), has created a virtual platform to bring together professionals, (men, women and youth), to delve deep into the root causes of Domestic Violence, and identify the best strategies to curb the vice.

The professionals meet every Tuesday between 7 and 8 pm. CKDN has partnered with the media to disseminate the discussion points as a step to create awareness and empower women and men, boys and girls on the best way to eliminate the vice. Prof Ciira Kiiyukia, a member of the professional platform asked, "do we bring back our traditional culture as is, or do we need to modernize our cultural systems and values to accommodate the current trends?"

Dr Lydia Chege, a member of the platform, stresses that citizens should and ought to change the narrative that domestic violence has increased because of single mother parenting. She positively argues that many children are products of single mothers and have emerged to be good citizens. Children should be well parented to be responsible adults whether in families with both parents and just one parent. The debate continues and the CKDN director, Mary Ngethe who chairs and facilitates the discussions continues to believe that our homes will be safe, our work places will be safe, and our children will be the adults created to be.

By the grace of God and through collective responsibility.

Call To Action

We call upon professionals to come we reason together on how best to help ourselves against this vice. We also call other community leaders to take any positive step to act against domestic violence, and gender based violence at large.

The writer can be reached on;
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Mbadi: Government Working To Strengthen Insurance Sector Regulatory Framework To Foster Trust

...celebrates SanlamAllianz Holdings Kenya rebrand as a milestone for Kenya’s financial future

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The listed non-banking financial services firm Sanlam Kenya has officially rebranded to Sanlam Allianz Holdings (Kenya) PLC (“SanlamAllianz Kenya”). The name change follows the recent formation of a joint venture between Sanlam and Allianz, establishing SanlamAllianz as Africa’s largest non-banking financial services entity, with more than 200 years’ combined experience on the continent and beyond.
- The insurance sector, Mbadi said, is the quiet engine of every modern economy. “It protects families, cushions businesses, and enables investment in the sectors that propel national progress,” he said.
- As part of the commitments, CS Mbadi said the government has scaled up efforts to strengthen the regulatory foundation of the insurance sector to foster trust in insurance services and products.

The government has confirmed on-going commitments to foster the growth of the local insurance services industry as part of an overall strategy to deepen the value of the financial sector in national development, National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi has confirmed.

Speaking at the official rebrand of Sanlam Allianz Holdings Kenya, Mbadi, in a speech delivered on his behalf by the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) Commissioner General, Mr. Humphrey Wattanga, said the government is working hard to build a financial sector that is resilient, competitive, and inclusive, to fuel economic investments and support national transformation.

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“Through the IRA, we are rolling out reforms that sharpen oversight, protect consumers, and unlock innovation — from digital asset insurance frameworks, to standardised claims processes and a strengthened risk-based capital regime,” Mbadi said. He added, “These reforms serve one goal - trust. Because without trust, insurance cannot thrive.”



KRA Commissioner General Humphrey Wattanga takes a selfie with SanlamAllianz Kenya Chairman Dr John Simba and IRA CEO Godfrey Kiptum at the SanlamAllianz Kenya rebrand ceremony. Photo/Courtesy.

The government, he said, has already petitioned all insurance industry players to align with regulatory requirements by strengthening their corporate governance, responsibly embracing technology, and expanding insurance into underserved communities.

“Kenya’s future depends on widening the safety nets that protect households, farmers, MSMEs, and investors,” Mbadi said.

While celebrating the rebrand of the former Sanlam Kenya Plc to Sanlam Allianz Holdings Kenya, Mbadi said the rebrand gives Kenya’s insurance industry something powerful: global strength, fused with local insight.

Said Mbadi, “The rebirth of Sanlam as Sanlam Allianz is a signal; a signal that Kenya is open, ready, and rising. It tells the world that our market is mature, our institutions strong, and our ambitions limitless.”

On his part, SanlamAllianz Kenya

Group CEO Dr Nyamemba Patrick Tumbo said the name change reflects a continental commitment to raise the bar in the delivery of non-banking financial services with localised attention.

He added that the firm’s subsidiaries, Sanlam Allianz Life Insurance (Kenya) Limited (“SanlamAllianz Life Insurance Kenya”) and Sanlam Allianz General Insurance (Kenya) Limited (“SanlamAllianz General Insurance Kenya”), will continue to be headed by Ms Jacqueline Karasha and Mr George Kuria, respectively.

As part of the rebrand, following shareholder and regulatory approvals, Dr Tumbo reiterated that the firm will enhance its client experience and distribution capabilities through the deployment of innovative technology-based solutions.

Confirming the strategic direction of Sanlam Allianz, Dr Tumbo articulated the company’s guiding principle:

“We remain guided by a single purpose to protect what matters most, and that is we protect our clients while empowering our clients to realise their ambitions, achieve their dreams and prosper.”

He stressed the industry’s crucial role, asserting that insurance assumes the risks faced by banks, enterprises, manufacturers, miners, and investors. “Insurance is there to educate people. Is there to come when we are in trouble and when we are celebrated,” he added, promising that SanlamAllianz will continue to stand tall as a “symbol of strength, reliability, and confidence,” not just in Kenya but across 26 countries in Africa.



Bloodstained Echoes



Author : Somdatta Mitra
Country : India

A desperate cry, an unheard vociferation,
Tearing each pain in a soul's fragmentation.
A silence that scorns and adrift in the
darkness,
Echoes of agony that resonates every
sphere in starkness.

Choking life's divinity in a tintinnabulation,
There is redness that seeps into the pores.
A fire that leads to a conflagration that
abhors,
Shattering every hope.

Tears that never fall trapped in the eyes
deep well,
Misery that is never given any concern in
the ignorant perturbation.
Magnifying the defiance that threatened a
coarse of sanity 's hold,
The darkness enveloped into an alarming
fearfulness.

Tightened enigma that reverberate the

injustices and deprivation,
Left scars in a blood red unhealed and raw.
Here's a testament to pain, a story half
told,
Those threats that left miserable that
innocent soul.

Where gloomy moments question various
deplorable tormentations,
Chasing a deplorable thirst for spite.
In the city of temptations where greed is
cultivated ,
And shadows dance upon the fate of
abnegation.

A terror, a fear, a deliberate pang of
destiny,
Unnerving, enervating the aspirations of a
deserving calmness.
There is evil in the blood of those potente
,maligned vexation,
That terrifies the virtuous, unbridled
voice.

Rights that must have been bestowed by
origin,
Today falls prey to the desperados in a
silent submission.
Red blood everywhere, a morbid gruesome
pain,
Haunting in the silence where misery
surrenders to fate.

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How Will I Balance Life



How will I balance life alone?
I have no partner to balance my life
For anything, we need a right balance,
Be it a seesaw or ox yoke, it's a known fact

Only when both pull together, it will lead well,
Here I alone wait for my partner, who's not
there at all
How long should I pull and push alone like a
lone ox,
There is no balance at all,

I'm thoroughly disappointed,depressed,
shattered
I'm tensed each day and second,
Not able to find the center and be grounded,
Life's a struggle, feeling so alone,

Longing for just a support, a helping hand
Maybe I'll find my balance in time,
Or I'll learn to stand, alone be my own way
Till then, I'll keep on trying,

And trust that balance will come,
when I'm ready to live live fully

Brinda. D
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GOVT HIGH SCHOOL,
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Crying Without Tears



My heart weeps in places
Where my eyes cannot reach,
Silent sobs echo in the corners of my soul.
Pain that blooms inward, where no tear can

fall.
The heart breaks softly behind a steady face.
A sorrow too deep to touch the surface.

My smile is thin near my sorrow
A quiet cry you never hear,
The hurt is real, the pain sincere
Yet my eyes remain cold and clear.
A hidden cry that reappears,
Whispering grief without the tears.

V. RANJANI VEERA,
M.A., B.Ed.,
GRADUATE TEACHER (English)
PONDICHERRY District,
INDIA.

Try To Appreciate People- Appreciation Is An Art



Appreciation is an art
We can appreciate one for many reasons,
For their excellence in their work ,
Completion of work within the period,
Helping others in time.
Compliments should be obvious.
Must be from our inner heart.

Not everyone has the quality of wanting to
be appreciated.

A person with a heart will not hesitate to
praise.
Even if you have the heart to appreciate it,
May not have the right opportunity or time.
Because they are completely immersed in
other tasks
They may be unable to appreciate it.

Rajesh Kanna B N
RAJESH KANNA.B N
M.Sc.,M.A.,M.A., B.Ed., PGD G&C, CELT.,
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TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT.
Tamil Nadu. India

A Significant Step Toward Quality Education



Today, the teachers and club leaders
working in the “Barkamol Avlod” Children’s
School, which aims to meaningfully organize
students’ free time, identify the subtle
aspects of their talents, and encourage their
development, carry a great responsibility and
mission. In order to improve the educational
process, organize more effective and modern
learning conditions for students, and
strengthen in club leaders the knowledge
and skills reflecting the fair policies and
priority tasks carried out by our state
in the education system, a special test
was conducted for the club leaders of the
Romitan District “Barkamol Avlod” Children’s
School. This process is considered an
important part of the internal monitoring
system regularly implemented by the school
administration.

The purpose of the test was to
thoroughly study the pedagogical
potential of the club leaders, assess their
methodological readiness, and develop clear
recommendations for ensuring their more
effective future performance. Through this
initiative, the following goals were pursued:

- improving the quality of classes for
students;
- introducing innovations into the

- educational process;
expanding the use of modern
pedagogical approaches;
- organizing club activities in a more
systematic manner.

The test covered several key areas:
Pedagogical competencies – lesson planning
and methods of delivering topics to club
members;

21st-century skills development –
approaches to fostering critical thinking,
creativity, problem-solving, and collaboration;
Innovative methods – use of ICT, interactive
assignments, and organization of practical
sessions;

Communication and psychological approaches
– culture of working with students and
methods of motivating them.

Throughout the process, the club leaders’
speed of thinking, ability to apply practical
knowledge, and professional approach to
conducting sessions were also evaluated.

Based on the test results, individual
analytical conclusions were prepared,
and each leader received personalized
recommendations for improvement. New
plans were developed to make club activities
more meaningful and engaging for students.
This initiative not only contributes to
enhancing the professional skills of the
leaders, but also helps create a modern and
effective educational environment at the
“Barkamol Avlod” Children’s School.

Gulchiroy Toyeva
Deputy Director for Academic Affairs
Romitan District Barkamol Avlod Children’s
School

Worn Out Sandals Left Outside Home



Your sandals walk with you each day,
Across the stones that block your way,
They face the thorns, endure the heat,
And ensure pain doesn't reach your feet.

But when their looks start to fade,

And their journey comes to an end,
We leave them outside, cast away,
Throw them out at the end of the day.

So learn from them this simple truth,
Do good for others, no returns to make.
Kindness should be the path to take,
For life is not just a give-and-take.

M. Raddhika
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India

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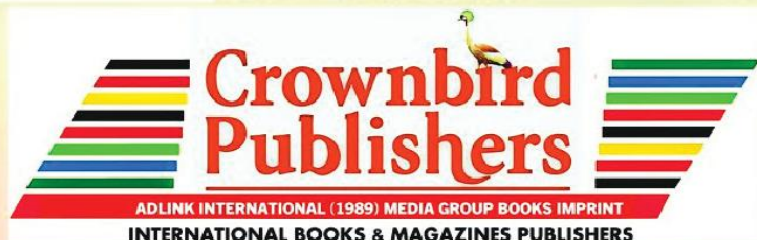
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POLITICS

United We Stand: Lessons From The By-Elections And The Battlefield Ahead

By: Martin Masinde
@themtkenyatiimes

Worth Noting:

• Rigathi Gachagua walked head-on into the storm. In Mbeere North, he confronted the full weight of state machinery: unmarked police vehicles, military-style deployments, Cabinet Secretaries turning into open campaign agents, and a climate of intimidation that would have frightened even seasoned actors. And yet, despite the state's overwhelming force, despite a polling station allegedly being set on fire, despite brazen voter bribery, the margin of defeat was a mere 495 votes. In a free contest, that seat would likely have gone the other way.

• Meanwhile, his new party, DCP, barely months old, secured three ward seats in Nairobi, Narok, and Kakamega. Few new formations in Kenya's history have debuted with such clarity of purpose and such immediate success.

In politics, moments of great pressure often reveal truths that ordinary times conceal. Kenya's just-ended by-elections were one such moment. They exposed the anatomy of state power, the fragility of electoral institutions, and the shrinking space for free political contestation. But they also revealed something far more important: the character, discipline, and determination of a united Opposition that fought with courage in circumstances that would have broken many.

This is why the story of this by-election cycle is not just about wins and losses. It is about resilience under fire, unity under strain, and the quiet but undeniable emergence of a formidable alternative for 2027.

I. The Moral Courage of Resistance

Politics is rarely fair, and even more rarely kind. Yet every political generation is called to prove whether it can stand firm when the environment becomes hostile. In these by-elections, four leaders proved that unity, courage, and responsibility are not abstract virtues. They are the lifeblood of democratic struggle.

Rigathi Gachagua walked head-on into the storm. In Mbeere North, he confronted the full weight of state machinery: unmarked police vehicles, military-style deployments, Cabinet Secretaries turning into open campaign agents, and a climate of intimidation that would have frightened even seasoned actors. And yet, despite the state's overwhelming force, despite a polling station allegedly being set on fire, despite brazen voter bribery, the margin of defeat was a mere 495 votes. In a free contest, that seat would likely have gone the other way.

Meanwhile, his new party, DCP, barely months old, secured three ward seats in Nairobi, Narok, and Kakamega. Few new formations in Kenya's history have debuted with such clarity of purpose and such immediate success.

Then came Fred Matiang'i, a man who has always worked with a precision and discipline that makes noise unnecessary. In Nyamira, he delivered three seats with methodical efficiency. There are political leaders whose strength lies in rhetoric; Matiang'i's lies in the quiet authority of results.

Kalonzo Musyoka, too, demonstrated the wisdom and stability that have



made him one of Kenya's most durable political actors. He secured a seat in Machakos and mounted a surprisingly strong challenge in Magarini, where DCP finished a respectable second, defying expectations and altering the local political arithmetic.

And George Ntembeya, who took the fight to Malava with the heart of a soldier, proved that courage is not an accessory in politics; it is a necessity. Not only did he run a strong race in Malava, he also won a ward seat right inside the political bedroom of Speaker Wetang'ula. That is not a small achievement.

In total, these leaders, with their different styles, constituencies, and strengths, faced violence, bribery, intimidation, and the full architecture of state interference. Yet they emerged with strategic wins that demonstrate both depth and potential.

Their resilience, in such openly hostile conditions, is the strongest indicator yet that the Opposition remains a live political force capable of reshaping 2027.

II. Kenya's Moment of Political Truth

The real story of these by-elections is not the scoreboard. It is the shrinking integrity of electoral institutions.

The deployment of state power was not subtle. It was aggressive. The IEBC stood hesitant, passive, sometimes complicit. Security agencies acted with political intent. Cabinet Secretaries crossed ethical and legal lines with impunity. And voters

in many polling stations cast their ballots under the psychology of fear rather than the freedom of choice. This should trouble every Kenyan, regardless of party.

If such conditions persist into 2027, we are heading toward a political crisis, not an election. The Opposition must therefore treat these by-elections as a warning, not a setback.

III. Unity Is No Longer an Option. It Is the Only Path. This is the moment when the united Opposition must tighten its ranks.

The 2027 contest has already begun. The state has shown its hand. There is no time for ego, internal competition, or second-guessing. What is needed now is:

- unity of command
- coherent strategy
- earlier organisation
- a clear economic message that speaks to everyday suffering
- a disciplined defence of the vote at polling-station level
- a single, credible, well-prepared presidential candidate

If this team consolidates early, invests smartly, and speaks directly to the lived realities of ordinary Kenyans, the cost of food, collapsing incomes, unemployment, insecurity, and the erosion of public trust, victory in 2027 is within reach. A united force can win; a scattered one cannot.

IV. A Word to the Mountain: A Conversation Behind the Mugumo Tree.

And now, to my people in Mt. Kenya, this must be said plainly and lovingly. We need a candid conversation under the Mugumo Tree. This habit of attending UDA meetings "to collect money," consoling ourselves with the proverb njogu Intithikawa na muguongo (an elephant is never buried with its tusks), is not political wisdom. It is political self-harm. We cannot claim to be unhappy with the state of the economy, taxes, collapsing businesses, and the direction of national politics, yet flock to rallies for handouts. Are we being honest with ourselves? Are we choosing symbolism over substance? Are we mistaking transactional moments for long-term political interest? Think about that. A community that wants respect must first respect itself enough to engage in politics with clarity, conviction, and purpose. Not with outstretched hands.

The by-elections were a stress test. The state pushed its limits, and the Opposition held its ground. That alone is significant. But significance is not destiny. Destiny must be built, brick by brick, alliance by alliance, strategy by strategy.

This is the moment to organize, not agonize.

To unify, not fragment.

To prepare, not react. If the united opposition embraces discipline, clarity, and courage, then despite the difficulties of the road ahead, 2027 remains not only winnable but transformatively so. The time to build is now.

Private Security Industry Set For Sweeping Shake-Up

By: Kasembeli Albert
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Mutava spoke in Nairobi after the conclusion of nationwide public participation sessions on the Draft Private Security Regulations 2025.
- “Regulating the private security sector is essential for its future. We cannot sustain this industry on goodwill alone. These new regulations are the cornerstone for building a more organised, ethical, and professional sector. The input from every stakeholder here today is a vital part of this process,” said Mutava.
- The sessions, which drew thousands of participants from across the country, brought together private security firms, county officials, and members of the public.



PSIA Chairman COSMAS MUTAVA at KICC during the public participation session.

Private security services providers and stakeholders have called for stronger regulations to professionalise Kenya’s private security sector, saying such rules are long overdue. Led by Private Security Industry Association (PSIA) Chairman Cosmas Mutava, the service providers underscored the importance of protecting both security officers and the public. Mutava spoke in Nairobi after the conclusion of nationwide public participation sessions on the Draft Private Security Regulations 2025. “Regulating the private security sector is essential for its future. We cannot sustain this industry on goodwill alone. These new regulations are the cornerstone for building a more organised, ethical, and professional sector. The input from every stakeholder here today is a vital part of this process,” said Mutava. The sessions, which drew thousands of participants from across the country, brought together private security firms, county officials, and members of the public. Stakeholders had the opportunity to review and provide input on regulations covering four main areas: the general operations of private security firms, procedures for appointing board members, the use of animals in private security, and the management

of the Private Security Fidelity Fund. The PSIA boss stressed that these regulations are critical because the Private Security Regulation Act, enacted in 2016, has lacked formal rules for nearly a decade. “We have been operating without regulations for too long,” he said. “It is time to establish clear standards that protect both security officers and the public they serve. This is not just about law; it is about building trust and professionalism in the industry.” On his part, Philip Leakey Okello, CEO of the Private Security Regulatory Authority (PSRA), said the turnout and enthusiasm of participants showed strong support for the reforms. The public participation sessions are part of a nationwide consultation process, ensuring that all stakeholders have a chance to share their views before the regulations are finalised. Participants across the country expressed support for the regulations, noting that they would help professionalise the sector, improve working conditions for security personnel, and ensure better services for clients. Many also praised the inclusion of rules on the use of animals, saying they would enhance safety and accountability. The PSIA boss also appealed to

stakeholders and members of the public to continue submitting memoranda and opinions to ensure that the final rules reflect the needs of the industry and the wider community. The proposed regulations, Mutava was categorical, are designed to enhance professionalism and streamline operations within Kenya’s private security industry. He was optimistic that the regulatory changes would address long-standing gaps in training, employment standards, and industry coordination. It is hoped that the new regulations will play a critical role in aligning the sector with national security needs while safeguarding the welfare of private security officers. “The main objectives of the regulations are to enhance professionalism, to set the minimum standards on how private security is carried out in our country, and also to bring cohesion between private security organisations and national security organisations,” Mutava said. Public participation sessions were convened in 8 centres across the country. These forums provided an opportunity for public input on the draft regulations. The PSRA invited the public to submit comments on the draft regulations. This was an open process for shaping the future of pri-

ivate security regulations. These public engagements, according to PSRA, aimed at collecting feedback from stakeholders, industry players, civil society and the public on the proposed regulatory framework intended to enhance governance, professionalism, accountability, and standards within the Private Security Industry. The proposed framework aims to reform how the private security actors are trained, equipped, licensed, and managed, with the draft regulations introducing changes after years of “inconsistency”, in a bid to fully professionalise the industry. The proposed framework has also been lauded by a section of industry players, with the Protective and Safety Association of Kenya (PROSAK) Vice Chair Monica Kimeu saying the draft marks a historic moment, especially for women in the sector, with the inclusion of gender-sensitive provisions. “For the first time, the regulations recognise the needs of female security officers; it shows how women have a voice in the private security regulations, including the introduction of lactation rooms and clearer licensing procedures,” she told the media.

The Paradox Of Constitutional Promise: Democracy, Leadership, And The Cyclical Nature Of Political Choice In Post-2010 Kenya



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The phenomenon of electorate behavior that systematically produces leadership incongruent with stated public values represents more than mere political disappointment; it reflects deeper pathologies in how democratic choice operates within specific historical and social contexts.
- Political scientists have long observed what might be termed “preference inconsistency” in electoral systems; the tendency for voters to select candidates whose qualifications, character, or policy positions contradict the electorate’s own expressed priorities.
- As the scholar Michael Bratton noted in his seminal work on African democracies, “voters may demand good governance in the abstract while simultaneously engaging in clientelistic exchanges that undermine it in practice.”

In August 2010, a constitutional referendum promised to mark a watershed moment in Kenya, with over 67% of voters endorsing a new supreme law designed to address decades of accumulated institutional failures, ethnic tensions, and leadership deficits. The document enshrined principles of integrity, transparency, and accountability in public service, articulating a vision of governance that would transcend the patronage networks and personality cults that had characterized post-independence politics. Yet fifteen years later, the gulf between constitutional aspiration and political reality remains a chasm that swallows the hopes of ordinary citizens with each electoral cycle. This paradox between formal institutional change and persistent informal practices raises fundamental questions about the relationship between legal frameworks and political culture, between voter agency and structural constraint, between democratic ritual and democratic substance.

The phenomenon of electorate behavior that systematically produces leadership incongruent with stated public values represents more than mere political disappointment; it reflects deeper pathologies in how democratic choice operates within specific historical and social contexts. Political scientists have long observed what might be termed “preference inconsistency” in electoral systems; the tendency for voters to select candidates whose qualifications, character, or policy positions contradict the electorate’s own expressed priorities. As the scholar Michael Bratton noted in his seminal work on African democracies, “voters may demand good governance in the abstract while simultaneously engaging in clientelistic exchanges that undermine it in practice.” This cognitive dissonance is not unique to any single nation, but it takes particular forms where colonial legacies have left fractured institutional landscapes, where ethnic arithmetic often trumps programmatic politics, and where poverty creates dependencies that political entrepreneurs eagerly exploit.

The constitutional framework adopted in 2010 represented a sophisticated attempt to engineer virtue through institutional design. Chapter Six, which details the leadership and integrity requirements for public officers, stands as perhaps the most ambitious effort to codify ethical



governance in the continent’s recent constitutional history. It establishes principles that would seem uncontroversial in their moral clarity: financial probity, selfless service, accountability, transparency, and adherence to the rule of law. Article 10 complements this by enshrining national values and principles of governance including patriotism, equity, human dignity, and social justice. These provisions were not merely aspirational rhetoric; they included enforcement mechanisms, vetting procedures, and disqualification criteria designed to screen out the morally compromised before they could assume office. Yet the implementation of these provisions has been sporadic at best, with political will evaporating when enforcement threatens powerful interests or disrupts carefully calibrated ethnic coalitions.

The recycling of political figures whose records suggest ethical deficits or governance failures speaks to what sociologists term “institutional memory loss” though in this case, the memory persists even as the lessons fail to translate into changed behavior. Voters who have witnessed corruption, incompetence, or abuse of office often return the same actors to power, or elevate their protégés and associates, creating dynasties of dysfunction. This pattern suggests that electoral choice operates according to logics that transcend simple assessments of past performance.

Patronage networks create dependencies where communities feel they need “their own” in positions of power, regardless of that individual’s track record, to ensure access to state resources. As political anthropologist Jean-François Bayart observed in his analysis of African state formation, politics becomes “the politics of the belly” a zero-sum competition for state resources where the primary concern is ensuring one’s ethnic or regional group has representatives positioned to channel benefits downward, rather than selecting leaders capable of building functional systems that benefit all.

The concept of merit-based leadership selection presupposes a political marketplace where information flows freely, where past performance creates reputational consequences, and where voters can reasonably expect that choosing competent administrators will yield better outcomes. Yet several structural factors distort this marketplace. First, information asymmetries remain profound, despite the proliferation of media and digital communications. Misinformation, propaganda, and the sheer complexity of evaluating governance records mean that voters often make decisions based on incomplete or misleading information. Second, the temporal mismatch between electoral cycles and development outcomes means voters rarely experience clear cause-and-effect relationships be-

tween their choices and their material conditions. Roads that remain unpaved, schools that lack teachers, hospitals that lack medicine, these failures can be attributed to multiple actors across multiple levels of government, diffusing accountability to the point of meaninglessness. Third, and perhaps most importantly, the transaction costs of coordinating around competent but unknown candidates are substantially higher than rallying around familiar figures, however flawed, who have already built recognition and organizational capacity.

The constitutional moment of 2010 emerged from a specific historical conjuncture post-election violence that claimed over 1,100 lives and displaced hundreds of thousands, creating a consensus that institutional reform could no longer be deferred. This trauma-induced constitutional bargain created a window for ambitious reforms that might have been impossible under normal political conditions. Yet as James Madison observed in Federalist No. 51, “If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary.” The constitu-

The Paradox Of Constitutional Promise: Democracy, Leadership, And The Cyclical Nature Of Political Choice In Post-2010 Kenya

Contd from page 18

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tion could establish controls, but it could not create angels nor could it guarantee that voters would select even ordinarily conscientious public servants over charismatic charlatans. The framers understood that parchment barriers alone would not constrain power or elevate virtue; implementation would require sustained vigilance, robust civil society institutions, an independent judiciary, and above all, an electorate willing to enforce constitutional standards through their votes.

The invocation of the biblical metaphor of a dog returning to its vomit drawn from Proverbs 26:11 and repeated in 2 Peter 2:22 carries particular resonance in understanding cyclical political pathology. The image captures not just repetition but a kind of compulsive self-degradation, a return to what has already proven toxic. Political scientists studying democratic backsliding have documented how electorates in various contexts repeatedly empower leaders who undermine democratic institutions, often in the very name of democracy.

This seemingly irrational behavior becomes more comprehensible when viewed through the lens of collective action problems and rational ignorance. Individual voters may recognize that the political class as a whole is extractive and self-serving, yet still rationally vote for “their” extractive politician who might channel some benefits to their community, rather than risk supporting a reformer who

might lose and leave them with no access to patronage. The tragedy of the commons plays out in the electoral arena: what is individually rational produces collectively disastrous outcomes.

The tension between wealth-based political appeal and merit-based leadership selection reveals fundamental contradictions in how democracy operates in contexts of profound inequality. In societies where large portions of the population live in conditions of economic precarity, the immediate material resources a politician can deploy harambee contributions, funeral attendance with cash donations, employment for youth groups, development projects in constituencies often matter more to voters than abstract qualifications or policy proposals.

This creates a perverse selection mechanism where access to wealth, regardless of its origin, becomes the primary qualification for political office. As political economist Hernando de Soto has argued, in contexts where formal economic opportunity is restricted to small elites, informal economies and patron-client relationships become the primary means by which resources circulate to the masses. Politicians who have accumulated wealth, even through corruption, demonstrate their ability to navigate systems and extract resources precisely the skill constituents want applied on their behalf.

The failure of constitutional pro-

visions to reshape political practice reflects a broader theoretical debate about the relationship between formal institutions and informal norms. Institutionalist scholars from Douglass North to Daron Acemoglu have demonstrated that written rules matter less than the equilibrium behaviors they either reinforce or contradict. When formal institutions conflict sharply with deeply embedded informal practices ethnic loyalty, clientelism, big-man politics; the formal institutions typically adjust to accommodate reality rather than reality conforming to institutional design. This is not to counsel fatalism, but rather to recognize that constitutional engineering alone cannot substitute for the slow, difficult work of norm change, civic education, and building constituencies for reform.

The constitution can create opportunities and tools for accountability, but only organized civil society and an informed electorate can wield those tools effectively over time.

Looking forward, the question is not whether Kenyan electorates will suddenly embrace a purely rationalist, merit-based approach to leadership selection; history and social science suggest such transformations occur incrementally, if at all. Rather, the relevant question is what combination of institutional incentives, information infrastructure, civil society mobilization, and generational change might gradually shift the equilibrium toward greater

accountability. Some evidence suggests that younger, more educated, and more digitally connected voters exhibit different political preferences and voting behaviors than older generations socialized in patron-client systems.

The growth of issue-based civil society organizations, independent media, and anti-corruption advocacy groups creates constituencies that can sustain pressure for accountability between elections. Incremental reforms strengthening the autonomy and resources of constitutional commissions, enhancing transparency in campaign finance, improving civic education, supporting investigative journalism may cumulatively create conditions where Chapter Six of the Constitution and Article 10 transition from aspirational text to lived practice. The constitutional promise may yet be realized, but only through the patient, unglamorous work of building the civic infrastructure and political culture that formal institutions presuppose but cannot themselves create. The code to be cracked is not primarily legal or institutional, but fundamentally social and cultural and such codes yield only to sustained collective effort across generations.

The writer is a legal researcher and writer.

Burundian Refugees Repatriated From Rwanda

By: Xinhua
@themtkenyetimes

A total of 115 Burundian refugees, many of whom fled to Rwanda in 2015 due to political instability, have been voluntarily repatriated to their home country, according to an official from the Rwandan Ministry in charge of Emergency Management. The group included 107 individuals from Mahama Refugee Camp in Kirehe District in eastern Rwanda, and eight others from Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. They were handed over to Burundian authorities at the Rwanda-Burundi border in Nemba, said Gonzague Karagire, the refugee program manager at the ministry. Karagire told reporters that the return of refugees is voluntary, and whenever they choose to go back to their country, the government's re-

sponsibility is to facilitate their safe return home. Rwanda currently hosts 52,862 Burundian refugees, including 42,421 in Mahama camp and the rest in urban areas, according to the ministry. In January last year, Burundi severed relations and closed its border with Rwanda after accusing Kigali of hosting RED-Tabara rebels. Rwanda denied the allegations.

Burundian refugees to be repatriated disembark a bus at the Nemba-Gasenya border post between Rwanda and Burundi, on Nov. 25, 2025.



Trump To Permanently Pause Immigration From Third World countries



By: Xinhua
@themtkenyetimes

U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Thursday his intention to permanently pause immigration from what he described as "Third World countries." In a post on his social media platform Truth Social, Trump claimed that "immigration policy has eroded" national progress, and he would "per-

manently pause migration from all Third World Countries to allow the U.S. system to fully recover."He also threatened to take measures to reverse immigration decisions made under President Joe Biden, and to "remove anyone who is not a net asset to the United States." In his post, Trump also announced plans to end all federal benefits and subsidies to "noncitizens," calling for the denaturalization of migrants who, in his view, "undermine domestic tranquility." He emphasized a hardline stance, stating he would deport foreign nationals who are deemed "public charges," "security risks," or otherwise "incompatible with Western civilization." Trump's remarks came following the death of a National Guard member on Thursday after being shot near the White House by an Afghan national.

Egypt Repatriates 17 Ancient Artifacts From Australia



By: Xinhua
@themtkenyetimes

Egypt has recovered 17 ancient artifacts from Australia that had been smuggled out of the country, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The ministry said the pieces date to different periods

of ancient Egyptian history. The repatriation coincides with the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Australia and reflects "mutual respect and trust," particularly in the protection of cultural heritage, according to the statement. The items were returned following an Australian court ruling in September ordering a private company to hand

them back to Egypt. With this latest return, Egypt adds another success to its growing roster of recoveries, part of a wider campaign to reclaim stolen heritage worldwide. Over the past few years, Egypt has recovered tens of thousands of smuggled antiquities from different countries.

Grief: The World You Never See

By: Njeru Lilian
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Worth Noting:

- On the recent death of the famous gospel musician Betty Bayo , everyone had views and rules on how the children should behave like following the death of their mom . When the 13- year old tried to vent online on how they lost their mom ,she was hit with a statement “why isn’t she scared of her mum’s death like she should be ?”. For the ex -husband everyone had an opinion of actually how he should be like and they all forgot ,he lost the mother to his children.
- But grief is not a performance and there is no formula to how people should grief . Some will accept so quick and try to vent , the other will cry loudly. Others cry quietly while some go numb.

Many a times simple statements are given out , “we are sorry to inform you the passing of “, while to Many that is just a statement ,to the bereaved it’s a whole breaking point . Grief is never a season you walk through ,it is a world you are thrown into not just a world but one with no map, no timetable, no rules and no familiar landmarks. One day life feels normal, and the next, everything you know collapses into silence. From knowing a father , a mother or a child to completely not having to call them out anymore .

When someone loses a spouse, a parent, a child or even a close friend, they are not just mourning the person. They are mourning routines, memories, habits, future plans and versions of themselves that died with that person. Their mornings change ,their nights change,their identity changes.From a Mrs to a widow , a husband to ,to a widow ,a child to to being an orphan . Even their breath feels different yet the world around them keeps moving as if nothing happened.

The whole dilemma comes in where we live in a society that knows exactly how each person should behave after loss.The pain deepens not in the loss, but in the expectations society places on the grieving. We expect widows to mourn a certain way and live isolated since they’ve lost and actually they shouldn’t smile to any man or even ask for help from them ,simply because they’ve lost their husband .we expect widowers to “move on responsibly “ they are men and it’s okay they should actually re marry because a man can’t stay without a woman close . We forget they loved and when they lost they lost people they loved and cherished . We expect orphans to be strong and shouldn’t actually rant or vent about their dead parents , they’ll get support from family and relatives and they should be so humble ,humble enough to tolerate everything because they lost . We expect the bereaved to perform grief in a way that makes us comfortable.

On the recent death of the famous gospel musician Betty Bayo , everyone had views and rules on how the children should behave like following the death of their mom . When the 13- year old tried to vent online on how they lost their mom ,she was hit with a statement “why isn’t she scared of her mum’s death like she should be ?”. For the ex -husband everyone had an opinion of actually how he should be like and they all forgot ,he lost the mother to his



children.

But grief is not a performance and there is no formula to how people should grief . Some will accept so quick and try to vent , the other will cry loudly. Others cry quietly while some go numb. For others they will over-function and will want company. Many others want silence and will post tributes, hide from the world, remain alone for decades while others cannot bear to see a single reminder. None of these reactions are wrong, they are simply human.

Yet society judges them all ,we whisper when a widow laughs too soon, as if joy is betrayal. We question a widower who remarries, as if companionship is a crime.We view orphans who struggle as ungrateful, as if grief automatically comes with wisdom and maturity.We criticize people for how they handle funerals, property, burials and traditions, forgetting that they are barely trying to stay alive through the shock.

We forget that grief scrambles the mind, It steals memory, distorts logic, drains energy,changes personalities, shifts priorities and sometimes, it pushes people into survival mode, where choices are made not because they are right but because they are bearable.

During grief, even simple tasks feel heavy such as returning to work it’ll feel impossible. But strength has never been the requirement for grief, what people need is permission permission to feel, to break, to rest, to heal at their own pace.

During my interactions with grief and grieving families , one reality keeps emerging: judgement hurts more than the grief itself. People who are mourning are often forced to defend their choices, their emotions, their healing process and even their right to move forward. This is a burden no grieving heart should ever carry.

We must learn to meet grief with compassion, not commentary. We must learn to show up with presence, not pressure. For widows and widowers, companionship should never be a scandal. For orphans, vulnerability should never be mocked. For anyone grieving, healing should never be timed.

In many homes, traditions sometimes silence the grieving instead of supporting them. Relatives dictate how a widow should behave. Communities decide when a man should “recover.” Extended family disputes erupt over property while the bereaved stand helpless, unable to protect themselves emotionally or financially. And in all this chaos, the one question that matters is rarely asked: How is your heart?

Grief needs gentleness, patience, space and above all, it needs understanding. When a grieving person wakes up and decides to smile support them. When they wake up and choose to cry sit with them. When they choose solitude respect it. When they choose to rebuild their life celebrate them.

Their grief is not a story for public inspection.What we forget is that grief never really ends. It only settles into the body and becomes a quiet companion a shadow that moves differently for everyone. Some days the shadow is faint, other days it rises like a wave but no one ever “gets over” a loved one ,we simply learn to carry the love forward.

More than ever ,it’s okay to allow the one who have lost to grief in the very best way they feel okay with themselves . That widow and widower ,they loved their spouse but allow them to seek for help , allow them to vent to any space that gives them their time . For that parent who has lost their child ,allow them to stare at that picture for the longest they can . To sleep close to their child’s cloth for long enough till they feel it’s okay . For the children who’ve lost their parent, don’t torment them for their loss , support them where you can in their strength and weakness just be of support as much as you can . Losing isn’t vulnerability,it isn’t a disability it’s not a mark ,it should not be used against anyone simply because they lost .

Today, more than ever, we must remind ourselves that grief is not weakness. It is not drama, not attention-seeking rather grief is the price of love a heavy, confusing, unpredictable price. And it confronts every grieving person with one cruel reality: life will never go back to how it was.

SPORTS
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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *The Kenya Footballers Welfare Association (Kefwa) have accused the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) of neglecting issues affecting players in the country.

FKF Accused Of Turning Blind Eye, Deaf Ear To Player Welfare



FKF President Hussein Mohammed speaking. Photo/FKF

The Kenya Footballers Welfare Association (Kefwa) have accused the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) of neglecting issues affecting players in the country.

In a statement, Kefwa president James Situma says the federation have turned a blind eye to efforts to institute a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) to cater to players' welfare.

"KEFWA have made efforts to put in place a CBA with the

federation addressing key issues facing players but have received no response. We have on several occasions sent draft copies of the CBA to the relevant people in charge and requested for meetings on the same but they have not been honoured," Situma said.

According to Situma, the CBA is meant to be an antidote for the ills bedeviling players including minimum wage implementation, inconsistent and unpaid salaries,

pending legal cases, match fixing allegations and unfair suspensions.

"We call upon the federation to engage us in seeking lasting solutions for our members in the form of securing irreducible minimum rights for every player," Situma added.

Kefwa's lamentations come amidst increasing cases of players going for months without salaries.

The local league has also been plagued by allegations of match fixing, with fans raising eyebrows at the manner in which certain goals are conceded.

The federation is yet to respond to Kefwa's allegations.

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Sports >>> *Kenya will have a strong presence at the 35th edition of the AFCON in Morocco after four of its referees were named among the 73 officials selected to oversee the tournament scheduled to run from December 21 to January 18.

Kenyan Referees Shine On Continental Stage As AFCON Beckons



Professor of Pure Mathematics at the Jomo Kenyatta University Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Peter Kamaku Waweru

By **James Kimani**

Kenya will have a strong presence at the 35th edition of the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) in Morocco after four of its referees were named among the 73 officials selected to oversee the tournament scheduled to run from December 21 to January 18. The Confederation of African Football (CAF) released the list of referees and assistant referees who will take charge of the 52 matches, and Kenya's inclusion has been hailed as a testament to the country's growing reputation in football officiating.

Leading the Kenyan contingent is Professor Peter Kamaku Waweru, a distinguished academic in Pure Mathematics at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT). Kamaku, aged 43, is the only Kenyan centre referee selected and will be part

of the elite group of 28 referees tasked with managing matches at the biennial showpiece. His appointment marks his fourth consecutive AFCON appearance, having first officiated at the 2019 edition in Egypt. His consistency and professionalism have earned him recognition across the continent, and his dual career as a mathematics professor and international referee continues to inspire many young Kenyans.

Joining him are Stephen Yiembe Onyango and Gilbert Cheruiyot, who will serve as assistant referees. Both men are returning for their second consecutive AFCON after being part of the officiating team in Ivory Coast during the 2023 edition. Cheruiyot, who made his debut in 2019, will be making his fourth appearance, while Yiembe embarks on his second assignment. Their inclusion reflects CAF's confidence in their

ability to deliver impartial and high-quality officiating in matches that often attract global attention. Adding to the Kenyan pride is Dickens Mimisa, who has been appointed as one of the 14 video assistant referees (VAR) for the tournament. This marks his debut at AFCON in the crucial role of ensuring fairness through technology. The introduction of VAR in African football has been a significant step toward aligning with global standards, and Mimisa's selection highlights Kenya's growing expertise in modern officiating systems. His role will be pivotal in reviewing contentious decisions and ensuring that the integrity of the game is upheld.

The presence of four Kenyan referees at AFCON is a remarkable achievement, considering the competitive nature of CAF's selection process. It underscores Kenya's progress in nurturing

refereeing talent and the commitment of local officials to meet international standards. For Kamaku, Cheruiyot, Yiembe, and Mimisa, the tournament offers an opportunity to showcase their skills on one of the biggest stages in African football, while also inspiring the next generation of referees back home.

As the continent gears up for the spectacle in Morocco, Kenya's representation among the referees is a reminder that the country's contribution to football extends beyond players and coaches. It is a recognition of the discipline, dedication, and professionalism of officials who ensure that the spirit of fair play is maintained. Their journey to AFCON is not only a personal triumph but also a national milestone, reinforcing Kenya's place in the broader African football fraternity.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Ecology and Environmental Protection Direction



By: Musurmonova Shahrizoda
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Worth Noting:

- ***Biodiversity***, the rich variety of life forms at genetic, species, and ecosystem levels, serves as nature's buffer against disasters, allowing systems to adapt and recover. However, we are losing it fast: the IPBES reports that around 1 million plant and animal species are threatened with extinction, at rates 100 to 1,000 times higher than the natural background over Earth's geological history.
- Take the Amazon rainforest, responsible for generating about 20% of the world's oxygen; satellite monitoring by Brazil's INPE shows over 20% of its original 6.7 million square kilometers has been cleared since the 1970s for logging, cattle ranching, and soy plantations, releasing vast amounts of stored carbon (contributing 10–15% to global greenhouse gas emissions) and splintering habitats so severely that species cannot migrate or breed effectively.

Ecology, a term coined by German biologist Ernst Haeckel in 1866 from the Greek words "oikos" (house) and "logos" (study), is the scientific exploration of how living organisms—plants, animals, microbes, and humans—interact with their surroundings, including air, water, soil, climate, and both living and non-living elements. This discipline uncovers the delicate, interdependent web of life where every action triggers reactions across the system, making environmental protection not just important but absolutely critical in our age of rapid human-driven changes.

At the heart of ecology lies ***interdependence***, where ecosystems operate like vast networks: trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen through photosynthesis, fungi break down dead matter to return nutrients to the soil, and pollinators such as bees transfer pollen to enable plant reproduction. A breakdown here has massive consequences—for instance, honeybee colonies in the United States have been declining by over 40% each year due to pesticides, habitat loss, and diseases, putting at risk more than \$15 billion in annual crop pollination for foods like fruits, nuts, and vegetables, which in turn affects global food supplies and economies.

Biodiversity, the rich variety of life forms at genetic, species, and ecosystem levels, serves as nature's buffer against disasters, allowing systems to adapt and recover. However, we are losing it fast: the IPBES reports that around 1 million plant and animal species are threatened with extinction, at rates 100 to 1,000 times higher than the natural background over Earth's geological history. Take the Amazon rainforest, responsible for generating about 20% of the world's oxygen; satellite monitoring by Brazil's INPE shows over 20% of its original 6.7 million square kilometers has been cleared since the 1970s for logging, cattle ranching, and soy plantations, releasing vast amounts of stored carbon (contributing 10–15% to global greenhouse gas emissions) and splintering habitats so severely that species cannot migrate or breed effectively.



The principle of ***carrying capacity*** defines how many organisms an environment can support indefinitely without degrading itself. Exceeding it leads to collapse: the FAO indicates that 34% of the world's fish stocks are overfished, with populations of species like Atlantic cod plummeting by up to 90% in some areas due to industrial fishing; meanwhile, soil degradation from erosion, overuse of chemicals, and poor practices impacts 52% of global agricultural land, threatening food production for a growing population expected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050.

A tragic local example for Uzbekistan is the Aral Sea disaster. Once the fourth-largest inland lake at 68,000 square kilometers, sustaining fisheries that produced 40,000 tons of fish yearly in the 1960s, it has shrunk to less than 10% of its size because rivers feeding it were diverted for cotton irrigation during the Soviet era. The dried-up seabed, now over 60,000 square kilometers, blows salt-laden dust storms contaminated with pesticides and metals across Central Asia, causing widespread health issues like high rates of respiratory diseases, cancers, and infant mortality in regions such as Karakalpakstan. The World Bank calculates annual economic losses at over \$1.5 billion from vanished jobs, ruined farms, and medical costs, with more than 80% of native fish species gone and surrounding tugai forests destroyed. Efforts like Kazakhstan's 2005 Kokaral Dam have restored the north-

ern part, boosting fish stocks dramatically, but the southern section remains a toxic wasteland, proving some ecological wounds are hard or impossible to fully heal.

These issues are worsened by climate change: the IPCC's latest reports predict a 1.5°C global temperature increase by the early 2030s unless emissions drop sharply, unlocking tipping points and extreme events—such as the 2022 Pakistan floods that affected 33 million people and caused \$30 billion in damage, or ongoing droughts in the Horn of Africa pushing 20 million toward starvation. Plastic pollution adds insult: 14 million tons leak into oceans every year (IUCN), breaking down into microplastics found in seafood, drinking water, and even human blood and placentas, with links to health problems. In Uzbekistan's Tashkent, fine particulate matter (PM2.5) often hits 40–50 micrograms per cubic meter—four to five times the WHO's safe limit of 10—mainly from coal plants, traffic (over 3 million vehicles), and Aral dust, leading to around 10,000 premature deaths annually from heart and lung diseases.

Yet, solutions are within reach and already showing results. Renewable energy is booming: costs for solar power have fallen 89% and wind 70% since 2010 (IRENA), making them competitive with fossils. Uzbekistan, with its 300 sunny days a year, has launched projects like the 100 MW solar plant in Samarkand by Masdar in 2021, aiming for 25% renewable energy by 2030. Global

tools include the Paris Agreement (196 countries committed to emission cuts), carbon pricing in more than 70 places to discourage pollution, expanding protected areas to 17% of land worldwide, large-scale reforestation (China has added 80 million hectares since 1990), and efficient farming like drip irrigation that saves up to 50% water in cotton fields. On a personal level, cutting meat consumption reduces the 14.5% of emissions tied to livestock (FAO), while recycling, supporting circular economies, and education—through movements like youth climate strikes—build momentum.

Ecology reminds us that humans are part of nature, not apart from it. Ancient societies like the Maya collapsed by overexploiting resources; we risk the same if we ignore limits. Protection requires fair policies that address inequalities (the richest 10% produce half of CO2 emissions), hold companies accountable beyond superficial "green" claims, and encourage everyday stewardship. As American ecologist Aldo Leopold wrote in his land ethic, we must shift from seeing the environment as a commodity to a community we belong to and respect. With urgent action—science-guided, collective, and immediate—we can still secure clean air, healthy soils, thriving wildlife, and a stable climate for generations ahead.

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