



The Unfinished Dialectic: Democracy In Africa, A Borrowed Garment Or A Woven Thread?
 The question of whether democracy serves Africa and whether it was truly 'meant for Africans' is a profound, dialectical challenge that excavates the continent's layered history. It moves beyond a simple 'yes' or 'no' to engage with the legacy of imposition, the resilience of indigenous governance, and the often-thwarted aspirations of post-colonial states.
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News>>Ruto: Government To Take Over Management Of Kakamega Referral Hospital

P. 8. The government has taken over the construction of the Kakamega Teaching and Referral Hospital and when completed will upgrade it to a national referral facility, President William Ruto has said.



News>>Death Toll Rises To 26 In Elgeyo Marakwet County Mudslide As Rescue Efforts Intensify

P. 12. The government yesterday confirmed that the death toll from the devastating mudslide that struck parts of Endo, Sambirir, and Embobut wards in Elgeyo Marakwet County has risen to 26 people, as rescue efforts continue for 25 others who remain missing.

Gachagua Slams Ruto Over Central Kenya Remarks

DCP Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua has strongly criticized President William Ruto for disrespecting the people of Central Kenya, accusing him of branding them a "jealous community" despite their unwavering support during the 2022 General Elections. Gachagua revealed that Ruto, through his personal assistant, disparaged the Central Kenya community, an act he described as uncalled for and unjustified.



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

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Gachagua, Kalonzo And Muturi At ‘Ngemi Cia Watho’ Event

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua led a section of United Opposition leaders in gracing a unique forum for law practitioners forum. The former DP, former Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka and former Attorney General JB Muturi were at Thika Greens Golf Resort for the “Ngemi Cia Watho” event on Saturday night.

More than 700 advocates of the High Court of Kenya at Thika Greens Golf Resort for the forum that was organized by GEMA Watho Association.

The event celebrated the spirit of the legal fraternity and the strength of Agiküyü community. The forum was dedicated to fellowship, excellence, and the enduring bonds within the law and justice community.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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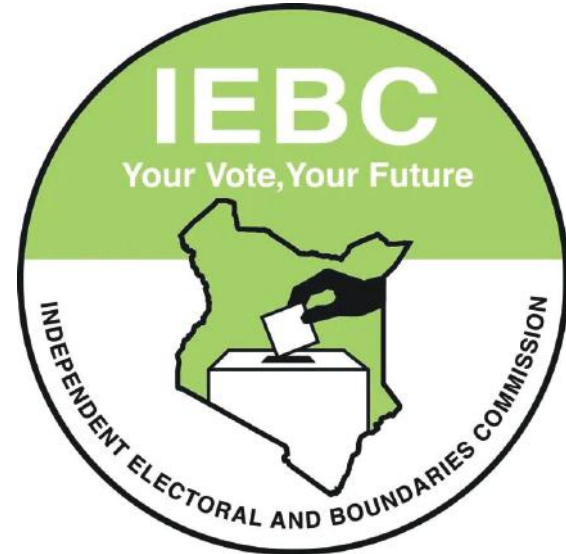
NEWS IN BRIEF



The Ministry of Health is working closely with the Elgeyo Marakwet County Government to mobilize medical supplies, hygiene kits, and water treatment chemicals to support families affected by the recent landslide. Community Health Promoters are on the ground reaching households in areas cut off by damaged roads, assessing needs and providing immediate assistance. Speaking yesterday at St. Martin Catholic Church in Kiambu, where she joined congregants in prayer for the victims, Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni, said the Ministry is coordinating a multi-sectoral response to ensure timely delivery of essential supplies and services. She noted that psychosocial support teams are being deployed to comfort affected families, while public health officers are intensifying surveillance and sanitation efforts to avert possible outbreaks of waterborne diseases. The PS reaffirmed that the government is adopting a whole-of-government approach to mitigate the impact of the tragedy and restore normalcy, assuring continued solidarity and compassion for all affected communities.



Last Friday, ICPAK leadership led by the Vice Chairman, FCPA Benard Amukah, paid a courtesy call to the Leadership of Nakuru County Government, led by the Deputy Governor, David Kones to deliberate on areas of collaboration. The Institute emphasized the importance of ensuring prudence in the management of public resources and offered to support. This is through working together with the County Government to come up with a criteria, shortlist, interview and hire the best candidates to occupy critical positions at the county level. Other areas raised include supporting the County, through strengthening the technical capacity for county personnel, ensuring that there are professionals with finance competency occupying boards, committees and taskforces. The Deputy Governor assured the Institute that the county was on course with over 60 qualified accountants requesting that the Institute organizes tailor made trainings/refresher classes on accrual accounting for all accountants. Also present were Council members, Hesbon Omollo, Cliff Bichang'a and Chrispus Mbogo, ICPAK Central Rift Branch Excomm, and ICPAK Secretariat led by Mr. Hillary Onami representing the CEO and management.



The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) says more than 90,000 new voters have been added to the national register as part of its ongoing Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise across the country. According to the latest update released by IEBC Chairperson Erastus Edung Ethekekon yesterday, a total of 90,020 new voters had been registered by Friday last week, while 15,619 voters had successfully transferred their registration to preferred polling stations. The Commission also recorded 188 updates of voter details during the same period. Mr. Ethekekon said the CVR exercise, which is being conducted in all 290 constituency offices nationwide, has seen steady progress as more citizens take advantage of the opportunity to register or update their details ahead of future elections.

As the rains continue to hit the country, thousands of farmers in Othaya constituency, Nyeri County have benefited from free fruits seedlings, courtesy of the area Member of Parliament Wambugu Wainaina. Through a foundation named after him, the MP is planning to distribute thousands of the seedlings across the constituency. He has been urging his constituents, who are mostly farmers to diversify and venture into avocado and macadamia farming as it is a lucrative enterprise and alternative nutrition supplement. Last week, his team gave out the seedlings to residents of Karima and Mahiga wards with those in Chinga and Iriaini Wards expected to receive theirs this week.



Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions across the country are upgrading sports facilities to support the Competency-Based Education (CBE) pathway in sports and creative arts. Speaking in Mombasa during the conclusion of the Kenya Association of Technical Training Institutions (KATTI) National Championship Season Two games at the Kenya Coast National Polytechnic, Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba said the government is keen on strengthening the TVET sector to accommodate the first CBE cohort expected to join tertiary institutions in 2029. The CS who was accompanied by the association's officials led by Dr David Mwangi noted that the Ministry fully supports the integration of sports in technical education, and enhancing sports infrastructure will help institutions align with the CBE's emphasis on talent development.



NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



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Smart City Project Earns Murang'a County National Recognition For Transforming Rural Towns

By: Bernard Munyao
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The award was presented during the Smart Cities Forum 2025, jointly organized by the Town and County Planners Association of Kenya and the Nation Media Group.
- The two-day event brought together planners, policymakers, and innovators to discuss urban sustainability, digital transformation, and climate-resilient infrastructure for Kenya's counties.
- Governor Kang'ata said the accolade was a testament to his county's commitment to inclusive and sustainable growth.



Murang'a County has cemented its place among Kenya's top-performing devolved units after Governor Dr Irungu Kang'ata received the County and Towns Excellence Award 2025 in recognition of his administration's Smart City Programme.

The programme that was established almost two years ago, is a visionary initiative that is reshaping infrastructure and governance across the county. The award was presented during the Smart Cities Forum 2025, jointly organized by the Town and County Planners Association of Kenya and the Nation Media Group.

The two-day event brought together planners, policymakers, and innovators to discuss urban sustainability, digital transformation, and climate-resilient infrastructure for Kenya's counties.

Governor Kang'ata said the accolade was a testament to his county's com-

mitment to inclusive and sustainable growth.

Through the Smart City Programme, the county has rolled out a wide range of projects including tarmacking and cabro paving of key access roads, construction of modern drainage systems, installation of solar-powered streetlights and beautification of market centers.

"These infrastructural upgrades have made rural towns more accessible, stimulated trade, and improved the overall quality of life for residents," Dr. Kang'ata said.

"Today, even small centers such as Kangari, Kiriaini, and Kanyenyaini are experiencing the benefits of modern urban planning," he added.

Beyond infrastructure, Murang'a's Smart City vision integrates technology and innovation into public service delivery.

The Governor revealed that the coun-

ty has digitized several administrative processes, such as business licensing, revenue collection, and development approvals, measures that have enhanced efficiency, accountability, and transparency in county operations.

"At the heart of this digital transformation is the Geographical Information System (GIS) project, a data-driven initiative mapping public land, roads, markets, health facilities, and water projects," he stated.

The system is expected to guide future investments, reduce land disputes, and ensure that infrastructure development is well-coordinated.

"The GIS initiative will provide vital data to support better planning, infrastructure development, and service delivery," Dr Kang'ata noted.

"It will also help identify priority areas for investment and streamline resource allocation," he added.

Murang'a has also prioritised envi-

ronmental sustainability by incorporating green spaces and proper waste management in its urban centers.

The county has initiated tree planting along major roads and introduced structured waste collection systems to keep towns clean and attractive for both residents and investors.

Experts at the forum lauded Murang'a's approach as a model for smart and sustainable urbanisation.

The county's success story demonstrates how effective leadership, digital innovation, and community participation can transform rural economies into thriving, well-planned towns.

Murang'a's steady rise as a smart county continues to attract national attention, positioning it as a benchmark in Kenya's broader effort to promote tech-enabled, inclusive, and environmentally conscious development.

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Ruto: Government To Take Over Management Of Kakamega Referral Hospital

By: PCS
@themtkenyatimes

The government has taken over the construction of the Kakamega Teaching and Referral Hospital and when completed will upgrade it to a national referral facility, President William Ruto has said.

The President explained that the government has allocated KSh1 billion to the project, which is expected to be completed in 10 months.

He pointed out that the decision to elevate the proposed hospital to a national referral facility in Kakamega County is to serve the wider Western region.

“I have told Governor Fernandes Barasa that because this is a big facility, he should leave it to me to complete so that the people of Kakamega can have access to a Level Six hospital,” he said.

Speaking yesterday after inspecting the construction progress of the proposed national referral hospital



President Ruto being taken through the architecture design of the hospital..

for Western Kenya in Kakamega on Sunday, the President said the government will equip it with modern medical equipment.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, Cabinet Secretaries Wycliffe Oparanya and Deborah Barasa, and Kakamega County Governor Barasa were present.

The President said the facility will

complement other referral hospitals in the country. He noted that such medical facilities will make universal healthcare a reality.

President Ruto told the contractor to employ over 1,000 young people to ensure that the project is completed within the 10-month period.

The President commended Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya for bold



President William Ruto addressing the public after inspecting the facility.

and visionary leadership during his tenure as governor of Kakamega between 2013 and 2022. He started the project in 2016.

“Thank you, Mr Oparanya, for thinking big,” he said.

He also praised the current governor, Mr Barasa, for continuing with the implementation of the project, saying some leaders abandon their predecessor’s projects.

“Government is a continuous enterprise. Projects do not belong to individuals; projects belong to the people,” he said.

Governor Barasa expressed his commitment- and that of the people of Kakamega - to working with the government in implementing transformative development programmes.

Wajackoyah Gets Hero’s Welcome From Kenyans In Minnesota

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Professor George Wajackoyah, the former presidential candidate and leader of the Roots Party, received an enthusiastic welcome from the Kenyan diaspora during his recent visit to Minnesota, USA. The charismatic politician, known for his unconventional campaign style and bold policy proposals, was greeted by a large crowd of supporters waving Kenyan flags and chanting his name as he arrived at a community event in Minneapolis.

Wajackoyah, who has remained a vocal figure in Kenya’s political discourse since the 2022 general elections, was in the U.S. to engage with diaspora communities and discuss issues ranging from governance and youth empowerment to diaspora investment opportunities. His message

resonated strongly with attendees, many of whom expressed admiration for his unapologetic stance on national issues and his vision for a more inclusive and economically independent Kenya.

In his address, Wajackoyah emphasized the importance of the diaspora in shaping Kenya’s future, calling them “the country’s silent economic engine.” He urged the government to create more structured avenues for diaspora participation in policy-making and development, noting that remittances from abroad continue to play a vital role in Kenya’s economy.

The event featured cultural performances, a Q&A session, and a meet-and-greet where Wajackoyah mingled freely with attendees, taking photos and listening to their concerns. Many in the crowd praised his accessibility and authenticity, traits they said are often lacking in mainstream politics.

Wajackoyah’s visit comes amid

growing interest in diaspora engagement ahead of the 2027 elections. While he has not officially declared his political intentions, his continued presence on the international stage suggests he remains a figure to watch.

As the evening drew to a close, chants of “Wajackoyah 2027!” echoed through the hall, signaling that for many in the diaspora, his message still strikes a powerful chord.

I can help you draft a follow-up piece on how diaspora communities are influencing Kenyan politics ahead of 2027.



Gachagua Hits Out At Ruto And Allies For Demonising Central Region Community

At the same time, he called on professionals and lawyers to fully involve themselves in politics and leadership, emphasizing that they are the only group capable of defending the country with understanding and professionalism

By: MKT Correspondents
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The former Deputy President further stated that many Kenyans are dissatisfied with the Ruto administration due to what he termed as poor governance and the misappropriation of public funds.
- He made these remarks during the burial service of six family members who tragically lost their lives after their vehicle plunged into River Kithe in Gatunguru village, Kariara Ward, Gatanga Constituency, Murang'a County.
- Additionally, Gachagua accused the president of deliberately reversing laws against illicit brews, resulting in the resurgence of illicit alcohol in the region.
- He called on the people of Central Kenya to unite behind him to ensure their votes will count in the 2027 general elections.

DCP Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua has strongly criticized President William Ruto for disrespecting the people of Central region, accusing him of branding them a “jealous community” despite their unwavering support during the 2022 General Elections.

Gachagua revealed that Ruto, through his personal assistant, disparaged the Central Kenya community, an act he described as uncalled for and unjustified.

He emphasized that it is inconceivable for a community to be jealous of the Ruto administration, considering they were the ones who overwhelmingly voted him into office.

The former Deputy President further stated that many Kenyans are dissatisfied with the Ruto administration due to what he termed as poor governance and the misappropriation of public funds.

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Additionally, Gachagua accused the president of deliberately reversing laws against illicit brews, resulting in the resurgence of illicit alcohol in the region.

He called on the people of Central Kenya to unite behind him to ensure their votes will count in the 2027 general elections.

He was accompanied by Murang'a county leaders and other national leaders who included area MP Waki-li Edward Muriu, his Mukurwe-ini counterpart John Kaguchia, Murang'a Senator Joe Nyutu and former Kigumo MP Jamleck Kamau.

Dozens of aspiring candidates for various political seats in the county also joined the mourners.

At the same time, Gachagua called on professionals and lawyers to fully involve themselves in politics and leadership, emphasizing that they are the only group capable of defending the country with understanding and professionalism.

Speaking on Saturday night at Thika Greens Golf club during the Ngemi Cia Watho festival; a cultural event that brings together lawyers from Central Kenya to celebrate and identify with their heritage, former Deputy President Gachagua highlighted the region's historical lead-

ership vacuum.

He pointed out that this gap has arisen because professionals have not been sufficiently engaged in political leadership, allowing political novices to take charge.

He cited the late Raila Odinga as an example, praising him for his exemplary leadership in the Nyanza region.

Despite not winning the presidency, Raila has been a constant presence in every government, which Gachagua attributed to his intelligent and strategic legislators in Parliament, he noted.

This, he said, underscores the importance of having knowledgeable and committed professionals in leadership roles.

Gachagua emphasized that lawyers, in particular, are less likely to be compromised, and he urged them to step forward and take on leadership positions.

He lamented that, at present, he finds it difficult to effectively protect and oversee the government because many elected leaders from Central Kenya lack the capacity to defend and represent their communities adequately.

Addressing the issue of tribalism, which he alleged is being propagated by President Ruto, Gachagua stated that the President's portrayal of the region as tribal is not genuine.

Instead, he says it is a tactic to divide, as the President and the community have parted ways.



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and his spouse Pastor Dorcas comforting the bereaved family on Saturday.

He urged the community not to be swayed by such sentiments or cultural stereotypes but to embrace their traditions and heritage wholeheartedly.

Furthermore, Gachagua reaffirmed his commitment to uniting his community and taking them back to government leadership in a significant way.

He emphasized that regional unity will be instrumental in achieving this goal.

On the political front, he highlighted the importance of unity among leaders.

On his part Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka called for collaboration aimed at bringing stability and sanity to the government.

He also pointed out that those who have defied the Constitution and its promoters are not the true patriots—those who have worked within the legal framework deserve recognition and praise.

Among other leaders present were DP Party Leader J.B. Muturi, Members of Parliament, Senators, and various national figures.



Leaders led by former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua sing a hymn to comfort the bereaved families. Photos/Courtesy.

Kenyans, Tourists To Enjoy Easier Park Payments As KWS Launches New System

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Paying to visit Kenya's national parks and reserves is set to become faster and more flexible after the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) rolled out a new digital payment system dubbed KWSPay.

The system, developed in partnership with eCitizen, replaces the old platform that many tourists and local visitors had used for years to book park entries and pay conservation fees.

Starting from 6 p.m last Saturday, visitors were able to use a range of payment options, including Mpesa, bank cards, bank transfers, and an eWallet, when paying for park access and other services.

KWS Director General Prof. Erustus Kanga said the new platform is part of a broader effort to modernize services and make it easier for people to explore Kenya's protected areas. "The upgraded system offers a smoother and more flexible process for booking and making payments. It's designed with convenience and transparency in mind," said Prof. Kanga.

The system introduces a monthly U.S. dollar exchange rate, set in line with Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) rates, to guide all transactions. Fa-



Erustus Kanga

cilitation charges will also apply to cushion against inflation and currency fluctuations. The applicable rates will be reviewed and posted monthly on the KWS website and the KWSPay portal.

Each transaction will also attract a small administrative fee as outlined in a government gazette notice issued last year, as well as a 5 per cent gateway fee to help maintain the new system. Bank card payments may carry an additional charge of up to 3.5 per

cent, depending on the card service provider.

eCitizen Director General Amb. Isaac Ochieng said the two institutions are committed to improving customer experience and reducing frustrations often faced during online payments.

"This is part of our continuous effort to deliver efficient and transparent digital services to all Kenyans and visitors. We welcome feedback from users as we refine the system further," he said.



Isaac Ochieng

For many local and international travelers, the upgrade comes as welcome news.

In recent months, some users had reported delays and transaction errors on the old platform.

With Kenya's parks attracting thousands of visitors every month, officials say the improved platform will not only make payments easier but also enhance accountability and service delivery.

KWS manages more than 20 national

parks, reserves, and sanctuaries across the country, from the savannahs of Amboseli and the Maasai Mara to the rugged landscapes of Tsavo and the scenic peaks of Mount Kenya.

The move comes a few weeks after the agency introduced new entry fees and at the same time exempted senior citizens and other few disadvantaged Kenyans from paying anything to access the parks.



Kenya To Roll Out National Education Data System Next Year

By: Fredrick Maritim

@themkenyatimes



Principal Secretary for Basic Education Prof. Julius Bitok and other stakeholders.

Worth Noting:

- “Every learner will have a unique digital identifier, allowing us to trace their education history at the click of a button from the first school they attended to their university,” said Prof. Bitok.
- The PS added that the system will link all key education agencies, including the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC), the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), and higher learning institutions, noting that the move aims to enhance efficiency, accountability, and data-driven planning in the education sector.
- Prof. Bitok further revealed that the Ministry of Education is working closely with the Moi University management, the Head of Public Service and colleagues in various ministries including the State Department for Higher Education to restore the former glory of Moi University.

The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information, Communication and the Digital Economy (ICDE), is set to roll out a comprehensive digital platform known as the Kenya Education Management Information System (KEMIS) in January next year.

Speaking to journalists at Moi University Annex Campus in Eldoret after a stakeholder engagement on preparations for the upcoming Kenya Software and AI (Artificial Intelligence) Summit, Principal Secretary for Basic Education Prof. Julius Bitok said the new system will be the largest integrated education data platform in the country.

He explained that KEMIS will connect all learning institutions from nursery and primary schools to junior and senior secondary schools, TVETs and universities allowing real-time tracking of learners’ academic journeys.

“Every learner will have a unique digital identifier, allowing us to trace their education history at the click of a button from the first school they attended to their university,” said Prof. Bitok.

The PS added that the system will link all key education agencies, including the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC), the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), and higher learning institutions, noting that the move aims to enhance efficiency, accountability, and data-driven planning in the education sector.

Prof. Bitok further revealed that the Ministry of Education is working closely with the Moi University management, the Head of Public Service and colleagues in various ministries including the State Department for Higher Education to restore the former glory of Moi University.

He said the government will mobilise additional resources and attract more students from across the country to strengthen the university’s position as a premier institution of higher learning.

“Moi University has played a key role in shaping this region’s economy and producing many of the country’s great leaders. We are committed to working together to make Moi University great again,” he emphasized.

On the upcoming Kenya Software and AI Summit, scheduled for 10th to 12th November 2025 at Moi University Annex Campus, Prof. Bitok said the event will be a historic and high-level gathering bringing together global experts and innovators in Artificial Intelligence and software development.

“This will be the first time Kenya hosts a software and AI summit of this scale. It will bring together top brains from around the world to share research, ideas and innovations that will drive Kenya’s technological growth,” Bitok said.

According to the PS, the summit will not only enhance Kenya’s profile in the global technology space but also propel economic growth

through innovation, collaboration and knowledge exchange.

He emphasised that the summit has full government backing and presents a golden opportunity for Moi University and the people of Uasin Gishu County.

Principal Secretary for ICT and the Digital Economy, Eng. John Tanui, said the upcoming Kenya Software and AI Summit aligns with the government’s agenda to advance the Digital Superhighway and Creative Economy, a key pillar of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

He noted that the government is working with Members of Parliament to establish digital hubs in every ward, ensuring broadband access and creating centers for innovation, digital training, and youth empowerment.

Furthermore, Eng. Tanui highlighted Kenya’s growing appeal to global tech investors, citing ongoing projects in data centers, device manufacturing, and software development, with companies such as Microsoft and Amazon Web Services already setting up local operations.

He further pointed to the success of the eCitizen platform, which now connects over 14 million Kenyans to more than 22,000 government services, generating over Sh500 billion in revenue.

“The eCitizen platform is a home-grown innovation that demonstrates Kenya’s capacity to build world-class digital solutions,” he said.

The PS said Kenya Software and AI

Summit, to be hosted at Moi University, will bring together local and international innovators, researchers, and investors to advance Kenya’s position as a regional technology hub.

“Our goal is to build global champions in software and artificial intelligence creating jobs, empowering youth, and driving Kenya’s digital economy,” Eng. Tanui concluded.

Meanwhile, Moi University Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kiplagat Kotut, expressed gratitude to the government for choosing the university to host the inaugural Kenya Software and AI Summit, terming it a significant milestone for the institution and the country.

“We are honored to host this historic summit and I want to assure you that Moi University is fully prepared for the event,” said Prof. Kotut.

He observed that the summit will provide a platform for staff and students to showcase their innovations in software and artificial intelligence, positioning Moi University as a leading hub for research and technology.

“This is our chance to demonstrate that Moi University is not only the home of champions but also a centre of innovation in software and AI,” he noted.

Prof. Kotut added that the university aims to make the summit an annual event to foster continuous collaboration, innovation and sustainable growth in the country’s digital space.

Death Toll Rises To 26 In Elgeyo Marakwet County Mudslide As Rescue Efforts Intensify

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

The government yesterday confirmed that the death toll from the devastating mudslide that struck parts of Endo, Sambirir, and Embobut wards in Elgeyo Marakwet County has risen to 26 people, as rescue efforts continue for 25 others who remain missing.

A statement issued by Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura, said 26 individuals have so far been rescued and airlifted to various hospitals, with most of them receiving treatment at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) in Eldoret. He said the government deeply regrets the tragic loss of lives and remains committed to coordinating all efforts to rescue, treat, and support those affected by the tragedy.

A high-powered delegation comprising Cabinet Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Governors, Members of Parliament, a Senator, senior security officers, medical personnel, and other officials visited the affected region to assess the situation and offer support to displaced families.

Over 2,000 Mudslide Affected Persons (MAPs) are currently being hosted at the St. Benedict Chesongoch Catholic Mission, where government and humanitarian agencies have set up a temporary relief centre.

Earlier in the day, government officials in collaboration with the Kenya Red Cross flagged off consignments of food and non-food items at the Eldoret Airstrip to aid affected families. The leaders also made personal donations in solidarity with the victims. Dr. Mwaura said the government is prioritising the restoration of road networks through the Ministry of Roads, Transport, and Public Works to improve access to affected areas and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

He further announced that the government will pay all medical bills for those injured in the disaster and cover burial expenses for families who lost loved ones. In addition, survivors and bereaved families will receive ongoing psychosocial support in partnership with the Kenya Red Cross and the Catholic Mission in Chesongoch.

The State Department for Special Programmes, and well-wishers have sent relief items including 600 bags of rice, 520 bags of beans, 1,000 blankets, 300 mattresses, 30 boxes of soap, and 10 bales of sanitary towels.

A multi-agency coordination team has been deployed to lead ongoing search, rescue, recovery, and relief operations. The team brings together personnel from the Kenya Defence Forces, the National Police Service,



Some of the national and county governments officials who were in Elgeyo Marakwet County yesterday.

the National Youth Service, the National Disaster Operations Centre, the Kenya Red Cross Society, the County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet, and the Office of the Government Spokesperson.

The government expressed gratitude to all institutions and individuals who have shown solidarity and swift action in response to the tragedy, including the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, the North Rift Economic Bloc, the National Treasury, the Kenya Red Cross Society, the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, the County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet, and the St. Benedict Chesongoch Catholic Mission, which is currently hosting displaced families. Dr. Mwaura commended

the rapid and coordinated response by both government and non-government actors, describing it as a demonstration of the Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society approach in action.

He also noted that the mudslide serves as a painful reminder of the importance of environmental conservation, especially through the Presidential Initiative to plant 15 billion trees in 10 years. He urged Kenyans to embrace reforestation and sustainable land use practices to help mitigate future disasters.

The government has assured Kenyans that updates on the ongoing operations will continue to be provided as the situation unfolds.

The team that visited the area includ-

ed Cabinet Secretaries Kipchumba Murkomen and Geoffrey Ruku.

Late last night, area governor Wisley Rotich disclosed that another area had been hit by mudslide. "We have just experienced another landslide at Kibendo in Keiyo North due to the torrential rains and the unfortunate has happened. The county disaster response team, office of Area MP team and ambulances already on site," he said, adding, "We urge all EMC residents who live on fragile areas along the escarpment to move to higher grounds. I beg each one of us to listen, its extraordinary times and needs each of us to comply to save lives."



Members of the public who visited one of the mudslide scenes. Photos/Courtesy..

Worth Noting:

- Over 2,000 Mudslide Affected Persons (MAPs) are currently being hosted at the St. Benedict Chesongoch Catholic Mission, where government and humanitarian agencies have set up a temporary relief centre.
- Earlier in the day, government officials in collaboration with the Kenya Red Cross flagged off consignments of food and non-food items at the Eldoret Airstrip to aid affected families. The leaders also made personal donations in solidarity with the victims. Dr. Mwaura said the government is prioritising the restoration of road networks through the Ministry of Roads, Transport, and Public Works to improve access to affected areas and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Government Forms Committees To Revive Coffee Sector Through Co-operatives

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

The government has launched a major initiative to breathe new life into Kenya's struggling coffee sector through the formation of National and County Steering Committees that will spearhead revival efforts through co-operative societies.

In a Gazette Notice published on Friday, Cabinet Secretary for Co-operatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Wycliffe Oparanya, announced the establishment of the committees, which will serve for a period of two years beginning last Friday.

The National Steering Committee will be chaired by former Embu Senator Njeru Ndwiga, with New KPCU chairman Daniel Chemno as the First Vice-Chairperson and Agriculture Counties Executive Committee Members caucus chairman as well CECM for Nyeri County James Wachihi Muturi as the Second Vice-Chairperson.

Other members include; Presidential Advisor on Coffee Henry Kinyua, Timothy Mirugi, Laura Wanjiru, Charles Rintaugu, Kennedy Kilwake, Okioma Mwanacha, Caroline Cherotich, David Obonyo Elijah Gichuru, Felix Mutwiri, Felix Miano, and Richard Kiprono Magut.

According to the notice, the committee has been tasked with developing a comprehensive report on the revitalization of the coffee sub-sector through co-operatives and implementing strategies to boost coffee farming in both traditional and emerging regions.

The team will also oversee the mobilization of financial resources to support co-operatives, ensure the availability of quality coffee seedlings across varieties, and promote the inclusion of women and youth in coffee-related activities. Additionally, it will craft communication and branding strategies to raise awareness among farmers and the public about the government's coffee revival agenda.

At the county level, County Steering Committees will mirror the national body's structure and functions. Each county committee will be chaired by the County Commissioner, with the County Executive Committee Mem-

ber for Agriculture or Co-operatives serving as Co-Chair, and the County New KPCU Representative as Secretary.

Other members will include county agriculture and co-operative officers, co-operative society representatives, and the County Director of Co-operatives.

The county teams will be responsible for implementing the revival strategies locally and reporting progress to the National Steering Committee.

The CS said the move is part of the government's broader plan to rejuvenate Kenya's coffee industry, which has faced years of decline due to low

prices, mismanagement, and limited access to finance for smallholder farmers. "This initiative marks a new chapter for our coffee farmers," he said, adding, "We are determined to restore coffee as one of Kenya's top export earners and a source of sustainable livelihood for thousands of households."

Kenya's coffee sector, once a global benchmark for quality, has seen production dip sharply in the past two decades. The government hopes that the renewed focus on co-operative structures and county-level coordination will help reverse the trend.



James Wachihi



Njeru Ndwiga..



Henry Kinyua



Daniel Chemno

14 POEMS

You Can't Fail At Being Yourself



Your strength lies in being unique and bold,
You are a special soul in your own way
You're genuine, and true to your heart,
Rising above failures,

Your passions burn with a fire
You are guiding all forward, through day and night,
You're brave, courageous, and strong,
You are a precious gem,

You're a worthy soul, with a pure heart
Most of all you are a chosen child of God,
You can't fail, for you are you,
You are a masterpiece,

Brinda. D

You can't fail if you're true to yourself,
Living life without imitating others style
You live with conscience, doing only what's right,
Standing up for justice, shining with all your might.

Tutoring In Uzbekistan's Higher Education: The Key To Student Success



Uzbekistan has turned tutoring (tyutorlik) into a legal and practical cornerstone of its universities. It is no longer optional—it is a mandatory system that directly drives better grades, higher graduation rates, and faster job placement. This article uses official data, real examples, and clear evidence to show exactly why tutoring matters. The system began on February 28, 2020, with Presidential Decree PQ-4611. This single decision made tutoring compulsory in every public and private university. The Ministry of Higher Education followed with Regulation No. 17 in 2020 and updated the rules in 2023 under the National Program for Higher Education Development until 2030. Today, 182 higher education institutions employ more than 15,000 active tutors who guide over 750,000 students (official Ministry figures, 2024).

Tutors have a clear job description. They create an Individual Development Plan (IDP) for every student once per semester—94% of tutored students now have one. They hold weekly 30–40 minute one-on-one meetings with an 87% attendance rate. They track grades in real time and cut the failure rate by 18%. They run career workshops, help write CVs, and organize job fairs; as a result, 71% of tutored graduates find work within six months, compared to only 46% of non-tutored peers (Asian Development Bank Labor Survey, 2024). They also check mental health monthly and referred 1,200+ students to counselors in 2023 alone. Concrete success stories prove the system

works. At Tashkent State University of Economics, senior lecturer Gulnora Rakhimova tutored 12 first-year students in 2022–2023.

The group had zero dropouts (versus a 7% campus average), three students won Erasmus+ scholarships, and one launched a fintech startup with her mentor's help. At Samarkand State University, the "Tutor + Startup" program helped 47 student teams pitch ideas in 2023; 11 projects received seed money from the Youth Entrepreneurship Fund. At Andjan Machine-Building Institute, alumna Madina Usmanova focused on female engineering students and raised their retention rate from 61% to 89% in two years.

The numbers speak for themselves. Graduation rates reach 91% for tutored students versus 73% without tutors. Average GPA rises 0.7 points with tutoring and only 0.2 points without it (National Testing Center). Student satisfaction hits 88% among those with tutors, but only 54% among those without (internal university polls, 2024).

Challenges remain. Rural campuses often have one tutor for every 60 students—far worse than the 1:15 ratio in Tashkent. Only 62% of tutors receive more than six months of training, and the monthly stipend of \$50–80 limits full commitment.

Even with these gaps, the evidence is undeniable: tutoring is the proven bridge between theory and real-world success. One decree changed 750,000 lives. One dedicated tutor can turn a struggling freshman into a confident graduate, startup founder or PhD candidate. Uzbekistan's future depends on skilled, resilient young people—and tutoring is the engine making it happen.

Sirjiddinov Asliddin
Tutor Faculty of Natural Sciences, Gulistan State University
Uzbekistan. Gulistan city

Come, Let Us Plant Trees!



Trees don't ask for anything,
But shade and fruits to us they bring.
They help us live, they help us play,
They make us smile every day.

Even on rocks, their roots will grow,
They teach us love that we can show.
Let's thank the trees for all they do,
And take good care of nature too.

So come along, let's plant today,
And make the world a brighter way.
Under their shade, we'll laugh and sing,
For trees make life a happy spring!

K. SorraLakshmi,
11th grade,
Government girls higher secondary school, Ashok Nagar, Chennai 600083

Come, let's plant some lovely trees,
That dance so gently in the breeze.
Let's make our Earth so fresh and green,
The prettiest place you've ever seen.

A Dream



By: Muhammad Shoaib
Ms Scholar at Foundation University Islamabad
Pakistan
Email: muhammadshoaib5150@gmail.com

I didn't know how I got here in the middle of these fields. I did not even know whether it was day or night because of the clouds in the sky. It took a while to understand that I was standing in my field. It was a little piece of land we own. As the thunderbolt lit up the sky, I saw something strange. The grape trees my father planted last year were uprooted. I looked around every tree was like that. My father had planted a lot of trees all across the field. The field right now was empty. We recently harvested wheat from it. The road was not far away; it was just at the end of our field. In fact, on both sides, there is a road that led to my home. As the thunderbolt struck again, I saw my mother and my sister standing alongside each other. They are coming from a village that is on the edge of the hills and near the jungle.

What are you doing here? I asked her
We went to that poor lady. She is very ill as you

know, she replied
I know she was pregnant 6 times, and whenever we visited her, she always talked about how little her husband earns. It was becoming very difficult for her to manage the home. Since it was not appropriate to talk about a pregnancy in front of her son, Mom said she was very sick, which means she was about to give birth.
That is fine, but Mom, you could have gone after the rain, and just look at the sky.
That is why I took your sister with me. She replied

I look at my sister, who was standing innocently behind my mother.
Let's go home, Mom Kinza, you too. Hurry up. The rain is coming.
I still did not know what time it was due to dark clouds in the sky. As we reached home, the rain started

We moved towards home, but before that, I saw strange things. All the animals of the jungle were moving to the village, as they did not care about human beings anymore. I even killed a snake. It was a really big, vivid colour on its skin. This gain snake, whose big mouth woke me up in the middle of the night, as my shirt was drenched in sweat and my throat was dry like I was travelling through sand, I could not sleep after I kept thinking about the animals and trees. Those elders who knew the ways of the land predicted a change in the pattern of weather. These elders could predict whether it would rain or not by simply observing the movement of the air. If the wind is blowing towards where the sun sets, and they believe that it will definitely rain, but over the years, they cannot even tell when it will rain, as every year the pattern of the rain changes.

Your Life Is Your Story



Dreams and hopes and a life set sail.
Make each chapter count;
All it with moments of bright light;
And fill your story with joy and love tight.
Do not hesitate to rewrite,
change and renew.
You are the story you write,
and write to shine through.
Every experience is the line
upon the page; write it right
And have your story be
worth reading, a true sight.
Write with passion; edit with love,
So that your story is worthy to be held above.

T. Vasugi,
B.T Assistant,
Kamaraj Matriculation Higher
Secondary School,
Kovilpatti.
Thoothukudi district.

Write well, edit often
Your life is the story you write.
Every day is a new page; fill it with love and share.
Write carefully, edit often,
make it a story of

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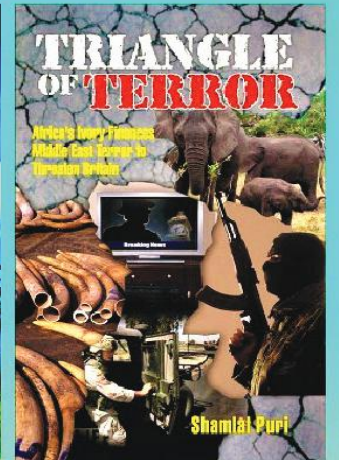
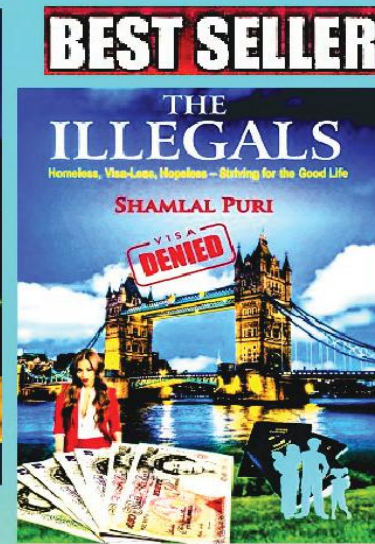
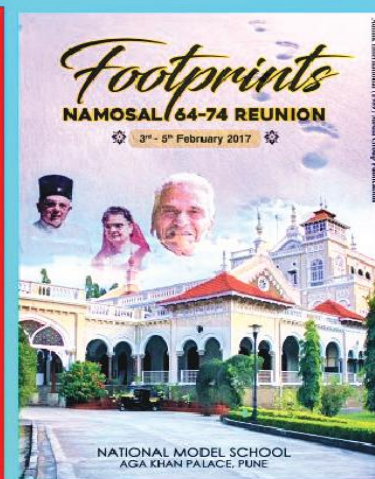
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BUSINESS

Education CS Urges Varsity Unions To Accept Phased Payment Plan

By: Sitati Reagan
 @themtkenyatimes



Education CS Julius Migosi addressing journalists. Looking on are officials of Kenya Association of Technical Training Institutions (KATTI) led by chairman Dr David Mwangi (right) who is also the Chief Principal Nyeri National Polytechnic.

Worth Noting:

- Migosi explained that the dispute arose from the 2017–2021 CBA, which was signed before his tenure. “When it came to our attention that the amount had been outstanding, we raised the matter with the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC),” he said.
- He noted that while the SRC had indicated the outstanding amount as Sh624 million, the unions demanded Sh7.9 billion. A verification exercise involving the SRC, universities, and unions later established the accurate figure is Sh7.7 billion.
- “The discrepancy took time to resolve, but once it was clarified, we invited the unions for talks on how to settle the arrears,” said Migosi.

Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba Migosi has appealed to university staff unions to accept the government’s proposed phased payment plan for the 2017–2021 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) arrears to end the ongoing strike and allow learning to resume.

Speaking during the conclusion of the Kenya Association of Technical Training Institutions (KATTI) National Championship Season Two games at the Kenya Coast National Polytechnic, the CS said the government remains committed to resolving the long-standing issue but within available financial limits.

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“The discrepancy took time to resolve, but once it was clarified, we invited the unions for talks on how to settle the arrears,” said Migosi.

According to the CS, the government initially proposed settling the amount in three phases of Sh2.1 billion, Sh2.8 billion, and Sh2.8 billion across successive financial years. The unions, however, demanded full payment at once.

“Government finances are guided by the budget process. This historical debt was not included in the 2025–2026 budget, so immediate full payment is not possible,” he said, adding that the ministry had offered to shorten the payment plan to two phases of Sh3.8 billion each.

Migosi stated that Sh3.8 billion will be paid through the upcoming supplementary budget, while the balance

will be settled in the next financial year beginning July 2026.

He urged the unions to consider the government’s financial position and resume teaching, emphasising that the offer reflects good faith and fiscal responsibility.

Migosi also pointed out that the government had already honored payments under the 2021–2025 CBA amounting to Sh9.7 billion, including Sh4.3 billion paid immediately after signing, Sh2.7 billion in the current financial year, and another Sh2.7 billion scheduled for the next financial year.

“This demonstrates the government’s commitment to meet its obligations despite fiscal constraints,” he said.

The CS appealed to the striking lecturers to return to work to avoid further disruption of learning. He expressed concern that current university students are bearing the burden of debts accrued before their enrollment.

“The students in universities today

were not part of the 2017–2021 CBA. It is unfair to punish them for issues they did not cause,” he said.

Migosi assured that the government is working to balance the safety and academic progress of students with the financial demands of the unions. He added that institutions will need to recover the two lost months through measures such as evening or weekend classes.

He commended students for their patience and urged all parties to prioritize dialogue and cooperation to safeguard the academic calendar.



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The Unfinished Dialectic: Democracy In Africa, A Borrowed Garment Or A Woven Thread?



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes

The question of whether democracy serves Africa and whether it was truly 'meant for Africans' is a profound, dialectical challenge that excavates the continent's layered history. It moves beyond a simple 'yes' or 'no' to engage with the legacy of imposition, the resilience of indigenous governance, and the often-thwarted aspirations of post-colonial states. Democracy, in its current liberal-pluralist manifestation, arrived in Africa not as a spontaneous internal evolution but largely as a blueprint delivered during decolonization and re-emphasized during the "third wave" of democratization, following the end of the Cold War around 1989-1994.

Inheriting the State: The Political Science and Legal Imposition

The modern African state, an artefact of the 1884-1885 Berlin Conference, inherited borders and governance structures designed for exploitation, not representation. Political science reveals that the colonial state was, by design, an apparatus of "coercive sovereignty" focused on resource extraction and administrative control, as scholars like Jeffrey Herbst argue in *States and Power in Africa*. Colonial administrators established centralized, hierarchical systems that actively suppressed indigenous political institutions that often contained elements of deliberative democracy. For instance, the pre-colonial Igbo system in what is now Nigeria exemplified a form of segmentary, non-centralized governance with checks and balances, which was fundamentally incompatible with the Governor-General model.

When independence arrived in the late 1950s and 1960s, a transfer of power occurred, not a true restructuring of the state. The new African elites, often schooled in the West, inherited the colonially-drawn map and the centralist, powerful legal framework. The Westminster or French models were adopted en masse. Kwame Nkrumah's Ghana, independent in 1957, quickly moved from multi-partyism to a one-party state by 1964, a pattern echoed across the continent. This was rationalized by political leaders, arguing that a single party was necessary for 'national unity' and accelerated economic development, a perspective encapsulated in Julius Nyerere's philosophy of 'Ujamaa' in Tanzania.

The post-independence constitutions, while enshrining fundamental rights in legal documents, were often overridden by emergency powers or executive decrees, demonstrating a fundamental disjuncture: the legal



form was democratic, but the political practice was authoritarian. The numerous military coups over 200 attempted or successful coups in Africa since the 1950s, a staggering figure; became the ultimate political expression of this disconnect, undermining the constitutional order.

The Cultural Resonance: An Anthropological and Sociological Critique

To argue democracy was 'meant for Africans' requires engaging with pre-colonial forms of governance. Anthropology offers compelling evidence of sophisticated systems of consensus-building and accountability long predating European contact. In *The African Philosophy of Governance*, the concept of 'palaver' is central, a process-oriented, public discussion aimed at achieving societal consensus rather than simply a 51% victory.

This highlights a key sociological tension: the imposed Western model, with its adversarial party politics and 'winner-takes-all' electoralism, often mapped onto and exacerbated existing ethnic and regional divisions. As Raila Odinga noted in a 2016 speech, ethnic mobilization, a colonial 'divide and rule' legacy, became a primary tool for political competition in Kenya post-1963, transforming democracy into a zero-sum game for resource control rather than a vehicle for inclusive policy. The struggle becomes not about ideology, but about which ethnic coalition controls the state's patronage network, a phenom-

enon scholars refer to as 'neopatrimonialism'.

The Psychological Scars and the Call for Re-Creation

From a psychological perspective, the democratic experience in Africa is fraught. The colonial subject was systematically conditioned into a state of political and economic dependence. When political freedom (independence) was achieved, a new form of psychological contract was needed. The repeated failure of the liberal-democratic model to 'deliver' essential public goods, jobs, infrastructure, security, as promised in electoral campaigns, generates deep citizen cynicism and apathy.

This psychological weariness contributes to the democratic backsliding seen in the recent wave of military coups in West Africa (e.g., Mali in 2020 and 2021). When a coup is met with street celebrations, it is a desperate societal cry for an alternative, a break from an elite-captured system. It suggests that the formal democratic procedures have become, in the eyes of the populace, merely a facade for continued elite circulation and corruption.

This leads to a powerful, original conclusion: African democracy must move beyond 'imitation' toward 're-creation'. The core democratic principle 'government by the consent of the governed' is not alien. It is universally human. But the vehicle (the mechanism) must be indigenously engineered to resonate with the so-

cial, legal, and anthropological realities of the continent.

The Unfinished Verdict

Was democracy 'meant for Africans'? In its classical, adversarial, winner-takes-all form, imported tabula rasa, history suggests it has often been a poor servant and a source of political instability, not because of a deficit in the African people, but because of a flawed structural inheritance and its vulnerability to elite capture.

However, the spirit of democratic governance accountability, consensus, and the peaceful, rights-based exercise of power is profoundly rooted in African societies. Nelson Mandela, in his 1994 presidential address after the end of apartheid, spoke not just of voting, but of human dignity and reconciliation, embedding a deeper, more Africanized meaning into the democratic project. The challenge remains to bridge the gap between the liberal-procedural ideal and the African-contextual reality, weaving an authentic thread of governance that serves the populace first. The African Union's commitment, articulated in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (2007), is a legal step toward this re-creation, affirming that the continent is ready not for borrowed governance, but for self-determined, accountable rule.

The writer is a legal scholar and writer

Worth Noting:

- The modern African state, an artefact of the 1884-1885 Berlin Conference, inherited borders and governance structures designed for exploitation, not representation.
- Political science reveals that the colonial state was, by design, an apparatus of "coercive sovereignty" focused on resource extraction and administrative control, as scholars like Jeffrey Herbst argue in *States and Power in Africa*. Colonial administrators established centralized, hierarchical systems that actively suppressed indigenous political institutions that often contained elements of deliberative democracy.
- For instance, the pre-colonial Igbo system in what is now Nigeria exemplified a form of segmentary, non-centralized governance with checks and balances, which was fundamentally incompatible with the Governor-General model.

Egypt Unveils World's Largest Museum Dedicated To Single civilization At Grand Ceremony

By: Xinhua News Agency

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

After two decades of construction, Egypt on Saturday inaugurated the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) -- the world's largest museum dedicated to a single civilization -- during a grand ceremony held near the pyramids and the Sphinx, marking a landmark cultural event for the country renowned for its rich heritage.

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi officially inaugurated the colossal museum complex on the Giza Plateau in a ceremony attended by 79 delegations from around the world, including heads of state, members of royal families, and government officials. In his speech, al-Sisi hailed the opening of the museum as "a living testament to the genius of the Egyptian people." "The Egyptian people were and still are builders of

civilizations, creators of glory, and messengers of peace," he said, describing the opening of the GEM as "writing a new chapter in the history of the present and the future."

According to the Egyptian president, the GEM is the largest museum in the world dedicated to a single civilization -- the civilization of Egypt. Spanning nearly 500,000 square meters, the museum will house an unprecedented collection of over 100,000 artifacts spanning thousands of years of Egyptian history. Its undisputed centerpiece is the complete collection of the boy-king Tutankhamun -- some 5,992 pieces -- including his iconic golden mask and two coffins. This priceless collection will be displayed together for the first time since the discovery of his tomb in 1922.

The museum occupies a symbolically significant site on the Giza Plateau, where the ancient pyramids are located, offering panoramic views of the pyramids and forging a direct connection between these

ancient wonders and the new monumental cultural institution. The inauguration ceremony, staged in the museum courtyard with the Great Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx as a backdrop, featured cultural events and artistic performances celebrating Egypt's rich heritage. Festivities included musical performances, a light show, and a fireworks display. The GEM is expected to act as a major catalyst for Egypt's vital tourism sector, with officials anticipating a substantial annual influx of visitors that will significantly enhance the country's tourism revenue. "The museum will completely change the map of cultural tourism in Egypt and significantly aid the tourism industry," said Mohamed Ismail Khaled, secretary-general of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities.

CEO of the GEM Ahmed Ghoneim hailed the museum as "Egypt's gift to the world," noting that the museum "changes the context of tourism in Egypt and enhances cultural tourism." "It is not only the heritage that



Actors perform at the inauguration of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) in Giza, Egypt, last Saturday. (Xinhua)

we have, but rather how we show it," he told Xinhua. Construction of the museum began in 2005, but the project faced numerous delays over the years due to political instability and funding challenges. Now complete, the facility blends modern architectural design with elements inspired

by ancient Egypt, featuring spacious halls and state-of-the-art display technologies. The museum complex is set to officially open to the public tomorrow.

Africa CDC Mobilizes Emergency Response After Attack On Hospital In Sudan

By: Xinhua News Agency

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) announced over the weekend that it is mobilizing an emergency public-health response after an attack on a crucial medical facility in El Fasher, western Sudan.

In a statement, the Africa CDC said it is dispatching critical medical supplies after last week's assault on the Saudi Maternity Hospital in El Fasher. "The assault, which killed hundreds of patients and caregivers and led to the abduction of several health workers, has crippled one of the few remaining medical facilities in the region and raised grave concerns about the continuity of essential health services," the Africa CDC said. It warned that ongoing conflict, mass displacement, and restricted access to healthcare are worsening Sudan's health crisis, as the country battles concurrent outbreaks of

cholera, dengue fever, measles, and diphtheria.

The African Union's specialized health agency said it has deployed emergency medical and laboratory experts to assess conditions on the ground and support outbreak control, sustain essential health services, and strengthen biosafety in affected areas. Working in partnership with Sudan's Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization, the Africa CDC said it is verifying casualty figures, monitoring for potential disease outbreaks, and assessing the broader public health impact. "This is not only a human tragedy but a public-health emergency," the statement quoted Jean Kaseya, director general of Africa CDC, as saying. "Our immediate priority is to preserve life, prevent secondary outbreaks, and protect the health infrastructure that communities depend on. Health facilities and workers must never be targets of war."

The agency urged all parties to the conflict to safeguard laboratories and biomedical facilities that store or handle dangerous pathogens,



warning that any compromise could pose grave biosecurity and public health risks. On Wednesday, Sudan's government said more than 2,000 civilians had been killed by the para-

military Rapid Support Forces (RSF) since their entry into El Fasher. Sudan remains gripped by a devastating conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the RSF, which

erupted in April 2023. The war has claimed tens of thousands of lives and displaced millions, plunging the country deeper into a humanitarian crisis.

Addressing Conflict Of Interest In Namibia's Public Service Recruitment Policy: A Comprehensive Analysis And Proposal For Reform



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyatimes

Conflict of interest in public service recruitment undermines meritocracy, transparency, and institutional trust. Namibia's recruitment policy addresses this concern primarily through panelist declarations and discretionary recusal mechanisms. However, it lacks provisions for candidates to declare discomfort with panelists due to prior negative relations. This article critically examines the current policy framework, identifies procedural asymmetries, and proposes reforms to enhance fairness, psychological safety, and democratic accountability. Drawing on comparative international practices and Namibia's governance ethos, it offers actionable recommendations for policy review and institutional strengthening.

1. Introduction

Recruitment in the public service is not merely an administrative function - it is a democratic imperative. It determines who serves the public, shapes institutional culture, and reflects the values of fairness, professionalism, and inclusivity. In Namibia, the Public Service Act of 1995 and associated regulations provide the legal scaffolding for recruitment, emphasizing merit-based selection and ethical conduct. One critical dimension of this process is the management of conflict of interest - a concept central to safeguarding impartiality and public trust.

This article explores how Namibia's recruitment policy addresses conflict of interest, with a focus on interview panel composition and conduct. It identifies a significant gap: the absence of provisions allowing candidates to declare discomfort or conflict with panelists due to prior negative relations. It also interrogates the discretionary nature of panelist recusal and its implications for ethical integrity. The article concludes with policy recommendations to address these gaps and strengthen Namibia's commitment to ethical

public service recruitment.

2. Legal and Policy Framework Governing Recruitment in Namibia's Public Service

Namibia's public service recruitment is governed by a constellation of legal and policy instruments:

2.1 Public Service Act, 1995 (Act No. 13 of 1995)

The Act establishes the principles of merit, equity, and transparency in public service appointments. Section 6 outlines the powers of the Public Service Commission (PSC) in overseeing recruitment, while Section 23 emphasizes the need for fair and competitive selection processes.

2.2 Public Service Staff Rules

These rules operationalize recruitment procedures, including advertising, shortlisting, interviewing, and appointment. They mandate the use of structured interview panels and standardized scoring systems to ensure consistency and fairness.

2.3 Code of Conduct for Public Servants

The Code requires public servants to act with integrity, impartiality, and professionalism. It explicitly prohibits participation in decisions where personal interests may compromise objectivity.

2.4 Human Resource Development Policy Framework (2012)

This framework promotes capacity building and equitable access to public service opportunities. It underscores the importance of ethical recruitment and institutional accountability.

Together, these instruments aim to ensure that recruitment decisions are made based on objective criteria, free from personal bias or undue influence.

3. Conceptualizing Conflict of Interest in Recruitment

A conflict of interest arises when an individual involved in a decision-making process has a personal, financial, or relational interest that could compromise - or appear to compromise - their impartiality. In recruitment, this typically involves:

- Panelists with personal relationships (family, friendship, enmity) with candidates.
- Panelists with financial in-

terests linked to candidates or their associates.

- Panelists with prior supervisory or disciplinary history involving candidates.

Namibia's Code of Conduct requires public servants to declare any such interests and recuse themselves from processes where impartiality may be compromised. However, the policy is panelist-centric - it assumes that panelists will self-identify conflicts and act ethically.

4. Panelist Declarations and Recusal Procedures

The recruitment policy mandates that:

- Panel members must declare any conflict of interest before participating in interviews.
- Declarations are recorded and reviewed by the appointing authority.
- Panelists with declared conflicts may be replaced to preserve the integrity of the process.

However, recusal is not automatic. The decision to remove a panelist from the process is discretionary, based on the appointing authority's judgment of whether the conflict materially affects impartiality.

5. The Missing Link: Candidate-Initiated Conflict Declarations

While panelists are required to declare conflicts, candidates are not explicitly empowered to do the same. This creates a procedural asymmetry. Consider the following scenarios:

- A candidate has previously filed a grievance against a panelist.
- A panelist was involved in a disciplinary action against the candidate.
- A candidate has experienced harassment or discrimination from a panelist.

In such cases, the candidate may reasonably fear bias or psychological discomfort. Yet, the current policy does not provide a formal avenue for candidates to declare such concerns or request panelist recusal.

6. Implications of the Policy Gap

6.1 Fairness and Procedural Integrity

Without candidate declarations, recruitment panels may inadvertently include individuals whose presence



undermines fairness. This can lead to biased assessments, reduced trust in outcomes, and potential legal challenges.

6.2 Psychological Safety

Candidates may feel intimidated or distressed when interviewed by panelists with whom they have negative history. This affects performance and violates principles of dignity and respect.

6.3 Institutional Trust

Public perception of recruitment integrity is vital. If candidates believe the process is biased or opaque, it erodes trust in public institutions and discourages qualified applicants.

7. Comparative Insights: International Practices

Several jurisdictions offer instructive models:

7.1 South Africa

The Public Service Regulations (2016) allow candidates to raise concerns about panel composition, which are reviewed by HR or ethics officers. This promotes transparency and psychological safety.

7.2 United Kingdom

Civil Service Commission guidelines permit candidates to declare conflicts and request adjustments. Interview panels are required to consider such declarations and act accordingly.

7.3 Canada

The Public Service Commission provides anonymous reporting

mechanisms for perceived bias or conflict. Candidates can request alternative interview arrangements without fear of reprisal.

These models recognize that conflict of interest is bidirectional - it can arise from both panelist and candidate perspectives.

8. Panelist Recusal: Policy Provisions and Ethical Implications

A critical aspect of managing conflict of interest in recruitment is the question of recusal - whether a panelist who declares a conflict must automatically withdraw from the process. Namibia's policy does not mandate automatic recusal.

8.1 Declaration vs. Recusal

□ Declaration: Panelists must disclose any personal, financial, or relational interest that could compromise impartiality.

□ Recusal: The decision to remove a panelist is made by the appointing authority, based on the nature and severity of the declared conflict.

This discretionary approach creates ambiguity and potential for ethical lapses.

8.2 Ethical Risks of Non-Recusal

Allowing panelists with declared conflicts to participate - even with good intentions - raises several concerns:

Addressing Conflict Of Interest In Namibia's Public Service Recruitment Policy: A Comprehensive Analysis And Proposal For Reform

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Perceived Bias: Even if a panelist acts ethically, their continued presence may be perceived as biased.

Public Trust: Recruitment outcomes may be questioned, especially if the selected candidate has ties to the panelist.

Legal Vulnerability: Unrecused participation may expose the institution to grievances or litigation.

8.3 International Standards

Best practices suggest that recusal should follow declaration unless the conflict is demonstrably minor and manageable. For example:

In South Africa, any conflict must be "managed or eliminated," with recusal being the primary method.

In the United Kingdom, even the appearance of bias warrants recusal.

In Canada, proactive recusal is encouraged to uphold institutional integrity.

9. Policy Analysis: Strengths and Gaps

9.1 Strengths of Namibia's Current Policy

- Clear panelist declaration requirements.
- Structured interview procedures.
- Emphasis on merit and transparency.

9.2 Gaps and Limitations

- No provision for candidate-initiated conflict declarations.
- Lack of automatic recusal protocols.
- Absence of psychological safety considerations.
- No training for panelists on managing candidate discomfort.

10. Recommendations for Policy Reform

To address the identified gaps, Namibia's recruitment policy should be revised to include:

10.1 Candidate Declaration Mechanism

Introduce a formal process allowing candidates to declare discomfort or

conflict with specific panelists. This could be submitted confidentially to HR prior to interviews.

10.2 Automatic Recusal for Significant Conflicts

Define thresholds for automatic recusal, such as familial ties, prior disciplinary involvement, or financial interests.

10.3 Transparent Review Mechanism

Require written justification when a panelist with a declared conflict is retained, subject to review by an ethics officer.

10.4 Training and Awareness

Train HR officers and panelists on conflict of interest principles, including candidate rights and ethical interviewing practices.

10.5 Monitoring and Evaluation

Track the use of candidate declarations and assess their impact on recruitment fairness and outcomes. Use data to refine policy and promote accountability.

11. Proposed Policy Amendment (Model Language)

"Candidates shall have the right to declare any perceived conflict of interest or discomfort with interview panel members prior to the interview. Such declarations shall be submitted in writing to the designated HR officer and shall be reviewed by an independent committee. Where reasonable grounds are established, appropriate adjustments shall be made to ensure a fair and impartial interview process."

"Panelists who declare a conflict of interest shall be subject to automatic recusal where the conflict involves familial ties, prior disciplinary action, financial interest, or any relationship that may reasonably impair impartiality. The appointing authority shall document and justify any decision to retain a panelist."

12. Conclusion: Advancing Ethical Integrity and Democratic Fairness in Public Service Recruitment

Conflict of interest in public service recruitment is not a peripheral concern - it is a central determinant of institutional legitimacy, public trust, and democratic accountability. In Namibia, the existing recruitment policy reflects a commendable commitment to meritocracy and procedural fairness, particularly through

its emphasis on panelist declarations and structured interview protocols. However, as this analysis has demonstrated, the policy's current architecture is incomplete. It lacks critical provisions for candidate-initiated conflict declarations and relies on discretionary rather than automatic recusal mechanisms for panelists who declare conflicts of interest.

This asymmetry - where panelists are empowered to declare and potentially remain, while candidates are denied formal avenues to raise concerns - creates vulnerabilities in the recruitment process. It risks undermining the psychological safety of candidates, distorting the perception of fairness, and exposing institutions to reputational and legal risks. In a democratic society where public service is both a privilege and a responsibility, recruitment must be beyond reproach - not only in its outcomes but in its processes.

The discretionary nature of panelist recusal further compounds this challenge. While the policy rightly requires declarations, it does not mandate automatic recusal, leaving room for subjective interpretation and inconsistent application. Even if a panelist acts ethically, their continued participation after declaring a conflict may be perceived as biased, especially in cases involving prior disciplinary action, familial ties, or unresolved grievances. In governance, perception often carries as much weight as reality. The mere appearance of impropriety can erode public confidence and diminish the credibility of recruitment outcomes. Comparative insights from jurisdic-

tions such as South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Canada underscore the importance of symmetrical conflict management - where both panelists and candidates are empowered to declare concerns, and where recusal is treated not as a discretionary courtesy but as an ethical imperative. These models offer Namibia valuable lessons in institutional design, transparency, and procedural justice.

To align with these best practices and uphold the constitutional values of fairness, dignity, and equality, Namibia's Public Service Commission and relevant authorities must consider a comprehensive policy reform. This reform should include:

- A formal mechanism for candidate-initiated conflict declarations.
- Clear thresholds for automatic panelist recusal.
- Transparent review and adjudication protocols.
- Training for HR officers and panelists on ethical interviewing and conflict management.
- Monitoring and evaluation systems to track the use and impact of conflict declarations.

Such reforms are not merely technical adjustments - they are expressions of Namibia's commitment to inclusive governance, professional integrity, and the empowerment of all citizens. They affirm the principle that public service recruitment must be a level playing field, where every candidate is assessed fairly, every

panelist is held to ethical standards, and every institution is accountable to the public it serves.

Moreover, these reforms resonate with Namibia's broader developmental aspirations. As the country seeks to build resilient institutions, foster cooperative governance, and promote youth empowerment, ethical recruitment becomes a strategic lever. It ensures that the right people are placed in the right roles, that public institutions reflect the diversity and dignity of the nation, and that citizens - especially young professionals - see public service not as a closed system but as a transparent and merit-based opportunity.

In conclusion, addressing conflict of interest in public service recruitment is not optional - it is essential. It is a moral, legal, and democratic obligation. By closing the identified gaps and embracing a more holistic, symmetrical, and transparent approach, Namibia can set a regional benchmark for ethical public service recruitment. It can demonstrate that fairness is not just a policy principle - it is a lived reality, embedded in every interview, every appointment, and every act of public service.

Let this be the moment where Namibia reaffirms its commitment to ethical governance - not only in words, but in action. Let the recruitment process be a mirror of the nation's values, and let every candidate walk into an interview knowing that they are protected, respected, and assessed with integrity.



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Sports >> *Benson Kipruto delivered a masterclass in grit and timing to win the 2025 New York City Marathon, spearheading a historic Kenyan sweep of the men's podium in one of the most dramatic finishes the race has seen.

Kipruto Leads Kenyan Podium Sweep In Thrilling New York Marathon Finish



Benson Kipruto competing in men's marathon at Paris 2024 Olympic Games

By **Mt Kenya Times Sports Desk**

Benson Kipruto delivered a masterclass in grit and timing to win the 2025 New York City Marathon, spearheading a historic Kenyan sweep of the men's podium in one of the most dramatic finishes the race has seen. Kipruto edged out compatriot Alexander Mutiso in a breathtaking sprint finish, with both clocking 2:08:09, while Albert Korir, the 2021 champion, secured third place in 2:08:57.

The race unfolded under crisp autumn skies, with a deep elite field and high expectations. But it was Kipruto, known for his tactical brilliance and late-race

surges, who timed his move to perfection. As the runners entered Central Park, Kipruto and Mutiso broke away from the pack, trading surges in a thrilling duel that had spectators roaring along the barricades. In the final meters, Kipruto summoned a final burst of speed, crossing the line just 0.16 seconds ahead of Mutiso—a margin so slim it required a photo finish to confirm.

This victory cements Kipruto's place in marathon history. Having already claimed titles in Boston and Chicago, he becomes the first man to win all three U.S. marathon majors, a feat that underscores his versatility and endurance across varied courses and conditions. "New York has

always been a dream," Kipruto said after the race. "To win here, against such strong competition, is something I'll never forget."

Albert Korir's third-place finish completed the Kenyan sweep, a powerful statement of the nation's continued dominance in long-distance running. The women's race mirrored the men's success, with Hellen Obiri smashing a 22-year-old course record in 2:19:51, followed by Sharon Lokedi and Sheila Chepkirui, making it a double podium sweep for Kenya.

The 2025 edition of the marathon also featured the legendary Eliud Kipchoge, who finished 17th in what many believe could be his final major race. While

Kipchoge's result was unexpected, his presence added gravitas to an already star-studded field and served as a symbolic passing of the torch to the next generation of Kenyan greats.

As the confetti settled and the anthems played, Kenya's flag flew high over New York, a testament to the nation's unmatched legacy in marathon running—and a new chapter led by Benson Kipruto.

I can chart Kipruto's major marathon wins to show how his career compares with other greats like Kipchoge and Bekele.

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Sports >>> *Eliud Kipchoge, the undisputed titan of marathon running, stunned fans and pundits alike with a surprising 17th-place finish at the New York City Marathon, raising questions about whether this might be the swansong of his illustrious career.

Marathon Legend Kipchoge Falter In New York—Is This The Final Lap?



Eliud Kipchoge celebrates after winning the 2023 Berlin Marathon title. PHOTO/NN Running/Twitter

By Mt Kenya Times Sports Desk

Eliud Kipchoge, the undisputed titan of marathon running, stunned fans and pundits alike with a surprising 17th-place finish at the New York City Marathon, raising questions about whether this might be the swansong of his illustrious career. The Kenyan icon, who has long been synonymous with dominance, endurance, and grace on the global marathon circuit, appeared visibly strained as he crossed the finish line in Central Park—far from the podium where he’s spent most of his career.

Kipchoge’s time of 2:11:31 was well off his personal best and

a stark contrast to the sub-two-hour barrier he famously broke in Vienna in 2019 under controlled conditions. The New York course, known for its undulating terrain and unpredictable weather, has never been kind to debutants, and Kipchoge’s first outing here proved no exception. Yet, it wasn’t just the hills or the humidity that seemed to weigh him down—it was the unmistakable aura of a man nearing the twilight of a legendary journey.

Spectators lined the streets with Kenyan flags and chants of “Kipchoge! Kipchoge!” hoping to witness another masterclass. Instead, they saw a rare moment of vulnerability from a man who has made running look effortless for over a

decade. His stride, once fluid and poetic, looked labored by the half-way mark. Despite the setback, Kipchoge remained gracious, thanking fans and fellow runners, and hinting that his future in competitive racing may be limited.

“I gave it my best,” he said post-race. “New York is a beautiful challenge, and today was not my day. But I’m grateful for the journey.”

The marathon world is now abuzz with speculation. Will Kipchoge retire? Will he attempt one final Olympic run in Paris 2024? Or was this his quiet farewell, choosing the Big Apple as the stage for his curtain call? Whatever the decision, Kipchoge’s legacy is secure. He has redefined what

is possible in distance running, inspired millions, and carried the Kenyan flag with unmatched pride.

As the sun set over Manhattan, one thing was clear: Eliud Kipchoge may have finished 17th, but in the hearts of fans, he remains first—forever etched in the annals of greatness.

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The Mt Kenya Times



The Geopolitical Chessboard: How A Shared Game Reflects India–China Strategy



By: Aaqil Ahmed
@themtkenyatimes

Chess has been a shared cultural gift between India and China for over a millennium. Historians trace the modern game to India's 6th-century chaturanga, a strategic "war game" used by Gupta warriors to practice tactics. (China venerates xiangqi as its parallel heritage: sometimes called "Chinese chess" in the West.) In a poem of Queen Harsha's court (circa 625 CE), the Indian sage Banabhatta even describes the ashtāpada board of chaturanga – the 8×8 grid that would evolve into modern chess. For India, this origin story is not just folklore but pride: it underlines a long tradition of intellectual play. China, however, also claims an ancestral "chess" of its own (a game with similar royal and military pieces) that reflects Taoist and Confucian strategic thought. In short, both civilizations celebrate an ancient board-game wisdom – even as modern historians debate who moved first on the chessboard of history.

Yet today this common heritage is caught up in modern rivalry. Millennia of cultural exchange – from Buddhism to silk – have given way, since 1949, to border disputes and strategic jockeying. The scars of the 1962 war lie deep, and recent confrontations (such as the 2020 Galwan Valley clash) have only hardened mutual suspicion. Observers note that these skirmishes are "not simply a remote episode in the Himalaya frontier, but...a contesting strategic struggle" in Asia. In this environment of scepticism, even timeless symbols turns into pawn in a geopolitics. For example, China's Belt & Road Initiative and India's new Quad alignment are often described as moves in a grand Indo-Pacific chess match (each country trying to outflank the other). In this context, the question of

"who invented chess?" has taken on a soft-power dimension: if chess is India's gift to the world, India gains prestige; if it began in China, Beijing can claim a cultural advantage.

That makes modern chess matches another theater of competition. In recent years, a new generation of Indian prodigies – players like D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa, Vaishali Rameshbabu and Divya Deshmukh – have challenged China's traditionally dominant teams on the world stage. When an Indian grandmaster defeats a Chinese rival, newspapers cast it as a triumph of national pride. This "intense, high-stakes" rivalry at Olympiads and World Cups mirrors larger strategic rivalry. At the same time, chess's symbolic value is clear: China touts sports and games as part of its global image-building, while India highlights its democratic ethos and cultural soft power in diplomacy. Scholars of international relations would call this a struggle of soft power: influence by attraction, not coercion. In Joseph Nye's terms, nations charm others not just with armies but also with culture, education and sport. In chess, each side aims to score an intellectual victory without the violence of battle.

There have been moments when the game was explicitly proposed as a diplomatic olive branch. As one historian recounts, in 1950 India's government suggested settling a post-independence border dispute with China via a friendly chess match. The idea was to channel political tensions into sport instead of war, a "secret language" of diplomacy. (The match never happened, as nationalistic hard feelings soon prevailed.) More recently, enthusiasts have called for cultural "joint missions": shared exhibitions on the history of chess, India–China youth tournaments in the spirit of "shared heritage," and scholarly conferences on the game's Silk Road travels. Indeed, analysts argue that common cultural practices – from music to games – can build personal ties between countries. Chess, with its 64-square language of strategy, is one of the few ancient threads still linking Indian and Chinese intelligentsia. Prominent researchers



have noted that China has poured state funds into sports and cultural diplomacy, while India under its "Neighbourhood First" policy emphasizes outreach through culture and education. These initiatives suggest that, despite competition, Beijing and New Delhi recognize the value of soft power in the international arena.

Still, turning chess into a genuine bridge has its challenges. The very nature of competition means every match can feed nationalist narratives. A routine tournament game is easily spun into "zero-sum" propaganda: when one side "mates," the other side must have lost more than just a game. Kumar's study notes that in China–India relations chess can become a "two-edged sword": on one edge it sharpens rivalries, on the other it can strengthen ties. For instance, mass media in both countries often amplify each cross-border

der sporting victory as evidence of national strength. Yet the cultural overlap in the game offers a counterpoint. Shared roots – whether we call the origin story Indian, Chinese, or Silk Road collaboration – provide "a sense of shared language and a point of mutual intellectual respect". Experts argue that by shifting emphasis from winning to celebrating this common legacy, chess could become a positive-sum activity. Imagine low-cost cultural diplomacy: joint chess festivals, youth coaching exchanges or friendly matches on neutral grounds. Such initiatives would tap into deep heritage to create "small but critical reservoirs of goodwill" in a tense relationship.

India and China have already shown that they can use cultural exchange to ease friction. Even in football, movies and language programs there is frequent talk of "soft

power." On chess, the opportunity is especially tangible: it has popular support in both countries and cuts across generations. As Kumar observes, the chessboard can mirror the modern border, but it can also serve as "a unique source of diplomatic strength". If both governments commit to the heritage side of the narrative, each match need not reopen old wounds. Instead of a proxy battlefield for strategic one-upmanship, chess could be the venue for mutual celebration. After all, the game was born of shared creative genius four generals on an 8×8 grid, one Indian, one Chinese by every measure and it would be fitting if chess helped New Delhi and Beijing find moves toward understanding, rather than just conflict.