Kenya's Infrastructure And Sovereign Wealth Funds: Bold Vision Or Financial Mirage?"

Last month, President William Ruto unveiled an ambitious plan to establish both an Infrastructure Fund and a Sovereign Wealth Fund, marking a pivotal moment in Kenya's fiscal strategy. The announcement comes against a sobering backdrop: Kenya's public debt stands at KSh 11.5 trillion as of May 2025, equivalent to 67.4% of GDP, while the country's debt service-to-revenue ratio has reached a crippling 67.1% Page 18 & 19

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Gachagua: Ruto Is Facing Kenya, Not Raila

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P. 12. A Chinese firm will from next year start operations at its KSh100 billion facility that will locally produce green ammonia fertiliser, fully powered by geothermal energy in Olkaria, Naivasha.

In a fiery and emotional rebuke, former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has accused President William Ruto of "celebrating" the death of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, warning that the 2027 General Election will not be a contest between individuals but between Ruto and the people of Kenya. Gachagua's remarks, delivered during a press briefing yesterday, have electrified the political landscape and injected fresh urgency into the opposition's campaign to unify under a single banner.

A photo collage of DCP party leader Rigathi Gachagua and President William Ruto. Photo Courtesy

STORY ON PAGE 9

DP At Dodoma For President Suluhu Swearing In

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki yesterday represented Kenya during the swearing in of Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan at a military camp in Dodoma.
Scores of leaders, mostly from Africa attended the colourful ceremony that saw President Suluhu start her second term in office.
In a post on his Social media, the DP noted that Tanzania remains a key friendly neighbour and a strategic trade partner of Kenya.
"Kenya's future is inextricably linked to a stable, peaceful and prosperous region within the context of the East African Community (EAC) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)," the DP noted after the ceremony.



















Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF

The Commission's Technical Working Group (TWG) on Diaspora Voter Registration and Elections yesterday held its inaugural session in collaboration with the State Department for Diaspora Affairs (SDDA). The meeting marked the official launch of the TWG's engagements and outlined its mandate aimed at enhancing the participation of Kenyans living abroad in electoral processes. The meeting, which was chaired by Commissioner Ann Nderitu, Chairperson of Electoral Operations, discussed the Terms of Reference (TORs) guiding the TWG. She noted that the TWG will review the legal and policy framework governing diaspora voting, assess existing participation measures, develop mechanisms to improve electoral inclusion, and address logistical, legal, and administrative challenges associated with diaspora voter registration and elections. She emphasized that the TWG will operate autonomously, with minimal involvement from Commissioners. Reflecting on past diaspora voter registration initiatives, Commissioner Ann noted that despite significant financial investment, the outcomes remained limited. She challenged the team to focus on innovation, efficiency, and value for money. The State Department for Diaspora Affairs team was led by Edwin Limo, Director of Liaison and Partnerships who reaffirmed the Department's commitment to working with the Commission to ensure eligible Kenyans abroad are registered and able to vote as required by the Constitution.

The Secretary, Prosecution Services (SPS), Alloys Kemo has called on prosecutors to take seriously the ongoing training on handling defilement cases, emphasizing its critical role in strengthening justice delivery for victims of sexual violence. Kemo made the remarks while officiating the opening ceremony of a four-day training for prosecutors drawn from across the country. The training, jointly organized by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) and the 160 Girls Project, seeks to enhance prosecutors' knowledge and skills in managing cases of sexual violence against children. Describing the initiative as "intentional rather than incidental," Mr. Kemo said the programme reflects the ODPP's commitment to advancing justice that is both trauma-informed and human rights–centred. He noted that the training will enable prosecutors to better understand the psychological complexities of trauma and apply best practices that uphold the dignity of survivors.

Safaricom has launched a nationwide promotion dubbed 'Shangwe @25' to mark its 25th anniversary, aiming to reward customers, empower businesses and give back to communities across Kenya. The 'Shangwe @25' promotion will see 25 customers each win KSh1 million, alongside KSh250,000 to support a community project of their choice. In total, 25 small and micro businesses will each receive a Bajaj tricycle to enhance business mobility, while 15 medium and large enterprises will get Sh 500,000 each for community projects. Weekly rewards include stock worth KSh250,000 for five small and micro enterprises and instant prizes such as airtime, data bundles, 5G routers, devices and M-PESA cash rewards ranging between Sh 100 and Sh 10,000.

The Legal, Constitutional Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Committee and the Land, Housing and Urban Development Committee yesterday held a Joint Meeting to deliberate on the draft Intergovernmental Relations (Sectoral Forums) Regulations, 2025 and the Council's position on the Affordable Housing Programme. The meeting underscored the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation, resolving that each Sectoral Forum shall be co-chaired by the respective Cabinet Secretary and the Governor chairing the corresponding CoG Committee, promoting joint leadership, shared accountability, and alignment of national and county priorities. Further, the COG will convene a Symposium for all Governors to build consensus on the Affordable Housing Programme and Social Health Insurance Scheme ahead of the Summit on 10th December 2025.

In a dramatic escalation of Kenya's national exam integrity crisis, a high school principal in Narok County has been suspended amid allegations of malpractice during the ongoing Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examinations. Simultaneously, an upscale private boarding school in Isinya, Kajiado County, is under investigation for suspected irregularities, raising fresh concerns about the credibility of the country's education system.

The Narok County Director of Education, Apollo Apuko, confirmed the suspension, stating that the principal had failed to adhere to strict examination protocols. "He was not working in accordance with the regulations that were set, and therefore the Deputy Principal will take over and run the examinations until they end," Apuko said during a press briefing on Monday. While the name of the school remains undisclosed, sources within the education sector suggest that the decision was prompted by internal reports of unauthorized access to exam materials and possible collusion between staff and candidates.

The suspended principal's removal is part of a broader crackdown by the Ministry of Education, which has vowed to uphold the sanctity of national exams. Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba has reiterated that any breach of examination rules will be met with swift disciplinary action. "We are not going to allow a few individuals to compromise the future of our children. The KCSE must remain a fair and credible process," Ogamba said while addressing candidates in Kisii County.


NEWS PAPER
IN BUSINESS

African Governments Urged To Strengthen Resilience In The Wake Of Climate Change

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Governments across Africa have been asked to strengthen their capacity to deal with the effects of climate change, enhance the resilience among communities to enable them to adapt to the global shocks.

With the increased frequency of disasters, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) has sounded an alarm over the low level of preparedness among businesses for climate-related disasters, with only 20 percent of organisations adequately equipped to manage such risks.

In Kenya, the heavy rains and mudslides causing the death of over 20 people in Elgeyo Marakwet County over the weekend has amplified the need for collaboration between the Government and other stakeholders in enhancing capacity to deal with climate related catastrophes.

Speaking yesterday during a Media Breakfast; Africa Members' Convention (AMC), ACCA Director for Africa Jamil Ampomah emphasized that the rising frequency and intensity of climate-related events such as floods, droughts, and increased heat waves pose serious operational threats to both the private and public sectors.

According to findings of a survey carried out by ACCA leadership, the probability of business disruptions linked to climate events includes power outages, 54 percent, supply chain disruptions, 31 percent, financial losses, 38 percent, facility damage, 24 percent, and data loss, 12 percent among others.

Ampomah urged both governments and businesses to invest in climate resilience to safeguard long-term sustainability and economic stability.

"With the impacts of climate change becoming more frequent and intense, the need to manage these risks and understand the opportunities for collaboration has never been more important," Ampomah said.

He highlighted that for Africa and other developing regions, government intervention through regulatory frameworks, fiscal planning, and public-private collaboration will be essential in ensuring economies remain competitive and sustainable amid growing climate and economic uncertainties.

ACCA's Regional Head of Public Affairs for Africa Jane Ohadike highlighted that governments must not only act as regulators but also as facilitators of resilience.

She noted that public finance pressures are mounting globally, especially in emerging and low-income economies, which face competing demands from debt servicing, demographic shifts, and rising expectations for public service delivery.

Ohadike explained that increasing public sector productivity is essential for governments to manage the fiscal pressures.

She said the World Health Organization (WHO) projects that the global population of people over 60 years will nearly double from 12 percent in 2015 to 22 percent by 2050 where healthcare and welfare costs will soar, leaving limited fiscal space for other investments.

"Governments are therefore being urged to adopt a 10-point plan for finance professionals, focusing on realistic budgeting, collaboration across departments, process improvement, and continuous upskilling of finance teams," she said.

ACCA Director for Africa Jamil Ampomah.

"Budgets are more than financial statements, they are strategic tools that can drive productivity and resilience if aligned with long-term outcomes," Ohadike said.

Ohadike emphasized that business continuity and crisis management are increasingly becoming responsibilities under the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) function. Organisations, she insisted, should be encouraged to invest in resilience not only to minimise disruption costs but also to enhance customer confidence, improve risk management, and ensure regulatory compliance.

She recommended that there is a need to strengthen collaboration between Governments and businesses on climate resilience, using data to inform resilience-focused policy and investment decisions. And build capacity for climate action within public institutions and align public budgets to long-term productivity and sustainability outcomes.

Ohadike called for stronger partnerships between governments and the private sector, particularly in implementing resilience-focused regulations and frameworks. This includes enforcing the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) recommendations, developing data-driven decision-making tools, and building capacity for climate action within both public institutions and private enterprises.

ACCA Head of East Africa Cluster George Njari urged finance professionals to adopt innovative approaches to public sector productivity and fiscal growth.

"New technologies including data analytics and AI can improve efficiency and promote transparency in our public sector institutions. However, professionals must assess emerging risks and develop policies and governance frameworks to enable governments and institutions navigate these changes," he noted.

AMC is a biennial event for members and leaders of ACCA in Africa. The convention serves as a crucial platform for discussing the professionals' issues in Africa, shaping global strategies for ACCA, and expanding professional networks. This year, the convention will be held in Mombasa from December 3rd to 5th, 2025.


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Mudavadi In Doha For The Second World Summit For Social Development

By: OPCS Press Service
@themtkenyatimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary, and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi yesterday arrived in Doha, Qatar to attend the Second World Summit.

The Social Development Summit 2025 will be taking place from today, to Thursday.

The Summit will take stock of the achievements made towards the common goals of eradicating poverty, ensuring inclusive economic growth, addressing inequality, and strengthening global cooperation, among others.

The Summit follows the first such 30 years ago, which was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1995, where 10 Commitments were agreed upon by Heads of State, and government.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi on arrival in Doha yesterday.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi holding talks on arrival in Doha yesterday. Photos/Courtesy.

These have come to be known as the Copenhagen Commitments on Social Development.

Kenya was negotiating to protect certain priorities including, the keeping of Copenhagen Declaration, reaffirming the right for development between the developed and the developing worlds.

During the Summit, President William Ruto will deliver his Kenyan statement at the National capacity, and go ahead to deliver a statement for the African Group.

While in Doha, Mudavadi will use the opportunity to have some bilateral meetings with his colleagues from across the world.

Governor Njuki Promises Major Development Projects in Chogoria Ward

By: Alex Njeru
@themtkenyatimes

Tharaka-Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki has reassured residents of Chogoria Ward in Maara Constituency of his administration's commitment to delivering key infrastructure and development projects aimed at improving livelihoods and promoting growth in the region.

Speaking during the launch of the Affordable Housing Project at Majira Market, Governor Njuki outlined several projects that are either ongoing or set to commence soon, affirming that his government is focused on ensuring equitable development across all wards.

The event, held in the presence of Maara MP Kareke Mbiuki, Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) led by Chogoria MCA Frankline Mawira, and local residents, marked a significant milestone in providing affordable homes and improving infrastructure in Chogoria.

Governor Njuki announced that the 4.5-kilometre Majira–Makuri road has already been awarded for murruming, while the Majira–Kimucia–Kairuni Stadium road will soon be tendered for similar works.

These roads, he said, will enhance accessibility and stimulate business activities in the busy Chogoria area.

He further revealed that the Kaganjo Bridge, which links Giancuku and Mbogori, will be completed before the end of the current financial year, while the Kilifi Bridge connecting Kimucia and Chogoria town is nearing completion.

In addition, Governor Njuki promised that the Kimucia Bridge, an initiative started by community members under the leadership of ward administrator Kalen, will also receive county support to ensure its completion.

On healthcare, the Governor pledged to complete the Kaururu Health Facility, noting that access to quality medical services remains a key priority of his administration.

He also assured residents that Chogoria town will be paved with cabro blocks before the 2027 General Election, giving the urban centre a modern and organized look befitting its growing economic status.

Governor Njuki commended residents for their cooperation and urged them to continue supporting government projects, emphasizing that collective responsibility and accountability are vital for development.

"We are determined to make Chogoria a model ward where good roads, modern infrastructure, and decent housing become a reality for all residents," Governor Njuki affirmed.

The Affordable Housing Project launch at Majira Market is part of a broader partnership between the county and the national government to enhance access to affordable housing, create jobs, and improve living standards.

MP Mbiuki who is eyeing gubernatorial position in the county vowed to continue working closely with Governor Njuki who is serving his second and last term.

While preaching unity, Mbiuki said the two levels of government cannot work in isolation because the people being served are the same and money belongs to them.

"There are no citizens for national and those for county and that is why I will continue working closely with Governor," said Mbiuki.

From left: Maara MP Kareke Mbiuki, Tharaka-Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki and Chogoria MCA Frankline Mawira during launch of construction of Affordable Housing project in Majira, Maara constituency. Photo/Alex Njeru.

The legislator who is serving his fourth term as MP urged the county residents to vote him as governor arguing that he has capacity to continue effectively from where the incumbent will stop.

He said it's unfortunate to see some of his competitors preach tribalism while the fact is that the county is made of same people with only three constituencies; Maara, Chuka/Igambang'mbe and Tharaka.

Others salavating for the county boss position are the current women representative, Ms Susan Ngugi from Tharaka constituency, Tharaka MP Gitonga Murugara and the 2022 Jubilee Party gubernatorial candidate Prof Erastus Njoka.

Gachagua: Ruto Is Facing Kenya, Not Raila

Gachagua Blasts Ruto For 'Celebrating' Raila's Death, Declares Opposition Will Rise As One

By: David Kimani
@themtkenyatimes

> **Worth Noting:**
>
> - **Ruto's comments have been widely interpreted as dismissive and insensitive, particularly in light of Raila's passing. Gachagua did not mince words in his response. "So William Ruto, much as you seem to celebrate in Raila's death, you should be aware that you are facing the people," he said, drawing a clear line between political rivalry and national dignity.**
> - **The backlash was swift. ODM Secretary General Edwin Sifuna fired back, affirming that the party remains a formidable force despite Raila's absence. "I have heard people going around claiming that it was only the late Raila who were able to challenge them in the forthcoming 2027 elections. The young lion is still a lion. They will be shocked," Sifuna said.**

In a fiery and emotional rebuke, former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has accused President William Ruto of "celebrating" the death of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, warning that the 2027 General Election will not be a contest between individuals but between Ruto and the people of Kenya. Gachagua's remarks, delivered during a press briefing yesterday, have electrified the political landscape and injected fresh urgency into the opposition's campaign to unify under a single banner.

"I have heard William Ruto bragging and celebrating that with the demise of Raila Odinga, he has no opponent," Gachagua said, his voice thick with indignation. "But I would like to inform him that we as the opposition are not opponents; his opponents are the people of Kenya." He continued, "We are going nowhere; we are just doing what the people of Kenya want, because we have sufficient instructions from the people to agree on one country and restore dignity in the country."

The Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) leader's comments come amid a sweeping realignment of opposition forces, now operating under the banner of the United Opposition. The coalition has unveiled joint candidates for the upcoming November 27 by-elections and is engineering a formula to select a single presidential candidate to challenge Ruto in 2027. Gachagua insisted that the strategy mirrors the one used to select by-election candidates and is rooted in the will of the people. "We want to assure the people of Kenya that we are more than determined to abide by their wish and select a single presidential candidate; it will happen, and that will be the candidate of the people of Kenya," he said.

The timing of Gachagua's remarks was no accident. Just days earlier, President Ruto had stirred controversy while addressing residents in Kakamega, claiming that Raila Odinga was the only individual capable of challenging him in the 2027 polls. "The only person who could have posed a challenge against me is Raila, but the rest are nothing to me; I will defeat them very early in the morning," Ruto declared. He added, "I want to challenge those people who are spreading hate and divisive politics to tell Kenyans their concrete plans for this country rather than mere rhetoric."

Ruto's comments have been widely interpreted as dismissive and

United opposition unveils joint candidates lead by Rigathi Gachagua, Kalonzo Musyoka, Eugene Wamalwa, and George Natembeya

insensitive, particularly in light of Raila's passing. Gachagua did not mince words in his response. "So William Ruto, much as you seem to celebrate in Raila's death, you should be aware that you are facing the people," he said, drawing a clear line between political rivalry and national dignity.

The backlash was swift. ODM Secretary General Edwin Sifuna fired back, affirming that the party remains a formidable force despite Raila's absence. "I have heard people going around claiming that it was only the late Raila who were able to challenge them in the forthcoming 2027 elections. The young lion is still a lion. They will be shocked," Sifuna said.

The United Opposition's unveiling of joint candidates is more than a tactical maneuver—it is a declaration of intent. Leaders from across the political spectrum, including Rigathi Gachagua, Kalonzo Musyoka, Eugene Wamalwa, and George Natembeya, stood in solidarity, emphasizing that the opposition are no longer fragmented or reactive. It is strategic, disciplined, and ready to reclaim the narrative.

Dr. Kituyi, serving as the coalition's spokesperson, was emphatic: "This is not a protest movement. This is a government-in-waiting. We are not here to play second fiddle. We are here to win." He outlined the coalition's guiding principles—ethics, unity, and a binding code of conduct designed to filter out divisive figures and build public trust.

Gachagua's decision to withdraw DCP candidates from Mbeere North, Muumbuni, and Kabuchai was hailed as a bold act of political maturity. "We are not just stepping aside in three by-elections—we are stepping up for Kenya," he said. "This is not about DCP, it's about the people. We are sacrificing our own ambitions to build a united front that can challenge impunity and restore dignity to our politics."

His deputy, Cleophas Malala, echoed the sentiment. "Malava is bigger than any individual. We've dealt with our partners for years, and this is the time to show that politics can be about principle, not ego."

The coalition's strategy to consolidate support behind single candidates in each contested seat aims to avoid vote-splitting and maximize its chances of victory. The opposition's nominees, drawn from youth leaders, seasoned politicians, and civil society activists, reflect Kenya's demographic and ideological diversity.

Yet beyond the tactical brilliance lies a deeper narrative—one of redemption, resilience, and resistance. Many of the coalition's leaders have faced political exile, media vilification, and state harassment. Their message to Ruto is not just about electoral competition; it is about the soul of the nation.

Observers are watching closely. Political analysts have described the coalition's emergence as "the most significant realignment since the handshake era." Civil society groups have welcomed the move, calling it a "breath of fresh air" in a toxic political climate. International partners are taking note, with diplomats reportedly seeking meetings with coalition leaders to understand their roadmap.

As the November by-elections approach, the stakes could not be higher. For the United Opposition, victory would validate their strategy and serve as a springboard to 2027. For Ruto, defeat would be a wake-up call and a potential turning point in his presidency. For Kenya, it would be a moment of reckoning—a chance to choose between continuity and change, between consolidation and competition.

In the end, the story of the United Opposition is not just about politics. It is about possibility. It is about the power of unity in the face of adversity, the courage to challenge entrenched systems, and the belief that a better Kenya is not just a dream but a destination. Whether they succeed or stumble, their journey has already reshaped the terrain. And as the sun sets on the old order, a new dawn beckons.

Health PS Calls For Collaboration With CHPs To Tackle Waterborne Diseases

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni, has asked the Kenyans to work closely with Community Health Promoters (CHPs) during this rainy season to control waterborne diseases.

Speaking at St Martin Kiambuu Catholic Church in Gichugu, Kirinyaga County, Muthoni said personal hygiene is the first line of defense but CHPs play a key role in disease control in communities.

She directed them to ensure that all families have toilets in their home and at same time provide water treatment remedies.

"This is the time for CHPs to put in extra effort. Go door to door and ensure every household has a clean and functional toilet. Make sure their surroundings are clean, that every home boils their drinking water, and that water purification tablets have been distributed," PS noted.

Kirinyaga County is among the areas experiencing heavy downpour significantly increasing the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks by contaminating water sources with waste from sewage, animal waste, and surface runoff.

"It's important that we work together with our CHPs. Let's work together to keep our community safe and free from preventable diseases like diarrhea and typhoid. Cleanliness is health".

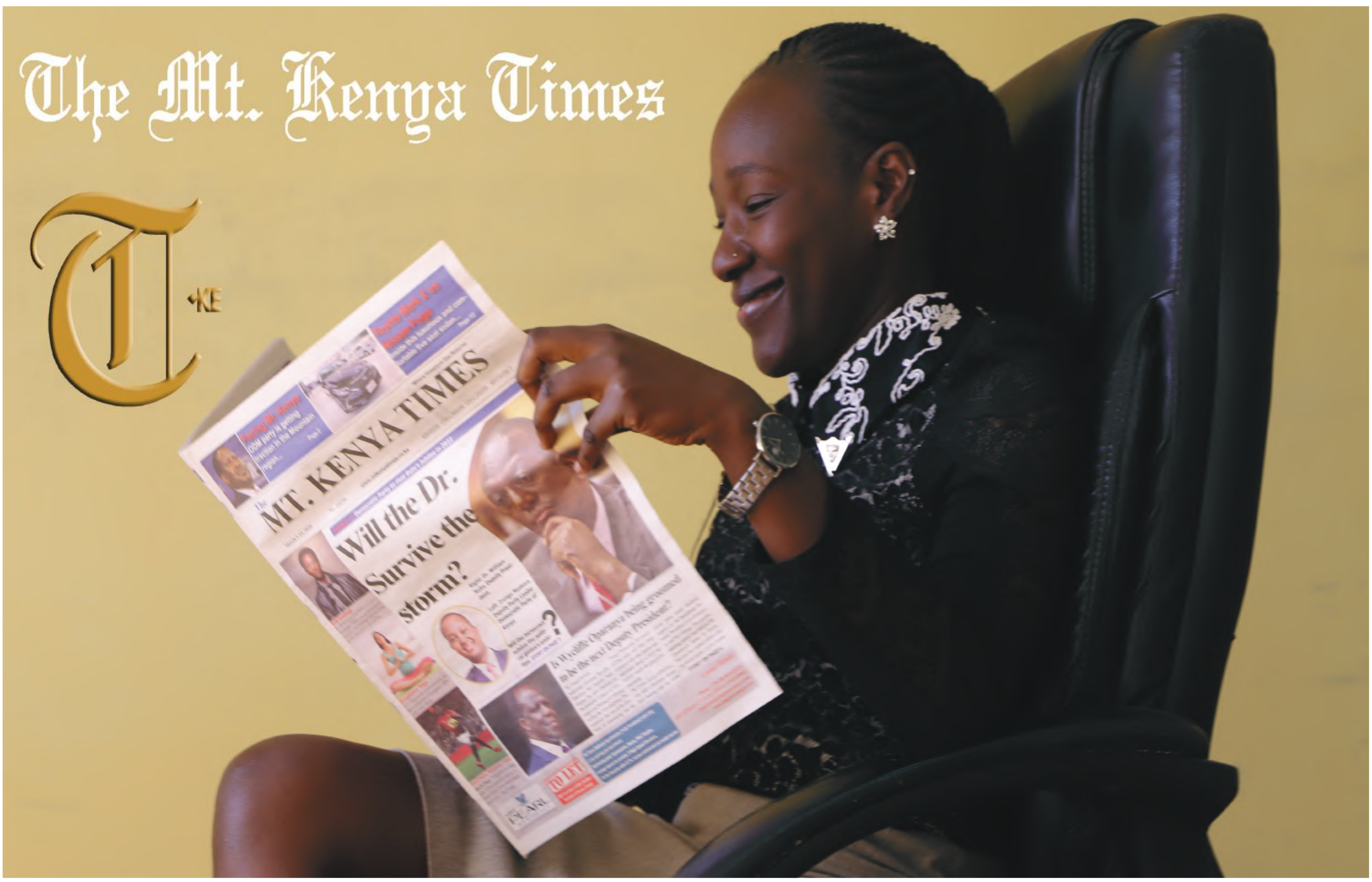
The county government recently embarked on clearing illegal structures on drainage systems to mitigate flooding in urban areas within the county.

The PS lamented increasing theft of coffee berries calling the residents to share any information with security agencies. Previously cases of theft were targeting church equipment but now coffee factories have reported many cases in the recent past.

"They have stopped stealing from the church, but started stealing from the farms. This theft must come to an end completely, if you know anyone or if you suspect anyone go and tell the Deputy County Commissioner, they have taken an oath and cannot disclose who reported."

Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni

Njukiine Assistant County Commissioner, Rose Mukami, asked parents to take care of their children during the long holiday as they expect them in schools next year with intentions 100 percent transition after the national exams.



KTDA Directors Demand Probe Into Private Tea Firms Operating Outside The Law

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The directors said the influx of such unregulated players had left many KTDA factories struggling to operate at full capacity, leading to higher production costs and lower earnings for farmers. They urged the Tea Board of Kenya and other relevant authorities to step in and ensure compliance with the law.
- The tea industry, one of Kenya's largest foreign exchange earners, has in recent years witnessed tensions between KTDA; which manages over 70 factories serving more than 600,000 smallholder farmers and a growing number of independent tea processors and buyers.
- While private companies argue they offer farmers competitive prices and faster payments, KTDA officials maintain that unregulated buying threatens the stability of the smallholder system that has sustained rural livelihoods for decades.

Directors of the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) from West of Rift Valley region have called for an urgent investigation into privately owned tea companies they accuse of flouting industry regulations and destabilizing the smallholder tea sector.

Speaking after a meeting Acacia Resort in Kisumu yesterday, the directors led by KTDA Holdings Vice Chairman Omweno Ombasa said several private firms were operating without proper registration or oversight as required by the Tea Act, and were buying green leaf directly from farmers; a move they noted has disrupted the operations of KTDA-affiliated factories.

"Some private companies are operating outside the law, contrary to the Tea Act," said Mr. Ombasa, adding, "They buy green leaf without the required registration or oversight, and in doing so, they weaken KTDA factories that have served farmers for decades."

KTDA Holdings vice chairman Omweno Ombasa (centre) with other board members at Acacia hotel, Kisumu yesterday. Photos/ Courtesy.

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While private companies argue they offer farmers competitive prices and faster payments, KTDA officials maintain that unregulated buying threatens the stability of the smallholder system that has sustained rural livelihoods for decades.

Farmers in the West of Rift region have complained of fluctuating bonus payments in recent years, a situation KTDA attributes partly to the proliferation of unlicensed private players and shifting market dynamics at the Mombasa Tea Auction.

The directors also appealed to officials responsible for tea quality assessment at the Mombasa Tea Auction to stop labelling factory names on quality inspection reports.

They said such labelling could influence buyers' perceptions and distort fair competition.

"The evaluation should focus solely on the quality of the tea, not where it comes from," they said in a joint statement.

Defending KTDA's Governance

The Kisumu meeting also addressed allegations circulating on social media and in some political circles that KTDA board members receive excessive allowances.

Robert Kipekmboi, chairman of Chebut and Kaptumo factories, dismissed the claims as false and malicious.

"Directors remain committed to the prudent use of farmers' resources and transparent governance," he said.

The Kisumu forum came just a week after a similar meeting in Murang'a, where KTDA directors from the Mt. Kenya region cautioned against political interference in the agency's affairs.

The directors emphasized that KTDA's focus remains on improving returns for smallholder farmers through efficiency, transparency, and stronger market linkages.

"Our goal is to stabilize farmer incomes, enhance tea quality, and ensure that the sector remains viable for generations to come," the directors said.

KTDA Holdings directors from West of Rift addressing journalists in Kisumu yesterday.

Chinese Company Invests KSh100 Billion To Produce Green Fertiliser

By: MKT Correspondents
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **In context, the country in 2023 imported 600 metric tonnes of fertiliser to the tune of Sh80 billion while Sh60 billion has been used to import 443 metric tonnes by end of July this year alone.**
- **The government aims to attract investors in the fertiliser industry to help cushion farmers from unprecedented global price fluctuation and supply shocks while saving the country's dollar reserves.**
- **In the joint partnership with KenGen, the firm will tap 100 percent 165MW of geothermal to power its operations, create over 1,000 jobs and generate Sh1.67 billion in profits annually.**
- **Speaking during the groundbreaking of the facility in Naivasha, President William Ruto said once operationalized, 480 metric tonnes of fertiliser would be produced which would lower the import bill and help farmers with nutrient-rich products on time.**

A Chinese firm will from next year start operations at its KSh100 billion facility that will locally produce green ammonia fertiliser, fully powered by geothermal energy in Olkaria, Naivasha.

The huge investment from Kaishan limited will see production of 9.6 million 50kgs bags of fertiliser annually, a move that will help lower the billion dollar fertiliser import bill in the country.

In context, the country in 2023 imported 600 metric tonnes of fertiliser to the tune of Sh80 billion while Sh60 billion has been used to import 443 metric tonnes by end of July this year alone.

The government aims to attract investors in the fertiliser industry to help cushion farmers from unprecedented global price fluctuation and supply shocks while saving the country's dollar reserves.

In the joint partnership with KenGen, the firm will tap 100 percent 165MW of geothermal to power its operations, create over 1,000 jobs and generate Sh1.67 billion in profits annually.

Speaking during the groundbreaking of the facility in Naivasha, President William Ruto said once operationalized, 480 metric tonnes of fertiliser would be produced which would lower the import bill and help farmers with nutrient-rich products on time.

"The country spent Sh80 billion to import 600 metric tonnes of fertiliser in 2023 and has so far used Sh40 billion this year to import 443 metric tonnes, and this facility will reverse this trend and save on our dollar reserves," said President Ruto.

He added that locally produced fertiliser would support growth in the agricultural sector by lowering the cost of inputs and drive the country's food security ambitions.

He said the facility also speaks to the government to expand land under irrigation across the country noting that available land for rain-fed agriculture has been depleted.

President Ruto said the government would tap into the private sector for more financing to boost the country's power installed capacity from the current 2,300MW to 10,000 MW in the next ten years.

Consequently, he said the government is on course to build 50 mega dams to power 2.5 million acres of land under irrigation and help produce 2,000MW extra power.

He lauded KenGen's effort in industrialisation by providing affordable, reliable and clean energy from geothermal wells which would be used to power the fertilizer plant.

President William Ruto in a group photo with stakeholders.

On his part, Kaishan Managing Director Dr. Yan Tang said once completed, the facility would produce local farmers with 9.6 million, 50kg bags of fertiliser annually powered by 165MW of geothermal power.

Dr Tang said the move would contribute to the country's food security initiatives by ensuring the provision of fertiliser at a fixed price index in the next 25 years.

The chairman added that the facility would help capture thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide and ensure zero emissions into the environment to drive the country's climate change targets.

"We plan to start partial operations by next year and create over 1,000 direct jobs and another 500 in the operation plants with beneficiaries set to be trained both locally and in China to drive optimal production," said Dr Tang.

Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum Opiyo Wandayi said the project is a game changer that would see the production of sustainable agriculture in the country.

KenGen Managing Director Eng. Peter Njenga welcomed the investment that would see the company supply steady geothermal power to the plant to power its production.

He said local production of fertiliser would ease the country's dependence on imports and drive transformation in agriculture at a zero emissions scale.

KenGen has set apart 4,500 acres of land at its Olkaria geothermal rich area where the company continues to attract investments which are set to benefit from stable and lower power tariffs.

So far, a Dubai investor Aquilastar has already committed to invest Sh19 billion to produce electric vehicles while a Microsoft-backed company will invest over Sh100 billion for 100 percent geothermal powered data centre.

Machinery at work during the ground breaking ceremony. Photos/Courtesy.

TSC Retools 52,452 Senior School Teachers Ahead Of Senior School Transition

By: MKT Correspondents
@themtkenyatimes

The Teachers Service Commission (TSC) has this year retooled a total of 52,452 senior school teachers in a nationwide programme in preparation for the roll out of Competency-Based Education (CBE) at senior secondary level.

Senior Deputy Director, Teacher Professional Development at the Commission Mr Andrew Mwathi said the number included teachers currently deployed in regular secondary schools, Special Needs Education (SNE) institutions and vocational training centres who are expected to teach Grades 10 to 12 beginning January 2026.

The Senior Deputy Director indicated that TSC was actively collaborating with the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEA) to carry out nationwide STEM teacher training programmes as a foundation for Competency-Based Education (CBE) and assured that the retooling programme had focused on aligning teachers with the new senior school pathways introduced under the Competence Based Curriculum (CBC).

The Senior Deputy Director explained that the 52,452 participants had been clustered into three broad learning areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), covering pure sciences, applied sciences, and technical subjects, Social Sciences including languages, humanities, and business studies and Arts and Sports Science, which encompasses music, visual and performing arts, and physical education.

Speaking at Egerton University's Agriculture Resource Centre (ARC) during the closing of a four-day workshop where 102 county trainers underwent training in preparation for the transition of Junior Secondary School (JSS) learners to Senior Secondary School starting next year, Mwathi said the retooling exercise was a critical component in ensuring that teachers are adequately equipped with the skills and knowledge required to effectively deliver the CBC framework in senior secondary schools.

A total of 290 County Trainers underwent retooling through the programme themed "Enhancing the Capacity of STEM Heads of Departments to manage transition to Competency Based Education" which was conducted at three centres spread across the country including Egerton University in Nakuru, CEMASTEA headquarters in Ngara-Nairobi and Golf hotel in Kakamega, with facilitators from CEMASTEA, the Teachers Service Commission (TSC), the Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC), the Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE) and County Trainers.

County trainers are being retooled to enable them to cascade the training to Heads of Department (HoDs) in schools.

Mwathi noted that HoDs are strategically placed to facilitate successful implementation of the curriculum and hence the need to enhance their handling of the transition successfully.

He further explained that the County trainers who were trained under the programme would serve as a backup and fill gaps when some school heads retire before transition to the new curriculum.

The training of County Trainers was spearheaded by the Ministry of Education and facilitated by the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEA).

The Senior Deputy Director noted that the CBC had already been implemented at the pre-primary, primary, and junior secondary levels with the retooling of senior school teachers marking the final phase of its rollout, as the first CBC cohort transitions to senior secondary in January 2026.

The Deputy Director stated that in line with Kenya's Vision 2030 of providing globally competitive quality education, training and research to the citizens for development and individual well-being, TSC, CEMASTEA and their partners were endeavouring to improve the quality of STEM education in Kenya.

"The purpose is to improve the quality of teaching mathematics and science education by enhancing pedagogical skills of teachers which in turn is expected to help young Kenyans in schools develop and acquire relevant core competences such as communication and collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and imagination, citizenship, self- efficacy, digital literacy and learning to learn," he pointed out.

Mwathi indicated that one unique aspect of STEM is its role in helping to improve Kenyans' well-being as individuals and society as a whole, not only through improvements in fields such as technology and medicine but also as a stimulus for promoting improvements in the community and beyond.

Mwathi pointed out that the Commission had also conducted a training programme on CBE for principals in April and June this year.

Head of Secondary School Programmes at CEMASTEA Livingstone Makanda announced that the 290 County Trainers will engage with HoDs from schools across the country on the curriculum transition from November 24, to November 27.

Makanda stated that in the CBC curriculum, teachers were expected to use a variety of teaching strategies and resources that involve the learner while learners, on the other hand, are expected to be active and responsive during lessons so as to construct knowledge, skills and attitudes.

He stated that the training had been designed to address teaching and learning gaps observed in schools in terms of interpretation of CBC designs for grade 10 and implementation to realize learner centered practices.

The official added that the County trainers had been trained on preparation of innovative lessons that integrate ICT, enhancing professional growth by enacting communities of practice and pedagogical content knowledge, rationalization of the implemented curriculum and integration of mentorship and career guidance.

He said STEM literacy is crucial for developing nations to keep pace with technological advancements and remain globally competitive because it enables the country to develop a skilled workforce, foster innovation, and address national challenges.

He said they had trained all the Senior School principals and that the HoDs were supposed to assist school principals to ensure transition to grade 10 was done at school level adding that they had already established a high-quality training index which stood at 4.67 training index.

In his remarks, Rift Valley Regional Director of Education James Indimuli that said in the curriculum transition, the teacher is supposed to switch from the role of an expert who transfers knowledge, to a coaching role, facilitating and guiding the learning process.

He explained that in competence-based curriculum, skills are not taught but are built, where the learner is necessarily the first actor in the construction of their skills.

The Regional Director added that learner-centred teaching strategies advocated for the implementation of competence-based curriculum in schools including role plays, problem solving, projects, case study, simulation, discussion, and outdoor activities.

Indimuli said the training was aimed at improving the quality of teachers in terms of attitude, pedagogy, and mastery of content, resource mobilization and utilization of locally available teaching materials.

Sustainable Development Goal number 4, Indimuli added, advocates for quality and equitable education by 2030 and for this to be realised, improving the quality of teachers was a prerequisite.

He noted that the country's education system is currently on a reform path, a move geared towards improving the human capital index and quality of life.

Kenya has been making strides in providing quality education, which is not only a constitutional right but also guided by Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG), calling for inclusive and equitable education that promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all.

"Every country is looking forward to responding to the demands of the 21st century, which requires an innovative human capacity and revitalizing the teaching profession will ensure quality, equity and relevance at all levels of education," Indimuli added.

The Regional Director affirmed that teachers should be well equipped with changing trends of teaching and class management while at the same time inculcating a tech-friendly model because it is impossible to separate technology and education.

He indicated that in a world where the education system is shifting to remote learning with so many digital apps which have developed and become so popular, teachers should have access to more of them.

When Life Gets Blurry, Adjust Your Focus

When life gets blurry, just adjust the focus,
All images will be clear and fine.
All is in our hands, it is we will have to make a choice
Don't lament or find fault, instead find a way
and solutions and remedy.

Adjusting focus is simple, needs some time,
Need a clear mind to see what's true
When all is clear, the path will be clear
Then the journey will be smooth to move on

In foggy, unclear times, don't take any decision
Important choices may not end up well inside.
Wait till you get clarity, let the fog get clear
Then take any decisions that will make you shine

When life's blurry, don't stumble
Just wait, adjust focus, and find your clear way.
With clarity, you'll walk with ease
In the right path
And every step will bring you joy and peace.

Brinda. D
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A Visionary Voice From Punjab: The Story Of Ms. Sahabzadi

In the heart of Khanewal, Punjab, a radiant force of creativity and empowerment emerged—Ms. Sahabzadi, the dynamic CEO and founder of Sahiba Writing Squad. With a master's degree in English Literature and a soul steeped in optimism, she has carved a luminous path as a professor, journalist, poetess, artist, and internationally recognized author.

Her journey began with a simple yet profound mission: to uplift youth through the power of words. What started as a modest online initiative has blossomed into Sahiba Writing Squad, a thriving platform that nurtures young minds in digital literacy, creative writing, and self-expression. Under her leadership, the squad has become a sanctuary for aspiring writers, artists, and changemakers across Pakistan and beyond.

Ms. Sahabzadi's accolades are as diverse as her talents. She is the recipient of over 100 national and international awards and honorary certificates, including the Worldwide Vision Maker Award and the title of Youngest Inspirational Icon of the Year. Her published works, such as Hundred Pearls of Wisdom, reflect her poetic depth and unwavering commitment to spreading positivity and purpose. Beyond the page, she is a certified English trainer, motivational speaker, and social activist. Her voice resonates in classrooms, conferences, and community forums, where she champions women's empowerment, education, and intercultural dialogue. As a self-taught calligrapher and craftsperson, she also brings beauty and meaning to every medium she touches.

Ms. Sahabzadi's biography is not merely a list of achievements—it is a testament to the transformative power of passion, perseverance, and purpose. Through Sahiba Writing Squad, she continues to inspire a generation to write boldly, speak truthfully, and dream limitlessly.

🖋 "Words are not just ink—they are wings."

Be Grateful For The Privilege Of Ageing

I look at myself in the mirror,
Silver strands glint to my horror,
And I can see laugh lines so pompous,
Oh! I am getting old and it's so obvious.

In the supermarket so busy and loud,
A little boy running through the crowd,
Bumps into me, His dad says 'Sorry Aunty'.
An aunt to this man with a big kid. I sigh sadly.

I take the newspaper soaking in rain,
I see an obituary with so much pain,
A twenty-year-old gone too soon,
With tears I realize ageing is a boon.

Now, I am happy I am ageing with a stride,
I wear my grey hair and laugh lines with pride.
Not everyone gets the privilege of getting old,
Celebrate your age cheerfully shouting aloud.

Raddhika. M
Creative Writers,
Freelance content writer,
Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu,
India

Teacher

Blessed are the traces of your steps,
Graceful are your beauty and your words.
The knowledge you've shared selflessly –
Honorable is the teacher, the mentor.

The whole world knows and respects you,
Every student holds you in esteem.

Even the poet who made Navoi famous –
Honorable is the teacher, the mentor.

Many are your students, like your own children,
A painter who's drawn the map of life.
In every field you bring discipline –
Honorable is the teacher, the mentor.

We learned letters and numbers from you,
From the very first lessons you gave us,
From every story that we read –
Honorable is the teacher, the mentor.

Olimova Yasmina is a 1 year student at the Faculty of Philology and Arts of Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhon Beruniy.

The Structure And Biological Significance Of Lower Plants

In nature, plants are extremely diverse, and the oldest among them are the lower plants. These plants differ fundamentally from other groups of plants due to their simple structure and unique forms of life. As early as the th century BC, Aristotle divided the plant world into two groups – lower and higher plants – which can be considered the first step in the development of plant classification. Aristotle's student, Theophrastus, was the first scientist to classify and describe lower plants (algae). Later, scientists such as Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778), Anton van Leeuwenhoek (1632–1723), and Ernst Haeckel (1834–1919) made great contributions through their discoveries and scientific research.

The division of lower plants includes algae, slime molds, fungi, and lichens. There are several distinctive features that separate higher and lower plants. For instance, the body of lower plants is not divided into vegetative organs (such as roots, stems, and leaves) and is therefore called a thallus. Their conductive tissues are either absent or poorly developed compared to higher plants.

Lower plants play an important role in nature. They help maintain the cleanliness of water bodies and often serve as bioindicators of environmental conditions. Moreover, lower plants are also very important in human life. For example, red and brown algae are used in the food industry and for obtaining iodine compounds, while green algae are valuable in animal husbandry, as well as in the production of medicines, cosmetics, and many other industries.

In conclusion, lower plants occupy a significant place in both nature and human life, and their role in maintaining ecological balance and supporting various industries cannot be overstated.

Diyorakhon Begaliyevna Nomozova was born on October 3, 2007, in the village of Guliston, Yakkabog district, Kashkadarya region. She is currently a first-year student majoring in Biology at Shahrisabz State Pedagogical Institute.

School

School is a happy place,
Filled with smiles and grace!
It's where we learn and grow each day,
And chase our dreams along the way.

Our teachers guide with love and care,
Their words inspire us everywhere.
School builds our future bright,
And fills our hearts with joy and light.

Memories made here never fade,
In every corner, laughter's laid.
Make your school proud in all you do
One day, it will be proud of you!

Karthika. V
11th garde,
Government Girls Higher Secondary School,
Ashoknagar, chennai-83

TOURISM

Tourism Agency Demands Review of Hiked Game Park Rates Amidst Industry Backlash

By: KNA

Worth Noting:

- **Speaking during a press briefing in Nairobi, KTF Chairman Fred Odek maintained that the system was introduced without consultation and in defiance of a court order issued on October 1, 2025 halting the implementation of revised park fees.**
- **Odek pointed out that the upgrade had introduced a five percent gateway fee on all park transactions while restricting payment to M-Pesa and Visa cards only, making it difficult for tour operators and agents who handle large transactions daily.**
- **“Someone has effectively found a way to skim about Sh370 million from the industry through hidden charges that were never gazetted nor discussed. We are not opposed to digitalization, but these changes must be transparent, lawful, and fair,” said Odek.**

The Kenya Tourism Fund (KTF) has called on the government to urgently review recent changes to the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) park ticketing portal, warning that the new payment system is imposing hidden costs, violating court orders, and undermining the competitiveness of Kenya’s tourism industry.

Speaking during a press briefing in Nairobi, KTF Chairman Fred Odek maintained that the system was introduced without consultation and in defiance of a court order issued on October 1, 2025 halting the implementation of revised park fees.

Odek pointed out that the upgrade had introduced a five percent gateway fee on all park transactions while restricting payment to M-Pesa and Visa cards only, making it difficult for tour operators and agents who handle large transactions daily.

“Someone has effectively found a way to skim about Sh370 million from the industry through hidden charges that were never gazetted nor discussed. We are not opposed to digitalization, but these changes must be transparent, lawful, and fair,” said Odek.

Further, the Chairman noted that the new system had replaced the previous eCitizen-based platform that was working efficiently, adding that the older system allowed multiple payment options and charged a flat one-dollar foreign transaction fee acceptable to the industry.

“We demand an immediate reversion to the former eCitizen platform and the removal of the hidden five percent levy,” he asserted.

The KTF chair also urged KWS to uphold the rule of law, stressing that a court order is not a suggestion but a binding directive.

He claimed that KWS, being a government agency, must lead by example in respecting judicial decisions and engaging industry stakeholders before making policy changes that affect their operations.

“Tourism is driven by the private sector, not the government. The government’s role is to create an enabling environment, not barriers. We remain committed to cooperation, but these issues must be resolved immediately,” Odek reiterated.

According to Odek, tourism players have warned that the payment restrictions and additional charges are threatening to reverse the gains made in the sector’s post-pandemic recovery and could lead to a loss of investor confidence.

KTF Chairman Fred Odek addressing the media yesterday.

Shazmin Manji, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Twiga Tours, said that the new system had already caused financial strain on tour companies.

“For one incentive group visiting Amboseli and Nairobi National parks, we incurred an additional 7,000 dollars in transaction and card fees,” revealed Manji, saying that Kenya already struggles with a perception of being an expensive destination, and these abrupt changes make it worse.

However, she explained that the industry operates on long-term pricing, often booking tours up to two years in advance and therefore sudden cost changes such as this affect pre-agreed contracts and force operators to absorb losses.

Cate Murimi, Managing Director of Classic Safaris, said the new rates were imposed without notice, with park entry fees for Nairobi National Park rising from 43 to 80 dollars within two days.

“Such abrupt increases disrupt business planning. To make it worse, we can’t pay through bank transfers anymore. For large group bookings, M-Pesa limits and card charges make transactions nearly impossible,” she lamented.

Murimi, in addition, also questioned the procurement process behind the new payment gateway.

“We are not against reform, but this is exploitation. Who approved a five percent charge when others offered similar services at one percent?” she posed.

Alex Avedi, CEO of Safarilink Aviation also underscored the fact that the move would have ripple effects across the tourism value chain.

“Tourism relies on predictability. Airlines and tour operators make investment decisions based on stability. These sudden changes portray Kenya as unpredictable and unsafe for investment,” he remarked.

Avedi warned that additional park charges and hidden fees were likely to drive tourists to shift to neighboring destinations.

“Tourists and agents need certainty. When rules keep changing, they look elsewhere and that’s how destinations lose their edge,” stated the Safarilink CEO.

He claimed that what KTF insists as support for modernization is actually financial sabotage disguised as reform.

“We accepted the President’s directive to move to eCitizen. Our objection is not the system but the hidden levies and lack of transparency behind it,” clarified Avedi.

The CEO further questioned the destination of the five percent collection, claiming there was no gazette notice or receipt to explain who receives the funds.

“If this is legitimate, let KWS publish the name of the payment service provider and the contract terms,” he added.

Mohanjeet Brar, Board Member of the Kenya Association of Tour Operators (KATO) assured that the entire tourism sector was united in its opposition to the changes.

“We are not a confrontational industry, but this level of unpredictability is untenable. Stability and trust are the backbone of tourism, and they are now being eroded,” explained Brar.

He added that without a stable and transparent policy environment, the industry risks losing ground to regional competitors.

“Government must engage stakeholders before enforcing new systems. Consultation and the rule of law are essential,” he advised.

The Federation urged the Ministry of Tourism and the Kenya Wildlife Service to hold urgent consultations with stakeholders to restore confidence and ensure a transparent and inclusive revenue collection framework.

Waiguru Recovers 800 Acres Of Grabbed Public Land Worth KSh1 Billion

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **Governor Anne Waiguru has warned that her administration will not spare any effort to recover all grabbed public land and asked those still sitting on such to surrender the same to the government.**
- **Waiguru said the grabbing of the parcels of land had deprived citizens of essential services and shared benefits.**
- **"Safeguarding public land from being grabbed is important because such land is meant to serve the collective good, not private interests. Public land holds schools, hospitals, parks, forests, and infrastructure. Public land is often allocated for future development projects like roads, affordable housing, and public utilities. If grabbed, these plans are disrupted," she said.**

County Government of Kirinyaga has repossessed over 800 acres of public land valued at about KSh1 billion that had been grabbed by private entities.

The prime land scattered mainly in major towns across the county were grabbed by well-connected individuals during the defunct local authorities.

The parcels of land were earmarked for hospitals, court and police stations, markets, schools, irrigation dams, bus terminals and playfields among other social amenities.

Governor Anne Waiguru has warned that her administration will not spare any effort to recover all grabbed public land and asked those still sitting on such to surrender the same to the government.

Waiguru said the grabbing of the parcels of land had deprived citizens of essential services and shared benefits.

"Safeguarding public land from being grabbed is important because such land is meant to serve the collective good, not private interests. Public land holds schools, hospitals, parks, forests, and infrastructure. Public land is often allocated for future development projects like roads, affordable housing, and public utilities. If grabbed, these plans are disrupted," she said.

County Executive for Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development, Rev. Samuel Kajombe, said the County Government is still pursuing recovery of several other parcels of land in court.

"We have several ongoing court cases that seek to recover grabbed public land. We are optimistic the County Government will win and get the land back for the benefit of the community," Kajombe said.

Among land that the County Government has filed case in court seeking to recover include that designated for the Gichugu Law Court, Kianyaga police station whose ownership is being claimed an individual. The others include; 18 hectares reserved for Murinduko dam and experimental farm, 700 acres of the South Ngariama land meant for a police station, markets, government offices, hospital, water points, playgrounds, schools and other social amenities.

Kajombe said some of the public land were grabbed by individuals who had been compensated with alternative land after the government acquired their land for development.

"These individuals did not surrender tittle deeds of the parcel of land that had been acquired by the local authority and because the land was not immediately put into use, they quietly returned and some sold it to unsuspecting Kenyans," he said.

County Executive for Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development, Rev. Samuel Kajombe addressing the media

Waiguru's effort to return grabbed public land has not gone unnoticed with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) praising her work. This after County Government reinstated the church on a piece of land where it had been evicted.

The church had been allocated the land by the defunct local authority but in 2013, it was evicted by a private entity but the court ruled in favour of the church.

On Sunday, worshipers of PCEA Kianyaga gathered at their former church premises where they held their first service in two years.

"We are grateful that the county government helped us to get back our land which had been taken away by a land buyer who evicted worshippers in a premise that they had built for over 30 years," said Wilson Maina, Kirimara West Presbytery Moderator.

One of the critical piece of land that has been recovered from grabbers is the 242 acre where the County Government is constructing the Sagana Industrial park.

"We went to court, we won, they appealed, and again, we won. I was entrusted to lead delegations many times. I wanted this land back for the people of Kirinyaga because we have plans for industrial growth," Waiguru stressed.

Waiguru said the recovery of the parcels were not for political or personal benefit.

"I told them I have no interest in land. What matters is that Kirinyaga people benefit through development," she added.

She said safeguarding public land also helps preserves the environment because many of such forests, wetlands, and water catchment areas and protecting them helps maintain biodiversity, prevent pollution, and safeguard natural resources.

"Properly managed public land also attracts investment, supports agriculture, housing, and industry, boosting the economy. If we had allowed the 242 acres of land at Thigirici to be taken away, we would not have gotten land to construct the Sagana Industrial park," she added.

Other parcels of land that have been recovered include that of the Kerugoya affordable housing project and clothes market, the proposed Kutus bus park, the Mwea "red soil" land for rice research centre, the Baricho stadium, Nyangati MCA offices land.

County Executive for Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development

Kenya's Infrastructure And Sovereign Wealth Funds: Bold Vision Or Financial Mirage?"

By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **An Infrastructure Fund, by contrast, is a dedicated financing mechanism designed to support large-scale public projects without relying heavily on commercial borrowing or infrastructure bonds. Kenya's proposed fund will prioritize agricultural productivity enhancement and electricity generation expansion, with ambitious plans to add 10,000 megawatts to the current 2,300-megawatt capacity. The government frames this as essential for industrialization and reducing the unsustainable debt accumulation that has characterized Kenya's infrastructure financing over the past decade.**
- **Herein lies the fundamental paradox: how does a debt-distressed nation establish sovereign wealth when it can barely service existing obligations? The government's answer is asset monetization, specifically through partial privatization of state-owned enterprises.**

In October 2025, President William Ruto unveiled an ambitious plan to establish both an Infrastructure Fund and a Sovereign Wealth Fund, marking a pivotal moment in Kenya's fiscal strategy. The announcement comes against a sobering backdrop: Kenya's public debt stands at KSh 11.5 trillion as of May 2025, equivalent to 67.4% of GDP, while the country's debt service-to-revenue ratio has reached a crippling 67.1%, more than double the International Monetary Fund's recommended threshold of 30%. The question that now dominates economic discourse is not whether these funds are necessary, but whether Kenya can realistically finance them without deepening its debt crisis.

A Sovereign Wealth Fund is a state-owned investment vehicle that pools government-generated capital, typically from surplus national reserves such as natural resource revenues, export earnings, or budget surpluses. These funds serve three primary functions: stabilization against economic shocks, savings for future generations, and strategic investment in national priorities. Kenya's proposed fund, outlined in the draft Kenya Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill 2025, adopts a three-pronged structure. The Stabilization Component will cushion against volatile resource revenues and commodity shocks. The Strategic Infrastructure Investment Component targets projects in energy, transportation, and housing. The Urithi component meaning "heritage" in Swahili aims to preserve wealth for posterity once mineral resources decline.

An Infrastructure Fund, by contrast, is a dedicated financing mechanism designed to support large-scale public projects without relying heavily on commercial borrowing or infrastructure bonds. Kenya's proposed fund will prioritize agricultural productivity enhancement and electricity generation expansion, with ambitious plans to add 10,000 megawatts to the current 2,300-megawatt capacity. The government frames this as essential for industrialization and reducing the unsustainable debt accumulation that has characterized Kenya's infrastructure financing over the past decade.

Herein lies the fundamental paradox: how does a debt-distressed nation establish sovereign wealth when it can barely service existing obligations? The government's answer is asset monetization, specifically through partial privatization of state-owned enterprises. The Kenya Pipeline Company is slated to be the first casualty or savior, depending on one's perspective. A share sale is projected to raise approximately KSh 130 billion (about $1 billion), which would seed both funds. Additional revenue streams include royalties from upstream petroleum operations, bonus payments on mining grants, earnings from government participation in mineral and petroleum operations, and proceeds from divestment of state interests in extractive industries.

The problem with this financing model becomes apparent upon closer examination. The government estimates nearly KSh 200 billion in mineral-sector income to seed the fund, but Kenya's oil and gas sector remains largely undeveloped. The northern oil fields have "fizzled out," and the coastal coal deposits ran into strong environmental headwinds. A previous attempt to establish a Sovereign Wealth Fund in 2014 failed precisely because the anticipated resource revenues never materialized. Botswana's Pula Fund and Norway's Government Pension Fund Global succeeded because they were built on actual, sustained resource revenues not projected ones. Kenya risks creating an elaborate financial structure on a foundation of optimistic assumptions.

Furthermore, the KSh 130 billion from Kenya Pipeline Company privatization, while significant, pales in comparison to peer funds. Nigeria's Sovereign Investment Authority holds assets of approximately ₦4.35 trillion, Angola's FSDEA manages about $3.99 billion, and Botswana's Pula Fund sits at $3.5–4.1 billion. A $1 billion Kenyan launch would be modest at best, requiring disciplined replenishment from future asset sales, dividends, and mineral royalties to build meaningful scale. The critical question is whether Kenya's privatization program can deliver sustained inflows without compromising essential state functions or undervaluing strategic assets.

Kenya's debt crisis cannot be wished away by creating new funds. The country's total public debt has grown at a five-year compound annual growth rate of 9%, consistently outpacing economic growth of 4.7%. More alarmingly, debt servicing consumed KSh 1,448.1 billion as of May 2025, representing 67.1% of actual revenue collected. This means that for every KSh 100 the government collects, KSh 67 immediately flows out to creditors. The IMF projects that Kenya's debt service-to-revenue ratio will breach the 18% sustainability threshold continuously from 2024 to 2028 due to heavy debt maturities.

The composition of this debt amplifies the problem. Half of Kenya's external debt is owed to commercial lenders at market rates, not concessional terms. Domestic debt has crossed KSh 6.15 trillion, with Treasury bills expanding sharply from KSh 615.89 billion in June 2024 to KSh 932.16 billion by April 2025. This increased reliance on short-term instruments intensifies refinancing risks and keeps interest payments elevated. Kenya is already paying an average of KSh 83.66 billion per month in debt interest, putting the country on track to exceed KSh 1 trillion in annual interest payments, a historic first that signals fiscal unsustainability.

Against this backdrop, the government's proposal to establish sovereign wealth funds appears aspirational at best, reckless at worst. The very concept of a sovereign wealth fund presupposes surplus revenues to invest. Kenya has no such surplus. The persistent fiscal deficit has averaged 7.1% of GDP over the past decade and is projected at 4.8% for FY 2025/26. Establishing investment funds while running structural deficits is akin to opening a savings account while maxing out credit cards, financially illogical unless the funds generate returns that exceed the cost of existing debt, a scenario that requires both exceptional investment performance and time that Kenya may not have.

Norway's Government Pension Fund Global stands as the world's largest sovereign wealth fund, valued at approximately $2 trillion, translating to over $340,000 per Norwegian citizen. Established in 1990 to invest surplus oil revenues, the fund owns 1.5% of all listed companies globally and generated a record $222 billion profit in 2024. Norway's success stems from several factors absent in Kenya's current situation: substantial and sustained resource revenues from North Sea oil and gas, strict fiscal discipline (only 3% of the fund's value can be spent annually), transparent governance under Norges Bank Investment Management, and a political consensus to save for future generations rather than spend immediately. Critically, Norway built its fund during decades of budget surpluses, not deficits.

Botswana's Pula Fund offers a more relevant African comparison. Established in 1993 and formalized in 1996, the fund invests surplus revenues from diamond exports with the objective of providing for future generations when mineral wealth depletes. With assets of approximately $3.5 billion as of December 2024, the Pula Fund has been widely praised for prudent management and adherence to the Santiago Principles on transparency. Botswana's success reflects its remarkable avoidance of the "resource curse" achieving sustained economic growth, political stability, and effective natural resource gov-

Contd page 19

Kenya's Infrastructure And Sovereign Wealth Funds: Bold Vision Or Financial Mirage?"

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ernance since independence. The country maintains a debt-to-GDP ratio well below Kenya's, allowing it to save rather than merely service obligations.

However, not all African sovereign wealth funds succeed. Ghana's Heritage and Stabilisation Funds, while achieving some credibility through legal reporting requirements, have struggled with political pressures for immediate spending. Angola's FSDEA and Gabon's FGIS have faced persistent criticism for opacity and political entanglements that undermine their stated objectives. The lesson is clear: institutional quality, governance structures, and fiscal discipline matter as much as resource endowments. Kenya's challenge is compounded by its weak fiscal position, history of governance challenges in state-owned enterprises, and political pressures that have repeatedly raided stabilization mechanisms when immediate needs arise.

Even if Kenya successfully raises seed capital through privatization, execution risks loom large. The draft Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill bars investment in local securities, speculative assets, or unlisted real estate, instead channeling resources into foreign-currency instruments including investment-grade bonds and offshore bank deposits. This restriction aims to prevent "Dutch disease" where resource wealth inflates the local currency and undermines other sectors and reduce political interference. However, it also means the fund will generate limited immediate domestic economic impact, a feature likely to attract criticism from citizens demanding visible returns on public assets.

Oversight arrangements raise additional concerns. The National Treasury will maintain overall control while the Central Bank of Kenya manages the holding account. Given Kenya's checkered history with state fund management from the National Youth Service scandals to perennial losses at parastatals, the question of whether these institutions possess the technical capacity and political independence to manage billions effectively remains open. The 2019 Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill stalled precisely over governance concerns and funding source ambiguities. Without iron-clad protections against political raids during election cycles or economic crises, Kenya's funds risk becoming just another fiscal slush fund rather than genuine intergenerational wealth preservation vehicles.

The timing of the announcement coinciding with IMF negotiations and following the controversial withdrawal of the Finance Bill 2024 after widespread protests suggests the funds may serve partly as signaling devices to demonstrate fiscal responsibility and attract international confidence. The IMF has emphasized Kenya's need for fiscal consolidation and structural reforms. Announcing sovereign wealth funds could be interpreted as commitment to long-term sustainability. However, credibility requires more than announcements. Implementation demands transparent governance frameworks, clear investment strategies, regular public reporting, protection from political interference, and most fundamentally, actual surplus revenues to invest, all elements currently absent or underdeveloped in Kenya's fiscal architecture.

The proposed Infrastructure Fund arguably makes more immediate sense than the Sovereign Wealth Fund. Kenya's infrastructure deficit is real and constraining. The current electricity generation capacity of 2,300 megawatts is insufficient for ambitious industrialization goals. Agricultural productivity enhancements are essential given that agriculture employs approximately 70% of Kenya's rural population. The fund's objective to reduce reliance on commercial borrowing and expensive infrastructure bonds addresses a genuine problem, Kenya's past infrastructure financing through Eurobonds and syndicated loans has locked the country into costly repayment cycles that now consume two-thirds of revenues.

However, the Infrastructure Fund faces its own challenges. First, infrastructure projects typically require patient, long-term capital with extended payback periods. The fund would need sustained inflows to finance projects that may take years to generate returns. Given Kenya's fiscal constraints, this steady funding is uncertain. Second, Kenya's track record on infrastructure project selection and execution has been mixed, with numerous examples of cost overruns, corruption scandals, and white elephant projects that deliver limited economic value. Without robust project appraisal mechanisms, transparent procurement, and effective oversight, the Infrastructure Fund could simply channel scarce resources into politically motivated rather than economically optimal projects.

Third, the fund's success depends heavily on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), which the government acknowledges in its strategic planning. While PPPs can mobilize private capital and expertise, they also carry risks including currency

mismatches, complex contractual disputes, and contingent liabilities that can materialize on government balance sheets during crises. Kenya's PPP framework, while improving, lacks the institutional maturity and legal predictability of markets where these arrangements consistently succeed. The fund risks becoming a vehicle for transferring fiscal risks to future administrations rather than genuinely reducing the debt burden.

For Kenya's twin funds to succeed rather than become expensive failures, several preconditions must be met. First, genuine fiscal consolidation is non-negotiable. The government must close the fiscal deficit not through optimistic revenue projections but through actual spending reforms and enhanced tax collection efficiency. Kenya's tax-to-GDP ratio has declined from a peak of 15.4% in FY 2014/15 to current levels below regional peers. Reversing this trend through broadening the tax base, improving compliance, and leveraging digitalization could create fiscal space without relying solely on spending cuts that undermine essential services and social programs.

Second, the privatization program must be conducted transparently at fair market value to avoid accusations of asset stripping. Kenya has dozens of state-owned enterprises, many losing money and requiring government support. Strategic divestment could improve efficiency and raise capital, but only if transactions are competitively tendered, properly valued, and insulated from political favoritism. The Kenya Pipeline Company sale will set an important precedent, botching it would undermine confidence in the entire program.

Third, both funds require world-class governance structures from inception. This means independent boards with genuine fiduciary responsibility, professional asset management teams compensated at market rates to attract talent, regular audits and public reporting, clear investment mandates codified in law rather than subject to ministerial discretion, and absolute prohibition on withdrawals outside narrowly defined circumstances. Kenya should study and adapt best practices from Norway, Botswana, and other successful funds rather than reinventing wheels badly. Membership in international bodies like the International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds and adherence to the Santiago Principles would enhance credibility.

Fourth, realistic expectations must be set. Even with perfect execution, these funds will not solve Kenya's debt crisis in the short term. Building a meaningful sovereign wealth fund takes decades of sustained deposits and disciplined saving, not years. Norway's fund took thirty years to reach its current scale. Botswana's Pula Fund, established in 1993, only recently exceeded $3.5 billion despite decades of diamond revenues. Kenya must communicate honestly with citizens that these are long-term institutions whose benefits may not materialize for a generation. Overselling them as quick fixes will breed disillusionment and political pressure for premature withdrawals that undermine their purpose.

Kenya's proposal to establish an Infrastructure Fund and Sovereign Wealth Fund represents either visionary long-term planning or a dangerous distraction from immediate fiscal imperatives, the outcome depends entirely on execution. The conceptual logic is sound: countries with volatile resource revenues benefit from stabilization mechanisms and intergenerational savings vehicles. Infrastructure investment is essential for economic transformation. Asset monetization through strategic privatization can unlock value from underperforming state enterprises. These are all reasonable propositions.

However, implementation matters more than intention. Kenya enters this endeavor from a position of profound fiscal weakness, with debt consuming two-thirds of revenues and limited room for error. The funds will be judged not by their stated objectives but by whether they actually generate returns exceeding the opportunity cost of alternative uses for scarce capital, protect deposited funds from political raids, and contribute to Kenya's long-term prosperity rather than merely creating new avenues for mismanagement.

The international experience teaches that successful sovereign wealth funds emerge from sustained resource booms, strong institutions, political consensus, and above all, actual fiscal surpluses. Kenya currently possesses none of these preconditions. That does not make the endeavor impossible, Botswana built effective institutions despite similar challenges at independence, but it makes success far from assured. President Ruto's government has placed a significant wager on its ability to execute complex financial strategies while simultaneously managing debt stress and navigating political pressures. For Kenya's sake, and for the millions who depend on prudent resource stewardship, this is a gamble that must succeed. The alternative funds that exist on paper but fail in practice, would represent not just wasted opportunity but a betrayal of the very future generations these institutions purport to serve.

The writer is a legal-social commentator

Djibouti Parliament Removes Presidential Age Limit

By: Agencies
@themtkenyatimes

Djibouti's parliament has removed the age limit for presidents with a unanimous vote on Sunday.

The move has opened the way for leader Ismail Omar Guelleh to run for a sixth term.

Guelleh, 77, has held power since 1999 in the tiny Horn of Africa nation, a major port that hosts military bases for the United States, France, China, Japan and Italy.

Djibouti's lawmakers unanimously approved the change to the constitution to remove a bar on running for president past the age of 75.

The move allows Guelleh to run in the next election in April 2026, likely facing minimal opposition in a country with limited freedom of expression and press.

"The National Assembly ratified the removal of the age limit today, so it is official," said parliament speaker Dileita Mohamed Dileita.

Parliament had already passed the motion a week earlier in an initial vote that was then approved by Guelleh and sent back to lawmakers for the final vote.

Dileita earlier told journalists that the constitutional change was necessary to ensure "the stability of the small country, in a troubled region, the Horn of Africa, with Somalia, Ethiopia, and Eritrea".

Guelleh won the last election in 2021 with 97 per cent of the vote while his party, the Union for the Presidential Majority, holds the majority of parliamentary seats.

He succeeded Hassan Gouled Aptidon, the father of Djibouti's independence, in 1999 after serving as his Chief of Staff for 22 years.

Djibouti has only around one million inhabitants but lies on the strategic trade route of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait on the Red Sea.

President Ismail Guelleh

Gaza Survivors Face Long Road To Healing From Deep Psychological Scars

By: Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyatimes

Sitting inside a makeshift tent in northern Gaza, 31-year-old Mariam Abu al-Kas stares blankly ahead, her hands trembling as she speaks.

"Every time I close my eyes, I relive that night," she told Xinhua. A year and a half ago, she lost her husband and five children in an Israeli airstrike. "In my dreams, I hear the missiles approaching, the screams of my children, and then silence. I feel as though I'm trapped under the rubble, searching for them with my bare hands." Before the war, Mariam was a teacher at a private school in Gaza City. "We had a simple, happy life," she said. "But now, I can't even recognize myself in the mirror. It's as if the war took my face, my voice, and my soul." Weeks after the guns fell silent across the Gaza Strip, residents like Mariam continue to live under the heavy shadow of psychological scars left by two years of relentless Israeli military operations that killed tens of thousands and displaced millions. Experts say it could take generations to heal those wounds.

In another tent in Deir al-Balah City, in central Gaza, 22-year-old Samah Ahmed, an engineering student displaced from Gaza City, sits quietly. "The war took my ability to cry," she told Xinhua. Samah lost her twin brother, Ismail, when a missile struck their neighborhood.

"I saw the wall collapse and heard him calling my name," she recalled. "Then he disappeared. I ran to search for him in the dust and smoke, but I found nothing but ashes." "Since that day, I haven't been able to cry. I try to ease the pain, but nothing comes. It's like my heart is frozen. I no longer feel sadness or joy," she said. Gaza-based psychologist Salem Abu Taha told Xinhua that Samah's symptoms are typical of what specialists call "emotional numbness," a severe form of psychological trauma. "In cases of sudden loss, especially of a loved one, the mind protects itself by detaching from reality," he said. "Without treatment, the trauma can develop into chronic depression or behavioral problems."

Abu Taha said hundreds of young Gazans suffer from similar conditions and called for urgent group therapy programs and rehabilitation initiatives for students. They need help, he added, to express grief and rebuild confidence.In the southern city of Khan Younis, trauma is evident even among children. Ten-year-old Lana al-Sharif developed vitiligo, a skin disorder, after witnessing a nearby house destroyed in a bombing.Her mother said Lana often wakes up at night screaming, covering her ears as if to block out the sounds of explosions echoing in her dreams. Abdullah al-Jamal, director of the now-destroyed Gaza Psychiatric Hospital, described the mental health situation as "catastrophic." "The vast majority of Gazans suffer from moderate to severe psychological disorders due to continuous fear and lack of safety," he told Xinhua. He said post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression are the most common conditions, while self-harming behavior has also been reported among youth. "The continuation of trauma, combined with medicine shortages, could lead to long-term mental disorders, especially among children," he warned.

Some of the survivors

Al-Jamal said the availability of psychiatric medication is less than 50 percent of pre-war levels. "Health centers lack trained staff, and international support remains limited," he said. A report by the Gaza Community Mental Health Program, published in October 2025 under the title "Mental Health Crisis: Two Years of Living Under Genocide," found that nearly 68 percent of Gaza's population suffers from PTSD. The report said 96 percent of children feel death is imminent, 92 percent struggle to adapt to new living conditions, and 87 percent experience persistent fear and nightmares. "The current truce provides a limited window for psychological intervention, but without security and stability, therapy will not succeed," al-Jamal said. He stressed that mental recovery must be linked to broader reconstruction and stability efforts. "People cannot heal while fearing that the bombing may resume at any moment," he added. He said rebuilding Gaza's psychological resilience requires a long-term national plan that includes free treatment programs, training new mental health professionals, and launching social campaigns to support children and women.

Cybercrime Law Does Not Prohibit Free Speech But Protects Vulnerable Groups, PS Isaboke

By: Esther Mwangi and Dennis Rasto
@themtkenyatimes

The government has clarified that the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act 2025 has no provisions that stifle free speech, but is designed to protect families and vulnerable persons from harmful online content, violent extremism and cultism.

Principal Secretary State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications Steve Isaboke indicated that while Kenya's digital revolution had brought immense benefits in education, commerce and communication, it had also exposed society to cyberbullying, child pornography, online radicalization and misinformation.

The PS made the clarification in a speech read on his behalf by Secretary for Information and Broadcasting in the Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy Mr. Temesi Mukani during this year's commemoration for the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists held in Nakuru.

He affirmed that the government remained committed to fostering a safe and conducive environment for media freedom and responsible journalism.

The PS cited female journalists in Kenya whom he said were increasingly finding themselves on the frontlines of online harassment and warned that if unchecked, digital abuse could silence women's voices and weaken democracy.

He noted that while presenting new opportunities, technological advancements simultaneously engendered vulnerabilities especially for women journalists who frequently encountered online harassment.

"A free, independent and secure media constitutes the bedrock of democracy and effective governance," added the PS.

This year's global commemoration, themed "Chat GBV: Raising Awareness on AI-facilitated Gender-Based Violence against Women Journalists," highlights how emerging technologies are being weaponized to silence and intimidate women in the media.

According to UNESCO, nearly three-quarters of women journalists' worldwide report having faced online threats, intimidation, or insults linked to their work. These virtual attacks often escalate into real-world danger, creating a climate of fear that restricts public discourse and deters women from fully participating in journalism.

With regard to the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes (Amendment) Act 2025, Mr Isaboke pointed out that Kenya's legislation borrows from international best practices seen in countries such as the United States of America, France, Australia and the United Kingdom which have enacted similar laws to protect minors and families.

He said that Parliament had undertaken proactive reviews and amendments to the Act throughout last year and this year to augment Kenya's capacity to deal with technology enabled offences.

"The Ministry acknowledges the various dynamics across the law and is optimistic that a consensus will be reached to give Kenyans a good law that serves the public interest in the best way possible," Isaboke said.

"We cannot look the other way while our children and vulnerable persons are exposed to inappropriate content. The moral foundation of our society is at risk of fragmentation if digital spaces are not regulated," the PS added.

The Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes (Amendment) Act 2025 was signed into law by President William Ruto on October 15, 2024.

The law effective November 4, 2025, updates the 2018 Act to tackle emerging cyber threats, strengthen digital safety, and clarify court oversight of cyber offenses.

The Bill was first introduced in Parliament on November 24, 2024 by Wajir East MP Mohamed Aden Daudi and later sent to the Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation for public consultation.

The amendment comes amid the rapid growth of Kenya's digital space, which has seen a rise in cyber fraud, identity theft, cyberbullying, child exploitation, and misuse of virtual assets.

The Principal Secretary stated that the law comes at a crucial time as Kenya accelerates the growth of its Digital Economy through the Digital Superhighway.

He pointed out that the law introduces stricter penalties for serious offenses, including cyber fraud, hacking, identity theft, cyber harassment, and exploitation of minors.

"Social media use remains protected. Criticism, opinion, or satire of the government is not an offense under the law. The use of digital platforms to commit or promote criminal activity, such as spreading terrorism content, impersonating others, or unlawfully leaking private data, is punishable," Isaboke said.

The Principal Secretary assured that freedom of expression remains guaranteed under the Constitution, with the law targeting criminal misuse of technology.

Principal Secretary State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications Steve Isaboke

He observed that under the digital superhighway programme, the government had prioritized substantial investments in the digital infrastructure through extensive fibre optic deployment, established public Wi-Fi hotspots and created digital hubs and studio across all the 290 constituencies to broaden access to internet and bolster local content creation.

He disclosed that the State was working on new policy frameworks to regulate the media and digital infrastructure within the dynamic and ever evolving on-line landscape.

"The Ministry has promulgated a draft and final instrument to align communication media and digital policy with national development priorities. This process seeks to enhance public communication, fortify information integrity and sustain the media sector," stated the Principal Secretary.

Isaboke also affirmed that the government recognized the necessity of a robust ethical framework for media practice noting that a new code of conduct for media practice was gazetted in May this year and establishes modern standards for media practice in the digital era including directives on content and ethical responsibilities.

The Principal Secretary said law enforcement and regulatory bodies were realigning their operations and practices with the new legal instruments to ensure reported violations against journalists are rigorously investigated and where warranted, prosecuted.

He indicated that access to information represented a fundamental pillar of accountability, noting that the Access to Information Act 2016 enshrines citizens' legal entitlement to request and receive public information, serving as a vital mechanism for transparency and oversight.

He urged for comprehensive compliance by public institutions to enable journalists and citizens exercise their rights effectively.

Dissemination of harmful content and the exposure of children and vulnerable individuals to unsafe on-line material is a matter of grave concern to the government, the PS added.

He pledged that the government would continue collaborating with media outlets, civil society groups, religious institutions and academia to enhance digital literacy, implement age-appropriate safeguards and define content moderation strategies that protect minors without impeding the art.

"No solitary agency can navigate the complex web of digital harms or guarantee safety in isolation. We shall continue to work with Media Council of Kenya (MCK), Communication Authority of Kenya (CAK), County Governments and private sector to devise pragmatic measures. This will range from digital safety training to streamlined reporting and referral mechanisms for victims of online abuse," Isaboke indicated.

The Principal Secretary noted that combating impunity against journalists called for collective accountability adding that attacks against newsmen whether perpetrated physically or online must be thoroughly investigated and subsequently prosecuted where evidence substantiates such action.

In his remarks, Mukani said the Ministry had prioritized the access to information policy which was with the Cabinet Secretary at the National Treasury from where it would be forwarded to the Attorney General before it goes before Cabinet for approval.

Mukani added that to harmonize government communications, the Ministry had also drafted the national communication policy which was also at the National Treasury.

"Both National Communication Policy and National Communication Strategy are underway and seek to streamline government communications and introduce reinforced structures, apportion responsibility and set up specific deliverables for specific agencies," he elaborated.

The Information Secretary said the government of Kenya was actively working to streamline and transform its national broadcaster, the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC), through a series of reforms which he said were aimed at transforming KBC to align with changing technological trends and the new digital era, enabling it to be more competitive in the modern media landscape.

He added that the state was modernizing the Kenya News Agency (KNA) as part of a broader effort to revolutionize and centralize government communication, aiming to make it the primary disseminator of the government's development agenda.

The restructuring according to Mukani is linked to the new National Communication Policy, which seeks to create a more coordinated and unified voice for government communications across all ministries and agencies, and the KNA will play a crucial role in achieving this.

Sports >> *enyan professionals John Wangai and Njoroge Kibugu will head into the final round of the Betika Masters, the seventh leg of the Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing

Wangai, Kibugu Share Lead Heading Into Final Round Of Betika Masters Sunshine Development Tour

Wangai in action.

enyan professionals John Wangai and Njoroge Kibugu will head into the final round of the Betika Masters, the seventh leg of the Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing, tied for the lead on 7-under-par 137, after an eventful second day of play at the VetLab Sports Club.

Wangai produced one of the standout rounds of the tournament, firing an impressive 6-under-par 66 to climb up the leaderboard.

Teeing off from the 10th, the Sigona Golf Club player picked up four straight birdies on the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th holes, dropped a shot on the 16th, and added another birdie on the 18th.

On his return nine, Wangai kept his momentum going with back-to-back birdies on the 1st and 2nd holes, dropped a shot on the 3rd, but closed strongly with another birdie on the 6th to complete a round of 6-under par, the lowest score of the day.

Reflecting on his performance, Wangai said, "Today I hit the ball well off the tee, and my putting was very good. I started on the back nine, and on this course holes 9 and 10 are very tight, but I held steady, then went on to hit four back-to-back birdies from hole number 12, and that gave me momentum.

He added, "I have been shooting rounds of under par before, but I have not been able to get it to the top to be able to win. When I saw I could shoot under par I continued working hard, and this is a show that I could be coming for a win and that is my target."

On the pressure of heading to the final round atop the leaderboard, Wangai said, "I have been on the lead where there is pressure many times before so I will just keep myself calm and enjoy the round tomorrow. I will keep it the way it was today, no much changes. Irrespective of whether I win or not, if I play six under par tomorrow it will be a good round for me."

Sharing the top spot is Njoroge Kibugu, who carded another solid round of 4-under par 68 to keep himself firmly in contention for what would be his record third Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing title.

Kibugu had a stellar front nine, carding a birdie on the 3rd and a brilliant eagle on the 7th to turn in an impressive 33. On the back nine, he maintained his composure, picking up birdies on the 12th and 15th to finish his day tied for the lead on 7-under par.

Speaking after his round, Njoroge said, "It was a tough day and I had to stay patient, dealing with a stomach upset but I kept it together and I am happy with the way I kept it together. I was hitting a lot of greens but I was being conservative to retain my energy."

"I plan to stay patient, same as today, and I believe the birdies will fall. I hope to give myself opportunities by hitting greens to hopefully come out on top. Being ahead is good for me, and pressure is a privilege, and I am happy to be in this position.

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Sports >> *enyan professionals John Wangai and Njoroge Kibugu will head into the final round of the Betika Masters, the seventh leg of the Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing

Wangai, Kibugu Share Lead Heading Into Final Round Of Betika Masters Sunshine Development Tour

Njoroge Kibugu follows the path of his tee shot during the second round of the Betika Masters, the seventh leg of the Sunshine Development Tour East Africa Swing at VetLab Sports Club today

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My goal is to keep doing what I have been doing and hopefully I can come out with a win," he added.

Just one shot behind the pair is Rwanda's Celestin Nsanzuwera who continued his impressive run, carding 4-under par 68 for a tournament total of 6-under par 138, just one shot off the lead.

His round featured birdies on the 1st, 6th, and 7th holes, offset by bogeys on the 3rd and 5th. On the turn, he found further success with birdies on the 10th, 14th, and 15th to keep himself well within reach of the leaders.

Speaking after his round, Nsanzuwera said:

"Today's round was good. I corrected some of my mistakes from yesterday. I hit more fairways and my putting was much better. My plan for the final day is to stay consistent, hit fairways, and putt well. I actually prefer being the one chasing rather than being chased, it takes off some pressure, so let's see how tomorrow goes."

Veteran pro Dismas Indiza from Kakamega Sports Club sits in fourth place after a fine round of 5-under par 67, taking his total to 5-under par 139. Indiza's round included birdies on the 4th, 7th, 10th, 14th, 15th, 16th, and 18th holes, with his only blemishes coming on the 11th and 12th.

Tied for fifth are David Wakhu of Golf Park and Greg Snow of Muthaiga Golf Club, both finishing the day at 3-under par 141.

Wakhu's round featured birdies on the 1st, 9th, 13th, 15th, and 18th holes, with only two bogeys on the 7th and 10th for a 3-under par 69 finish.

Snow, who had started the day as the overnight leader, found the going tougher in round two.

His front nine saw bogeys on the 2nd, 3rd, and 8th with a single birdie on the 5th. On the back nine, he recovered with birdies on the 11th and 12th, but further bogeys on the 14th and 16th saw him close on 1-over par 73, dropping him down to tied fifth.

Vipingo Ridge Golf Resort's Naom Wafula was the only female golfer to make the cut, further continuing her impressive form on the tour since turning professional.

A total of 30 players have made the cut to play in Tuesday's final round, where they will battle for the Betika Masters title, and a share of the Ksh 2 million prize purse of which the winner will take home a sumptuous Ksh. 400,000. In addition to this, the players will be aiming to earn crucial Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR), and World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) which are crucial for progression into major tournaments.

In addition to this, the players will also earn Safari Tour Order of Merit points, all counting towards qualification for the 2026 Magical Kenya Open.

The Betika Masters at VetLab is the seventh leg of the Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing, sanctioned by the Sunshine Tour of South Africa, and supported by Betika as title sponsor. The tournament is also supported by EABL's Johnnie Walker brand, Pure Travel, Magical Kenya, The Golf Company.

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The Inspiring Journey Of Hafsat Abdullahi: Poet, Advocate, And Global Change-Maker

By: Anila Bukhari
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Born and raised in Nigeria, Hafsat's early life was marked by a deep curiosity about the world and a passionate desire to make a difference. From a young age, she demonstrated a remarkable talent for storytelling and creative expression, channeling her thoughts and experiences into poetry that resonated with audiences across generations. Her unique ability to dissect complex social issues through compelling metaphor and vivid imagery set her apart as a powerful poet and a conscientious activist.
- Hafsat's rise to prominence began with her captivating performances at local events, where her bold, thought-provoking style quickly garnered attention. Her poetry often tackles pressing themes such as gender equality, education, youth empowerment, social justice, and mental health.

Hafsat Abdullahi, affectionately known as Havfy, is a dynamic and influential figure whose multifaceted talents and unwavering commitment to social change have made her a prominent voice on the global stage. As a multi-award-winning performance poet, United Nations Young Leader for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and a proud member of the Grammy Recording Academy, her journey is a testament to the power of art and advocacy to inspire transformation.

Born and raised in Nigeria, Hafsat's early life was marked by a deep curiosity about the world and a passionate desire to make a difference. From a young age, she demonstrated a remarkable talent for storytelling and creative expression, channeling her thoughts and experiences into poetry that resonated with audiences across generations. Her unique ability to dissect complex social issues through compelling metaphor and vivid imagery set her apart as a powerful poet and a conscientious activist.

Hafsat's rise to prominence began with her captivating performances at local events, where her bold, thought-provoking style quickly garnered attention. Her poetry often tackles pressing themes such as gender equality, education, youth empowerment, social justice, and mental health. With each performance, she dismantles barriers of silence surrounding these issues, transforming them into open dialogues that foster awareness, empathy, and action.

Her influence extends far beyond the stage. With an audience of over one million followers across various social media platforms, Havfy leverages her digital presence to advocate for marginalized communities, amplify the voices of women and girls, and champion sustainable development. Her compelling content combines poetic artistry with insightful commentary, inspiring her followers to become active participants in social change.

Hafsat's dedication to advocacy and humanitarian work has earned her recognition from prestigious organizations worldwide. She was honored as a United Nations Young Leader for the SDGs, a role that underscores her commitment to achieving a more equitable and sustainable future. In this capacity, she has contributed to global discussions on education, gender equality, and youth empowerment, often using her platform to highlight the challenges faced by underrepresented communities and propose innovative solutions.

As a Global Youth Leader for Education with the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Hafsat works tirelessly to promote access to quality education for children and young people around the world. She believes education is a fundamental human right and a catalyst for societal transformation. Through her advocacy, she encourages policymakers, educators, and communities to prioritize education reforms that are inclusive and forward-thinking.

Hafsat's influence also reaches the cultural sphere. As a member of the Grammy Recording Academy, she is part of a global community that celebrates musical excellence and artistic innovation. She recognizes the profound impact of music as a universal language capable of uniting diverse populations and fostering social change. Through her collaborations with musicians, producers, and brands, Havfy harnesses the power of art and media to spread messages of hope, resilience, and empowerment.

Her artistry and advocacy have caught the attention of numerous esteemed institutions, including TEDx, the World Bank, UNICEF, UNFPA, the UN Security Council, UNAIDS, USAID, and Pediatric AIDS. Her engagements range from delivering powerful speeches to participating in high-level panels, where she advocates for issues such as gender equality, health, and education. Her ability to articulate complex issues with clarity and passion makes her a sought-after voice in global conversations.

Beyond her humanitarian endeavors, Hafsat is a creative visionary and fashion enthusiast. She understands that visual storytelling and personal style are vital tools in shaping perceptions and inspiring confidence. Her fashion choices often reflect her cultural heritage and her commitment to sustainable and ethical practices, inspiring her followers to embrace their identity and values.

Hafsat Abdullahi.

Havfy's collaborations with brands like Coca-Cola, Oando, Jägermeister, CFAO, African Global Logistics, Sterling Bank, Wema Bank, Mavin Records, and Indomie exemplify her versatility and appeal across diverse markets. These partnerships enable her to reach wider audiences and promote messages of social responsibility through innovative campaigns and projects.

Despite her global recognition and busy schedule, Hafsat remains deeply rooted in her community and committed to her mission. Her ultimate goal is to ignite minds, stir consciousness, and inspire meaningful change—one metaphor, one performance, and one conversation at a time. She believes that art and advocacy are powerful tools to challenge perceptions, dismantle stereotypes, and build bridges of understanding.

Hafsat Abdullahi's journey is a testament to the transformative power of creativity and conviction. Through her poetry, advocacy, and artistic collaborations, she continues to inspire a new generation of changemakers—empowering youth, uplifting women and girls, and advocating for a sustainable, equitable future. Her life's work exemplifies the profound impact of using one's voice to make the world a better place, and her story is far from over. As she continues to evolve and influence, Hafsat remains a beacon of hope and a symbol of the endless possibilities that arise when passion meets purpose.

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