



Legal Readiness For Cloud Adoption In Kenya: Managing Procurement, Security, And Compliance Risks

Kenya's digital economy is experiencing a seismic shift. The Kenya Cloud Policy, 2025, which came into force on May 2, 2025, following its approval by Cabinet Secretary for Information Communication and Digital Economy on April 7, 2025, represents the country's most ambitious regulatory intervention in cloud computing to date.

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Daily ePAPER

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

No. 01424 www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

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News>> ICT Ministry Opposes Counties Levies On Power Lines, Citing Risk To Broadband Projects

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News>> Mau Mau Freedom Fighters' Petition To Be Heard By A Three-Judge Bench

P. 12. A petition filed by former freedom fighters at the Meru High Court seeking compensation from the Kenyan government for atrocities committed against them after independence will be heard by a three-judge bench.

Lecturers' Pay Deadlock Nears Resolution



The National Assembly Committee on Education has engaged stakeholders in the Higher Education Sector to resolve the long-standing strike by university unions over the implementation of the 2017–2021 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and ongoing negotiations for the 2025–2029 CBA.

In a meeting chaired by Tinderet MP Julius Melly, the Committee engaged stakeholders who included; John Mbadi, CS National Treasury, Mr. Julius Ogamba, CS Education, Dr. Constantine Wasonga Opiyo, UASU, National Secretary General and Prof. Fred Simiyu Barasa, Chair, Inter Public University Consultative Forum IPUCF.



CSs John Mbadi and Julius Ogamba with other officials in Parliament yesterday. Photos/Courtesy

Below: Lecturers striking in past

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Mzee Jomo Kenyatta Government Sued By Mau Mau

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

A case in which the pioneer post colonial government has been sued by a section of former freedom fighters will be heard by a three judge bench. Meru High Court judge Heston Nyaga on Monday ordered a file with a petition by the Mau Mau be placed before the Chief Justice Martha Koome for empanelment saying the case raises weighty constitutional issues. The petitioners, led by Joseph Mwenda M'Arunga and represented by lawyer Mugambi Kubai, want the government to implement the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) recommendations and compensate victims for human rights violations committed after Kenya attained independence. The case against the government of Mzee Jomo Kenyatta has been filed by 30 Mau Mau abd their descendants, alongside a non-governmental organization; African Centre for Corrective and Preventive Action (ACCPA) which is represented by one of its directors and human rights activist James Mwangi.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Ministry of Health has flagged off the nationwide distribution of oxygen and patient monitoring equipment to all 47 counties in a major boost to healthcare delivery and equitable access to medical services across Kenya. The initiative, led by Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale, marks a key step toward strengthening the health system and ensuring that even remote regions such as Turkana, West Pokot, and Marsabit can access life-saving oxygen therapy and essential monitoring devices. The consignment flagged off includes 420 multi-parameter patient monitors, 10,000 flow meters, and 612 oxygen analysers to be distributed to all counties. Each county will receive at least ten monitors and two analyzers per sub-county, while the flow meters will be allocated according to completed oxygen piping works in various health facilities. The CS said the equipment would play a major role in improving patient monitoring, quality assurance, and oxygen dosage accuracy. He reminded counties to prioritize preventive maintenance and ensure sustainability.



Nyandarua County Senator John Methu yesterday led a group of elders from his area in visiting former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua at his Wamunyoro residence. The team that included, Muthamaki Ng’era Boro, Ndegwa Wahome and Isaac Githui delivered sheep and goats to the Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) party leader.



Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe, accompanied by Livestock Development PS Jonathan Mueke yesterday held a productive meeting with milk processors, under the Kenya Dairy Processors Association (KDPA) to deliberate on key strategies aimed at enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of the dairy industry. Deliberations focused on opportunities, strengthening and modernizing the sector. KPDA, through interim chair, Ken Gitonga, agreed to partner with the ministry in supporting farmers to lower production costs through access to quality and affordable feeds; transitioning to the quality-based milk payment system; and improving the accuracy of dairy data to inform policy and planning.



The Kenya Sugar Board has directed all individuals and companies involved in sugar re-packaging to register with the Board by November 17, 2025, as part of new measures aimed at strengthening regulation and protecting consumers. In a public notice, the Board invoked powers under Section 61 of the Sugar Act, 2024, and the Sugar (General) Regulations, 2025, stating that every entity engaged in re-packaging sugar for retail must comply with the new requirements. The move is intended to enhance traceability, boost quality-control systems, and curb the sale of sub-standard or adulterated sugar in the Kenyan market and further reinforce regulatory oversight and safeguard consumer welfare amid rising concerns over food-safety standards. Applicants will be required to submit their details and supporting documents through the Board’s online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) portal. Entities that fail to comply by the deadline risk regulatory action including possible suspension from engaging in sugar re-packaging operations.

A 55-year-old man was sentenced to serve 40 years in prison after he was found guilty of killing his wife five years ago in Konoin, Bomet County. Delivering the sentence, Bomet High Court Judge Justice Julius Ng’arng’ar concurred with the prosecution that Robert Kipkorir Tonui had meticulously planned and executed the cold-blooded murder of his wife, Emmy Chepkoech Mitei, by dousing her with petrol and setting her ablaze. The judge dismissed Tunoi’s assertions that he had no motive to kill the former deputy headteacher and that the prosecution had failed to prove its case against him.

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS

The Mount Kenya Times

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President Ruto Oversees Landmark Kenya–Qatar Financial Cooperation Agreement

By: PCS
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The partnership establishes a strategic framework to integrate financial markets, expand cross-border investment opportunities, and accelerate the growth of Islamic finance and fintech innovation across the Africa–Gulf corridor.
- Signed in Doha, the agreement focuses on reducing regulatory barriers to allow firms licensed in either jurisdiction to operate more seamlessly in both markets, paving the way for greater investment mobility and business expansion.

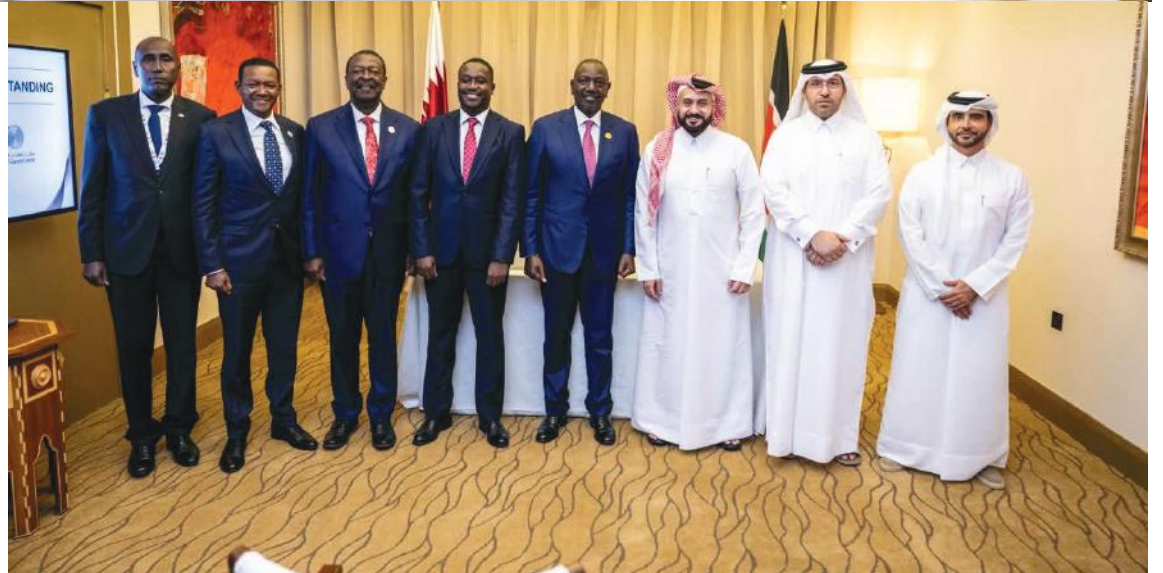
President William Ruto yesterday presided over the signing of a landmark agreement between the Nairobi International Financial Centre Authority (NIFCA) and the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC), marking a major step towards strengthening financial cooperation between Kenya and Qatar and positioning both nations as gateway hubs for global capital flows.

The partnership establishes a strategic framework to integrate financial markets, expand cross-border investment opportunities, and accelerate the growth of Islamic finance and fintech innovation across the Africa–Gulf corridor.

Signed in Doha, the agreement focuses on reducing regulatory barriers to allow firms licensed in either jurisdiction to operate more seamlessly in both markets, paving the way for greater investment mobility and business expansion.

A key pillar of the cooperation will be the joint development and promotion of Sharia-compliant financial instruments, including Sukuk and green Sukuk, aimed at unlocking sustainable capital for long-term infrastructure and climate-resilient development in Africa. The move positions Nairobi as an emerging hub for Islamic finance innovation on the continent, leveraging Qatar's global leadership in the sector.

The deal also establishes NIFCA as a launchpad for Qatari investment into Africa while enabling Kenyan firms to leverage the Qatar Financial Centre platform to access Gulf and international markets. Efforts will include the creation of an investment facility to channel capital into strategic sectors in Kenya and the wider region.



In addition, both sides committed to collaborating on fintech regulation, digital-assets policy frameworks, and financial innovation sandboxes to support emerging technologies and cross-border digital finance solu-

tions. Executive training, leadership exchanges, and institutional capacity-building programmes will further support knowledge transfer and talent development.

President Ruto welcomed the agree-

ment as a milestone in strengthening economic ties and unlocking new avenues for investment and financial cooperation, noting that it aligns with the country's vision to position Nairobi as a premier regional financial hub.

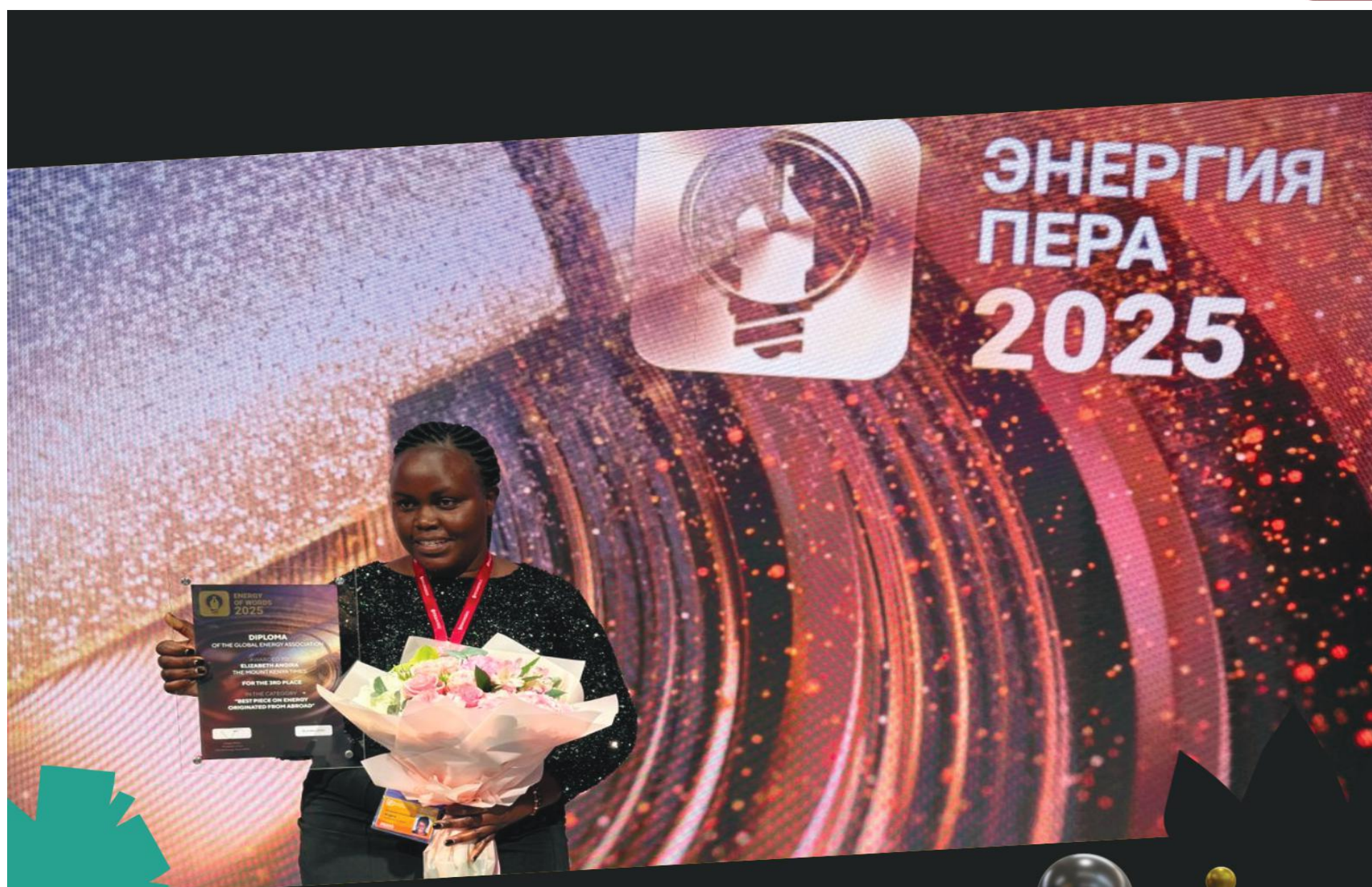
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ICT Ministry Opposes Counties Levies On Power Lines, Citing Risk To Broadband Projects

By: PSCU
@themtkenyentimes

The Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy has warned that a proposed amendment to the Energy Act could disrupt the rollout of national broadband and digital infrastructure.

Appearing before Senate Committee on Energy chaired by Oburu Oginga, the ministry was represented by Principal Secretary Stephen Isaboke.

The amendment seeks to allow county governments to levy charges on public energy infrastructure without first getting approval from the Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum.

In a submission to the Senate Committee on Energy, the Ministry said the proposal could have “serious and far-reaching implications” for national connectivity projects.

It warned that the plan would fragment regulation, slow down project implementation, and raise costs for critical networks such as the National Optic Fibre Backbone Infrastructure (NOFBI) and the Last Mile County Connectivity Project (LMCCP).

“While the Ministry supports devolution and recognizes the importance of empowering county governments, the proposed amendment would undermine national cohesion and efficiency,” the statement read in part.

During the Senate session, Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna urged the Ministry to ensure counties benefit from revenues generated through the ICT infrastructure mounted on the Kenya Power transmission network.

“The PS should collect the revenue from ICT infrastructure on the Kenya Power line network and give it to counties,” Senator Sifuna said. He also asked the Ministry to disclose how much telecommunications companies pay for using public infrastructure.

Senator Boni Khalwale supported the need for fairness, saying both levels of government should benefit from infrastructure-related revenues.

“Why can’t we provide a level playing field for both national and county governments so that the two levels of government share the benefits?” he posed.

Responding to the senators, Principal Secretary for ICT Stephen Isaboke defended the centralized revenue model, saying it ensures equitable distribution through the national system.

“Centralization of revenue from the

Kenya Power line network helps in pooling resources together. County governments then get the revenue as shareable resources,” PS Isaboke explained.

Ms. Pauline Kimotho, legal counsel for the ICT Ministry, added that the major challenge with devolving such charges lies in the lack of consistency among counties.

“The issue is the unpredictability of levies from different counties. We need harmonization and a standard rate for each county,” she said.

Fiona Asonga, CEO of the Technology Service Providers of Kenya (TESPOK), called for a more supportive regulatory environment for the data industry.

“We are requesting a special tariff from the Ministry of Energy, through EPRA, for the telecommunications and data industry—just like the special tariffs extended to the manufacturing sector,” Ms. Asonga said.

The Ministry reiterated that both energy and communications regulation fall under the National Government as outlined in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution. It warned that giving counties independent power to impose wayleave fees could create legal conflicts and breach Articles 186 and 209(5), which bar counties from introducing taxes that harm national economic policy or cross-county investments.

Officials further noted that the proposal contradicts national frameworks such as the Digital Economy Blueprint (2019) and the Strategic Plan (2023–2027), which emphasize harmonized and affordable infrastructure rollout.

“Uncoordinated levies would inflate broadband costs, delay rural connectivity, discourage private investment, and ultimately raise consumer prices for digital services,” the Ministry warned.

To avoid disruptions, the Ministry proposed a joint policy framework involving the Energy and ICT ministries and the Council of Governors to standardize wayleave charges and align roles between the two levels of government.

It also called for a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) before the amendment is enacted to assess its financial and operational implications.

“The amendment may boost county revenue in the short term, but it would destabilize the national framework for ICT deployment, drive up project costs, and delay broadband expansion,” the Ministry concluded.



Oburu Odinga



Edwin Sifuna



PS Stephen Isaboke (left) with CAK DG David Mugonyi

Lecturers Pay: Government, MPs And Unions Move To End Stalemate

By: PSCU
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- In a meeting chaired by Tinderet MP Julius Melly, the Committee engaged stakeholders who included; John Mbadi, CS National Treasury, Mr. Julius Ogamba, CS Education, Dr. Constantine Wasonga Opiyo, UASU, National Secretary General and Prof. Fred Simiyu Barasa, Chair, Inter Public University Consultative Forum IPUCCF.
- Melly said the Committee's priority was to ensure learning in universities continues uninterrupted while safeguarding lecturers' welfare.
- "We must find a lasting solution to this matter. Students cannot continue to suffer every time a strike is called. We are ready to facilitate dialogue and push for an implementable payment plan," said Melly.
- The unions had earlier demanded full implementation of the 2017-2021 CBA, arguing that only a portion of the KSh8.8 billion negotiated was released, leaving a deficit of approximately KSh7.9 billion.

The National Assembly Committee on Education has engaged stakeholders in the Higher Education Sector to resolve the long-standing strike by university unions over the implementation of the 2017-2021 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and ongoing negotiations for the 2025-2029 CBA.

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Responding to legislators concerns, National Treasury officials confirmed that the Government remains committed to settling the arrears but proposed a structured payment plan spread over several months to avoid straining the Exchequer.

"The Treasury is working closely with the Ministry of Education to ensure the pending obligations under the CBA are cleared. However, due to the current fiscal constraints, payments will be done in two installments, 50% in this financial year and 50% in the next financial year" said Mbadi.

The unions, led Dr Wasonga, welcomed the move but insisted that the government must act without delay.

"We are aware of the government offer of two installments of 50%. I convened my members and they have voted no. Some of my members are retired and they need their pensions. Our members need their arrears," said Dr. Wasonga.

The UASU Secretary General also pushed for the fast-tracking of the signing and registration of the 2025-2029 CBA to prevent a repeat of the current stalemate.

"We appreciate the Committee's intervention, but we also need commitment on the future CBA. Lectur-



Committee during yesterday's session..

ers have waited too long. We want a clear implementation framework," he stated.

The committee chairman urged both the Ministry and the unions to conclude the ongoing negotiations before the end of the year, emphasizing that the Committee will monitor progress closely.

"This Committee wants universities to resume functioning. The Treasury, Education Ministry, and unions must act within the agreed timelines," he said.

Siaya County Women Representative Christine Ombaka cautioned that delays in CBA implementation risked derailing academic calendars and demoralizing lecturers.

"We are dealing with professionals who deserve respect. The government must treat this matter with the urgency it deserves to safeguard the quality of higher education," she stated.

Lawmakers present also called for better financial planning by universities to manage salary obligations without relying solely on Treasury disbursements.

The meeting resolved that the National Treasury, Ministry of Education, public universities, and unions will engage within two weeks to develop a final implementation schedule for both the pending and future CBAs.



Julius Melly.



Dr Constantine Wasonga

StarTimes Revamps Entertainment Lineup With Emotion-Driven Strategy

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

StarTimes is refreshing its entertainment lineup with a bold revamp of two audience favorites; Hello Mr. Right and Gangs of Manila as part of its new emotion-driven digital TV strategy aimed at captivating modern viewers.

Themed “More Love. Bigger Action. Redefining StarTimes Entertainment,” the network’s latest programming direction focuses on emotional connection, relatable storytelling, and digital interactivity to align with evolving audience preferences.

Speaking during the content relaunch, Myke Mwai, Head of PR and Content Syndication at StarTimes, said the revamp aims to deepen engagement and bring out stronger emotional appeal.

“Today’s viewer doesn’t just watch for entertainment; they want stories that speak to their hearts. We’re re-

freshing our shows to make every moment more relatable, exciting, and memorable,” said Mwai.

Leading the transformation is Hello Mr. Right, the hit dating reality show that continues to spark laughter, emotion, and authentic conversations about love and relationships.

The show airs every Saturday at 7:10 PM on Rembo Plus TV and 8:00 PM on Rembo TV, and has become a weekend staple for families and youth alike.

For action lovers, Gangs of Manila delivers adrenaline-charged drama and emotional storytelling every night at 9:40 PM on Novela E Plus (Channel 57/128).

Set in Manila’s gritty underworld, the series explores themes of loyalty, revenge, and redemption, offering an immersive viewing experience that blends global appeal with universal emotions.

Beyond adult entertainment, StarTimes continues to enrich family viewing. With beloved titles such as



Super Wings, Milo, and Ben 10, children are treated to colorful adventures and character-building lessons that make learning fun and exciting.



Kenya's Digital Defenses Crumble As Cybercrime Surges

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The numbers are staggering. Between January and March 2025 alone, the National Kenya Computer Incident Response Team Coordination Centre (KE-CIRT/CC) detected over 2.5 billion cyber threat events—a 200% increase from the previous quarter. These threats are not just theoretical; they have real-world consequences. Banks have reported millions lost to phishing scams, government portals have been defaced, and private companies have suffered crippling data breaches. The digital economy, which Kenya has championed as a pillar of its Vision 2030 strategy, is now under threat from within.
- Part of the problem lies in the country's reactive approach to cybersecurity. While Kenya has made strides in enacting legislation, such as the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act, critics argue that enforcement remains weak and fragmented.



Stakeholders in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector

Kenya's digital frontier is under siege. As cybercrime escalates in scale and sophistication, experts warn that the country remains dangerously ill-equipped to defend its citizens, businesses, and institutions from the growing threat. Despite the rapid expansion of digital services and internet penetration, Kenya's cybersecurity infrastructure is lagging behind, leaving gaping vulnerabilities that malicious actors are exploiting with alarming frequency.

According to the Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA), Kenya ranks among African nations facing a critical shortage of cybersecurity professionals. This deficit has left the country exposed to a wave of cyberattacks that range from data breaches and ransomware to financial fraud and identity theft. George Kisaka, ISACA's Vice-President, recently sounded the alarm, stating that "cyber threats are evolving daily as the demand for digital services grows, yet our internal capabilities to deal with related crimes are struggling".

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nies have suffered crippling data breaches. The digital economy, which Kenya has championed as a pillar of its Vision 2030 strategy, is now under threat from within.

Part of the problem lies in the country's reactive approach to cybersecurity. While Kenya has made strides in enacting legislation, such as the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act, critics argue that enforcement remains weak and fragmented. Moreover, the recent amendments to the law have sparked controversy, with civil society groups warning that they could infringe on fundamental rights. Reuben Kigame, a prominent activist, has filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the new provisions, which grant authorities sweeping powers to restrict online content deemed unlawful.

This legal tug-of-war underscores a deeper issue: the lack of a coherent national cybersecurity strategy. While the Communications Authority of Kenya has released periodic reports and guidelines, experts say these efforts are piecemeal and lack the teeth needed to drive systemic change. The draft Kenya Cybersecurity Strategy 2025–2029, currently under review, aims to address these gaps, but stakeholders remain skeptical about its implementation.

Education and capacity building are also major hurdles. Kenya's universities and technical colleges produce thousands of ICT graduates annually, but few specialize in cybersecurity. The result is a shallow talent

pool that cannot meet the demands of a rapidly digitizing economy. Private sector initiatives, such as boot camps and certification programs, have tried to fill the gap, but they remain inaccessible to many due to cost and limited reach.

Meanwhile, cybercriminals are becoming more organized and emboldened. Many operate in transnational networks, using sophisticated tools and techniques to evade detection. The rise of Artificial Intelligence has further complicated the landscape, enabling attackers to automate phishing campaigns, crack passwords, and even mimic human behavior online. Kisaka warns that "with the advent of Artificial Intelligence, the threat landscape is becoming more complex, and our defenses must evolve accordingly".

The stakes are high. Kenya's ambition to become a regional tech hub hinges on its ability to secure its digital infrastructure. Investors are increasingly wary of the risks, and consumers are losing trust in online platforms. If left unchecked, cybercrime could erode the gains made in e-commerce, mobile banking, and digital governance.

To turn the tide, experts recommend a multi-pronged approach. First, the government must invest heavily in cybersecurity education and training. Scholarships, partnerships with global tech firms, and incentives for local startups could help build a robust talent pipeline. Second, public awareness campaigns are crucial. Many cyberattacks succeed because

users are unaware of basic digital hygiene practices, such as using strong passwords or avoiding suspicious links.

Third, regulatory reform is needed. Laws must strike a balance between security and civil liberties, ensuring that enforcement does not become a tool for censorship. Transparent oversight mechanisms and stakeholder engagement can help build trust and legitimacy. Fourth, regional cooperation is essential. Cybercrime knows no borders, and Kenya must work with neighboring countries to share intelligence, harmonize laws, and coordinate responses.

Finally, the private sector must play a proactive role. Businesses must prioritize cybersecurity in their budgets, conduct regular audits, and adopt best practices. Collaboration between industry and government can foster innovation and resilience, creating a united front against digital threats.

As Kenya stands at the crossroads of digital transformation, the urgency to act has never been greater. Cybercrime is not a distant threat—it is here, now, and growing. Without decisive action, the country risks becoming a cautionary tale in the global tech narrative. But with vision, investment, and collaboration, Kenya can turn its vulnerabilities into strengths and build a digital future that is not only innovative but secure.

Mau Mau Freedom Fighters’ Petition To Be Heard By A Three-Judge Bench

By: MKT Correspondents
@themtkenyatimes

A petition filed by former freedom fighters at the Meru High Court seeking compensation from the Kenyan government for atrocities committed against them after independence will be heard by a three-judge bench.

The freedom fighters, through their lawyer Mugambi Kubai, have sued the government through the Attorney General and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) for alleged gross human rights violations committed after Kenya attained independence.

Kubai said justice has long been elusive for the victims, adding that the petitioners are also seeking the implementation of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) recommendations to restore dignity, provide redress, and promote reconciliation for Mau Mau veterans and their families.

In his ruling on Monday, Justice Heston Nyaga observed that the petition raises weighty constitutional issues that affect thousands of other freedom fighters in the country and therefore ordered that it be heard by a bench of three judges. He observed that the petition file should be placed before Chief Justice Martha Koome for directions and appointment of the judges to preside over the matter.

The judge further allowed the petitioners’ lawyers to advertise the petition in a national newspaper to enable other interested parties to join. He directed that the advert be placed prominently within 21 days, with any interested parties required to enter appearance within 21 days of publication.

“Further directions will be awaited from the Office of the Chief Justice. The matter will come up for mention and directions on February 9, 2026,” Justice Nyaga said.

The suit has been filed by 30 former freedom fighters and descendants of Mau Mau veterans, alongside the African Centre for Corrective and Preventive Action (ACCPA), a non-governmental organization.

The petitioners are led by Joseph Mwenda M’Arunga, who served as Field Marshal Musa Mwariama’s aide.

Part of the petitions recounts how on February 1965, one of the petitioners represented General Baimungi Marete, alongside General Chui and Kiugu, who were shot dead by President Jomo Kenyatta’s regime and their bodies paraded for three days at Meru’s Kinoru Stadium before being

buried in an undisclosed location.

“They were paraded for three days at Kinoru Stadium and later buried secretly. We are here seeking justice. The preamble of our Constitution reminds us to honour those who fought for our freedom and there can be no honour without justice,” the lawyer noted while briefing journalists after the matter was referred to CJ.

He added that the TJRC report had already acknowledged that gross human rights violations were committed against Mau Mau veterans and their families by the post-independence government.

“The previous regime set aside KSh10 billion to compensate victims of human rights violations through the Justice Fund, but it is yet to reach thousands of victims,” Kubai said, adding that Kenya must stop vilifying heroes and celebrating villains.

“This must change. We must celebrate true heroism and honour those who fought for our freedom,” he said.

Kubai described the period between 1963 and 1978 as a “bitter chapter” for many freedom fighters, saying that the post-independence government borrowed from the colonial playbook, using torture, intimidation, and assassinations to silence dissenting Mau Mau veterans, particularly on the issue of land redistribution.

He noted that Justice Nyaga had directed the petition be forwarded to C J Koome for empanelment of a three-judge bench due to the serious constitutional and legal questions raised.

The petition seeks formal acknowledgment that the post-colonial government wronged the freedom fighters and should compensate them accordingly.

James Mwangi, a human rights activist and director of ACCPA, said they will continue pushing to ensure all Mau Mau veterans are compensated.

“The government has enough money. If it can build a road worth Sh30 billion, why not compensate Mau Mau war veterans?” Mwangi asked.

He urged the government to act in good faith, saying many of the freedom fighters are elderly and may not live long enough to see justice served.

“We appeal to Mount Kenya leaders led by Deputy President Kithure Kindiki to help fast-track the process. Our legislators can also play a role since they are the ones who make laws,” he said.

Elizabeth Igoki Mugira, a widow of a Mau Mau veteran, said many freedom fighters have died poor and unrecognized by the government.

“Many have died without honour or compensation. We just want justice and recognition,” she said



Meru High Court judge Heston Nyaga



Human rights activist and ACCPA director James Mwangi (in shirt) conversing with some of the former freedom fighters at Meru High Court on Monday. Photos/Courtesy.



Lawyer Mugambi Kubai with some of petitioners outside the Meru High Court.

Morocco's Princess Lalla Asama To Visit KNH In Joint Hearing Health Initiative With First Lady

By: Correspondent
@themtkenyentimes

Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Asma of Morocco is set to visit the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) today, where she will witness a Cochlear Implant Program and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in hearing health.

The visit forms part of a joint initiative between Kenya and Morocco led by First Lady Rachel Ruto, aimed at expanding access to specialized ear, nose and throat (ENT) care and restoring hearing for children with severe hearing impairments.

Princess Lalla Asma's engagement follows the arrival of a team of Moroccan surgeons in Nairobi on Monday for a week-long medical mission at KNH.

Working alongside local specialists, the visiting team is conducting more than 50 cochlear implant sur-

geries — a groundbreaking effort in regional medical collaboration and pediatric care.

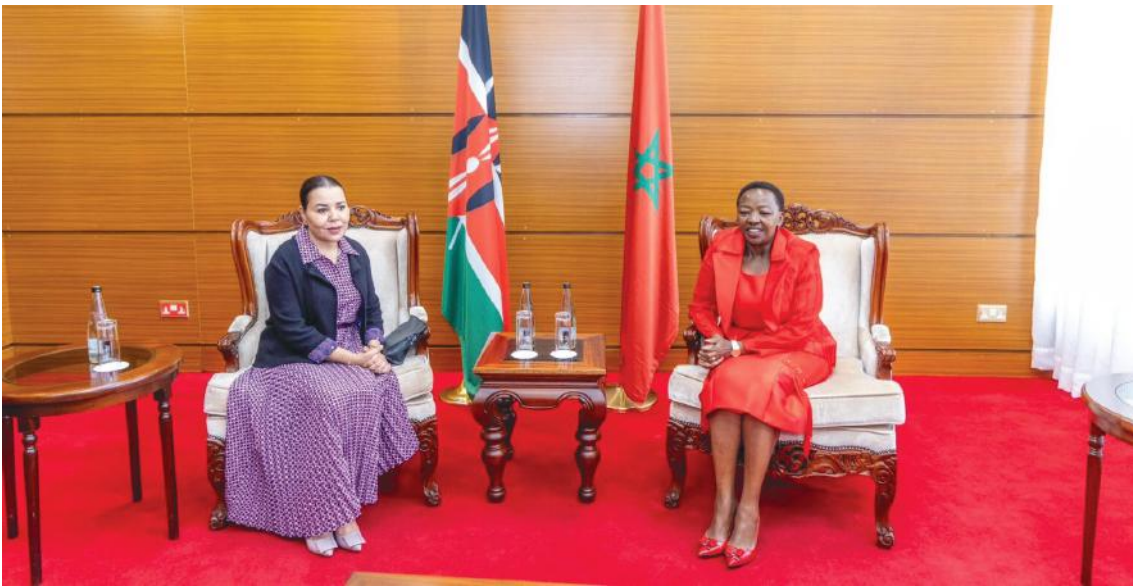
According to the Ministry of Health, the surgeries, which will run through November 7, mark a major milestone in advancing Kenya's capacity for complex surgical interventions while promoting knowledge exchange and skills transfer between Kenyan and Moroccan experts.

Global collaboration

KNH's Senior Director for Clinical Services, Dr. Joel Lessan, praised the partnership as a testament to the hospital's expanding global collaborations in specialized health services.

KNH Acting CEO Dr. Richard Lesiyampe will oversee the surgeries coordinating the hospital's medical team in the joint effort.

Princess Lalla Asma's generous donation of cochlear implant devices worth Sh120 million, handed over to the Ministry of Health under the Voice of Children Program championed by First Lady Rachel Ruto,



Princess Lalla Asma arrived in Nairobi yestersday afternoon. First Lady Rachel Ruto received her at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport/PCS

bolstered the initiative.

Princess Lalla Asma arrived in Nairobi on Tuesday afternoon. First Lady Rachel Ruto received her at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

Her three-day official visit under-

scores the deepening ties between Kenya and Morocco in advancing inclusive healthcare and child welfare.

Later on today evening, the First Lady will host a State Dinner at State House, Nairobi, in honour of

Princess Lalla Asma, celebrating the growing Kenya-Morocco partnership in promoting access to specialized medical care and child health advancement.

Lobbyist Raises Concern Over Men Battered By Their Wives

By: George Mugo
@themtkenyentimes

A lobby group has raised concern over the rising number of men being battered by their wives in the Central region.

Some are inflicted with injuries which they hide inside their clothes in fear of being noted by other family members and fellow men.

At times, others get disturbed in the evening remembering that their wives were waiting for them at home, whether they come home with a bread or empty handed.

Voice of Men and Children (Vomec) says the trend is shocking in a way that young men fear getting married so that they may not be beaten as they have been witnessing.

Vomec national chairman Bishop James Njenga says they realised the number of such cases was rising owing to reported cases by men in their offices.

Njenga says there are so many cas-

es which are happening silently since men do not want to be seen as unable to control their wives.

"We have a problem that men do not report. However, there are a few brave who come to seek for advice on how to handle their families, and end up disclosing to us that they are normally beaten," he said.

"Some wash utensils, cook supper at night and wake very early to prepare breakfast for the family. They live with so many threats" he said.

He adds that some are denied conjugal rights by their wives despite sleeping in the same bed.

He spoke at in Limuru town when he met with other Vomec officials.

He disclosed that they plan to hold seminars in different areas, so as to enlighten the community that issues are not solved with fights and threats in a marriage.

Njenga noted that they will start at Ndeiya and Limuru sub-counties since they operate from that region before spreading to other areas.

He said they also plan to involve the government so as whenever the ad-



Voice of Men and Children chairman James Njenga during the interview.

ministration is holding a public baraza, they be invited and given a chance to advise the public on how to stay in a marriage.

"We shall do so by approaching our chiefs, assistant chiefs as well as the deputy county commissioners since

they are the ones who interact with the public nearly every day" he said.

Vomec secretary Josphat Njagi added that they will also appeal to religious leaders to invite them to their churches to counsel married couples.

"If our churches will allow us, we

have a program where we shall counsel married couples" he said.

Njagi reveals that Vomec has professional counselors, lawyers, police officers and even pastors from different churches.

When Care Finds The Way



Not all are free, their days are tight,
Yet they still call, to bring you light.
Amidst the work, they choose to care,
A precious bond that's always rare.

A friend who texts when hours are few,
Is showing respect and love for you.
Don't think they idle with time to spare,
They gift you moments from burdens they bear.

If you ignore, or take for cheap,
The seeds you plant are what you'll reap.
A door once closed is hard to find,
They'll walk with those who act more kind.

Respect their time, both young and old,
Not just the rich, not just the bold.
For no one's busy at every hour,
It's all about where you hold power.

So give your time, both true and fair,
For bonds will grow if love is there.
Don't blame the world if ties grow weak,
It's what you sow, that life will speak

Durgadevi V
BT Assistant
GHS Nesal
Tiruvannamalai District

The Mysterious Key



It was a rainy afternoon when Emma found the key.
She was walking home from school, kicking small puddles on the sidewalk, when something shiny caught her eye. It was a small, golden key – old, with strange symbols carved on it.

Curious, Emma picked it up. On the back of the key, tiny letters read:
"To those who seek the truth."

That night, she couldn't stop thinking about it. "Truth about what?" she whispered to herself. Then she remembered something – the old, abandoned house at the end of Maple Street. Everyone in town said it was haunted.

The next day, with her best friend Jake, she went there. The house creaked as they stepped inside. Dust floated in the sunlight like tiny ghosts.

"Are you sure this is a good idea?" Jake asked.

"No," Emma said, smiling. "That's what makes it fun."

They explored every room until they found a locked chest in the attic. Emma's heart raced. She took the golden key from her pocket – it fit perfectly.

Inside the chest, they found... not treasure, not ghosts – but hundreds of old letters. They were written by people from the town, all addressed to "The Keeper of Secrets." The letters told stories – confessions, dreams, and wishes that no one had ever dared to share.

Emma realized the house wasn't haunted at all. It had been a place where people came to tell their truths – safely, secretly.

When she and Jake left, Emma locked the chest again and smiled. "Maybe some secrets are meant to stay safe," she said.

And as they walked away, the golden key shimmered one last time in her hand – before quietly vanishing.

Adiba Davlatboyeva Maxmud
2nd year student of Nukus State Pedagogical Institute

There Are So Many Reasons To Be Happy



There are so many reasons for you to be happy.
Think of the positive things, the good things only
When we switch on the lights, they shine so bright,
Be happy, and let your spirit take flight.

When we open the tap, water flows freely
Be grateful for the blessings that come to you
We board the bus, the train, and reach our

place,
Be happy, and thank that peaceful journey

The sun rises high, sets in the evening sky,
The moon comes in time,
We're able to eat food, drink water
Breathe fresh air, and feel happy

Tell thanks to God, and be happy from within,
Find joy in everything, let be ever grateful
We see, we hear, we smell, we taste, we feel,
Be grateful for all, and let happiness be for all

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

If You See A Ghost



I never believed in ghosts till now,
Suppose, when I am a ghost
I am hunting my own home
I'm swallowing the dust
On my old photo frames and books,
Just to get a taste of who once I was.

The real ghosts in the world.

Who can't be good to the people at the right time,

Who never spoke to the needy,
There is the ghost, always screaming,
He's cheating on his wife,
just a lifeless ghost walking around.
Fathers who forget their duty
Are nothing but ghosts among us.

So, every ghost is what we didn't become,
Every ghost is what we are destined to become.

Ranjani Veerasamy. V
Creative writer
Graduate teacher (English)
Pondicherry districts
India.

The Teacher – The Foundation Of The Future



In every individual's life, there is a guiding light – someone who leads us toward the right path and plants the seeds of goodness in our hearts. That person is the teacher. A teacher is not merely a professional, but a noble figure who shapes human character and builds the very foundation of a nation's future. Today, the progress of any country is deeply connected with the strength of its education system. The development of education, in turn, depends on the teacher's knowledge, competence, and dedication. Indeed, behind every educated generation stands the tireless effort of devoted teachers.

A teacher's role goes far beyond delivering lessons. They nurture compassion, patriotism, honesty, and humanity in the hearts of the young. Teachers are like the sun – they illuminate the path of society. Every successful doctor, engineer, scientist, and even leader was once a student who learned under the guidance of a teacher.

As times change and technology advances, the role and value of teachers remain timeless. It is the teacher who cultivates minds capable of embracing innovation and applying knowledge for the betterment of humanity.

Therefore, respecting teachers is an investment in the future. Honoring and appreciating their work is the duty of every member of society. We must always value and celebrate our teachers, for they are the light of the nation's soul – the great builders of the foundation upon which our future stands.

Ro'zmetova Qurbanov
Uzbekistan

Life Has A Simple Formula, Look Back And Thank God, Look Ahead And Trust God



Every day is a gift,
Say thanks to God.
When you can't see the way,
Trust the one who can.
Yesterday was grace,
Tomorrow is hope.
Thank God for what was,
Trust him for everything.

Peace begins,
When faith replaces fears.
Let it go and be with god.
Look back with gratitude
Look forward with faith
God's plan is always better than our dreams.
Let your heart rest
God is in control
Sometimes a ' no ' is God's way of protecting you.
So, thank god for closed doors,
They lead to better paths.

V. Ranjani veera
Creative writer
Graduate teacher (English)
Pondicherry districts
India.

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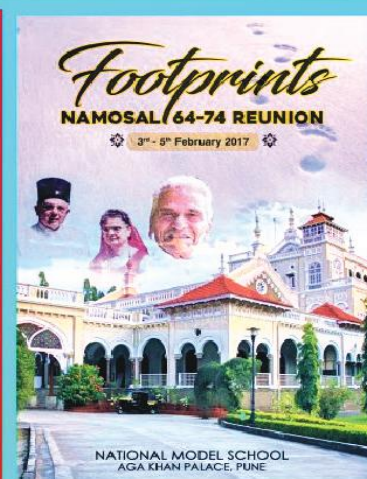
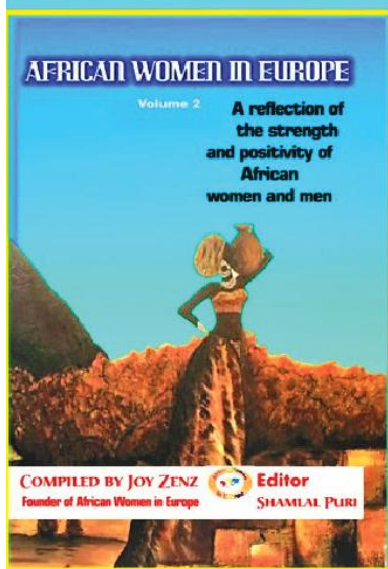
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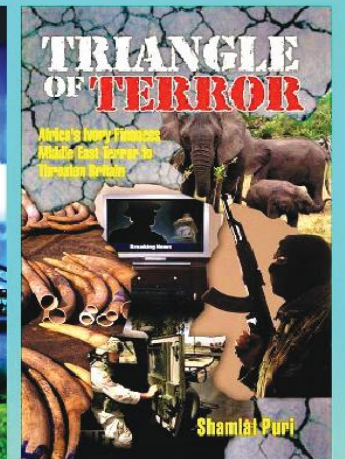
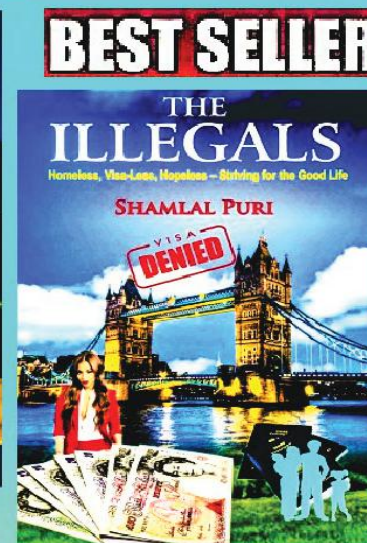
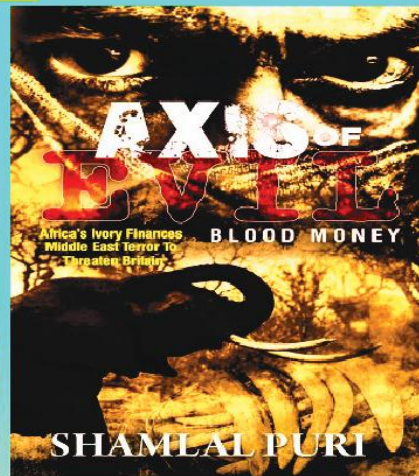
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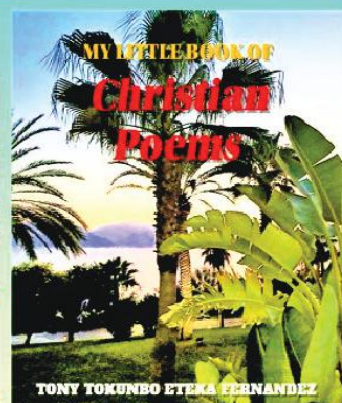
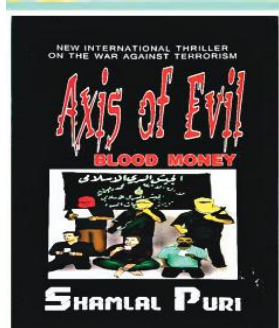
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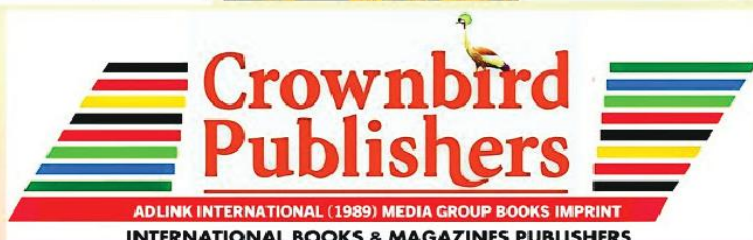


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BUSINESS

Reprieve For Matatu Operators, Traders As Kiambu Obtains Orders Suspending Makongeni Bus Park Takeover By Posta

By: John Kamau
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- The court had last month ruled in favour of the Postal Corporation after a seven-year legal battle with the county government over ownership of the land.
- The court ordered the county to immediately cease all operations at the site, hand over control to PCK, and remit all revenues collected from matatu operators since June 16, 2018.
- The land, which had remained idle before, was allocated by then Kiambu Governor Ferdinand Waititu for the establishment of a bus park aimed at easing transport and improving accessibility within Makongeni.
- The ruling now barred the county from collecting parking or stage fees at the busy terminus, which was later upgraded by Governor Kimani Wamatangi.

The Kiambu County Government has obtained a court order suspending a ruling that had allowed the Postal Corporation of Kenya (PCK) to take over Makongeni Bus Park in Thika.

The Environment and Lands Court in Thika on Monday issued an interim stay of execution of the ruling pending an inter partes hearing set for Tuesday next week.

Lady Justice Jacqueline Mogeni while giving the ruling also ordered the county government to serve the application to the other parties within five days.

“Upon service, the Respondents shall file their replying affidavit within five days,” read part of the order.

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The ruling now barred the county from collecting parking or stage fees at the busy terminus, which was later upgraded by Governor Kimani Wamatangi.

The county government recently completed a major renovation that transformed the bus park into a modern facility officially opened earlier this year.

The judgment is a significant setback for Kiambu County’s finances. The bus park has been one of several crucial revenue sources in the county’s efforts to raise between KSh7 and KSh8 billion in annual own-source revenue (OSR) to support its KSh 22 billion 2023/2024 budget. Parking and stage fees alone have previously brought in about KSh279 million, against an estimated potential of KSh1.19 billion.

Posta Kenya had accused the county of violating lease agreements by developing the land without approval, while county officials defended the project as a public-private partnership meant to improve local transport infrastructure.



Makongeni bus park in Thika.

Matatu operators and traders at the busy terminus, who have relied on the four-acre bus park for the past seven years, said the facility is their main source of income and supports more than 2,000 people directly and indirectly.

They appealed to both PCK and the Kiambu County Government to find an amicable solution that will allow

them to continue operating or be relocated to an alternative site

Speaking at the terminus, matatu operators said the ruling came as a major setback to thousands of families who depend on the park for their daily income.

“We have been operating here for the last seven years. Thousands of families depend on this bus park to eke

their daily living. We hope that an amicable solution will be reached between the warring parties and for the sake of all affected parties,” said John Karanja, a matatu operator.

Traders who sell food, vehicle parts, and accessories around the park said the closure would cripple their small businesses and reverse the area’s development gains.



Makongeni Bus Park in Thika West Sub-county.

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Legal Readiness For Cloud Adoption In Kenya: Managing Procurement, Security, And Compliance Risks



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

Kenya's digital economy is experiencing a seismic shift. The Kenya Cloud Policy, 2025, which came into force on May 2, 2025, following its approval by Cabinet Secretary for Information Communication and Digital Economy on April 7, 2025, represents the country's most ambitious regulatory intervention in cloud computing to date. As organizations across both public and private sectors grapple with mandatory cloud migration timelines and stringent compliance requirements, the intersection of procurement law, cybersecurity mandates, and data protection obligations has created a complex legal landscape that demands careful navigation. For legal practitioners, compliance officers, and corporate decision-makers, understanding this framework is no longer optional; it's mission-critical for operational continuity and competitive positioning in East Africa's emerging digital hub.

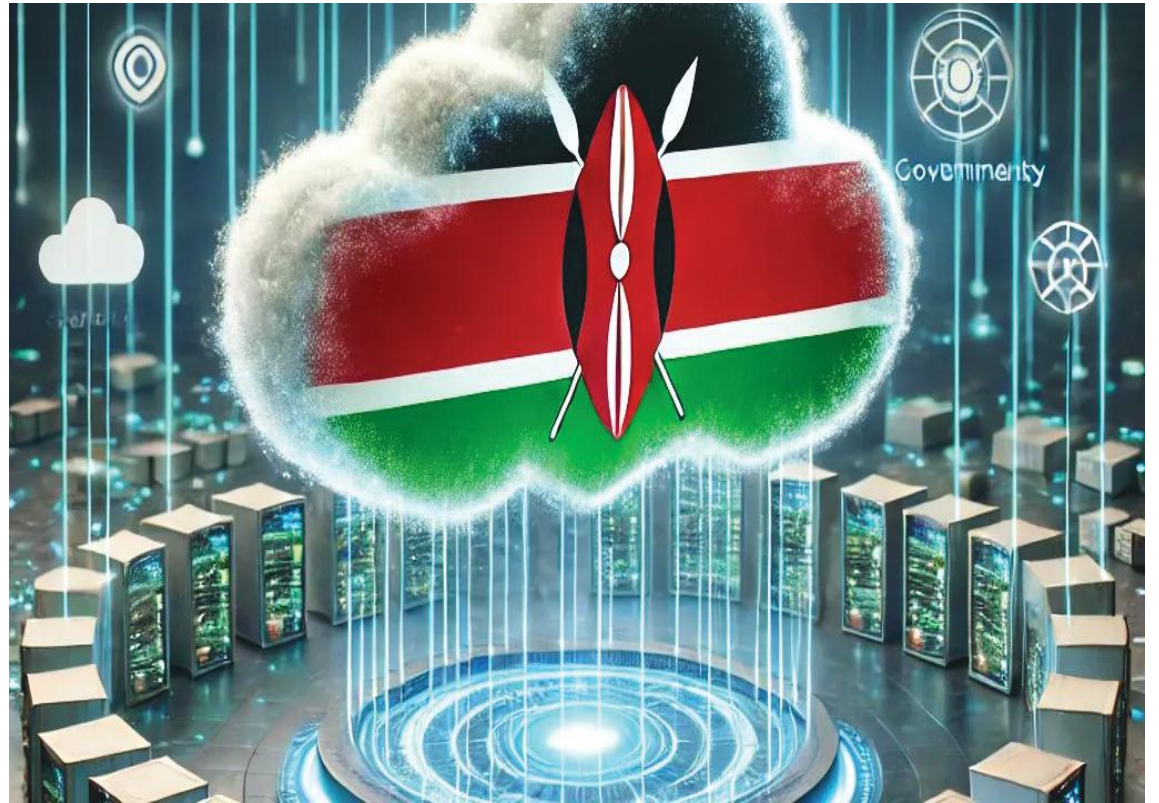
The policy aims to spur economic growth by incentivizing investment and adoption of cloud-based information and communication structures, providing a more controlled, efficient and secure information-sharing environment, while positioning Kenya as the preferred regional and continental digital hub. However, this ambitious vision comes with substantial legal obligations. Public entities must comply within 12 months from the date of publication, which includes prioritizing cloud-based solutions when making ICT investments such as the procurement of hardware and software, renewal of existing software licenses, ICT infrastructure and emerging technologies. This compressed timeline has created urgency across government ministries, state corporations, and private contractors serving the public sector, forcing rapid reassessment of existing IT infrastructure and procurement strategies.

At the heart of the Cloud Policy lies a sophisticated data classification system that directly impacts procurement decisions and vendor selection. Top secret data must be hosted within a Government Cloud Service Provider whose model con-

stitutes a private or Government dedicated cloud located in Kenya, while restricted data must be hosted with Government CSPs in a public cloud infrastructure located in Kenya. This tiered approach to data sovereignty creates a differentiated market for cloud services, with domestic providers enjoying regulatory advantages for sensitive government data. The procurement implications are profound: public entities must now conduct thorough data classification exercises before initiating any cloud procurement, mapping data sensitivity to appropriate hosting models and ensuring vendor capabilities align with regulatory requirements. This represents a departure from traditional procurement where cost and technical specifications dominated vendor selection criteria.

The procurement compliance burden extends beyond data classification. Cloud Service Providers offering services to the Government must undergo registration and accreditation by the Cloud Adoption Committee, adhere to international compliance standards prescribed by regulatory authorities, and document data hosting locations with real-time tracking of data movement across jurisdictions. This accreditation regime introduces significant lead times into procurement cycles, as vendors must demonstrate compliance with multiple regulatory frameworks before qualifying for government contracts. Organizations planning cloud migrations must factor these vendor qualification timelines into their project planning, potentially extending procurement cycles by several months. The Cloud Adoption Committee's accreditation decisions effectively determine market access, creating a bottleneck that could slow cloud adoption despite the policy's ambitious timelines.

Security and compliance risks under the Cloud Policy intersect directly with Kenya's evolving data protection regime. The Data Protection Act imposes stringent, enforceable obligations on data controllers and processors, mandating valid consent for collecting personal data, processing it only for legitimate purposes, and implementing robust technical and organizational safeguards, with registration with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner being mandatory. When organizations migrate to cloud infrastructure, they don't shed their data protection obligations instead, these responsibilities become more complex. Cloud service agreements must explicitly



address data processor obligations, breach notification protocols within the 72-hour window required by law, and mechanisms for responding to data subject access requests. Non-compliance with the Data Protection Act may lead to fines of up to KES 5 million or 1% of annual revenue, creating substantial financial exposure for organizations that fail to align cloud deployments with data protection requirements.

The contractual architecture for cloud services has become a critical compliance tool under the new framework. Both public and private entities are required to identify risks related to data hosting and address them in the contractual terms, while ensuring that data is accessible for any legal purposes mandated under Kenyan laws. This obligation transforms cloud service agreements from standard technology contracts into comprehensive risk allocation instruments. Organizations must negotiate robust service level agreements covering data security incidents, regulatory audit rights, data portability upon contract termination, and compliance with Kenyan jurisdictional requirements even when data is processed offshore. The Cloud Policy has outlined key considerations that offer protection to entities from vendor lock-ins, allowing migration between platforms based on suitability, including exit clauses and terms, use of open-access formats, and non-acceptance of excess penalties for contract termination. These provisions recognize the power imbalance between large multinational cloud pro-

viders and Kenyan entities, attempting to create contractual guardrails that preserve organizational flexibility and prevent exploitative commercial terms.

The convergence of cloud adoption with Kenya's broader digital transformation initiatives creates additional compliance layers. Kenya launched the e-Government Procurement platform in April 2025, which digitizes and automates the entire procurement process from planning and tendering to payment, with public procurement accounting for 60% of Kenya's annual budget and the country standing to save over KES 85.9 billion annually by improving procurement efficiency. Cloud procurements must now flow through this digital platform, subjecting them to enhanced transparency requirements and automated compliance checks. This integration increases procurement visibility but also exposes non-compliant practices to greater scrutiny. Organizations that previously relied on informal procurement arrangements or expedited single-source contracting will find these approaches increasingly untenable in the digitized, audit-trail-heavy environment. The e-GP platform's integration with systems like KRA's iTax and IFMIS creates real-time compliance verification, flagging irregularities that might previously have escaped detection.

Looking ahead, commercial awareness demands recognition that Kenya's cloud regulatory framework represents both constraint and opportunity. For organizations that invest

in robust compliance architectures, comprehensive data classification systems, vendor due diligence protocols, contractual protections, and ongoing compliance monitoring, the Cloud Policy creates competitive advantages. These well-prepared entities can leverage cloud infrastructure to drive operational efficiency, reduce capital expenditure on legacy data centers, and access advanced technologies like artificial intelligence and machine learning that depend on cloud platforms. Conversely, organizations that treat compliance as an afterthought face mounting legal risks: regulatory enforcement actions by the Data Commissioner, contractual disputes with cloud providers over breach responsibilities, procurement irregularities flagged by the e-GP system, and operational disruptions when non-compliant cloud deployments are challenged. As Kenya positions itself as East Africa's digital hub, the organizations that will thrive are those that view legal readiness not as a regulatory burden but as the foundation for sustainable, secure, and strategically advantageous cloud adoption. In this new paradigm, legal compliance and commercial success are not competing objectives; they are inseparable elements of digital transformation done right.

The writer is a legal writer and researcher

Drowning In Neglect: Kenya's Urban Flood Crisis Looms

By: David Kimani
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- In Nairobi, the capital city, flooding has become a seasonal nightmare. Residents of low-lying areas like South C, Mukuru, and Mathare brace themselves every year for the deluge. Makeshift bridges collapse, children wade through knee-deep water to reach school, and vehicles stall in submerged streets. The city's drainage system, built decades ago for a much smaller population, is overwhelmed by the sheer volume of runoff. Illegal constructions on riparian land and poor waste management further exacerbate the problem, blocking natural waterways and creating artificial lakes in residential zones.
- Mombasa, Kenya's coastal city, faces a different but equally dire challenge. Rising sea levels and tidal surges compound the impact of heavy rains, leading to frequent flooding in areas like Tudor, Kisau, and Changamwe.

As the skies darken and the rains begin to fall, a warning from the Kenya Meteorological Department has cast a shadow over the country's urban future: poorly drained cities are poised to flood, and the consequences could be catastrophic. With climate change intensifying rainfall patterns and urban sprawl outpacing infrastructure development, Kenya's cities are teetering on the edge of a waterlogged disaster. Experts say the writing is on the wall, and unless urgent action is taken, the floods will not just wash away property—they will drown livelihoods, displace families, and erode public trust in urban governance.

The Met Department's forecast is stark. This year's short rains, expected to peak in November and December, are projected to be heavier and more erratic than usual. While rain is a blessing for agriculture and water supply, it becomes a curse when cities lack the capacity to absorb and channel it safely. Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, and other urban centers have long struggled with inadequate drainage systems, clogged sewers, and poorly planned settlements. When the rains come, roads turn into rivers, homes are submerged, and businesses grind to a halt.

In Nairobi, the capital city, flooding has become a seasonal nightmare. Residents of low-lying areas like South C, Mukuru, and Mathare brace themselves every year for the deluge. Makeshift bridges collapse, children wade through knee-deep water to reach school, and vehicles stall in submerged streets. The city's drainage system, built decades ago for a much smaller population, is overwhelmed by the sheer volume of runoff. Illegal constructions on riparian land and poor waste management further exacerbate the problem, blocking natural waterways and creating artificial lakes in residential zones.

Mombasa, Kenya's coastal city, faces a different but equally dire challenge. Rising sea levels and tidal surges compound the impact of heavy rains, leading to frequent flooding in areas like Tudor, Kisau, and Changamwe. The city's flat terrain and high water table make drainage a complex engineering puzzle, one that successive administrations have failed to solve. Residents report sewage mixing with floodwaters, creating a public health hazard that lingers long after the rains have stopped.

Kisumu, perched on the shores of Lake Victoria, is no stranger to flooding either. The city's proximity to the lake means that heavy rains often lead to backflow, inundating homes and roads. Informal settlements, built without regard for zoning laws or en-



Kenya Red Cross responds to flooding in Kitengela, a town located 50km off Kenya's capital Nairobi/FILE

vironmental impact, bear the brunt of the floods. The result is a cycle of displacement, disease, and despair that repeats with every rainy season.

The Kenya Meteorological Department has urged county governments to act swiftly. Their message is clear: improve drainage systems, enforce building codes, and invest in flood mitigation measures. But translating forecasts into action has proven difficult. Budget constraints, political inertia, and bureaucratic red tape have stalled many infrastructure projects. In some cases, corruption has diverted funds meant for drainage upgrades into private pockets, leaving communities vulnerable and angry.

Urban planners and environmentalists say the problem goes deeper than drainage. It is a symptom of a broader failure to integrate climate resilience into urban development. Cities have expanded rapidly, often without proper planning or environmental assessments. Green spaces that once absorbed rainwater have been replaced by concrete jungles. Wetlands have been drained to make way for housing estates. The natural buffers that once protected cities from flooding have been sacrificed at the altar of economic growth.

Climate change is turning up the heat. Warmer temperatures mean more evaporation and, consequently, heavier rainfall. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that East Africa is likely to experience more intense and unpredictable weather events in the coming decades. Kenya's cities, already struggling with basic infrastructure,

are ill-prepared for this new normal. Without adaptation, the floods will only get worse.

The human cost is immense. Flooding displaces thousands, destroys homes, and disrupts education and healthcare. It contaminates water sources, spreads disease, and damages roads and bridges. The economic toll is equally severe. Businesses lose inventory, transport is paralyzed, and productivity plummets. Insurance claims soar, and public resources are stretched thin trying to respond to emergencies.

Yet amid the gloom, there are glimmers of hope. Some counties have begun to take proactive steps. Kisumu has launched a flood early warning system, using mobile alerts to warn residents of impending danger. Nairobi has initiated a pilot project to rehabilitate its drainage network, starting with the Central Business District. Mombasa is exploring nature-based solutions, such as restoring mangroves and wetlands, to enhance flood resilience. These efforts, though limited in scope, show that change is possible.

Experts advocate for a multi-pronged approach. First, cities must invest in modern drainage infrastructure, designed to handle the volume and velocity of urban runoff. This includes expanding stormwater drains, installing retention basins, and using permeable materials in road construction. Second, land use planning must be enforced. Building on riparian land should be prohibited, and existing structures relocated. Third, public awareness is key. Communities must

be educated on flood risks and empowered to participate in mitigation efforts.

Fourth, data and technology can play a transformative role. Satellite imagery, GIS mapping, and predictive modeling can help identify flood-prone areas and guide interventions. Mobile apps can disseminate real-time alerts and connect residents to emergency services. Fifth, inter-agency coordination is vital. Flood management requires collaboration between meteorologists, urban planners, engineers, health officials, and community leaders.

Finally, political will is non-negotiable. Leaders must prioritize flood resilience, allocate adequate resources, and hold contractors accountable. Transparency and public participation can ensure that projects serve the people, not private interests. As the rains approach, the time for action is now.

Kenya's cities are at a tipping point. The floods are not just a natural disaster—they are a man-made crisis born of neglect, poor planning, and environmental degradation. But they are also an opportunity. An opportunity to rethink urban development, embrace sustainability, and build cities that are not only vibrant but resilient. The Kenya Meteorological Department has sounded the alarm. Whether we heed it or not will determine the future of our urban landscapes—and the lives of millions who call them home.

U.S. Shutdown Nears Record As Trump Says He Won't "Be Extorted" By Democrats

By: Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyentimes

The U.S. government shutdown is poised to become the longest ever this week.

Entering its 34th day on Monday, it is only one day short of the 35-day record set by the 2018-2019 closure under President Donald Trump's first administration.

Showing no sign of backing down, Trump said he "won't be extorted" by Democrats to extend subsidies for the expiring Affordable Care Act before they agree to reopen the government. "It's going to get solved. Eventually, they're going to have to vote," said Trump in an interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" on Sunday. "And if they don't vote, it's their problem." The shutdown, which began on Oct. 1 after Democrats and Republicans failed to agree on a funding bill, has caused widespread disruptions. Thousands of federal workers, including air traffic controllers, are set to miss additional paychecks. According to Airlines for America, a trade association for leading U.S. airlines, more than 3.2 million passengers have had flights delayed or canceled due to air traffic controller shortages since the

shutdown began on Oct. 1, Reuters reported. The shutdown has forced 13,000 air traffic controllers and 50,000 Transportation Security Administration officers to work without pay and disrupted tens of thousands of flights, Reuters added.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy told CNBC on Monday that officials would shut down the whole airspace "if we thought that it was unsafe." "America's travel economy has already lost more than 4 billion U.S. dollars due to the shutdown," the U.S. Travel Association, along with hundreds of other travel-related groups and companies, told lawmakers in a letter on Monday. "With Thanksgiving, the busiest travel period of the year, imminently approaching, the consequences of a continued shutdown will be immediate, deeply felt by millions of American travelers, and economically devastating to communities in every state," the letter said, urging Congress to immediately pass a clean continuing resolution to reopen the federal government. According to a report by the Congressional Budget Office last week, the ongoing shutdown could cost the U.S. economy between 7 billion and 14 billion dollars, depending on how long it drags on. Also in the crossfire are the 42 million Americans who rely on fed-

eral food aid.

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries has accused the Trump administration and Republicans of threatening to "weaponize hunger" against the American people and withholding funding for nutritional assistance for children, seniors, veterans and women. The Trump administration said Monday that it will partially fund the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for November, after two judges issued rulings requiring the government to keep the nation's largest food aid program running. The U.S. Department of Agriculture said in a court filing on Monday that a total of 4.65 billion dollars in a contingency fund will be used for November SNAP benefits, which could cover 50 percent of eligible households' current allotments. Senate Democrats have voted 13 times against a GOP-led stopgap bill to fund the government until Nov. 21, insisting that Trump and Republicans must negotiate with them first.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune on Monday told reporters that he was "optimistic" about reopening the government this week. "Based on, sort of, my gut of how these things operate, I think we're getting close to an off-ramp here." But he also added, "If we don't start



US president Donald Trump.

seeing some progress or some evidence of that by at least the middle of this week, it's hard to see how we would finish anything by the end of the week." The longest government shutdown in U.S. history occurred under Trump's first administration, lasting 35 days from Dec. 22, 2018 to Jan. 25, 2019, as Democrats re-

fused to back Trump's proposed funding for the U.S.-Mexico border wall. The Congressional Budget Office's analysis found that the record shutdown cost the U.S. economy 3 billion dollars in forgone economic activity that was never recovered.

Iranians Mark U.S. Embassy Takeover Anniversary Amid Heightened Tensions

By: Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyentimes

Thousands of Iranians rallied across the country yesterday to mark the anniversary of the 1979 takeover of the U.S. embassy, amid heightened tensions with the United States and Israel.

Crowds gathered in cities including the capital Tehran, where demonstrators marched from Palestine Square to the former U.S. embassy, waving Iranian flags and chanting slogans against the United States and Israel. Many carried portraits of Iranians killed in the 12-day conflict with Israel in June. Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qali-



baf told the crowd the anniversary symbolized the day Iranians "loudly and unitedly" rejected oppression, according to the state news agency IRNA. He said Iran would continue to resist pressure from the United States, emphasizing that the country would not trade its independence for anything. The event commemorates Nov. 4, 1979, when Iranian students

stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran and seized dozens of hostages in a standoff that lasted more than a year. Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said on Monday that the incident revealed Washington's "true identity," alleging that documents taken from the embassy showed it was "a center for plotting" against Iran's Islamic Revolution.

Sri Lanka To Recruit Women For Key Railway Posts For First Time



By: Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyentimes

For the first time in the history of Sri Lanka's Railway Department, women will be recruited to positions of engine driver, railway superintendent, station master, and railway su-

pervisory manager, the Government Information Department said in a statement on Tuesday. The Cabinet of Ministers has taken this decision to promote gender inclusivity and expand employment opportunities for women, the department said. Until now, only men have been appointed to the posts since the railway department's establishment in 1858.

Misleaders In Power: Incompetence Everywhere



By: Maina Wahome
@themtkenyatimes

Most of the “leaders” currently masquerading as public servants in Kenya should be in classrooms, learning the basics of civic education, critical thinking, and ethical reasoning, not in parliament trading tribal vitriol. They fail to grasp that leadership is not about the seat you occupy; it is about the difference you make in people’s lives. Their lack of intellectual depth, civic understanding, and moral compass makes them ill-suited to guide a nation. This ignorance is not merely embarrassing; it is dangerous. It cultivates a political culture where incompetence is normalized, mediocrity is rewarded, and accountability is sidelined. Leadership, at its core, is meant to serve humanity, to uplift, reform, and inspire citizens. However, in Kenya, leadership has been tragically reduced to parliamentary theatrics, attention-seeking, and the hoarding of power for personal gain. Public office has become less about service and more about populist performance, where appearance and influence often eclipse integrity and competence.

The essence of leadership has been distorted, and those who perpetuate this misconception must be intellectually and morally deconstructed. What is most appalling is that many of these so-called leaders are supposedly educated individuals, “people who attended school, passed examinations, and are expected to possess critical thinking and civic awareness.” However, instead of serving the people they represent, they exploit their positions for personal aggrandizement. Parliamentary platforms, which should be used to articulate policies, protect citizens’ interests, and enact meaningful legislation, are often turned into stages for self-promotion and tribalistic posturing. This betrayal of public trust is both shameful and profoundly disgraceful, reflecting a broader societal tolerance for mediocrity in leadership.

It is instructive to recall some of the most influential leaders in history, figures whose impact transcended formal political office. Mahatma Gandhi, for instance, epitomized nonviolent resistance and social justice, leading India toward inde-

pendence through ethical persuasion and mass mobilization. Socrates, the classical philosopher, championed critical thinking and moral reasoning, emphasizing the pursuit of truth as a societal obligation. In South Africa, Steve Biko’s black consciousness movement advocated self-determination, human dignity, and liberation from the structural oppression of apartheid. None of these individuals held seats in parliament or executive offices, yet their ideas, convictions, and selfless service transformed societies. In the United States, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., though never holding formal governmental positions, exerted profound moral authority. Malcolm X focused on racial justice, empowerment, and self-respect for African Americans, while Martin Luther King Jr. pursued equality, nonviolence, and civil rights through visionary activism and principled leadership.

It is evident that these figures, collectively, demonstrate that true leadership is defined not by titles or offices but by vision, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to transformative change. Their endeavors highlight that the power of leadership lies in the capacity to inspire, educate, and mobilize societies toward social justice and ethical governance. Kenya’s current political class would benefit from embracing these principles: public office should be a platform for service, not self-interest, with actions guided by enduring ethical and civic values rather than ephemeral popularity or tribal loyalty. Leadership must reject self-aggrandizement and hubris.

A disturbing narrative has also taken root among some people and leaders that education is overrated, simply because educated individuals may remain unemployed. However, few dare to examine the systemic reasons behind this unemployment. If these individuals possess the skills, abilities, and competence, why are they not employed? The truth is that Kenya’s institutions are riddled by corruption, nepotism, and entrenched tribalism. The malfunction of public systems ensures that opportunities for capable graduates are limited, while mediocrity thrives. Watching political debates and televised talk shows, one sees a stark contrast between those who genuinely internalized education and those who simply completed it as a formality. Society has sanctified elective positions as the ultimate path to wealth and influence, while the money some leaders flaunt is rarely justified by official remuneration, exposing a culture of unaccountable excess. According to Transparency International’s 2024 Corruption Perceptions Index, Kenya ranks 121 out of 180 countries, reflecting systemic governance



challenges that allow mediocrity to thrive.

Being prescriptive may appear authoritative to some, but it is imperative to envision a Kenya where leaders are elected based on merit, academic qualifications, manifestos, and integrity, not tribal affiliations, populist fame, or family connections. If a credible, independent forensic audit were conducted by an impartial foreign agency, it would likely expose the alarming moral and intellectual rot within the political class in Kenya. Many elected officials are undisciplined, corrupt, tribally biased, and intellectually disoriented. The nation’s institutions, from parliament to county assemblies, reflect this dysfunction, undermining public trust and eroding the foundations of democracy.

The Mount Kenya region offers a telling example. Many elected representatives have a poor grasp of legislation and constitutional law. Their communication skills, in English, Swahili, and even local languages, are inadequate, rendering them ineffective in debates and parliamentary duties. These individuals were elected not for competence but out of sympathy or populist sentiment: because they come from humble backgrounds, single-parent households, or orphaned families. While compassion is admirable, it is insufficient as the primary criterion for public office. Electing individuals based on sympathy rather than competence undermines governance, legislation, and the delivery of services, perpetuating the cycle of poor leadership.

This region, in particular, must redeem itself from this destructive culture. Electing someone merely because they are popular, perhaps a

musician, entertainer, or social media influencer, demonstrates naivety, ignorance, and a disregard for competence, vision, and the responsibilities of leadership. While there is nothing inherently wrong with creative professionals aspiring to leadership, evidence suggests that many lack the intellectual foundation in legislation, constitutional knowledge, and the ethical grounding necessary to govern responsibly. Fame cannot substitute for understanding constitutionalism, legislative processes, or the practical responsibilities of public office. Civic education must therefore be prioritized and delivered by knowledgeable, principled citizens who resist populist handouts and political expediency.

It is incomprehensible that a person convicted of criminal offenses, or even televised committing acts of violence, can appear more electable in Kenya than a person of integrity who advocates for social justice, inclusivity, and accountability. This crisis is deeply cultural, structural, and systemic. However, it is not insurmountable. Change is possible if visionary individuals are elected, determined to reject defeatist narratives like “this cannot be done in Kenya” or “we lack the capacity.” Kenya possesses abundant natural and human resources, but corruption and mismanagement divert these into private coffers, depriving communities of essential services and undermining the country’s development potential.

The progress or failure of any nation is determined in its classrooms and lecture halls. However, Kenya is replete with “misleaders” whose academic credentials are dubious at best, yet they occupy positions of power and influence. Recently, an

aspirant remarked that “reality in Kenya hits you after graduation,” reflecting the frustration of many educated young people. Instead of lamenting this “reality,” graduates and aspiring leaders should interrogate its root cause: the pervasive dominance of mediocrity in elective offices. In genuinely functional societies, such an absurd state of affairs would be unthinkable. Leaders should challenge the failed systems that deny capable citizens opportunity, rather than demoralize those striving to contribute meaningfully.

Aspiring leaders and those in positions of power must reject intellectual laziness and the glorification of ignorance and tyranny. Kenya cannot afford to tolerate academic dwarfism or celebrate incompetence in the name of populism. The nation’s future demands leaders who are competent, visionary, and committed to education, integrity, and civic responsibility. To tolerate anything less is to mortgage our collective destiny to mediocrity and stagnation.

Through informed civic consciousness, honest meritocracy, and moral courage, Kenya can emerge from the cocoon of complacency, ignorance, and corruption. Leadership is not about power; it is about integrity, purpose, vision, and service. Until the nation embraces that truth, Kenya will continue to be ruled by misleaders rather than governed by principled, visionary leaders capable of transforming society.

Short Bio

Maina Wahome is an author, linguist, and columnist, and he also serves as a lecturer of the English language.

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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *World champions Faith Kipyegon and Beatrice Chebet have missed out of the final list of finalists for the World Athletics awards as fellow Kenyans Sabastian Sawe, Emmanuel Wanyonyi and Peres Jepchirchir earned the nod.

Kipyegon, Chebet Miss Out On World Athletics Awards As Wanyonyi, Sawe And Jepchirchir Make Final Cut

World champions Faith Kipyegon and Beatrice Chebet have missed out of the final list of finalists for the World Athletics awards as fellow Kenyans Sabastian Sawe, Emmanuel Wanyonyi and Peres Jepchirchir earned the nod.

Double world record holder Kipyegon and her double world champion counterpart, Chebet, were up for the Female Track Athlete of the Year but are absent from the final list of nominees.

Instead, it will be the world 400m hurdles champion Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone of the United States and world 400m champion Femke Bol of the Netherlands who will be going head-to-head for top honour.

Kipyegon and Chebet were widely tipped to make the final list following a record-laden year for both of them.

Just before September's World Championships in Tokyo, both of them broke the universe to a standstill at the Prefontaine Classic in Eugene, where both came away with world records.

Chebet clocked a world record of 13:58.06 in the women's 5000m before Kipyegon timed 3:48.68 to smash her previous time of 3:49.04 – set a year earlier at the Paris Diamond League.

In Tokyo, the two were headline grabbers: Chebet won gold in the women's 10,000m and 5000m – to become the first Kenyan to win the 25-lap race since Vivian Cheruiyot – whereas Kipyegon emphatically defended her 1500m crown – becoming the first to win four titles in her discipline.

Kipyegon also came away with silver in the women's 5000m, after coming second to Chebet.

Crowning moment for Wanyonyi



Faith Kipyegon and Beatrice Chebet after competing in 5000m Tokyo World Championships. Photo/WORLD ATHLETIC

For Wanyonyi, 2025 presents an opportunity to win his second World Athletics award since he was crowned the Male Rising Star in 2023.

He will be up against world 200m champion Noah Lyles of the United States for the Male Track Athlete of the Year award.

It will be a just reward for the 20-year-old who clinched his first ever world title in Tokyo, upgrading from the silver he won in the men's 800m at the last edition of the competition in Budapest in 2023.

It also follows a scintillating run in this year's Diamond League where he triumphed in Oslo, Stockholm, Monaco and Zurich to clinch the overall trophy.

Also hoping to be crowned for a productive year is Sawe who

almost smashed the world record for the men's marathon in Berlin after clocking 2:02:16.

Having crossed the 21km mark in 1:00:16 – much faster than world record holder Kelvin Kiptum when he clocked 2:00:35 in Chicago in 2023 – many were hoping that the world half marathon champion would go ahead to better his countryman's record.

Sawe will have to contend with fellow East African, Alphonse Simbu of Tanzania, for the Male Athlete Out of Stadium award.

Simbu makes the cut by virtue of clinching gold in the men's 42km in Tokyo.

The Female Out of Stadium Athlete award will be a battle between Jepchirchir and double racewalk champion Maria Perez

of Spain.

Jepchirchir won the women's marathon title in Tokyo, making up for the pain of missing out on the London Marathon through injury.

On the other hand, Perez won gold in the women's 20km and 35km racewalk.

Voting closes on November 9 (Sunday), with the winners to be announced on November 30.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Njoroge Kibugu overcame a nervous start to claim victory at the Betika Masters, the seventh leg of the Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing, held at VetLab Sports Club.

Kibugu Overcomes Shaky Start To Win Seventh Leg Of Sunshine Development Tour

Njoroge Kibugu overcame a nervous start to claim victory at the Betika Masters, the seventh leg of the Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing, held at VetLab Sports Club.

The win marks Kibugu's a record third title in the Tour's inaugural season, cementing his position as one of Kenya's most consistent and promising players on the regional circuit.

The Windsor Golf & Country Club professional, who began the day tied for the lead with John Wangai, endured a shaky opening stretch, dropping shots on the 1st, 5th, and 6th holes.

However, the 21-year-old kept his composure, picking crucial birdies on the 8th and 9th to steady his round at the turn.

On the back nine, he delivered a composed and confident performance, sinking birdies on the 12th, 13th, 15th, and 16th to post a final-round score of 3-under-par 69, bringing his tournament total to 10-under-par 206, enough to secure a two-shot victory.

Speaking after his round, an elated Kibugu said:

"It feels great coming in off a playoff loss in the last SDT leg at Royal. I feel happy to get it across the line this time, and I am grateful. At the start, I had a few unlucky breaks, but I tried to keep my head in the game because I knew I was hitting the ball well. Once I gave myself chances and hit the greens, it was time for the putts to drop.

He added: "On the back nine stretch, I just tried to hit the fairways, and I knew I had to trust my wedges, and I am happy. I would ask my caddie for the scores just to know my situation. Going into hole 12, I knew we were two behind and needed to get two back. I birdied holes 12 and 13 and went into the last hole with a two-stroke lead, and all I needed was to make par."



Njoroge Kibugu poses for a photo with his Betika Masters trophy at VetLab Sports Club

For his outstanding performance, Kibugu took home KSh 400,000 from the KSh 2 million prize purse.

In second place was Wangai. The Sigona Golf Club professional, and current Professional Golfers of Kenya (PGK) chairman, played a steady round, opting for a conservative approach. He carded birdies on the 4th, 15th, and 17th, and bogeys on the 3rd and 14th to close at 1-under-par 71, finishing with a tournament total of 8-under-par 208.

Speaking after his round, Wangai said:

"It is a good result in the tournament, although I made some mistakes. My game plan was going well until hole 16, when I made a bogey, then another on the 18th, which cost me two shots and gave away the lead. I am not doing well in these tournaments, and I need to work hard to keep my momentum up."

He took home Ksh. 214,000 for his runner-up finish.

Rwanda's Celestin Nsanzuwera continued his impressive run on the Tour, finishing third on 7-un-

der-par 209.

Nsanzuwera had briefly led the field during the final round, but late bogeys on the 16th and 18th saw him slip from the top spot.

His final-round 1-under-par 71 capped a strong week that showcased the growing competitiveness of regional golfers.

He earned Ksh. 144,700 for his performance.

"I gave it my all today and was in a good position for most of the round. Unfortunately, I made a few mistakes toward the end, but overall, I'm happy with how I played. This Tour has given us a platform to grow, gain experience, and measure ourselves against strong competition. Each event feels like a step forward," Nsanzuwera said.

Muthaiga's Greg Snow who was the overnight leader after round one on Sunday, finished fourth on 4-under-par 212, while top amateur Michael Karanga continued his fine form to close the tournament fifth on 3-under-par 213 and take the fifth position on the final leaderboard.

Karanga, the reigning Kenya Am-

ateur Golf Championship winner, was once again the highest-ranked amateur in the field.

The Betika Masters at VetLab Sports Club was the first of two consecutive tournaments -sponsored by Betika.

The event featured 72 players drawn from across Africa and beyond, all competing for the prestigious title, a share of the KSh 2 million purse, along with valuable Order of Merit points, Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) points, and Safari Tour points counting toward qualification for the 2026 Magical Kenya Open.

The Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing continues next week (November 9 to 11) with the Betika Masters at Limuru Country Club.

This will be preceded by a ProAm on Saturday (November 8) where members will have a chance to play alongside the professional players.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Dr. Shana Gourdine, The Power Voice Of Purpose



By: Anila Bukhari
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Dr. Shana's commitment to empowering others was born out of her own healing process. After enduring domestic violence, she made a conscious decision to break free from cycles of pain and silence. Her journey of recovery was not easy, but her faith and determination propelled her forward. She realized that her story, her pain, and her scars could serve as a source of inspiration for many who are walking through similar struggles. This realization sparked her passion to serve as a voice for those who feel unheard and unseen.
- As the founder and CEO of *Shana Unmasking Motivation*, Dr. Shana created a groundbreaking platform to help individuals unmask their pain, confront their fears, and embrace their healing journey.

Dr. Shana Gourdine stands as a beacon of resilience, faith, and transformation. Renowned as The Power Voice of Purpose, she is an empowerment advocate, inspirational author, motivational speaker, and life coach whose mission is rooted in helping others heal, grow, and walk confidently in their divine purpose. Her life story is a testament to the power of perseverance—turning personal pain into a powerful platform of hope and empowerment.

Born and raised in a community that valued strength and faith, Dr. Shana's journey has been anything but easy. She faced numerous challenges early on, including domestic violence, chronic illness, and personal loss. These experiences, rather than breaking her, became the catalysts for her purpose-driven mission. Through her own trials, she discovered that even in the midst of darkness, there is a light worth fighting for—a light that can ignite transformation in others.

Dr. Shana's commitment to empowering others was born out of her own healing process. After enduring domestic violence, she made a conscious decision to break free from cycles of pain and silence. Her journey of recovery was not easy, but her faith and determination propelled her forward. She realized that her story, her pain, and her scars could serve as a source of inspiration for many who are walking through similar struggles. This realization sparked her passion to serve as a voice for those who feel unheard and unseen.

As the founder and CEO of *Shana Unmasking Motivation*, Dr. Shana created a groundbreaking platform to help individuals unmask their pain, confront their fears, and embrace their healing journey. Her coaching programs and workshops are designed to empower both women and men to shed their masks of shame and embrace their authentic selves. Her approach emphasizes self-love, forgiveness, and faith—values that she exemplifies in her own life every day.

In addition to her coaching endeavors, Dr. Shana is the visionary behind *Unmasking Motivation Magazine*, where she serves as owner and editor-in-chief. This publication was birthed from her desire to showcase authentic stories of triumph, resilience, and transformation. Through the magazine, she highlights individuals who have overcome adversity and are now living purposefully, inspiring others to do the same. It has become a powerful resource for those seeking hope and encouragement in their personal and professional lives.

Dr. Shana's literary contributions include a number of impactful publications. Her children's book, **Owen and Bullies*, addresses the importance of standing up against bullying and cultivating courage at a young age. Her anthology, *Turn My Pain Into Purpose**, features 38 inspiring stories of individuals who transformed their struggles into testimonies of faith, strength, and victory. Her devotional books and motivational resources continue to serve as guides for those seeking to deepen their self-love, faith, and purpose.

Beyond her writing, Dr. Shana is a sought-after speaker and community advocate. She has graced stages at conferences, churches, and workshops, sharing her story and empowering audiences to confront their own truths. Her speaking engagements often focus on domestic violence awareness, self-love, mental health, and healing, reminding listeners that true strength lies in vulnerability and authenticity. Her heartfelt messages encourage others to unmask their pain, embrace their purpose, and live boldly.

Her work has earned her numerous accolades and honors. Among these are the *Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing her ongoing dedication to community service and empowerment, and an **Honorary Doctorate Degree*—a testament to her impact and influence. These honors serve as acknowledgments of her unwavering



Dr. Shana Gourdine

commitment to making a difference through her advocacy, writing, and speaking.

Dr. Shana's influence extends beyond her books and platforms. She believes in the power of community and collaboration, often partnering with organizations to host workshops, seminars, and outreach programs aimed at empowering underserved populations. Her holistic approach to healing—addressing mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being—resonates deeply with her followers and clients alike.

Despite her many accomplishments, Dr. Shana remains humble and grounded. Her life is a living example of what it means to thrive through adversity. Her message is

simple yet profound: healing is a journey, not a destination. It requires patience, faith, and the willingness to confront uncomfortable truths. Her story reminds everyone that no matter how broken life may seem, beauty, purpose, and power can rise from the ashes of pain.

Today, Dr. Shana continues to serve as a voice of hope and transformation. Through her coaching programs, magazine, books, and speaking engagements, she inspires countless individuals to unmask