



CS Kagwe: Treason Charges Loom For Fake Seed Dealers

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has called for the harshest possible punishment for individuals involved in the sale of fake seeds, saying the offence amounts to economic sabotage and should be treated as treason.

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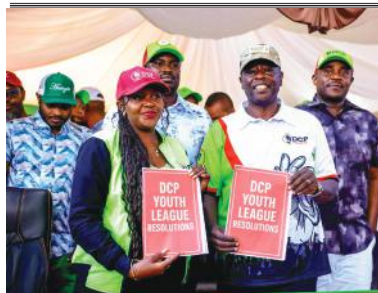


News>> Kenya Launches Cochlear Implant Programme To Advance Inclusive And Specialised Healthcare

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Lecturers Back After 49-Day Strike

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News>> DCP: Gachagua Calls On Youth To Seek Leadership

P. 12. DCP Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua has urged young people to take charge of the country's future by actively participating in leadership.



Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba and Higher Education Principal Secretary Beatrice Inyangala.

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DCP Holds National Youth League Caucus

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Dozens of youth affiliated to DCP yesterday met at the party headquarters in Nairobi for a national caucus. The youth, drawn from all parts of the country vowed to mobilise and ensure as many millions of Kenyans as possible registered as voters ahead of the 2027 General Elections. Several party officials, led by party leader Rigathi Gachagua attended the forum.

See another story in this edition



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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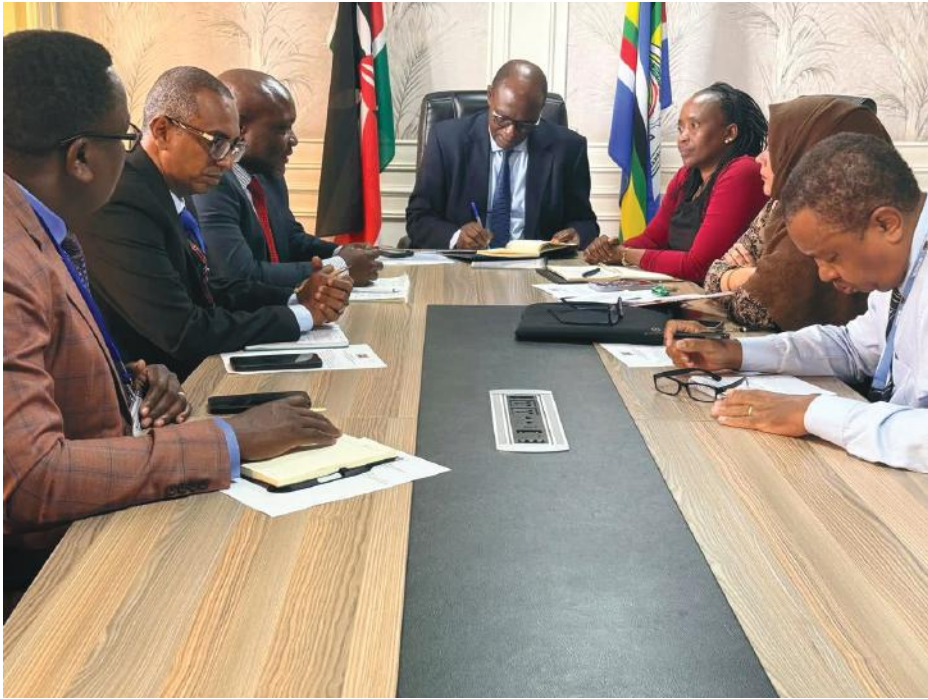


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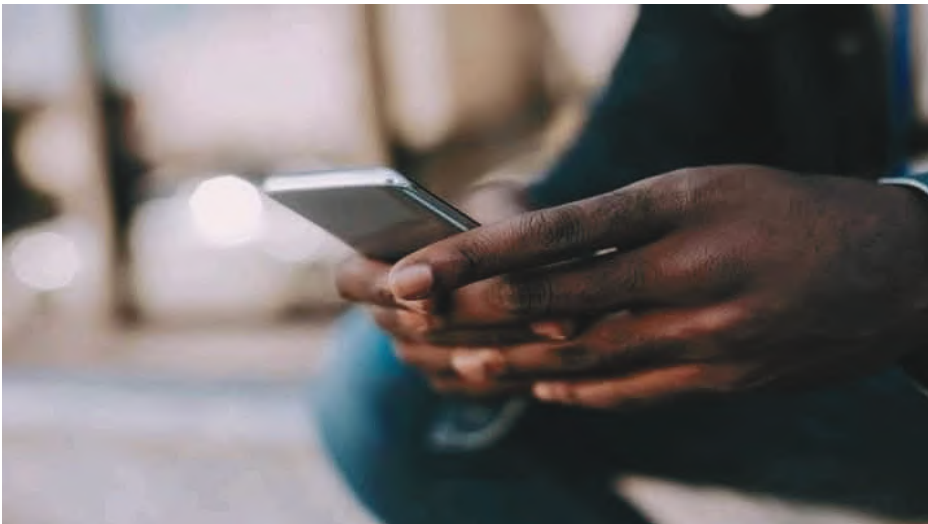
NEWS IN BRIEF



The Director-General for Health, Dr Patrick Amoth yesterday met with the newly appointed Heads of Directorates at the Ministry of Health headquarters in Nairobi to enhance coordination, leadership, and accountability across the Ministry. The meeting provided an opportunity to align the new leadership team with the Government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and the Ministry's goal of achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Dr Amoth underscored the importance of professionalism, teamwork, and adherence to the Health Act, 2017, in strengthening governance and improving service delivery. He called for effective communication and collaboration among directorates to ensure seamless implementation of health policies and programmes. The newly appointed Heads of Directorates are Stephen Muleshe (Public Health), Dr Joel Gondi (Family Health), Dr Omar Ahmed (Health Sector Coordination and Inter-governmental Relations), Dr Nazila Ganatra (Health Products and Technologies), and Dr Nancy Njeru (Digital Health, Health Financing, Policy and Research).



The Independent Police Oversight Authority (IPOA) yesterday received 1,000 copies of the organization's regulations that will be used to enhance mass sensitisation among their partners and which seek to operationalise the IPOA Act. The copies were presented to Chief Executive Officer Elema Halake by Ulrich Jänen, Team Leader of the GIZ Programme to Build and Strengthen Police Structures in Kenya, at IPOA Headquarters. The CEO appreciated the donation, noting its direct contribution to Strategic Plan KRA 2 on strengthening public trust and confidence in IPOA and the NPS.



The Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) has launched investigations into two suspected KCSE examination cheating incidents in Marsabit County involving 17 candidates found with mobile phones. Nine candidates were caught with phones during the Chemistry Paper One at Sessi Secondary School in Moyale, while eight others were also found with mobile phones at a private examination centre in Marsabit Central. Area Deputy County Commissioner David Saruni said the confiscated phones have been handed over to police for forensic analysis, adding that the candidates will continue with exams pending the outcome. Authorities have warned of stern action against anyone found engaging in exam malpractice



ODM Acting Party Leader Dr. Oburu Odinga has expressed his commitment to strengthening the 20-year-old party ahead of the 2027 General Election, amid ongoing discussions over the Broad-Based Government arrangement with the ruling UDA party. Speaking in Mombasa during his first meeting with ODM grassroots leaders since his confirmation as Acting Party Leader following the passing of Raila Odinga, Dr. Oburu said he is ready to fill the void left by his late brother and lead the party to new heights. Dr. Oburu, who described the late Raila as more than a brother but also a confidant and friend, said the loss has been deeply personal, noting they were only a year and two months apart in age.

DStv has cut decoder prices to win back customers after losing over 80% of its subscribers. Zapper decoders dropped from Sh1,199 to Sh850, while GOtv decoders fell from Sh999 to Sh799; offer runs till Dec 31. Other services that have been cut are the DStv dish kit, now Sh1,650 down from Sh2,000, and the GOtv antenna, now Sh700 from Sh1,000. The subscription packages remains the same.



NEWS PAPER

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Meru Flags Off KSh60M Medical Supplies To Hospitals

By: Kamanja Maeria and Visaho Delson

@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

Speaking during the flag-off ceremony held at the Meru County Headquarters, Kiome reaffirmed the County government's unwavering commitment to providing quality and accessible healthcare services to all residents.

"We are determined to ensure that every patient who seeks care in our hospitals and clinics receives the attention they deserve. This is not just a priority for us, but a shared responsibility that we are committed to fulfilling," she said.



Meru County Deputy Governor Lindah Kiome and other officials during the flagging off ceremony.

Meru County Deputy Governor Lindah Kiome yesterday flagged off a consignment of medical supplies worth KSh60 million, in a move aimed at strengthening healthcare delivery across the County.

The consignment, destined for Level 4 and Level 5 health facilities, forms part of an ongoing effort by the County government to ensure that all 216 health facilities are adequately stocked with essential medicines and medical equipment.

Speaking during the flag-off ceremony held at the Meru County Headquarters, Kiome reaffirmed the County government's unwavering commitment to providing quality and accessible healthcare services to all residents.

"We are determined to ensure that every patient who seeks care in our hospitals and clinics receives the attention

they deserve. This is not just a priority for us, but a shared responsibility that we are committed to fulfilling," she said.

The DG noted that the shipment was the first of several planned deliveries, with additional consignments earmarked for level 2 and level 3 health facilities in the coming week.

This initiative follows the county government's budget allocation of Sh300 million to the health sector in the current financial year.

These funds are dedicated to the purchase of essential medical supplies and improvement of healthcare infrastructure.

The consignment includes a wide range of health products and technologies designed to address the diverse medical needs of Meru residents.

The distribution of these supplies is

part of a broader effort by the county government to strengthen service delivery, improve patient care, and ensure that no health facility faces shortages of critical medical resources.

She expressed gratitude to Governor Isaac Mutuma for his continued support and commitment to ensuring that county pharmacies remained well-stocked and health facilities adequately equipped.

"This financial year, we have allocated Sh300 million to the health sector to ensure that our hospitals and clinics are well prepared to meet the needs of our people," she said.

The event was graced by several senior county officials, including Health Services CECM Dr. Denis Muriungi, Youth Affairs, Sports, Gender and Social Development CECM Elias Murega, County Attorney Lucy Kaaria,

Health Services Ag. Chief Officer Dr. Koome Muthuri, Igoji East MCA Damiano Muchui, and Dr. Charles Maina representing KEMSA.

Highlighting further progress in the county's healthcare development, Kiome noted that plans were underway to elevate the Meru Teaching and Referral Hospital to a Level 6 facility with an 800 bed capacity.

"This is a major milestone for our healthcare system and a testament to our commitment to providing world-class healthcare to our residents," she said.

The Deputy Governor urged all residents to register for the Social Health Authority (SHA) to ensure they have access to quality healthcare services.

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Kenya Launches Cochlear Implant Programme To Advance Inclusive And Specialised Healthcare

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya has taken a major step towards inclusive healthcare with the launch of the Cochlear Implant Programme at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH); a partnership between the Office of the First Lady, Rachel Ruto, and Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Asmaa of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale joined the First Lady and Her Royal Highness for the launch, which marks a new milestone in expanding access to specialised hearing care for children with disabilities.

Valued at over KSh120 million, the initiative provides 70 cochlear implants and symbolises a shared commitment to improving paediatric hearing services and promoting inclusive healthcare across the country.

The launch concluded a week-long medical mission during which 25 children received cochlear implants, targeting 50 beneficiaries in to-



First Lady Rachel Ruto with other guests at KNH yesterday. Photos/Courtesy

tal, through collaboration between Moroccan surgeons and Kenyan ENT specialists at KNH; a practical demonstration of South-South cooperation in healthcare.

CS Duale reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to strengthening ear and hearing care as a key pillar of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). He noted that cochlear implant surgeries are now covered under the Social Health Authority (SHA) benefit package,

costed at KSh358,400, protecting families from catastrophic medical expenses.

Cochlear implants have also been included in the Kenya Essential Medical Supplies List (2023) for Level 5 and 6 hospitals, with ongoing efforts to make them accessible through KEMSA.

In addition, through the AT Scale Project, the Ministry has distributed hearing devices and diagnostic equip-

ment to more than 25 health facilities nationwide — restoring hearing and transforming lives.

The event also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Kenya and the Kingdom of Morocco, deepening collaboration between the Kenya Voice of Children Foundation and the Princess Lalla Asmaa Foundation.

Hosted by KNH CEO Dr Richard

Lesiyampe and Board Chair Dr Abbas Gullet, the ceremony was attended by Abderrazzak Laassel (Ambassador of Morocco), Ms Naima Ben Yahia (Morocco's Minister of Solidarity, Social Integration and Family), Cabinet Secretary for Gender Ms Cheptumo Wendot, Principal Secretary for Medical Services Dr Ouma Oluga, and Nairobi County Deputy Governor Mr James Muchiri.

Kenya-UK Trade Hits Record Sh340bn As Exports Rise 14 Per Cent

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya's trade with the United Kingdom hit a record Sh340 billion (£2.1 billion) in the year ending September 2025 — a Sh40.5 billion increase compared to last year — driven by a 14 per cent surge in Kenyan exports and an 8 per cent rise in UK exports, new data from the UK Department for Business and Trade shows.

According to the report released on October 31, 2025, total trade in goods and services between the two countries grew by 11.9 per cent, crossing the Sh340 billion mark for the first time.

The growth was fueled by strong performance in Kenya's agricultural exports, particularly animal and vegetable products, beverages, and tea and coffee.

During the review period, Kenya exported goods worth Sh63 billion (£371 million) and services worth Sh71.5 billion (£421 million) to the

UK.

Exports of animal and vegetable products grew the fastest — up 15.6 percent to Sh28.7 billion (£169.2 million) — followed by beverages, including coffee and tea, which rose 12.8 percent to Sh24.3 billion (£143.3 million).

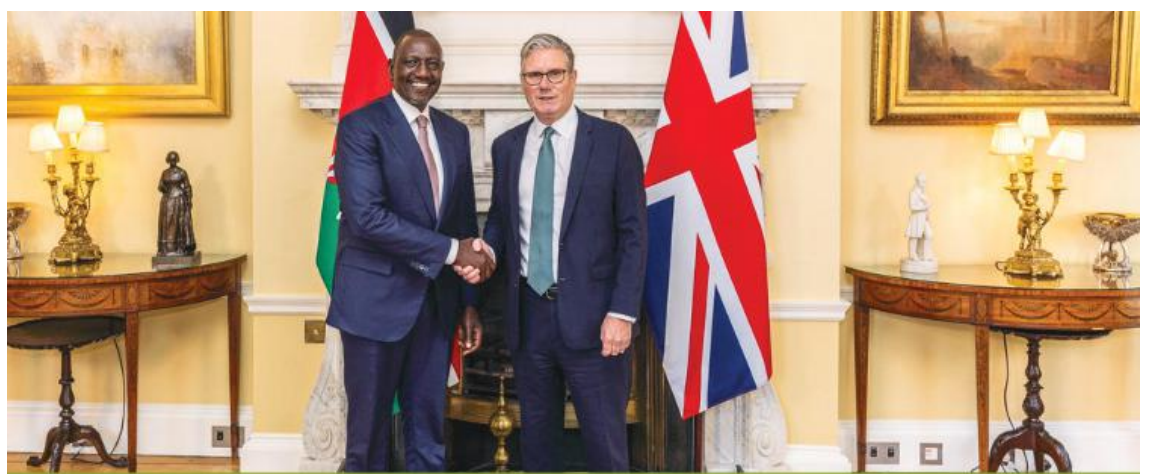
Meanwhile, UK exports to Kenya rose to Sh134.6 billion (£792 million), compared to Sh124 billion (£733 million) in 2024.

Mechanical power generators posted the strongest growth at 18.3 per cent, followed by refined oil and cars at 12 and 10 per cent, respectively.

Dr. Ed Barnett, Chargé d'Affaires at the British High Commission in Nairobi, said the renewed trade partnership between Kenya and the UK is "turbocharging" bilateral trade.

"The UK and Kenya are turbocharging trade. Our renewed Strategic Partnership is already delivering progress in a matter of months. To turn ambitions into reality, we're working together to break down trade barriers. We go far when we go together," Barnett said.

He added that the two nations aim



President William Ruto meets UK Prime-Minister Keir Starmer/PCS/FILE

to double current trade volumes by 2030, building on their shared goal to boost economic growth.

Principal Secretary for Trade, Dr. Regina Ombam, said the milestone reflects a robust and expanding economic partnership that continues to create new export and investment opportunities.

"We are propelling our export growth, targeting to increase the

product range and market destination diversity, and the data we have seen is a testament to our collective efforts," Ombam stated.

She emphasized the importance of diversifying exports and enhancing Kenya's market access through value addition, noting that Kenya will deepen its export range and branding to reach new destinations.

"We will support this process by

promoting and facilitating branding and export promotion of goods and services made in Kenya to access export markets," she added.

The UK remains one of Kenya's largest foreign investors, with about 150 British companies operating locally, employing over 250,000 Kenyans, and ranking among the country's top taxpayers.

Lecturers Return To Lecture Halls As 49-Day Standoff Ends In Historic Deal

By: Mercy Simiyu
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

The strike, which began in late September, was rooted in grievances over unpaid salary arrears and delayed implementation of the 2021–2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). For weeks, union leaders held firm, demanding the release of Sh7.8 billion owed to staff under the previous CBA and pressing for clarity on future negotiations. The government's initial reluctance to meet these demands led to a tense standoff, with students caught in the crossfire and university calendars thrown into disarray. As the days stretched on, pressure mounted from all corners—students, parents, and even some lawmakers—urging both sides to find common ground.

The turning point came when the government, through the Ministry of Education, offered a phased payment plan to settle the arrears. According to the deal, Sh7.8 billion will be disbursed in two tranches: the first in November 2025 and the second in July 2026.

After nearly seven weeks of silence in lecture halls and administrative offices across Kenya's public universities, the air is once again filled with the hum of academic life. The 49-day strike by university staff unions, which had paralyzed learning and disrupted operations nationwide, came to a dramatic end on yesterday, following a breakthrough agreement with the government. The Universities Academic Staff Union (UASU), Kenya University Staff Union (KUSU), and Kenya Union of Domestic, Hotels, Educational Institutions, Hospitals and Allied Workers (KUDHEIHA) jointly announced the suspension of the industrial action, marking a pivotal moment in the long-standing struggle for fair compensation and recognition of university workers' rights.

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The turning point came when the government, through the Ministry of Education, offered a phased payment plan to settle the arrears. According to the deal, Sh7.8 billion will be disbursed in two tranches: the first in November 2025 and the second in July 2026. This offer, though not immediate in full, was deemed acceptable by union leaders who described it as a "positive step" toward resolving systemic issues that have plagued the sector for years. UASU Secretary-General Constantine Wasonga, speaking at a press conference in Nairobi, emphasized that the unions accepted the offer in good faith and were committed to resuming work to restore normalcy in universities.

The agreement also includes a return-to-work formula that guarantees no victimization of staff



Stakeholders during a meeting: PHOTO/ Courtesy

who participated in the strike. Additionally, it sets a 30-day timeline for concluding negotiations on the 2025–2029 CBA, a move that signals the government's willingness to engage proactively with university staff on future terms of service. Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba, who played a central role in brokering the deal, lauded the unions for their patience and resilience, acknowledging that the prolonged strike had exposed critical gaps in the government's handling of labor relations within the education sector.

For students, the end of the strike is a welcome relief. Many had been stranded mid-semester, unsure whether to return home or wait out the impasse. Final-year students, in particular, faced the risk of delayed graduations, while first-years missed crucial orientation and academic grounding. With the resumption of classes, universities are now racing to revise academic calendars and salvage the lost time. Administrators are working overtime to ensure that examinations, research activities, and graduation ceremonies proceed without further disruption.

The ripple effects of the strike extended beyond campus gates. Vendors, transport operators, and local businesses that rely on university populations for income experienced

a sharp downturn. In towns like Eldoret, Kisumu, and Meru, the economic impact was palpable. The return of students and staff is expected to rejuvenate these micro-economies, restoring livelihoods and community vibrancy.

However, the resolution of the strike, while celebrated, also raises deeper questions about the sustainability of Kenya's higher education funding model. The recurring nature of industrial actions in universities points to systemic underfunding and a lack of long-term planning. Experts argue that unless the government adopts a more structured approach to financing education and honoring CBAs, similar disruptions are bound to recur. The unions have called for the establishment of a permanent consultative framework that includes representatives from the Treasury, Ministry of Education, and university councils to preempt future conflicts.

Political analysts note that the government's decision to settle the arrears may have been influenced by growing public discontent and the looming budget review cycle. With education being a cornerstone of national development, prolonged instability in universities could undermine Kenya's Vision 2030 goals and its competitiveness in the global knowledge economy. The strike also

drew international attention, with some foreign partners expressing concern over the reliability of Kenya's academic institutions, especially those involved in joint research and exchange programs.

In the aftermath of the deal, union leaders have vowed to remain vigilant. They have urged members to resume duties but remain united in pushing for full implementation of the agreement. "This is not the end—it's a new beginning," said KUSU Chairperson Charles Mukhwaya. "We will continue to advocate for dignity, fairness, and respect for all university staff. Our voices must never be ignored again."

As lectures resume and students file back into Lecture Halls, the mood is cautiously optimistic. There is a sense of relief, but also a recognition that the hard-won victory must be safeguarded through continued dialogue and accountability. For now, the chalk is back on the board, the books are open, and the future of Kenya's intellectual engine is once again in motion.

Would you like a follow-up piece analyzing the impact of the strike on university students and academic timelines? I can prepare that next.

Coffee Worth KSh447 Million Sold This Week

By: Henry Kinyua
 @themtkenyatimes

The fifth coffee sale in the 2025/26 season fetched KSh447 million.

The trading, held at the Nairobi Coffee Exchange on Tuesday saw a total of 7,147 bags of coffee, weighing 444,889 kilograms traded with a total valuation of USD3,465,665 (about KSh447 million).

The average price standing was USD 390 per 50-kilogram bag, which is equivalent to about KSh155 per kilogram of cherry gross.

Records from the trading floor show that the highest price recorded was USD 465 per 50-kilogram bag.

This premium was paid for three lots of AA-grade coffee: 18 bags from Kiriangoro Factory, which is part of the Thangaini Farmers' Cooperative Society (FCS) in Murang'a; 19 bags from Kagwanja Factory under Komothai FCS in Kiambu County; and 28 bags from Ndaro-ini in Nyeri County.

Among the coffee brokers, Kipkelion Broker Company Ltd led the market, trading 1,090 bags (67,864 kg) at an average price of USD 417.

They were followed by Alliance Berries Limited with 1,025 bags (63,331 kg) at USD 411 and Coffee Estates Bourgeoisie Brokers Limited with 977 bags (60,518 kg) at USD 344.

Other notable brokers included New Kenya Planters Co-operative Union PLC, which traded 1,396 bags (87,706 kg) at USD 366; United Eastern Kenya Coffee Marketing Co. Ltd with 733 bags (44,696 kg) at USD 402; KCCE Marketing Agency Limited with 635 bags (39,956 kg) at USD 402; Minnesota Coffee Marketers Limited with 561 bags (35,430 kg) at USD 375; Mt. Elgon Coffee Marketing Agency with 478 bags (30,035 kg) at USD 423; and Kinya Coffee Marketing Agency Ltd with 252 bags (15,353 kg) at USD 392.

On the buyer's side, the top five dealers dominated the market. Kenyacof Limited led with 1,760 bags (109,767 kg) valued at USD 899,568.66.

Louis Dreyfus Company followed, purchasing 1,483 bags (92,726 kg) worth USD 706,570.94. Ibero Kenya Ltd bought 1,462 bags (90,718 kg) for USD 654,200.68. Taylor Winch (Coffee) Limited secured 846 bags (51,761 kg) valued at USD 428,323.58, while C.Dormans SEZ Ltd acquired 410 bags (25,195 kg) for USD 222,378.40. Collectively, these five dealers ac-

counted for approximately 68% of the total market volume and 80% of the overall market value.



Sale 5 of Tuesday, November 4, 2025

MARKET TOTAL						
GRADE	Bags offered	Weight offered	Min price	Max price	Value (USD)	Average price
AA	1,731	107,225	340.00	465.00	945,191.04	440.75
AB	2,402	148,258	378.00	431.00	1,227,989.04	414.14
C	945	59,803	211.00	403.00	463,143.44	387.22
HE	27	1,749	196.00	265.00	7,793.76	222.81
MH	1,012	62,152	204.00	353.00	400,136.20	321.90
ML	178	11,346	120.00	230.00	42,375.20	186.74
NH	107	6,510	319.00	384.00	46,980.28	360.83
PB	286	18,479	332.00	422.00	148,508.90	401.83
SB	22	1,247	197.00	198.00	4,928.16	197.60
T	153	9,686	169.00	352.00	54,112.54	279.33
TT	95	6,274	209.00	410.00	48,478.34	370.40
UG1	129	8,128	227.00	400.00	57,289.44	352.42
UG2	60	4,032	192.00	387.00	20,738.26	257.17
TOTAL:	7,147	444,889	120.00	465.00	3,465,664.60	389.50

Note Prices are in USD per 50 Kg



Avocado Exporters Call For Stricter Controls

By: Florence Kinyua
@themtkenyentimes



Avocado Exporters Association of Kenya officials briefing journalists after their Annual General Meeting

Worth Noting:

- Mitul Shah, a Co-founder of Crofts Company which manufactures avocado oil for export, said the premature harvesting of fruits remained the most pressing concern.
- “Some buyers have raised complaints that Kenyan avocados no longer meet international standards. Immature fruits lack the right flavour and oil content, which hurts our reputation in the export market,” he said.
- Shah explained that while farmers previously harvested twice a year, increased demand for avocado oil has pushed many to pick fruits throughout the year.
- “Before 2020, harvesting took place twice annually — early in the year and again around October. But the entry of more oil processors has led to year-round harvesting, including unripe fruits,” he noted.

Avocado exporters have urged the government to tighten regulations in the fast-growing sector, warning that poor harvesting practices and unchecked competition are threatening Kenya’s position in the global market.

According to the Avocado Exporters Association of Kenya (AEAK), the industry earned the country more than KSh25 billion last year.

Speaking during the association’s Annual General Meeting in Kabati, Murang’a County, the exporters pointed at mounting challenges including immature harvesting and farm-gate theft that risked undermining the progress made over the years.

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year and again around October. But the entry of more oil processors has led to year-round harvesting, including unripe fruits,” he noted.

The competition for raw fruits intensified after 2020, when new oil processing firms entered the market.

Currently, Kenya has 54 avocado oil plants, despite having only 32,000 hectares under avocado cultivation—a stark contrast to Mexico, which has 257,571 hectares and just 38 processing plants.

Shah warned that the growing number of processors could overwhelm local production and further encourage immature harvesting.

“Why export fruits that aren’t ready? The flavour and fat content of an avocado depend on its dry matter. Anything below 28 percent shouldn’t be sold,” he warned.

He estimated that the industry has already lost about Sh20 billion this year due to premature harvesting.

Out of 600,000 metric tonnes of avocados processed since January, only 30,000 tonnes of oil were produced, far below the 54,000-tonne capacity.

The exporters’ association has welcomed the government’s move to suspend avocado shipments by sea from October 20 to allow fruits to mature.

“Exports of Hass, Fuerte, Pinkerton, and Jumbo varieties will continue by air under strict inspection,

with the decision set for review in January next year,” said AEAK Chairperson Anthony Nderitu.

He urged both county and national governments to support farmers to increase production and curb immature harvesting.

“We have to work closely with the government, but the sector needs more coordination. Counties that do not currently produce avocados should be supported to start planting so we can meet the growing demand,” he said.

He noted that the number of oil processors could rise from 54 to 75 within a year, yet the current ones are already struggling to find enough fruits.

Nderitu further revealed that individuals who encourage farm theft are not registered members of the association, which enforces strict

compliance among its 65 members. “We are moving towards full self-regulation to ensure all exporters follow the right standards and maintain sustainability in the sector,” he said.

He also pointed to stiff competition from Peru, Mexico, and South Africa, which dominate the global avocado market between May and July.

He said Kenyan exporters take advantage of the off-season months of February to April and August to October to maximise sales.

“We need continuous farmer education on proper crop husbandry and the importance of harvesting only mature fruits. Every immature harvest is a direct loss to the farmer and the country,” he emphasized.

The association has 65 members.



DCP: Gachagua Calls On Youth To Seek Leadership

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

DCP Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua has urged young people to take charge of the country's future by actively participating in leadership.

Speaking during the DCP Youth League forum at the party's headquarters, Gachagua challenged the youth to vie for leadership positions, emphasizing that they are the most vital stakeholders; the present and the future of Kenya.

The former Deputy President noted that if things go wrong, the youth will bear the brunt of the consequences, but they stand to benefit most if the country moves in the right direction.

Revisiting Gen-Z demonstrations and the associated violence, Gachagua condemned the killings and denounced the heinous acts, affirming his opposition to violence and unrest.

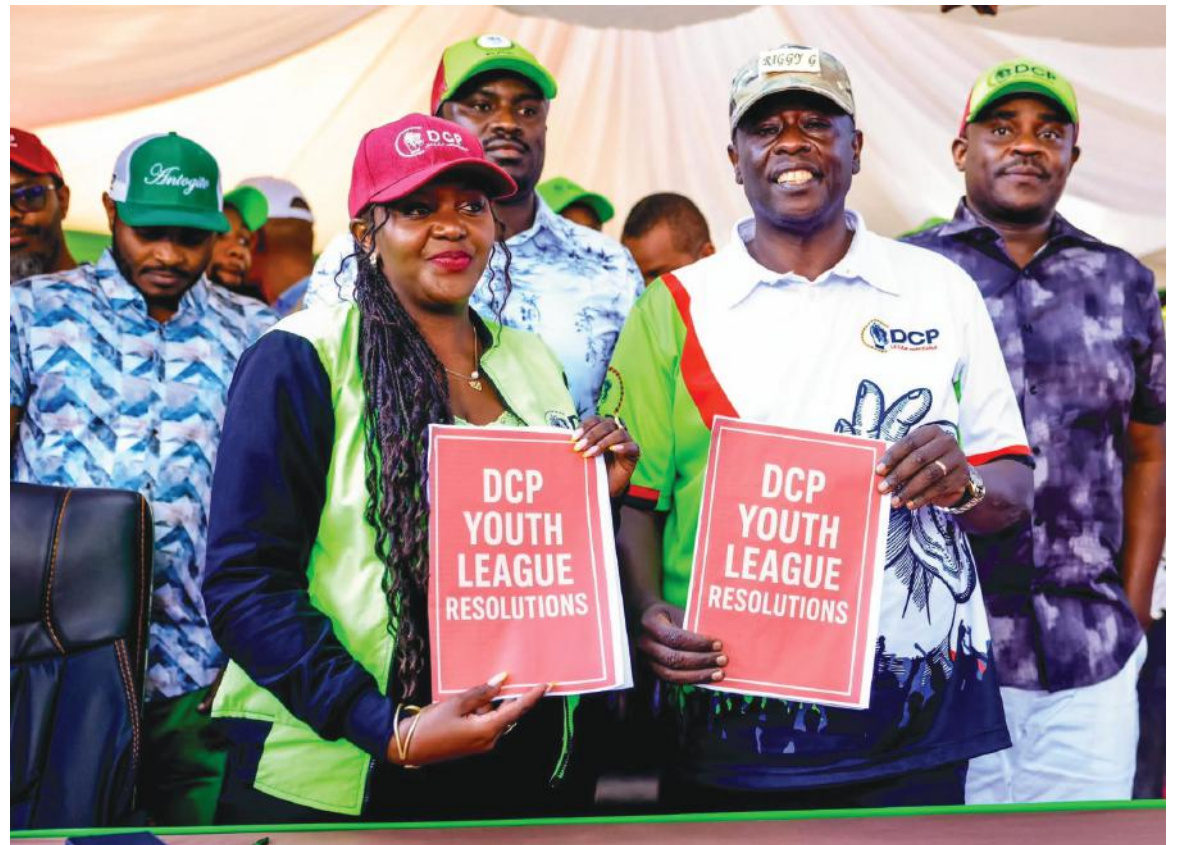
He commended the youth for their role in standing against vices and urged them to see their involvement in national affairs as a duty with destiny.

He pointed to the 2027 elections as a pivotal moment where the youth can help rewrite Kenya's history for the better.

On their participation in party activities, Gachagua reassured the youth that the DCP Party is their party, emphasizing that he is merely a conduit for their voices.

He encouraged them to mobilize their peers to register as voters and obtain identification cards.

He also pledged that committed youth members will be considered for nomination positions in the upcoming general elections.



DCP party leader Rigathi Gachagua with party's Executive Director Brenda Banjira with a document containing Youth resolutions after yesterday's meeting.

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during the DCP Youth League forum at the party's headquarters, Gachagua challenged the youth to vie for leadership positions, emphasizing that they are the most vital stakeholders; the present and the future of Kenya.

- The former Deputy President noted that if things go wrong, the youth will bear the brunt of the consequences, but they stand to benefit most if the country moves in the right direction.

- Revisiting Gen-Z demonstrations and the associated violence, Gachagua condemned the killings and denounced the heinous acts, affirming his opposition to violence and unrest.

- He commended the youth for their role in standing against vices and urged them to see their involvement in national affairs as a duty with destiny.

Regarding his plans for youth engagement, Gachagua emphasized that if elected President, he intends to fully involve young people in his government and appoint them to key leadership positions.

Responding to President William Ruto's recent statement that he no longer has a strong candidate, Gachagua reiterated that the contest will be

between William Ruto and the people of Kenya, not against any opposition candidate.

He further criticized the President for allegedly failing to fulfill promises made to Kenyans.

Gachagua was accompanied by several prominent leaders, including Deputy Party Leader Cleophas Malala, Kiambu Senator Karungo Wa

Thangwa, Naivasha MP Jayne Kihara, Embakasi Central MP Mejjadonk Gathiru, Kigumo MP Kamau Munyoro, Manyatta MP Gitonga Mukunji, Starehe MP Amos Mwago, Gatanga MP Edward Muriu and DCP Nairobi County coordinator Irungu Nyakera, among others



DCP Party leadership who attended yesterday's forum in a group photo. Photos/Courtesy..

EACC Uncovers KSh3.8 Billion Graft Scandal At State Department For Sports

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) has launched a major investigation into alleged embezzlement of KSh 3.8 billion at the State Department for Sports, in what could be one of the largest corruption scandals to hit the ministry in recent years.

The anti-graft agency yesterday executed court-sanctioned search warrants at the residences and offices of senior officials at the department, as well as private business owners believed to have colluded with them.

The operation, which was conducted simultaneously in Nairobi, Nanyuki, Machakos, Kiambu and Nyeri counties targeted individuals suspected of unlawfully acquiring public funds between the 2020/2021 and 2025/2026 financial years.

According to a statement released by EACC last evening, the suspects

allegedly abused their positions of authority to embezzle government funds through procurement fraud and collusion.

The officials under investigation include Senior Assistant Commissioner of Sports Caroline Muthoni Kariuki, Deputy Accountant General for ASALs and Regional Development Otis Mutwiri Nturibi and State Department for Sports Accountant David Muasya Musau.

Also implicated are private businesspersons Dickson Kibunyi Mahia, the Director of Turkenya Tours & Safaris Limited and Afromerch Travel Kenya Limited, and Maureen Wangui Wambugu, Director of Smart Flows Travel Limited.

During yesterday's raids, EACC officers recovered significant evidence believed to be linked to the suspected graft.

Items seized included cash amounting to KSh5.46 million, government securities worth KSh597 million, thirteen motor vehicles, twenty-eight parcels of land and thirty-seven bank

accounts associated with the suspects.

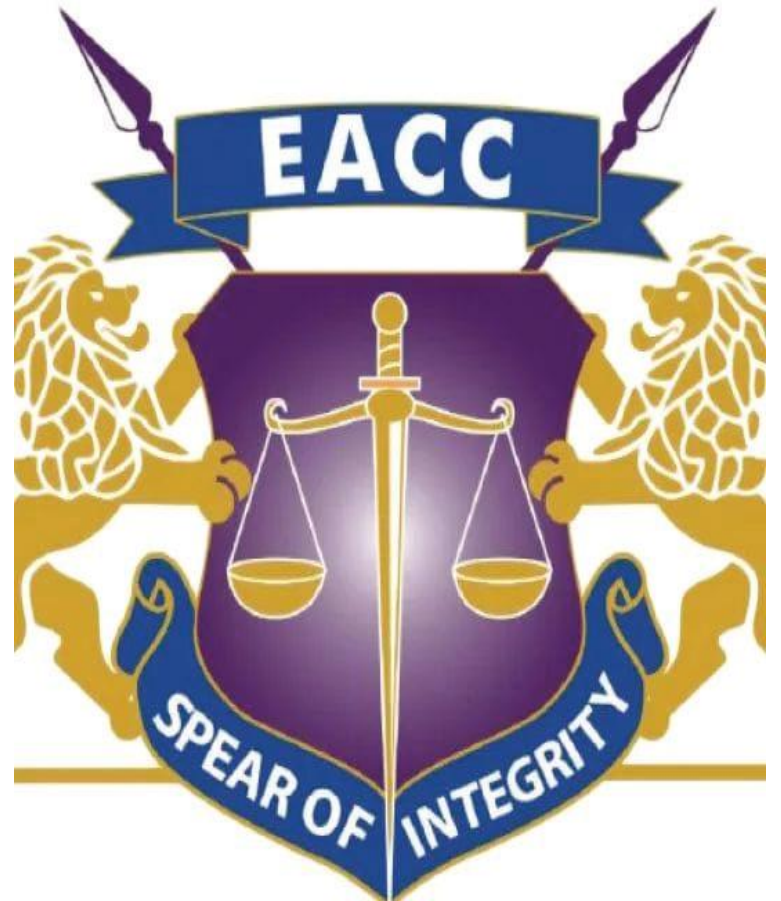
Following the operation, all the individuals of interest were taken to the EACC headquarters at Integrity Centre in Nairobi for questioning and to record statements.

The Commission said the materials obtained during the operation would form part of the evidence in the ongoing investigation.

In the statement, the EACC confirmed that once the inquiry is completed, it will take appropriate legal action, including recommending prosecution of those found culpable, recovery of proceeds of corruption, and forfeiture of unexplained wealth.

The Commission also emphasized its commitment to ensuring accountability and integrity in the management of public resources.

The investigation adds to growing concerns over corruption in Kenya's sports sector, which has faced repeated allegations of financial mismanagement, including irregular procurement and diversion of funds meant for national sports programs.



StarTimes' "Hello Chinese" Bridges Global Audiences With Rich Chinese Culture

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

The cultural exchange between China and the rest of the world has received a new boost through the return of "Hello Chinese", an educational television program that seeks to introduce global audiences to the depth and beauty of Chinese culture and language.

Co-produced by the Center for Language Education and Cooperation under China's Ministry of Education and StarTimes, the program has been hailed as a "global gateway to Chinese culture." It breaks geographical and linguistic barriers, offering viewers from different cultural backgrounds an engaging way to learn about China's traditions, arts, and modern life.

This season, "Hello Chinese" aims to make learning Mandarin both ac-

cessible and enjoyable.

Its "Chinese Reading and Writing" segment provides customized learning paths for students at different proficiency levels, starting from pronunciation and character strokes to forming full sentences.

This practical and progressive method has inspired many language enthusiasts to embrace Chinese as a second language.

"The show doesn't just teach the language; it invites viewers to experience the beauty and logic behind Chinese characters and expressions," said a representative from the Center for Language Education and Cooperation.

To cater to a wide audience, "Hello Chinese" Season 2 is being broadcast across multiple StarTimes channels, including ST Sino Drama, which premieres new episodes every Wednesday and Sunday at 16:50 GMT with repeat airings the following day, and ST Guide E, which airs



on Mondays and Fridays at 17:00 GMT with additional replays the next day.

Through "Hello Chinese", Star-

Times continues to play a pivotal role in promoting global cultural understanding.

The show stands as a living bridge

between China and the world, inviting viewers everywhere to explore, learn, and fall in love with the richness of Chinese heritage.

In Memory Of Loved Ones



I remember you today with aching heart,
Feeling your loss deeply with a painful part,
Your love, care, and affection, I miss so much
dear,
Nowhere can I find such love, it's hard to find.
You left without a word, and I'm left to grieve,
Tears fall like rain down my cheeks,
my heart is burdened with your empty space
Thinking of Memories of our laughter, our
tears, our past,
Forever you are in my mind, heart beats your
name

Your spirit stays with me, guiding me along,
Though you're gone, your memories remain

strong,
I wish to turn back time, to have you here,
But life has other plans, and I'm left to grieve

May your noble soul rest in eternal peace,
Your kindness touched many, a true testimony
I still wonder why you had to leave so soon,
Why God choose to take you soon
But in my heart, your memory will forever
bloom.

When I close my eyes, I feel you're near,
A fleeting sense of comfort, a moment to hold
Though you're gone, your memory stays,
A sweet reminder of love and memories that
never fade.
In one way I'm thankful to God
Good

For having the opportunity to share our
thoughts, feeling and emotions
For meeting you for some time

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

We Are Stories



Treading, wandering and questing
Seeker remains seeker
Cherishing dullness
Smilingly sees Maker;
Paying heed at high and low
He never blows
sharing divinity, remains mist
Such spirits are feast;

Ignoring thickness and voidity
Love and live mystery
Entangles in awe
live raw;
Handing liveliness and pace
gulping rusticality and race
ecstatically, they swing
In fickle worldly ring;
Knowing unknowable
They remain fable
Twist and toss like autumnal leaves
Click and clay of caves;
Sages since ages
wrestling cliched cages
stories sold and told
Glee and glitter in many folds.

—Muhammad Adnan

A Leader Isn't Just Awake, He Is Vigilant



A leader is a person who inspires you and
guides.
One who gives confidence and leads you to
stride.
Pays attention to all the queries and needs.
Conscious of everyone's creed.
Always alert and acts as a skilled ranger.
Safeguards the team and protects from
danger.
Plans ahead of time to seek the success.

Spends sleepless nights in the process.
Protects the team and bears the responsibility
in case of setbacks.
Attributes success to the team and keeps it
on tracks.
Ready to face the challenges by being truly
deligent.
A leader is not just awake, he is always vigilant.

(Dedicated to Mrs. S.Santhi HM)

By, Mrs. Gulzar Jahan.
(English Teacher)
PUMS Chinna Obulapuram.
Gummidipoondi.
Tiruvallur Dt.
Tamil Nadu.
India.

Tell A Lie Once And All Your Truths Become Questionable



The foundation of the trust
Comes through the consistency, honesty, and
integrity.
Telling a small lie will shake the trust,
And collapses the entire harmony.

Telling a lie makes the minds and hearts,
Departed from the souls.
Destroys all faith in them
And having doubts on every info.
Once they realise their mistakes
They want to rebuild their confidence
But it's very hard to reconstruct
The trust would not be built in a single day.

I am Rajesh Kanna B N
B T Asst,
From Government Model High School, Tirur.
Tiruvallur District.
Tamil Nadu, India.

What Gives Happiness?



When we are born, we bring nothing. When
we die, we take nothing with us. Knowing this,
we keep searching for something and end up
losing our lives. Imagine I have a crore rupees.
During my last journey... Oh, poor Anandi... she
had saved a crore rupees, and we would burn
it together... or it won't be buried... Even what
is in hand will be taken away. Let us learn
to live each day, each moment, experiencing
life. Happiness is within you. No one else can
give it to you better than you can give it to
yourself. How can we attain such happiness?
Train your mind to smile. Find joy in small
things. Look at others with a blooming face.
Start your morning with your happiness. Our
happiness is in our hands. Strive to make
others happy too. If you ever feel tired, try
to keep yourself beautiful. Being beautiful
means... wearing a new dress... new shoes...
when we use something new, unknowingly,
freshness will embrace us. Do not expect
anything from anyone. It doesn't matter who it

is. Expectations always lead to disappointment.
This is a truth of experience. For any matter,
listen only if others say it. If they want to tell
you, they will. Do not intrude with your nose.
Do not speak about things you do not know.
Always stay with positive thoughts. Always
be friends with those who have that thought.
Learn to accept the mistakes you make. Do
not blame others for what we have done. Avoid
seeing others through a distorted lens. Our
mind weighs others as we are. If you want
to plan, do it while smiling, and those in front
will remain unhurt, and our mind will be clear
without confusion. Learn to appreciate others
sincerely. Because only those who know how to
appreciate will receive appreciation. Appreciate
that appreciation without it being superficial.
Appreciate even small things with a big heart.
Whatever it is, it exists in the way we choose
to take it. If we look at it in color, everything is
colorful. If we think in a limited way, everything
is limited. To satisfy everyone is an impossible
task in this world. There is no need for them
to be satisfied with what we say. We are
not here to please anyone. It is enough if our
mind is satisfied. Our mind's happiness is what
matters most to us. None of us know how
many days we will live in this world. So, live
the days created for you with happiness and
contentment, and experience life.

Anandhi S
Graduate teacher (English)
Government higher secondary school Kandigai
Chengalpattu district
Tamilnadu

Kila La Kheri Wanafuu



Wan'fuu nawatungia, la kheri kuwatakia
Siku zimekaribia, mitihani imewadia,
Ngariba anaingia, kwa njia ya kuvizia,
Wanafuu nawatungia, la kheri kuwatakia
Kwa muda mmesubiri, wakati huu kuFika
Mlipo muwe jasiri, tena msije tishika
Pumuzika kwa kadiri, punguza nayo mashaka
Wanafuu nawatungia, kila la kheri kuwatakia
Msije kuchacharika, kwa uvumi usofaa
Wengi wapenda mashaka, kusudi kuwahadaa

Mtegemee rabuka, kwa yote atakufaa
Wanafuu nawatungia, la kheri kuwatakia
Mitihani ile ile, aghalabu mmeFanya
'Soni la kuleta ndwele, muwanze kubambanya
Yatae majibu tele, Wala yasiyokanganya
Wanafuu nawatungia, kila la kheri kuwatakia
Maagizo aghalabu, uyasome sawasawa
Muhimu nayo adabu, siku zote uwe sawa
Vyote ni kama dhahabu, kwako kuwa maridhawa
Wanafuu nawatungia, kila la kheri kuwatakia
Beti sita ndizo zenu, kalamu naweka chini
Zitimie ndoto zenu, 'livyopanga aushini
Zijibiwe dua zenu, 'takavyopenda manani
Wanafuu nawatungia, kila la kheri kuwatakia

MTUNZI: MOMANYI HENRY RIOBA
LAKABU: MALENGA MTANASHATI
ENE0: KESOGON

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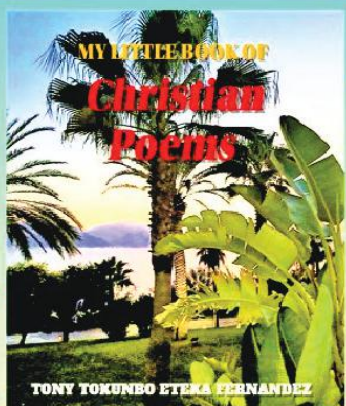
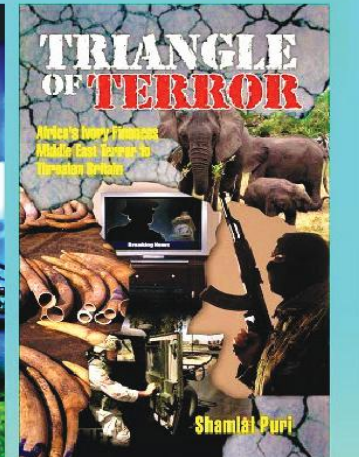
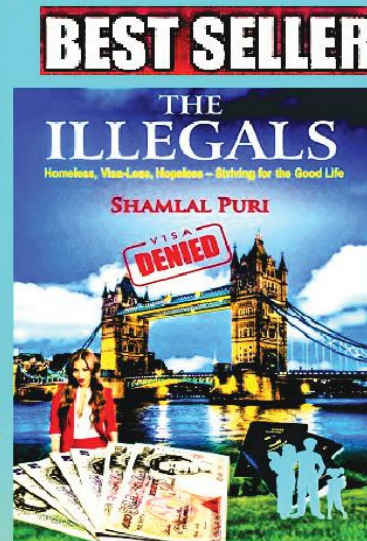
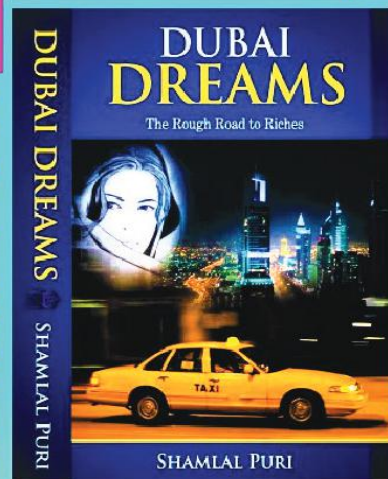
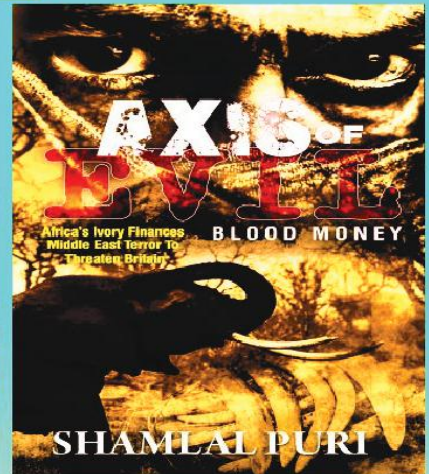
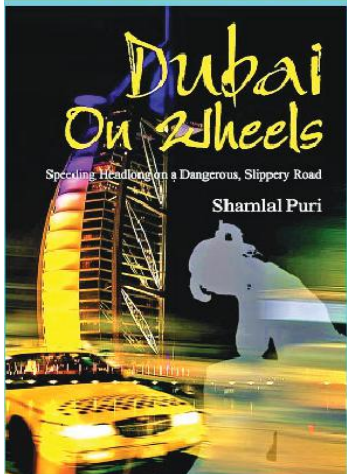
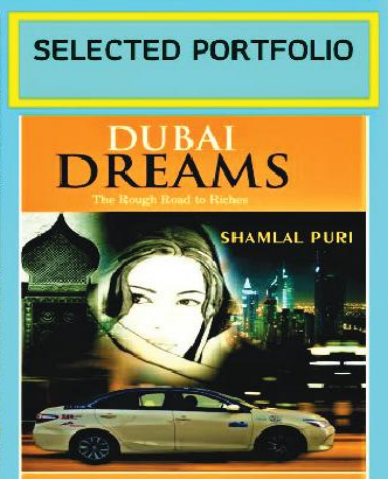
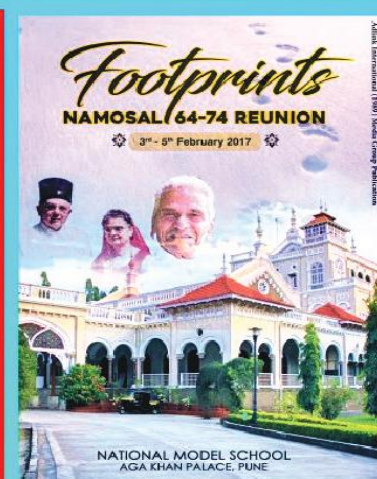
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BUSINESS

KALRO's Improved Indigenous Chicken Breeds Boost Rural Incomes

By: Violet Otindo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The humble village chicken, once seen merely as a backyard bird, is now at the centre of Kenya's agricultural transformation drive.
- Researchers at the Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) are hatching a new generation of indigenous chicken that could help turn the country into what they call a "Chicken Republic".
- Across rural Kenya, poultry remains a cornerstone of livelihoods. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS, 2024), more than 60 per cent of rural households rely on chicken for food, income, and social status.
- In most homes, a visitor cannot be fully welcomed without a chicken meal.

In the quiet villages of Naivasha, the sound of clucking hens is more than a sign of life, it is the rhythm of rural enterprise.

For generations, poultry has been a lifeline for many Kenyan households, providing food, income, and dignity.

The humble village chicken, once seen merely as a backyard bird, is now at the centre of Kenya's agricultural transformation drive.

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In most homes, a visitor cannot be fully welcomed without a chicken meal.

However, while demand for poultry products keeps soaring, supply has failed to keep up.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD, 2023) reports that Kenya produces only 110 million kilograms of chicken meat and 7.2 million eggs annually—far below the national demand of 648 million kilograms of meat and 9.72 billion eggs.

This production gap mirrors the country's low consumption levels. Each Kenyan consumes only 1.7 kilograms of chicken per year, compared to the 12 kilograms recommended by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

To close this gap, KALRO's Dairy Research Institute in Naivasha has intensified its poultry research and breeding programme.

Under the leadership of Dr. Anne Wachira, scientists have developed three improved dual-purpose indigenous breeds that grow faster, lay more eggs, and remain hardy under local conditions.

"Our improved ecotypes reach a live weight of two kilograms within four months and start laying between 220 and 280 eggs per year at about four and a half months," said Dr. Wachira, adding, "Each egg weighs 50 to 60 grams—matching commercial standards but retaining the resilience of local birds." The innovation is already making waves.



Researchers admiring a chicken.

According to KALRO data, the annual supply of improved indigenous chicks has risen from 200,000 in 2010 to more than 800,000 in 2025, thanks to technology transfer and capacity-building partnerships with county governments and farmer co-operatives.

KALRO's programme also integrates a new poultry vaccine laboratory that produces affordable vaccines against major diseases such as Newcastle and Gumboro.

"Our goal is not only to breed better birds but to ensure they survive, thrive, and deliver economic value to farmers," Dr. Wachira added.

Beyond improving breeds,

KALRO's broader vision is to integrate smallholders, youth, and women into a sustainable poultry value chain, from hatcheries and feed production to processing and marketing. The initiative is seen as a vehicle for job creation, nutrition improvement, and food security, particularly in rural areas.

Still, challenges persist. High feed costs—driven by fluctuations in maize and soybean prices—continue to constrain profitability.

Researchers are therefore exploring alternative feed formulations using sunflower cake, insects, and other locally available materials to cut costs and improve efficiency.

FAO estimates that poultry demand in East and Central Africa will grow by about eight percent annually, offering Kenya both a challenge and a market opportunity.

For farmers like Mary Wanjiru of Gilgil, who has adopted the improved breed, the results are already tangible. "Previously, my kienyeji chickens took six months to mature and laid few eggs; now, I collect eggs every week and still have enough birds to sell," she added.

As Kenya's poultry revolution takes shape, KALRO's vision of a Chicken Republic, where every household can access affordable, nutritious poultry products, may soon be realised.



An improved indigenous Chicken. Photos/courtesy/KALRO.



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CS Kagwe: Treason Charges Loom For Fake Seed Dealers

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking yesterday in Nyeri during the launch of the modern Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) facilities, the CS urged Parliament to pass laws imposing treason-level penalties on those caught counterfeiting seeds or distributing uncertified nursery materials.
- “Anyone selling fake seeds is deliberately sabotaging the country. You are risking a national food crisis. That is economic sabotage and it should be treated as treason. We will arrest immediately those involved,” Kagwe said, as he challenged lawmakers who were accompanying him to lead in ensuring the law was passed.
- He directed security agencies to intensify crackdowns on illegal seed distributors and uncertified nurseries, warning farmers to only buy certified planting materials.

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has called for the harshest possible punishment for individuals involved in the sale of fake seeds, saying the offence amounts to economic sabotage and should be treated as treason. Speaking yesterday in Nyeri during the launch of the modern Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) facilities, the CS urged Parliament to pass laws imposing treason-level penalties on those caught counterfeiting seeds or distributing uncertified nursery materials.

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He directed security agencies to intensify crackdowns on illegal seed distributors and uncertified nurseries, warning farmers to only buy certified planting materials. Kagwe also issued a stern warning to individuals vandalizing farms and cutting down coffee trees, avocado, and macadamia plantations, saying such acts threaten Kenya’s agricultural backbone.

“Even as you steal, use your brains. What will you steal tomorrow after you cut down the coffee trees?” he remarked.

“The long arm of the law will catch up with you. We are pushing for the re-establishment of agricultural police to protect farmers.”

The CS further cautioned coffee hawkers who buy cherry directly from farmers, describing the practice, often traded for alcohol as exploitative and damaging to formal markets.

Kagwe hailed the newly commissioned state-of-the-art KEPHIS laboratory in Nyeri as a major boost for the country’s farmers.

He said the facility will provide advanced soil testing, plant health diagnostics, and quality assurance services that will enhance productivity and competitiveness across the agricultural value chain.

“This modern facility will support Central Kenya and other regions by helping farmers understand their soils, detect diseases early, and meet both local and international market standards,” he said.

KEPHIS Chief Executive Officer, Prof. Theophilus M. Mutui noted that the land provided by the Nyeri County Government will host plant clinics, disease surveillance programs, and farmer training initiatives in collaboration with the Kenya School of Agriculture and Wambugu Farm ATC.



Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe addressing journalists in Nyeri yesterday. He is with, from left; KEPHIS CEO Theophilus Mutui, Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina, Senator Wahome Wamatinga and Mathira’s Eric Wamumbi.

“This facility will empower farmers with modern skills and compliance knowledge so they can compete globally,” Prof. Mutui said.

The CS was joined by Nyeri County leaders, including Senator Wahome Wamatinga, Members of Parliament Wambugu Wainaina (Othaya), Njoroge Wainaina (Kieni), Maina Mathenge (Nyeri Town), and Eric Wamumbi (Mathira) as well as the KEPHIS Chairperson and senior officials.

Kagwe reaffirmed the government’s commitment to safeguarding farmers, strengthening agricultural regulation, and ensuring Kenya’s value chains remain globally competitive.

“Kenya’s farmers deserve protection. Anyone trying to sabotage agriculture will face the full force of the law,” he said.

Earlier, during the tour of the KEPHIS farm in Nyeri, Kagwe underscored the Ministry’s commitment to modernizing agriculture through innovation, technology, and youth inclusion. He praised KEPHIS for its vital role in seed certification, plant health regulation, and phytosanitary inspection—all key to driving productivity and ensuring food security.

“Smart Farming, Bright Future – Technology Driving Agriculture Forward,” Kagwe said, emphasizing the government’s focus on building a re-

silient, technology-driven agriculture sector that creates opportunities for the youth and guarantees sustainable food systems.

Nyeri County, he added, continues to set the pace in Kenya’s coffee industry, recording some of the highest cherry prices in the country, an achievement attributed to digital traceability systems, cooperative modernization, and agritech-driven innovation hubs that empower young farmers.

The MPs said they supported Kagwe’s sentiments as if followed they would improve productivity and farmers proceeds.



Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe (2nd right) with other stakeholders at Nyeri’s KEPHIS site at Wambugu Farm.

Smart Aid Still Matters As Africa Ramps Up Domestic Health Financing

By: Contributor
 @themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Under the theme “Resilience in Transition: The Case for Sustainable Health Financing and Africa’s Way Forward,” participants highlighted a dual track: expand country-led financing while maintaining catalytic aid to strengthen data, disease surveillance, AI applications, locally led R&D and manufacturing, and regulatory capacity.
- Dr Ouma Oluga, Principal Secretary, State Department for Medical Services, said steady and predictable funding must be built on domestic resources. “Many people don’t appreciate the input of health in driving countries and economies, in terms of productive populations and lost man hours... If you look at health as an economic imperative then you begin to see the opportunity cost of failing to invest in it,” he said, outlining a two-pronged approach centred on taxes and insurance contributions.



As donor funding for Africa’s flagship health programmes declines, African leaders are pushing for greater self-reliance anchored in domestic resource mobilisation, even as they stress that targeted external support remains critical.

At the Africa Health Systems Forum hosted by Strathmore Business School’s PRISM Centre with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, policymakers, financiers and health experts examined how to protect hard-won gains in maternal and child health, HIV, TB, malaria and primary health care amid tighter global budgets and waning trust in multilateral health systems.

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Speakers tracked the evolution from aid-led models to country-driven systems and explored efficiencies



Dr Ouma Oluga, Principal Secretary, State Department for Medical Services

through service integration and better supply chains. With major replenishments on the horizon, delegates pointed to mechanisms such as Gavi and the Global Fund as essential to sustain routine immunisation and programmes against HIV, TB and malaria, even as governments raise domestic outlays.

Trust emerged as a recurring theme. Dr Kanyenje Gakombe, Chair of the Kenya Healthcare Federation, called for rebuilding “trust capital” between public and private actors to unlock investment: “Capital is shy, and business likes predictability. If there is too much noise in the sector and lack of trust... we cannot unlock the capital or efficiency gains we need.”

On partnership design, Dr Elizabeth Irungu, Regional Technical Advisor for Implementation Science at Jhpiego, said aid should be catalytic, not a substitute for public investment. “There is no country that can be entirely self-sufficient... When we talk about self-sufficiency we should also be talking about how we work with our partners,” she noted, urging more disciplined use of domestic systems.

Dr Ahmed Ogwell, President and CEO of VillageReach, pressed for faster execution using African capabilities already in place. “Delivering health care is beyond money... There are many resources we have—institutions, experts, infrastructure, innovations—that we hes-

itate to use because they don’t fit the model the world looks at as the gold standard,” he said, adding that calls for health sovereignty must translate into concrete action and efficiency.

Institutions represented included the Ministry of Health (Kenya), Council of Governors, Kenya Healthcare Federation, Palladium, Jhpiego, World Bank, NASCOP, National Syndemic Disease Control Council, CHAK, KEMRI–Wellcome Trust, the Gates Foundation, Financing Alliance for Health, VillageReach, Savannah Global Health Institute, Beginnings Fund, and Pfizer.

Iran Says Nuclear Issue Sole Focus Of Any Potential Talks With U.S.

By: Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyatimes

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi yesterday said any potential negotiations with the United States (U.S.) would focus solely on Tehran's nuclear issue, according to the official news agency IRNA.

He made the remarks to reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting while elaborating on Iran's position on the issues to be discussed in any possible future talks with the U.S..

In recent months, the U.S. has repeatedly urged Iran to halt uranium enrichment and curb its missile program. Iran has rejected these demands, describing both issues as non-negotiable.

"Our position has always been clear: if any negotiation starts, it will be only over the nuclear issue," Araghchi said. In a recent interview with

Qatar's Al Jazeera, Araghchi said Tehran is not interested in direct negotiations with Washington, but an agreement can be reached through indirect talks. He voiced Iran's readiness for holding negotiations to resolve concerns about its nuclear program. Araghchi added it is possible to reach a fair agreement, but Washington has set out "unacceptable" conditions, noting Iran will not negotiate on its missile program and will not stop uranium enrichment. Iran and the U.S. had held five rounds of indirect talks on Tehran's nuclear program and the removal of U.S. sanctions and were about to hold a sixth one when Israel struck Iran on June 13. The strikes targeted multiple sites in Iran, including nuclear and military facilities, killing senior commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. On June 22, U.S. forces bombed the three Iranian nuclear facilities of Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan.



Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi

West African Bloc Expresses Solidarity With Nigeria Following Trump's Claims Of Christian Slaughter

By: Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyatimes

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has described recent allegations by U.S. President Donald Trump that terrorist attacks in Nigeria were targeted at Christians as "false and dangerous," expressing solidarity with the region's most populous country.

In a statement made available to Xinhua yesterday in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, the ECOWAS Commission emphasized that terrorist-related violence does not discriminate based on gender, religion, ethnicity, or age, saying perpetrators of this violence target innocent civilians of all religious denominations, including Muslims, Christians, and adherents to other faiths. "ECOWAS calls on the United Nations and all partners to support member states in their fight against these groups and to treat as false any claims that these terrorist groups target one group, or that there is a genocide of one religious group

in the region," the West African bloc said. While strongly rejecting the "false and dangerous claims that seek to deepen insecurity in communities and weaken social cohesion in the region," ECOWAS urged the world to stand by the countries in the region in their fight against terrorism that targets all communities. It also expressed its intention to draw the attention of partners and the international community as a whole to the growing level of violence perpetrated by terrorist groups in some countries in the region, including Nigeria. The response followed a post by Trump on the social media platform Truth Social on Friday, in which he alleged that thousands of Christians are being killed in Nigeria by "radical Islamists," who are responsible for "this mass slaughter." The U.S. president also declared Nigeria a "country of particular concern." The Nigerian government had earlier dismissed the U.S. designation as "inaccurate," while reaffirming its commitment to protecting citizens, maintaining religious freedom, and tackling violent extremism.



U.S. President Donald Trump

Scores Take Part In Othaya Darts Tournament

By: MKT Correspondent

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Dozens of Darts players and fans thronged Othaya NG-CDF hall for a thrilling tournament that saw winners walk away with cash prizes.

More than 200 players, both men and women, took part in the two-day event that was sponsored by Othaya constituency Member of Parliament through a foundation; Wambugu Wainaina Foundation which is named after him.

Among those who won were; in men category, Nephath Muhinja, Wilson Kaimenyi, Peter Kihoro and Nathan Kiringa.

In the women category, winners included, Agnes Jerotich, Regina Nyaga, Ann Machira and Susan Wanja.

The participants were from different counties across the country, thereby making the event a national tournament, though the Othaya MP had organised just a way of engaging some



Some of the men who took part in the tournament.

of his constituents who have interest in the game.

One of the participants, David Munyua is among international players who is expected to represent Africa in the World Darts championship that will be hosted in Portsmouth England.

The culmination of the event saw

scores of winners; from the top winner to number 32 take home cash prizes ranging from KSh30,000 to KSh1,000.

The Darts players from different parts of the country boosted the hospitality and other business sectors in Othaya town, with most hotel establishments recording full bookings.



Some of the ladies during the exercise. Photos/Courtesy.

One of the businessmen, Peter Mwangi thanked the MP for organising the event which he noted had ripple effects in the area's economy.

Yesterday, the MP said he had lined up several youth activities that are aimed at helping youth identify different talents.

He noted that once the area stadium

is constructed, the area will be hosting different games and tournaments since the facility is being rehabilitated to be able to cater to different indoor and open gaming activities.

KCA University Hosts 4th Innovation Week To Boost Kenya's Innovation Economy

By: MKT Correspondent

[@themkenyatimes](#)

KCA University has launched its 4th Innovation Week and Industry Summit, a three-day event ending today, at its Ruaraka Campus.

The event brings together government leaders, international innovators, industry executives, and student entrepreneurs to advance Kenya's transition to a knowledge-driven economy.

Held under the theme "Innovate! Elevate! Impact!", the summit features international speakers, student innovations, and strategic partnerships designed to strengthen the link between academia and industry in driving national development.

The event is graced by Prof. Abdulrazak Shaukat, Principal Secretary in the State Department of Science, Research and Innovation, as Chief Guest, and Lee Cheong-geun, Founder and CEO of Shoeall Co. Ltd. (South Korea), who will deliver the keynote address on industrial innova-

tion and social impact.

Other high-profile speakers include Dr. Robi Mbugua Njoroge (CEO, Anti-Counterfeit Authority), Eng. Andrew Masila (Innovation Lead, Safaricom PLC), Timothy Owase (CEO, Kenya Film Commission), Joshua Gitoho Njoroge (Branch Chair, CIPS), and Mellany Msengezi (Country Director, GOMYCODE).

"This summit embodies our strategic commitment to knowledge commercialization, sustainable development, and inclusive enterprise," said Prof. Isaiah I.C. Wakindiki, Vice Chancellor and CEO of KCA University.

"We are creating a platform where ideas transcend theory, partnerships flourish, and our collective imagination defines the future we want to see in Kenya and across the continent."

The summit explores five key sub-themes — empowering women in the innovation economy, strengthening industry-academia linkages, promoting higher education's role in entrepreneurship, harnessing the power of the creative economy, and accelerating SME transformation through artificial intelligence in the digital



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economy.

Among the innovations being showcased are Trello, an AI-powered mental health app offering anonymous emotional support; Farmwise, an IoT-based poultry management system that reduces chick mortality

through automated controls; Agro Alert, a data-driven advisory platform using NASA APIs to boost crop yields by up to 30 percent; and Quick4lio, a digital portfolio tool empowering young professionals in the gig economy.

The summit is open to researchers, students, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and industry leaders seeking to collaborate on transformative ideas that drive sustainable innovation and enterprise in Kenya.

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *New Kenya Police coach Dusan Stojanovic was delighted with a winning start to his reign but admits there is much work to be done.

Police Not Yet Firing On All Cylinders Despite Winning Start To Stojanovic Era



Kenya Police head coach Dusan Stojanovic. PHOTO/KENYA POLICE FC.

New Kenya Police coach Dusan Stojanovic was delighted with a winning start to his reign but admits there is much work to be done.

The Serb says his focus is on the next game and not to dwell on Wednesday's triumph over Sofapaka.

"It is just one in a row. We are looking for the next, and next, and next. This is already behind us. It is okay that we started with a good game... that we got three points, but we are looking for another one," the 44-year-old said.

Edward 'Ondimo' Omondi's strike in the 41st minute was

enough for Afande to collect their second win of the season in four matches.

However, it was not all smooth-sailing for the Kenya Premier League champions in the second half as Batoto Ba Mungu sought a way back into encounter.

For most part of the last 45, Police were forced to hold fort for maximum points.

Stojanovic admits it was all part of the game plan to ensure his charges came away with all the points on offer.

"It is about reading the game. What I was expecting, I acted

according to that," the former Sports Club (SC) Villa head coach said.

The law enforcers' next encounter is a tricky tie against record league champions Gor Mahia over the weekend, a match that promises fireworks considering K'Ogalo relinquished the crown last season and are keen on regaining it.

On the other, Stojanovic has big shoes to fill in the form of Etienne Ndayiragije who led the team to its first ever league title — amassing 65 points, six ahead of Gor.

The Serb is keen to temper ex-

pectations, sticking to his mantra of taking it one game at a time.

"We will see what will be in the future, we don't know the future. This is a tough league, and I know that too many competitive teams are present in our league," he said.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Bungoma Queens finally broke their winless streak in the FKF Women's Premier League, stunning Madira Soccer Assassins 2-1 in Kisumu to claim their first-ever top-flight victory since joining the league.

Catherine Brace Fires Bungoma Queens To First-Ever Women's Premier League Win



Action between Madira Soccer Assassins (in black) and Bungoma Queens. PHOTO/BUNGOMA QUEENS.

Bungoma Queens finally broke their winless streak in the FKF Women's Premier League, stunning Madira Soccer Assassins 2-1 in Kisumu to claim their first-ever top-flight victory since joining the league.

Forward Catherine was the hero of the day, netting two decisive goals that sealed the historic triumph for the Queens.

Her composure and sharp finishing ensured that Bungoma made the most of their chances in a

tense, end-to-end encounter that kept fans on edge until the final whistle.

The win was not just a morale boost but also it was a statement of intent.

After a slow start to the season, Bungoma Queens showed resilience and belief, overturning their early struggles to earn three crucial points on the road.

The result lifted Bungoma Queens to eighth place on the league standings, moving them

out of the relegation zone and injecting fresh confidence into the squad ahead of upcoming fixtures.

With Vihiga Queens and Kenya Police Bullets leading the standings after commanding 6-0 wins, and Ulinzi Starlets maintaining pressure in third, Bungoma's breakthrough adds an exciting twist to the 2025/26 FKF Women's Premier League narrative — one that now features a new rising force eager to challenge the established order.

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Ophélie Paris: A Beacon of Compassion, Language, and Human Transformation



By: Anila Bukhari

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

In 2015, her personal journey took a pivotal turn when she began writing autofiction—a genre that allowed her to articulate her inner world while exploring universal themes of identity, trauma, hope, and resilience. Unbeknownst to her at the time, this creative act would serve as a catalyst for a broader mission: using storytelling and philosophical inquiry to foster empathy and human understanding. Out of this process emerged Haïtika, a fictional character who embodies the collective human quest for meaning amidst chaos and uncertainty.

Haïtika is more than a literary creation; she is an existential mirror that reflects the struggles and hopes of many. Through her, Ophélie explores the delicate balance between memory and oblivion, reason and madness, light and shadow.

Ophélie Paris stands as a luminous example of how the power of language and imagination can serve as tools for profound human connection and societal healing. A dedicated linguist and creative visionary, she has devoted her life to exploring the depths of human consciousness, emphasizing compassion, self-awareness, and the transformative potential inherent in every individual. Her journey, shaped by a rich background in the French Air Force and advanced studies in discourse analysis and the philosophy of language, reflects a deep commitment to fostering understanding and empathy across diverse human experiences.

From a young age, Ophélie found solace in daydreaming—a gentle refuge where her thoughts could wander freely, unbound by societal expectations. This early inclination toward introspection and imagination laid the foundation for her later work, inspiring her to view language not just as a means of communication but as a vessel for healing, self-discovery, and social change. Her academic pursuits led her to question the very fabric of reality woven by words, seeking to uncover how language shapes our perceptions of ourselves and others, often influencing the fabric of society itself.

In 2015, her personal journey took a pivotal turn when she began writing autofiction—a genre that allowed her to articulate her inner world while exploring universal themes of identity, trauma, hope, and resilience. Unbeknownst to her at the time, this creative act would serve as a catalyst for a broader mission: using storytelling and philosophical inquiry to foster empathy and human understanding. Out of this process emerged Haïtika, a fictional character who embodies the collective human quest for meaning amidst chaos and uncertainty.

Haïtika is more than a literary creation; she is an existential mirror that reflects the struggles and hopes of many. Through her, Ophélie explores the delicate balance between memory and oblivion, reason and madness, light and shadow. Haïtika's world is one of symbolic narratives,

visions, and intuitions—experiences often dismissed or misunderstood by conventional psychiatry but rich with poetic and psychological truth. Her journey embodies the universal human experience of navigating inner turmoil while seeking harmony amidst external chaos, a testament to the resilience and complexity of the human spirit.

Ophélie's dedication to understanding the human condition extends beyond her philosophical musings. Recognizing that language is a potent agent of change, she founded *IAM MY OWN LEGEND (IMOL)*—a project rooted in the belief that each person possesses the innate capacity to rewrite their story and redefine their destiny. IMOL is a space where creativity, philosophy, and art converge to inspire individuals to reclaim their narratives and foster inner peace. Through a variety of tools—autofiction writing boxes, philosophical notebooks, and symbolic objects—Ophélie guides others on a journey of self-reinvention, emphasizing themes like fiction, imagination, identity, and truth.

Her work is grounded in a humanitarian philosophy: that understanding oneself is the first step toward understanding others. She passionately believes that language, when wielded with compassion and awareness, can bridge divides, heal wounds, and nurture empathy. Her approach recognizes the profound interconnectedness of human beings and emphasizes that everyone has the capacity to transform pain into growth, disillusionment into hope. Her projects are designed to empower marginalized voices, encourage self-expression, and cultivate a culture of compassion and resilience.

Ophélie's commitment to social change is also reflected in her advocacy for mental health awareness and her efforts to destigmatize psychological struggles. She perceives the inner world as a vital aspect of human dignity and believes that storytelling and philosophical reflection can serve as powerful tools in healing trauma and fostering societal cohesion. Her work highlights the importance of creating inclusive spaces where diverse voices—especially those silenced by stigma or



Ophélie Paris.

marginalization—can be heard, understood, and validated.

Throughout her career, Ophélie has sought to build bridges—between disciplines, cultures, and communities. She teaches, writes, and creates platforms to facilitate dialogues on the human condition, emphasizing that every individual's story is a vital thread in the fabric of humanity. Her philosophy underscores that healing begins with acknowledgment—the recognition of one's own suffering and the compassion to see it in others. Her belief is that through shared stories, collective understanding can flourish, paving the way for a more empathetic and unified world.

Today, Ophélie Paris continues her mission with unwavering dedication. Her work is a testament to the enduring power of language as a force for good—a means not only of describing the world but reshaping it. She encourages everyone to become authors of their own stories, to

see themselves as agents of change capable of transforming pain into beauty, despair into hope. Her life exemplifies the profound truth that compassion, rooted in understanding and authentic communication, has the capacity to heal wounds—both personal and collective—and to inspire a more humane and just society.

Through her writings, her creative projects, and her advocacy, Ophélie embodies the ideals of empathy, resilience, and hope. She reminds us that every voice matters and that the journey toward healing and understanding begins with the simple yet revolutionary act of listening—listening to oneself and to others with an open heart. Her life's work stands as a beacon of hope, illuminating the path toward a more compassionate world where language serves as a bridge to connection, healing, and human dignity.