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**News>>Meru National Park; Where Legends Live, Lions Roam, And The Wild Still Whispers Your Name**

**P. 8.** Deep within the wild heart of eastern Kenya lies a place where the air hums with ancient life, where rivers thread through emerald grasslands, and where every sunrise feels like the first. This is Meru National Park, a place of untamed beauty and timeless legend



**News>>Kiunjuri: Give Ruto Enough Time If You Want To Compare Him With Previous Presidents**

**P. 12.** Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri has defended President William Ruto's development track record and urged Kenyans to give him time to deliver his pledges.

# Matiang'i Picked For 2027

**⚡** In a move that could redefine the political terrain ahead of the 2027 General Election, the Jubilee Party has officially endorsed former Interior Cabinet Secretary Dr. Fred Matiang'i as its presidential candidate, signaling a bold new chapter for the party and a strategic recalibration of opposition politics. The announcement came during a charged National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting held in Nairobi, where party stalwarts, legislators, and grassroots leaders gathered to chart the future of a party that once dominated Kenya's political landscape.



Dr. Fred Matiang'i

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"ALL BUSINESSES ONE PLATFORM"

# Parliamentary Committee On Housing Tours Nairobi And Kiambu Projects, Calls For Public Participation In Designing ESP Projects

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyentimes

*Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures*

Members of the Departmental Committee on Housing, Urban Planning & Public Works have called on the State Department of Housing & Urban Development to ensure thorough public participation before commencing construction of Economic Stimulus Program (ESP) markets.

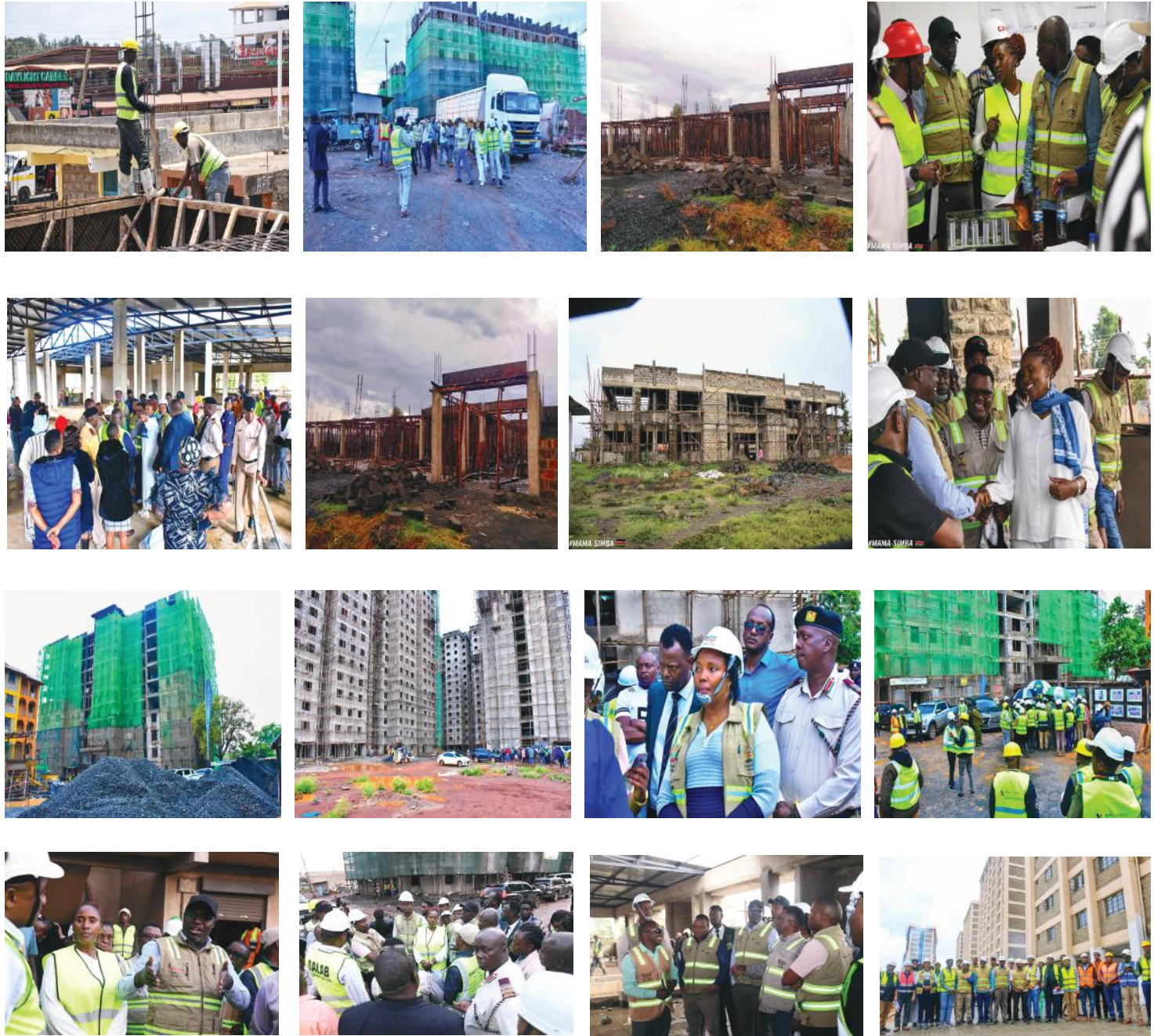
Speaking after the inspection of projects, the Committee Chairperson Johana Ng'eno emphasised the need for inclusive consultations with traders to establish the type of structures that are suitable for their merchandise.

He said the projects must satisfy the needs of different traders and thus must listen to them because they are the users of the markets.

Among the areas that the team visited was Thika Town Constituency where they were hosted by area MP Alice Wambui Ng'ang'a and toured Witeithie ESP Market, Thika Bustani Affordable Housing, King Boma Orchard Affordable Housing, Thika Depot Affordable Housing and Ngoi-gwa ESP Market.

They also toured Starehe Affordable Housing, Ruiru Boma Yangu Housing and Gikomba Quarry Market

Other members present were John Kawanjiku (Kiambaa MP), Joshua Kimilu (Kaiti MP), Jane Kagiri (Laikipia County MP), Simon King'ara (Ruiru) and Caleb Mule (Machakos Town MP).



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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Principal Secretary for Energy Alex Wachira yesterday officially opened the Off-Grid Expo & Conference in Augsburg, Germany under the patronage of the Bavarian State Ministry of Environment and Consumer protection. The PS noted that the government values the platform for bringing together global stakeholders committed to advancing universal energy access, with Kenya as a partner country. He said the country has made remarkable progress in electricity access; from 29% a decade ago to over 75% today which is driven by innovation, strong policy, and investment in off-grid and mini-grid solutions. Over 1.5 million households in remote areas now rely on solar systems and mini-grids that have improved healthcare, education, and livelihoods. Through initiatives such as KOSAP and the Kenya Energy Compact under the Mission 300 Initiative, the Ministry is mobilizing financing and de-risking private investments to achieve 100% electricity access by 2030. Kenya remains a regional leader in off-grid innovation and welcomes continued collaboration with Germany and global partners to drive clean energy, climate resilience, and inclusive green growth.



Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen yesterday met officials from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), led by Bo Mathiasen, the Director, Division for Operations. Their deliberations centred on collaboration in the fight against transnational crimes such as human trafficking, illicit financial flows and drugs, cybercrime, counter-terrorism and border management. The CS commended UNODC for the support extended to our various institutions, including the National Police Service, Nacada Kenya, Kenya Prisons, Kenya Coast Guard Services and Financial Reporting Centre, among others. The UNODC delegation lauded the close collaboration between the government and the agency, noting that one of the significant wins is the recent seizure of narcotics worth Sh8.2 billion, through a multi-agency operation in the Indian Ocean. Also present were; Principal Administrative Secretaries Jacob Narengo (Internal Security) and Beverly Opwora (National Administration), NACADA CEO Anthony Omerikwa and National Police Leadership Academy Commandant Kainga Mathiu.

Nyandarua Woman Representative Faith Gitau, accompanied by Principal Secretary for Livestock Development Jonathan Mueke yesterday launched the distribution of nine milk coolers to various dairy cooperative societies in the Ol Jororok Constituency. The initiative is part of the 35 milk coolers that President William Ruto pledged to the county last year. Farmers welcomed the initiative saying it would help them preserve the commodity before being taken to the market and thus reduce losses.



The government has intensified surveillance at all Ports of Entry and Exit (PoEs) to boost trade efficiency and curb the smuggling of illicit goods. The Principal Secretary for Internal Security and National Administration, Dr Raymond Omollo, says that recently, a multi-agency operation made a breakthrough after it intercepted 1,024 kilograms of methamphetamine worth Sh8.2 billion aboard a stateless vessel in the Indian Ocean. The stateless vessel, christened Igor, which had long been on the radar of international authorities for suspected narcotics trafficking in the Western Indian Ocean, was nabbed with six Iranian crew members. The PS spoke in Mombasa, when he chaired the 64th meeting of the Border Control and Operations Coordination Committee (BCOCC), the discussion primarily focused on border security, encompassing both land and sea borders, to assess the challenges encountered and some of the interventions.



It's a sigh of relief for three families who lost their sons in a tragic boat accident during the East African Ocean Festival in Mombasa two weeks ago. Deputy President Kithure Kindiki released KSh3 million in government support to help with burial arrangements that had stalled due to financial constraints. The accident occurred as the boat carrying 22 participants capsized when it neared the finish line. The vessel overturned suddenly, prompting a frantic rescue effort that saved 19 people. The festival was immediately suspended following the tragedy.



# NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



# The Mount Kenya Times

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# Ruiru Affordable Houses Sold Out Before Completion

By: John Kamau

@themkenyentimes

## Worth Noting:

- The parliamentary committee on Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works while on a tour of the KSh1.8 billion project, confirmed that the units have sold out, just two months ahead of the completion time.
- Led by the Committee Chairman Johanna Ng'eno MP for Emurua Dikirr constituency, members expressed satisfaction with the progress made so far, noting that it was within the set timelines.



Members of the parliamentary committee on housing urban planning and public works when they inspected the affordable housing project in Ruiru, Kiambu County. On the right is area legislator Simon King'ara..

All the 1,050 government affordable housing units in Ruiru, Kiambu County have been bought even before their completion.

The parliamentary committee on Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works while on a tour of the KSh1.8 billion project, confirmed that the units have sold out, just two months ahead of the completion time.

Led by the Committee Chairman Johanna Ng'eno MP for Emurua Dikirr constituency, members expressed satisfaction with the progress made so far, noting that it was within the set timelines.

Ng'eno maintained that the buyout was a confirmation that Kenyans have taken the affordable housing scheme

seriously and that demand for houses is high, contrary to previous public opinion about the viability of the project.

"Many critics had dismissed the affordable housing project as a white elephant and a conduit to plunder taxpayers money, but now they have been proved wrong," stated Ng'eno.

He also allayed fears that the houses built in a six-acre parcel formerly belonging to the Public Works department were bought by wealthy people, maintaining that 80 percent of the owners are ordinary Kenyans commonly referred to as hustlers.

"Our main purpose as a committee is to make sure that public funds are put into good use and I want to say we are

satisfied with what we have seen here in Ruiru. This is truly commendable," said the Chairman.

Area MP Simon King'ara who accompanied the team said a good number of the houses were bought by locals and that the project is set to transform the local economy.

The MP noted the housing project has created jobs for hundreds of youths, whereas local traders have also been making money by selling consumables to the workers.

"This project has contributed to massive economic transformation across in this region through creation of jobs and promoting local business. more than 1300 workers have been working here and earning a living while

local businesses have received a major boost through sourcing of materials including cement, sand, ballast, metal bars among others," King'ara said.

King'ara reiterated that the Kenya Kwanza administration led by President William Ruto has been working round the clock towards implementation of the affordable housing project which has not only provided Kenyans with affordable abodes but has also created jobs and perked up the country's economy.

However, King'ara noted that due to the expected population surge when the new home owners settle down, there is need for expansion of local schools, infrastructure and other public amenities including hospitals.

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# Meru National Park; Where Legends Live, Lions Roam, And The Wild Still Whispers Your Name

By: ALEX NJERU  
@themkenyatimes

Deep within the wild heart of eastern Kenya lies a place where the air hums with ancient life, where rivers thread through emerald grasslands, and where every sunrise feels like the first. This is Meru National Park, a place of untamed beauty and timeless legend, where the line between myth and memory blurs beneath the acacia trees.

Recently, members of the Tharaka Nithi Press Club embarked on a journey through one of Kenya's most storied wildernesses, entering through the scenic Ura Gate in Tharaka Nithi County. Their gracious host, Mr. Kitavi Kaloki, the park's Assistant Director, welcomed them with the warmth and pride of a man deeply connected to the land he helps protect.

In a rare gesture of goodwill, Mr. Kaloki granted the journalists free entry into the park and personally led them on an extensive guided tour across its breathtaking expanse. From the sweeping savannahs where elephants lumbered majestically, to the glittering streams where hippos wallowed lazily, every moment unfolded like a living postcard of Kenya's natural beauty.

The team's cameras clicked eagerly as they captured giraffes craning above the treetops, lions basking in the golden light, zebras grazing in unison, and a kaleidoscope of bird species that filled the skies with song. Every turn of the trail revealed a new wonder, every sight a story worth telling.

By midday, the adventure paused for a sumptuous lunch on the lush banks of River Ura, where laughter mingled with birdsong and the gentle murmur of flowing water. Over plates of hearty food and cold drinks, the journalists reflected on the park's history, its rebirth, and its enduring magic.

"This is not just a tour," Ms Lisper Mathure Mukuru, the team's executive secretary remarked between smiles, "it's a rediscovery of our heritage, a reminder of the wild beauty that thrives in our own backyard."

## Where the Spirit of Elsa Still Roams

But Meru is more than just another wilderness destination. It is the birthplace of one of the most powerful stories ever told about love, freedom, and the fragile bond between humans and the wild, the story of Elsa the lioness.

In the late 1950s, Meru became home to George and Joy Adamson, a couple whose devotion to wildlife changed the world forever. After a



Tharaka-Nithi Press Club visiting Meru National Park through Ura Gate entrance in Tharaka-Nithi County. Photos/Alex Njeru

lioness was killed near the park, the Adamsons adopted her three cubs. Two were sent away to zoos, but the smallest, Elsa, stayed.

Joy Adamson nurtured Elsa not as a pet, but as a wild creature destined for freedom. Against all odds, Elsa learned to hunt and live as a lion once more. Her story, immortalized in Joy Adamson's *Born Free* and later in the award-winning film, became a global anthem for conservation, a proof that compassion could bridge the gap between man and nature.

Even now, as dusk falls over Meru and the golden light fades across the plains, the echoes of Elsa's roar seem to linger in the wind, a timeless whisper that reminds visitors that love and wilderness can indeed coexist.

Stretching over 870 square kilometers, Meru National Park is a landscape of contrasts lush wetlands meet arid plains, and twelve shimmering rivers carve through volcanic hills. It teems with life: elephants, lions, cheetahs, leopards, Grevy's zebras, and more than 300 bird species.

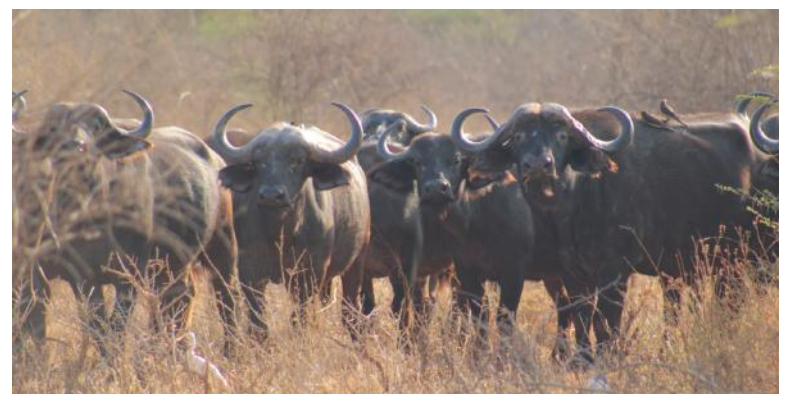
Yet beyond its beauty lies a profound solitude. Unlike the crowded reserves of Kenya's tourism circuit, Meru remains blissfully untamed and uncrowded, a sanctuary for those who seek authenticity in the wild.

The park's story has not been without struggle. In the 1980s and early 1990s, poaching devastated its wildlife, and for a time, Meru's future looked bleak. But through a powerful alliance of the Kenya Wildlife Service, local communities, and conservation partners, the park was revived.

Today, Meru stands reborn. Its rhino sanctuary shelters both black and white rhinos, and its thriving ecosystem testifies to what commitment and community can achieve together.



Rhino.



Buffaloes.

## \*Reflections of the Press Club\*

As the Tharaka Nithi journalists concluded their day, the setting sun painted the horizon in hues of amber and rose. They gazed across the sweeping plains, their hearts full and spirits lifted.

"The journey was fascinating from start to finish," Mr Dickson Mwiti, the team Organising Secretary said. "We've seen Kenya's beauty through our lenses, but here, we felt it. We'll be back soon."

Their words echoed a shared sentiment: that Meru National Park is not

just a destination, it's an experience, a story, and a heartbeat that connects all who visit.

Meru National Park is a living legacy, a sanctuary where the spirit of Elsa still roams and where the dream of "Born Free" continues to inspire new generations.

For travelers seeking adventure off the beaten path, where history, wilderness, and heart converge, Meru remains one of Kenya's best-kept secrets.

Stand on its soil, breathe its wild air, and you may just feel it, the pulse of freedom that once changed the world.

# Matiang'i Takes The Mantle: Jubilee's Bold Bet For 2027

By: David Kimani  
@themkenyatimes

In a move that could redefine the political terrain ahead of the 2027 General Election, the Jubilee Party has officially endorsed former Interior Cabinet Secretary Dr. Fred Matiang'i as its presidential candidate, signaling a bold new chapter for the party and a strategic recalibration of opposition politics. The announcement came during a charged National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting held in Nairobi, where party stalwarts, legislators, and grassroots leaders gathered to chart the future of a party that once dominated Kenya's political landscape. Matiang'i's endorsement was unanimous, with the NEC elevating him to Deputy Party Leader and confirming his candidacy under the Jubilee banner. The decision was backed by former President Uhuru Kenyatta, who remains the party's patron and whose influence continues to shape its direction. Kenyatta described Matiang'i as a "leader of integrity, discipline, and vision," and urged party members to rally behind him as the face of Jubilee's resurgence.

Matiang'i, known for his technocratic style and firm leadership during his tenure in government, accepted the endorsement with a pledge to restore public trust in leadership and deliver a campaign rooted in service, transparency, and national unity. His speech struck a chord with many in attendance, as he outlined a vision focused on economic revitalization, youth empowerment, and institutional reform. "This is a moment of renewal," Matiang'i declared. "We must rise above politics of division and offer Kenyans a leadership that listens, acts, and delivers." The endorsement comes at a time when the opposition is undergoing significant restructuring following the passing of ODM leader Raila Odinga, leaving a vacuum that Jubilee appears poised to fill. With Matiang'i at the helm, the party is positioning itself as a credible alternative to the current administration, banking on his reputation for results and his close ties to Kenyatta-era governance.

Political analysts have noted that Matiang'i's candidacy could unify fragmented opposition forces and attract support from across the political spectrum. His administrative record, particularly in education and security, has earned him respect even among critics, and his entry into the presidential race adds a compelling dynamic to the unfolding political narrative. However, challenges remain. Matiang'i must now transi-



Dr. Fred Matiang'i

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tion from a civil servant to a political campaigner, building grassroots networks, forging alliances, and crafting a message that resonates with voters beyond policy circles. Jubilee officials have acknowledged this and announced plans to revamp party structures, enhance youth and women participation, and launch a nationwide mobilization drive to support his bid.

The NEC meeting also served as a platform to unveil internal reforms aimed at strengthening party discipline and transparency. Secretary General Jeremiah Kioni emphasized that Jubilee was committed to issue-based politics and would not engage in mudslinging or populist theatrics. "We are offering Kenyans a serious candidate with a serious plan," Kioni said. "Dr. Matiang'i represents the best of what public service can be, and we are proud to stand with him." The endorsement has sparked reactions across the country, with supporters celebrating the move as a return to principled leadership, while critics questioned whether Matiang'i has the political muscle to mount a successful campaign. Some observers pointed to his

lack of traditional political machinery, but Jubilee insiders dismissed these concerns, citing the party's renewed focus on grassroots engagement and digital mobilization.

In Mt. Kenya region, where Jubilee once enjoyed overwhelming support, the endorsement has been met with cautious optimism. Local leaders have expressed willingness to back Matiang'i, provided he addresses regional concerns such as agricultural reform, youth unemployment, and infrastructure development. His reputation for efficiency and accountability could play well in a region that values results over rhetoric. Meanwhile, Kenyatta's continued involvement, though largely symbolic, is expected to lend credibility and continuity to the campaign. His legacy, particularly in infrastructure and education, remains influential, and his support for Matiang'i is seen as a strategic move to preserve that legacy through a trusted ally.

As the 2027 race begins to take shape, Matiang'i faces the task of building a coalition that transcends ethnic and partisan divides. His message of unity and reform will

be tested in a political environment often dominated by personality-driven campaigns and regional loyalties. Yet, his candidacy offers a fresh alternative—one rooted in governance, discipline, and national service. Jubilee's early endorsement gives him a head start in organizing and fundraising, and positions him as a serious contender in a field that is still taking shape. Whether he can convert that momentum into electoral success remains to be seen, but the party's decision has already shifted the conversation.

This development marks a pivotal moment in Kenya's political evolution. It reflects a growing appetite for leadership that prioritizes substance over spectacle, and a desire to reclaim the promise of public service. As Jubilee rallies behind Matiang'i, the country watches closely, knowing that the road to 2027 has officially begun—and it just got a lot more interesting.

# Embu Coffee Farmers Receive KSh24 Million To Boost Productivity

By: Samuel Waititu  
 @themkenyatimes

Coffee farmers from 24 Cooperative Societies across Embu County have received capital donations amounting to KSh24.2 million to finance inputs for improving production.

The donation by the World Bank-funded National Agricultural Value Chain Development project (NAVCDP) and channeled through the County Government, is expected to assist farmers in increasing both quantity and quality of their coffee.

This comes at a time when coffee prices have started showing signs of improvement and hitting a high that has not been witnessed in the recent past, with some societies paying their farmers Sh143 per kilo of cherry delivered in last year's crop season.

Poor earnings have over the years seen coffee production dwindle with

some farmers going to the extent of uprooting their bushes and diverting to other profitable ventures such as dairy farming.

The donation according to Deputy Governor Kinyua Mugo, who oversaw the disbursement of cheques yesterday at Talent Academy Grounds, will enable farmers procure materials and inputs necessary to return the crop to its' previous stature as the biggest economic pillar in the county.

The funds will also help factories in infrastructural upgrade including procurement of solar dryers, metallic drying beds and fermentation tanks.

Mugo said the devolved unit was committed to uplifting the economic status of farmers through financial support, adoption of new and emerging technologies and sourcing of markets for their produce.

The biggest beneficiary of the donations was Embu County Coffee Mill which received Sh17.9 million for the construction of a 40, 000-bag parchment store.



Embu County Deputy Governor Kinyua Mugo (left) with cooperative officials.

DG Mugo said the investment is meant to address the mill's current storage deficit and enhance efficiency in handling coffee from all the cooperative societies.

The mill allows local farmers to mill, roast and directly sell their coffee thus improving farmers' earnings by cutting out middlemen and cartels. Mill Chairperson Wilfensio Njeru

welcomed the donation, saying they will no longer have to turn away societies bringing in their coffee for lack of storage space.



# Tanzania Shuts Down Offices As Post-Election Chaos Erupts

By: Martin Kamau  
@themtkenyatimes

Tanzania has plunged into a tense political standoff following a controversial general election that has sparked widespread protests and forced the government to order all civil servants to work from home. The directive, issued by Government Spokesperson Gerson Msigwa, came just hours after violent demonstrations erupted across major cities, including the capital Dar es Salaam, in response to what many citizens and rights groups are calling a deeply flawed electoral process. The government's decision to send public workers home is being seen as both a security precaution and a tacit acknowledgment of the volatile situation gripping the country. The unrest began shortly after polls closed on October 29, 2025, when it became clear that the presidential election would be a one-horse race. President Samia Suluhu Hassan, seeking a second term, was the only major candidate on the ballot after her two most prominent challengers were either jailed or disqualified in the weeks leading up to the vote. This development triggered outrage among opposition supporters and civil society groups, who accused the government of orchestrating a political lockdown to ensure an uncontested victory.

As news of the exclusions spread, demonstrators took to the streets in Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza, and other urban centers, setting vehicles ablaze, tearing down campaign posters, and clashing with security forces. Police responded with tear gas, rubber bullets, and in some instances, live ammunition, prompting rights organizations to call for restraint and an independent investigation into reports of deaths and injuries. The government quickly imposed a 6 p.m. curfew in Dar es Salaam and other hotspots, citing the need to restore order and protect public infrastructure. Roads leading to key government buildings and the international airport were blocked, and internet access was severely disrupted, further fueling public anger and speculation. In a televised address, Msigwa urged calm and announced that all civil servants, except those whose duties require physical presence, should remain at home until further notice. He also encouraged private sector employers to adopt remote work arrangements, citing safety concerns and the need to de-escalate tensions.

The move has drawn mixed reactions. While some Tanzanians welcomed the directive as a necessary



President Samia Suluhu Hassan

step to prevent further violence, others saw it as a sign of a government in crisis, struggling to contain the fallout from an election widely viewed as illegitimate. Critics argue that the work-from-home order is a temporary bandage on a deeper wound—one that stems from years of shrinking democratic space, suppression of dissent, and erosion of electoral integrity. International observers, many of whom were barred from monitoring the election, have expressed concern over the lack of transparency and inclusivity in the process. The United States and the European Union issued statements condemning the violence and urging Tanzanian authorities to uphold human rights and democratic norms. The African Union, which had a limited observer mission on the ground, has called for dialogue between the government and opposition leaders to resolve the crisis peacefully.

Meanwhile, the streets of Dar es Salaam remain tense. Reports indicate that security forces have detained dozens of protesters, journalists, and opposition figures in a sweeping crackdown aimed at quelling dissent. Human rights groups have documented cases of arbitrary arrests and alleged torture in police custody, raising alarm over the state of civil liberties in the country. The government has denied these allega-

tions, insisting that law enforcement is acting within the bounds of the law to maintain peace and order. President Hassan, who has yet to publicly address the unrest in detail, is expected to be sworn in for a second term in the coming days. Her silence has drawn criticism from both domestic and international quarters, with many urging her to engage directly with the public and take steps to heal the nation's deepening political rift.

The opposition, led by ACT Wazalendo and other smaller parties, has rejected the election results and called for mass civil disobedience until fresh, credible elections are held. Zitto Kabwe, a prominent opposition figure who was barred from contesting, accused the government of orchestrating a constitutional coup and vowed to continue mobilizing peaceful resistance. In a statement posted on social media, Kabwe said, "This is not just about an election. It is about the soul of our democracy. We will not be silenced." Analysts warn that the situation could deteriorate further if both sides fail to find common ground. The combination of political exclusion, economic hardship, and growing youth frustration has created a volatile mix that could ignite prolonged unrest if not addressed urgently.

For now, the work-from-home di-

rective remains in effect, with no clear timeline for when normal operations will resume. Schools and universities have also been closed in affected areas, and public transportation has been scaled back significantly. The economic impact of the shutdown is already being felt, particularly among informal sector workers who rely on daily wages and have no option to work remotely. As Tanzania grapples with this unfolding crisis, the world watches closely. The events of the past week have cast a long shadow over the country's democratic credentials and raised difficult questions about the future of governance in one of East Africa's most populous nations. Whether the government can restore stability without resorting to further repression—and whether the opposition can channel public anger into constructive dialogue—remains to be seen. But one thing is clear: the 2025 election has left Tanzania at a crossroads, and the path it chooses next will shape its destiny for years to come.

## Worth Noting:

- As news of the exclusions spread, demonstrators took to the streets in Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza, and other urban centers, setting vehicles ablaze, tearing down campaign posters, and clashing with security forces.
- Police responded with tear gas, rubber bullets, and in some instances, live ammunition, prompting rights organizations to call for restraint and an independent investigation into reports of deaths and injuries. The government quickly imposed a 6 p.m. curfew in Dar es Salaam and other hotspots, citing the need to restore order and protect public infrastructure.
- Roads leading to key government buildings and the international airport were blocked, and internet access was severely disrupted, further fueling public anger and speculation.

# Kiunjuri: Give Ruto Enough Time If You Want To Compare Him With Previous Presidents

By: Dennis Dibondo  
 @themkenyaintimes

Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri has defended President William Ruto's development track record and urged Kenyans to give him time to deliver his pledges.

Kiunjuri said many Kenyans are saying that President Ruto has not delivered yet, they don't compare his work and timeline with other previous presidents.

Kiunjuri said President Ruto should be reelected in 2027, if Kenyans want him to leave a legacy they can pinpoint as he cannot match Kibaki and Uhuru work with only five years.

"People are saying all manner of things how the Kenya Kwanza hasn't done anything but let me remind them that late former President Mwai Kibaki is mostly remembered for Thika super highway from Nairobi to Kenol which he build in his seventh year as President. Uhuru Kenyatta is remembered for Express Way and the highway from Kenol to Marwa which he built in his eighth year," he said.

He said it is unrealistic to expect President Ruto to do what his predecessors did in their second term in the first two years.

Kiunjuri spoke yesterday during a fund raiser for five CBOs in Urru area, Tigania West constituency in Meru county.

Meru Women Representative Elizabeth Kailemia, Imenti Central MP Moses Kirima and his Tigania West counterpart John Mutunga were present.

Kiunjuri asked Mount Kenya region not to be divided among tribal lines as they have been united as Kikuyu, Embu and Meru.

To show how disunity works, the former Cabinet Secretary gave an



Meru Women Representative Elizabeth Kailemia addressing the forum as MPs John Mutunga (left) and Mwangi Kiunjuri (right).

**Worth Noting:**

- Kiunjuri said President Ruto should be reelected in 2027, if Kenyans want him to leave a legacy they can pinpoint as he cannot match Kibaki and Uhuru work with only five years.
- "People are saying all manner of things how the Kenya Kwanza hasn't done anything but let me remind them that late former President Mwai Kibaki is mostly remembered for Thika super highway from Nairobi to Kenol which he build in his seventh year as President. Uhuru Kenyatta is remembered for Express Way and the highway from Kenol to Marwa which he built in his eighth year," he said.

analogy thus; "There were three cows; a black one, a white one and a brown one and there was a lion that wanted to eat them but it could not because they were united and fought off the beast together but the lion devised a trickery way to eat them and it followed each cow separately and cheated them to be divided and in the end the lion ate them all one by one because they could not defend themselves separately."

Kiunjuri said the region will not be overrun and it would be a battle ground.

"We will not allow to be pushovers

we have heard people saying that Rigathi Gachagua is the Mount Kenya Kingpin others are saying its Uhuru let them also know that we have Deputy President Kithure Kindiki and other people like me. I want to assure our rivals that we have something to lay on the table in terms of development," he said.

He said Deputy President Kithure Kindiki should be respected and those undermining him let them do so at their own peril.

On her part, the Women Rep. said they will support President William Ruto and his Deputy Kithure Kind-

iki now, and in the coming General Elections

"A lot of people are lying to people that we don't love Kindiki as Meru that is a big lie we have great love for him," Kailemia said.

Mutunga urged residents of his constituency to support Kenya Kwanza government saying the President has promised to tarmac Kagaene-Mikinduri road and already it is in process of being given to a contractor.

Mutunga urged them to give him another term alongside with President William Ruto so that he can complete projects in the constituency.



Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri addressing the meeting yesterday.

# Kenya Targets To Attract Over 7.5 million International Tourists By 2030

By: Moses Wekesa and Selphine Katumanga  
 @themkenyatimes

The government is targeting to increase the number of international tourists visiting the country from 2.4 million recorded in 2024 to 7.5 million by 2030.

President William Ruto has already committed to ensuring Kenya attains at least 5 million international tourists' arrivals by 2027.

Speaking in Kakamega, a Principal Tourism Officer from the State Department for Tourism Mr Ishmael Chelang'a, said the ease of travel enabled through the Kenya Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) and the Kenya Open Sky Policy are some of the interventions put in place to attract international tourists to the country.

Chelang'a was speaking during a public participation forum for the Kenya National Tourism Strategy (NTS) 2025-2030, which is aimed at making Kenya a competitive and sus-

tainable tourism destination country worldwide.

In the 2024 statistics, Kenya is ranked sixth in Africa in tourism arrivals. Morocco leads with 17.4million visitors, followed by Egypt with 15.7million visitors.

According to Chelang'a the increase in the number of tourists will increase revenue realized from international tourists from Sh 452billion in 2024 to Sh 1.2trillion by 2030.

"In terms of employment, tourism directly and indirectly creates over 1.5 million jobs, we want those jobs to increase to 2.5 million by 2030," he added.

He also explained that the government is targeting to increase the number of average stays of visitors from the current eight days to 12 days by 2030.

On domestic trips, he said, the government is targeting to have it grow from the current 5.17 million bed nights to at least 10 million bed nights by 2030.

Through the strategy, the government

is also keen to tap from the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE), a key tourism earner.

In the hospitality industry, he said that the government is keen on increasing the number of internationally classified beds from 26,786 in 2018 to 125,000 by 2030.

In 2024 the Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) unveiled nine tourism circuits to transform travel experiences.

In those circuits, the government is seeking to establish a major flagship project that will help in driving visitors to that region.

Ishmael Chelang'a.



# Carnivore Conference: Experts Call For Unity In Tackling Human–Wildlife Conflicts

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themkenyatimes

The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) yesterday opened the 15th Carnivore Conference, a two-day meeting bringing together scientists, conservationists, policymakers and community leaders to discuss how people and wildlife can coexist more peacefully.

Held under the theme "Enhancing Carnivore Conservation and Co-existence through Pragmatic Approaches to Human–Carnivore Conflict Mitigation," the conference was officially opened by the Principal Secretary for Wildlife, Ms. Silvia Museiya.

Ms. Museiya said that lasting conservation success depends on empowering local communities and strengthening collaboration between government agencies, researchers, and conservation partners. "Conservation cannot thrive in isolation," she said. "It thrives where communities have ownership, where counties have



The team with lion.

capacity, where researchers have support, and where partners have trust. Our goal must be to make co-existence not just a policy, but a way of life."

The PS called on all stakeholders to support the implementation of the National Carnivore Conservation Strategy, scale up human–wildlife conflict mitigation, and ensure that communities living near protected areas share in the benefits of conservation.

KWS Board Chairman Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Walter Koipaton echoed her sentiments, emphasizing that predation causes both economic and emotional losses to affected households. "Conservation should speak the people's language as much as science," he said. "Communities must become shareholders in conservation, not just bystanders."

KWS Director General Prof. Erustus Kanga underscored the need to balance cultural heritage and modern



The team in a group photo after yesterday's forum.

science in protecting Kenya's carnivore species, which include lions, leopards, hyenas, cheetahs, and wild dogs.

"Our relationship with predators has always been complex — a mix of fear, admiration, and fascination," Prof. Kanga said. "Their survival is increasingly at risk, and we must adopt inclusive, science-based approaches that make conservation beneficial to the herder, the farmer, and the nation at large."

The conference also featured exhibitions showcasing innovative solutions and success stories from Tsavo, Laikipia, Amboseli, and the Maasai Mara — regions where human–carnivore coexistence programs are already bearing fruit.

KWS reaffirmed its commitment to promoting collaborative, science-driven solutions that enable both people and carnivores to thrive side by side.

**14 POEMS**

## Life's Too Short For Regrets



Life is a precious gift for everyone.  
Many people regret to live in the world.

They work hard and lose their families.  
They have no time to spend with their families.

They should focus on the present moment and  
use every opportunity in life.

Regrets are like a

butterfly it will come and go.  
Don't try to have with ourselves.

Try to be free from the burden and live more  
fully in the present.

Live with no regrets and step out of the  
comfort zones without worries.

Focus on creating a bright and fulfilling future  
to live with happiness.  
If we live with no regrets we will be able to do  
everything.

Q. PATRICIA,  
Graduate Teacher,  
PUGMS Melpattampakkam,  
Cuddalore Dt.

## Choose Not Good Face But Good Heart



We should choose not a good face but good  
heart  
That is very smart  
The good face shows only appearance  
But the good heart gives good experience

The good heart is always kind  
But we don't know whether the good face has  
good mind  
Some people like good face  
But then they face problems race

Some people like good heart  
Their life never ends with dot  
The good heart is always best  
The good face is sometimes worst

P. KEERTHANA  
11 A  
Sri Saraswathi patalala girls Hr.sec.school  
Kumbakonam

## Perfection



Actions with flaws may result in perfect  
output,  
It May not require much plans, but ends well,  
without any doubt it ends well  
Many a time this happened – unscripted  
Darshan, dramas are moments to shine,  
Beauty lies in imperfections, making them very  
good.

Small kids perform dance with mistakes, and  
they're so cute,  
Their joy is fantastic, their laughter is a treat  
Even the artwork which is not planned well  
looks pretty  
creativity has a charm that's hard to ignore

Be it music or dance or anything, imperfections  
add a beauty  
A personal touch will be there  
It is a beauty to see and enjoy  
Freelance writing is now more popular, breaking  
traditional poetry  
Because it follows no big rules, even with  
mistakes it is good

In imperfections, we find beauty  
It reflects humanity,  
So let's accept the flaws,  
and let our true self shine,  
For in imperfection lies a beauty that's truly  
admirable

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

## mom...



Mom is a great woman in the Universe,  
Her merriment is others' happiness.  
She is a wonder woman – she  
always worries about me!

You lifted me from the birth  
Till now and so from the struggled path  
You gave me birth

You will receive the life, being proud of me.

Others' happiness matters alot to you!  
But what about yours?  
You pray for everyone's wealth  
And what about your health?

That's mom for us  
A wonder woman who  
Shatters and Sacrifices her needs for us.  
Celebrate her before anything!

U.RESHMA  
9-C  
SRI SARASWATHI PADASALA GIRL'S HR.SEC  
SCHOOL,KUMBAKONAM

## I'll Never Regret Growing Older



Peacock is a beautiful bird,  
Its eyes are small and bright.  
The peacock is called the bird of kings.  
Its neck is long and thin.

It dances during the rainy season,  
spreading its blue feathers for a reason.

The peacock is the national bird of India.  
It is found in gardens and forests.  
It takes rest on coconut trees  
and eats nuts, worms, and herbs.

I love this bird.  
It is the most beautiful bird I have ever seen.  
I love to watch it dance in the rain.

M. Dharshni  
8th Standard  
Panchayat Union Middle School Eripatti Pollachi  
North. Coimbatore Dt, Tamilnadu



I'll never regret growing older  
I have known too many people who didn't get  
that privilege  
Growing older, a gift, not a burden,

Each wrinkle, a story registered in heart  
Lessons learned, and secrets to keep.  
Days are passed, years are gone  
Experience grows, reaching high.  
No sigh for the journey,  
To age is a privilege, truly,  
A life is living beautifully.

By,  
SuFyan  
Thiruvalluvar matric.hr.sec.school,  
Panruti, cuddalore district.

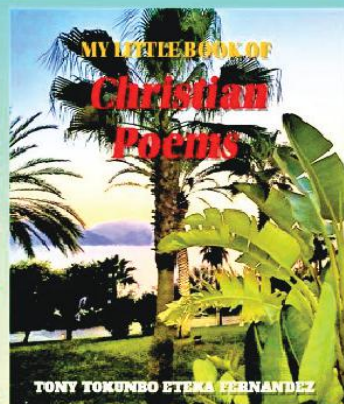
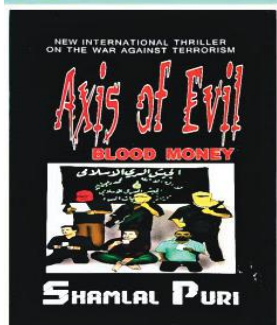
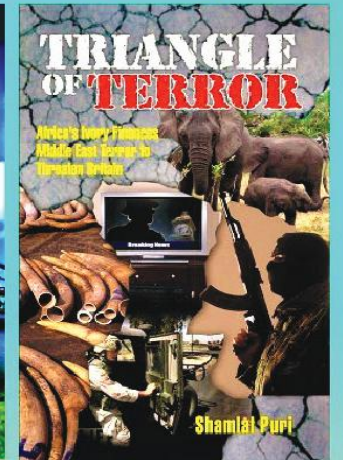
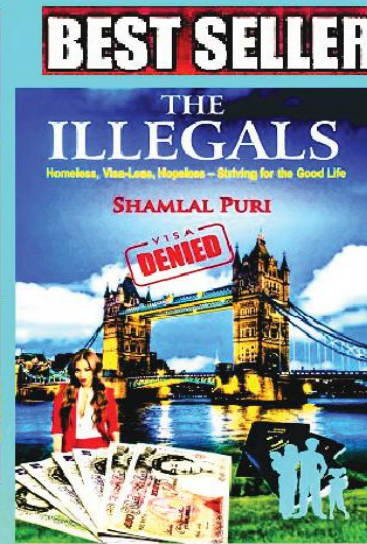
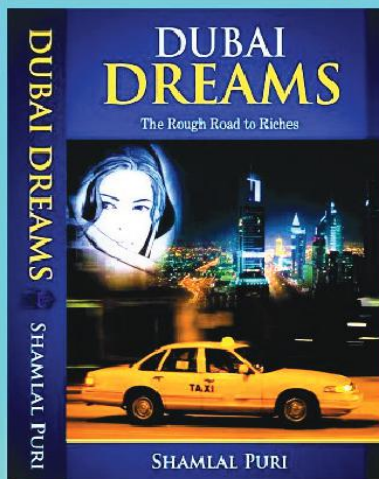
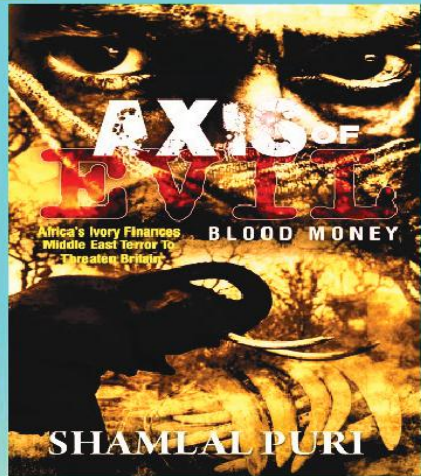
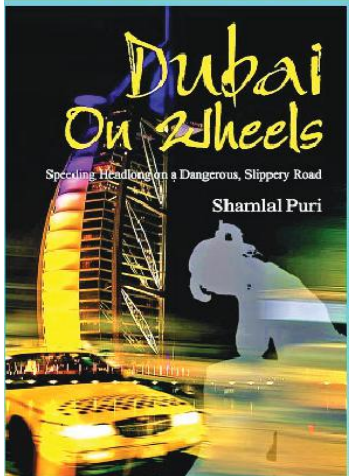
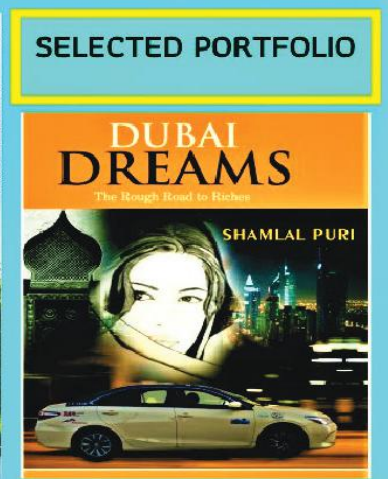
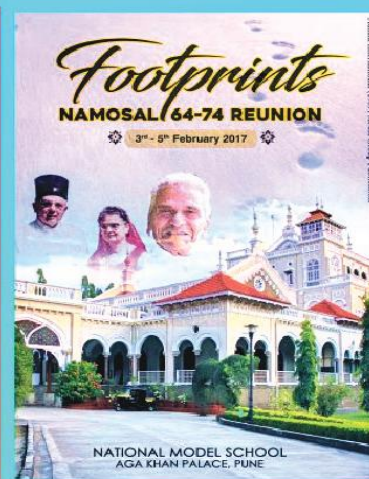
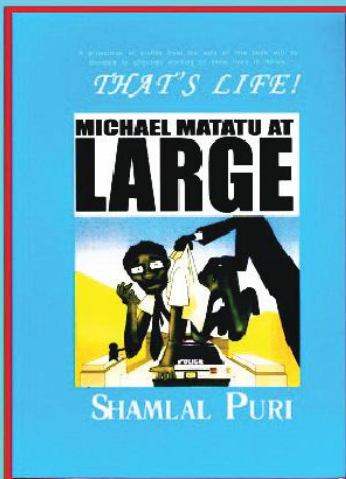
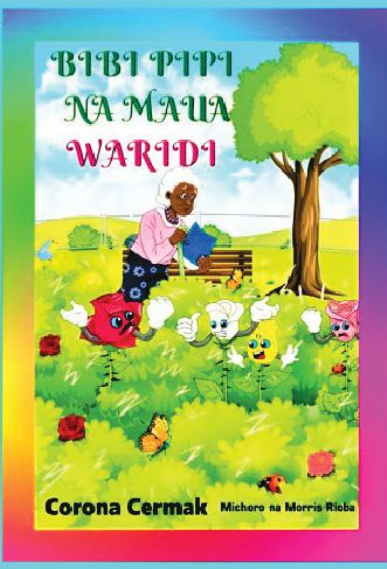
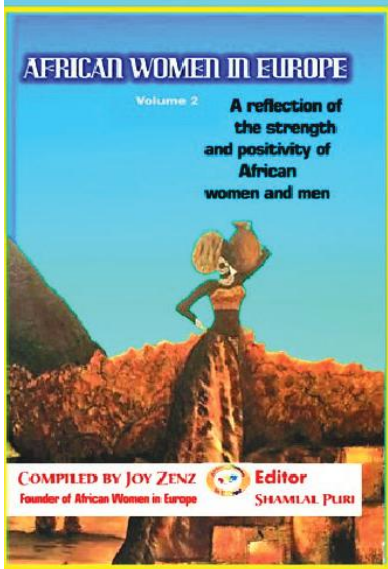
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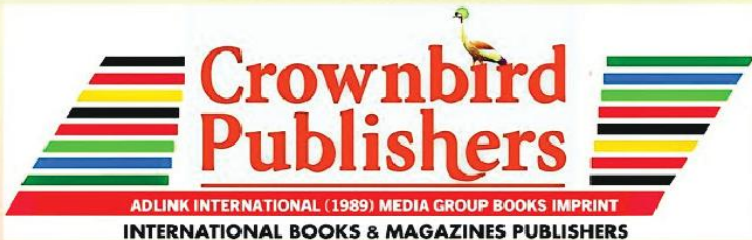
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## BUSINESS

## Is Aviation The Wings Of Kenya's Economy?

By: Felix Wakiuru  
 @themtkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- That is nearly 500,000 families facing instability, wondering how to put food on the table. It's hundreds of thousands of children whose school fees can no longer be paid. The potential ripple effect—unstable homes, stalled community projects, and rising crime rates—form an enormous rabbit hole we simply cannot afford to explore.

- Now, let's step back into the vibrant reality we have built. This thriving ecosystem exists because of passionate travel enthusiasts, strategic positioning by both the government and the private sector, and the sheer determination of Kenyans to butter their bread and, in doing so, actively participate in building their nation, brick by brick.



Kenya's aviation .

When we discuss Kenya's aviation sector, it's easy to get lost in the data. According to a 2024 IATA report, the industry directly employs over 21,000 people. This dedicated workforce generates USD 1.58 billion annually, accounting for a significant 1.1 percent of our nation's total GDP. But that's just the beginning. When we look at the wider tourism industry that aviation makes possible, the figures become even more powerful. This interconnected ecosystem contributes a staggering USD 3.3 billion to the GDP and employs nearly 450,000 Kenyans. This number is roughly equal to the entire population of a single county like Elgeyo-Marakwet (454,480) or Marsabit (459,785).

These are not just mere numbers on a report; they are a profound reflection of how fundamental this industry is to our national fabric. These figures might seem abstract on paper. But let's dive in. Imagine, for a moment, a Kenya without its bustling aviation and tourism sectors. We are not just

talking about empty airports, vacant hotels, and deserted parks. We are talking about close to half a million more jobless Kenyans, putting an incredible strain on an already high unemployment rate.

That is nearly 500,000 families facing instability, wondering how to put food on the table. It's hundreds of thousands of children whose school fees can no longer be paid. The potential ripple effect—unstable homes, stalled community projects, and rising crime rates—form an enormous rabbit hole we simply cannot afford to explore.

Now, let's step back into the vibrant reality we have built. This thriving ecosystem exists because of passionate travel enthusiasts, strategic positioning by both the government and the private sector, and the sheer determination of Kenyans to butter their bread and, in doing so, actively participate in building their nation, brick by brick.

This is a highly organized, profes-

sional industry. The Kenya Association of Travel Agents (KATA), for instance, boasts a membership of over 300 agents that service nearly 80 percent of the market. This structure is reinforced by deep international integration. According to IATA, Kenya has 405 accredited agents participating in the Billing and Settlement Plan (BSP)—a figure that significantly outpaces our neighbors, Tanzania (105) and Uganda (157). This robust network services over 73 airlines operating within the Kenyan BSP, highlighting a well-served and interconnected market.

With Kenya's travel agents comprising 3.20% of the entire Middle East and Africa region, we hold a significant and established footprint. This strong presence is a clear indicator of our immense potential for enhanced sales performance and future market share growth. When compared to other industries, the economic impact of tourism, all supported by aviation, is truly immense.

An industry with such scale and potential cannot be taken for granted; it must be nurtured. Its continued success demands a unified vision. It requires collaborative, forward-thinking effort from governments, airlines, travel agents, and tour operators. Key associations like KATA and the Kenya Association of Tour Operators (KATO), working in lockstep with the Ministry of Tourism and other government agencies, must all pull in the same direction.

When aviation thrives, Kenya thrives. It's more than just flying—it's the lifeline of our economy.

#### About the Writer

Felix Wakiuru serves as the Membership and Communications Officer at the Kenya Association of Travel Agents (KATA), the umbrella body representing Kenya's licensed travel agencies.



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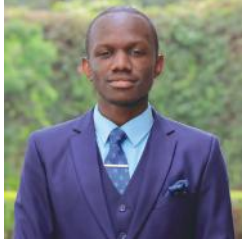
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# The High-Yield Lure: Navigating The Unsecured Debt Trap In Kenya's Financial Markets



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor  
@themkenyatimes

The allure of higher returns often draws Kenyan investors toward corporate debt instruments like Commercial Papers (CPs), Medium Term Notes (MTNs), and Corporate Bonds. It's a compelling trade-off: why settle for low bank interest when corporate papers promise double-digit yields? However, beneath these attractive rates lies a significant and often misunderstood risk, especially when the debt is unsecured, meaning it is not backed by any specific collateral. For the diligent Kenyan investor, understanding the peril of this unsecured debt is critical to protecting hard-earned capital in a market prone to high-profile defaults.

Unsecured debt is essentially a vote of confidence in a company's ability and honesty; it is backed only by the issuer's reputation and general solvency. When a Kenyan company issues an unsecured bond, it is making a solemn promise to pay the investor back, but it hasn't pledged any tangible assets no land, no machinery, and no dedicated receivables to back that promise. This is fundamentally different from secured debt, where a specific asset acts as collateral, giving the investor a legal claim to that asset if the company defaults. Relying purely on a corporate promise, rather than collateral, immediately places the investor in a position of maximum vulnerability.

The true danger of unsecured debt crystallizes when an issuing company faces financial distress and collapses. In the legal process of liquidation, a strict hierarchy dictates who gets paid first. Secured creditors, typically banks or other financial institutions with a specific lien on assets, are at the front of the line, often recovering their entire loan amount through the sale of the collateral. Unsecured investors, however, are classified as general creditors, positioned well behind everyone else, the secured lenders, tax authorities, and even employees. By the time the unsecured investors are considered, the company's assets have usually been liquidated, leaving little or nothing to distribute. The high interest rate offered on these papers is merely compensation for this near-total loss risk.

Kenyan financial history is unfortunately dotted with painful reminders of this risk, where the failure of several institutions cost thousands of investors billions of shillings. Companies that were heavily reliant on short-term CPs to fund long-term operations a classic liquidity mismatch, could not sustain themselves when the economy tightened. A prominent



example involved institutions whose commercial papers were not backed by sufficient liquid assets; when redemption day arrived, they simply lacked the cash. As these companies entered receivership, the unsecured investors spent years in court battles, only to be left with debt claims that were eventually settled for pennies on the shilling, if at all. These historical events demonstrate that in the local market, the risk of a high-yield paper is often the certainty of non-repayment.

For a cautious Kenyan investor, due diligence must extend far beyond the attractive coupon rate. It requires a meticulous examination of the issuer's financial statements, specifically looking for the company's debt-to-equity ratio and its asset pledge status. If the Notes to the Accounts reveal that the majority of the firm's productive assets like its factories or major land holdings are already pledged to secure bank loans, any new, unsecured corporate bond is essentially a loan to an already over-encumbered shell. Investors should demand clarity on what assets are available to unsecured creditors, which often forces a sobering realization about the true lack of protection.

Even if a company appears stable, the limited depth of Kenya's corporate debt market poses another major hurdle: liquidity risk. Unlike highly traded government bonds, corporate papers often trade rarely, making it extremely difficult to sell quickly without incurring a heavy discount. If an investor foresees a problem with the issuer and attempts to exit their position, the lack of ready buy-

ers can effectively trap their capital, compounding the financial risk. Furthermore, information asymmetry is a major challenge, as companies seeking unsecured public funding may be less willing to disclose the financial difficulties that pushed them away from cheaper, secured bank financing in the first place.

To mitigate the existential risk of unsecured corporate paper, investors should actively seek instruments that are secured or issued by entities with an immaculate reputation and strong balance sheet, often classified as blue-chip companies. A secured bond, even with a slightly lower return, offers peace of mind because a tangible asset stands between the investor and a total loss. Ultimately, investors must adhere to the fundamental principle of diversification: never allow a single unsecured corporate investment to represent a disproportionate share of one's total portfolio. In the dynamic and sometimes volatile Kenyan market, prudence means assuming the issuer might default and structuring investments to survive that outcome.

The onus of protection ultimately falls on the individual investor in Kenya's complex financial landscape. While the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) provides regulatory oversight and establishes frameworks for market operations, it does not guarantee the safety of every investment opportunity that emerges. The regulatory body can set standards, monitor compliance, and take action against violations, but it cannot shield investors from the inherent risks of their choices. Market supervision has its

limitations, particularly in a rapidly evolving financial ecosystem where new instruments and products constantly emerge. Investors who assume that regulatory presence equals absolute safety are operating under a dangerous misconception. The CMA's role is to ensure fair play and transparency, not to validate the soundness of every investment vehicle. Therefore, personal vigilance remains the first and most critical line of defense against financial loss.

Kenyans must develop a sophisticated understanding of financial instruments, moving beyond surface-level attraction to promised returns. This understanding requires knowledge of how different securities work, what backs them, and how they generate the yields they advertise. Investors need to comprehend the fundamental relationship between risk and return that governs all financial markets. They should be able to read and interpret prospectuses, financial statements, and credit ratings with a critical eye. Understanding the difference between secured and unsecured debt, between investment-grade and speculative-grade instruments, becomes essential. Financial literacy extends beyond knowing what to buy to understanding why certain investments offer particular returns. This deeper knowledge transforms investors from passive participants into informed decision-makers capable of protecting

## Worth Noting:

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- This is fundamentally different from secured debt, where a specific asset acts as collateral, giving the investor a legal claim to that asset if the company defaults. Relying purely on a corporate promise, rather than collateral, immediately places the investor in a position of maximum vulnerability.

# How Sheep Become The Donkey's Silent Guardian

By: Sheilah Ombongi

@themtkenyatimes

The recent surge of donkey theft and illegal slaughter in Nyandarua County highlights desperate economic times. The working animal that supports family livelihoods is suddenly turned into a high-risk target for the dark global trade in hides. Losing a donkey isn't just a financial setback; it hampers a family's ability to fetch water, transport goods, and earn a daily living.

Yet, a smart grassroots strategy is emerging from Miharati in Kipipiri. Through non-governmental organizations like Farming Systems Kenya, Miharati donkey owners have been issued with Merino sheep as an alternative source of income.

This strategy effectively reduces economic risk. The donkey, now a target for international crime, poses a significant threat to the household economy. In contrast, sheep offer a

diverse and local income source—meat, wool, and market sales—that the ejiao traders cannot easily exploit.

They create a stable financial backup, forming an economic safety net from wool. By stabilizing and diversifying farmers' incomes, the community helps protect its donkeys indirectly. When families are not solely dependent on donkeys for survival, they can better protect their animals and invest more in their care.

Miharati's strategy serves as a powerful blueprint: to save the donkey, we must strengthen the owner's livelihood. This quiet revolution fights rural poverty and organized crime. It shows that the future of Kenyan farming lies not in relying on a single beast of burden but in the strength of diversification and community-led resilience.



Donkey

## The High-Yield Lure: Navigating The Unsecured Debt Trap In Kenya's Financial Markets

Contd from page 18

their own interests.

Recognizing that the promise of extraordinary returns is inherently a signal of extraordinary risk represents a crucial psychological shift for investors. When a commercial paper offers returns significantly above government treasury bills or established corporate bonds, it is advertising its risk profile as much as its potential reward. Accepting a high-yield, unsecured paper means accepting the risk that you are the last person in line when the issuer faces financial difficulties. In bankruptcy or liquidation scenarios, unsecured creditors typically recover little to nothing after secured creditors and other priority claims are satisfied. The allure of double-digit returns can cloud judgment, making

investors overlook the fundamental question of what could go wrong. Many high-yield instruments that collapsed in Kenya's market offered returns that, in hindsight, clearly signaled distress rather than opportunity. Investors must train themselves to view exceptionally high yields not as windfalls but as warning signals demanding extraordinary scrutiny.

Only through continuous education and rigorous personal due diligence can investors navigate the high-yield trap and build wealth safely and sustainably in the Kenyan debt market. Financial education cannot be a one-time event but must be an ongoing commitment to understanding evolving market dynamics, new products, and emerging risks. Due diligence means independently verifying claims, researching issuers' financial health, understanding their business models, and assessing their capacity to honor obligations. Investors should diversify across different



instruments, sectors, and risk profiles rather than concentrating resources in high-yield opportunities. Consulting with qualified financial advisors, comparing multiple investment options, and maintaining realistic return expectations all contribute to

sound investment practices. The goal should not be to maximize returns at any cost but to achieve consistent, sustainable growth aligned with one's risk tolerance and financial goals. By combining knowledge, caution, and discipline, Kenyan in-

vestors can participate in the debt market while avoiding the pitfalls that have devastated many before them.

*The writer is a legal writer and researcher*

# Xi Says Ready To Work With Trump To Build Solid Foundation For Bilateral Ties

By: Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes

BUSAN, South Korea, (Xinhua)

-- Chinese President Xi Jinping said here Thursday that he is ready to continue working with U.S. President Donald Trump to build a solid foundation for bilateral ties, and create a sound atmosphere for the development of both countries.

In a meeting with Trump, Xi said under their joint guidance, China-U.S. relations have remained stable on the whole.

"China and the United States should be partners and friends. That is what history has taught us and what reality needs," he said.

Given different national conditions, the two sides do not always see eye to eye with each other, and it is normal for the two leading economies of the world to have frictions now and then, Xi added.

"You and I are at the helm of China-U.S. relations," said Xi. "In the face of winds, waves and challenges, we should stay the right course, navigate through the complex landscape, and ensure the steady sailing forward of the giant ship of China-U.S. relations."

Xi said that there is a good momentum in China's economic development, adding that in the first three quarters of this year, China's economy increased by 5.2 percent, and import and export trade in goods with the rest of the world expanded by 4 percent.

This is not an easy accomplishment given the domestic and external difficulties, Xi noted, adding that the Chinese economy is like a vast ocean, big, resilient and promising.

"We have the confidence and capability to navigate all kinds of risks and challenges," Xi added.

At its fourth plenary session, the 20th CPC Central Committee deliberated over and adopted the recommendations for the economic and social development plan over the next five years, Xi said.

"Over the past seven decades and more, we have been working from generation to generation on the same blueprint to make it a reality. We have no intention to challenge or supplant anyone. Our focus has always been on managing China's own affairs well, improving ourselves, and sharing development opportunities with all countries across the world," he added.

Describing that as an important secret to China's success, Xi said China will further deepen reform across the board, expand opening up, and promote higher-quality economic growth while achieving an appropri-



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with U.S. President Donald Trump in Busan, South Korea, Oct. 30, 2025. (Xinhua/Huang Jingwen)

## Worth Noting:

- "In the face of winds, waves and challenges, we should stay the right course, navigate through the complex landscape, and ensure the steady sailing forward of the giant ship of China-U.S. relations," Chinese President Xi Jinping said.
- "China and the United States can jointly shoulder our responsibility as major countries, and work together to accomplish more great and concrete things for the good of our two countries and the whole world," Xi said.
- China is the biggest partner of the United States, and with joint efforts, the two countries can get many great things done for the world and have many years of success, said U.S. President Donald Trump.

ate increase in economic output, and advance well-rounded human development and common prosperity for all, adding that this will also expand the space for cooperation between China and the United States.

Xi noted that the two countries' economic and trade teams had an in-depth exchange of views on important economic and trade issues, and reached consensus on solving various issues.

He called on the two teams to work out and finalize the follow-up steps as soon as possible, and ensure that the common understandings are effectively upheld and implemented, to inject confidence into the two countries as well as the global economy through solid deliverables.

China-U.S. economic and trade relations have experienced ups and downs recently, and this has also given the two sides some insights, Xi noted.

The business relationship, Xi said, should continue to serve as the anchor and driving force for China-U.S. relations, not a stumbling block or a point of friction.

The two sides should think big and recognize the long-term benefit of cooperation, and must not fall into a vicious cycle of mutual retaliation, he added, calling on the two teams to continue their talks in the spirit of equality, mutual respect and mutual

benefit, and continuously shorten the list of problems and lengthen the list of cooperation.

Dialogue is better than confrontation, Xi said, adding that China and the United States should maintain communication through various channels and at various levels to enhance mutual understanding.

There is good potential for the two countries to work together on combating illegal immigration and telecom fraud, anti-money laundering, artificial intelligence, and responding to infectious diseases, he added.

The competent departments should strengthen dialogue and exchanges and carry out mutually beneficial cooperation, Xi said, adding that the two countries should also engage in positive interactions on regional and international platforms.

"The world today is confronted with many tough problems. China and the United States can jointly shoulder our responsibility as major countries, and work together to accomplish more great and concrete things for the good of our two countries and the whole world," he added.

China will host APEC 2026, and the United States the G20 summit next year, Xi noted.

The two sides can support each other in making both summits productive to promote world economic

growth and improve global economic governance, he added.

Noting that it was a great honor to meet with Xi, Trump said China is a great country and President Xi is a well respected great leader, with whom he has been good friends for many years and has always got along well.

The United States and China have always had a fantastic relationship, and it will be even better, said Trump, voicing his hope for an even better future for both China and the United States.

China is the biggest partner of the United States, and with joint efforts, the two countries can get many great things done for the world and have many years of success, said Trump.

China will host the 2026 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, while the United States will host the G20 Summit next year, said Trump, wishing both sides every success in these important events.

The two presidents have agreed to enhance cooperation in economic, trade, energy and other fields and to encourage more people-to-people exchanges.

They have also agreed to maintain interactions on a regular basis. Trump looked forward to visiting China early next year, and invited President Xi to visit the United States.

# Biography Of Ghulam Mustafa

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes

*Ghulam Mustafa: Bs Scholar department of Management Sciences at Al-Qadir University .Vision "Self-Transformation, then People Transformation."*

Born and raised in District Killa Abdullah, Balochistan a border region between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Ghulam Mustafa journey reflects resilience, purpose, and a commitment to social progress. His early education at village than fo further eudcaion matric at Islamia Model High School Quetta and Fsc at Gvrt Post Graduate Science College Quetta laid the foundation for his academic excellence. Recognizing his potential, Al-Qadir University awarded him a 100% merit-based scholarship to pursue higher education.

At Al-Qadir University, Ghulam Mustafa found his intellectual and spiritual compass. Deeply influenced by Dr Amjad ur Rehman, Executive Director of Al-Qadir university, and Dr Muhammad Zulqarnain, former Dean, of Al-Qadir University he underwent the Holistic Development Training Program (HDTP) a transformative model that blends Islamic ethics with modern management science. He believes Al-Qadir University is unique university in Pakistan for producing leaders who strive not merely for personal success but for the Islam, for humanity, society, and Pakistan

Beyond academics, Ghulam Mustafa's leadership journey began during his college years in Quetta, where he volunteered in NGO-led polio vaccination campaigns, serving remote communities. As a university student, he continued his civic engagement by organizing a career counselling session at Sandeman Higher Secondary School, Quetta, training more than 300 students about national and international scholarship opportunities.

As a Student Ambassador of Al-Qadir University, Ghulam Mustafa represents the institution at both national and international levels, promoting its mission of integrated education. He also serves as an Executive Member of Sahiba Writing Squad (SWS) and a member of the Youth General Assembly (YGA), Pakistan Youth Council (PYC) where he actively contributes to youth empowerment, writing, and leadership initiatives across Pakistan.

Ghulam Mustafa's academic pursuits extend into research as well his paper titled "Transforming Workplace Culture through Sufi Values



Ghulam Mustafa



## Worth Noting:

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of Compassion and Integrity" has been accepted for presentation at Mohi Ud Din Islamic University (MIU) Nerian Sharif Azad jamu & kashmir. His research bridges the gap between spirituality and modern organizational ethics, showcasing how Islamic principles can inspire humane, value-driven leadership.

His growing national profile has been recognized in several media outlets, including GEO News, Hum News, Bol N, and BBC Urdu, where he has spoken about youth leadership, education, and social transformation. He has also participated in leadership programs such as the That, organized by Hawks Youth Vision Foundation, where he collaborated with young leaders from across the country.

Guided by faith, knowledge, and compassion, Ghulam Mustafa aspires to serve as a bridge between tradition and modernity empowering youth to lead with ethics, vision, and sincerity. His journey from a small border district to national and international recognition stands as a testament to the power of education and purposeful leadership. i have also honore to get interna-

tionanl universities such as 1 Business & Marketing Strategies Specialization Course -University of London, UK. 2 The Strategy of Content Marketing -University of California, Davis USA. 3 Business Writing -University of Colorado Boulder, USA, 4 Introduction to Psychology -University of Toronto, Canada. 5 Infrastructure Planning & Decision-Making Strategies -Asian Development Bank Institute. 6 Project Management Essentials -Howard University. 7 international Business - University of Colorado Boulder-United States, 8 5-day National Youth Summer Camp 2025 SWAT-KPK, 9 foundation of finance - University of cambridge. 10 Entrepreneurship- the Chinese University of Hong kong.



*with transforming oneself only then can we transform the world around us."*

— Ghulam Mustafa

*"I believe true leadership begins*

Sports >> \* Kenyan para-badminton player Japheth Kakai Kitela is dead.

# SPORTS NEWS

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## Badminton Player Passes Away After Leading Kenya To Gold At World Ability Sports Beach Games

Kenyan para-badminton player Japheth Kakai Kitela is dead.

According to Ability Sports Kenya vice-president Alfred Simiyu, Kakai fell ill on Monday after the arrival of Team Kenya from the World Ability Sport Beach Games in Mersin, Turkey. He was admitted to Mbagathi Hospital on the same day after which he passed away.

“He seemed okay to me, we travelled for an hour from Mersin to Istanbul, then connected another six hour flight to Nairobi arriving on Monday at around 4:00 am and after a quick photo session with our media team, we all went home,” Simiyu said.

Results of a postmortem done on Wednesday afternoon indicate that Kakai developed blood clots in his left leg, which might have led to deep vein thrombosis (DVT) — resulting in a pulmonary embolism that travelled upwards to his lungs.

The 51-year-old was part of Team Kenya’s mixed triples relays that won gold after beating Turkey 3-1 at Pompei beach on Saturday.

He is survived by his wife, Catherine Anyesi Kakai, six children and five grand children.

*Capital Sport*



Japheth Kakai at the World Ability Sports Beach Games in Mersin, Turkey

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*Harambee Starlets forward Mwanahalima "Dogo" Adam says Kenya's qualification for the 2026 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) is a dream come true, describing it as a deeply personal and emotional milestone

# From Missed Chance To History Maker: Dogo's Journey To WAFCON Glory



Mwanahalima 'Dogo' Adam celebrates after scoring against the Gambia. PHOTO/HARAMBEE STARLETS

Harambee Starlets forward Mwanahalima "Dogo" Adam says Kenya's qualification for the 2026 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) is a dream come true, describing it as a deeply personal and emotional milestone. The pint-sized attacker, who scored the decisive goal away in Senegal to secure Kenya's ticket to the continental showpiece, said the team's success is the result of faith, unity, and support from fans and the federation. "Thank you very much for the opportunity, and I would like to thank the federation and our technical bench. They have put us in a good position, that's why we

have performed well. We have achieved our place, and we will continue to achieve more," the 28-year-old said. Adam, who made the Starlets squad for the 2016 WAFCON but couldn't play due to her KCSE examinations, said finally featuring at the tournament is a moment of redemption. "For me, it's special because in 2016 I had made the team, but I didn't manage to play because of KCSE. But now I have made the team and I'm able to play. Thank God," the Denmark-based forward said. Looking ahead to the tournament, the striker urged her teammates to

stay grounded and focused as they prepare to face Africa's best. "It's not over yet, we still have a long way to go. The WAFCON is soon approaching, there are big teams there, but as Starlets, we are taking one thing at a time. We'll prepare well so that when WAFCON comes, we'll be ready. We can do it, that's why we're here," Adam said. Adam also took time to thank the supporters who stood behind the team during their long road back to continental football. "I thank the fans and all Kenyans who have prayed for us and motivated us. We thank the girls who have supported us, we thank

the federation, without you, we wouldn't have been able to do this," she said. Kenya's return to the WAFCON marks their first appearance in 10 years, a journey that has reignited hope and pride in the women's game. With players like 'Dogo' leading from the front, the Starlets are determined to make their comeback one to remember.

*Capital Sport*

**SPORTS NEWS**

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## Marcy Jessup: A Life Of Faith, Service, And Empowerment



By: Anila Bukhari

@themkenyatimes

### Worth Noting:

• Marcy is the proud CEO and founder of \*Finding Freedom Consulting Services LLC\*, a ministry and counseling organization committed to providing spiritual and mental health support. Her company is rooted in her passion to see individuals liberated from emotional, spiritual, and mental struggles, helping them walk in the fullness of their divine destiny. Through her leadership, countless lives have been transformed as she offers counseling, coaching, and training that align with biblical truths and mental health best practices.

• In addition to her entrepreneurial pursuits, Marcy Jessup is a co-founder and co-pastor of \*Greater Love Fellowship Ministries\*, where she actively teaches, preaches, and hosts women's gatherings. Her ministry is characterized by her authentic delivery of the Word of God, coupled with her compassionate heart for women seeking spiritual renewal and empowerment.

Marcy Jessup stands as a remarkable figure in the realm of Christian counseling, spiritual leadership, and inspirational authorship. As a multi-international bestselling author, dedicated Christian counselor, and visionary CEO and founder of Finding Freedom Consulting Services LLC, Marcy's life is a testament to her unwavering commitment to empowering individuals, strengthening families, and advancing the kingdom of God through authentic ministry and compassionate service.

Born with a heart to serve, Marcy Jessup has dedicated her life to helping others find freedom in Christ and discover their God-ordained purpose. Her journey into ministry and counseling has been marked by a profound calling to support pastors' wives and women of faith, recognizing the unique challenges they face and offering guidance rooted in biblical principles and practical wisdom. Her ministry outreach extends beyond local communities, reaching a global audience through her writings, teachings, and mentoring efforts.

Marcy is the proud CEO and founder of \*Finding Freedom Consulting Services LLC\*, a ministry and counseling organization committed to providing spiritual and mental health support. Her company is rooted in her passion to see individuals liberated from emotional, spiritual, and mental struggles, helping them walk in the fullness of their divine destiny. Through her leadership, countless lives have been transformed as she offers counseling, coaching, and training that align with biblical truths and mental health best practices.

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God's grace.

Marcy's calling to serve pastors' wives is one of her most significant passions. She understands the unique spiritual and emotional burdens they carry and strives to create a supportive community where they can find encouragement, accountability, and renewal. Her ministry to pastors' wives is marked by empathetic mentorship, targeted resources, and a genuine desire to see women flourish in their spiritual walk and personal lives.

Educationally, Marcy Jessup has invested deeply in her personal and professional development. She studied at \*Beacon University in Columbia, Georgia, where she gained foundational knowledge in theology, ministry, and leadership. She further honed her skills at the \*\*Christian Life School of Ministry\*, where she deepened her understanding of biblical counseling, spiritual formation, and leadership principles. Her academic pursuits underscore her commitment to excellence and her desire to serve with integrity and wisdom.

Marcy's expertise as a Christian counselor and mental health specialist is accredited internationally through \*Dr. Lashonda Wofford's All Bets on Me Academy\*. Her certification as a Christian counselor and mental health professional reflects her dedication to integrating faith and mental wellness. She recognizes that true healing encompasses both the spiritual and emotional dimensions, and she is equipped to meet individuals at their point of need with compassion and biblical truth.

A proud member of \*WIMSGROUP for Clergywomen\*, Marcy actively collaborates with other women ministers, sharing insights, resources, and encouragement. Her mentorship extends beyond her immediate circle, as she invests in nurturing future leaders, encouraging women to walk boldly in their calling, and fostering a sense of sisterhood among clergywomen.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Marcy Jessup is a woman of rich personal faith and family devotion. She is a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother, a sister, and a friend. Her family is



Marcy Jessup

her first ministry, and she prioritizes spending quality time with her loved ones. Creating treasured memories, sharing laughter, and enjoying life's blessings are central to her worldview. She firmly believes that laughter is medicine for the soul and that joy is a vital component of a fulfilled life.

Marcy loves traveling with her family and friends, seeing new places, experiencing different cultures, and creating shared experiences that strengthen bonds and inspire gratitude. Her love for life, coupled with her deep faith, fuels her passion to encourage others to live authentically and purposefully.

Throughout her ministry, Marcy Jessup has touched countless lives through her words, her example, and her unwavering commitment to meeting people where they are. Her approach to counseling, teaching, and mentorship is rooted in compassion, biblical truth, and a genuine

desire to see others thrive. She understands that life's challenges often require both spiritual guidance and practical support, and she is dedicated to providing both with grace and humility.

In all her endeavors, Marcy Jessup exemplifies a life of service, faith, and love. Her influence continues to grow as she inspires women and men alike to walk in their divine purpose, embrace their identity in Christ, and experience the freedom and joy that come from a life rooted in God's Word. Her legacy is one of healing, empowerment, and unwavering faith—a beacon of hope for all who seek to live fully in Christ's freedom.