



The Collapse Of Democratic Legitimacy In Kenya: A Reckoning With Electoral Failure And The Question Of Imposed Governance.

Kenya's 2022 general elections cost approximately 40.9 billion Kenyan shillings (roughly \$350 million), yet voter turnout plummeted to a historic low of 64.8% the lowest since the reintroduction of multi-party democracy in 1992. More than 7 million registered voters abstained, a figure that dwarfs the margin of victory in the presidential race. Page 18

THANK YOU FOR ADVERTISING WITH US

For any news you would wish us to publish,

email us: news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

For Adverts & Sponsorship

email us: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

The MT. KENYA TIMES

Creative Rewards

Daily ePAPER

Monday, December 1, 2025

No. 01442 www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

[f](https://www.facebook.com/themkenyatimes) [ig](https://www.instagram.com/themkenyatimes) [tw](https://www.twitter.com/themkenyatimes) themkenyatimes



News>> Ruto Calls For Unified Push To End HIV Among Youth As Kenya Marks World AIDS Day

P. 8. President William Ruto has urged Kenyans to intensify efforts to end HIV infections among adolescents and young people



News>> Tea Farmers Threaten Showdown With Parliament Over Controversial Bill

P. 12. A looming confrontation is brewing between tea farmers and Parliament over the contentious Tea Amendment Bill, with growers demanding that MPs halt deliberations and allow wider consultations.

Mau Mau Warns Of Election Fraud As 2027 Nears

 A caucus of former freedom fighters has called on the electoral body and other stakeholders to be extra vigilant as the country approaches the next General Elections.

Mau Mau War Veterans Association sounded the alarm over what it terms a growing and dangerous trend of voter-registration fraud, raising fears that the integrity of the 2027 General Election could be compromised if urgent action is not taken.



Mau Mau War Veterans Association Director General James Njuguna Mahuria addressing the media as Patron Bishop Jane Mumbi looks on. Photo/Courtesy.

STORY ON PAGE 9

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"

Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438

+254 706 237 040 / +254 724 613 401

business@exponentialinternational.com



SCAN TO REGISTER



"ALL BUSINESSES
ONE PLATFORM"

Kenya's Renewed Resolve: A United Front In The Fight Against HIV

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Kenya stands at a defining moment in its fight against HIV and AIDS. With 1,326,336 people currently living with HIV, the nation requires Kshs. 30 billion to secure essential commodities for prevention, treatment, and long-term care. These numbers are more than statistics, they are a call to action, reminding us that protecting the health of our people is both a moral responsibility and a national duty. As Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi represented President William Ruto at the 2025 World AIDS Day Commemoration at Nyayo Stadium, he reflected on how HIV and AIDS have shaped the country's history for over four decades. It is a journey that has tested Kenya's resilience, but also strengthened its resolve to save lives and secure the wellbeing of future generations. Despite ongoing challenges, Kenya continues to make significant progress. By last year, 87 percent of people living with HIV were receiving life-prolonging Anti-Retroviral Treatment. At the same time, Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) coverage rose to 90.1 percent, ensuring thousands of babies are born HIV-free and offering families renewed hope. In his address, Mudavadi reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to ensuring that every Kenyan can access comprehensive prevention, care, and treatment services. Through strong partnerships and sustained investment, the nation will continue delivering life-saving medication to all who need it.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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

Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson

Our Contacts
P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262
Editorial Desk: editorial@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke,
News Desk: news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Web:** www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

Facebook: facebook.com/themtkenyatimes, **Instagram:** instagram.com/themtkenyatimes/ , **Twitter:** twitter.com/themtkenyatimes
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/the-mt-kenya-times/>

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"



"ALL BUSINESSES
ONE PLATFORM"



SCAN TO REGISTER

FREE
REGISTRATION



Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438



+254 706 237 040 / +254 721 274 369

+254 724 613 401 / +254 100 423 971

+254 724 613 401



business@exponentialinternational.com



www.businessavaibale.com

NEWS IN BRIEF



Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Ms Mary Muthoni yesterday joined the Holy Spirit Ruai Community for Holy Mass, and as the country marked World AIDS Day. She took the opportunity to highlight the progress Kenya continues to make in the fight against HIV & AIDS and sensitised the congregation on key public health priorities, including the need to prevent gender-based violence, strengthen primary healthcare and community health, promote good hygiene and sanitation, and address the growing challenge of drug and substance abuse among our youth. In addition, she emphasised the ongoing health reforms under the Social Health Authority (SHA) and the importance of ensuring accessible, people-centred services for all. Together, we remain committed to building healthier and safer communities.



MPs Joseph Makilap (Baringo North), William Kamket (Tiaty), and Reuben Kiborek (Mogotio) have reminded senator-elect Vincent Chemitei of the UDA party that he has a significant task ahead. They particularly highlighted the urgent need to address challenges in the ailing health-care sector, including improving services at the Baringo County Referral Hospital in Kabarnet town. The legislators urged Chemitei to provide strong oversight of the county administration to ensure that health facilities are properly equipped, staffed, and able to deliver essential services to residents.

Makilap emphasised that the incoming senator must hold the county leadership accountable, ensuring that hospitals and clinics do not face shortages of medicines, medical supplies, or critical resources. The MPs' message came during a lap of honour in Kabarnet town CBD following Chemitei's victory in the by-election, where he garnered 55,246 votes, defeating David Kipruto (Republican Party) and Benjamin Chebon (The New Democrats), who secured 13,037 and 2,863 votes, respectively.



Preparations for the East Africa Safari Rally Classic, set for December 5 to 13, 2025, are in top gear after officials convened a detailed briefing in Kwale County to review security, logistics, and coordination for the event. Kwale County Secretary for Administration Evans Achoki said the county is working closely with national organisers and confirmed that Kwale, Taita Taveta, and Kajiado counties will jointly host the competition. Kenya Motorsports Federation President Maina Muturi confirmed that 60 drivers from 75 countries will participate, while Deputy Clerk Riaz Ismail urged residents to support the rally, noting the region is eager to host competitors and spectators.



Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) youth leaders in Kisumu County have urged politicians to refrain from inciting or funding electoral violence, saying young people should not be used to disrupt political processes. Speaking in Kisumu on Sunday, the youth leaders condemned incidents of disruption during the recent by-elections and called on security agencies to take appropriate action against those responsible. Kisumu West Sub-County ODM youth leader Kaliech Sam emphasized that youths should not be drawn into violence for personal political gain.

Gachagua Accuses Ruto, Sakaja Of Orchestrating Kariobangi Church Chaos

By: Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has accused President William Ruto and Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja of being behind the violent confrontation that erupted at PCEA Kariobangi yesterday, claiming they deployed hired groups to disrupt the church service he was attending.

The service descended into chaos after rival factions clashed outside the church compound, prompting police to fire in the air and lob teargas to restore order.

Speaking after the service, Gachagua alleged that the confrontation was not spontaneous.

“The invasion came with stone-throwing and violence. Goons were sent to attack worshippers inside the church while women and children were present,” he claimed,

further alleging that officers outside lobbed teargas into the sanctuary minutes later.

Gachagua criticized the use of force to break up religious gatherings, saying intimidation only distances the public from the government.

“The more President Ruto relies on police and goons to harass and intimidate people, the more Kenyans will drift away from him,” he said.

He referenced the recent Kariobangi North by-election outcome as evidence of eroding political support for the ruling party, noting that the UDA candidate placed fourth while the DCP candidate clinched victory.

Chaos erupted outside the PCEA Church in Kariobangi on Sunday as rival factions clashed while former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua attended morning service.

According to witnesses, the scuffle quickly escalated, prompting police officers to fire in the air and lob tear gas to disperse the crowd and restore order.

The former DP stated that the loss



signals a shifting political landscape ahead of 2027.

“This is just the beginning. We will win the Nairobi governorship in 2027,” he declared.

Despite the disruption, Gachagua urged his supporters to remain steadfast and resist what he termed intimidation and harassment.

NEWS

PAPER

IN BUSINESS

The Mount Kenya Times

+254 724 439 949, +254 720 918 828, +254 721 103 040, +254 713 318 438
website: <https://mountkenyatimes.co.ke>

Press Freedom Under Pressure As Media, CSOs Warn Of Growing Threats

By: Dennis Dibondo
@themtkenyentimes

Kenya’s shrinking democratic space, declining press freedom, and tightening financial and political pressures on journalists dominated discussions at the 3rd Annual Media and Civil Society Organization (CSO) Conference held last week.

The forum, which brought together journalists, activists, development partners, and human rights defenders from across the country, explored the theme “Media and Civil Society as Guardians of Kenya’s Democratic Space.”

Dr. Christina Barrios, Head of Political Press and Information at the Delegation of the European Union to Kenya, raised alarm over the global state of media freedom, noting that 51 journalists have been killed and more than 500 detained worldwide this year. She highlighted Europe’s renewed commitment to safeguard journalism through the recently enforced European Media Freedom Act, which strengthens editorial independence, regulates media ownership, and provides safeguards against undue political or economic influence.

“One of our biggest threats in Europe is Foreign Interference and Manipulation of Information (FIMI), especially during elections,” she said. Dr. Barrios urged journalists to continuously upgrade their skills to survive in a rapidly evolving, financially strained environment. She also expressed optimism about Kenya’s commitment to CSO protection, citing recent assurances by Interior Principal Secretary Raymond Omollo.

UNESCO’s Regional Advisor for Communication and Information in Africa, Misako Ito, shared early findings from UNESCO’s upcoming global report on media development, set for release in December. The data shows a sharp global decline in freedom of expression, which she described as the most alarming in decades.

“Journalists increasingly self-censor, avoiding sensitive topics that could put them at risk. Governments have tightened control over the media, and 72 percent of the world’s population now lives under some form of authoritarian rule,” Ito said. She added that emerging technologies—particularly artificial intelligence—are reshaping information ecosystems, amplifying misinforma-

tion and destabilising already fragile media business models.

Transparency International Kenya Executive Director Sheila Masinde praised the resilience of Kenyan media and civil society despite efforts to introduce laws that undermine freedoms. She noted the lack of whistleblower protection remains a major barrier in the fight against corruption.

The Chair of the Civil Freedoms Forum and Kenya Human Rights Commission Executive Director, Davis Malombe, cautioned that Kenya could face media violations in the run-up to elections, especially following worrying precedents in neighbouring countries. He criticised the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act, saying it has been used to restrict legitimate expression.

Kenya National Human Rights Commission CEO Dr. Bernard Mogesa said the commission continues to document attacks on journalists and amplify them internationally. He warned that misuse of cybercrime laws undermines constitutional guarantees on free expression and access to information.

Kisumu East MP Shakil Shabir, representing the African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNEC), said Parliament has become weakened by executive influence. He condemned the hurried passage of controversial laws without proper quorum and highlighted the plight of whistleblowers, citing the Maara scandal informant who faced reprisals instead of protection. Shabir announced that APNEC plans to launch an encrypted “Shahidi” whistleblowing app to enable safe reporting using blockchain-backed anonymity.

Kenya Correspondents Association representative Oloo Janak called for stronger solidarity within the media sector and between journalists, CSOs, government, and development partners.

The conference ended with a renewed call for joint action to protect Kenya’s democratic space, strengthen media freedom, and restore public trust in journalism.



The UNESCO Regional advisor for Communication and Information in Africa Misako Ito speaking during the forum.
Photo/Dennis Dibondo.



Sheila Masinde, Executive Director, Transparency International Kenya at the conference. Photo/Dennis Dibondo.



Some of the participants at the event.

The Mt Kenya Times



10th

*Anniversary
Celebration*

Ruto Calls For Unified Push To End HIV Among Youth As Kenya Marks World AIDS Day

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- The President noted that Kenya's youth, whom he described as vibrant, talented and central to the country's development agenda, continue to face twin challenges of HIV and rising teenage pregnancies. These, he said, threaten to derail their full potential and slow down national progress.
- Ruto highlighted global statistics showing that more than 33 million people are living with HIV, with the majority residing in Africa. He emphasized that AIDS remains the leading cause of death among adolescents on the continent, adding that the age group is the only one where AIDS-related deaths are not decreasing.
- Despite global challenges, the President celebrated Kenya's progress in managing the epidemic, crediting researchers, policymakers and healthcare workers for sustained gains. He noted that Kenya has become a preferred destination for global learning missions and pilot HIV programs due to its strong response systems.

President William Ruto has urged Kenyans to intensify efforts to end HIV infections among adolescents and young people, calling the fight against the epidemic a national priority as the country commemorated World AIDS Day 2025 in Nairobi today.

In a speech read on his behalf by Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, President Ruto said this year's theme; "One Race, One Goal: End AIDS in Adolescents and Young People" — reflects the urgent need to confront persistently high infection rates among young people, even as the nation works toward eliminating AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

The President noted that Kenya's youth, whom he described as vibrant, talented and central to the country's development agenda, continue to face twin challenges of HIV and rising teenage pregnancies. These, he said, threaten to derail their full potential and slow down national progress.

Ruto highlighted global statistics showing that more than 33 million people are living with HIV, with the majority residing in Africa. He emphasized that AIDS remains the leading cause of death among adolescents on the continent, adding that the age group is the only one where AIDS-related deaths are not decreasing.

Despite global challenges, the President celebrated Kenya's progress in managing the epidemic, crediting researchers, policymakers and healthcare workers for sustained gains. He noted that Kenya has become a preferred destination for global learning missions and pilot HIV programs due to its strong response systems.

According to the President, Kenya currently has 1.3 million people living with HIV and requires about Sh30 billion annually for prevention and treatment commodities. As of 2024, 87 percent of people living with HIV were on antiretroviral treatment, while prevention of mother-to-child transmission coverage stood at 90 percent — milestones he described as encouraging.

Ruto reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring universal access to HIV prevention, care and treatment services. Beginning next year, Kenya plans to introduce injectable antiretroviral therapy, which is expected to ease the burden of daily pills and improve adherence.

The President also linked better health outcomes to national devel-



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi addressing the forum

opment, emphasizing that a healthy workforce is the foundation of economic growth. He pointed to ongoing reforms under the Social Health Insurance scheme as part of efforts to guarantee affordable, quality healthcare for all citizens.

He, however, cautioned that HIV continues to pose a socio-economic challenge, especially because it affects people in their most productive years. To address this, he said, Kenya has strengthened multi-sectoral partnerships and expanded public-private collaborations through

the National Syndemic Diseases Control Council.

A significant part of his speech focused on teenage pregnancies, which he said remain a proxy indicator of new HIV infections and sexual violence. He warned that teen mothers face serious health risks and disruptions to their education, calling for renewed investment in community-level interventions to protect girls and keep them in school.

The President thanked local and international partners for their continued support but expressed con-

cern over declining donor funding. He urged stakeholders to remain committed to Kenya's #EndTheTripleThreat campaign targeting HIV, teenage pregnancies and sexual violence.

Ruto also applauded the thousands of Kenyans who participated in the World AIDS Day marathon races held on Sunday, saying the turnout reflected the nation's united resolve to end AIDS.

He called on all stakeholders to sustain public education



Mau Mau Warns Of Election Fraud As 2027 Nears

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- In a statement issued by the caucus Director General, James Njuguna Mahuria, the association expressed “deep disappointment” with what it called the slow and ineffective response by government agencies to investigate and prosecute individuals allegedly forging or manipulating National Identity Cards to register unlawfully as voters.
- “The slow pace of investigations and law enforcement continues to undermine public confidence in the integrity of our electoral system,” the statement reads in part.
- As evidence of persistent systemic gaps, Mr. Mahuria cited a long-pending case dating back to December 6, 2013, involving Ms Teresa Wairimu Kairu, who reported that an unknown individual had fraudulently registered a fictitious name under her National ID number, in the electronic voter registry.

A caucus of former freedom fighters has called on the electoral body and other stakeholders to be extra vigilant as the country approaches the next General Elections.

Mau Mau War Veterans Association sounded the alarm over what it terms a growing and dangerous trend of voter-registration fraud, raising fears that the integrity of the 2027 General Election could be compromised if urgent action is not taken.

In a statement issued by the caucus Director General, James Njuguna Mahuria, the association expressed “deep disappointment” with what it called the slow and ineffective response by government agencies to investigate and prosecute individuals allegedly forging or manipulating National Identity Cards to register unlawfully as voters.

“The slow pace of investigations and law enforcement continues to undermine public confidence in the integrity of our electoral system,” the statement reads in part.

As evidence of persistent systemic gaps, Mr. Mahuria cited a long-pending case dating back to December 6, 2013, involving Ms Teresa Wairimu Kairu, who reported that an unknown individual had fraudulently registered a fictitious name under her National ID number, in the electronic voter registry.

According to documents from the Criminal Investigations Department attached to the association’s statement, Ms. Kairu’s complaint was formally recorded but more than a decade later, no action has been taken, and authorities have never made the progress of the inquiry public.

Mr. Mahuria said the unresolved case illustrates the ease with which fraudsters could exploit weaknesses in identity verification systems ahead of the 2027 polls.

“This case remains a worrying indicator of systemic gaps. Without corrective action, these loopholes may be exploited to manipulate the election outcome,” he said.

With the country entering the early stages of the political season and the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise ongoing, the association is urging the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to strengthen safeguards to ensure that only legitimate ID holders can register as voters.

Mr. Mahuria emphasized that protecting the authenticity of National Identification Cards is central to guaranteeing free, fair, and credible elections.

He called on investigative agencies, the police, intelligence services, and all electoral stakeholders to treat elec-



Mau Mau War Veterans Association Director General James Njuguna Mahuria addressing members in a past function.
Photo/Courtesy.

tion integrity as a national-security priority.

The association also announced that it will issue a comprehensive report later this week, detailing the facilities, vehicles, networks, and individuals allegedly involved in schemes aimed at altering the outcome of the 2027 polls.

“We appeal to all citizens of goodwill not to entertain any activity that could compromise the democratic rights of the majority,” he said.

Kenya conducts national elections every five years through a secret ballot administered by the IEBC. The commission is responsible for voter registration, verification of the register, ballot preparation, candidate clearance, polling, tallying, and result transmission. Central to the process is the biometric voter registration (BVR) and electronic voter identification introduced to curb fraud associated with manual systems.

Despite these reforms, concerns about the integrity of the voters’ register remain a recurring issue.

A clean and credible voter register is considered the foundation of electoral integrity, as it determines who has the right to participate in choosing leaders at all levels; Presidential, Parliamentary, Gubernatorial and County Wards.

Weaknesses in ID verification, duplicate registrations, and manipulation of voter data have repeatedly led to disputes, contested results, and, in extreme circumstances, national crises.

In the by-elections held last week,

there were concerns that the Mbeere North Constituency MP-elect Leo Wamuthende had a different name in the voters register, compared to the one on the ballot paper.

A petition set to be filed this week is expected to cite that as a ground of nullifying the results.

Kenya’s political history offers several examples of how electoral irregularities; real or perceived can destabilize the country:

Disputed presidential results triggered widespread unrest, leaving more than 1,000 people dead and displacing over 600,000. International mediation was required to restore peace.

Though relatively peaceful, the presidential election faced accusations of tallying irregularities and system failures. The Supreme Court upheld the results, but the disputes highlighted the fragility of public trust in electoral technology.

In 2017, the presidential election re-

sults were nullified by the Supreme Court; the first such case in Africa citing non-compliance with constitutional and legal standards, including transmission irregularities. A repeat poll followed under tense political conditions.

These historical flashpoints underscore why any allegations of voter-register manipulation, especially involving forged IDs are taken seriously by civil society, political actors, and security agencies.

As Kenya heads toward the 2027 General Election, the concerns raised by the Mau Mau War Veterans Association add to growing public scrutiny of electoral preparedness.

With calls for transparency, accountability, and urgent systemic fixes, the credibility of the upcoming polls may hinge on whether the country can confront and seal loopholes long exploited to undermine democratic choice.



Ndambiri Urges Government To Buy Local Rice Before Considering Imports

By: Charles Kinyua
@themtkenyatimes

Former Kirinyaga Deputy Governor Peter Ndambiri has urged the government to prioritize purchasing locally produced rice before turning to importation, warning that continued reliance on foreign goods is undermining Kenya's economic growth.

Speaking during an interview on Uge Waku on Inooro TV last week, Ndambiri criticized what he termed as a growing trend of sidelining local producers despite the country having the capacity to meet much of its own demand.

"No nation has ever developed by suffocating its own producers," he said. "We cannot aspire to reach the level of Singapore while spending our limited foreign exchange on goods that are already in abundance locally."

According to Ndambiri, rice farmers in Mwea are currently sitting on millions of bags of unsold rice—himself

included, with over 600 bags in storage. He questioned the motive behind proposals to import more rice at such a time.

"Unless those in authority are seeking campaign funding, there is no genuine reason for importing millions of bags now," he claimed.

The Democratic Republic Movement (DRM) party leader further dismissed suggestions that Mwea Rice Mills should be put up for sale, insisting that it is not a parastatal and should remain under local control.

On President William Ruto's recent self-appraisal, Ndambiri argued that the head of state should let Kenyans judge the administration's performance.

"No one marks their own exam," he said. "If the economy is truly improving, Kenyans will be the first to acknowledge it."

He noted that with the government being the largest spender, economic recovery is impossible while nearly a trillion shillings remains unpaid in pending bills. He also questioned how

the state expects to fund its proposed infrastructure bond when citizens are already overtaxed, public debt is at historic highs, and schools continue to struggle due to delayed capitation.

Turning to the NYOTA youth fund, Ndambiri criticized its rollout, comparing it to the Hustler Fund, where repayment rates remain low.

"How do you give KSh50,000 to an untrained youth and expect them to run a successful business?" he asked, calling for more robust structures and training.

He urged the government to delink national development from politics, cautioning that the president should focus less on securing a second term and more on delivering quality services across all sectors.

"The wellbeing of the economy should never be tied to political ambitions," he said. "Service delivery must come first."



Peter Ndambiri



AERC Research And Policy Summit 2025 Kicks Off In Nairobi, Bringing Together Eminent Economic Policy Leaders And Stakeholders

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenytimes

Worth Noting:

- The eminent Economists, Policymakers, Scholars, Private Sector leaders and development partners are attending this year's AERC Research and Policy Summit, hosted under the theme: "A Renewed AERC for Africa's New Development Priorities".
- Speaking at the opening ceremony, graced by the State Department for Economic Planning Principal Secretary Bonface Barasa Makokha, AERC Executive Director Prof. Victor Murinde described the Research and Policy summit as a timely platform geared at fostering stakeholder support to address pressing macro-economic and development challenges in Africa.
- In a speech read on his behalf by PS Makokha, National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi challenged the delegates to focus on reclaiming the narrative of Africa's economic prosperity. For decades, Africa's development discourse, CS Mbadi noted, has been shaped by external prescriptions and reactive policies.

International and local Economic Policy leaders and stakeholders have kicked off a three-day high-level Research and Policy summit, hosted by the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), to explore pathways to sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

The eminent Economists, Policymakers, Scholars, Private Sector leaders and development partners are attending this year's AERC Research and Policy Summit, hosted under the theme: "A Renewed AERC for Africa's New Development Priorities".

Speaking at the opening ceremony, graced by the State Department for Economic Planning Principal Secretary Bonface Barasa Makokha, AERC Executive Director Prof. Victor Murinde described the Research and Policy summit as a timely platform geared at fostering stakeholder support to address pressing macro-economic and development challenges in Africa.

In a speech read on his behalf by PS Makokha, National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi challenged the delegates to focus on reclaiming the narrative of Africa's economic prosperity. For decades, Africa's development discourse, CS Mbadi noted, has been shaped by external prescriptions and reactive policies.

"Today, we must reclaim our narrative. We must define development not merely as GDP growth, but as inclusive prosperity, resilient systems, and dignified livelihoods. Africa's Moment is Now: Let us not be defined by our challenges, but by our courage. Let us not inherit development models—we must invent them to deliver Africa's economic prosperity," CS Mbadi said.

While presenting the Kenyan example, CS Mbadi decried the African continent's overreliance on foreign aid.

Said Mbadi, "For decades, foreign aid has been a lifeline, but it has also been a leash—tying our progress to external goodwill rather than our own ingenuity. That era must now start giving way to a new chapter of self-reliance, innovation, and sustainable growth. Kenya, like other African countries, is not poor in resources. We are, for instance, rich in human talent, in fertile land, in digital creativity, and in entrepreneurial spirit." He added, "What we need is not more aid, but more courage to harness what we already have. This is not just about money—it is



about dignity. Generating our own undergoing a deliberate and strate- laboration with industry, enabling
AERC Executive Director Prof Victor Murinde with Economic Planning Principal Secretary Bonface Makokha and AERC Board
Chair Prof. Ernest Aryeetey at the AERC 2025 Research and Policy summit.

resources means charting our own destiny, setting our own priorities, and building resilience against global shocks."

Eminent leaders attending the hybrid AERC Research and Policy Summit include AERC Board Chair and Emeritus Professor, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana, Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, Reserve Bank of South Africa, Governor, Dr Lesetja Kganyago, Bank of Uganda Governor, Dr Michael Atingi-Ego, Vice Governor of the Bank of Central African States, Michel Dzombala and Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Zambia, Dr Francis Chipimo, among others.

The AERC Research and Policy Summit, he confirmed, will explore pathways to sustainable and inclusive economic growth while mainstreaming AERC's role as an economic policy think tank. This year's Research and Policy Summit, he added, is also aligned with the new AERC 10-year Strategic Plan (2025-2035).

"Through the integration of research excellence, mentorship, and capacity building, the AERC aims to nurture a new generation of African economists ready to conduct frontier research, lead economic policy engagement and drive sustainable development efforts across Africa," said Prof. Murinde.

As a continental economic research policy body, AERC, he disclosed, is

gic transition in response to Africa's evolving development priorities.

Said Prof Murinde, "This Research and Policy Summit provides an important platform to reaffirm our commitment to rigorous, policy-relevant research and to launch a strategy that strengthens Africa's capacity to craft evidence-based solutions for the continent's most pressing economic challenges."

At the opening ceremony, AERC also unveiled its new African Private Sector Platform (APSP), an initiative designed to deepen collaboration between AERC researchers and Africa's private sector.

While commenting on the launch of the new APSP and the AERC Strategic Plan 2025-2035, AERC Board Chair Prof. Ernest Arteey said the launch of the platform provides an opportunity to scale up active engagements in the private-sector-led economic transformation agenda across Africa.

"Today marks a significant milestone for AERC as we convene partners and stakeholders to reflect on our mission and unveil our new 10-year strategy. This strategy reinforces our dedication to nurturing world-class African economists, deepening policy engagement, and ensuring that African perspectives shape regional and global economic discourse. The launch of our new Private Sector Platform further strengthens this commitment by creating a structured avenue for col-

evidence-informed advocacy and unlocking new opportunities for innovation and competitiveness across the continent," said Prof. Arteey.

The Summit also featured a High-Level Roundtable bringing together Central Bank Governors from Uganda, West African States, and Zambia to examine and discuss prevailing economic headwinds, policy coordination, and long-term resilience for African economies.

The 3-day Summit will feature a series of parallel sessions showcasing new research across AERC's core thematic areas: macroeconomic policy, trade and regional integration, labour markets and human capital, climate change and resilience, and financial sector development and the digital economy. These sessions will enable researchers to present their work, receive expert critique, and refine policy recommendations that can support decision-makers across the continent.

Established in 1988, AERC remains a premier institution for economic research and training in Africa, dedicated to building local capacity for independent, rigorous inquiry into the policy issues confronting the region. The Summit reflects AERC's continued mission to support a strong, well-informed economic policy community that can drive sustainable development and influence Africa's role in global economic discourse.

Tea Farmers Threaten Showdown With Parliament Over Controversial Bill

By: Morris Githenya
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The bill also proposes a tea levy of Sh3.85 per kilogramme of sold tea, an additional cost that farmers say will directly affect their earnings.
- Growers from majority of factories accused Parliament of failing to consult factory directors before drafting the bill. They warned that, if passed, the legislation would derail factory development projects and disrupt procurement processes, including fertiliser importation.
- KTDA Zone Six Board Member Enos Njeru said each factory would be forced to pay about Sh31 million annually in levies for made tea, based on the proposed rate. Combined with other taxes in the sector, he said the amendment would extract not less than Sh2 billion from the 71 smallholder tea factories.

A looming confrontation is brewing between tea farmers and Parliament over the contentious Tea Amendment Bill, with growers demanding that MPs halt deliberations and allow wider consultations.

During the ongoing KTDA factory annual general meetings, farmers in most of tea processing factories warned that the proposed law would reintroduce the outdated Direct Settlement System (DSS), which pays growers only after the sale of their tea. They argue that this move would destabilise their cash flow and undermine gains made in the sector.

The bill also proposes a tea levy of Sh3.85 per kilogramme of sold tea, an additional cost that farmers say will directly affect their earnings.

Growers from majority of factories accused Parliament of failing to consult factory directors before drafting the bill. They warned that, if passed, the legislation would derail factory development projects and disrupt procurement processes, including fertiliser importation.

KTDA Zone Six Board Member Enos Njeru said each factory would be forced to pay about Sh31 million annually in levies for made tea, based on the proposed rate. Combined with other taxes in the sector, he said the amendment would extract not less than Sh2 billion from the 71 smallholder tea factories.

“These are many of the issues that have annoyed tea farmers in their meetings, and we hope to have consultations with Parliament for the interest of the industry,” said Mr Njeru, who appealed to lawmakers from Mt Kenya tea-growing counties to intervene and “salvage farmers from the yoke of desperation.”

At Gatunguru Tea Factory, in Murang’a, growers vowed to lobby MPs to reject the bill, citing its negative implications.

They informed factory chairman Mwangi Kaguma that they would personally reach out to all seven MPs from Murang’a County to oppose what they termed a punitive proposal.

Kaguma noted that DSS had already been rejected by coffee farmers after it was introduced last November.

Farmer Simon Daiga expressed disappointment that some MPs from tea-growing areas were still unaware that the agriculture committee was debating the bill.

“It is unfortunate that some leaders said they will inquire more about the bill despite hailing from tea-producing zones,” he said.

Another farmer, Esther Ng’aari, said growers oppose what she de-



Enos Njeru, KTDA Holdings board member for Embu Zone addressing farmers at Kathangariri factory last Friday.



Gitugi Tea factory Company Secretary Patrick Ngunjiri addressing farmers last week.

scribed as “draconian regulations designed to cause dispute,” and called for the removal of contentious clauses.

“On December 8, farmers will have a meeting in Murang’a to declare their opposition to the contentious bill designed to cripple the tea industry, especially the smallholder,” she said.

At Njunu Tea Factory, Vice Chairman Maina Gathua demanded the bill be withdrawn, warning that it would plunge the sector into chaos.

“The farmers are in need of adequate fertiliser ahead of the rains as they have invested in the orthodox processing line,” he said.

Despite the tea crisis facing all the farmers, individual factories have their own issues that emerged during the meetings.

Some are calls for dissolution of boards, securing loans and high cost of running the factories.



Chinga tea factory directors during the AGM last week. Photos/Courtesy

Government Asked To Shelve Plans To Phase Out Private Children Homes

By: Brian Ondeng
@themtkenyentimes

The government has been asked to reconsider its plans to phase out private children homes noting that the move would cut out support that the orphans and vulnerable children enjoy while in such institutions.

According to the CEO of Baba Nyumbani children's home, Nicole Scott, the government has not put in place adequate structures and infrastructure that would ensure that children currently living in orphanages continue to get support when private children homes are phased out.

The government, through the national care reform strategy, has plans to phase out private children's homes in the country by 2032, a move that is

likely to affect over 44 thousand children currently living in such institutions.

Scott asked the government to shelve the idea and instead work with the private children's homes in the country to expand care and support of the orphans and vulnerable children whose numbers are rising each day.

"Our biggest challenge right now is the national care reform, which wants to close institutions like ours yet each and every day I keep getting children in need of support brought here by the community. I keep asking the government where will you send the children because you keep sending them to me?" "You do not have to look very far; most rural Kenyan homes are struggling with poverty, making more children vulnerable," she remarked.

Scott disclosed that Baba Nyumbani has been in operation in the country

for the last 21 years and is currently supporting over two hundred and fifty vulnerable children by providing food, clothing, shelter and education up to university level.

"We have about 146 alumni who have benefited from our support and some are even working in Canada and the USA. We have managed to integrate them back into their families as empowered individuals," said Nicole.

The CEO who spoke during a partnership event at the Baba Nyumbani children's home in Rarieda subcounty, Siaya county, appealed for more partners, including the government, to support the vulnerable children.

She said that everyone in the community must now join hands and support such initiatives because Kenyans should take the mantle of taking care of their own children rather than relying on donor funding, which is not



Ms Nicole Scott addressing the forum.

sustainable.

"Our partners abroad need us to establish local collaborations with both the community and the government because it's no good for foreign money to come in if Kenya is not supporting its children," said Scott.

The government's nature care reform strategy, supported by the children's Act 2022 plans to phase out the private children's homes to curb cases of child exploitation and trafficking that are on the rise in the country.

Superior Homes Launches Human-Centered Gated Community At Northlands As Demand For Modern Living Grows

By: Felix Njenga
@themtkenyentimes

Superior Homes Kenya has unveiled The Orchards at Northlands, a 25-acre master-planned gated community that is expected to become one of the most sought-after residential addresses within the Nairobi metropolitan region.

The launch, held last Saturday at Northlands City in Ruiru, drew families, investors and real estate stakeholders who were eager to preview the developer's latest addition to Kenya's growing portfolio of lifestyle-focused housing projects.

The event offered a glimpse into a development designed to meet rising demand for secure, modern and well-connected family environments.

The Orchards at Northlands will comprise 130 high-end villas and townhouses, including 3-, 4- and 5-bedroom options. Superior Homes says the units have been designed to maximise privacy, comfort and sustainability—key features shaping Kenya's evolving housing preferences.

Located just off the Eastern Bypass and minutes from the Thika Superhighway, the community sits with-

in one of the fastest-growing urban corridors. Its proximity to Nairobi's business hubs, schools, health facilities and shopping centres positions it as a strategic choice for both homeowners and long-term investors.

Market indicators appear to support this outlook. According to Knight Frank's H1 2025 market report, rental prices in Nairobi's prime residential neighbourhoods rose by 8 percent year-on-year, signalling heightened demand for modern, accessible housing. Satellite towns such as Ruiru and Kiambu continue to record strong land value appreciation, bolstered by improved infrastructure and the rapid rise of integrated gated communities.

Superior Homes Managing Director Ian Henderson said the project reflects a shift toward developments that offer more than just housing.

"Homebuyers today are not just looking for a house; they are looking for a complete lifestyle supported by security, amenities and connectivity," he said. "This project brings together thoughtful design, robust infrastructure and a location that promises sustained growth and value appreciation."

For potential homeowners like Grace Wambui, a young mother from Kahawa Sukari, the development's focus on safety and family-friendly



Superior Homes Managing Director Ian Henderson (R) showcases the masterplan of The Orchards at Northlands, a newly launched multi-billion master planned development, to Jitegemea Credit CEO, Dr. Francis Kihiko (L) and KCB Head of Project Management and Investments Ken Luusa (C).

spaceso stands out.

"When I walked through the show house, I immediately pictured my children playing safely outside," she said. "It feels like the kind of place where a family can grow, not just live."

Analysts note that master-planned communities with integrated amenities and reliable services consistently outperform standalone projects in occupancy rates, resale value and buyer demand. Superior Homes aims

to capture this advantage through a wide suite of amenities, including a fully equipped gym, retail outlets, children's play areas, a school and nearby health facilities.

To ease entry into the development, the company has introduced structured mortgage plans and in-house financing, a move expected to attract a broader pool of buyers and strengthen investor confidence.

Superior Homes says the launch represents more than an expansion of

its portfolio—it reflects the shifting aspirations of Kenyan families seeking homes that combine security, community, convenience and long-term value.

As guests toured the show units and lingered long after the ceremony ended, one message resonated clearly: The Orchards at Northlands is positioning itself not just as a place to live, but as a blueprint for modern Kenyan living.

When Life Gets Blurry, Adjust Your Focus Lens



When Life gets blurry, adjust your focus lens .
Amidst the negative end,
Focus lens make a great tend
Scars and trials will pass ,
Gloomy skies will be surely lost.

Rewire your brain,
Remember that's temporary pain,
Don't work on pleasure's gain,
Know your works will never go in vain.

In silence and peace,
Let your heart release.
Just a chapter, Not the whole matter,
With resilience,all the problems will scatter

Angelin Gracita .C
II B.A English Literature
Thoothukudi

Harnessing The Hardship



ascend.

A river once halted finds a new course to run,
Transforming resistance to victories won.

A butterfly wrestles, confined in its shell,
But struggle gives wings that serve it so well.

Every setback is training for a brighter breakthrough,
Like seeds buried deep before they sprout anew.

An arrow pulled back gathers strength in its flight,
The tension behind makes its target more right.

A chess piece retreats for a wiser advance,
Each backward step fuels a stronger stance.

Storms may uproot, yet trees learn to bend,
Their roots dig deeper, their branches

A pearl is created from an oyster's pain,
What starts as discomfort turns into gain.

Dark nights give rise to the morning's glow,
From ashes of failure, new blossoms grow.

A sword is perfected in the hottest flame,
Hardship refines it with strength to claim.

Waves push ships back before they set sail,
But each push behind helps them conquer the gale.

Durgadevi V
Graduate Teacher
GHS Nesal
Tiruvannamalai Dt

Carve Your Own Path



Carve your own path
Make it unique.
Avoid the state of wrath
Have a smile on cheek.

Every step you take
No one will make,
Neither right nor wrong
Pass it with a gong.

Your journey needs no care
No need for others to be aware,
Your heart knows the way
Don't allow others to play.

Let everyone watch
With a narrow mindset,
Keep on moving and march
Your path is unique without any doubt.

You Carve yourself
Slowly, bravely, quietly
Shaping thyself
Makes you live happily.

Mrs. S. Sumathi, M A ,B.Ed.,
Graduate Teacher (English),
Sri KGS HSS, Aduthurai,
Thanjavur dt.

The Kind Mouse



Once upon a time, in the distant past, at the foot of the Great Mountain, there lived a tiny but very kind little mouse named Kind Mouse. Kind Mouse was caring and always valued his friends. Every morning when he woke up, he would first greet his neighbors — Butterfly, Frog, Swallow, and even Fox.

One day, a severe drought struck the valley. The trees turned yellow, the rivers began to dry up, and all the animals suffered from thirst. But Kind Mouse had prepared a small supply of water and food for the winter in his little cave.

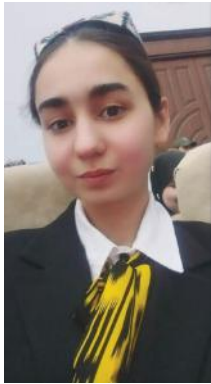
The Swallow flew over and said,
— Oh Kind Mouse, my baby is hungry, do you have a little wheat?
Without hesitation, Kind Mouse shared his wheat.
Then Fox came and lied:

— I am looking for water for my sick mother. Do you need any help?
Even though Kind Mouse knew that Fox had deceived others before, he still shared some of his water. Because Kind Mouse always believed:
> “When you do a good deed, even if it doesn't return to you, your heart becomes brighter.”
Days passed. One day, dark clouds covered the sky, and finally the long-awaited rain came! Water returned, and the land became green again.

All the animals rejoiced and decided to hold a big celebration for Kind Mouse!
On the day of the celebration, Swallow gifted him a tiny vest sewn from gold, and Butterfly gave him a crown made of flowers. Even Fox came to apologize and said,
— From now on, I truly value your friendship. From that day on, all the animals in the valley became kinder to one another. Every year, on the day the rain returned, they celebrated “The Day of Kind Mouse's Love.”

Abdusaidova Jasmina

My Mother Tongue



My mother tongue shall never disappear.

Babur ruled over Hindustan,
Yet his language never died.
He longed for Andijan's dialect,
Its melons he dearly missed.

Through centuries my Turkic tongue
Was polished like a shining diamond.
It witnessed Mongols, Tsarist Russia,
Yet it never broke, never fell.

— Khasanova Aziza Kumushbek
Student of Tashkent University of Economics and Pedagogy

An undying flame in the winds,
Unaffected by the passing years.
Among all the languages of this world,

Don't Expect The Same In Return



chastity,
Without expectations extend your hands
If you don't expect there'll be any demands.

People's emotions widely differ
They are not the same to offer,
One should not think the same about the other
Each one's feelings vary from one another.

Experience everything and expect nothing
That's the art of peaceful living,
Unconditional hearts never lose
They shine, no matter what they choose.

Loyalty and sincerity are essential
In relationship which is influencial,
Genuiness shown among humans
Should not expect the same in return.

You are defined by your charity
Help others and let the world know your

Manimozhi Albert
Graduate Teacher of English
Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School, Santhaipeitai,
Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu, India.
Ph: 9788211824

DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

Let Professional Editors and Authors turn your story into a Dream Book.

THRILLERS - FICTION - FACTION - BIOGRAPHIES - TRAVELOGUES - HUMOUR - COFFEE TABLE - BROCHURES

London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.

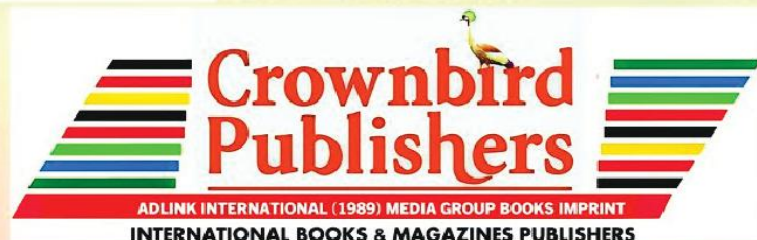
We offer one-stop top notch Editing, Expert Design, Proof Reading, Book Covers, Artwork, Digital, Litho Printing, E-Books, Corporate Brochures and UK ISBN number. Reasonable costs. We print and deliver books. Authors retain 100% sales profits.

SELECTED PORTFOLIO

BEST SELLER NOVELS

The Crownbird Publishers logo and imprint owned by Adlink International (1989) Media Group London

Copies of some books available for sale: hard copy/digital. Contact us: media@adlinkinternational.com Email Subject: Crownbird Books



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP

Books Division

16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF (UK)

Tel: 44 330 606 1438

Email: media@adlinkinternational.com

www.adlinkinternational.com

BUSINESS

The Hub Park Turns One, Unveils Aerial Glider Shots And Weekly Family Offers

By: Aoma Keziah
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during the anniversary event, Margaret Mbaka, Janus Continental Group (JCG) Chairperson, said that celebrating the first anniversary of The Hub Park is a proud moment for them and a testament to the vision they set out to achieve creating a vibrant, inclusive space where children, families, and the wider community can learn, play, and connect.
- “What began as an investment in enriching the mall experience has grown into a dynamic hub of activity that serves families, schools, and even corporate groups in ways that have exceeded our expectations,” she stated.



The Hub Park first Anniversary Celebrations at the Hub Park Karen in Nairobi

The Hub Park celebrated its first anniversary, unveiling exciting new attractions and exclusive deals designed to elevate family fun. To mark the milestone, the park has rolled out a lineup of standout promotions including a loyalty programme, Buy-One-Get-One-Free Thursdays, a 25% Toddler Tuesday discount, and a thrilling aerial-glider camera experience that lets guests capture every moment of their flight across the park.

Speaking during the anniversary event, Margaret Mbaka, Janus Continental Group (JCG) Chairperson, said that celebrating the first anniversary of The Hub Park is a proud moment for them and a testament to the vision they set out to achieve creating a vibrant, inclusive space where children, families, and the wider community can learn, play, and connect.

“What began as an investment in enriching the mall experience has grown into a dynamic hub of activity that serves families, schools, and even corporate groups in ways that have exceeded our expectations,” she

stated.

Located within The Hub Karen Mall, The Hub Park is East Africa’s largest indoor family entertainment centre, offering 3,200 square metres of activity space that can host up to 410 people inside its attractions at once and more than 1,000 guests within the facility. It blends physical challenges, interactive games, and supervised play in a vibrant, climate-controlled environment suitable for all ages, from toddlers to adults.

Mr. Jacobus Visser, The Hub Karen Mall Manager noted that celebrating the first anniversary of Hub Park is a proud moment for the entire mall community.

“When we launched the park, our vision was to create a safe, fun, and inspiring space where families could play, relax, and connect. Over the past year, Hub Park has truly become the heartbeat of our mall, bringing joy to children, drawing more families through our doors, and creating a warm, welcoming atmosphere throughout The Hub Karen. We are

deeply grateful to the parents, visitors, and partners who have supported us, and we look forward to many more years of shared memories and continued success together,” he remarked.

The Park features Kenya’s first air glider, along with climbing walls, a net maze, trampolines, a foam dome, interactive gaming areas, virtual reality zones, and dedicated toddler sections.

Designed for year-round use, it provides flexible spaces for leisure visits, organised group outings, school excursions, birthday parties, and other celebrations. Additional conveniences, including themed party rooms, baby-changing areas, on-site dining options, ample parking, and up to three hours of complimentary parking, enhancing the overall visitor experience.

To cater to different interests and budgets, The Hub Park offers a curated selection of attraction passes. The Explorer Pass provides access to four attractions, making it ideal for fam-

ilies seeking a fun and manageable experience. For guests looking for a bit more excitement, the Thrill-Seeker Pass includes six attractions. Those who want an extended adventure can opt for the Adventure Delight Pass, which allows access to eight attractions. For visitors who prefer to enjoy everything the park has to offer at their own pace, the Ultimate Pass delivers all-day, unlimited access to every attraction within the facility.

Surrounded by family-friendly dining areas, The Hub Park has become one of Nairobi’s top indoor recreation destinations a place where play, relaxation, and community come together under one roof. Operating daily from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, The Hub Park welcomes children of all ages to enjoy Nairobi’s ultimate indoor park all year round.

WEB SOLUTIONS



Oracom Web Solutions

**Relax....we take the
worries out of web**

Web Design

- Modern and classy website
- Easy to navigate
- Mobile ready and cross browser friendly

Web maintenance

- Search Engine Optimization
- Content Management Services
- Social Media Marketing

And many much more...

0729990583 | fb: Oracom kenya web solution | www.oracom.co.ke

The Collapse Of Democratic Legitimacy In Kenya: A Reckoning With Electoral Failure And The Question Of Imposed Governance



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyaintimes



Worth Noting:

- The uncomfortable truth that demands confrontation is this: Kenya has become a laboratory demonstrating how electoral democracy can be hollowed out while its institutional shell remains intact. Political scientist Mahmood Mamdani, in his seminal work *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism* (1996), argues that postcolonial African states inherited bifurcated governance systems that were never designed for participatory democracy but for authoritarian control disguised as representation. Kenya's experience validates Mamdani's thesis with brutal precision.
- The country has dutifully conducted elections every five years since 1992, established an Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, crafted a progressive constitution in 2010, and yet the quality of governance has deteriorated inversely to the sophistication of electoral architecture.

Kenya's 2022 general elections cost approximately 40.9 billion Kenyan shillings (roughly \$350 million), yet voter turnout plummeted to a historic low of 64.8% the lowest since the re-introduction of multiparty democracy in 1992. More than 7 million registered voters abstained, a figure that dwarfs the margin of victory in the presidential race. According to Transparency International's 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index, Kenya scored 31 out of 100, ranking 126th out of 180 countries, with electoral processes identified as among the most corruption-vulnerable institutions.

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) reports that between 2013 and 2023, over 1.2 trillion shillings were lost to corruption, yet not a single major political figure has faced meaningful accountability. These are not mere statistics, they are tombstones marking the death of electoral integrity. When the World Bank estimates that 36.1% of Kenyans live below the poverty line, and when that poverty becomes the currency of electoral manipulation, we are not witnessing democracy's growing pains but its systematic evisceration.

The uncomfortable truth that demands confrontation is this: Kenya has become a laboratory demonstrating how electoral democracy can be hollowed out while its institutional shell remains intact. Political scientist Mahmood Mamdani, in his seminal work *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism* (1996), argues that postcolonial African states inherited bifurcated governance systems that were never designed for participatory democracy but for authoritarian control disguised as representation. Kenya's experience validates Mamdani's thesis with brutal precision.

The country has dutifully conducted elections every five years since 1992, established an Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, crafted a progressive constitution in 2010, and yet the quality of governance has deteriorated inversely to the sophistication of electoral architecture. This paradox is not accidental, it reflects what Congolese scholar Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja describes in *The Congo from Leopold to Kabila: A People's History* (2002) as "the democracy of the belly," where electoral competition serves primarily as a mechanism for accessing state resources rather than for policy differentiation or public service. When



Kenyan voters consistently elect individuals with documented records of corruption, embezzlement, and economic mismanagement as evidenced by the 2017 election where numerous politicians facing corruption charges secured parliamentary seats we must ask whether the problem lies with voter ignorance or with a system that has successfully decoupled elections from accountability.

The pattern of electoral choices in Kenya reveals a population making rational decisions within an irrational system, not a failure of democratic values but their perversion through structural violence. One Kenyan political economist has documented how voter bribery operates as a shadow economy, with estimates suggesting that between 30-40% of voters in marginal constituencies receive some form of monetary inducement during election cycles. This is not merely corruption, it is economic coercion disguised as choice. Nobel laureate Amartya Sen's concept of "unfreedoms" from *Development as Freedom* (1999) is instructive here: when citizens lack basic economic security, healthcare, and education, their political agency becomes compromised, and they are forced to trade long-term collective interests for immediate survival.

Research by Nic Cheeseman and Brian Klaas in *How to Rig an Election* (2018) demonstrates that in contexts of extreme poverty, vote-buying is not a supplement to campaigning but its foundation, creating what they term "transactional democracy" where the social contract is reduced to a cash transaction. When the Central Bank of Kenya reports declining

money circulation and rising inflation simultaneously creating what economists call a liquidity trap hungry citizens are not exercising democratic choice when they accept 500 shillings for their vote; they are victims of systemic blackmail.

The legitimacy crisis extends beyond corrupt candidates to the very architecture of Kenyan democracy, which was imposed rather than organically developed, raising questions about democratic universalism versus cultural specificity. Ugandan scholar Yash Tandon, in *Trade Is War: The West's War Against the World* (2015), argues that Western liberal democracy was exported to Africa not as a gift but as a mechanism of continued control, requiring economic liberalization that perpetuates dependency while demanding political forms incompatible with existing social structures. Pre-colonial Kenya operated through diverse governance systems the Kikuyu's council of elders (kiama), the Maasai's age-set democracy, the Luo's, buch piny, all of which emphasized consensus, collective responsibility, and organic accountability mechanisms. As Kenyan historian Bethwell Ogot notes in *Building on the Indigenous* (1999), these systems were not perfect, but they were contextual embedded in social relationships that made leaders accountable through kinship, reciprocity, and reputation rather than abstract ballots. The Westminster-style system imposed by British colonialism and maintained post-independence assumes individual voter autonomy, secret ballots, and impersonal accountability mechanisms that may be fundamentally incompatible

with societies organized around collective identity and personal networks. This is not to romanticize the past or excuse authoritarianism, but to acknowledge that democracy cannot be a one-size-fits-all template a point persuasively made by political theorist Achille Mbembe in *On the Postcolony* (2001), who argues that African political modernity must be understood on its own terms rather than as a deficient version of Western models.

The systematic exclusion of educated, principled citizens from politics what might be termed the "brain drain from governance" is not incidental but structural, reflecting how Kenyan politics has become professionalized around corruption rather than public service. Sociologist Wangari Maathai observed in *Unbowed* (2006) that Kenyan politics transformed from a vocation of nation-building in the immediate post-independence era to a business enterprise by the 1980s, where political office became the most lucrative investment opportunity in an economy strangled by debt and structural adjustment.

Research by the Institute of Economic Affairs Kenya shows that the average Member of Parliament earns approximately 1.2 million shillings monthly (including allowances), making them among the highest-paid legislators globally relative to GDP per capita, a disparity that attracts rent-seekers rather than public servants. Mean-

The Collapse Of Democratic Legitimacy In Kenya: A Reckoning With Electoral Failure And The Question Of Imposed Governance

Contd from page 18

while, credible professionals face impossible barriers to entry: the prohibitive cost of campaigns (averaging 50-200 million shillings for a parliamentary seat), the necessity of ethnic coalition-building that often requires compromising principles, and the very real physical danger posed by political violence. Political scientist Gabrielle Lynch documents in *I Say to You: Ethnic Politics and the Kalenjin in Kenya* (2011) how ethnicity has been weaponized as both a mobilization tool and a barrier to issue-based politics, creating a system where merit and integrity are liabilities rather than assets. When “sane minds keep off politics,” it is not apathy but a rational response to a system that punishes probity and rewards predation.

Voter apathy, properly understood, is not civic failure but civic exhaustion a logical response to a system that has repeatedly demonstrated that electoral participation yields no meaningful change in governance quality or economic outcomes. The decline in voter turnout from 85.9% in 1992 to 64.8% in 2022 represents not laziness but learned helplessness, a concept psychologist Martin Seligman developed to describe how repeated exposure to uncontrollable negative outcomes leads to passive acceptance. South African political scientist Steven Friedman argues in *Power in Action: Democracy, Citizenship and Social Justice* (2018) that apathy is often a form of resistance, a withdrawal of consent from a system perceived as illegitimate.

When Kenyans see the same political dynasties, the Kenyattas, Odingas, Moisis dominating politics across generations despite varying performances; when they witness the 2017 Supreme Court nullification of presidential elections followed by essentially the same result in the repeat poll; when they observe the 2018 “handshake” between bitter rivals Uhuru Kenyatta and Raila Odinga that rendered their votes for opposition meaningless, they are learning that elections are theater rather than choice. Research by Afrobarometer (2023) shows that 68% of Kenyans believe their vote does not influence government decisions, and 72% perceive elections as characterized by significant irregularities. This is not

ignorance, it is pattern recognition.

The economic dimension of this crisis cannot be separated from the political: Kenya’s electoral corruption is both cause and consequence of economic mismanagement, creating a vicious cycle where political power is pursued for private enrichment rather than public service. Economist James K. Boyce’s concept of “powerlessness and poverty” from *The Political Economy of the Environment* (2002) explains how those lacking economic security also lack political power, while those with political power use it to accumulate wealth, creating self-reinforcing inequality. Kenya’s public debt has ballooned from 2.4 trillion shillings in 2013 to over 10.5 trillion shillings in 2024 a more than fourfold increase in a decade yet infrastructure development and service delivery have not improved proportionally, suggesting massive leakage through corruption.

The country’s Gini coefficient stands at 0.45, among Africa’s highest, indicating extreme inequality that undermines any pretense of democratic equality at the ballot box. Nigerian economist Obiageli Ezekwesili’s work on “follow the money” activism demonstrates that much of this borrowed money disappears into private pockets through inflated contracts, phantom projects, and direct embezzlement, the very politicians’ voters elect are systematically stealing their future. When the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics reports that unemployment among youth (15-34 years) stands at 67%, these are not just economic statistics but indicators of democratic crisis, because citizens without economic dignity cannot exercise political agency.

The international community’s complicity in Kenya’s democratic degradation must be named: Western governments and financial institutions that proclaim democratic values have consistently prioritized stability and market access over genuine accountability, effectively underwriting electoral authoritarianism. Political economists Jeffrey Herbst and Greg Mills argue in *Democracy Works: Re-Wiring Politics to Africa’s Advantage* (2020) that international actors often prefer “controlled democracy” in Africa systems that maintain electoral legitimacy for aid justification while tolerating corruption that doesn’t threaten their strategic interests.

Despite documented irregularities,



the 2022 Kenyan elections received swift international recognition, with Western governments congratulating the winner within hours of the announcement, before even domestic legal challenges were resolved. This premature validation reflects what Zambian economist Dambisa Moyo critiques in *Dead Aid* (2009) as the aid-industrial complex’s need for “partner governments” regardless of their democratic credentials. The International Monetary Fund and World Bank continue extending loans to Kenya despite consistent failure to meet governance benchmarks, effectively rewarding the very corruption they claim to oppose. This external validation removes one of democracy’s key mechanisms reputational accountability leaving citizens with no recourse when their own institutions fail them.

The existential question Kenya faces is whether redemption is possible within existing frameworks or whether the entire democratic architecture must be reimagined to align with social realities, economic conditions, and cultural contexts. Brazilian educator Paulo Freire’s concept of “conscientization” from *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (1970) suggests that genuine change requires populations to recognize and name their oppression before they can transform it; Kenya may be at this threshold. Political theorist John S. Saul argues in *Revolutionary Traveler: Freeze-Frames from a Life* (2009) that African liberation struggles failed not in overthrowing colonialism but in

imagining alternatives to colonial structures, instead merely Africanizing them.

Kenya’s current crisis demands what Tanzanian intellectual Issa Shivji calls in *Where Is Uhuru?* (2009) a “second liberation” not from foreign rule but from indigenous elites who have perfected extraction while performing democracy. This might require constitutional innovation: hybrid systems incorporating indigenous consensus mechanisms, mandatory citizen assemblies on key policy issues, binding recall provisions for corrupt officials, radical campaign finance reform, or even reconsidering whether the nation-state itself an imposed colonial boundary serves citizens or divides them. The Kenyan political scientist Michael Chege warns in *Economic and Political Liberalization in Africa* (2021) that without addressing the fundamental disconnect between electoral forms and governance substance, Kenya risks not gradual improvement but catastrophic legitimacy collapse, where citizens abandon democratic institutions entirely in favor of ethnic strongmen, religious authority, or simple anarchy.

We stand at a crossroads where honesty demands acknowledging that Kenya’s electoral democracy has failed by its own metrics, and meaningful change requires confronting uncomfortable truths about imposed systems, elite capture, economic coercion, and the limits of imported political models. The worst outcome would be continuing the

pretense that minor reforms better voter education, slightly improved electoral commission independence, marginally reduced campaign spending will address a systemic crisis. Kenyan civil society activist Boniface Mwangi’s assertion that “we are ruled by the worst of us” is not hyperbole but empirical observation, and it reflects not voter stupidity but system design.

When a democracy consistently produces leaders who loot public resources, when elections reliably fail to improve governance, when voting becomes transactional rather than transformational, and when the educated and principled systematically avoid politics, we are not witnessing democracy’s unfortunate excesses but its functional absence. The path forward requires what Kenyan theologian John Mbiti called “African solutions to African problems” not a rejection of accountability, participation, or rights, but their reconceptualization in forms that resonate with lived experience, economic reality, and cultural context. Whether Kenya possesses the collective courage for such radical reimagining, or whether it will continue performing democracy while experiencing its opposite, remains the defining question of this generation. The stakes could not be higher: not just who governs, but whether governance can be reclaimed from those who have weaponized it against the governed.

The writer is a legal researcher and scrivener

Chinese Experts Drive Integrated Farming, Transforming Rural Livelihoods In Ethiopia

By: Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- In May 2024, the fourth batch of Chinese agricultural experts in Ethiopia launched an innovative three-year poverty reduction project in the village, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture and the local government. The experts provided Sitotaw and other community members with high-quality seeds, essential farming inputs, and hands-on training.
- “We plan to apply China’s poverty reduction experience to the local village through the introduction of high-yielding seeds, advanced farming techniques, agricultural machinery, and water-saving irrigation,” said Zhang Shihong, head of the Chinese agricultural expert team. Their work spans animal husbandry, horticulture, crop cultivation, edible fungi, and agricultural machinery, aiming to holistically strengthen Ethiopia’s agricultural sector and food security.



Abu Negash (L), with a newly-harvested ear of corn, poses for a photo with his son and a Chinese agricultural expert at Godino Jitu Village in Oromia Region, Ethiopia, on Nov. 26, 2025. Photo/Xinhua/Liu Fangqiang

Asnakech Sitotaw recalls the difficult days when her small plot in remote central Ethiopia barely produced enough food. Today, thanks to the support of Chinese agricultural experts, the single mother of five celebrates a life transformed.

Sitotaw’s homestead in Godino Jitu Village, Oromia Region, has become a vibrant example of productivity and hope, featuring a thriving backyard garden, a new fish pond, a chicken house, and more. “In the past, our harvests were meager, mainly due to a lack of high-yielding seeds and knowledge of modern farming techniques,” she said, crediting Chinese experts for equipping her with the skills that have revolutionized her approach to agriculture.

In May 2024, the fourth batch of Chinese agricultural experts in Ethiopia launched an innovative three-year poverty reduction project in the village, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture and the local government. The experts provided Sitotaw and other community members with high-quality seeds, essential farming inputs, and hands-on training.

“We plan to apply China’s poverty reduction experience to the local village through the introduction of high-yielding seeds, advanced farming techniques, agricultural machinery, and water-saving irrigation,” said Zhang Shihong, head of the Chinese agricultural expert team. Their work spans animal husbandry, horticulture, crop cultivation, edible fungi, and agricultural machinery, aiming to holistically strengthen Ethiopia’s agricultural sector and food security.

“They provided me with critical training on modern farming methods, from vegetable cultivation to animal husbandry and homestead fishery,” Sitotaw said, adding that the comprehensive support from Chinese experts has “significantly diversified” her family’s diet and increased their income, with high-yielding varieties such as tomatoes, onions, corn, wheat, and fruit saplings like papaya and avocado.

Abu Negash, a father of two, is another beneficiary in the village. With the experts’ support, he built a backyard fish pond and received

high-yielding crop seeds. “Thanks to their support, including quality farming inputs and training, we have significantly boosted our production compared to previous years,” Negash said. He also expects new chicken coops from the Chinese experts, which will enhance his integrated farming system combining poultry, aquaculture, and crops for a more resilient livelihood. After six months, the changes are visible. Assefa Gudissa, deputy administrator of Godino Jitu, noted the “profound impact” of the experts’ work on the area. Wheat yields, for instance, have risen from 4.2 tonnes to nearly 7 tonnes per hectare this year, an achievement he credited to the experts’ capacity-building efforts and provision of agricultural inputs and essential farming materials.

Gudissa also highlighted their contributions beyond agriculture. Collaborating with the local telecom provider, the experts helped erect a new signal tower in the village, improving connectivity and supporting broader community development. As the latest manifestation of the expanding China-Ethiopia

agricultural cooperation, the Chinese experts recently donated over 70 pieces of agricultural equipment to the village, including sowing and soil-tilling machines, a tractor, corn and wheat threshers, seed drillers, planters, milkers, water pumps, chick incubators, artificial insemination tools, and solar-powered insecticidal lamps. With continued guidance and the knowledge they have gained, residents like Sitotaw and Negash envision a future where their village is self-sufficient, prosperous, and free from poverty. “I hope that with their continued support and our strong commitment, we will continue to witness remarkable changes in our overall livelihood,” said Sitotaw.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Impacts Of Technology On Mental Health

In today’s digital age, technology significantly affects mental health, presenting both benefits and challenges.

On the positive side, technology enhances access to mental health resources. Online platforms provide valuable information, while teletherapy and mental health apps allow individuals to seek help conveniently, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, social media fosters support networks, enabling people to connect with others experiencing similar struggles, thus reducing feelings of isolation.

However, the negative impacts of technology are noteworthy. Excessive screen time is linked to anxiety, depression, and sleep disturbances, driven by the compulsive checking of notifications. Furthermore, cyberbullying has emerged as a serious issue, negatively affecting mental health and leading to increased anxiety and depression. The “comparison culture” prevalent on social media

promotes unhealthy comparisons, exacerbating feelings of inadequacy, especially among young people.

To navigate these challenges, it’s crucial to foster a balanced relationship with technology. Strategies such as setting boundaries for tech use, curating social media feeds to promote positivity, and engaging in digital detoxes can mitigate negative effects. Seeking professional help remains vital, emphasizing the importance of real-life connections alongside online resources.

Ultimately, while technology can enhance mental health support, its potential drawbacks require mindful usage. By cultivating a healthy balance, individuals can harness the benefits of technology while safeguarding their mental well-being.

Angela Awinja, Laikipia University



Social Media Pressure Is Pushing Young People To Breaking Points

Social media has become an intense arena where image, validation, and attention often overshadow authenticity. For many young people, especially students, the pressure to look perfect online is constant and exhausting. Every post, comment, or photo becomes a silent competition, and instead of connecting people, social media increasingly breeds comparison, insecurity, and quiet suffering.

Behind the curated photos and confident captions, countless young people are struggling. The need to appear successful, happy, and flawless creates a heavy emotional burden. When one’s real life doesn’t match the polished version posted online, feelings of inadequacy, anxiety, and low self-worth set in. This silent battle worsens when online criticism, cyber bullying, or the fear of judgment becomes a daily reality.

While social media undeniably of-

fers opportunities for expression and creativity, it is important to recognize that its negative effects cannot be ignored. Young people need safe spaces where they can disconnect from unrealistic expectations and embrace their true identities without fear of scrutiny. Schools, families, and institutions must openly address digital mental health, encouraging conversations that reduce stigma and promote resilience.

Ultimately, we must remind ourselves that no online image is worth losing one’s peace of mind. Real life happens offline. By choosing authenticity over perfection and prioritizing mental well-being over virtual applause, young people can reclaim control and build healthier relationships with social media.

Levis Wangamati, Laikipia University



SPORTS
NEWSPHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *Austin Maina and Hazel Selesi successfully defended their titles during the 2025 Predator football Freestyle championship after showing a breathtaking combination of athleticism and creativity with the ball.

Hazel And Austin Retain Predator Freestyle Championship Titles



Austin Maina and Hazel Selesi successfully defended their titles during the 2025 Predator football Freestyle championship after showing a breathtaking combination of athleticism and creativity with the ball.

In one of the best battles in Kenyan freestyle football history, defending champion Austin Maina went head to head with Oliver Rhaya in a nail biting final that had everyone on their feet.

The Kinoo wonder-boy did the unbelievable and took his second Predator Freestyle title in style.

"Freestyle football consists of creatively juggling a ball using any part of your body without having to run around the stadium but just showcasing individual skill, control and style through tricks and routines," said a jubilant Austin.

"I have dreamt about this day, and my sincere appreciations goes to my family, especially my mother who has walked every step in this journey with me. Thank you, mama, for believing in me," added Austin.

The freestylers amazed the crowd, especially Awadh Ab-

dul who skyrocketed to his first Kenyan Championship podium finish.

Awadh proudly won the solo battles stage by edging out his opponents one by one to the quarter finals. Held at the iconic National Archives at the heart of Nairobi's Central Business District, women's competition kicked off with lots of heat and buzz but in the end, Annah Karu could only manage a third place.

At the final held from 6:00 pm, birthday girl and defending champion Hazel Selassie beat Gor Queen's Rael Kamanda once more to be crowned the 2025 female champion.

Hazel who was accompanied by her parents to the championship, was elated to be the undisputed female freestyle champion in the country for a second year in a row.

According to judge and legendary freestyle footballer Edward Murimi, the level of interest and creativity of freestyle has sky-rocketed in Nairobi over the last five years.

"It was a tough battle during the men's Final event because both

Austin and Oliver brought their A-game and from the start, we at the judges bench knew this would be a duel to remember," narrated Murimi who was among the three judges.

The Predator Freestyle Football Championship and qualifier for the World Freestyle Football Association (WFFA) Championship returned to Nairobi with a lot of new faces. From a record 22 freestylers (17 Male freestylers and 5 Ladies) participants amazed the judges with their artistic and powerful skills to take their respective glory.

The competition featured an intense one on one (1x1) battle format, where the country's top freestylers clashed to determine the champions of the male and female categories.

Monster Energy's marketing lead Tom Bwana expressed his appreciations to all parties that who made this championship possible.

"The biggest winner today is the freestyle community that has continued to grow since we started these championships last year. A record 22 freestylers in 2025

shows that interest in the sport is gaining momentum," said Tom Bwana.

About the WFFA

The World Freestyle Football Association is the global governing body for the sport of Freestyle Football. It is committed to growing awareness of and participation in this exciting sport worldwide. Founded in Canada in 2017 and headquartered in Barcelona, Spain, the WFFA was established upon a backbone of community development and education, recognizing the power this exciting sport has to inspire healthy, active lifestyles for young people all over the world.

The WFFA is the rights holder and organiser of iconic events, including the World Freestyle Football Championship, the Pulse Series, the NextGen World Championship, the Super Ball World Open and a collection of regional and national events in over 100 countries worldwide.

KBC

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *The kick-off event of the CAF Diaspora Tour for the CAF Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) Morocco 2025 got off to a successful start, attracting top African legends including Alex Song, current star Alex Iwobi

AFCON Diaspora Tour In London Starts Barely 3 Weeks To Tournament Kick Off In Morocco



The kick-off event of the CAF Diaspora Tour for the CAF Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) Morocco 2025 got off to a successful start, attracting top African legends including Alex Song, current star Alex Iwobi, Ghanaian music icon Stonebwoy, Nigerian artist Odumodublvck, and former Arsenal Vice-Chairman David Dein. The event, held in the heart of London in Piccadilly Circus, is part of a two-city Tour that will move to Paris next week. The Tour will take place in Paris on the 3rd and 4th of December, with the original AFCON Trophy present on the 3rd of December at Palais de Tokyo, Yoyo for the opening ceremony, before returning to Morocco on the 4th of December for

the TotalEnergies AFCON 2025 Trophy Tour. The Diaspora Tour in London continues today, Friday, with a public event from 3pm UK time (GMT) at Piccadilly Circus, where fans will have an opportunity to meet the legends and see the TotalEnergies CAF AFCON Trophy. Dein said African football was experiencing an exciting “new era”. He said: “The biggest winner from the Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco in December will be African football. African football is special; it is full of passion because Africans are full of passion. I think what we see now is a special era in African football,

and this event here in London has been a great success and good advertisement for African football.” Alex Song, the former Arsenal and Barcelona midfielder, said: “What is exciting is to be here in London and see people from all walks of life celebrating African football. This is something that didn’t happen when we were playing. We have always known that African football is amazing, but now we are exporting this to the rest of the world to see.” Stonebwoy, one of Ghana’s and Africa’s celebrated artists, gave a special performance to a room full of international media, sponsors and CAF partners on Thursday night and the event also featured the presence of Nigerian artist

Odumodublvck, adding to the strong cultural representation of the African diaspora. These events are a tribute to the enduring connection that pulses through every match, every cheer, and every goal – honouring not only the iconic African players who have become titans on European soil, but also the continent they represent.

KBC

SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS





Anna Abesadze: A Global Leader In Education, Governance, And Empowerment



By: Ayesha Talib
@themtkenyetimes



Anna Abesadze

Worth Noting:

- Anna is a respected voice in the fields of leadership and empowerment, having co-authored three influential books: *Women Living Fearlessly* (New York), *Authenticity and Action* (London), and *Begin It Now* (Vancouver). Her writing focuses on the critical themes of leadership, empowerment, and orchestrating change.
- Furthering her scholarly pursuits and impact, Anna embarked on her PhD journey in 2025, focusing her research on the crucial areas of international partnerships and management. Through her roles and her continuous pursuit of knowledge, Anna Abesadze continues to be a driving force for positive change across North America, Europe, and Asia.

Anna Abesadze is an acclaimed advisor, educator, and global governance expert whose career spans three continents. Known for driving strategic change and educational innovation, she is dedicated to advancing youth development and championing women's leadership worldwide.

Leadership in Academia and Global Governance

Anna currently holds a key role at Grigol Robakidze University as Adviser to the Rector and Lecturer. In this capacity, she is responsible for spearheading strategic initiatives, international collaborations, and educational reform. Her work ensures the university remains at the forefront of modern pedagogy and global partnership standards.

Complementing her academic role, Anna serves as the Global Governance Coordinator at World Vision International. Here, she is instrumental in supporting governance structures and processes on a worldwide scale, demonstrating her expertise in complex, international organizational management.

Commitment to Education and Social Impact

A central pillar of Anna's professional life is her passion for advancing education and youth development. This commitment has earned her significant international recognition:

- * Woman Changing the World Awards' Leader of the Year (2024)
- * GISR Foundation's Woman Changemaker of the Year (2024)
- * Finalist for the GESS Award for Outstanding Contributions in Education (2023)

cation (2023)

Her commitment to service has also been acknowledged by government and international organizations, including the prestigious President's Volunteer Service Award from the White House and the Host Country Hero Award from Peace Corps Georgia.

Author, Scholar, and Voice for Change

Anna is a respected voice in the fields of leadership and empowerment, having co-authored three influential books: *Women Living Fearlessly* (New York), *Authenticity and Action* (London), and *Begin It Now* (Vancouver). Her writing focuses on the critical themes of leadership, empowerment, and orchestrating change.

Furthering her scholarly pursuits and impact, Anna embarked on her PhD journey in 2025, focusing her research on the crucial areas of international partnerships and management. Through her roles and her continuous pursuit of knowledge, Anna Abesadze continues to be a driving force for positive change across North America, Europe, and Asia.

