



The Sins Of The Father: Why Kenya's Children Must Not Pay For Governance Failures

In Kenya's 47 counties, the gap between the best and worst-performing primary schools in national examinations can span as much as 200 marks, a chasm wide enough to separate a child's dream from its burial. In Nairobi and Kiambu counties, where governance structures hum with relative efficiency and resource allocation follows some discernible logic, schools boast mean scores

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Daily ePAPER

Monday, January 12, 2026

No. 01469 www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

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P. 12. Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi has cautioned Kenyans against taking the country's peace and security for granted, warning that stability remains the bedrock of sustainable development and economic growth.

Ruto: My Bond With Mt Kenya Is Unbreakable

President William Ruto yesterday dismissed claims that political intrigues and propaganda could weaken his relationship with the people of Nyeri County and the wider Mt Kenya region. He said the bond he enjoys with residents is firmly rooted in a shared development agenda. Speaking during a church service at ACK St Paul's Church in Kariki, Othaya, the President said his partnership with the people of Mt Kenya was built on mutual trust and a clear commitment to transform livelihoods through practical and measurable programmes.



President William Ruto having a word with Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga yesterday. Photo/Courtesy.

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KSh21 Billion Boost For Nyeri As Ruto Rolls Out Housing, Markets And Hostels

By: WMW
 @themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto has announced a KSh21 billion investment package for Nyeri County to support the construction of modern markets, affordable housing units and student hostels, as the government intensifies its drive to spur local economies and improve living standards across the Mt Kenya region.

Speaking yesterday in Othaya, Nyeri County, the President said the funds will help unlock business opportunities, create jobs and provide decent accommodation for families and learners.

He noted that the projects are part of a broader national plan to ensure that no region is left behind in the country's development agenda.

In addition to the housing and market projects, President Ruto revealed that Mwai Kibaki Referral Hospital in Othaya has been established as an independent national medical facility.

He said the government has already injected KSh500 million to upgrade the hospital with modern equipment and improved infrastructure to enhance healthcare services for residents of Nyeri and neighbouring counties.

The President addressed residents of Chinga in Othaya after attending a church service at ACK Kariki church where he reiterated his administration's commitment to delivering practical and people-centred development. He was accompanied by Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe, Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga, Principal Secretaries, Members of Parliament, as well as senior officials of various government agencies and Members of County Assembly who joined him in engaging wananchi and reviewing ongoing and planned development projects in the area.






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

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NEWS IN BRIEF



President William Ruto participating in the ongoing United Democratic Alliance (UDA) grassroots elections at Koilel Primary School, Uasin Gishu County to elect party officials last Saturday.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki voted to elect polling centre UDA party officials at Irunduni Primary School, Tharaka Nithi County. The UDA grassroots elections to pick 20 party officials for each polling centre proceeded across 20 counties; Kakamega, Vihiga, Trans Nzoia, Elgeyo Marakwet, Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Kericho, Bomet, Baringo, Nakuru, Nyandarua, Samburu, Laikipia, Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Embu, Kirinyaga, Nyeri, Muranga and Kiambu. In the next three months, the party will conduct elections to identify Ward, Constituency and County level officials respectively, culminating in the election of national officials in April.



Tana River County commissioner Joseph Mwangi addressing the press after receiving five illegally held AK 47 guns and 13 rounds of ammunitions from the Degodia community. He thanked the elders for heeding to the government call for all illegally held firearms to be surrendered.



Some of the KSh13million illicit alcohol, seized by NACADA through a Multi-agency operation in Kabaa Machakos county last Saturday.



An aspirant for the Tindiret parliamentary seat, Walter Kipkemei has intensified his campaign to improve access to clean and safe water in public institutions by donating water pipes to Subukie Primary School, Kabolebo location. Demonstrating a hands-on and action-orientated approach, Kipkemei immediately mobilised local youth to begin laying the pipes within the school compound. The move ensured that the project transitioned from planning to implementation without delay, while also creating short-term employment and empowering young people to actively participate in community development. The water initiative seeks to address a long-standing water shortage that has negatively affected learning, sanitation and overall school welfare.



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CS Chirchir Inspects Rironi–Mau Summit Highway Works As Government Moves To Counter Stalled Project Claims

By: Irene Mwangi
@themkenyentimes

Transport and Roads Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir has inspected ongoing construction works along the Rironi–Mau Summit Highway, seeking to reassure the public that the multibillion-shilling road project is progressing after months of criticism that construction had stalled.

The highway, taunted to be one of Kenya's busiest transport corridors linking Nairobi to Nakuru, Western Kenya and the wider East African region, has faced growing scrutiny over slow mobilisation, limited activity on site and worsening congestion.

During the inspection tour, Chirchir said several contractors are now actively undertaking initial works across multiple sections of the route.

At Rironi, China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) is handling the first five kilometres, while another five kilometres are under construction at Gilgil. Shandong Construction Company has commenced works on a 10-kilometre stretch at Kariandusi and an additional five kilometres at Mau Summit.

"These are just part of the initial works programme. I expect work to ramp up in more sites along the way in the coming days," Chirchir said.

The Transport Cabinet Secretary said he was satisfied with the pace of work and praised contractors for what he termed swift mobilisation and visible progress on the ground, noting that the renewed activity reflects positive momentum in the delivery of the long-delayed infrastructure project.

"I expressed my satisfaction with the project's progress and commended the contractors for their commendable pace of work and swift mobilisation on site," he said.



The government views the dualling of the Rironi–Mau Summit Highway as critical to unlocking economic growth, easing transport bottlenecks and improving safety along a corridor that carries heavy commercial traffic, long-distance passenger vehicles and cross-border freight.

According to CS Chirchir, the expanded highway will significantly reduce congestion and accident risks, while facilitating smoother movement of goods and passengers between Nairobi, Nakuru, Western Kenya and neighbouring countries in the East African Community, thereby strengthening regional trade and integration.

Government claims the project will generate about 10,000 jobs, with a strong emphasis on youth employment and skills transfer, offering local

communities both short-term income opportunities and long-term technical capacity building.

Last month, the High Court in Nakuru had been asked to halt the construction of the newly launched Rironi–Nakuru–Mau Summit Road project pending the determination of a petition challenging its legality and economic viability.

In the case filed on Friday, the Motorists Association of Kenya, together with three individuals Peter Murima, Joyce Wamahiu and Josphat Kamau were seeking interim orders to stop any construction or preparatory works on the multi-billion-shilling project.

The petitioners argue that the State's plan to revive tolling through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) ar-

rangements amounts to surrendering control of a strategic transport corridor to private and foreign concessionaires. Such long-term agreements, they contend, undermine national sovereignty and expose taxpayers to unfair financial burdens.

They further allege that the project is driven by political and commercial interests rather than genuine public need, claiming that both Kenyan and foreign elites stand to gain through toll revenue, long-term leases and logistical control.

According to the petition, successive public officials have intentionally stalled the expansion of the highway for more than a decade, creating a manufactured crisis to justify the privatisation of the road and the reintroduction of toll charges.

Worth Noting:

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Nyeri County, Along Marua-Kiganjo Highway

The Mt Kenya Times



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Gachagua Accuses Ruto Of Using Police To Hound Him, Condemns Teargas Incident In Church

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Mr. Gachagua described the incident as shocking and unjustifiable, saying no Kenyan should be subjected to violence while exercising their right to worship.
- He called on President Ruto to stop what he termed as political persecution and to “leave him alone”.
- “It is unfortunate that police are being sent even to churches to intimidate me and innocent worshippers. This is wrong and must stop,” he said.
- The DCP leader further accused President Ruto of applying double standards, noting that former President Uhuru Kenyatta allowed him to campaign freely across the country for more than four years before the 2022 General Election. He questioned why, despite this precedent, the current administration continues to block him from engaging with citizens.

DCP Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua has launched a fresh attack on President William Ruto, accusing him of using the police to harass and intimidate him more than a year after his impeachment.

Speaking during a series of engagements in Kiambu County, the former Deputy President said it was unacceptable for the Head of State to deploy excessive force against him, including disrupting places of worship.

He cited yesterday’s incident at AIPCA Kimworia Church in Gatundu South Constituency, where police officers lobbed teargas at congregants as he attended prayers.

Mr. Gachagua described the incident as shocking and unjustifiable, saying no Kenyan should be subjected to violence while exercising their right to worship.

He called on President Ruto to stop what he termed as political persecution and to “leave him alone”.

“It is unfortunate that police are being sent even to churches to intimidate me and innocent worshippers. This is wrong and must stop,” he said.

The DCP leader further accused President Ruto of applying double standards, noting that former President Uhuru Kenyatta allowed him to campaign freely across the country for more than four years before the 2022 General Election. He questioned why, despite this precedent, the current administration continues to block him from engaging with citizens.

“This is unfair, undemocratic and against the spirit of our Constitution,” Gachagua said, adding that no leader should be denied the freedom to meet the people.

On transport and public order, Mr. Gachagua condemned some Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (Saccos) for allegedly leasing their vehicles to hired goons who later cause chaos and disrupt peace during public events.

He urged Sacco officials to exercise due diligence before renting out their vehicles, warning that such practices undermine public safety.

Turning to national politics, Gachagua defended former President Uhuru Kenyatta against what he termed as unwarranted attacks by some leaders allied to the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM).

He insisted that Uhuru, as a retired Head of State, deserves respect.

He challenged ODM leaders to direct their frustrations to President Ruto, whom he accused of attempting to interfere with and take over the party’s affairs.



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with other leaders at AIPCA Kimworia church yesterday.

On education, the former Deputy President reiterated the need for leaders to prudently utilize development funds to build quality schools across all regions. He said this would promote equity, fairness and equal opportunities in student placement, especially in national schools.

Mr. Gachagua was accompanied by several leaders, including Kiam-

bu Senator Karungo wa Thang’wa, Nyeri County Assembly Speaker Gichuhi Mwangi, and dozens of DCP-affiliated aspirants for various political seats.

Later, the DCP leader paid a condolence visit to the family of a Catholic Church catechist who recently died alongside his wife and two children in a tragic road accident.

The team also held impromptu public meetings in several townships and trading centres within the area, where he reiterated his call for peace, democracy and respect for the rule of law.



DCP Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua addressing the public at Kiganjo shopping centre yesterday. Photos/Courtesy.

Ruto: My Bond With Mt Kenya Is Unbreakable

By: WMW

@themkenyatimes

President William Ruto yesterday dismissed claims that political intrigues and propaganda could weaken his relationship with the people of Nyeri County and the wider Mt Kenya region.

He said the bond he enjoys with residents is firmly rooted in a shared development agenda.

Speaking during a church service at ACK St Paul's Church in Kariki, Othaya, the President said his partnership with the people of Mt Kenya was built on mutual trust and a clear commitment to transform livelihoods through practical and measurable programmes.

"Politics and falsehoods will not undo what we have built with the people of this region. Our friendship is anchored on a solid foundation of transformation," President Ruto said.

He noted that the government is focused on implementing the priority programmes agreed upon with Kenyans during the 2022 General Election campaigns, adding that delivery; not political noise will determine the verdict in the 2027 polls.

"I know there will be an examination in 2027. Everyone will be assessed based on the job they will have done. We will face those who thrive on insults, drama and falsehoods then," he said.

The President was accompanied by several national and county governments leaders, led by Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe, Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga, Nyeri Senator Wahome Wamatinga, Nyeri Woman Representative Rahab Mukami and the host Member of Parliament Wainaina Wambugu.

Others were MPs, PSs as well chairpersons, directors, board members and CEOs of various government agencies.

On education, President Ruto said the government has undertaken sweeping reforms to ensure that every Kenyan child has access to quality learning. He said education funding has been increased, disbursements to schools have been made more timely, and 100,000 teachers have been hired over the past three years.

"Education is the greatest empowerment that any society can give to its people," he said.

He added that youth empowerment remains a key priority of his administration.

He cited the Affordable Housing Programme, digital jobs, overseas employment opportunities and the



President William Ruto addressing masses in Nyeri

Worth Noting:

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National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) programme as initiatives that are opening up new economic pathways for young people across the country.

Turning to agriculture, the President assured farmers that the government has secured enough fertiliser for the upcoming planting season.

He also highlighted major reforms in the livestock sector, noting that the cost of sexed semen has been reduced from KSh8,000 to KSh1,400 to enable farmers to improve the quality and productivity of their herds.

On access to international markets, President Ruto said Kenya is in the final stages of negotiating a bilateral trade agreement with China that will open up opportunities for key exports such as coffee, tea and avocado. He added that a draft bilateral trade agreement with the United States is also ready, which, once finalised, will expand market access for Kenyan products, especially coffee.

The President noted that government interventions, including the elimination of exploitative brokers, have significantly improved coffee prices, which have risen from about KSh70 per kilogramme three years ago to between KSh110 and KSh150 today.

He also said reforms are underway at the Kenya Cooperatives Creameries (KCC) to ensure that dairy farmers are paid promptly, helping to stabilise milk prices and improve

incomes.

On infrastructure, President Ruto announced that the government has allocated funds to complete 600 kilometres of the Mau Mau roads. He said KSh2 billion has been set aside for the completion of Lot Three of the Mau Mau Road, which links Othaya, Kieni and Tetu constituencies in Nyeri County.

He added that all pending bills owed to contractors for the 2021–2023 period have already been cleared, and the road is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

In addition, the President revealed that Nyeri County has been allocated KSh21 billion for the construction of affordable housing units, 15 modern markets and hostels to accommodate 7,000 students.

On healthcare, President Ruto announced that Mwai Kibaki Referral Hospital in Othaya has been gazetted as an independent national facility and will be equipped with medical supplies and equipment worth KSh1 billion to enhance service delivery.

Deputy President Kindiki said President Ruto is running an inclusive government that draws leaders from across the country, regardless of political background.

"Mr President, continue uniting our country and giving Kenyans an inclusive government. That is how we will take this nation to the next level," Kindiki said.

Governor Kahiga urged leaders to distinguish between electioneering and service delivery, saying now is

the time to focus on development.

"There is a time to campaign and a time to work. We are supporting the President to deliver for the people. Everything else is hullabaloo whose time will come in 2027," he said.

Agriculture CS Kagwe said his ministry is committed to transforming the sector, pointing to improved cash crop prices that are already benefiting farmers. He praised President Ruto for appointing him to head the ministry despite their different political positions during the last election.

"That shows wisdom and a commitment to unite the country beyond politics. I pray that Kenyans can see it," Kagwe said, urging voters to elect leaders with proven track records to ensure continuity in development.

The President's visit to Othaya capped a day of engagements in Nyeri County, reinforcing his message that development, unity and service not political theatrics will shape Kenya's future.

After the church event that included commissioning of ACK Kariki Plaza, the President addressed an impromptu public meeting outside the church.

Today, the President is expected to lead in launching NYOTA programme for more than 10,000 central Kenya youth at Kabiru-ini Showground near Nyeri town.

KWS Recovers Body of the Missing Mt. Kenya Porter

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has recovered the body of 35-year-old Samuel Macharia, a porter who went missing on December 23 last year during a climbing expedition on Mt Kenya.

Macharia was accompanying four guides and two Japanese tourists when he disappeared.

KWS confirmed that his body was found at Hinde Valley, at an altitude of approximately 4,300 metres above sea level.

“KWS mounted an intensive, multi-agency day search and rescue operation, deploying experienced rangers and the mountain search and rescue teams, supported by aerial surveillance and extensive ground operations.

The search covered Shipton Camp, Austrian Hut, Mackinder’s Valley, Sendeyo, Hinde Valley, Mintos, the Timau Route, and surrounding areas, despite extreme weather conditions,

rugged terrain, and poor visibility,” said KWS.

The recovery followed an intensive, multi-agency search involving rangers, mountain rescue teams, aerial surveillance, and police support, despite extreme weather and rugged terrain. Family members and local mountain guides also assisted in the operation.

Macharia’s elder brother, Daniel Kagwaini, a veteran mountain guide, said Macharia showed no signs of illness or unusual behaviour before vanishing and had over 15 years of experience navigating Mt Kenya.

“I had worked with my brother for years and we can’t really tell what happened, he vanished under my watch; I retraced our steps and found nothing. I have done frantic searches more than three times through possible routes with no sign of him,” said his brother, who is also a mountain guide.

KWS expressed condolences to the family and reiterated its commitment to mountain safety, emergency preparedness, and coordinated rescue operations. Kenya Wildlife Service Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife - Kenya



The rescue and recovery team.

The Mt. Kenya Times



Thika Schools Overwhelmed by Grade 10 Admission Requests

By: Muoki Charles
@themkenyatimes



Students celebrating the KCSE outcome.

Worth Noting:

- At Chania Boys High School, the situation has become particularly overwhelming. Although the Ministry of Education placed more than 500 Grade 10 learners at the school, over 3,000 additional applications have since been submitted by parents, hoping to secure places for their children.
- The school principal, James Gitau, said the numbers are expected to rise further when learners officially report to the institution next week.
- “We have already been allocated more than 500 students by the ministry, yet at our gate we are dealing with over 3,000 more applicants. Files keep piling up, but the reality is that we simply do not have the space to accommodate them,” Gitau said.

Secondary schools in Thika are grappling with an unprecedented surge in applications for Grade 10 admission, beyond the official government placements, piling pressure on the already strained infrastructure and school administrators.

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“We have already been allocated more than 500 students by the ministry, yet at our gate we are dealing with over 3,000 more applicants. Files keep piling up, but the reality is that we simply do not have the space to accommodate them,” Gitau said.

A similar scenario is unfolding at the neighbouring Thika High School, where parents have been flocking to the institution daily, with the hope of getting last-minute admission opportunities for their children.

The school principal, Julius Muraya said the pressure from parents has persisted for weeks, leaving school administrators with little respite.

“Parents whose children performed

well in junior school examinations but were placed in schools they consider far or not commensurate with their scores have been crowding our offices. Unfortunately, we are unable to assist them due to capacity constraints,” Muraya explained.

The principals now warn that unless the placement challenge is addressed, anxiety among parents may continue to rise, even as schools prepare to receive learners already posted by the government.

“The belief that quality education can only be found in boarding

schools must end. In many developed countries, boarding schools are not even popular. We need to equip our day schools and have confidence in them,” said Gitau.

The two principals affirmed that their schools are fully prepared to admit Grade 10 learners, noting that teachers have recently been retooled under the new curriculum and the requisite infrastructure is in place to support the three pathways approved by the government.

Meanwhile, the two extra-county schools, which have been allowed

to offer the three career pathways of STEM, social sciences and arts and sports, recorded improved performances in the latest Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) results.

Chania Boys posted a mean score of 7.6, with three A plains and 18 A minuses among other grades, while Thika High School registered a mean score of 8.1, producing six straight As and 31 A minuses among other grades, further fuelling demand for limited spaces.



A principal briefing the media

Mudavadi Urges Kenyans To Safeguard Peace As IMO East Africa Launches Vision 100

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi has cautioned Kenyans against taking the country's peace and security for granted, warning that stability remains the bedrock of sustainable development and economic growth.

Speaking in Nairobi during the launch of Vision 100 by the International Memon Organization (IMO) East Africa chapter, Mudavadi said Kenya must jealously guard its domestic tranquility at a time when the global order is under strain.

He noted that the world is experiencing increasing volatility, with the rule of law being undermined in many parts of the globe. Against this backdrop, he said, Kenya's relative stability stands out as a critical national asset that must be protected if the country is to continue pursuing development and prosperity.

He emphasized that without peace, security and stability, even the best development plans would amount to nothing.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary said societies must engage in sober and objective reflection to confront emerging threats to humanity and social cohesion.

He stressed that peace and security are not abstract ideals but practical foundations that allow communities, institutions and nations to function and plan for the future. According to Mudavadi, maintaining stability within communities and across the region is essential to building proactive societies capable of empowering future generations.

Vision 100 is a long-term development framework by IMO East Africa that seeks to uplift communities through education, health, economic empowerment, culture and social cohesion.

Mudavadi applauded the initiative, saying it aligns closely with Kenya's development priorities, including Vision 2030 and the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

He said that if Vision 100 is well implemented according to its eight pillars, collaboration between the Government of Kenya and IMO East Africa would significantly transform the lives of many Kenyans. The Vision 100 pillars are: a roof over every head, 100 per cent literacy, independence and self-reliance, affordable healthcare, culture, language and heritage, sustainability and responsibility, community outreach, and mental and emotional wellness.

Mudavadi said the synergy be-



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi with government and Vision 100 officials. Photos/Courtesy.

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tween Vision 100 and the BETA Plan demonstrates how well-organized communities can complement government efforts, ease pressure on state systems and accelerate national development.

He underlined that initiatives like Vision 100 should be seen as credible partnerships with government rather than substitutes for it.

He congratulated IMO East Africa Vice President Shahid Yakub and Global Deputy President Shemir Yakub for conceptualizing a forward-looking initiative designed to empower generations.

He urged the Memon Community to integrate technology meaningfully into Vision 100 so that it can enhance human potential and improve lives.

On a lighter note, Mudavadi said he had been curious about the organization before attending the launch, having initially associated the acronym "IMO" with international maritime or migration bodies, before learning of its unique community-based mission.

Mudavadi also highlighted the growing role of technology and artificial intelligence, describing them as powerful new variables that cut across all development pillars.

He assured the Memon Community in Kenya and the region of the government's readiness to work with them in implementing Vision 100, saying Kenya's strength lies in communities that take responsibility for their future while actively contributing to national progress.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi addressing the forum.

Ichung'wah Blames Gadget Delays For Low Voter Turnout In UDA Polls

By: Gikunga Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Majority Leader in the National Assembly and Kikuyu Member of Parliament Kimani Ichung'wah has moved to defend the low voter turnout witnessed in parts of Kiambu County during the ongoing United Democratic Alliance (UDA) grassroots elections across 20 counties.

Ichung'wah explained that the turnout challenges were largely due to delays in the delivery of digital voting gadgets, which caused the exercise to begin late in some polling centres. He assured party members that the election committee would extend voting hours to compensate for the time lost, emphasizing that fairness and inclusivity remained central to the process.

His remarks came as Kiambaa MP John Njuguna Kwanjiku urged the UDA party elections committee to intensify civic education among members. Kwanjiku noted that many voters were unfamiliar with the digital voting system and called for the

deployment of additional gadgets in areas with high voter numbers to ease congestion and ensure efficiency. He stressed that grassroots elections were critical in strengthening party democracy and building confidence among supporters.

Despite the challenges, turnout in Kikuyu and Kiambaa constituencies was reported to be relatively fair. At Kikuyu Primary School and Gachie Town Primary School, both Ichung'wah and Kwanjiku cast their votes, with local residents turning up steadily throughout the day. Observers noted that while the process was slower in some centres, enthusiasm among party members remained visible.

The UDA grassroots elections are seen as a key test of the party's organizational capacity ahead of future national contests. Leaders have pledged to address logistical hiccups and ensure that every member has the opportunity to participate. For Ichung'wah and Kwanjiku, the message was clear: delays may frustrate, but the democratic process must remain accessible, credible, and fair to all.



National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wah. PHOTO: KIMANIICHUNGWAH/X

Two Youths Feared Dead In River Sagana Swimming Tragedy

By: Johnson Muriithi
@themtkenyatimes

Gakindu and Kinji villages in Ndia Sub County, Kirinyaga County, have been thrown into mourning following the presumed drowning of two youths in River Sagana on Saturday evening.

The two, a 16-year-old Form Three student from Gakindu village and a 21-year-old youth from Kinji village, are believed to have been swept away by strong currents while swimming in the river.

The incident disrupted normal activities in the area, with many residents abandoning church services to join search efforts along the riverbanks.

Families, villagers, local divers, and police officers from Sagana Police Station have been combing the area since Saturday night in a bid to recover the bodies.

The mother of the 16-year-old stu-

dent said her son had accompanied a friend earlier in the day and failed to return home.

She said she received a call from relatives at around 10 pm informing her that the boy had been swept away by the raging waters.

"I could not believe it. I am still in shock," she said.

She added that she had given her son Ksh 400 to buy part of his school uniform, money she later found intact in the pocket of the clothes the boys had left by the river.

"He was also supposed to pass by a local greengrocer to pick items so I could cook for our church. Now all that is history," she said, tearfully.

In Kinji village, the family of the 21 year old described the moment they received the news as devastating.

His parents said they were informed at about 9 pm by the village administrator.

"It was our worst nightmare. The pain and shock were overwhelming," the young man's mother said as she broke down. The family later found his clothes near the river, re-



inforcing fears that he had drowned. Local residents said search efforts have been hampered by strong currents and difficult underwater conditions.

Divers who initially assisted were forced to suspend operations after failing to locate the bodies.

"This is an incredibly painful and difficult moment for the community and the affected families," said one resident involved in the search.

Villagers from Gakindu and Kinji have appealed for additional support and resources to aid the ongoing operation, expressing hope that

the bodies of the two youths will be retrieved to allow their families to begin burial arrangements.

Police have urged residents to exercise caution around River Sagana, particularly during periods of strong currents, as search efforts continue.

Success Is When Others Copying You



When others copy your style, way
Your walk, talk, look, and behaviour
They take you as a role model
It clearly shows you have succeeded

It proves you are creative
They may be able to follow
But they can't create their own
There you prove you have succeeded

They copy your style and follow your
footprints
They walk in the way you showed
You have taken the road not taken,
You have become a role model to all
You have proved you have succeeded

What else is needed ???
Clearly it shows you have succeeded

Brinda.D
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Neighborhood Biryani Scent May Apeticise, Yet, Our Humble Porridge In Our Home Satisfies Hunger



Biryani scent tempts everyone's taste buds
The porridge from our house brings
Calmness.

A guava in the hands is better than a far away
apple.
What we have in our home is better than
others.

Taking porridge everyday is as good as
biryani.
East or west home is best.

Expectations lead to much complications
A contented mind keeps the health in
position.

Controlling our sensory organs,
also keeps the body fit.

Colourful food, aroma food, most spicy,
Should be avoided for health conscious.

Rajesh Kanna B N

RAJESH KANNA.B N
M.Sc.,M.A.,M.A., B.Ed., PGD G&C, CELT.,
BT Asst
GMHSCHOOL,
TIRUR.
TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT.
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Creative Writers.

Gadget Free Family



Nowadays our children acts as
technocrats,
Handling all gadgets like wildcats!
They all now cryptography
Shows their talents in photography!

Loves to play with mobile,
Only develop how to be hostile,
Searching friendship in global
Have the weak soul that fragile!

Little kids learn quickly We can show them a

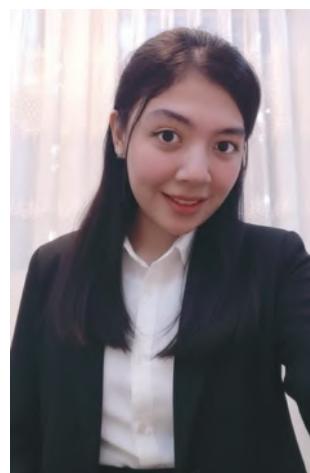
right path wisely,
They will adopt the same genuinely,
One day they will live their life happily.

We should be their example,
By quitting our time wasting a long in
gadgets,
We should teach them how to crack the
tasks
Which is listed as household chores.

Cute little fingers can do anything,
We can watch their lovely naughty actions
That gives us headache but brings a smile
Only if they have gadget free family!

N.DEEPALAKSHMI
B.T.ASST IN ENGLISH
CREATIVE WRITER
GHSS-SATHUVACHARI
VELLORE DISTRICT
TAMIL NADU
INDIA

Perhaps I Was Born In Madinah



Perhaps I was born in Madinah...
Only Allah would bear witness to this truth.
There is no proof—my heart just rushes,
I cannot answer if they suddenly ask
Where my birthplace is.

Perhaps I was born in Madinah...
Can a heart truly run this fast?
You would never understand what this is—
How else could a soul belong
To a land not its own?

Perhaps I was born in Madinah...
I do not love noise; peace is my dwelling.
I wish to walk through its gentle gardens—
If only the Messenger were my neighbor.
Perhaps I was born in Madinah...

The Prophet's Mosque calls me at every step.
I have longed for the blessed Rawdah—
A pen seized me with divine love.
Perhaps I was born in Madinah...
Even the desert feels like a meadow to me.
I want to go where my soul has already
gone—

I tell you this softly, in a whisper.
Perhaps I was born in Madinah...
One page in my book of dreams remains blank.
If I go once, I may never return—
Let my soul find its home there.
Perhaps I was born in Madinah...

My motherland still calls me to its embrace.
Yet if Allah wills and grants me the chance,
I would run—casting everything aside.

Iron in silk

How many men's prides are borne upon your
shoulders—

Are you truly so strong, O beautiful woman?
To stand upright is harder still than merely
to walk;

I say it boldly: every woman is courageous.
Woman, in truth, you were created with
beauty—

With matchless mind, a gracious heart, and
mercy.

I speak these words with rightful pride:
No being can ever stand equal to you, dear
woman.

When sorrow's weight bows your honored
head,
You lift it high, letting not a single tear be
shed.

Your patience consumes all grief within
itself—

How steadfast you are, how resolute, O
woman!

Every woman is a mother, a sister, a
daughter—

Know this well: their worth is beyond all
measure.

How fortunate I am that you exist in my fate;
You are the jewel of the universe, beautiful
woman.

May the sun draw its radiance from your
flowered face,

May sweetness drip from every word you
speak.

With a sincere heart, I offer my
congratulations to all—

Blessed be this sacred day, dear woman.

Abdusalimova Nilufar Umidjonovna is a
young talented scholar, literary researcher,
and socially active creative figure. She
is a student of the Faculty of Foreign
Languages at Bukhara State University
and a winner of several national and
international competitions. A number of
Nilufar's pedagogical research articles have
been published in international journals and
presented at international conferences.

In 2025, she won first place at the
international competition "Talents of
Russia", held in Russia. In addition, in the
same year, her creative works were published
in the international almanac "Future
Leaders", for which she was awarded a medal.

Great Oaks From Little Acorns Grow



Each drop of water makes a mighty ocean.
A single seed takes some years for fruitful
years.

Mistakes fall like fallen leaves,
But the roots drink deep, refusing to quit.

Years melt into seasons,
bending branches stretches across.

Dared to extend hand for the extra mile.
Never leaves any stone unturned.

Now the sturdy tree stands tall.
Ready to shed a refuge for the starters.
Thus, trembling seed evolved into a
steadfast heart.

Rise above the storm and you will find the
sunshine.

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Kenya Breaks The Internet: Ishowspeed's Nairobi Livestream Sets Africa Tour Record

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

The livestream, which began with Speed feeding giraffes and joking with fans at the Animal Orphanage, quickly spiraled into a global spectacle. "We're about to hit 47.9 million subs in this stream... no other country has done this. Kenya is number one," he exclaimed to his audience, a statement that ricocheted across social media platforms from TikTok to X (formerly Twitter). By the end of the day, his channel had surged from 47.72 million to 47.91 million subscribers, cementing Kenya as the standout stop on his ambitious "Speed Does Africa" tour.

What unfolded in Nairobi was not just entertainment—it was a cultural takeover. Speed's itinerary read like a love letter to Kenya's diversity. He began at Upper Hill School, where students erupted in cheers as he joined them in impromptu football drills and classroom banter.

Kenya did not just welcome an American YouTube superstar—it re-wrote the script of digital fandom in Africa. When iShowSpeed, the 19 year old Ohio born streamer whose real name is Darren Watkins Jr., touched down in Nairobi, few could have predicted the scale of frenzy that would follow. Yet within hours of going live from Nairobi National Park, Speed had smashed his own records, pulling in more than 180,000 concurrent viewers and catapulting his subscriber count by nearly 200,000 in a single broadcast. In the volatile, fast moving world of online streaming, such numbers are seismic. For Kenya, it was more than a viral moment—it was a declaration that the country has become a digital epicenter on the continent.

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The cultural immersion continued with food and fashion. At Kenyatta Market, Speed purchased a custom Kenyan jersey, mingled with traders, and sampled ugali, nyama choma, kachumbari, and mukimo. His reactions—animated, exaggerated, and endlessly meme worthy—were clipped and shared across Instagram reels and TikTok, generating millions of views. Later, at Carnivore Restaurant, he broadcast himself savoring Kenya's famed meat platters, a segment that drew thousands of comments from fans marveling at his willingness to embrace local cuisine.

But perhaps the most iconic moment came when Speed boarded a flamboyantly decorated "nganya" matatu, complete with booming speakers and neon lights. As the matatu



IshowSpeed in Kenya yesterday

cruised through Nairobi's streets, Speed streamed the ride live, showcasing Kenya's unique urban culture to a global audience. For many international viewers, it was their first glimpse into the artistry and vibrancy of Nairobi's public transport scene. Kenyan commentators hailed the moment as a cultural export, with Citizen TV noting that Speed had "turned a matatu into a global stage."

The fan response was overwhelming. Wherever Speed went, crowds gathered—sometimes dozens, sometimes hundreds—chanting his name, waving phones, and jostling for selfies. The sheer scale of the turnout forced authorities to provide a police escort, underscoring both the excitement and the logistical challenges of hosting a global celebrity in public spaces. Videos of fans sprinting after his convoy flooded social media, painting Nairobi as a city electrified by the presence of a digital star.

Kenya's dominance in Speed's Africa tour is not accidental. The country has long been a hub of digital innovation, with Nairobi often dubbed "Silicon Savannah" for its thriving tech ecosystem. According to the Communications Authority of Kenya, internet penetration stands at over 90 percent in urban areas, and mobile data usage continues to surge. Platforms like YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram have become integral to youth culture, with Kenyan creators such as Elsa Majimbo and Crazy Kenar achieving international recognition. Speed's record breaking stream tapped into this fertile ground, amplifying Kenya's reputation as a digital powerhouse.

Comparisons with other tour stops are telling. In Angola, Speed's streams drew respectable numbers

but lacked the viral punch. South Africa offered glitzy backdrops but did not deliver the same subscriber surge. Zambia provided cultural depth but smaller crowds. Kenya, by contrast, combined massive turnout, vibrant culture, and seamless digital engagement, producing a perfect storm of visibility. As BBC Africa observed, "Kenya gave Speed not just an audience, but a stage."

The implications extend beyond entertainment. Tourism officials were quick to note the promotional value of Speed's livestream. The Kenya Tourism Board highlighted how his broadcasts showcased Nairobi National Park, local cuisine, and urban culture to millions worldwide. "This is the kind of organic marketing money cannot buy," one official remarked. Indeed, the livestream functioned as a global advertisement for Kenya, reaching audiences far beyond traditional tourism campaigns.

Economically, the surge in attention underscores the potential of influencer driven marketing. Brands and institutions that engaged with Speed—whether rugby teams or local markets—benefited from exposure to millions of viewers. Analysts at Business Daily Africa argued that Kenya's embrace of digital celebrities could become a strategic tool for promoting culture, sport, and commerce. In a world where attention is currency, Speed's Nairobi takeover demonstrated Kenya's ability to cash in.

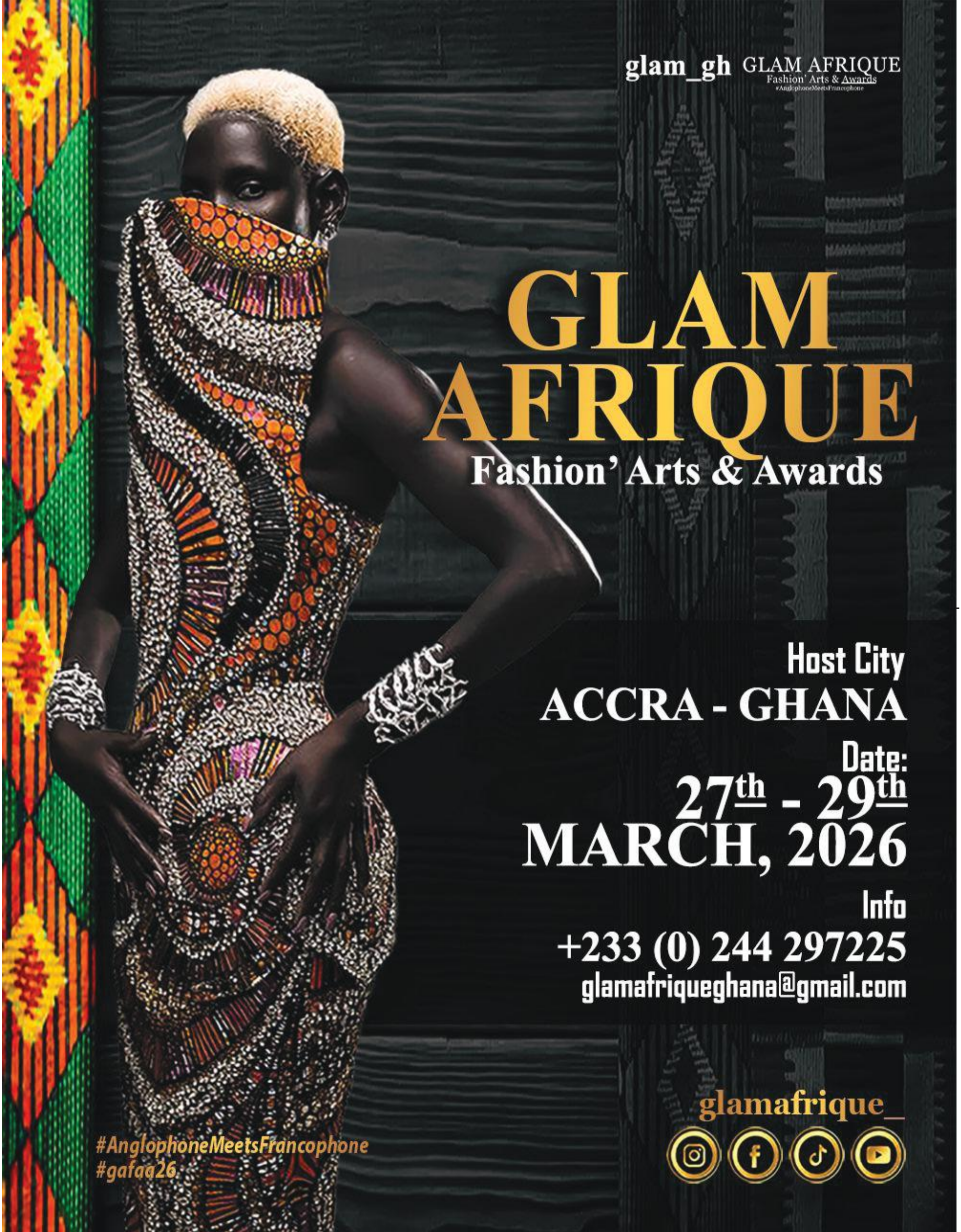
Yet the phenomenon also raises questions. The police escort highlighted concerns about crowd control and safety. The sheer unpredictability of influencer visits can strain public resources. Moreover, the fleeting nature of digital fame begs the question: how can Kenya convert viral

moments into sustained benefits? Experts suggest that partnerships with influencers should be structured to promote long term initiatives, such as tourism campaigns or youth programs, rather than one off spectacles. Still, the verdict from fans and analysts alike is clear: Kenya broke the internet. Speed's declaration that "Kenya is number one" was not mere flattery—it was backed by hard numbers and global visibility. For Kenyan youth, the moment was affirming, a reminder that their culture and energy resonate worldwide. For policymakers, it was a wake up call to harness the power of digital platforms in shaping national narratives.

As Speed continues his Africa tour, with stops planned in Nigeria, Ghana, and Egypt, the bar has been set. Kenya's record will be difficult to match, not only in subscriber growth but in the sheer vibrancy of engagement. The Nairobi chapter of "Speed Does Africa" will be remembered as the moment when Kenya seized the digital spotlight and refused to let go.

In the end, Kenya did not just host a streamer—it staged a global event. The livestream was more than entertainment; it was a cultural export, a tourism campaign, and a digital milestone rolled into one. For Speed, it was his biggest subscriber surge ever. For Kenya, it was proof that when the world tunes in, the country delivers spectacle, substance, and soul. And for the millions who watched, it was a reminder that Kenya is not just part of the digital conversation—it is leading it.

Kenya broke the internet, and in doing so, it broke new ground.



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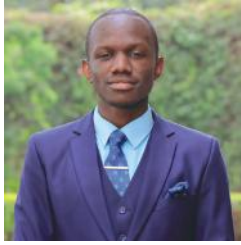
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The Sins Of The Father: Why Kenya's Children Must Not Pay For Governance Failures



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor

@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The argument that children from counties scarred by mismanagement deserve diminished access to quality education operates on a logic so morally bankrupt it would embarrass even the most cynical philosopher. It assumes that a seven-year-old in Garissa, whose governor was charged with corruption involving school feeding programmes, somehow shares culpability in those crimes. It suggests that a girl in Samburu, where county officials allegedly inflated prices for classroom construction by 400 percent, must accept a stunted future because adults in air-conditioned offices decided that stealing was easier than serving.

- This reasoning collapses decades of constitutional progress into a single, suffocating premise: that poverty and poor governance are hereditary conditions, passed from parent to child like genetic disorders, and that the state's obligation under Article 43 of the Constitution which guarantees every Kenyan the right to education somehow weakens when county officials prove themselves thieves.



In Kenya's 47 counties, the gap between the best and worst-performing primary schools in national examinations can span as much as 200 marks, a chasm wide enough to separate a child's dream from its burial. In Nairobi and Kiambu counties, where governance structures hum with relative efficiency and resource allocation follows some discernible logic, schools boast mean scores hovering above 280 marks.

Meanwhile, in Turkana, Mandera, and parts of Coast region, where corruption has become as reliable as the sunrise and county governments treat public funds like personal inheritances, children celebrate mean scores that barely scrape past 180 marks. The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission reported in 2024 that Kenyan counties lost an estimated Ksh 7 billion to corruption in the previous financial year alone, money that could have built 350 secondary schools or trained 28,000 teachers. Yet here lies the cruel mathematics of collective punishment: when leaders steal, it is the children, those who cannot vote, cannot protest effectively, and certainly cannot audit county expenditure who inherit the consequences.

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This reasoning collapses decades of constitutional progress into a single, suffocating premise: that poverty and poor governance are hereditary conditions, passed from parent to child like genetic disorders, and that the state's obligation under Article 43 of the Constitution which guarantees every Kenyan the right to education somehow weakens when county officials prove themselves thieves. The Constitution does not contain a clause that reads, "except in counties where leaders have failed." Yet we are constructing an education system that behaves as though it does.

Consider the anatomy of how governance failures transmute into educational devastation. In 2023, an audit of Narok County revealed that Ksh 2.3 billion allocated for education infrastructure had been "irregularly spent" a bureaucratic euphemism that means stolen or squandered. The result was not abstract; it was visceral. Sixty-two schools that were supposed to receive new classrooms instead continued teaching under trees, their pupils balancing exercise books on

their laps while their counterparts in Nairobi County where education budgets, though not perfect, face greater scrutiny sat at desks in buildings with roofs that did not leak.

The child in Narok did not vote for the county officials who diverted those funds. She did not sit in procurement meetings where inflated quotations were approved. She did not benefit from the land cruisers purchased with money meant for textbooks. Yet she is the one squinting at a blackboard through rain and dust, her potential being systematically eroded by decisions made before she could read. To argue she deserves this diminishment is to practice a form of moral alchemy where adult corruption becomes childhood destiny.

The Constitution of Kenya, in its architecture, anticipated precisely this kind of geographic inequality. Article 55 imposes on the state a duty to take measures, including affirmative action programmes, to ensure that youth access relevant education and training. Article 56 extends similar protections to marginalized communities. The document does not whisper these obligations; it declares them, understanding that a republic cannot claim legitimacy while condemning portions of its youth to inherited disadvantage. Yet the practical application of these articles has been smothered by county-level corruption and national indifference.

When the Teachers Service Commission reported in 2024 that some

counties had teacher-to-student ratios of 1:89 while others enjoyed 1:35, the disparity was not accidental geography. It was policy failure dressed in the language of devolution. Counties that manage resources well attract and retain teachers through timely payment of allowances and construction of decent housing. Counties where officials treat public funds as private ATMs watch teachers flee, leaving children with untrained volunteers or classrooms supervised by Form Four leavers barely older than the pupils themselves.

There exists a particularly cruel irony in how we distribute blame. When a child from a well-governed county excels, we celebrate individual merit and family values. When a child from a mismanaged county struggles, we pathologize the community their culture must not value education, we say, their parents must not care, their poverty must be self-inflicted. We do not ask why Wajir County, one of Kenya's poorest, saw its education budget allocations delayed by seven months in 2023 while officials still received their salaries on time.

We do not interrogate why Kilifi County managed to construct a Ksh 350 million governor's residence while 40 percent of its primary

The Sins Of The Father: Why Kenya's Children Must Not Pay For Governance Failures

Contd from page 18



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schools lacked access to clean water, forcing girls to miss school during menstruation or risk disease from contaminated sources. The discourse around education inequality in Kenya has become sanitized, stripped of its essential truth: that we are watching a generation of children being sacrificed to protect a system where the powerful face no consequences and the powerless face only consequences. A 2024 report by Uwezo Kenya found that in counties with high corruption perception indexes, only 3 in 10 children could read a Standard Two-level story by the time they reached Standard Three, compared to 7 in 10 in less corrupt counties. This is not culture. This is crime.

The economic argument for condemning certain children to poor education is equally hollow. Kenya's Vision 2030 development blueprint hinges on transforming the country into a middle-income, knowledge-based economy. This transformation demands universal quality education, not selective investment based on the accident of birth location. When we accept that children in counties plagued by mismanagement should receive inferior schooling, we are not just failing those children—we are amputating the nation's future capacity. The child who cannot access quality education in Marsabit today is the engineer Kenya will lack in 2045, the teacher who will not exist to instruct the next generation, the entrepreneur whose business will never launch because she could not master mathematics in a classroom without textbooks. The World Bank estimated in 2024 that improving education outcomes in Kenya's bottom-performing 15 counties to match the national average would add 1.2 percent to GDP growth annually within a decade. Yet we treat this as optional, as though national development can succeed while leaving entire regions intellectually hobbled by governance failures their children did not cause.

Some will argue that accountability demands consequences, that counties which elect corrupt leaders must feel the pain of their choices. This argument disintegrates under the lightest scrutiny. Children do not vote. In Kenya, the voting age is 18, meaning every child currently in primary school had precisely zero influence on the 2022 county elections that brought the current crop of governors to power. Even in secondary schools, most students remain disenfranchised.



To punish them for electoral outcomes they could not affect is not accountability; it is scapegoating, the practice of ancient and uncivilized societies that believed you could cleanse collective guilt by driving an innocent creature into the wilderness to die. Moreover, the assumption that election results in troubled counties reflect genuine democratic choice ignores the realities of voter intimidation, ethnic bloc voting, misinformation, and the capture of electoral processes by wealthy elites. When a county "chooses" a corrupt leader through an election marred by vote-buying and violence, the children of that county are victims twice over: first of the electoral corruption, then of the governance corruption that follows. To deny them quality education is to add a third victimization, this time with the full sanction of national policy.

The pathway forward requires something Kenya has historically struggled to sustain: a genuine commitment to constitutional principle over political expedience. The Basic Education Act of 2013, read together with constitutional guarantees, creates a legal framework where every child's right to quality education cannot be subordinated to their county's governance competence. This means the national government must stop hiding behind devolution as an

excuse for educational inequality.

When a county government fails to build classrooms, the national Ministry of Education, under its constitutional mandate, must intervene directly not punitively, but to protect children's rights. When county officials are found guilty of stealing education funds, their personal assets must be seized to restore what was stolen, and they must be permanently barred from public office, not merely recycled into different positions after a few years. In 2024, only 12 of the 47 county governors faced active prosecution for corruption despite widespread evidence of mismanagement. This impunity directly translates into empty classrooms and absent textbooks. The fight for educational equity in Kenya is inseparable from the fight against corruption, and it must be waged with the understanding that every day of inaction is a day of stolen futures.

We stand at a moral crossroads disguised as an administrative challenge. The data is unambiguous: Kenya's education system is producing parallel destinies, where a child's postcode determines their potential more reliably than their intelligence or effort. In 2024, students from Nairobi, Kiambu, and Nyeri counties claimed 73 percent of the slots in national schools, despite representing only 22 percent of the candidate

population not because their children are inherently superior, but because their schools have roofs, their teachers are present, and their county governments have not stolen their future wholesale. To accept this as inevitable is to betray the founding promise of the Kenyan republic: that every child, regardless of where they are born, deserves a fighting chance.

The sins of governors and county officials their greed, their incompetence, their casual cruelty belong to them alone. Children cannot inherit these sins and still be expected to build the nation their elders have plundered. If Kenya is to survive as anything more than a geographic expression divided between thriving enclaves and abandoned hinterlands, it must reject utterly the notion that some children deserve less because adults failed them more. The Constitution demands this. Decency demands this. The future demands this. The only question remaining is whether we possess the courage to demand it too.

The writer is a lawyer and social commentator

Maduro Sends Message To Son: “We Are well, I Am A Fighter”

By: Xinhua
@themkenyatimes

Venezuelan lawmaker Nicolas Maduro Guerra has said that his father, President Nicolas Maduro, sent a message through his lawyers saying he is in good condition and remains resolute while being held in the United States.

“The lawyers told us they are strong and that we should not be sad,” Guerra said while addressing leaders of the ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela on Saturday.

He quoted his father as saying: “We are well. I am a fighter.”

President Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, are currently held in the United States after U.S. forces carried out military strikes in Caracas and three other Venezuelan cities on Jan. 3, an operation that resulted in their capture. The strikes have drawn worldwide condemnation and concern.

Maduro Guerra said his father re-

mains unbroken, adding that the government and its supporters “are united and standing firm.” “The strength of Chavismo lies in unity. Whatever happens, we must remain united,” he said.

Venezuela’s acting president, Delcy Rodriguez, on Saturday pledged to secure the return of Maduro and his wife. Speaking at a community event in Miranda state, Rodriguez said there was no uncertainty about Venezuela’s leadership or governing program.

“There is no uncertainty here. The Venezuelan people are in charge, and there is a government, that of President Nicolas Maduro,” she said, calling for unity to guarantee peace, stability and the country’s future.



President Nicolas Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores while being escorted to courtroom in US. Photo/Courtesy.

Ethiopia Launches Construction Of Africa’s Largest Airport

By: Xinhua
@themkenyatimes

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on Saturday officially launched the construction of the Bishoftu International Airport, which is expected to become Africa’s largest aviation hub upon completion.

The prime minister, accompanied by senior government officials, laid the cornerstone for the construction of the mega airport near Bishoftu town in the Oromia regional state, about 40 kilometers southeast of the capital, Addis Ababa. Speaking at the ceremony, Abiy said the mega airport project is part of Ethiopia’s broader strategy to sustain rapid aviation growth and strengthen the country’s position as Africa’s leading air transport gateway. “I would like to congratulate you all for being part of this great day and attending such a joyful ceremony, marking the beginning of Ethiopia’s move toward moderniza-

tion, prosperity and enthusiasm for change,” Abiy said. He noted that the new airport will have the capacity to accommodate 60 million passengers per year when its first-phase construction is completed in four years, and 110 million passengers annually when fully completed.

The Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, which has the capacity to handle around 25 million passengers annually, will soon reach its maximum capacity at the current pace of growth, according to the Prime Minister. “The first phase of the airport project will have two huge passenger terminals, two parallel runways, parking areas accommodating 180 airplanes, a hotel, and a cargo terminal that can handle 1.5 million tonnes of goods annually, as well as an aircraft maintenance hub,” said Mesfin Tasew, group chief executive officer of Ethiopian Airlines Group.

According to the Tasew, the first-phase project will also include the construction of a multi-lane modern highway linking the new airport with Addis Ababa, as well as a 38-kilo-

meter high-speed railway with operating speeds of 120 to 200 km per hour. Once completed, Ethiopia’s new mega airport is expected to strengthen Ethiopian Airlines’ global competitiveness, enhance Africa’s connectivity under the African Continental Free Trade Area, expand trade and tourism corridors, and position the East African country as a major intercontinental aviation hub.



PM Abiy Ahmed



Youth Driving National Development



Kenya's greatest untapped resource is not buried underground—it walks our streets every day. The youth, brimming with energy and ideas, remain the most powerful force capable of reshaping the nation's destiny. Their resilience and creativity are already redefining the social, economic, and political landscape, yet their potential is still constrained by systemic barriers. Technology has opened new frontiers where young people are thriving. From digital entrepreneurship to agribusiness, youth-led ventures are creating jobs, fueling innovation, and driving growth. Their activism

in climate action, community development, and social advocacy underscores a generation unwilling to wait for change—they are making it happen.

But the promise of youth cannot flourish in a vacuum. High unemployment, scarce capital, and weak mentorship continue to stifle progress. Universities churn out graduates ill-prepared for the demands of the job market, leaving frustration and wasted talent in their wake. Bridging this gap requires a radical shift toward skills-based education and stronger ties between academia and industry.

Government must do more than

pay lip service. Policies that expand vocational training, fund innovation hubs, and guarantee youth representation in decision-making are essential. Society, too, must instill discipline, integrity, and a work ethic that matches ambition with responsibility.

Empowering youth is not charity—it is strategy. A nation that equips its young people secures its future. Ignore them, and development stalls. Invest in them, and Kenya will not just grow—it will soar.

By Dorothy P. Wemah, Laikipia University

Back-to-School Season: A Growing Source Of Anxiety For Parents

What should be a season of fresh notebooks and eager learners has instead become a season of dread for many parents. As schools reopen, households across the country are gripped by anxiety, weighed down by financial strain, safety concerns, and the relentless pressure of academic expectations.

The rising cost of living has turned basic school requirements into a heavy burden. Fees, uniforms, textbooks, transport, and boarding costs climb steadily, forcing families to borrow, take loans, or sell belongings just to keep children in class. For parents with multiple children, the financial squeeze is suffocating.

Yet money is not the only worry. Parents question whether schools provide safe and nurturing environments. Reports of bullying, drug abuse, insecurity, and indiscipline leave many unsettled. They want institutions that deliver not only academic excellence but also moral guid-



ance and protection.

Academic pressure adds another layer of stress. With national examinations looming, parents and students alike shoulder the weight of high expectations. The fear of poor performance gnaws at families, despite sacrifices made to secure education.

Single parents and low-income households bear the harshest impact. For them, back-to-school season is not a celebration but a stark reminder of inequality in access to quality education.

Still, parents remain resilient,

clinging to the belief that education is the path to a brighter future. But resilience alone cannot bridge the gap. Affordable policies, government intervention, and community support must ease the burden.

A nation that ignores parents' struggles risks its children's future. A nation that acts decisively secures it.

By Dorothy Peters, Laikipia University

Public Health Challenges In Society

A nation's strength is measured not only by its economy or politics, but by the health of its people. Public health, the bedrock of social and economic progress, remains under siege from challenges both old and new. Unless tackled with urgency, these crises risk undermining development and eroding the very fabric of society.

Communicable diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and cholera continue to ravage communities where sanitation is poor and healthcare services are scarce. At the same time, non-communicable diseases—diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease—are rising sharply, fueled by unhealthy diets, sedentary lifestyles, and limited awareness. This double burden strains already fragile health systems.

Mental health, long neglected, is emerging as a silent epidemic. Young people, in particular, face mounting pressures from unemployment, academic stress, and substance abuse. Yet stigma and ignorance keep many from seeking help, deepening the crisis.

The obstacles are compounded by inadequate facilities, soaring



treatment costs, and shortages of medical personnel. Environmental threats—pollution, climate change, and recurring disease outbreaks—further expose the vulnerability of public health infrastructure.

Solutions demand more than rhetoric. Governments must invest in robust healthcare systems, expand vocational training for medical professionals, and prioritize preventive care. Communities must embrace health-

ier lifestyles, while schools and workplaces promote awareness and resilience. Public health is not the responsibility of doctors alone—it is a collective duty.

A society that ignores its health challenges gambles with its future. A society that confronts them head-on secures survival, prosperity, and dignity.

By Magdalene Amsugut, Laikipia University

Failing To Score Campus - Bound Grades Doesn't Mean The End Of The Road

The release of KCSE results is a national moment of triumph and heartbreak. For some, it opens the gates to university. For others, the dream of campus life slips away. Yet the truth is clear: missing the cut-off grade is not a dead end—it is a detour to opportunity.

In today's economy, skills rival degrees in value. Kenya's investment in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions has created pathways that are practical, market-driven, and globally relevant. From plumbing and electrical installation to ICT, fashion design, hospitality, and mechanics, these institutions equip learners with hands-on expertise that industries desperately need.

Employers increasingly prize competence over credentials. A skilled technician or innovator often outpaces a graduate armed only with theory. TVET graduates are not just employable—they are job creators,



launching enterprises that fuel local economies and reduce unemployment.

The Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) model reinforces this shift, emphasizing what individuals can do rather than the papers they hold. By centering education on skills, Kenya is positioning technical training as a cornerstone of national development.

Success, therefore, cannot be measured by university admission alone. It is defined by resil-

ience, purpose, and the courage to seize alternative routes. Every student's journey is unique, and determination transforms setbacks into stepping stones.

To those who fell short of campus-bound grades: lift your head high. The road ahead is not blocked—it simply bends toward a future equally rich in promise and possibility.

By Erick Otieno, Laikipia University

Sports >> *Egypt, Nigeria, Morocco and Senegal have sealed their places in the semi-finals of the CAF Africa Cup of Nations Morocco 2025 following their last eight victories.

AFCON 2025: Nigeria, Morocco, Senegal, Egypt Who Will Blink First?



Nigeria players celebrate their win over Angola. PHOTO/BR Football/Twitter

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Egypt, Nigeria, Morocco and Senegal have sealed their places in the semi-finals of the CAF Africa Cup of Nations Morocco 2025 following their last eight victories.

Egypt edged Côte d'Ivoire 3-2 on Saturday night, knocking out the defending champions in a pulsating contest and sealing their place in the semi-finals

It was a night of composure, belief and fine margins as the Pharaohs once again showed why they are Africa's most successful nation, holding their nerve against an Ivorian side that fought until the very last moment in defence of their crown.

With that result, the semi-final line-up is now confirmed.

Egypt will face Senegal on Wednesday, renewing a heavyweight rivalry, while hosts Morocco take on Nigeria in what promises to be another blockbuster encounter under the Moroccan lights.

The Super Eagles of Nigeria secured their place earlier on

Saturday after defeating Algeria 2-0 in their quarter-final match in Marrakech.

After a tense and evenly balanced contest for long periods, the Super Eagles found their breakthrough through Victor Osimhen, whose decisive finish rewarded Nigeria's growing dominance and attacking intent.

As Algeria pushed forward in search of an equaliser, Nigeria remained disciplined and ruthless on the counter, sealing the result late on through Akor Adams, whose goal extinguished any remaining hopes of an Algerian comeback.

With this win, Nigeria advanced to the semi-finals, where a mouth-watering clash awaits against hosts Morocco on Wednesday, setting up a blockbuster encounter between two of Africa's footballing heavyweights.

The remaining quarter-final match of the competition was played on Saturday night to with the Pharaohs joining the Super Eagles, Teranga Lions and Atlas

Lions in the last four of Africa's flagship football event.

The winners of Saturday's two matches Egypt and Nigeria join Senegal and Morocco as they seek to win the much-coveted title.

Senegal secured their place in the semi-finals of the TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations Morocco 2025 after edging past Mali 1-0 in a tense West African derby on Friday.

The decisive moment came in the first half, when Iliman Ndiaye struck clinically to give the Lions of Teranga a lead they would protect with composure and authority.

Morocco also eased into the semi-finals with a commanding 2-0 victory over Cameroon to seal their place in the last four.

Goals by Brahim Diaz and Ismaël Saïbari were enough to help the host nation to advance and keep alive their hopes of winning the title at home.

The results have underlined both the quality of the favourites and the fine margins that contin-

ue to define AFCON football.

The quarter-final stage marked the start of the real tough phase of the competition, where the outcome of the matches will reshape the competition.

After an unpredictable group stage that opened the door for several contenders, the last-16 ties decided who remained on course for continental glory and who sees their journey come to an abrupt end.

Eight teams secured their places in the quarter-finals, each doing so in contrasting fashion but with the same objective achieved: staying alive in the title race.

The winners of the four quarter-final matches confirmed their places in the semi-final and keeps them on course for the trophy.

The semi-finals of AFCON 2025 will be played on Wednesday 14 January, with the competition building towards the final on 18 January in Rabat.

Capital Sports

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Samuel Ssenyonjo scored three times to inspire his club AFC Leopards destroy Tusker FC 4-0 in a Football Kenya Federation Premier League match played at the Nyayo National Stadium

Ssenyonjo Stars With A Hat-Trick As AFC Leopards Trounce Tusker To Open Three Point FKF PL Lead



Samuel Ssenyonjo celebrating after scoring his third goal against Tusker FC in FKF PL match at Nyayo National Stadium on Sunday, Jan 11. Photo/AFC LEOPARDS X ACCOUNT.

Samuel Ssenyonjo scored three times to inspire his club AFC Leopards destroy Tusker FC 4-0 in a Football Kenya Federation Premier League match played at the Nyayo National Stadium yesterday to establish a three-point lead ahead of rivals Gor Mahia. Ingwe maintained the lead at the top now on 30 points, three ahead of Gor, and six ahead of Kakamega Homeboyz and Shabana FC

who occupy the third and fourth places respectively. Ssenyonjo opened the lead at the quarter hour mark after converting James Kinyanjui's sublime pass into the back of the net, before the two partnering again to net a brace and take a comfortable 2-0 at the break. Five minutes into the second half, Ronald Sichenje scored a third goal for AFC Leopards after

Ssenyonjo now turned the provider with a back-heel pass before he completed his hat-trick in the 75th minute, converting from the spot.

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Kadrolsha Ona Carole: The Real-Life Superhero Who Redefined Pop Culture and the Paranormal



By: Anila Bukhari
@themtkenyatimes

Kadrolsha Ona Carole, widely known as KO, is a historic and culture-shaping force whose influence spans pop culture, media, humanitarian service, and the paranormal field. Her career is marked by unprecedented achievements that have not only broken barriers but also redefined how paranormal media and entertainment are perceived worldwide. Through innovation, courage, and unwavering dedication, KO has built a legacy rooted in authenticity, service, and visionary leadership.

KO made history as the first human being ever immortalized as a comic book superhero while performing the exact work she does in real life. This extraordinary milestone was confirmed by comic historian Brian Morris and Silver Phoenix Entertainment owner Charles Moisant and debuted in *The Haunting Tales of Batcheldor's Grove*. This moment represented a turning point for the paranormal industry, firmly establishing it within mainstream pop culture and validating the field in a way never before achieved.

In 2024, Kadrolsha Ona Carole ascended to the role of Chief Executive Officer of 360 Television Network, a rapidly expanding global streaming platform. Under her leadership, the network offers innovative apps, live events, pay-per-view programming, and expansive opportunities for both professional and independent creators. Her role as CEO reflects her deep understanding of media evolution and her commitment to empowering diverse voices on a global scale.

As the host of Hollywood Entertainment News, Atlanta Happenings, and Supernatural News Bullets, KO commands a powerful

presence across television, radio, publishing, and live events. She is the officially trademarked Queen of the Paranormal®, a title earned through decades of groundbreaking work and public trust. Her influence as a pop culture icon is further strengthened by her accomplishments as an actress, author, humanitarian, chaplain, and twelve-time Paranormal Awards winner.

KO is the only individual in history to bring paranormal programming to Airport Television, dramatically expanding the visibility of the field. She is also the only modern paranormal celebrity inducted into the Paranormal Hall of Fame for her pioneering work with Electronic Voice Phenomena, including being the first investigator to integrate forensic techniques into EVP research. These achievements elevated paranormal investigation into a more respected and methodical discipline.

Beyond entertainment, Kadrolsha Ona Carole is deeply committed to humanitarian service. As a chaplain, she provides free support to young veterans struggling with addiction, offering compassion, guidance, and hope during some of their most difficult moments. Her work in this area reflects a quiet but powerful dedication to healing and service, away from the spotlight she so often occupies.

In her role as Media Director for 360 Studios LTD, KO drives global awareness and delivers unmatched content reach. Top celebrities and their management teams trust her expertise to shape their public presence with precision and integrity. Her ability to balance creativity with strategy has made her an indispensable force in modern media relations.

Her film career spans some of the most iconic franchises in entertainment history, including *Ghostbusters*, *Star Wars*, *Batman*, *The Joker*, *The Walking Dead*, *Supernatural*, *The Exorcist 40th Anniversary Edition*, and *Halloween Kills*. Her award-winning performance in

the silent film *Silent Times* earned international acclaim and a feature in *Broadway World Magazine*. The film was also honored at the Academy Award-qualifying Bermuda International Film Festival.

As an International Executive Film Producer, KO holds 48 IMDb awards, 18 of which are IMDb-qualified, and she serves on the board of two major production companies. Her professional credibility is matched by her creative vision, making her a respected leader behind the scenes as well as on screen.

In 2020, she became the host of Hollywood Entertainment News, broadcast across airports, gas stations, retail locations, and the 360TVN platform. That same year, she was named the Face of Airport Television Streaming Services, joining the ranks of globally recognized spokeswomen such as Stephanie Courtney and Jennifer Garner. Her programs are viewed worldwide on Airport TV, digital billboards, and electric vehicle charging stations. Her airport programming alone reached 69 million views in 2022 at Denver International Airport, as documented by *Innovative Business News*.

KO has also formed a strategic alliance with Jersey Shore Entertainment, using her media and public relations expertise to amplify messages of leadership, positivity, and social impact. Her acting credits extend into the Marvel Cinematic Universe, and she is featured on the *Game of Thrones Wiki Fandom* for her roles in multiple episodes of the iconic series.

A founding member of the New England Music Hall of Fame, KO's music career includes sharing the stage with legends such as The Rolling Stones, Joe Cocker, Tom Jones, and Bobby Vinton. Her cultural impact was further recognized when *The Hollywood Digest* named her "The Most Beautiful Woman in the World," a title reflecting both her presence and influence.

She is currently collaborating with three-time Emmy winner Bill Dia-



Kadrolsha Ona Carole

mond of Jim Henson's *The Muppets* on her first children's book, an inspiring project designed to empower young minds. KO also starred in over 85 episodes of *CC The Huntress* and authored multiple books for History Press' *Haunted America* series.

Celebrity historian Gary Watson has identified Kadrolsha Ona Carole as one of Hollywood's rising powerhouses. As the paranormal expert on *Celebrity Ghost Hunters*, she reaches a combined monthly audience of over 6.5 million viewers.

In 2018, KO demonstrated extraordinary bravery by confronting and disarming a gunman near multiple schools. Since then, she has actively advocated for immediate school

lockdown protocols and parental notification procedures, raising awareness at every public appearance.

Today, KO is gathering national support to have her comic book character placed on a United States postage stamp, a move that would make her the first real-life superhero in American history to receive such an honor. Kadrolsha Ona Carole's life is a testament to courage, innovation, and purpose, proving that real heroes do not exist only in fiction—they walk among us.