

Gov't To Probe Pool Players Assault



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An image showing police officers beating up the Pool game players last Saturday. Photos/Courtesy.



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President Ruto Commends Dawoodi Bohra Community, Reaffirms Kenya's Education And Infrastructure Agenda

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto has lauded the Dawoodi Bohra community for its significant contributions to Kenya's growth, particularly in housing, healthcare, and education.

He highlighted the impact of Al-jamea-tus-Saifiyah, a world-class Arabic academy, in promoting learning, values, and social development.

Speaking during a visit to the Al-jamea-tus-Saifiyah Nairobi campus in Karen, Nairobi County, President Ruto emphasized the importance of strengthening and sustaining partnerships with communities that support national development.

Present at the visit were His Holiness Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, Shahzada Qaidjoher Ezzuddin, rector of Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah, Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, and other senior leaders.

President Ruto reiterated that education remains central to Kenya's transformation agenda. He underscored the government's commitment to equipping 60 per cent of learners with skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, creating a workforce capable of driving innovation and economic growth.

He further linked this vision to Kenya's ambitious infrastructure development plan, which includes generating 10,000 megawatts of energy, developing 30,000 kilometers of roads, constructing a modern airport, and modernizing the health sector.

The visit highlighted Kenya's commitment to collaboration with the Dawoodi Bohra community, fostering partnerships that support education, innovation, and sustainable socio-economic development.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Dedan Kimathi Foundation CEO Ms Evelyn Kimathi on Thursday visited the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) in Athi River following an invitation by Managing Commissioner Maj. Gen. Jattani Gula. She engaged the KMC team, including Deputy Managing Commissioner Brig. C. K. Nyakundi on environmental collaboration. The visit aligned with the National Tree Growing and Forest Restoration Campaign targeting 30 per cent tree cover by 2032, with focus on seedling production to support the Kenya Defence Forces' goal of planting 450 million trees by 2032. Ms. Kimathi donated assorted tree seeds and 20,000 polythene potting bags and pledged further supplies, technical input and labour support.



Orma elders in Bangali Sub-County, Tana River County, have surrendered two more illegal firearms, bringing the community's total to six during the ongoing voluntary disarmament exercise. The initiative follows a 60-day amnesty period allowing residents to hand in illegal guns. The disarmament was prompted by violent clashes in late 2025 between the Orma and Degodia communities over pasture and water, which left at least 14 people dead. So far, the Degodia community has surrendered five firearms. Deputy County Commissioner Joseph Kipkorir thanked both communities' elders for their cooperation, emphasizing their role in promoting peace and security.



Some of the illegal Chinese coin-slot gambling machines confiscated in Ahero and Awasi towns were destroyed at the Nyando Deputy County Commissioner's grounds during a multi-agency crackdown on illegal gambling. The machines were found to be operating illegally without registration from the Betting Control and Licensing Board, with authorities saying the exercise aims to curb crime, protect youth from gambling addiction, and enhance security in the sub-county. "We realized that the machines were not registered by the Betting Control and Licensing Board (BCLB) during the crackdowns by a multi-agency security team conducted in December last year," Nyando Deputy County Commissioner Elijah Maranga said.



Joseph Wairagu, Murang'a County coordinator for the Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP), led party members to pay tribute to the late Chege Mwangi, a respected public servant and former colleague in the National Government Administration. The ceremony was held at ACK St. John's Church in Kiru, where family, friends, and community members gathered to honor Mwangi's life and service. Known for his discipline, dedication, and faith, Mwangi served in various capacities, including as District Officer, District Commissioner, and County Commissioner in Nyeri, Meru, Kisii, and Laikipia, leaving a lasting impact on the communities he served. The DCP coordinator who is popularly known as Wairagu Wa Maa'i expressed his condolences to the Mwangi family and prayed for strength and comfort, noting that Mwangi's legacy of integrity and public service would continue to inspire all who knew him.

Chief Inspector Martin Munene, who led the investigation into the Sh1.1 billion Finland and Canada Education Programme, appeared before Senior Principal Magistrate Peter Ndege at Nakuru Law Courts. The matter concerns Uasin Gishu Senator Jackson Mandago and county officials Meshack Rono and Joshua Lelei, accused on 10 counts including conspiracy, theft, abuse of office, and forgery. During his testimony, Munene faced scrutiny over alleged shortcomings in the investigation, such as using scanned signatures, failing to trace Sh32 million, and not contacting students or universities abroad. He was the final witness among 138, with the case set for submission highlights on February 16.



The Government, through the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), has disbursed KSh870.38 million to 132,780 vulnerable households under the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) across Mandera, Marsabit, Wajir, Turkana, Samburu, Isiolo, Garissa, and Tana River counties. This cash transfer aims to cushion communities against worsening drought, stabilize food consumption, protect livelihoods, and reduce negative coping strategies. NDMA CEO Lt. Col. (Rtd) Hared Adan emphasized the transfers as a vital lifeline, complementing broader drought response measures. The initiative forms part of the Government's early social protection efforts to address immediate food and essential needs during the ongoing crisis.





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Wamaconnection Escalates Legal Fight To Supreme Court Over Kiambu Ruling

By: Felix Njenga

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The move by Stephen Mwangi Kimani, popularly known as Wamaconnection, follows a decision delivered on 31 July 2025 by Lady Justice Dora Chepkwony at the Kiambu High Court, which upheld a preliminary objection and dismissed his application in its entirety.
- The ruling effectively ended Kimani's bid to block investigative and prosecutorial agencies from pursuing corruption-related cases involving Kiambu Governor Paul Kimani, alias Wamatangi.

A human rights activist has moved to the Supreme Court of Kenya to challenge a High Court ruling that struck out his case for lack of legal standing.

The move by Stephen Mwangi Kimani, popularly known as Wamaconnection, follows a decision delivered on 31 July 2025 by Lady Justice Dora Chepkwony at the Kiambu High Court, which upheld a preliminary objection and dismissed his application in its entirety.

The ruling effectively ended Kimani's bid to block investigative and prosecutorial agencies from pursuing corruption-related cases involving Kiambu Governor Paul Kimani, alias Wamatangi.

Dissatisfied with the outcome, Kimani has filed a Notice of Appeal, signaling his intention to pursue the matter through the appellate system and ultimately seek redress from the country's highest court.

The notice has since been forwarded to the Deputy Registrar for approval, clearing the way for further legal steps.

In the original suit, Kimani sued several state institutions, including the Attorney General, the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), the National Police Service, and the Chief Magistrate's Court at Milimani.

He sought injunctive and conservatory orders to restrain the arrest, investigation, and prosecution of Governor Wamatangi, as well as orders to block the swearing-in of the Deputy Governor pending the determination of his petition.

The respondents strongly opposed the application, with the EACC filing



Stephen Mwangi Kimani popularly known as Wamaconnection at the supreme court of Kenya where he filed an appeal to shield Governor Wamatangi from arrest.

a preliminary objection challenging both the procedure used and Kimani's locus standi. They argued that Kimani had not demonstrated any personal violation or threat to his constitutional rights and that the EACC could not be barred from carrying out its lawful mandate to investigate corruption and economic crimes.

In her ruling, Justice Chepkwony agreed with the respondents, holding that Kimani lacked the legal standing to institute the proceedings. The court found that the investigations and alle-

gations complained of were directed at Governor Wamatangi personally and not at Kimani. The judge observed that it was the governor's liberty and reputation that were allegedly under threat, making him the proper party to move the court.

The court further noted that Kimani, despite being a resident and voter in Kiambu County, failed to demonstrate how investigations against the governor infringed or threatened his own constitutional rights.

On that basis, the suit was declared

"void ab initio" and struck out, with costs awarded to the respondents.

By taking the matter to the Supreme Court, Kimani now seeks to overturn the High Court decision, arguing that the case was wrongly dismissed at a preliminary stage. The appeal is expected to reignite debate on public interest litigation, locus standi, and the extent to which private citizens can invoke constitutional jurisdiction to challenge actions taken against elected leaders.

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Kirinyaga's Road Revival: 300 Kilometres Rehabilitated To Boost Farming, Trade And Access To Services

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Over the last six months, the county has completed grading of more than 150 kilometres of roads and murramed an additional 135 kilometres, with works ongoing in all 20 wards. The improved road network is already transforming rural livelihoods by easing movement of agricultural produce, strengthening links to trading centres and improving access to healthcare and education.
- The rehabilitation programme is designed to address long-standing challenges faced by farmers and residents, particularly poor connectivity caused by muddy, potholed and impassable roads.
- With improved roads, farmers are now able to transport produce more quickly and at lower cost, reducing post-harvest losses and increasing incomes. Residents are also enjoying safer and faster access to hospitals, maternity services and schools.



One of the rehabilitated road in Kirinyaga County. Photo/Courtesy.

The County Government of Kirinyaga has intensified its road rehabilitation programme, rehabilitating about 300 kilometres of roads to improve market access, reduce transport costs and enhance delivery of essential services across the county.

Over the last six months, the county has completed grading of more than 150 kilometres of roads and murramed an additional 135 kilometres, with works ongoing in all 20 wards. The improved road network is already transforming rural livelihoods by easing movement of agricultural produce, strengthening links to trading centres and improving access to healthcare and education.

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Governor Anne Waiguru said the current works build on sustained in-

vestment in rural infrastructure over the last eight years.

During that period, Kirinyaga County has murramed more than 4,300 kilometres of roads, with a target of reaching 5,000 kilometres by the end of the current financial year.

She noted that the programme is being implemented through the county's in-house Nyorosha Barabara Mashinani initiative alongside support from the Kenya Roads Board (KRB).

According to the Governor, the deliberate focus on rural roads is meant to lower the cost of production for farmers, improve access to social amenities and support the county's broader agenda of agricultural growth and industrialisation.

"Good roads reduce transport expenses, improve access to hospitals, enable faster emergency response and ultimately translate into better incomes, increased production, higher savings and improved livelihoods," Waiguru said. She added that improved connectivity is helping unlock economic opportunities, reduce inequality between rural and urban areas and strengthen Kirinyaga's agricultural backbone.

County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Transport, Public

Works and Housing, Jared Migwi, said the in-house programme is being implemented across all wards in close collaboration with Members of the County Assembly (MCAs).

He explained that MCAs play a key role in identifying and prioritising roads with the greatest community and economic impact.

Migwi disclosed that by the end of the financial year, the department is targeting 300 kilometres of murramed roads and more than 700 kilometres of graded roads.

He attributed the accelerated pace of work to strong leadership, availability of machinery and effective mobilisation of resources.

The impact of the programme is already being felt in several wards. In Murinduko Ward, residents have welcomed the rehabilitation of the 1.2-kilometre Wamugi Road linking Mahigaini to South Ngariama.

Tuk-tuk operator Samson Karani said the improved road has reduced travel time and operating costs, allowing him to charge customers less and increase his daily earnings.

Community leaders have also highlighted improved safety and health outcomes. Wamugi area chairman John Muchira said frequent motorcy-

cle accidents and difficulties in transporting the sick have significantly reduced. He noted that access to maternity services has improved, eliminating cases of women giving birth along the road.

Local businesses are also benefiting. Hotel operator Elizabeth Mwangi said the improved road has restored customer confidence, boosted traffic and reduced the risks previously caused by muddy and dangerous sections.

Similar gains have been reported in Mutithi Ward following the upgrade of the 2.5-kilometre Kiamathigira Road connecting Rukanga to Ng'othi. Farmers report faster movement of produce, improved security and reduced losses, while residents say the road has restored dignity and improved access to markets and healthcare.

Overall, the road rehabilitation programme is emerging as a key driver of economic activity, social inclusion and improved quality of life across Kirinyaga County.

Police, IPOA Launch Probe As Youth Sports Advocates Condemn Assault On Pool Players In Nandi County

By: MKT Correspondents
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- In a press statement issued on Friday, the NPS said it was “deeply concerned” and “appalled” by the footage, which appears to show officers engaging in what the Service described as “barbaric behaviour” at or around Nandi Hills Police Station and nearby establishments.
- “The actions portrayed constitute a clear violation of the NPS Act, the Code of Conduct for Police Officers, and the fundamental principles of human rights and dignity that the Service is sworn to uphold,” the statement read.
- NPS stressed that such conduct was an affront to the many officers who serve professionally and with integrity. Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja, through the statement, ordered a comprehensive and swift investigation into the incident, directing the Internal Affairs Unit (IAU) to conclude its inquiries within three days.

The National Police Service (NPS) and the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) have launched parallel investigations into an incident captured on CCTV footage and widely circulated on social media showing police officers allegedly assaulting young men at Nandi Hills Town in Nandi County.

The incident, which occurred on Saturday last week has drawn sharp condemnation from the police leadership, the civilian oversight authority, and youth empowerment advocates, reigniting debate on police conduct, accountability and the treatment of youth recreation spaces.

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The NPS said it would also work closely with independent institutions to ensure transparency and accountability.

“Upon conclusion of the investigation, any officer found culpable will be dealt with accordingly,” the statement said, while cautioning that the incident should not be seen as reflective of the values and standards of the entire NPS.

The police further urged members of the public with information that could assist investigations to report to the nearest police station or use the toll-free emergency numbers 999, 911 or 112, or to submit information anonymously through the Directorate of Criminal Investigations’ #FichuaKwaDCI channels.

Separately, IPOA confirmed it had taken cognisance of the same video, which allegedly shows police officers assaulting a group of young men who were playing pool on the night in question.



Uasin Gishu County Women Rep. Gladys Boss playing a Pool game at KICC last year. This was during the introduction of a new pool game known as “KREK It” where the winner walked away with KSh250,000. On the right is Base Yetu CEO Nick Mararo who introduced the new game. Looking on as players from Uasin Gishu and Dr Neil Horn from Chiromo Medical hospital.

In its own statement, IPOA said it had on Friday morning deployed a Rapid Investigations Team to Nandi Hills to establish the facts, reconstruct the sequence of events, assess the conduct of the officers involved and determine culpability, if any, in line with its mandate.

“Preliminary findings indicate that the incident occurred on 10 January 2026 within Nandi Hills Town and affected other establishments, including bars and hotels,” IPOA said, adding that several victims and witnesses had already been identified and contacted.

While condemning the use of unnecessary and unwarranted force in policing, IPOA called for calm as investigations continue and reiterated its commitment to impartiality, accountability, and the promotion of professionalism within the NPS.

It also noted that no formal complaint had been lodged before the video was shared online, urging members of the public to report such incidents promptly through official channels to enable timely intervention.

The incident has also drawn concern from youth advocates, particularly those involved in promoting indoor sports as tools for social cohesion and economic empowerment.

Nick Mararo, the Chief Executive Officer of BaseYetu, an organisation that promotes youth engagement through activities such as pool games, warned that the alleged assault was not an isolated case and

could easily recur in other parts of the country.

“Pool bases play a critical role in youth gentrification, social cohesion, and local enterprise. Attacking them is an attack on talent, livelihoods and positive youth engagement,” Mararo said in a statement.

He argued that such incidents undermine the efforts of organisations working to empower young people through sports and recreation, noting that pool halls and similar spaces provide livelihoods, nurture talent, and create employment.

“We must stand with entrepreneurs who build community through sports and recreation. Their investment strengthens neighbourhoods,

creates employment, and nurtures talent. They deserve support and protection, not hostility,” he said.

Mararo called on leaders, authorities and partners to speak with one voice in condemning attacks on Pool bases and to work collaboratively to guarantee the safety of patrons and operators across the country.

As investigations by both the Internal Affairs Unit and IPOA get underway, the Nandi Hills incident has once again placed the spotlight on police accountability and the delicate balance between law enforcement and the protection of lawful social and economic activities, particularly those involving the youth.



Pool game players enjoying themselves before police accosted them.

DP Holds Consultative Meeting Ahead Of National Delegates Convention

By: Wilfred Muchire
 @themkenyatimes

Democratic Party of Kenya (DP) officials held a consultative meeting as the party prepares for a national delegates conference at the end of the month.

Party national officials and counties chairpersons from across the country convened on Friday for the consultative meeting as part of preparations for the upcoming National Delegates Convention (NDC).

The gathering provided a platform for open discussions on key party matters, including internal cohesion, democratic values, and strategic priorities ahead of the convention.

During the meeting, party leaders stressed the importance of unity, inclusivity, and collective responsibility in ensuring a successful convention that reflects the aspirations of members nationwide.

The discussions also focused on the broader political environment and



DP's national officials with counties chairpersons in a group photo after Friday's meeting. Photos/Courtesy.

the need for a transparent, credible, and people-centred NDC.

Among the leaders present were; Party Leader J B. Muturi, National Chairperson Esau Kioni, and Secretary General Dr. Jacob Haji.

They actively engaged with county chairpersons, highlighting the party's commitment to internal democracy and structured engagement with grassroots leadership as they emphasized unity and justice as core

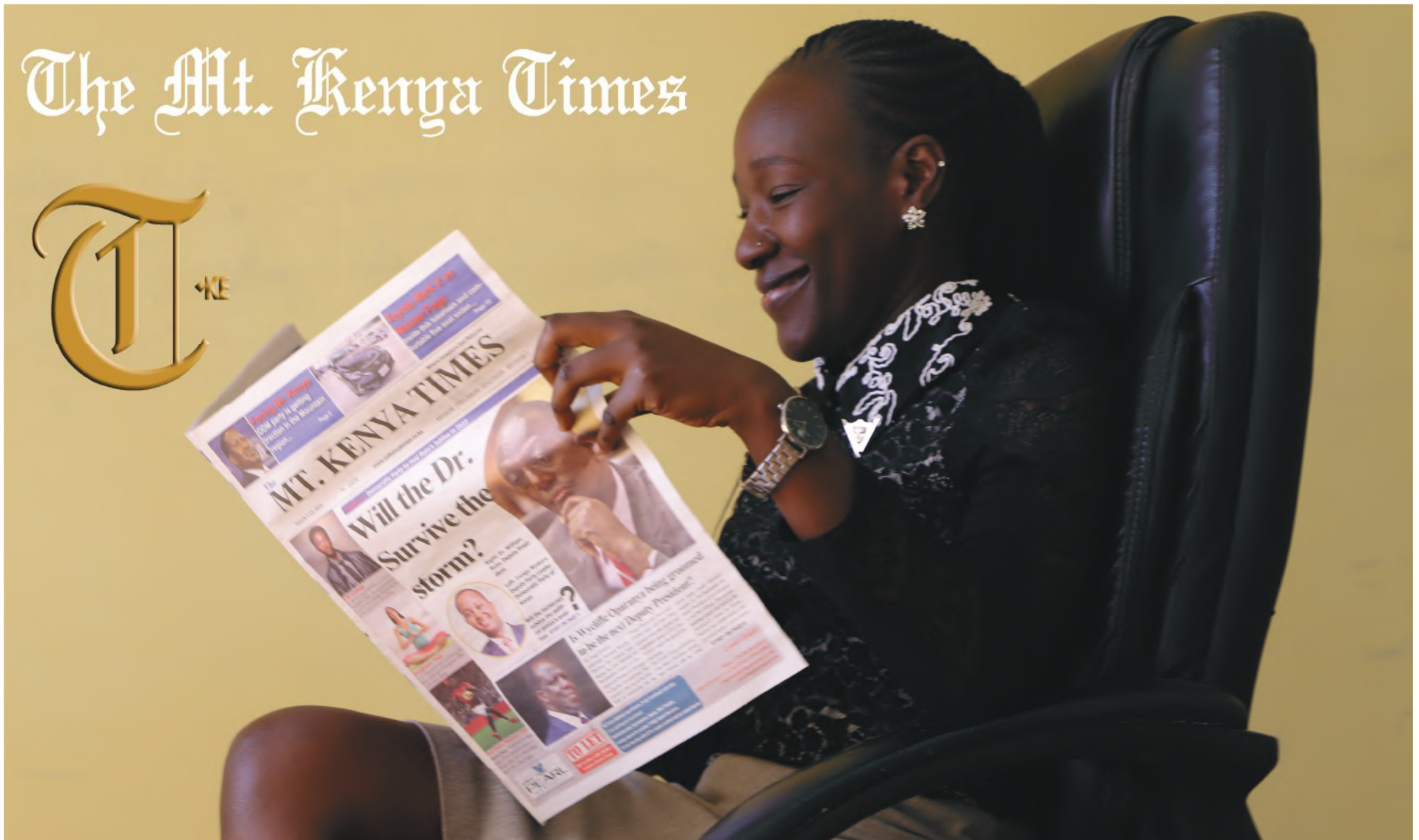
pillars of the party's vision moving forward.

The leadership called on all party members and delegates to actively participate in preparations for the NDC, underlining that collective effort is vital for delivering a transformative and successful convention.

The convention is slated for January 28.



DP party leader JB Muturi (2nd right) with Secretary General Dr Jacob Haji (right) converses with a grassroots officials on Friday.



Kiambu County Assembly Seeks Public Views On Seven Key Bills

By: Felix Njenga
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- In a public notice issued by the Clerk of the County Assembly, John M. Mutie, the Assembly invited members of the public to submit their views through written memoranda or attend physical hearings at the County Assembly Buildings.
- The initiative underscores the Assembly's commitment to inclusive law-making and adherence to constitutional requirements on citizen engagement.
- The Bills, which include both executive-sponsored and Private Members' proposals, reflect a broad legislative agenda aimed at strengthening service delivery and socio-economic development in Kiambu County.
- Among the key proposals are the Kiambu County Vocational Education and Training Institutions Bill, 2025, and the Early Childhood Development and Education Bill, 2025. These two pieces of legislation seek to modernise vocational and early learning systems, enhance governance and improve access to quality education across the county.

The Kiambu County Assembly has opened its doors to residents and stakeholders for public participation on seven proposed Bills that are set to significantly influence the county's education, agriculture, investment, emergency services and social welfare sectors.

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Agriculture, a critical pillar of Kiambu's economy, features prominently in the legislative calendar.

The Agroecology Development Bill and the Agriculture Sector Co-ordination Committee Bill aim to promote sustainable farming practices and improve coordination among stakeholders in the sector. If passed, the Bills are expected to boost productivity while addressing environmental concerns and farmer livelihoods.

The Assembly is also considering socially responsive legislation, including the Provision of Sanitary Towels Bill, which focuses on improving the health, dignity, and school attendance of girls from vulnerable backgrounds. Other proposed laws include the Investment Corporation Bill, intended to strengthen county-led investments and economic growth, and the Fire and Rescue Services Bill, which seeks to enhance disaster preparedness and emergency response across Kiambu.

Public hearings will be held between January 20 and January 27, 2026, with specific dates allocated to each Bill and overseen by relevant Assembly committees.



From left John Mutie, Clerk to the County Assembly, Charles Thiong'o, Speaker of the County Assembly and Governor Kimani Wamatangi at the Assembly.

Sessions will run daily from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the County Assembly Buildings.

The public participation exercise is anchored in Article 196(1)(b) of the Constitution of Kenya, which obligates county assemblies to facilitate public involvement in their legisla-

tive processes. In addition, Standing Order 152(3) requires committees to consider public views before tabling final reports in the House.

Residents can access copies of the Bills at the Clerk's office or download them from the Kiambu County Assembly website. Written submis-

sions must be delivered or emailed to the Clerk's office by 5:00 p.m. on January 22, 2026, while oral presentations will be received during the scheduled hearings.



Members of the County Assembly at the assembly precincts.

President Ruto Praises Dawoodi Bohra Community For Driving Kenya's Development Agenda

By: PCS
@themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto has commended the Dawoodi Bohra community for their contribution to Kenya's transformation.

The President cited their efforts in the housing, healthcare, and education sectors, emphasizing the government's desire for a strengthened and sustained partnership to advance Kenya's ambitious plan to attain first-world status.

"Your Holiness, as we embark on the journey to take Kenya to first-world status, we seek your partnership, your support and your prayers. We are confident that with your partnership and support, and as we build synergy across the nation, we will be able to transform our nation," he said.

He made the remarks on Friday during an official visit to the Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah Nairobi campus and a meeting with the Dawoodi Bohra community in Karen, Nairobi

County.

Present at the event were His Holiness Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, Shahzada (Prince) Qaidjoher Ezzuddin, the rector of Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah, and Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi. Also in attendance were Cabinet Secretaries Julius Ogamba (Education) and Aden Duale (Health), Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja, and other leaders.

President Ruto highlighted the government's ambitious infrastructure development plans, which include generating 10,000 megawatts of energy to power industries, constructing 30,500 km of roads—including 2,500 km of dual carriageways—building a modern airport, and transforming the health sector. "As of now, we are building 6,000 km of road," he noted.

He urged the community, through Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah Nairobi campus, to support Kenya's mission to develop highly skilled human capital essential for transforming the country into a first-world economy. The President emphasized that education is central to the nation's transforma-

tion agenda, aiming for 60 percent of learners to acquire skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to drive the country's progress.

President Ruto also applauded the Dawoodi Bohra community for its partnership in the Affordable Housing Programme, saying: "Affordable housing is not just about houses; it's about jobs, dignity and transforming the lives of those who live in neighbourhoods that have no water, sanitation, electricity and roads." He also recognized the community's hospitals for supporting Kenya's universal health coverage programme and ensuring accessible, affordable medical care.

"The Government of Kenya welcomes the continued engagement of the Dawoodi Bohra community, not just as donors, but as partners in building a healthier, more productive, and more cohesive nation," he said, noting that Kenya can learn from the community's values of patience, planning, and institution-building.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Mudavadi



President William Ruto addressing Dawoodi Bohra community members on Friday.

recalled the long-standing relationship between Kenya and the Dawoodi Bohra community, dating back to the 1870s, praising their contributions to the economy, unity, philanthropy, and peace.

Education Cabinet Secretary Ogamba highlighted the synergy between Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah and Kenya's educational ambitions, while His Em-

inance Ezzuddin reiterated the community's commitment to supporting the nation's agenda on agriculture, skills development, infrastructure, employment, and dignity for all citizens.

"The entire Dawoodi Bohra community of Kenya stands ready to support this national mission," he affirmed.

Nakuru City Set For KSh 1 Billion Roads Upgrade

By: Suleiman Mbatiah
@themtkenyatimes

Nakuru City is poised for a major infrastructure boost with planned road upgrades worth more than KSh1 billion, four years after attaining city status. The projects are aimed at easing congestion, improving safety and aligning the city's road network with its rapid urban growth and economic potential.

The upgrade targets several key roads in Nakuru Town East constituency, many of which have deteriorated due to increased traffic, narrow carriageways and inadequate drainage. Despite Nakuru being elevated to city status in December 2021, residents and motorists have long complained that little visible improvement has taken place on the ground.

Area Member of Parliament David Gikaria said the planned facelift is intended to give the city infrastructure that matches its new status while preparing it for future growth. He noted that the projects were agreed

upon after consultations with Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika and President William Ruto, who pledged national government support.

At the centre of the upgrade is Oginga Odinga Avenue, the longest road in Nakuru City. The road stretches from Bedi, passes key institutions such as the Central Police Station, Menengai High School and Free Area, skirts Lake Nakuru National Park and terminates at Pipeline. It also functions as an important bypass linking Pipeline, Eveready and other residential, commercial and institutional areas.

According to Gikaria, Oginga Odinga Avenue will be dualled at an estimated cost of Sh700 million, with the project expected to be advertised shortly. The works will include widening the carriageway, installing proper drainage systems, street lighting and other complementary infrastructure to improve traffic flow, safety and the general outlook of the city.

In addition to the main artery, several secondary roads have been earmarked for rehabilitation under

a Sh400 million allocation. These include East Road, which serves Mashambani Stage, Wakulima Market, Bargain Market and Nakuru Nursing Home. Mburu Gichua Road, linking Gate House Roundabout, the Mosque area, Kingdom Seekers and National Youth Service facilities, will also be upgraded.

Gusii Road, Club Road and Moi Road—serving key residential areas and government offices—are similarly set for improvement. The MP said the upgraded roads will complement the Rironi-Mau Summit dual carriageway that passes through Nakuru, positioning the city to benefit from increased traffic, trade and investment.

Beyond improving mobility, the projects are expected to create jobs during construction and stimulate economic activity afterward. Gikaria emphasized the need to involve local suppliers and workers so that the benefits of the investment are felt directly within Nakuru City, one of the region's fastest-growing urban centres.



Nairobi Coffee Auction Posts Season's Strongest Turnout As Certified Coffees Earn Premiums



By: Henry Kinyua
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Official results show that a total of 31,723 bags of coffee were traded, weighing 1,941,703 kilogrammes, and generating USD 15,418,196.04 (about KSh 1.99 billion).
- The average price stood at USD 397 per 50kg bag, equivalent to about KSh158 per kilogramme of cherry, based on a conversion ratio of 6.5kg of cherry to one kilogramme of clean coffee.
- Prices remained strong across grades, with the top price hitting USD 500 per 50kg bag, underscoring sustained global demand for premium Kenyan coffee.
- The highest-priced lots were three standout entries: Lot 6183 from Gachatha Farmers Cooperative Society (FCS) in Nyeri County (Grade AA), which sold 63 bags; Lot 6204, also from Gachatha, which sold 61 bags; and Lot 6221 from Guama FCS in Kirinyaga County, comprising 100 bags.

The Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) this posted one of its strongest trading sessions in recent seasons.

The 13th sale, conducted on January 13 lived up to its memorable billing; "Sale 13 on the 13th" with the auction recording the highest turnout in three seasons, underpinned by firm prices, robust buyer competition and a growing premium for certified coffees.

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All three lots fetched the maximum price and were purchased by Kenyacof Limited, highlighting buyer appetite for top-quality coffee.

Broker performance played a decisive role in shaping the day's market.

Alliance Berries Limited led the field by a wide margin, trading 14,044 bags at an impressive average price of USD 411.69 per bag. Kirinyaga Slopes Coffee Brokerage Company Ltd followed with 4,119 bags at an even stronger average of USD 422.35, reflecting the premium associated with well-prepared coffees from the Mount Kenya region.

Government-linked New Kenya Planters Co-operative Union (New KPCU) PLC traded 3,738 bags at an average of USD 390.73, while KCCE Marketing Agency Ltd handled 1,950 bags at USD 402.05.

Other active brokers included Kipkelion Broker Company Ltd (1,747 bags at USD 367.51), Minnesota Coffee Marketers Ltd (1,154 bags at USD 373.86), Kinya Coffee Marketing Agency Ltd (1,140 bags at USD 331.38), Mt. Elgon Coffee Marketing Agency (1,129 bags at USD 350.12), United Eastern Kenya Coffee Marketing Co. Ltd (1,058 bags at USD 323.74), and CEBBA (1,071 bags at USD 389.25). Murang'a County Coffee



A coffee tree

Dealers Co. Ltd, though trading a smaller volume of 573 bags, still achieved a strong average price of USD 393.95.

On the buying side, demand was heavily concentrated among a small group of dominant exporters and processors.

Kenyacof Limited emerged as the largest buyer with 9,335 bags, followed by Taylor Winch (Coffee) Ltd with 6,050 bags, Ibero Kenya Ltd with 5,419 bags, C. Dormans SEZ Ltd with 3,591 bags, and Sasini (K) Ltd with 3,023 bags. Collectively, the top five buyers purchased 27,418 bags, accounting for approximately 86.4 per cent of all coffee traded at this week's sale; reaffirming their central role in price discovery at the exchange.

The scale of this sale stands out sharply when compared with previous seasons.

In the 2023/2024 season, Sale 13 recorded 21,359 bags at an average price of USD 235 per bag.

The 2024/2025 season saw volumes

fall further to 13,990 bags, albeit at a higher average price of USD 334.

This season's sale has surged to 31,723 bags, representing a 48.5 per cent increase over 2023/2024 and a striking 127 per cent rise compared to 2024/2025.

Beyond volumes and prices, the sale also delivered a clear message on the growing commercial value of certification. Certified coffees emerged as a major driver of both value and buyer confidence, reflecting increased emphasis on traceability, sustainability and regulatory compliance.

Certified lots, carrying certifications such as Rainforest Alliance (RA), 4C (Common Code for the Coffee Community), Starbucks C.A.F.E Practices, Fairtrade (FLO), and compliance indicators aligned with the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) accounted for 13,801 bags, or nearly 43.5 per cent of total volumes traded.

In value terms, certified coffees generated USD 7,060,337, representing 46 per cent of the entire auction's earnings.

Pricing data shows that certified coffees achieved an average price of USD 420 per 50kg bag, outperforming the overall sale average by USD 23 per bag, a premium of roughly 6 per cent.

This performance confirms that certification is no longer merely a compliance requirement, but a tangible commercial advantage for farmers, cooperatives and estates seeking better returns.

For growers and market participants, "Sale 13 on the 13th" will be remembered not just for its unusual date, but for the confidence it injected into the 2025/2026 season; marked by strong volumes, firm prices and clear rewards for quality and certification.

As the auction season progresses, the results have set an encouraging benchmark for the sales ahead.

If You Don't Believe In Yourself, No One Will



Who am I!

If we know the answer for this
We are the real heroes.

An elephant doesn't know it's power
Necessity makes everyone very powerful.

If we believe in ourselves we can achieve!

Anything in the world we can receive.

If we don't believe in ourselves,
No one believes us.

If We realise our potential,
We will achieve and be vital.

Rajesh Kanna B N

RAJESH KANNA.B N
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TIRUR.
TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT.
Tamil Nadu. India
Creative Writers.

My School



Each morning when the sun shines bright,
It calls to me with joy and light.
I take my bag and walk with pride,
Toward my school, my second guide.
With pen and notebook in my hand,
I learn to write, to read, to stand.
Today my teacher kindly showed,
How poems live in words bestowed.
On the board, each letter glows,
My teacher's wisdom gently flows.
I listen close, with open ear,
Each lesson shining, strong and clear.
With friends, the day in laughter passed,
Happy moments, memories cast.
No more mischief, no delay,
To school I go—this joyful way.

Mohira Ataboyeva
Khorezm Region, Khiva City
School No. 9, Grade 9

Happy Harvest Festival



Happy Pongal to you all
This is the day of harvest festival
All enjoy with full enthusiasm
Tell thanks to God and sun god

Farmers keep their feet in the field
Hence we keep our fingers in the food
Let's not waste food, even a single grain
A day to remember all the farmers
Who work day and night
Rain and sun
A day to thank them from the heart

May all worries vanish away
May there be family reunion, gathering
With love, laughter, and joy and bliss
From this day on, let all worries vanish

This is an auspicious day
There is no disparity or difference
All are treated equal
Food is needed for all
No caste, creed, colour, or religion is seen

Let's wish happy pongal to all
Without any barriers

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

Your Life Is Your Story, Write Well, Edit Often...



Your life is your story, write well, edit often...
Our life is our favourite story...
Plan it well and live it well...
Not hurting any human soul...
You find in your lifetime goal...
As life is not a verdant bowl...
Being born as a human for serving his race...
His life should be too good Crossing his sixth
sense...
By meditating so dense...
Leaping the next one
Swore yourself to be true
Living with straightforwardness and

honesty...
Helping others with stretching hands...
Eradicating poverty... and sophisticating the
poor...
Educating the late bloomers With sufficient
trials...
Dedicating your life In the feet of the Lord...
So never opt to edit...
Walk as per your destiny...
Live every minute with gay
Nothing we brought And nothing we take...
In our last journey...
So face everything with ease Let your ball
reach beyond the boundaries...
with sequential sixers...
Life is precious...
live it entirely once. Edit it only for serving
human... Live and let others live...
more happy like the natural scenery
Vijikanchi V.R. Vijayalakshmi, Graduate
Teacher, Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, India.

Be Happy With Your Offline Work Too



Oh, how blessed it is to work offline,
A work aligned with nature's line.
Compared to online, it feels much fine,
With little energy and enthusiasm drained.

With sun rays shining on the bare skin,
With minute feelings understood so keen.
With sweat of the brow infinitely seen,
Aligned with nature, it's a beautiful scene.

Angelin Gracita. C
Creative Writers

Kenya's Wild Symphony



In savannahs' sonorous susurrations, Kenya's
heartbeat resounds,
A polyphonic landscape where wildlife's
symphony abounds
The Maasai Mara's cantabile cadences echo
through the night,
As lions' basso profundo roars harmonize
with stars' twinkling light.
The Ngai's serenade, a celestial aria, whispers
secrets true,
In whispers of the acacia trees, a mystic
melody anew.
The Turkana's totemic timbrels beat a primal,

pulsing strain
As rhythms of the savannah entwine with
ancestral refrain.
The aberrant oboe wails of hyenas pierce the
evening air,
As zebras' staccato hooves provide a
counterpoint, beyond compare.
In this terpsichorean land, where movement
is a sacrament divine,
The creatures dance, a choreographed opus,
sublime.
The snow-capped peak of Kirinyaga, a
majestic, solitary note,
Resounds through the crystalline air, a
reverberant, eternal quote.
In Kenya's harmonics, we hear the earth's own
song, a grand accord,
A symphony of life, where every creature
plays a sacred chord.

Dr. S. Latha
Creative Writers

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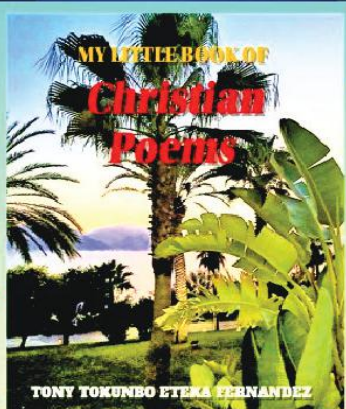
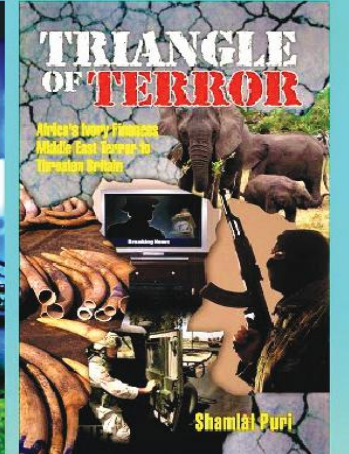
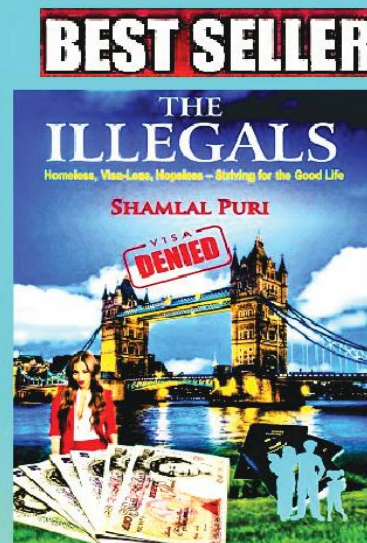
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Health Ministry Warns Kenyans On Risks Of Extreme Physical Challenges

By: William Muchiri
@themkenyatimes

The Ministry of Health has issued a public advisory cautioning Kenyans undertaking extreme physical challenges to prioritise their health and safety, warning that such activities, while rewarding, carry serious medical and psychological risks if not properly managed.

In a statement released through the State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards, Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni Muriuki said extreme endurance activities such as mountaineering, ultra-marathons, long-distance cycling and running, military-style boot camps, desert and heat exposure challenges, and high-altitude trekking are increasingly popular but demand careful preparation.

“Extreme challenges can build resilience and achievement, but they carry real medical, musculoskeletal

and psychological risks,” the advisory notes, urging participants to undertake proper medical screening, adequate training, safe hydration and nutrition, and to listen to warning signs from their bodies.

The ministry highlighted that Kenya’s diverse geography presents unique dangers.

High temperatures in arid and semi-arid regions such as the Rift Valley, northern Kenya and the Coast increase the risk of heat stress and heat stroke, while high-altitude areas like Mt Kenya, the Aberdares and Rift escarpments pose dangers of altitude sickness. Other risks include dehydration, electrolyte imbalance, overuse injuries from rough terrain, rhabdomyolysis caused by extreme exertion, and exposure to insects, snakes and environmental hazards.

Individuals with undiagnosed conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, hypertension and asthma were identified as being particularly vulnerable, alongside those with low fitness levels attempting extreme events, adolescents pressured into intense

training, and people using unregulated supplements or stimulants.

The ministry strongly recommended pre-participation medical screening, including checks on blood pressure, blood sugar, haemoglobin and heart rhythm, as well as consultation for people with chronic illnesses. Gradual training, adequate rest, proper acclimatisation to heat and altitude, and avoidance of harmful initiation rituals were also emphasised.

Proper hydration and nutrition were flagged as critical, with participants advised to carry enough safe drinking water, replace salts during prolonged activity, avoid both overhydration and dehydration, and maintain sufficient caloric intake to prevent energy deficiency. The advisory warned against the use of unregulated supplements commonly sold in informal markets.

Kenyans were also urged to stop immediately and seek medical attention if they experience symptoms such as chest pain, fainting, confusion, collapse, dark-coloured urine, severe muscle pain, or persistent vomiting.



PS for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni during her engagement with Kirinyaga’s Ngiriambu community on Friday. Photo/Courtesy.

The ministry further acknowledged the mental health pressures associated with extreme sports, including performance stress, burnout and disordered eating.

Practical safety measures such as informing others of travel routes, car-

rying identification and emergency contacts, using protective clothing, and knowing the nearest health facility were also recommended as essential steps to safeguard lives.

Shakahola Massacre Trial Breakthrough: Mackenzie Co-Accused Pleads Guilty To 191 Murders

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

A major breakthrough has been recorded in the Shakahola massacre trial after one of the key suspects dramatically changed his plea and admitted to involvement in the deaths of more than 191 people, mostly children.

Enos Amany, also known as Hallelujah, one of 29 accused in the case, pleaded guilty to 191 counts of murder before the High Court in Mombasa, ending nearly two years of denials.

The offences, the court heard, occurred between January 2021 and September 2023.

The confession marks a critical milestone for the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in one of Kenya’s most complex and harrowing criminal trials, which aims to dismantle the network behind the mass deaths linked to self-styled preacher Paul Nthenge Mackenzie in the Shakahola area.

Appearing before Justice Diana



Enos Amany listening as charges are read to him.

Kavedza, Amany admitted acting in coordination with Mackenzie and other co-accused in a deliberate scheme that led to the deaths of hundreds of followers through starvation, coercion, and abuse.

The court was presented with the names of 11 children among the victims, including Seth Hinzano Ngala, Evabra Dito Ngala, Sifa Edison, Nathan Mathu, Neema Robert, Joyce Amani, Stacy Hadama, Elna Mpa, Ejah Nyaleso, Sara Peter, and Patience Kahindi.

Other victims were identified by

initials, gender, and grave sites.

Prosecution, led by Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions Jami Yamina, detailed how Amany served as a grave digger and enforcer within Shakahola forest, ensuring strict obedience to Mackenzie’s teachings. Bodies were euphemistically referred to as “fertilizer,” burials as “planting,” and dying as “taking a jet” to meet Jesus, while followers affirmed instructions with the word “Amina.”

Amany confessed that his own children, Ejah Nyaleso and Senaida,



Paul Nthenge Mackenzie following proceedings.

were among the victims. He admitted participating in their burial alongside his wife, Anne Anyoso Alukhwe, who is also facing charges. Only one child, Izrael Veronica, survived after rejecting the sect’s teachings.

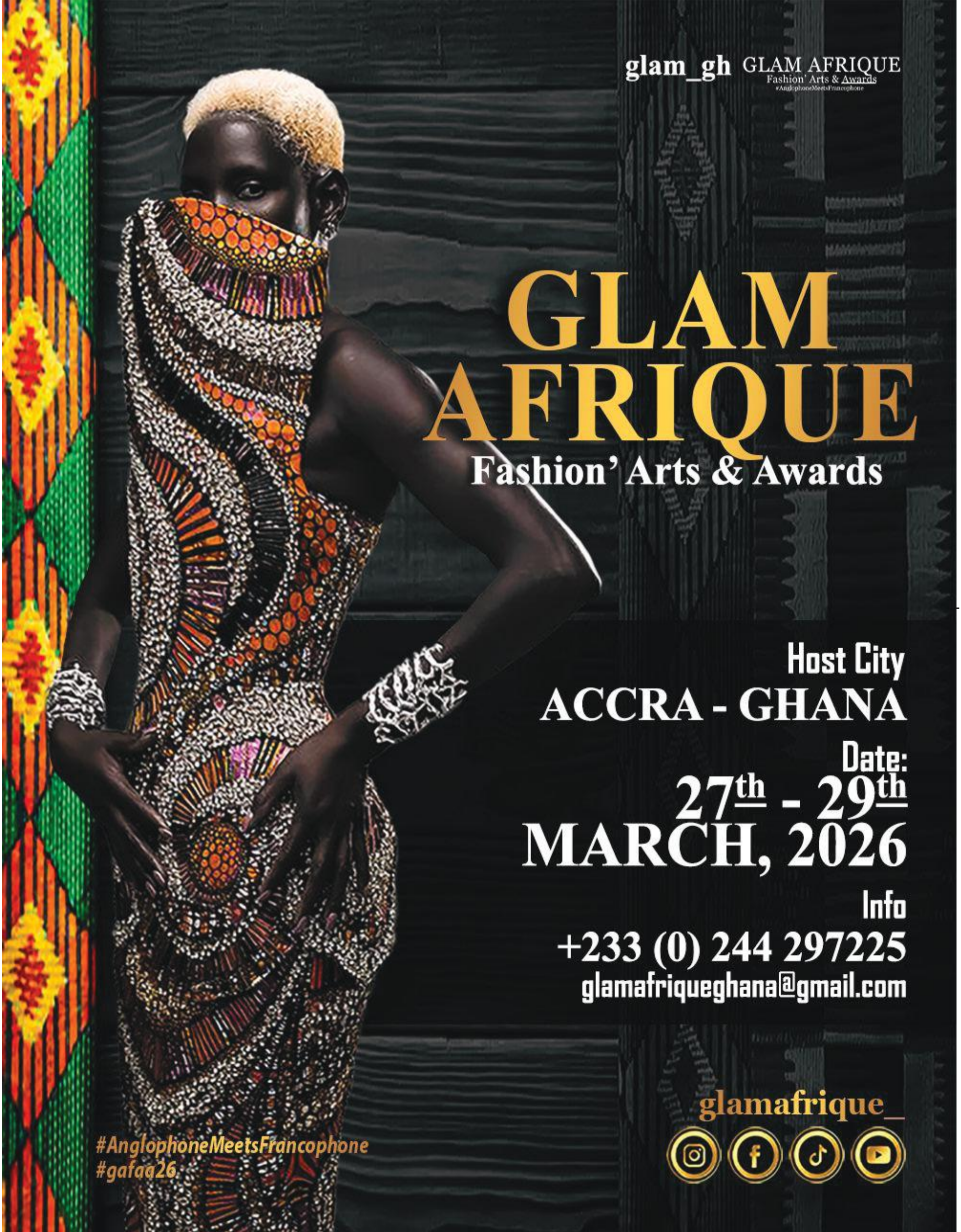
The court heard that Mackenzie demanded total obedience, punishing dissenters with severe beatings, sometimes leading to death. With all parties’ consent, hearings extended past 4.00 p.m. to complete the plea and reading of facts. Justice Kavedza convicted Amany on his own

plea.

The DPP requested a comprehensive victim impact assessment, including consideration of the surviving child, to guide sentencing.

Pre-sentencing hearings are scheduled from February 2 to February 6, 2026.

The prosecution had called 120 witnesses, produced over 500 exhibits, and conducted six months of hearings to secure justice for the Shakahola victims.



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The Paradox Of Kenyan Democracy: Why Voters Choose Yesterday's Oppressors As Tomorrow's Liberators



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The phenomenon operates through what psychologists call cognitive dissonance, where voters simultaneously hold contradictory beliefs about their electoral choices and their lived realities. A voter in Kibera can genuinely believe that the politician who has represented their constituency for twenty years without delivering piped water or decent roads deserves another term because he “speaks our language” or “understands our struggles.” This dissonance is maintained through sophisticated mental gymnastics: failures are externalized to “the system,” “other tribes,” or “saboteurs,” while any marginal benefit, a borehole here, a school desk donation there, is amplified as evidence of the leader’s commitment.
- The psychological literature on motivated reasoning explains this perfectly. People don’t evaluate evidence objectively and then form conclusions; rather, they start with conclusions that serve their emotional or identity needs and then selectively gather evidence to support them.

Kenya’s electoral history reveals a troubling pattern: in 2002, Kenyans overwhelmingly voted out KANU after 39 years of single-party dominance, ushering in what seemed like a new democratic dawn. By 2007, the country nearly tore itself apart in post-election violence that claimed over 1,300 lives. In 2013, voters elected leaders facing crimes against humanity charges at the International Criminal Court. In 2017, the Supreme Court nullified a presidential election for irregularities, yet the repeat election saw decreased voter turnout and sustained ethnic polarization. By 2022, the same faces that had dominated politics for decades were recycled into new configurations, with voters passionately defending their choices even as they complained about unemployment, corruption, and deteriorating public services. This cycle is not merely political theatre but a manifestation of deep psychological, historical, and structural contradictions that have calcified into the very DNA of Kenyan electoral behavior.

The phenomenon operates through what psychologists call cognitive dissonance, where voters simultaneously hold contradictory beliefs about their electoral choices and their lived realities. A voter in Kibera can genuinely believe that the politician who has represented their constituency for twenty years without delivering piped water or decent roads deserves another term because he “speaks our language” or “understands our struggles.” This dissonance is maintained through sophisticated mental gymnastics: failures are externalized to “the system,” “other tribes,” or “saboteurs,” while any marginal benefit, a borehole here, a school desk donation there, is amplified as evidence of the leader’s commitment.

The psychological literature on motivated reasoning explains this perfectly. People don’t evaluate evidence objectively and then form conclusions; rather, they start with conclusions that serve their emotional or identity needs and then selectively gather evidence to support them. When your ethnic kinsman is in power, his corruption becomes “our turn to eat.” When your opponent’s kinsman is in power, the same corruption becomes evidence of their tribe’s moral degeneracy. The dissonance dissolves not through logical resolution but through the alchemy of ethnic identification.

This ethnic voting calculus has historical roots that stretch back to colonial divide-and-rule tactics that transformed organic ethnic diversity



into hardened political identities. The British colonial administration didn’t merely govern Kenya; they engineered its social fractures by creating ethnic administrative units, privileging certain groups with education and employment, and establishing a political economy where access to resources flowed through ethnic patronage networks. The Kikuyu, Luo, Luhya, Kalenjin, and Kamba weren’t just ethnic groups; they became political constituencies competing for colonial favor.

When independence came in 1963, the post-colonial state inherited this architecture of division and, rather than dismantling it, the founding fathers weaponized it. Jomo Kenyatta’s government systematically favored Kikuyu accumulation of land and capital, Daniel arap Moi’s twenty-four-year reign was characterized by Kalenjin ethnic entrenchment, and every subsequent administration has played variations of the same ethnic patronage symphony. Voters learned, quite rationally within this irrational system, that their access to state resources, from government jobs to development projects, depended not on citizenship or merit but on whether “their person” controlled the levers of power. What appears as irrational ethnic voting is actually a rational adaptation to a system that distributes resources along ethnic lines.

The psychology of punishment voting reveals another dimension of this paradox, where voters enthusiastically support opposition leaders not because they offer superior policy alternatives but because they promise to punish the incumbent. This is pure emotion masquerading as political choice. After five years of broken promises, corruption scandals, and economic hardship, voters don’t sys-

tematically evaluate which candidate has the most credible plan for job creation or healthcare reform; instead, they channel their accumulated rage into supporting whoever can inflict maximum pain on those currently in power.

The Kenyan political lexicon is instructive here: politicians are “taught a lesson,” “sent home,” or “shown the door,” language that betrays the emotional, retributive nature of the exercise. The problem, which seems to elude voters until after the election, is that the person you’re using as an instrument of punishment usually has their own history of failure, corruption, or incompetence that you’ve conveniently forgotten in your enthusiasm to punish someone else. The William Ruto who was deputy president in a government accused of massive corruption somehow became the “hustler” champion against a system he had been part of for a decade. Raila Odinga, who has been in various governments since the 1990s, is perpetually rebranded as the ultimate outsider fighting the system. Voters engage in selective amnesia, forgetting yesterday’s sins when a politician skillfully positions themselves as the enemy of today’s enemy.

Physical appearance, philanthropy, and performative generosity operate as substitute heuristics for competence and integrity, filling the vacuum left by voters’ inability or unwillingness to engage with substantive policy questions. In a country where over a third of the population lives below the poverty line, a politician who throws cash at funerals, weddings, and harambees becomes “a man of the people,” regardless of whether that money is stolen from public coffers. The psychological principle at work is immediate gratification over-

whelming long-term calculation.

Two thousand shillings in your hand today feels more real than the abstract promise of better governance tomorrow. This is why governors who have bankrupted county governments can still draw massive crowds by hiring youth to attend their rallies, distributing food, and making cash handouts. The philanthropy is transactional, not transformational, but voters in desperate circumstances aren’t positioned to reject immediate relief for the sake of principle. Moreover, physical appearance, how well-dressed, how articulate in English, how “modern” a candidate appears, becomes a signal of success and, by extension, capability. A candidate who arrives in a helicopter, wears expensive suits, and speaks confidently is assumed to possess the competence to manage public affairs, even when their track record suggests otherwise. This is the halo effect in action: positive impressions in one domain bleed into other, unrelated assessments.

The constitutional framework exists as a powerful antidote to these pathologies, but it remains largely unread, unappreciated, and unenforced by the very citizens it empowers. Article 1 of the Constitution is explicit and radical in its simplicity: “All sovereign power belongs to the people of Kenya.” Not to tribes, not to dynasties, not to the wealthy, but to the people collectively. This is not decorative language; it’s the foundational principle of the entire constitutional order. Article 10 outlines the national values and principles of governance, includ-

The Paradox Of Kenyan Democracy: Why Voters Choose Yesterday's Oppressors As Tomorrow's Liberators

Contd from page 18

ing patriotism, national unity, the rule of law, democracy and participation of the people, human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, human rights, non-discrimination, protection of the marginalized, good governance, integrity, transparency, and accountability.

Reading these values against the reality of Kenyan elections is like reading a beautiful architectural blueprint while standing in a collapsing building. The disconnect is staggering. Most fundamentally, Chapter Six, which deals with leadership and integrity, establishes that state officers must demonstrate respect for the people, bring honor to the nation, respect the Constitution, serve the people rather than the power of their office, demonstrate discipline and integrity in service, and make decisions in a transparent and accountable manner. It explicitly provides that a person is not qualified for election to state office if they have been convicted of an offense involving dishonesty or fraud, are subject to bankruptcy proceedings, or are found to have abused their office or contravened Chapter Six. Yet candidates with corruption cases, integrity questions, and demonstrable records of abusing office are not just tolerated but enthusiastically elected.

This constitutional betrayal stems from a crisis of civic literacy and constitutional consciousness among the electorate. Most Kenyan voters have never read the Constitution, much less internalized its revolutionary implications for how they should evaluate leaders and exercise their sovereign power. The education system produces graduates who can recite historical dates and mathematical formulas but who lack basic understanding of their constitutional rights and responsibilities. Civil society organizations and media houses have made efforts at civic education, but these are drops in the ocean compared to the scale of the literacy deficit. Politicians exploit this ignorance masterfully, weaponizing ethnic identity and immediate material inducements while ensuring that voters remain ignorant of the constitutional standards that should govern leadership selection.

If voters understood that Article 73 requires state officers to demonstrate integrity in all aspects of their conduct, that Article 75 establishes

the mechanism for citizen-initiated accountability, and that Article 259 requires the Constitution to be interpreted in a manner that contributes to good governance, they would approach elections with a completely different framework. They would ask not "Is this person from my tribe?" or "Did they give me money?" but "Does this person meet the constitutional standards for leadership? Have they demonstrated integrity? Will they uphold the rule of law?" The Constitution is not just a legal document; it's a manual for democratic citizenship that remains tragically unread.

The political science literature on ethnic patronage democracies provides analytical tools for understanding why this pattern persists across election cycles. Kenya operates what scholars call a "prebendal" political system, where public office is viewed as a prebend, a resource to be exploited for the benefit of the office holder and their ethnic or regional constituency. In such systems, the distinction between public and private resources dissolves; the state becomes a site of accumulation rather than service delivery. Politicians don't primarily seek office to implement policy visions; they seek office to access state resources that can be channeled to their ethnic base, enriching themselves while ensuring their continued political viability through patronage distribution. Voters, understanding this logic, support co-ethnics not out of some primordial ethnic attachment but out of a calculated assessment that their material interests are best served by having "one of their own" in a position to redistribute resources. This creates a vicious cycle: ethnic voting produces ethnic governance, which produces ethnic inequality in resource distribution, which reinforces the rationality of ethnic voting. Breaking this cycle requires not moral exhortation for voters to "think beyond tribe" but structural transformation of how the state allocates resources and how politicians access and exercise power.

The recurring cycle, vote emotionally, regret rationally, repeat, suggests a fundamental failure of democratic learning and institutional memory. In functional democracies, voters punish failure and reward success, creating incentives for politicians to perform. In Kenya, the punishment mechanism is broken because voters punish based on ethnic rotation logic rather than performance, and reward based on ethnic solidarity rather than



competence. A governor who has stolen county funds, failed to deliver services, and presided over institutional collapse can still be re-elected or elevated to senator or national assembly, provided they've maintained their ethnic base through patronage and identity appeals. Meanwhile, a competent, reform-minded leader from the "wrong" tribe can be voted out despite exemplary performance.

This breaks the fundamental accountability link that makes democracy functional. The lack of institutional memory is equally problematic: voters seem unable to remember politicians' records beyond the immediate election cycle. A politician who was vilified five years ago for corruption is rehabilitated and embraced today if they've successfully rebranded or switched camps. The media's focus on personality drama rather than substantive policy analysis, the absence of accessible databases tracking leaders' performance, and the general chaos of Kenyan politics all contribute to this amnesia. Each election is treated as a fresh start, with voters evaluating candidates based on current rhetoric rather than past performance.

Yet this analysis would be incomplete without acknowledging the agency-denying effects of poverty, inequality, and economic desperation on voting behavior. It's easy to demand that voters "be rational," "read the Constitution," and "vote on issues," but such demands ignore the material conditions that constrain choice. When you're unemployed, when your children's school fees are unpaid, when you're facing eviction, and a politician offers you five thousand shillings for your vote, the choice between immediate survival and abstract democratic principle is not really a choice at all. The moral

failure lies not primarily with desperate voters but with a political economy that produces such desperation and with politicians who exploit it.

Moreover, the information environment in which voters operate is systematically distorted. Ethnic radio stations amplify tribalized narratives, social media spreads disinformation at unprecedented scale, and mainstream media, often owned by politicians or their proxies, provides coverage that serves elite interests rather than public enlightenment. Voters are not making choices in conditions of perfect information and unlimited resources; they're making choices in conditions of profound information asymmetry, material deprivation, and institutional dysfunction. Any serious effort to transform Kenyan electoral behavior must address these structural conditions, not just exhort individuals to better choices. That said, acknowledging these constraints doesn't absolve voters of all responsibility; even within conditions of constraint, there remains space for agency, for critical thinking, for collective organization, and for demanding better.

The path forward requires a multi-pronged transformation that operates simultaneously on consciousness, structure, and accountability. First, a massive, sustained civic education campaign focused specifically on constitutional literacy, not as abstract legal knowledge but as practical tools for evaluating leaders and exercising power. Every Kenyan should be able to recite the leadership and integrity provisions of Chapter Six the way they know their favorite football team's lineup. Second, structural reforms that break the link between ethnic control of the presidency and access to state resources, genuine devolution that reduces the winner-

takes-all stakes of national elections, and institutional strengthening of oversight bodies like the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission to ensure that violators of Chapter Six actually face consequences. Third, transformation of the information environment through support for independent journalism, fact-checking infrastructure, and civic technology platforms that make politicians' records accessible and analyzable. Fourth, political organization that transcends ethnic lines, built around shared material interests and policy visions rather than ethnic solidarity. This is not naive idealism; Kenya has demonstrated capacity for cross-ethnic mobilization around issues, from the 2010 constitutional referendum to the 2024 Gen Z protests against the Finance Bill.

The challenge is converting episodic mobilization into sustained political organization. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, making peace with the fact of cognitive dissonance while refusing to accept it as unchangeable destiny. Yes, many Kenyan voters currently exhibit profound contradictions between their stated desires for good governance and their actual voting behavior. Yes, the patterns are deeply entrenched. But patterns are not laws of nature; they're historical constructions that can be reconstructed. The question is not whether Kenyans are capable of more sophisticated democratic practice, the Constitution itself, passed by referendum with nearly 70% support, proves that capacity, but whether we're willing to invest the sustained effort required to build it.

The writer is a socio-legal commentator

UN Chief Calls For Adherence To UN Charter, Peace And Unity In 2026

By: Xinhua
@themkenyatimes

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres outlined three guiding principles for the United Nations in 2026: full adherence to the UN Charter, promotion of peace with justice, and fostering unity in a world increasingly divided.

Addressing the UN General Assembly, Guterres highlighted the turbulence facing the world today, including conflict, inequality, violations of international law, and reductions in development and humanitarian aid. "These forces are shaking the foundations of global cooperation and testing multilateralism itself," he said, emphasizing that the UN will not abandon its mission despite these

challenges.

The Secretary-General noted the UN's efforts to create space in emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, climate action, and development financing. Yet, he stressed that the organization must be grounded in the Charter, which he described as a "compact which binds us all" rather than a flexible menu of options.

Peace, Guterres said, remains central to the UN's work. Millions around the world remain trapped in cycles of conflict, hunger, and displacement, underscoring the need for solutions that combine justice with stability.

On unity, he warned that racism, nationalist xenophobia, and religious bigotry are corroding societies worldwide. These divisions, amplified by disinformation and exclusionary rhetoric, threaten social cohesion. "Our challenge and priority must be to build welcoming societies, not

walled-off citadels," he said.

Guterres concluded by emphasizing that these principles are not just for 2026, but for all times: respecting the Charter fully, pursuing peace between nations and with nature, and fostering unity in an era of division. "I am honored to serve as custodian of the Charter



Antonio Guterres.

Venezuela Not Afraid Of Diplomacy With U.S., Says Acting President



Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodriguez

By: Xinhua
@themkenyatimes

Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodriguez has said that the government is not afraid of engaging in diplomatic dealings with the United States, following an earlier U.S. military attack on the South American country and the capture of President Nicolas Maduro and his wife. "Let's not be afraid of diplo-

macy," Rodriguez said during the presentation of the annual state of the nation address. While highlighting Washington's "historical record" of intervention in Latin America, she asserted that "we are not afraid to confront it diplomatically through political dialogue, as is appropriate." The government is forging "a new policy," she said, calling on diplomatic corps accredited in Venezuela to convey the reality of the situation to their governments.

Rodriguez also called for unity at home in defending sovereignty and territorial integrity. "I invite you, as Venezuelans, to preserve the peace of Venezuela, to preserve the tranquility of the homeland, and to do so with absolute dignity and historical responsibility," she said. Rodriguez added that if she were to travel to the United States as acting president, "I will do so standing tall, walking, not crawling."

Somalia, AU Forces Kill Over 30 Al-Shabaab In Joint Operation

By: Xinhua
@themkenyatimes

The Somali National Army (SNA) and the African Union (AU) forces, backed by international partners, on Thursday killed more than 30 al-Shabaab militants during a joint operation in southern Somalia, the AU peacekeeping mission said.

The operation, supported by air assets and involving multiple engagements with al-Shabaab fighters, was conducted in the vicinity of the Bulunagaad military base in the Lower Shabelle region, the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM) said in a statement issued in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. "Through coordinated ground and air offensives, over 30 al-Shabaab militants were put out of action, while several others sustained injuries," the AU mission said. According



Al-Shabaab operatives

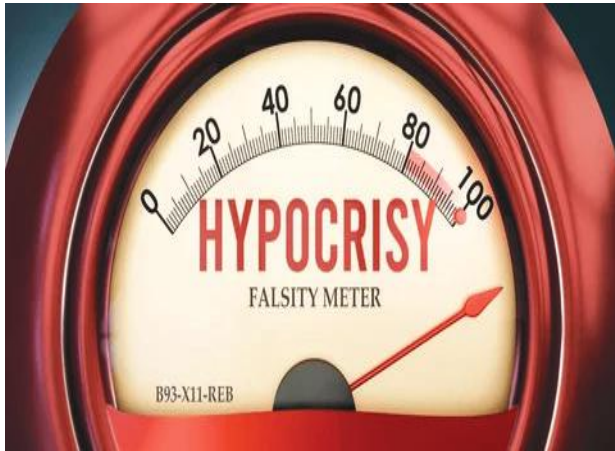
to the mission, the militants had earlier attacked SNA and AUSSOM forces during pursuit operations targeting remnants of al-Shabaab fighters dislodged from the coastal town of Gendershe and the Jilib-Marka axis under SNA-led operations code-named Operation Hidden Sword. "Joint forces will continue operations to degrade al-Shabaab's operational capabilities and to promote lasting peace, stability, and security

in Somalia," AUSSOM said. The latest joint operation comes as Somali security forces are ramping up offensives against al-Shabaab militants across Somalia in recent past. Local soldiers, backed by international partners, have been conducting joint operations in central and southern regions as government forces move to gain a foothold.



Kenya Government Decries Hypocrisy, Calls For Transparency And Accountability

The Kenyan government's recent denunciation of hypocrisy marks a pivotal moment in the nation's political discourse. For years, citizens have grown weary of lofty promises that dissolve into double standards, leaving behind a trail of disillusionment. By openly challenging falseness, the government signals a renewed commitment to integrity and a willingness to confront entrenched political culture.



Yet, words alone cannot dismantle systemic rot. The true measure of this declaration will be found in its execution. Will leaders be subjected to genuine scrutiny, or will accountability remain a distant aspiration? Kenya's democratic health depends on strengthening institutions that safeguard against impunity and ensuring that no individual, however powerful, stands above the law.

The maxim "actions speak louder than words" resonates deeply here. Citizens yearn for leaders who prioritize public welfare

over personal gain, who embody transparency not as a slogan but as a lived practice. The government has taken a bold first step, but the journey toward good governance demands consistency, courage, and an unwavering respect for accountability.

This stance has ignited a national conversation about leadership's moral compass. It is no longer enough to critique corruption from the sidelines; citizens

must actively demand honesty and resist complacency. The responsibility of building a transparent society rests not only with those in office but also with the electorate willing to hold them to their word. Kenya's future hinges on whether this moment becomes a turning point or fades into rhetoric.

By: Miriam Kamau, Laikipia University

How To Be Productive Without Feeling Punished

Productivity has long been celebrated as a marker of success, yet our understanding of it often leans toward extremes. Many believe true productivity means exhausting to-do lists, piling on extra tasks, and measuring worth by sheer volume of output. This mindset, however, distorts the essence of productivity and risks turning achievement into punishment.

Real productivity is not about relentless completion but about meaningful progress. Finishing one or two tasks effectively can be just as valuable as ticking off ten. Each day carries its own rhythm, and not all will be equally productive. Accepting this truth allows us to appreciate the cumulative impact of small, consistent efforts in shaping a better life.

I once felt defeated whenever I failed to clear my list, overlooking the victories already achieved. That pressure grew heavy, until I realized that being human means embracing limitations. We are not machines, nor should we aspire to function like them. Still, this recognition is not a license for idleness.



Instead, it is an invitation to celebrate small wins—whether cleaning a drawer, writing a paragraph, or simply showing up.

Finding joy in these moments can be reinforced through journaling or self-acknowledgment. Such practices validate effort and remind us that productivity is about presence and persistence. On days when energy wanes, recalling past satisfac-

tion can reignite motivation, proving that even modest accomplishments matter.

True productivity thrives in balance. It is about progress without punishment, consistency without exhaustion, and joy in the journey as much as the destination.

By: Catherine Wairimu, Laikipia University

Why Citizens Must Be Highly Encouraged To Bet Responsibly

Sports betting have rapidly woven itself into Kenya's social fabric, particularly among the youth and low-income earners. With mobile phones and betting apps offering instant access, the allure of quick riches has become irresistible. Yet behind the flashing odds and promises of overnight wealth lies a troubling reality: gambling is increasingly turning into a national crisis.



What begins as casual entertainment often spirals into addiction. Many individuals gamble away entire salaries, clinging to the hope of a life-changing win. When losses mount—as they inevitably do—financial ruin follows. Families are left hungry, rent unpaid, and despair deepens. The popular phrase "bet imeungua" has become a haunting expression of regret, concealing the emotional and financial scars borne by countless households.

The psychological toll is even more alarming. The cycle of chasing losses traps many in

a dangerous loop, where hope morphs into compulsion. For some, the crushing weight of debt and societal pressure drives them toward theft or even suicide. This is no longer a private struggle; it is a public emergency demanding urgent intervention.

Responsible betting must therefore be more than a slogan—it must be a national priority. Government agencies, betting companies, and media platforms should collaborate on awareness campaigns that emphasize gambling as entertainment, not income. Citizens must be remind-

ed that essentials should never be risked for chance. Equally vital is financial literacy, especially among the youth, to instill discipline in managing earnings and resisting risky habits.

Kenya cannot afford complacency. Promoting responsible betting, enforcing regulation, and fostering awareness are essential steps to safeguard lives and secure the nation's financial future.

By: Darline Otieno, Laikipia University

The Silent Struggle: Understanding GBV Against Men

When conversations about Gender-Based Violence (GBV) arise, the narrative almost always centers on women and girls. While they remain disproportionately affected, there is another demographic suffering quietly in the shadows: men. Their experiences of physical, emotional, and even sexual abuse are often overlooked, leaving wounds—both visible and invisible—untreated.

The silence of male victims is not born of choice but of cultural conditioning. From childhood, men are taught that strength equates to stoicism, that vulnerability undermines masculinity. Admitting victimhood feels like a betrayal of manhood. Fear of ridicule compounds this silence, with many men convinced that reporting abuse—especially when the perpetrator is female—will invite laughter or dismissal. Worse still, support systems remain scarce. Shelters, hotlines, and counseling services are



overwhelmingly designed for women, leaving men stranded in a service desert. Fathers face an additional burden: the fear of losing custody of their children, which often traps them in toxic relationships.

Abuse against men is not always physical. It manifests in psychological torment, economic control, and coercive manipulation. Gaslighting, financial dependency, and threats of false accusations erode dignity and entrap victims in cycles of despair. To break this cycle, society must broaden its definition

of victimhood. Recognizing male survivors does not diminish the struggles of women; it affirms that abuse has no gender and pain is not a competition.

Neutral language in policy, training for first responders, and safe spaces for men are crucial steps forward. Seeking help must be reframed as strength, not weakness. Only then can Kenya—and the world—address GBV with true inclusivity.

By: Benard Omurwa, Laikipia University

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Sports >> *Uganda's Willy Deus held his nerve to secure his maiden Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing title after holding a final day charge by Kenya's David Wakhu to win the Absa Invitational Series at Thika Greens

Ugandan Willy Deus Survives Late Scare To Win Sunshine Development Tour Leg In Thika

Uganda's Willy Deus held his nerve to secure his maiden Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing title after holding a final day charge by Kenya's David Wakhu to win the Absa Invitational Series at Thika Greens on Friday afternoon.

This was his second time of asking for the 34-year-old, his first shot in the Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing, having been at VetLab Sports Club in November last year where he finished 13th.

Deus played rounds of 68, 68, and 72 for a total score of 5-under par 208 to finish ahead of Njoroge Kibugu and David Wakhu who were joint second on four under par 209.

He entered the final round tied at the top with Mutahi Kibugu but endured a difficult day on the course that had bogeys on holes two, six, fifteen, and eighteen and limited birdies on holes four, seven, and twelve while playing par on the rest to post a 1-over-par round and take home KSh 400,000.

Speaking after sealing his first professional victory in Kenya, Willy Deus described the win as a deeply rewarding moment:

"It feels really good to be the champion. A win is always a win, and it feels great when you finish the job, especially knowing how much work goes into putting yourself in that position. When I give myself the chance and close it out, it's always a great feeling."

Deus added: "Today was tough. The wind was strong and the course was set up to be very challenging. I also had a bit of bad luck with a few bounces that put me in spots I shouldn't have been in, so it wasn't easy out there."

He credited his mental strength in his victory:

"I've worked a lot on my mental game this year. Last year, I don't think I would have handled moments like this the same way. I've been working closely with my coaches, focusing on staying



Uganda's Willy Deus celebrates after winning the Absa Invitational Series at Thika Greens Golf Resort

calm, taking a deep breath, and doing what I needed to do at the moment. To come to Kenya and get my first professional victory here is very special. It's an amazing feeling and one I'll always remember."

On his part, Njoroge played a conservative round for par with birdies on holes six, ten, fourteen and eighteen, bogeys on the seven, fifteen, sixteen, and seventeen to finish second.

A blemish-free start in the front nine that included birdies on the first and second holes saw Wakhu take the lead as he took the turn at 2-under par, but bogeys on number twelve and sixteen, followed by a double bogey on the 18th saw him end the round on par to finish joint second alongside Njoroge as each of them won Ksh 179,350.

Reflecting on his final round, Njoroge Kibugu said he felt encouraged by improvements in his ball striking but admitted that a difficult day on the greens ultimately held him back.

"Today I hit the ball a lot better than I did for most of the tournament. My swing was a bit

rusty, and a few bad habits crept in over the holidays, so I spent the first two days trying to work through that," Kibugu said.

He added: "I felt much better with my ball striking today, but unfortunately my putter went cold and I finished at level par. I missed a short putt on 15, made a soft bogey, then hit it right on 16 and couldn't get up and down. On 17, I three-putted again. The putter just wasn't my friend today. I had a couple more three-putts and missed a few putts from around six feet. It was just one of those tough days on the greens."

Muthaiga Golf Club's Greg Snow and Uganda's Ronald Rugumayo finished third on three under par 210, both playing equal par on Friday to take home Ksh 94,800 each.

Snow, who came into the Absa Invitational at Thika on the back of winning the Limuru leg of the tour, started off badly with bogeys on the first, third, and fourth but attempted to recover with a birdie on the sixth and eleventh before dropping another shot on the thirteenth with more birdies

on the 14th and 17th.

On the other hand, Rugumayo picked bogeys on the first, ninth, and seventeenth, birdies on holes four, five, and sixteen while picking pars on the rest for a total score of three under par 210 after three rounds.

The ninth leg of the SDT-EAS attracted 75 players from across Africa and beyond, all competing for a share of the Ksh 2 million prize purse, as well as Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) points, World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) points, and Safari Tour Order of Merit points, which are critical for qualification into the 2026 Magical Kenya Open on the DP World Tour.

The Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing now moves to the tenth and final leg of the season, the second event under the Absa Invitational Series umbrella, scheduled for next week at the Karen Country Club.

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Sports >>> *The national futsal team have commenced training for the Africa Cup of Nations qualifier tie against Namibia.

Kenya Begin Preps For First-Ever Africa Futsal Cup Qualification



The national futsal team in a past match. PHOTO/KENYA FUTSAL FEDERATION

The national futsal team have commenced training for the Africa Cup of Nations qualifier tie against Namibia.

The 14-member squad reported to camp at the Kasarani Indoor Arena under the keen eye of head coach James Omondi.

Kenya play the southern Africans in the opening round of the qualifiers, with the first leg set for February 3-4, before the return tie, three days later.

Should they edge past Namibia,

the home boys face Libya in the next round, with the chance to become among seven countries to join hosts Morocco at the continental competition.

Kenya have never qualified for the continental showpiece before but will be buoyed by their five-star performance at last year's Asian Futsal Cup in Sri Lanka.

Final Squad

Mike Ochieng, Samwel Owiti, Anas Hamad, Shaban Mark, Kev-

in Omondi, Gift Mumo, Kelvin Odongo, Patrick Kaiser, Mohamed Hassan, Tony Kegode, Salim Abdullahi, Muthoni Newton, Lewis Ng'ang'a, Isaac Omweri,

Technical Bench

James Omondi (Head Coach), Joseph Mbugi (Assistant Coach), Patrick Nyale (Goalkeeper Trainer), Alfonse Onyango (Kit Manager), Evanson Ngugi (Team Physio), Bruce Juma (Team Doctor), Suleiman Ngotho (Strength

and Conditioning Coach),

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G'afur G'ulom Is A Powerful Poet Of Uzbek Literature!



By: Usmonov Ibrohim
Alisherovich

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

It is clear from this statement that discussing the traditions of Eastern poetry in G'afur G'ulam's poetry is essentially raising the issue of the poet's attitude towards the advanced literature of the East in the past. This is an extremely complex matter, one aspect of which reaches the poet's aesthetic ideals.

The poet considers the Uzbek people to be a proud nation that deeply loves its Homeland and freedom. When speaking about Alisher Navoi, he describes him as a "free-spirited poet". In another instance, he emphasises, "The Uzbek, resilient and unyielding, values freedom, the Homeland, and liberty." In the article about the drama "Jaloliddin," written in collaboration with Oybek, he says, "For a person, freedom is lofty and beautiful above all needs."

In his article titled "The Two Bright Suns of the Sky of Eastern Poetry," G'afur G'ulom writes: "I am a poet of the East. Therefore, it would not be wrong to say that all the classics of Eastern poetry are my brothers, my relatives... It is this heritage that has nurtured me."

It is clear from this statement that discussing the traditions of Eastern poetry in G'afur G'ulam's poetry is essentially raising the issue of the poet's attitude towards the advanced literature of the East in the past. This is an extremely complex matter, one aspect of which reaches the poet's aesthetic ideals.

The poet considers the Uzbek people to be a proud nation that deeply loves its Homeland and freedom. When speaking about Alisher Navoi, he describes him as a "free-spirited poet". In another instance, he emphasises, "The Uzbek, resilient and unyielding, values freedom, the Homeland, and liberty." In the article about the drama "Jaloliddin," written in collaboration with Oybek, he says, "For a person, freedom is lofty and beautiful above all needs." From this, it can be understood that the poet G'afur G'ulom's deep longing for freedom, embedded in his heart, and his belief that all humans are equal regardless of nation, race, or status, inspired him, during the time German fascists attacked the former USSR, to passionately and courageously sing about freedom and equality of people, interpret the theme in a universal human context, and create mature poems that became notable events in Uzbek literature. In the poem "I Am a Jew," he is not only defending Jews who are being humiliated and exterminated by fascism. The poet addresses the whole human fate. "I am a human too!", "Know that you will remain in this soil," such firm judgments were being expressed on behalf of other nations, including the Uzbek people. Indeed, the reason why G'afur G'ulam's poems are so mature in every aspect is that he portrays his spiritual biography, his destiny, and the destiny of his people together. Even in the poem "You Are Not an Orphan", he recalls his youth saying, "Orphanhood is something, ask us about it." As the poet looks towards

victory with hope and confidence, saying "The dawn is near, the dawn is near, pure white dawn is near," he concludes the poem by expressing his noble longing for freedom:

Insults are devoured,
Tyranny is crushed.
In the world we shall be
Free, victorious.
You are not an orphan,
Sleep, my dear!

These poems gained fame not only in the country but even beyond. The fighters considered them a great support. In a letter to the poet from the front, F.M. Cheburakhin wrote that after reading this poem, the fighters said, 'Humanity will avenge itself on the savagery in society with even greater cruelty.' One of the orphaned children, Kolya Sergienko, calls the poet 'my second father.' Maq-sud Shaykhzoda describes G'afur G'ulom's poems 'Seeing Off,' 'Longing,' and 'Victory Celebration' as 'A Complete Poetic Outcome' (a trilogy). In the first, he presents

a heart 'filled with extreme worry for the fate of his son, yet holding back his own tears.' The second is described as 'this Khasratnoma is a work worthy of being called G'afur G'ulom's master ghazal.' In the third, after being separated from his child Jorakhon, 'the poet, his heart filled with sorrow, wishes to melt his mourning in a public celebration, to soothe his heart.' In the poem 'Woman,' written during these years, he also philosophically portrays the mother of humanity.

Indeed, the years of war shaped G'afur G'ulom as a mature poet and he was recognised throughout the country. Receiving the State Prize for his book, 'I am coming from the East' was proof of this. He now focused on philosophically understanding history, reality, time, human life, and evaluating them from the perspective of humanity's progress and existence.

In conclusion, it can be said that the struggles and victories of our people, the republic's rise as a beacon in the East are events that never es-

caped G'afur G'ulam's attention in history; they stirred countless emotions in his pure heart and produced wonderful musical echoes from the strings of inspiration that were always in tune. The reason G'afur G'ulam's poetry resonates with the reader's heart, that when he sings about something the reader joins in, and that the poet himself earned the passionate love of the broad masses, is precisely this. In this way, G'afur G'ulam's poetry matured with great ideas and the life-giving light of Russian literature.

In other words, G'afur G'ulom's creativity is like a magnificent bonfire, and any form of it implies diverse burning, that is, light and heat. The immense power, charm, and dazzling beauty of G'afur G'ulom's poetry lie in this.

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ond-year student*