



Why Judicial Temperament Matters In Kenyan Democracy

Judicial temperament refers to the personal qualities, demeanor, and character traits that enable judges to discharge their duties fairly and effectively. It encompasses patience, open-mindedness, courtesy, decisiveness, compassion, and the ability to remain calm under pressure.

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News>> Ruto Vows To Shield Kenya's Transformation From Short-Term Politics As NYO-TA Funds Roll Out

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P. 12. A lobby group representing former freedom fighters and their descendants has sought police support to ensure smooth registration of its members and the opening of offices across the country

Leaders Told Not To Politicize Education

Mount Kenya University (MKU) Pro-Chancellor, Dr Vincent Gaitho, has asked politicians to keep politics out of the education sector as it does not augur well for the future of the country. "The education sector has no vacuum; it has its owners. These include teachers, education officials, pupils, students, parents, private sector investors and government officials. Politicians should speak less," he said.



Mount Kenya University (MKU) Pro-Chancellor, also Chairman of the University Council, Dr Vincent Gaitho.

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"ALL BUSINESSES ONE PLATFORM"

President Ruto Highlights Impact Of NYOTA Youth Business Capital Support

By: WMW
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto has emphasized that providing young people with finance and opportunity-creating programs is essential, but not sufficient on its own. He stressed the need for continuous mentorship, training, and guidance to ensure youth-led businesses grow and thrive.

“Walking with our young people, step by step, while assessing the progress and success of their enterprises, is critical. When they succeed, they secure their future and become key partners in transforming Kenya into a first-world economy,” President Ruto stated. He made the remarks yesterday at Kasarani stadium during the rollout of the KSh258.4 million NYOTA Business Capital Support program, which has benefited 10,337 young businesspeople from Nairobi, Kiambu, and Kajiado counties.

The initiative provides capital and mentorship, enabling youth entrepreneurs to scale businesses and seize emerging opportunities.

National Outlook:

The NYOTA program is set to expand nationwide, with plans to disburse over KSh1.2 billion, benefiting approximately 50,000 young entrepreneurs across all 47 counties. By supporting youth in business, Kenya aims to tackle unemployment, foster innovation, and increase productivity. Empowering this generation strengthens inclusive growth and positions the country closer to achieving Vision 2030 and a globally competitive economy.



Editor's Desk

The Mt Kenya Times

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

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Mr Nick Mararo, the Chief Executive Officer of Base Yetu, has expressed deep concern over the rising cases of mental illness in Nyeri County that are increasingly spilling over into incidents of domestic violence. He noted that, since the start of the New Year, more families are being affected on a daily basis, pointing to an alarming and growing trend within the community. Almost a similar trend has become a norm in the last few months. Mararo emphasized that this situation can no longer be ignored, as it poses a serious threat to family stability and community safety. He called for urgent attention from all stakeholders, encouraging open and honest conversations around mental health. He further urged collective action to strengthen mental wellness support systems and safeguard the well-being of residents across the county.



The National Biosafety Authority (NBA) has mounted a capacity-building training for the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) to strengthen oversight of biotechnology research involving genetically modified organisms (GMOs). During the training, KALRO IBC Chair, Dr Martin Mwirigi, reaffirmed KALRO's commitment to responsible, compliant and science-led biotechnology research. He noted that the training strengthens KALRO's internal biosafety systems and ensures that the organization's research aligns with national regulatory requirements and international best practices. Dr Mwirigi said that the training focused on enhancing the IBC's capacity to evaluate, approve and monitor biosafety activities in compliance with the Biosafety Act (CAP 320), its associated regulations and relevant international agreements including the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.



Officers from the State Department for Technical and Vocational Education Training urged Murang'a youth to enrol in TVET institutions, highlighting the shift from classroom learning to practical, hands-on training. Speaking at Kigumo Technical Training Institute, Catherine Ngari emphasized that the government is investing in modern equipment, workshops, and competency-based curricula to ensure graduates are industry-ready and employable. Principal Jennifer Gachago noted that Kenya has over 240 TVET institutions, offering market-driven courses aligned with learners' interests and labour market needs, though delays in government capitation funds remain a challenge for some students. Assistant County Commissioner Jonathan Wandera added that TVET training keeps youth engaged, reducing involvement in negative social behaviours. The initiative aims to expand across Murang'a, empowering more young people with practical skills.

Former Deputy President and DCP Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua disclosed that following a three-day retreat with like-minded legislators, the party has ratified its Plan of Action for the year. The discussions, which included strategic planning and setting priorities, culminated in the formal adoption of initiatives aimed at advancing the party's agenda. Gachagua confirmed that his deputy, Cleopas Malala has been tasked with leading the implementation of the Plan of Action, ensuring that the party's objectives are effectively executed. The move reflects a coordinated effort to strengthen party activities and enhance engagement with supporters, signaling a focused approach to advancing legislative and development priorities throughout the year.



A Netherlands Development Organisation dubbed SNV and the County Government of Uasin Gishu have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize and strengthen their partnership aimed at advancing inclusive and sustainable development in the county. The MoU, signed at the Uasin Gishu County government headquarters in Eldoret, provides a structured framework for collaboration in inclusive entrepreneurship, regenerative agriculture, water and sanitation, and the productive use of renewable energy, with a strong focus on women, youth, smallholder farmers, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Speaking during the signing ceremony, Rebecca Hallam, SNV Country Director for Kenya and Burundi, said the agreement symbolizes a shared commitment to practical, people-centred development.



The National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) has suspended the operating licences of four long-distance public service vehicle firms following fatal accidents and safety violations during the December festive season. The affected companies are Monna Comfort Sacco, Greenline Company, Naekana Route 134 Sacco Ltd, and Uwezo Coast Sacco. In addition, NTSA has given Guardian Coach Limited and Nanyuki Express Cab Services a 21-day ultimatum to address safety concerns and fully comply with regulations. The authority emphasized that these actions aim to enhance passenger safety and prevent further accidents on Kenya's roads.



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Lewa Conservancy And Meru County Launch First Maternity Wing In Remote Ngarendare

By: Dennis Dibondo
@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

- The project, a partnership between Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and the Meru County Government, aims to improve maternal and infant healthcare in areas previously underserved.
- Before the facility opened, women walked 18–20 kilometres to reach hospitals in Nanyuki, Meru Town, or Isiolo, often risking their lives and those of their unborn children. Residents like Irene Makena praised the new maternity wing for providing a hygienic, safe environment and changing the community's perception of neglect.

Expectant mothers in the remote villages of Ngarendare, Mbujuu and Manyangaro can now access safe childbirth services following the launch of the first-ever maternity wing at Ngare Ndare Dispensary.

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Before the facility opened, women walked 18–20 kilometres to reach hospitals in Nanyuki, Meru Town, or Isiolo, often risking their lives and those of their unborn children. Residents like Irene Makena praised the new maternity wing for providing a hygienic, safe environment and changing the community's perception of neglect.

Lisper Wanja highlighted how the intervention prevents home deliveries that often led to complications or deformities.

Meru Governor Mutuma M'Ethingia described the maternity wing as a life-changing project, promising deployment of medical officers and provision of adequate drugs to ensure 24-hour service.

Deputy Governor Linda Kiome encouraged residents to use the facility responsibly and stressed the importance of educating girls to prevent teenage pregnancies.

The maternity wing, built by the county government and fully equipped by Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, has a 12-bed capacity and modern delivery equipment, including baby warmers and partitions.

Lewa has invested over KSh3.3 million in equipping the facility and more than KSh5 million in laboratory equipment, staff housing, and salaries.



Meru governor Mutuma M'Ethingia commissions Ngaremare Maternity wing in Buuri constituency..

John Kinoti, Lewa Conservancy Programmes Coordinator, emphasized that the project supports both healthcare and environmental conservation by reducing risky travel during emergencies. Residents like Charles Mworia highlighted Lewa's broader role in community development, including support during droughts and improving education standards.

The launch marks a major milestone in enhancing healthcare access in landlocked Ngarendare, ensuring safer deliveries, reducing maternal and infant mortality, and fostering sustainable development in the region.



Lewa Wildlife Conservancy Chief Programs and Partnership John Kinoti speaks at the event. Photos/Dennis Dibondo..

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Ruto Vows To Shield Kenya's Transformation From Short-Term Politics As NYOTA Funds Roll Out

By: PCS and WMW

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The President was yesterday speaking during the launch of the KSh258.4 million NYOTA Business Capital Support disbursement for 10,337 young businesspeople from Nairobi, Kiambu and Kajiado counties at the Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani, Nairobi.
- He pointed out that the NYOTA programme was designed to support young people in business and has nothing to do with politics.
- "In the application process, was anyone asked which political party they belong to?" asked.
- More than 10,000 beneficiaries responded in the negative.
- President Ruto asked politicians not to politicise the programme, saying it will reach over 820,000 youth from each of the country's 1,450 wards.

The government will not undermine Kenya's transformation for short-term political or electoral gains, President William Ruto has said.

The President said the government is implementing programmes and policies that serve the country's future beyond the next election.

He explained that he was committed to ending the long-standing cycle of election-driven governance that has derailed Kenya's transformation.

"For a very long time, everything we have done is about politics and about the next election. That is why we don't succeed. We want to focus on how to move Kenya to the next level," he said.

Present were Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, Governors Johnson Sakaja (Nairobi), Joseph ole Lenku (Kajiado) and Anne Waiguru (Kirinyaga), Cabinet Secretaries Alfred Mutua (Labour), Wycliffe Oparanya (Cooperatives and MSMES), William Kabogo (ICT), Salim Mvurya (Sports), and Deborah Barasa (Environment), and MPs, among others.

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President Ruto asked politicians not to politicise the programme, saying it will reach over 820,000 youth from each of the country's 1,450 wards.

At least 70 young people in each ward will benefit from the KSh50,000 business start-up capital to boost their enterprises.

The President said the government is investing in programmes such as NYOTA to empower young people to be the drivers of the country's transformation.

In addition to spending close to 30 per cent of the national budget on education, the government is deliberately engaging and utilising the skills of the youth once they complete their studies and training.

On jobs creation, President Ruto cited the affordable housing project, digital jobs, and jobs abroad, among other programmes, as ways of creating opportunities for the youth.

"Jobs don't just happen; there must



President Ruto launching the programme yesterday as leaders led by his deputy Kithure Kindiki looks on. Photos/Courtesy..

be a plan for how they will come about," the President said.

In the digital space, he explained, business process outsourcing companies, ICT hubs across wards and Jitume centres at technical colleges are creating jobs for the youth.

The President also said the government is reforming the export of labour programme to ensure Kenyans access quality and secure jobs abroad.

He noted that the government, through the National Employment Authority (NEA), has listed credible job opportunities and agencies on its website.

Deputy President Kindiki said, for a long time, government programmes have focused on educated and skilled Kenyans.

He, however, explained that the

NYOTA programme is enhancing inclusivity through deliberate policies that are also empowering young people who haven't gone to school or didn't go far in education.

Cabinet Secretary Mutua asked young people not to accept any agency that offers jobs on a visitor's visa, saying such companies are fraudulent.

Under the jobs abroad programme, he explained that an applicant should get an employment visa and not a visitor's visa.

Mr Kabogo said the government is working towards creating more than one million jobs in the next 14 months.

Mr Oparanya said the government has implemented the NYOTA programme transparently unlike a previous one, the Kenya Youth Empower-

ment Opportunity Project.

He said the programme has over two million applicants, adding that the identification process was done using digital technology.

"Don't waste this chance. This is an opportunity that can transform your lives," he told the beneficiaries.

Governor Sakaja said the Nairobi County Government will waive business permits for beneficiaries of the NYOTA fund for the first two years.

His Kajiado counterpart, Governor Lenku, said leaders have a responsibility to create jobs for the youth.

He commended the NYOTA programme, saying the Kajiado County Government will support the beneficiaries of the fund, including waiving business permits for a year.



President William Ruto interacting with some of the beneficiaries.

Varsity Don Asks Leaders Not To Politicize Education Sector

By: James Wakahiu
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Dr Gaitho, who is also chairman of the University Council at MKU and chair of Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA)'s education board, said many people of his generation studied in different schools in various parts of the country, particularly for A Levels.
- "Some people from Mt Kenya region went to schools at the Coast, Rift Valley, Western Kenya," he noted.
- The university administrator said education thrives in a cool and quiet environment, not in a noisy atmosphere. "Politicians are now interfering," he added.
- He was speaking on current developments and challenges facing the education sector in Nairobi.



Dr Vincent Gichuru Gaitho, MKU Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of University Council, confers a PhD degree to one of the graduands last December.

Mount Kenya University (MKU) Pro-Chancellor, Dr Vincent Gaitho, has asked politicians to keep politics out of the education sector as it does not augur well for the future of the country.

"The education sector has no vacuum; it has its owners.

These include teachers, education officials, pupils, students, parents, private sector investors and government officials. Politicians should speak less," he said.

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He was speaking on current developments and challenges facing the education sector in Nairobi.

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has raised controversy after describing the current process on

the placement of Grade 10 learners in senior schools, as discriminatory and unfair to both the high-performing learners and their parents, particularly in Mount Kenya region.

"The placement of our children has been centralized at Jogoo House which is rooted in corruption because the bureaucrats sitting in Jogoo House have no capacity to place kids. Kids have been placed in a day school 300km from their home. How do you expect these children to go about with their lives?" Mr. Gachagua asked.

Gachagua said the senior school placement exercise has also exposed the inequalities facing the education sector despite the heavy investment through devolution and the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF).

The politician accused the leaders of Northern Kenya of failing to prioritise development, arguing that the devolution and the Equalisation Fund, as well as the equitable share of revenue to counties, were meant to correct historical marginalisation. He said after more than 10 years of devolution, a time had come for the country to re-examine the special treatment accorded to these counties.

According to Dr Gaitho, MKU has campuses all over the country. "Ed-

ucation is an equalizer and a unifier. Kids should be allowed to learn anywhere. However, counties should invest more in their local schools, support development of adequate infrastructure so that every part of Kenya becomes a magnet for those who seek education opportunities. Our problem is that we have many learners who are yet to join senior schools," he said.

He said most parents cannot afford uniforms and other requirements, let alone fees charged in senior schools. "We need to change our ways. The government has been too slow in releasing capitation funds. The little money schools have received has gone to pay old debts. The State is unable to pay for education in full," he said.

Dr Gaitho said Kiharu MP, Ndindi Nyoro, has set the pace for MPs by investing NG-CDF funds in schools in his constituency. "He should be emulated," he added.

The educationist praised the new Competency-Based Education (CBE), a major shift from the old 8-4-4 system, that focuses on practical skills, values, and real-world application rather than just rote learning, aiming to prepare students for 21st-century. "CBE is creating pathways such as sciences and technology, arts and sports," he noted.

Dr Gaitho decried the recent police attack on more than a dozen youths who were playing a pool game in Nandi Hills, Nandi County. "Why beat up the youth? Pool is a game, a sport played internationally," he said.

The brutal attack, which has raised uproar across the country, was also condemned by Embakasi East MP Babu Owino, who called for the immediate arrest and prosecution of officers involved. The Inspector General of Police, Douglas Kanja, has belatedly ordered an investigation into the incident of serious misconduct involving police officers at Nandi Hills Police Station.

Dr Gaitho said CBE should aim to train global civil servants. "We must grow the economy too to create jobs for the youth. Industry and academia should cooperate, work together so that learners can meet the expectations of industry," he added.

He called for dialogue between local publishers and the government on pending bills for text books supplied and the way forward. "They should talk. Funding is key. Corruption should be dealt with ruthlessly. Enhance dialogue and avoid chest thumping and invest in this crucial education sector," he said.

Ndegwa: Safaricom Operations, Kenyan Identity Safe Despite Planned State Divestiture

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyaintimes

Safaricom Chief Executive Officer Dr. Peter Ndegwa has assured Parliament that the Government of Kenya's proposed partial divestiture in the telecommunications firm will not disrupt operations, weaken governance, or erode the company's Kenyan identity.

Appearing before a joint sitting of the National Assembly's Committees on Finance and National Planning, and Public Debt and Privatisation, Ndegwa addressed concerns raised over Sessional Paper No. 3 of 2025, which proposes a reduction of the State's shareholding in Safaricom.

He told lawmakers that the transaction would not result in a transfer of operational control, dilution of regulatory oversight, or changes to Safaricom's board, management structure, or decision-making frameworks.

"The proposed divestiture is a standard shareholder action being undertaken within a strong legal and

regulatory framework that protects the public interest," Dr. Ndegwa said, adding that the current arrangements are designed to ensure continuity and stability for the company as a key driver of Kenya's economy.

A central concern raised by Members of Parliament was whether Safaricom would retain its Kenyan-centric culture if a foreign investor acquired a larger stake.

Finance and National Planning Committee Chairperson Kuria Kimani questioned how the company would safeguard its national identity and pricing sovereignty.

In response, Ndegwa reaffirmed that Safaricom would remain a Kenyan brand, including retaining its iconic green colour and brand identity.

"Safaricom has transformed the lives of Kenyans for 25 years. It has been Kenyan since inception, and that will not change. Safeguards within the transaction guarantee continuity in management identity and the preservation of our Kenyan character," he said.

The CEO also sought to allay fears from dealers and businesses within



Safaricom CEO Peter Ndegwa with some lawmakers.

Safaricom's ecosystem who have expressed concern over potential job losses and business closures. He assured MPs that all existing contractual agreements would remain intact and legally binding, and pledged to

convene a meeting with dealers to address their concerns.

Ndegwa concluded by affirming Safaricom's commitment to transparency, accountability, and national development, regardless of changes

in government ownership.

The joint parliamentary committee is expected to continue reviewing the Sessional Paper to assess the long-term implications of the proposed divestiture for taxpayers.



Mudavadi, French Foreign Minister Advance Africa–France Summit Agenda And Deepen Kenya–France Ties

By: PCS
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Mudavadi said Kenya attaches the highest strategic importance to hosting the summit and is keen to ensure it delivers tangible outcomes.
- He emphasized that Kenya’s objective is for the summit to adopt declarations that are concrete, bankable, and monitorable, particularly in priority areas such as reform of the international financial architecture, energy transition, green industrialisation, digital innovation, sustainable agriculture, health systems, and coordinated action on climate change.
- He welcomed France’s indication that the outcomes of the Nairobi summit will inform its agenda during its G7 Presidency in 2026, noting that Kenya is consolidating technical and policy teams to ensure coherence between the summit deliverables and the G7 process. According to Mudavadi, the summit is expected to focus on critical global challenges while creating an opportunity for African voices to play a central role in global decision-making.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has revealed that preparations for the Africa–France Summit, scheduled to take place in Nairobi on 11–12 May 2026, are in high gear following high-level talks with France’s Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Jean-Noël Barrot, in Paris. The summit will be historic as it is the first Africa–France Summit to be hosted in a non-Francophone African country since the forum was established in 1973.

Mudavadi said Kenya attaches the highest strategic importance to hosting the summit and is keen to ensure it delivers tangible outcomes.

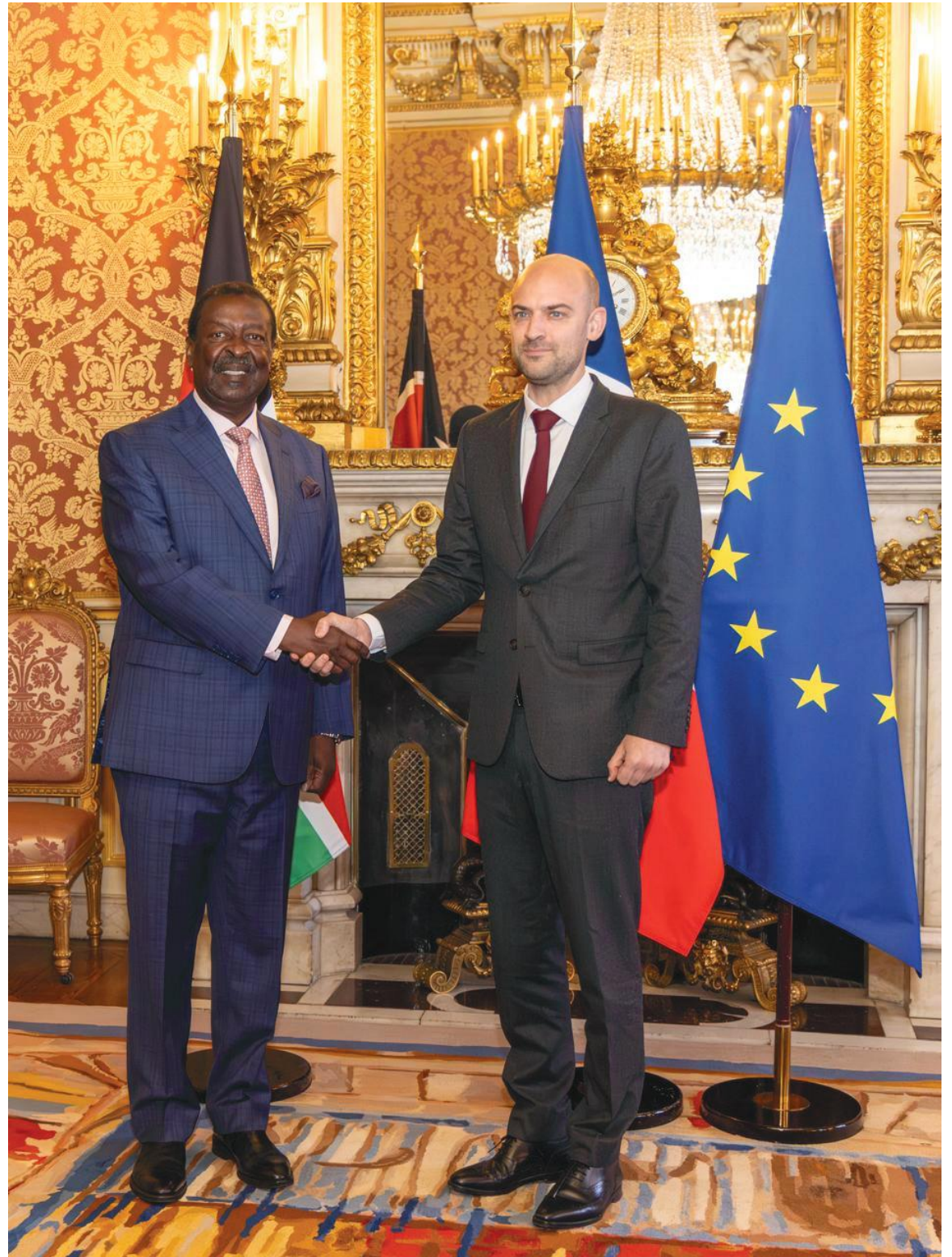
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Mudavadi also underscored the importance of France as a key economic partner for Kenya in Europe and a vital gateway to the broader European Union market, especially following the entry into force of the Kenya–EU Economic Partnership Agreement in July 2024. He reaffirmed Kenya’s full political commitment to delivering a successful summit and invited France to continue offering strong political and technical support during the preparatory phase.

Beyond the summit, the talks focused on deepening Kenya–France bilateral relations anchored in shared values, mutual respect, peace, development, and multilateralism. Mudavadi acknowledged the evolving and more inclusive nature of Africa–France relations but noted that Kenya’s trade with France remains structurally imbalanced. Kenya mainly exports primary and semi-processed agricultural products while importing high-value industrial and pharmaceutical goods, a pattern he said is inconsistent with Kenya’s industrialisation agenda.

To address this, Mudavadi said Kenya seeks to transform the relationship



Musalia Mudavadi with Jean-Noël Barrot in Paris yesterday.

from a trade-focused one to a production- and investment-driven partnership centered on value addition, industrial cooperation, and technology transfer. He invited French companies to invest more in manufacturing, agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, green industries, logistics, and digital technologies, positioning Kenya as a regional production and export hub for Africa.

The Prime CS also highlighted cooperation under the Win Win Africa (Agora) initiative, particularly in youth empowerment, social cohesion, and community-based sports

infrastructure. He noted that the programme is at the project preparation stage, with Kenya required to finalize key documentation to unlock financing.

On peace and security, Kenya and France reviewed regional and global security dynamics and reaffirmed the importance of respecting the UN Charter and international law. Mudavadi said Kenya would value France’s support, including through the European Peace Facility and the Kenya–EU Strategic Partnership, to help address financing and capability gaps in peace missions.

Discussions further covered health, human development, transport, infrastructure, and aviation. Mudavadi acknowledged France’s substantial support to Kenya’s health sector, including a €136 million cooperation envelope and the Food4Education partnership, and pointed to opportunities for collaboration on major infrastructure projects such as the modernization of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and expansion of the Nairobi Commuter Rail.

Mau Mau Group Seeks Police Support Amid Rivalries And Push For National Registration

By: MKT Reporters
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- MMV Associates CLG Director James Mahuria Njuguna said divisions among Mau Mau groups, coupled with claims of political inclination, had in the past brewed bad blood among former freedom fighters and their descendants, making security and neutrality critical during official activities.
- Mahuria further revealed that competition among financial institutions had also fuelled tension, with some banks allegedly encouraging members to influence decisions on where the group should open accounts.
- He said the pressure was driven by expectations of a potential financial windfall once long-awaited compensation funds for Mau Mau families are released.
- On claims of political alignment, Mahuria emphasised that MMV Associates CLG is a non-political and neutral organisation, whose sole objective is to advocate for justice, recognition and compensation for Mau Mau veterans and their descendants.

A lobby group representing former freedom fighters and their descendants has sought police support to ensure smooth registration of its members and the opening of offices across the country, citing internal rivalries, tensions and competing interests within the wider Mau Mau movement.

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Against this backdrop, the Children of Mau Mau – Post Colonial Elites formally wrote to the County Police Commanders across the country requesting the deployment of two uniformed police officers to provide security during the opening of its offices, registration of members and the opening of a bank account with the National Bank of Kenya.

In the letter dated January 16, 2026, the group said the officers would help facilitate orderly operations.

Copies of the request were also forwarded to the County Commissioners, among other government officials.

Children of Mau Mau – Post Colonial Elites is an umbrella initiative bringing together descendants of Mau Mau fighters and war veterans.

The group aims to preserve Mau Mau indigenous knowledge, document untold histories of the liberation struggle, promote intergenerational dialogue and address the historical marginalisation of Mau Mau families in post-independence Kenya.

It works in partnership with Mau Mau War Veterans Associations, Mau Mau Indigenous Knowledge networks, the Jeremiah Mugi Foun-



Former freedom fighters addressing the media in the past. Photo/Courtesy.

ation, and MMV Associates CLG. The request for police support follows a major members' registration and consultative forum held weeks earlier at Panari Resort in Nyahuru.

The meeting brought together Mau Mau descendants, veterans' representatives, scholars and civil society actors from across the country.

During the Nyahuru forum, participants discussed governance structures, membership registra-

tion, and plans to establish county offices as part of a broader strategy to decentralise the organisation's activities and strengthen grassroots engagement.

Organisers described the Nyahuru meeting as a major milestone, noting that hundreds of members were registered and sensitised on the group's vision, programmes and long-term agenda. They said establishing offices in counties such as Tharaka Nithi is intended to take the

organisation closer to communities that were epicentres of the Mau Mau struggle.

Once fully operational, the group said its county offices will serve as hubs for documentation, civic education, cultural preservation and support services for Mau Mau families, as well as coordination centres for advocacy on compensation and historical justice.



Members of MMV Associates CLG going through documents in the ongoing registration. Photo/Courtesy.

Veteran Journalist Elias Makori Awarded 'Lifetime Honour' At AFCON

By: Suleiman Mbatiah
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Makori and veteran football commentator Bernard Otieno were among a select group of African media professionals recognised for their individual roles in sports development, media excellence and long service to the profession.
- The ceremony was held at the FIFA Africa headquarters in Salé, Rabat, on the sidelines of the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2025 tournament in Morocco.
- The event brought together senior football officials, journalists and broadcasters from across Africa and beyond.
- The awards were presented by the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) in partnership with the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and FIFA. Winners in the competitive categories received prize money, certificates and commemorative plaques.

Veteran sports journalist Elias Makori has been honoured for his lifetime contribution to sports journalism in Kenya and across Africa, marking another milestone in a career that has shaped sports coverage on the continent for more than three decades.

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The recognition is part of the annual AIPS Sport Media Awards, a global programme that attracts entries from journalists worldwide and honours excellence in writing, photography, broadcast journalism and sports storytelling across platforms.

Founded in 1924, AIPS is the world's leading professional association for sports journalists. It represents national sports writers' associations across more than 160 countries and works to promote ethical standards, professional development and press freedom within sports media.

Through its awards programme, AIPS seeks to highlight high-quality sports journalism while encouraging innovation, depth and responsibility in reporting across print, broadcast and digital platforms.

The awards reflect the breadth and diversity of contemporary sports journalism, recognising work produced across different regions, cultures and media formats.

Makori, a former managing editor of sports at Nation Media Group, has spent more than 30 years covering major global sporting events and mentoring younger journalists in the field.

In June 2024, he founded Pura Vida Sports Africa, a media platform aimed at amplifying African sports stories, highlighting local talent, and providing deeper coverage of the continent's athletes, competitions and



Elias Makori after he received the award. Photo/Courtesy.

sporting institutions.

His career includes coverage of multiple Olympic Games, World Championships and FIFA World Cups, alongside extensive reporting on athletics, football and other international competitions.

In 2012, Makori was named World Journalist of the Year by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), becoming the first African journalist to receive the honour. Reacting to the Legend Award recognition, Makori said the honour was a fitting way to conclude the continental football showpiece, describing it as a meaningful moment at the close of the Africa Cup of Nations tournament.

“What a winning way to wind up AFCON Morocco 2025. God is

good. We keep pushing,” he said in a Facebook post, adding that he would continue using journalism as a tool to support the growth of sport in Africa. Bernard Otieno was recognised for his contribution to football commentary, with organisers citing his long and distinguished career in broadcast journalism.

Otieno remains the only Kenyan commentator to have covered two FIFA World Cups, having called matches at the 1998 finals in France and the 2010 tournament in South Africa.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino and CAF head of communications Luxolo September attended the event and took part in presenting the awards to the recipients.

Speaking at the event, Infantino

commended CAF, host nation Morocco and all the participating teams for what he described as an outstanding AFCON, stressing the tournament's growing stature on the global stage.

“I am proud of CAF, Morocco and the participating teams during the tournament. It has been absolutely spectacular, top level,” Infantino said while reserving special praise for African journalists, acknowledging their role in promoting the game and connecting fans to their heroes.

The Legend award recognises journalists whose work over time has elevated African sport locally and internationally, and whose careers reflect consistency, professional excellence and lasting impact.

Mother, Give Me Comfort



The traces of my childhood still remain.
My roads are filled with memories and pain.
My father's words live deep inside my heart.
Mother, please give me comfort.

Silent nights keep crushing down my soul.
Tears wander quietly, beyond control.
My father's spirit speaks to me once more.
Mother, please give me comfort.

When rain is falling, my heart starts to shake.
It reminds my soul of my father's fate.
Your love alone gives strength to stand tall.
Mother, please give me comfort.

Every moment you whisper prayers for me.
Every time you gently comfort me.
When you bring peace into my chest and soul.
Mother, please give me comfort.

When life's hard trials begin to burn me.
When your love embraces me with light.
If at this moment it were possible.
Mother, please give me comfort.

Jahongir Murodov
Uzbekistan

Stay Close To People Who Want To See You Win



Stay close to people who want to see you win
They don't feel any sort of hatred or jealousy
In this world, such people are very rare
If you come across, don't lose them

Just stay close to them
They'll be there to lift you

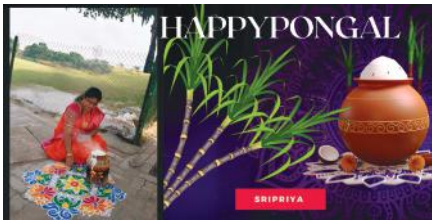
when you fall down
They will never put you to shame

Trust them and believe them
Their support is always needed for you
Because it is real and genuine
You learn a lot of lessons from them

Stay connected with them always
If any crack happens, just mend it
Don't make it grow bigger
They are your life asset

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

Happy Pongal



At sunrise, I bow to Surya's flame,
Chanting thanks in ancestors' name.
The earthen pot on sacred fire,
Boils with hope and pure desire.

Rice and jaggery gently blend,
Sweet as prayers the elders send.

I feel my past in harvest song,
In plough and field where I belong.
With folded hands and humbled soul,
I thank the cow, the land made whole.
Rooted deep, yet moving on—
I greet this day: Happy Pongal dawn. 🌾 ✨

SRIPRIYA R
BT ENGLISH GHSS KOLAPAKKAM
KANCHIPURAM DISTRICT TAMILNADU
INDIA

Steps To A Better Tomorrow



Steps to a better tomorrow
Lending hands for the needy
Lift your spirits up.
Holding them to advance further.
Take us to the brightest future.

Yet look before you leap.
To avoid later weep.
Today's reader becomes tomorrow's leader.
We rise by lifting others.

Shoulder others' burden is a cool bay
To mend our way.
Cautious about our clutching clips.
To steer clear of life's messy trips.
M DEVIKA
CREATIVE WRITERS
PGT ENGLISH
FIITJEE GLOBAL SCHOOL, CHENNAI,
TAMILNADU, INDIA.

Tick...Tick... Tick.



Tick.. tick.. tick..
Yelled my clock to be quick
At the dawn after the sound of alarm
Made me run as its hand
With pouring sweat gland.
Started to kick..kick.. kick
My chariot (jupiter) which was sick
At last it co operated
But stopped with a sound not tolerated-

Whee..whee..whee..the whistling
Of a cop; with his eyes as wrestling
Enquired to pay for not wearing mask
Yes! agreed, as it was hard task.
Click.. click..click..
Opened my box to pick
My clutch--
But found only key bunch.
Ting..ting..ting..
Took my cell to ping
My best half;
Alas! he whipped as a golf. Bang..bang..
bang..
With roasted words as cracker
Stirred my sleep- my hubby: the attacker.
G.Sarala.
creative writers
Chennai
India

True Colours



True Colours
If someone shows you
their true colours,
don't try to repaint them.

We trust people,
call them friends,
and walk beside them.

For a while,
they may fool us,
yet we continue the bond
smoothly, blindly.

We ignore the moments
they tried to pull us down,
because we believed
they were good friends.

When their real face appears,
walk away without anger.
Silence is strength,
distance is wisdom.

V. JAYANTHI
Graduate teacher
Creative writer
Chengalpattu

DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

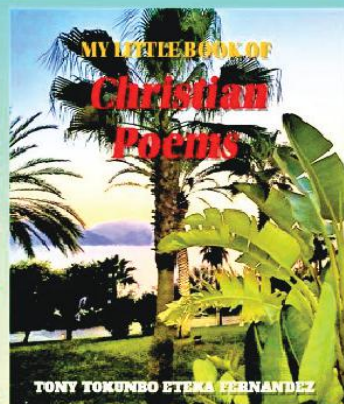
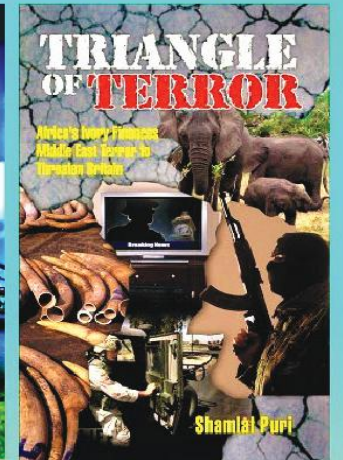
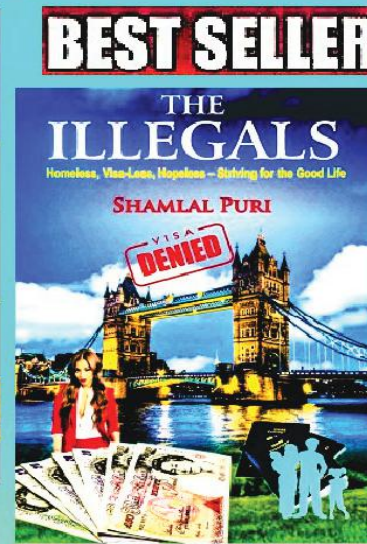
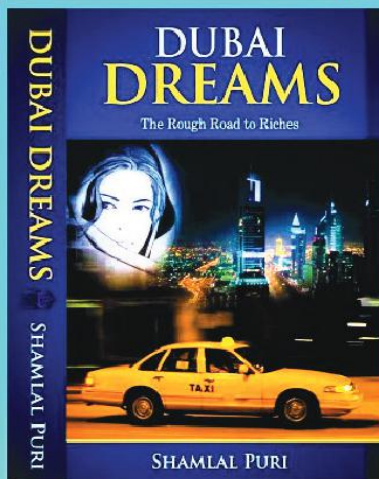
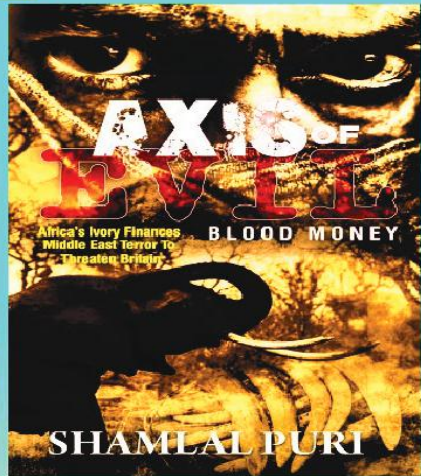
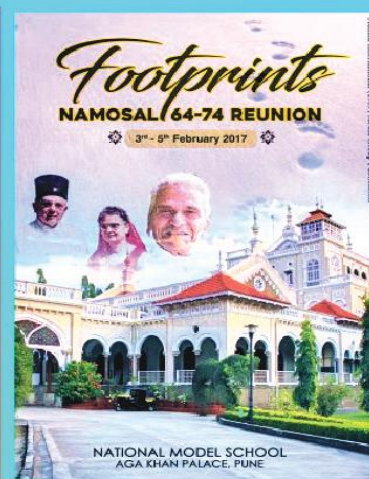
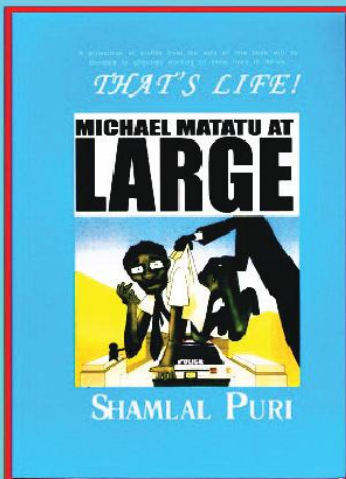
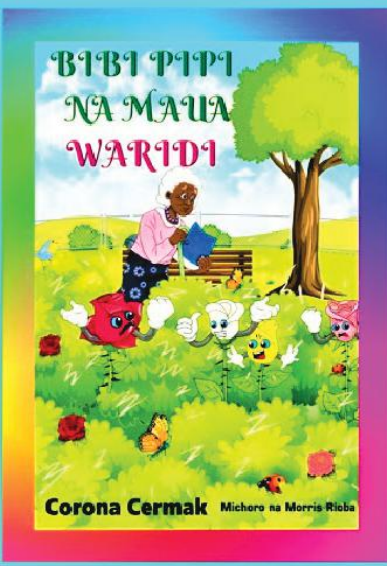
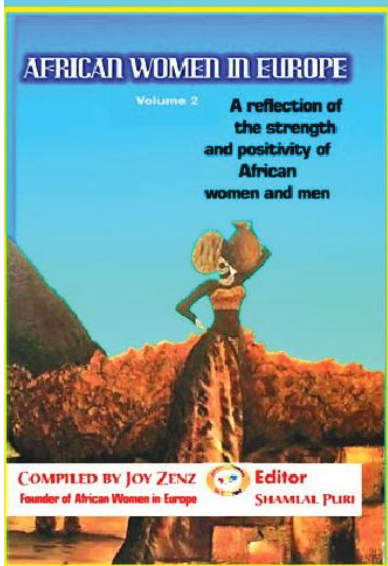
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BUSINESS

KTDA Launches Competitive Search for New Group CEO

By: William Muchiri
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The Board emphasized that the recruitment will be strictly merit-driven and free from bias, with candidates to be evaluated on demonstrable competence, sector experience and leadership capacity.
- An independent, professional recruitment panel has been engaged to manage the search and shortlisting process.
- “The Board is committed to a fair, transparent and competitive process that identifies the most qualified candidate to lead KTDA into its next chapter,” the statement said, adding that the best interests of smallholder tea farmers and stakeholders across the tea value chain would remain central throughout the process. The recruitment follows the decision by the current Group CEO, Mr. Wilson Muthaura, to proceed on his pending annual leave days as he approaches the mandatory retirement age of 60.



Chege Kirundi

The Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) Holdings Limited has launched a competitive, merit-based recruitment process to appoint a new Group Chief Executive Officer, marking a significant leadership transition at one of the country’s most influential agribusiness institutions.

In a statement issued yesterday, the KTDA Board said the process has already attracted strong interest, with about 50 applications received so far.

The statement, by the board chairman Chege Kirundi disclosed that five of the applicants are internal candidates drawn from KTDA’s senior leadership ranks, including serving Managing Directors and General Managers.

The Board emphasized that the recruitment will be strictly merit-driven and free from bias, with candidates to be evaluated on demonstrable competence, sector experience and leadership capacity.

An independent, professional recruitment panel has been engaged to manage the search and shortlisting process.

“The Board is committed to a fair, transparent and competitive process that identifies the most qualified candidate to lead KTDA into its next chapter,” the statement said, adding that the best interests of smallholder tea farmers and stakeholders across the tea value chain would remain central throughout the process.

The recruitment follows the decision by the current Group CEO, Mr. Wilson Muthaura, to proceed on his pending annual leave days as he approaches the mandatory retirement age of 60.

Mr. Muthaura, who has served for five and a half years, will be accorded an appropriate send-off package in recognition of his service to the organization.

To ensure continuity of leadership during the transition, the Board has appointed Eng. Francis Miano as Acting Group Chief Executive Officer.

The Board noted that Mr. Simon Rugut, who would ordinarily have acted in the position, was on approved leave at the time the interim appointment became necessary.

According to the Board, the recruitment process will involve shortlisting against a published job specification, objective assessments and competency-based interviews, comprehensive reference and background checks, and final selection by the Board based on the recruitment panel’s recommendations.

Shortlisted candidates are expected to be invited for assessments in the coming weeks, with the Board pledging to communicate key milestones and announce the successful candidate once all due diligence and approvals are completed.

KTDA is one of Kenya’s largest and most strategic agribusiness institu-



Wilson Muthaura

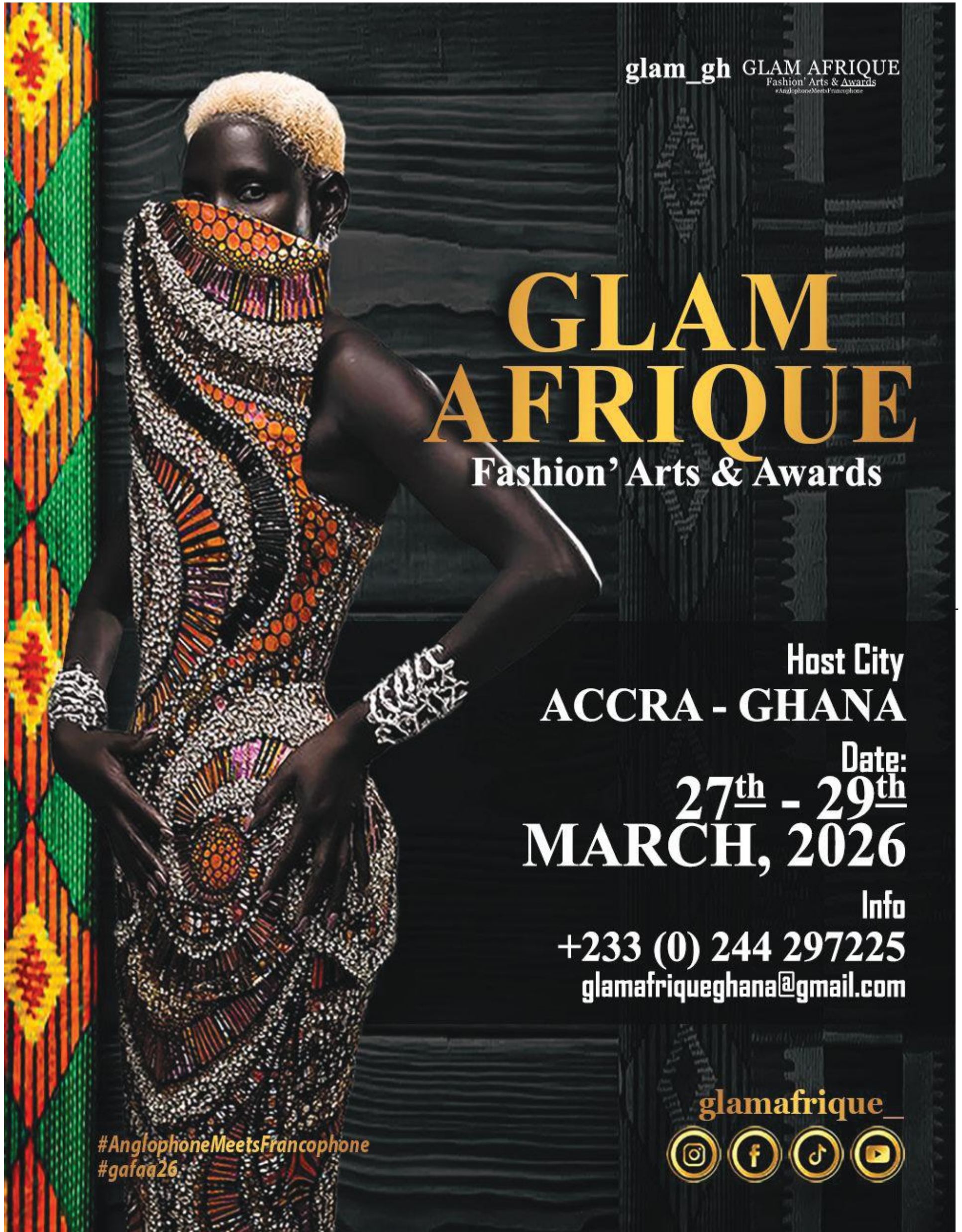


Francis Miano

tions, managing the processing and marketing of tea on behalf of more than 600,000 smallholder farmers.

Through its network of tea factories and subsidiaries, KTDA plays a critical role in the livelihoods of millions of Kenyans and is a major contributor to the country’s export earnings.

The Board reiterated that operations would continue uninterrupted during the transition, assuring farmers and partners of stability as the organization prepares for a new phase of leadership.



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Why Judicial Temperament Matters In Kenyan Democracy



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyentimes

Judicial temperament refers to the personal qualities, demeanor, and character traits that enable judges to discharge their duties fairly and effectively. It encompasses patience, open-mindedness, courtesy, decisiveness, compassion, and the ability to remain calm under pressure. In Kenya's constitutional democracy, where the judiciary serves as the guardian of the 2010 Constitution and the ultimate arbiter of disputes between citizens and the state, these qualities become indispensable to the functioning of the entire democratic system.

The Kenyan Constitution established an independent judiciary as one of three co-equal branches of government, tasked with interpreting and upholding the supreme law of the land. This independence, however, means little if judges lack the temperament to exercise their authority wisely and fairly. A judge with poor temperament may rush to judgment, display bias, or allow personal feelings to cloud legal reasoning, thereby undermining public confidence in the entire judicial system. In a country where historical mistrust of institutions runs deep, such failures can be catastrophic.

Kenya's constitutional democracy places the judiciary at the center of protecting fundamental rights and freedoms. Citizens regularly approach courts seeking remedies for violations of their constitutional rights, from freedom of expression to economic and social rights. Judges must approach these cases with empathy and understanding while maintaining objectivity. A judge who dismisses litigants with impatience or treats their concerns with disdain not only denies justice in individual cases but also discourages others from seeking legal recourse, effectively closing the courthouse doors to those most in need of protection.

The public nature of judicial proceedings in Kenya means that judges serve as role models for civic discourse and conflict resolution. When judges demonstrate respect for all parties, listen attentively to arguments, and explain their reasoning clearly and calmly, they model the kind of deliberative democracy that Kenya aspires to achieve. Conversely, judges who are combative,

dismissive, or arrogant set a negative example that can ripple through society, normalizing incivility and undermining respect for legal processes.

In Kenya's politically charged environment, where elections and governance issues frequently end up in court, judicial temperament becomes a shield against political pressure and manipulation. Judges must possess the emotional fortitude to withstand criticism, threats, and inducements while remaining focused on the law and facts before them. The 2017 election annulment revealed the intense pressure Kenyan judges face, with some receiving death threats. Only judges with exceptional temperament can maintain their independence and impartiality under such circumstances.

The collegial nature of appellate decision-making in Kenya's Court of Appeal and Supreme Court further underscores the importance of judicial temperament. Judges must work together, deliberate respectfully, and sometimes agree to disagree while maintaining professional relationships. A judge with poor temperament can poison collegial dynamics, leading to dysfunctional courts and inconsistent jurisprudence. The ability to engage in reasoned dialogue, consider opposing viewpoints, and build consensus is essential for producing coherent legal doctrine that guides lower courts and shapes Kenyan law.

Judicial temperament also affects the efficiency of Kenya's overburdened court system. Judges who are organized, decisive, and manage their courtrooms effectively can resolve cases more quickly, reducing the backlog that has long plagued Kenyan courts. Patient judges who give parties adequate opportunity to present their cases while maintaining control of proceedings strike the necessary balance between thoroughness and efficiency. In a system where justice delayed is often justice denied, temperament directly impacts access to justice for ordinary Kenyans.

The interpretive challenges facing Kenyan judges demand a particular psychological and intellectual disposition that extends far beyond mere technical competence. Constitutional adjudication in Kenya frequently involves navigating tensions between individual liberties and collective social goods, between traditional customary practices and modern human rights standards, and between the separation of powers and the judiciary's duty to check governmental excess. A judge confronting such dilemmas must possess the capacity for nuanced thinking that resists simplistic binary choices. This requires an openness to complexity and ambiguity, recognizing that constitutional text often deliberately employs



broad language to accommodate evolving societal values rather than providing algorithmic answers. Furthermore, the temperament to engage genuinely with opposing viewpoints treating dissenting legal theories not as threats to be dismissed but as perspectives deserving serious consideration enables judges to refine their reasoning through dialectical engagement. The absence of such intellectual flexibility produces jurisprudence that either clings dogmatically to narrow textualism, ignoring the Constitution's spirit and purpose, or conversely abandons interpretive discipline entirely, transforming constitutional adjudication into an exercise of unfettered judicial discretion where outcomes reflect the judge's ideology rather than principled legal analysis.

The psychological fortitude required for constitutional interpretation manifests particularly in cases where legal duty conflicts with popular sentiment or political pressure. Kenya's judges regularly confront situations where the constitutionally correct decision proves deeply unpopular with significant portions of society, powerful political actors, or even the legal community itself. A judge with appropriate temperament must cultivate what might be termed "principled independence" the internal strength to withstand external pressures while remaining sufficiently self-aware to distinguish genuine constitutional commitment from personal stubbornness.

This balance proves extraordinarily difficult in practice, as judges must simultaneously insulate themselves from improper influences while remaining attentive to how their decisions affect real people and communities. Moreover, the temperamental quality of prudence becomes essential when judges must determine the pace and scope of constitutional change, recognizing that overly aggressive intervention may provoke backlash that undermines long-term constitutional development, while

excessive caution may abandon vulnerable populations to continued violations of their fundamental rights. The judge who lacks this temperamental equilibrium either becomes a timid functionary who defers excessively to coordinate branches of government, abdicating the judiciary's constitutional role, or transforms into a judicial activist whose overreach delegitimizes the court and invites institutional retaliation.

The relational dimensions of judicial temperament prove equally consequential in Kenya's constitutional framework, particularly given the country's diverse population and the judiciary's role in managing conflicts across ethnic, religious, regional, and socioeconomic lines. Judges must cultivate genuine empathy not sympathy that clouds judgment, but the imaginative capacity to understand how constitutional principles operate in the lived experiences of ordinary Kenyans from vastly different circumstances. This empathetic understanding enables judges to appreciate the practical consequences of their interpretive choices and to communicate those choices in language that resonates beyond elite legal circles.

Additionally, the temperamental quality of respectfulness toward litigants, lawyers, and fellow judges creates an adjudicative environment where all parties feel heard even when they lose, which substantially enhances the perceived legitimacy of judicial outcomes. The courtroom demeanor that treats all persons with dignity, regardless of their social status or the popularity of their cause, reinforces the constitutional promise of equality before the law. Conversely, judges who display arrogance, impatience, or contempt toward those appearing before them corrode public confidence in the judiciary's fairness, creating the impression that judicial outcomes depend on the judge's personal reactions rather than neutral application of constitutional principles.

The cumulative effect of judicial

temperament on Kenya's constitutional order cannot be overstated, as the judiciary's institutional health depends fundamentally on the character of the individuals who comprise it. Unlike executive agencies that can compel compliance through administrative enforcement mechanisms, or legislatures that derive authority from direct electoral mandates, courts possess what Alexander Hamilton termed "neither force nor will, but merely judgment." In the Kenyan context, where the judiciary operates within a relatively young constitutional framework still establishing its institutional traditions, the demonstration of sound temperament by individual judges becomes the primary currency through which the entire institution accumulates moral authority.

Each instance of a judge displaying patience under provocation, revising an initial conclusion after careful reflection, or explaining an unpopular decision with clarity and respect contributes incrementally to a reservoir of public trust that sustains judicial independence during periods of political hostility. This trust proves especially critical in a society where memories of judicial corruption and executive manipulation remain vivid, making Kenyans understandably skeptical of institutional claims to authority. The judge who combines substantive legal expertise with temperamental virtues humility without weakness, confidence without arrogance, empathy without bias, independence without isolation demonstrates through personal example that the Constitution can function as a genuine framework for justice rather than an instrument of elite manipulation, thereby vindicating the transformative promise of Kenya's 2010 constitutional settlement.

The writer is a lawyer



Guidance And Counselling: The Backbone Against Peer Pressure In High Schools

Peer pressure in high schools is often misunderstood as a single dramatic moment of influence. In reality, it is more insidious—a gradual erosion of values through what psychologists call the “boiling frog” syndrome. Students rarely leap into harmful behavior at once; instead, they accept small compromises that slowly shift their baseline of what is acceptable. By the time they realize it, their identity has been reshaped by forces outside their control.



This is why guidance and counselling must be institutionalized as a backbone of secondary education. Without structured support, young people are left vulnerable to the economics of social capital, where authenticity is traded for temporary approval. Saying “yes” to fit in may earn popularity points, but saying “no” builds respect capital—the kind of integrity that sustains leadership and trust.

The challenge has intensified in the digital age. Peer pressure no

longer ends at the school gate; it lives in smartphones, where curated images and algorithmic echo chambers amplify the false consensus effect. Counsellors must therefore equip students with digital minimalism strategies, teaching them to curate feeds that inspire growth rather than trigger fear of missing out.

Moreover, schools must guard against groupthink, where harmony overrides sound judgment. Assigning a “devil’s advocate” in discussions normalizes dissent and protects independent

thought. Ultimately, the freedom to be disliked is the highest form of psychological independence. Students must learn that standing for something inevitably means resisting conformity.

Guidance and counselling, when embedded deeply in school culture, is not a luxury—it is the shield that preserves identity, nurtures resilience, and prepares young people to lead with conviction.

By *Magdaline Amusugut, Laikipia University*

Protecting Each Other’s Dignity Matters

Dignity is the inherent worth of every person simply because they are human. It is the recognition that people deserve to be treated as valuable beings, not as objects. Protecting dignity begins with respect, expressed in how we speak, listen, and respond to one another. Words can strip away a person’s sense of worth, but they can also uplift and transform lives. Choosing kindness, empathy, and fairness acknowledges that other people’s feelings matter.

Even in disagreement, respect allows us to challenge ideas without attacking individuals or resorting to bias. Equality is central to dignity: every person deserves fair treatment regardless of race, color, origin, or circumstance. Too often, judgments are made without understanding the limited choices others may have faced. Listening becomes a powerful tool in this regard. Paying genuine attention to someone’s perspective, even when it differs from our own, communicates value and prevents conflicts rooted in dismissal or neglect.

Self dignity is equally vital.



When individuals recognize their own worth, they are less likely to tolerate abuse or disrespect. A society that nurtures self respect fosters stronger, healthier relationships built on mutual care. Protecting dignity does not require grand gestures; it thrives in small, meaningful acts. Offering help without humiliation, correcting mistakes without shaming, and showing understanding in moments of

weakness all reinforce the principle that dignity matters.

Ultimately, safeguarding dignity is about building a culture where respect is the default, empathy is practiced, and every individual’s humanity is honored. Such a society is not only fairer but also more resilient.

By *Grace Ekwom, Laikipia University*

Unleashing Youth Potential By Dismantling Systemic Barriers

Kenya’s greatest asset is its youth—energetic, educated, and increasingly conscious of their role in shaping the nation’s future. Yet ambition often collides with resistance, not from a lack of talent or effort, but from systemic barriers that restrict access to opportunities. Empowerment programmes exist, but without meaningful reforms, youth potential remains largely untapped.



Each year, thousands of graduates enter a job market that cannot absorb them. Others with innovative ideas struggle to secure capital, mentorship, or market access. Too often, public and private systems reward connections over competence, leaving qualified young people sidelined. Training workshops and short-term funding schemes offer hope, but they rarely deliver lasting solutions.

The barriers are structural as much as economic. Bureaucratic hurdles make starting businesses or accessing government support unnecessarily difficult. Recruit-

ment processes lack transparency, while policies designed to favor youth are poorly implemented. In rural areas, limited digital access and weak infrastructure further widen the gap, ensuring opportunity remains unevenly distributed.

Despite these challenges, Kenyan youth continue to demonstrate resilience. They lead social movements, drive innovation in the digital economy, and craft informal solutions where formal systems falter. Yet resilience should not be mistaken for sufficiency. A sustainable future cannot rest on survival instincts

alone.

True empowerment requires dismantling systemic barriers to jobs, finance, and decision-making spaces. Transparent governance, inclusive economic policies, and genuine youth representation are essential. If Kenya invests in reforming systems as seriously as it invests in individuals, the payoff will be transformative—turning potential into progress and promise into prosperity.

By *Christine Simiyu, Laikipia University*

Building Inclusive Learning Environments Through Teachers

In today’s classrooms, diversity is not an exception but the norm. Students arrive with varied backgrounds, abilities, and learning styles, and it is the teacher’s role to ensure that each one feels valued and supported. Teachers are more than transmitters of knowledge; they are facilitators, advocates, and mentors who shape both the academic and social landscapes of their classrooms. Recognizing and embracing diversity allows them to tailor instruction so that no learner is left behind.

A supportive learning environment begins with a positive classroom culture. Teachers cultivate belonging by encouraging open communication and collaboration, using group activities that promote teamwork and respect for differing perspectives. Inclusive language and materials that reflect diverse cultures further reinforce the message that every student matters.

Differentiated instruction is



another cornerstone of effective teaching. By integrating visual aids, hands on activities, and technology, teachers can meet the needs of students who learn at different paces and in different ways. Regular assessment and constructive feedback help identify areas for growth and guide adjustments in teaching strategies.

Supportive environments also extend beyond academics. Teachers must be attuned to the emotional well being of their students, offering empathy, resources, and encouragement

to those facing challenges. By fostering resilience and self advocacy, they empower learners to navigate obstacles with confidence.

Ultimately, effective teachers nurture classrooms that celebrate diversity and inclusion. They create spaces where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, laying the foundation for a more equitable and compassionate society.

By *Angela Mwanga, Laikipia University*

European Countries Rally Against U.S. Tariff Over Greenland

By: Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Momentum to push back was gathered at the EU level. Valerie Hayer, president of the Renew Europe group in the European Parliament, urged EU leaders to activate the bloc's never-used "Anti-Coercion Instrument," dubbed an "economic nuclear weapon"
- The mechanism would allow immediate retaliation, including punitive tariffs, market bans, financial sanctions, and the suspension of U.S. patents and licences, without recourse to the United Nations or the World Trade Organization.
- Noting that the United States exports more than 500 billion U.S. dollars of goods to the EU each year, making the bloc Washington's largest market, Hayer warned that Trump "should think twice," stressing that the EU is "not afraid to use deterrence for our defense."

The transatlantic rift over Greenland deepened remarkably on Sunday as Europe mounted a rare, unified rebuke to punitive tariff threats from U.S. President Donald Trump.

In the strongest coordinated response so far, the eight countries directly targeted by the proposed tariffs -- Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom -- issued a joint statement declaring "full solidarity" with Denmark and Greenland. They warned the U.S. move risked a "dangerous downward spiral" in transatlantic relations and vowed a "united and coordinated" response to uphold sovereignty. European Council President Antonio Costa said on X that the European Union (EU) is "ready to defend itself against any form of coercion" in response to Trump's tariff threats. National reactions were swift and unequivocal, with European leaders and ministers branding the U.S. threat coercive and unacceptable. Dutch Foreign Minister David van Weel explicitly called the tariffs an act of "blackmail," urging Washington to withdraw the "ridiculous proposal" before it takes effect. German Vice Chancellor and Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil said Berlin "must not allow itself to be intimidated," adding that "a line has been crossed." Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen posted on social media that "Europe will not be blackmailed." Underscoring the universal support for Denmark, she said this is now "an issue that reaches far beyond our own borders."

CALL FOR IMMEDIATE RETALIATION

Momentum to push back was gathered at the EU level. Valerie Hayer, president of the Renew Europe group in the European Parliament, urged EU leaders to activate the bloc's never-used "Anti-Coercion Instrument," dubbed an "economic nuclear weapon." The mechanism would allow immediate retaliation, including punitive tariffs, market bans, financial sanctions, and the suspension of U.S. patents and licences, without recourse to the United Nations or the World Trade Organization. Noting that the United States exports more than 500 billion U.S. dollars of goods to the EU each year, making the bloc Washington's largest market, Hayer warned that Trump "should think twice," stressing that the EU is "not afraid to use deterrence for our defense."



On Sunday night, a report by Financial Times said that EU capitals are considering hitting Washington with 93 billion euros (107.68 billion U.S. dollars) worth of tariffs or reviving the "Anti-Coercion Instrument." Describing the tariffs as "unacceptable," French President Emmanuel Macron's office also confirmed that the president would request the same course of action if Washington follows through on its threat. After meeting his Norwegian counterpart, Espen Barth Eide, in Oslo, Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen said he had "no doubt about the support from Europe," even in the face of a costly tariff war. "We must do everything we can to implement the principles," Rasmussen added. Meanwhile, Eide said, "We will not yield to pressure."

BROADER CHORUS OF REBUKE

Beyond the directly targeted states, other European countries joined the criticism of the U.S. move. Italian

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, speaking during a visit to South Korea, called the tariff threats "a mistake." After separate calls on Sunday with Denmark Prime Minister Frederiksen, the European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, and NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, as well as Trump, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer repeated that it is wrong to apply tariffs on allies for pursuing the collective security of NATO allies.

On Saturday, Starmer said Britain's position on Greenland is very clear: "it is part of the Kingdom of Denmark, and its future is a matter for the Greenlanders and the Danes," branding the U.S. threat "completely wrong." Ireland's Foreign Minister Helen McEntee emphasized the fundamental principles of the UN Charter. "There can be no lasting peace and security in a world where these principles are ignored and undermined," she said. The Croatian government said allies should respect each other and acknowledge the fact that Greenland is part of Denmark.

"In this context, we express our solidarity with Denmark and the people of Greenland," it said, adding that additional tariffs would upset the balance of EU-U.S. trade relations and weaken the trans-Atlantic partnership. The unified European pushback sets the stage for a potential escalation. With calls to arm the EU's economic "bazooka" and repeated warnings against blackmail, Europe has signaled an unusually firm willingness to risk a tit-for-tat economic confrontation over Greenland's sovereignty. Since returning to the Oval Office in 2025, Trump has repeatedly voiced a desire to "obtain" Greenland and has recently ramped up his threat. In a social media post on Saturday, he said the United States would levy a 10-percent tariff from Feb. 1 on goods from the eight targeted countries. He warned the rate would rise to 25 percent on June 1 and remain in place until a deal is reached for the "complete and total purchase" of Greenland.

Kiambu MP Machua Waithaka Accelerates Road Infrastructure Drive To Transform Constituency

By: Felix Njenga
 @themtkenyatimes

Kiambu Constituency is undergoing a major transformation as Member of Parliament Machua Waithaka launches an aggressive road tarmacking program aimed at modernizing infrastructure and enhancing local economic activity.

Popularly known as “Fundu wa Maendeleo,” the legislator is fulfilling a key campaign promise through tangible projects designed to improve connectivity and stimulate development.

The initiative covers major routes such as Kiamumbi–Thindigua and Kanunga–Ngegu, with heavy machinery replacing dusty tracks with durable bitumen surfaces.

A landmark achievement is the tarmacking of Kiamumbi Highway, the first main road in the area to be paved since Kenya’s independence. “This project marks a historic mile-

stone,” MP Machua said, adding that completion is expected by early next year.

Local businesses have welcomed the upgrades. Hellen Njeri, a hotel owner in Kiamumbi, highlighted how the new tarmac will attract more customers and create a cleaner environment, while residents like Anthony Numi emphasized the benefits of the Ngegu–Edenville and Turitu–Kiratina Link Roads in reducing congestion from upcoming national highway projects.

Machua’s vision extends beyond mobility; it includes preparing for the dualling of Kiambu Road set to commence in February 2026.

Spur roads across all four wards—Muthaiga, Ndumberi, Thindigua, and Kanunga—are being improved to ensure seamless access and support the broader highway development.

Key projects include the nearly completed Thindigua–Laurette–Windsor Road, the ACK Kanunga–Palmview–Mungai Chengecha



Different roads that are being tarmacked in Kiambu constituency under the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA).

Road, Kanunga Shopping Centre Ring Road, and Kanunga High School Access Road, enhancing both residential and commercial access.

The Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA) provides technical oversight, ensuring high-quality con-

struction with integrated drainage systems.

Engineer Kennedy Sengera confirmed that the roads are being built to long-lasting standards.

For MP Machua Waithaka, the focus is simple: Yangu ni Kazi Tu (My

work is just work). “Residents who never believed they would see tarmac are now witnessing real transformation. This is about improving lives, boosting property values, and fostering sustainable development,” he concluded.

Lamu’s Cotton Revival: Mpeketoni Ginnery Spurs Youth-Led Agricultural Revolution

By: Felix Njenga
 @themtkenyatimes

Lamu County is witnessing a transformative shift in its agricultural landscape as the near-completion of a state-of-the-art cotton ginnery in Mpeketoni breathes new life into a once-dormant industry. The facility, a collaboration between the National Government, Lamu County Government, and Thika Cloth Mills (TCM), is poised to become a social and economic game changer for the region.

Contractor Duncan Muigai revealed that the ginnery is 95% complete, with modern ginning machinery set for installation by February. Once operational, it is expected to employ hundreds of local residents, most of them youth, providing a lucrative alternative to idle time and social vices.

Previously, Lamu’s cotton had to be transported through insecure corridors to ginneries in Meru, Makue-



New Mpeketoni Ginnery build by Thika Cloth Mills Company in partnership with National government..

ni, and Kitui, exposing farmers and transporters to risks, including Al-Shabaab threats. Hesmond Olweny, Cotton Development Officer at TCM, noted that the Mpeketoni facility resolves these logistical challenges and ensures value remains within the county.

The revival is also restoring confidence within families. With cotton

prices rising from Ksh 52 to Ksh 72 per kilogram, parents are now entrusting land to their children. Migwi Mwangi, Chairman of the Lamu Farmers Cooperative Society, said the industry has instilled discipline and hope in communities. Jennifer Wambui, a youth leader and cotton farmer, added that substance abuse has declined as young people focus



Dominic Ngugi of Thika Cloth Mills with a young Farmer Jenifer Wambui in her farm.

on farming. Lamu County now leads the nation in cotton production, supported by four active cooperative societies and over 10,000 farmers. Modern BT cotton seeds are enhancing yields, while youth are taking leadership roles in cooperative management.

Joseph Kamgangi, Chairman of the Lake Kenyatta Cooperative Society,

praised the energy and innovation of young farmers. The Mpeketoni ginnery—part of the “Lamu Model” integrating public-private investment, security-conscious logistics, and youth empowerment—sets a benchmark for revitalizing Kenya’s rural economies and the national cotton value chain.

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Windsor Golf and Country Club professional Njoroge Kibugu carded an impressive 6-under par 64 to take the early lead after the opening round of the Absa Invitational Series

Kibugu Surges Ahead In Final Leg Of Sunshine Development Tour East Africa

Windsor Golf and Country Club professional Njoroge Kibugu carded an impressive 6-under par 64 to take the early lead after the opening round of the Absa Invitational Series, the final leg of the Sunshine Development Tour East Africa Swing, at Karen Country Club.

Kibugu's round featured three birdies on the front nine at the 1st, 7th and 9th holes, with dropped shots on the 6th and 8th. On the back nine, he picked up a birdie on the 10th before dropping shots on the 11th and 13th. He closed strongly with birdies on the 16th and 17th to sign off on a 64 on the par 70 Karen course.

Speaking after his round, Kibugu said: "It was pretty alright today, smooth sailing. I had two bogeys on the card but finishing at six under, I am happy with the round. The course played quite well. The greens are not the smoothest, but I will take the score. The strategy for tomorrow is to just stick to my game plan as I did today and just hope for the best."

Rwanda's Celestin Nsanuwera sits second on the leaderboard after posting 5-under par.

His round included birdies on holes 1, 2, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 17, with a bogey on the 11th and a double bogey on the 13th.

Commenting on his performance, Nsanuwera said: "I started pretty well with a birdie on the tenth where I teed off. I made mistakes on eleven and thirteen, but I stayed focused and did not drop any more shots. Finishing five under is a good start. I really want to win the overall title because it would be my third win on the tour, and winning the final event would mean earning a Sunshine Tour card."

Taking the third spot is Nigeria's Kamalo Bako who finished his round on 4-under par. His round featured birdies on 2,6,16



Njoroge Kibugu in action at the Karen Country Club during Round One action of the the Absa Invitational Series, the final leg of the Sunshine Development Tour.

and 18, an eagle on 12.

He only dropped shots on the 5th, 11th and 15th.

Fourth place is shared by Isaiah Otuke and Johnny Limb, both on 3-under par.

Otuke's round featured birdies on the 2nd, 9th, 10th, 12th, 14th, 16th, 17th and 18th holes, with bogeys on the 3rd, 7th, 11th, 13th and 15th holes.

Limb's card included birdies on the 1st, 7th, 10th, 12th and 14th holes, with bogeys on the 13th and 15th holes.

Speaking after his round, Limb said: "The course was playing

fair and I am happy with my score. It feels more comfortable playing at home. I have played here since I was a kid, so I know my way around and felt confident coming into this tournament."

Tied for sixth place are Daniel Nduva, Mike Kisia, Kenneth Bollo, Uganda's Otile Ronald and Nigeria's Kamalo Bako with a score of 2-under, all within touching distance heading into the second round.

The Absa Invitational Series at Karen Country Club carries a prize purse of Ksh 2 million, along with Official World Golf

Ranking points and Sunshine Development Tour Order of Merit points, which are crucial in determining qualification for the Sunshine Development Tour Africa Championship, a key pathway to earning Sunshine Tour membership.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *The Confederation of African Volleyball (CAVB) Zone V have postponed the Zone V Club Championship for both men and women, which was scheduled to take place in Kenya from February 8 to 16

Kenya Stripped Of Hosting Rights For Regional Volleyball Tourney



Kenya Volleyball Federation president Charles Nyaberi addressing NOC-K AGM. Photo/RAYMOND MAKHAYA..

The Confederation of African Volleyball (CAVB) Zone V have postponed the Zone V Club Championship for both men and women, which was scheduled to take place in Kenya from February 8 to 16.

In a circular addressed to the presidents of Zone V member federations, CAVB Zone V president Sadik Z. Nasiwu confirmed that the decision was reached after the Kenya Volleyball Federation indicated its inability to host the championship.

“We regret to inform you that the above Championship that was set

for 8th to 16th February in Kenya has been pushed following Kenya Volleyball Federation’s inability to host as scheduled,” he said.

Nasiwu added: “A new host and venue will be announced in due course. We apologies (sic) for the inconveniences caused. The rest of the zonal events remain as scheduled.”

The annual regional tournament brings together top club sides from 12 countries within Zone V, including Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Egypt, and serves as a key qualification and ranking platform for clubs on

the continental stage.

Kenya, a traditional powerhouse in the region, had been expected to host clubs from across East and North Africa, with local teams eyeing a strong showing on home soil.

The delay now shifts focus to the forthcoming announcement as clubs and federations await clarity on logistics and revised timelines. Losing the hosting rights is a big blow to the country especially after CAVB president Bouchra Hajj expressed willingness to award a continental competition to the country.

In her visit to Kenya in November last year, the Moroccan urged KVF to consolidate partnerships with the government and the private sector to enable them host a club championships.

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Milicent Driver : Building Magnetic Brands, Restoring Voices, And Redefining Power For Women In Transition



By: Anila Bukhari

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

Known for her bold presence and no-fluff approach, Milicent has carved out a distinct space in the branding and business strategy world. She works primarily with women who are exhausted from surviving careers that no longer fit—women who have evolved, outgrown old roles, and are ready to build businesses that reflect who they have become, not who they once had to be. Her strategies are faith-rooted, practical, and deeply personal, blending clarity with conviction in a way that feels both grounding and galvanizing.

As the founder of Milicent The Business Strategist, Milicent specializes in branding audits, done-for-you branding, and business strategy for women navigating pivotal transitions. Many of her clients are walking away from corporate burnout, confidence gaps, or long seasons of being overlooked.

Milicent Driver is not the kind of leader who emerged from comfort or convenience. Her work, her voice, and her authority have been shaped through lived experience, deep faith, and an unflinching commitment to truth. Today, she is widely recognized as a best-selling author, sought-after speaker, podcaster, and branding strategist who helps women stop playing small and begin showing up as the CEOs they already are—confident, clear, and unapologetically visible.

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As the founder of Milicent The Business Strategist, Milicent specializes in branding audits, done-for-you branding, and business strategy for women navigating pivotal transitions. Many of her clients are walking away from corporate burnout, confidence gaps, or long seasons of being overlooked. These are women who know they are capable of more but need help articulating their value, refining their message, and stepping into authority without apology. Milicent doesn't simply design brands—she helps women reclaim their voice, align their message with their purpose, and monetize their expertise with confidence and integrity.

What sets Milicent apart is the depth behind her work. Her journey into entrepreneurship was neither polished nor predictable. In 2011, she experienced the devastating loss of her adult son, a life-altering grief that reshaped her world overnight. The following year, she suffered multiple mini-strokes, forcing her to confront her own mortality and limitations. These experiences did not simply interrupt her life; they



Milicent Driver

demanding a complete internal rebuild. What could have broken her instead became the foundation of her calling.

Through faith, grit, and strategic clarity, Milicent learned how to transform pain into positioning. She rebuilt herself from the inside out, discovering that identity precedes visibility and that purpose, when aligned with truth, can become powerful currency. This transformation now sits at the heart of her work. She teaches women how to honor their experiences, including the hard ones, and use them as a source of strength rather than something to hide. Importantly, she does this without romanticizing the process. Her message is honest: growth is not always graceful, but it can be deeply rewarding.

Milicent is the author of , a powerful call-out and call-up for women who are done shrinking and ready to be seen. The book challenges readers to examine how they see themselves before attempting to be

visible to the world. At its core is Milicent's belief that confidence is the real currency and that visibility is not accidental—it is a decision. Through practical insights and mindset-shifting frameworks, Magnetic Identity encourages women to stop hiding behind perfection and start leading from authenticity.

Beyond her writing, Milicent has created a suite of transformational programs designed to move women from uncertainty to clarity and from potential to profit. These include The Magnetic Woman Program, Book to Brand Coaching, and Build Like a Boss™. Each program is built on the belief that women do not need to become someone else to succeed; they need to become more fully themselves. Through these platforms, women learn how to sharpen their message, own their expertise, and step into paid opportunities with authority and ease.

In every space she enters—on stage, on the mic, or in intimate rooms of leaders and entrepreneurs—Mili-

cent brings what many describe as unmistakable “urban boss energy.” It's a mix of truth-telling, strategic insight, and lived wisdom that resonates deeply with women who have been pruned, pressured, and underestimated but are still standing. Her presence is both grounding and activating, reminding women that they are allowed to take up space, be seen, and be paid for their brilliance. Milicent's work is not about chasing trends or building hollow visibility. It is about alignment—between identity and impact, faith and function, purpose and profit. She believes that when women renew their minds, they can rebuild their brands from a place of truth rather than fear. And when they do, they rise—not quietly, but confidently.

Her philosophy is simple, but it is not shallow. It is the result of years of lived experience, resilience, and strategic refinement:

Renew your mind. Rebuild your brand. Rise like a boss.