



When Compliance Becomes Exclusion: The eTIMS Directive And The Dismantling Of Kenya's Informal Economy

The Kenya Revenue Authority's January 2026 directive requiring all income and expenses to be validated against eTIMS invoices represents something far more dangerous than bureaucratic overreach. It is the quiet demolition of Kenya's economic foundations, carried out not through parliamentary debate or public consultation Page 18

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News >> Unfinished Freedom: Mau Mau Veterans, Descendants Renew The Fight For Land Justice And Colonial Reparations

P. 8. A coalition of Mau Mau descendants, veterans, and civil society actors has renewed calls for comprehensive justice over colonial-era land dispossession and forced labour



News >> Kagwe Rejects Bid To Merge Human, Veterinary Medicines Regulation

P. 12. Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mutahi Kagwe has strongly opposed proposals before the Kenyan Parliament and the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) seeking to merge the regulation of human and veterinary medicines

Gikomba To Get Title-Deed In 90 Days

The Government will process and issue a title deed for Nairobi's Gikomba Market within 90 days, President William Ruto has announced.

The move is aimed at securing the market from land grabbers and ending decades of ownership disputes. President Ruto said Gikomba Market sits on public land and that issuing a title deed in the name of the Nairobi County Government will conclusively settle its ownership status.



President William Ruto addressing the traders yesterday.

STORY ON PAGE 9

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President Ruto Reaffirms Commitment To Traders With Nationwide Modern Markets Drive

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to uplifting small-scale traders by accelerating the construction of modern markets and expanding access to affordable credit across the country.

Speaking at State House, Nairobi, after meeting chairpersons and committee members of several Nairobi County markets, the President said the government is delivering on its promise to traders, including mama mboga, through the construction of 450 modern markets nationwide.

He noted that the initiative is aimed at providing traders with safe, dignified and well-equipped trading spaces.

The meeting brought together representatives from markets along Kangundo Road, Wakulima, Muthurwa, Burma, Kangemi, City Park, Othaya Market (Woodley/Jamhuri), Kawangware and Gikomba. Discussions focused on long-standing challenges affecting traders and the interventions being implemented to address them.

President Ruto disclosed that the government has committed Ksh7.2 billion for the construction of 15 new markets in Nairobi. Of these, eight are currently under construction, while seven have already been awarded tenders or are at various stages of procurement. Issues of unreliable power and water supply were also raised, with an agreement reached on a practical plan to resolve them.

In addition, the President highlighted the rollout of the Hustler Fund, saying it has improved access to affordable credit for traders and helped curb exploitation by shylocks.

He also said the national and county governments are working together on a comprehensive waste and garbage management plan to improve cleanliness and hygiene in markets, which will be unveiled soon.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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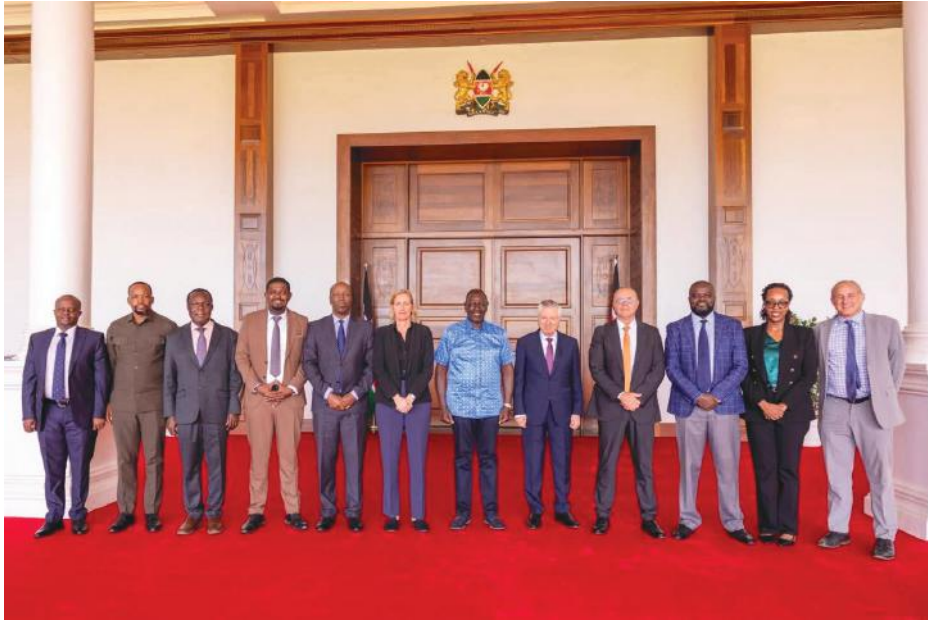


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NEWS IN BRIEF



President William Ruto on Monday met the board and management of Del Monte Kenya Ltd at State House, Nairobi, led by Chairman and CEO Muhammad Abu-Ghazaleh and Managing Director Wayne Harvey Cook. The President reaffirmed the government’s commitment to welcoming and supporting investors who choose Kenya as their investment destination, assuring them of a stable and enabling environment to set up, do business and expand operations. He expressed appreciation for Del Monte’s continued investment in the country and welcomed the company’s plans to expand pineapple production capacity to Kibwezi in Makeni County, as well as banana production and processing in Tana River County.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has described the Nyota Project as a practical example of a whole-of-government approach to tackling youth unemployment. “This initiative places young people at the centre of Kenya’s economic transformation by creating diverse pathways for employment, enterprise development, and innovation,” Kindiki said. He added that the Government is aligning national and county interventions to ensure youth empowerment programmes deliver tangible economic benefits at the community level.



The Government yesterday flagged off relief food assistance and water trucking in Garissa County as part of a scaled-up drought response aimed at protecting lives and livelihoods as drought conditions continue to worsen across Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs). The 4,480 50-kg bags of rice and beans were flagged off by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) Chief Executive Officer, Col. (Rtd) Hared Adan; Garissa County Commissioner Mohamed Mwabudzo; and Garissa County CEC for Water, Ahmed Ibrahim. Speaking during the flag-off ceremony this morning outside the County Commissioner’s compound, Adan said at least 2.1 million Kenyans in 23 ASAL counties are in dire need of relief food assistance, adding that the Government will continue to monitor the situation and implement response measures to safeguard lives and livelihoods.



Police in Nyando Sub-County, Kisumu County, have seized 5 bales of cannabis sativa following an operation meant to curb the trafficking of illegal drugs in the region. According to the Nyando Sub-county Police Commander Isaiah Mose, police officers acted on a tip-off from members of the public and intercepted a white Toyota Axio car packed to the brim with bhang in Ahero town along the Kisumu–Kericho highway on Sunday. The Police Commander said the driver failed to comply with directives and made a U-turn at the Ahero bridge and fled in the direction of Kisumu, prompting police to mount a pursuit. The car was later abandoned along a feeder road and the occupants escaped on foot.

Kieni Constituency in Nyeri County has been placed on early drought alert after the failure of the short rains, according to preliminary findings of the 2025 Food Security Assessment. While Nyeri is not among the 22 counties currently classified as drought-affected, officials caution that conditions in Kieni could worsen if preventive measures are not taken promptly. Nyeri County National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) Coordinator Abdi Yussuf said the assessment points to increasing vulnerability, warning that water, food and pasture resources are likely to come under significant pressure due to forecasted higher temperatures and prolonged dry conditions. Speaking during a Nyeri County Steering Group meeting, Yussuf noted that a poor performance of the upcoming long rains could quickly exhaust available water sources and livestock feed, triggering the need for urgent interventions.





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Why Safaricom's Stake Sale Risks Robbing Kenya's Future

By: Grace Wanja
 @themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The Treasury, through Sessional Paper No. 3 of 2025, defends the transaction, arguing that selling 6.01 billion shares at Sh34 each will capitalise the Sovereign Wealth Fund and finance infrastructure projects.
- Safaricom CEO Peter Ndegwa has described the deal as a "shareholder realignment" that preserves governance and regulatory stability. Yet critics see it differently: a hurried sale that prioritises immediate cash over sustainable national wealth.

Kenya is staring at a financial gamble that could cost the nation dearly. The Treasury's plan to offload a 15 per cent stake in Safaricom PLC to Vodafone Kenya has ignited fierce debate, with Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro warning that taxpayers stand to lose as much as Sh150 billion. His argument is simple but powerful: restricting the sale to a single buyer undermines competitive bidding, undervalues one of Kenya's most prized assets, and shortchanges the public purse.

Appearing before the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning, Nyoro accused the Treasury of rushing into a deal that amounts to "securitisation of dividends," a move he says violates the Public Finance Management Act. Safaricom's dividends from the state's 35 per cent shareholding already finance the national budget and are factored into the country's Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy. Selling the stake now, while counting on future income streams, risks creating a dangerous mismatch in fiscal planning. "Why can't we be patient for two months and get a higher price?" Nyoro asked pointedly, insisting that an open tender would reveal the true market value and deliver greater returns to the Consolidated Fund.

His objections echo those of the Consumer Federation of Kenya (COFEK), which has petitioned against the sale on constitutional grounds, citing lack of public participation and exclusion of local investors. While COFEK frames the issue as a matter of transparency and inclusivity, Nyoro provides the fiscal arithmetic: Kenya is poised to trade long-term value for short-term liquidity.



Kiharu Member of Parliament Ndindi Nyoro

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Teachers' unions, civil society groups, and economic analysts have joined the chorus of concern, warning that Ken-

ya risks repeating past mistakes where public assets were sold cheaply under the guise of reform. The fear is that once the stake is gone, the country will lose not only a steady stream of dividends but also leverage in one of Africa's most profitable telecom companies.

The debate is not merely about numbers—it is about national priorities. Should Kenya sacrifice long-term fiscal stability for short-term budget relief? Should strategic assets be sold without competitive bidding or broad public consultation? These are ques-

tions that demand sober reflection, not rushed decisions.

Safaricom is more than a corporate giant; it is a national symbol of innovation and economic resilience. To sell its stake at a discount is to sell the family silver in a fire sale. Kenya must resist the temptation of quick fixes and instead safeguard its future wealth. The lesson is clear: once you trade tomorrow for today, you cannot buy it back.

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Unfinished Freedom: Mau Mau Veterans, Descendants Renew The Fight For Land Justice And Colonial Reparations

By: MKT Correspondents

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Mahuria also signed the statement on behalf of other organisations that they work together that includes; Mau Mau Children Post Colonial Elites, Mau Mau War Veterans Association, Mau Mau Indigenous Knowledge groups and the Jeremiah Mugi Foundation.

- They noted that Kenya's colonial experience formally began on 1 June 1895 with the declaration of the British East Africa Protectorate. This period was marked by systematic alienation of land from indigenous communities, coercive labour practices, and the imposition of a cash-crop economy designed primarily to benefit colonial settlers. These injustices, the group argues, laid the foundation for resistance movements that culminated in the Mau Mau rebellion of the 1950s.

A coalition of Mau Mau descendants, veterans, and civil society actors has renewed calls for comprehensive justice over colonial-era land dispossession and forced labour, arguing that Kenya's independence did not fully resolve the structural injustices imposed during British rule.

In a Press Statement signed by James Mahuria Njuguna, Director of MMV Associates CLG, the groups outlined a detailed historical and legal basis for renewed compensation claims.

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The Mau Mau uprising, led by the Kenya Land and Freedom Army, emerged as a direct response to land loss, political exclusion and economic exploitation.

Its core demands were land restitution, freedom and self-determination. Although Kenya eventually achieved independence, the statement contends that the transition merely transferred power to a small elite while leaving the majority of victims of colonial policies uncompensated.

From Rebellion to Independence: A Struggle Marked by Sacrifice

The statement traces Kenya's road to independence through key milestones.

Between 1952 and 1960, the Mau Mau rebellion challenged British authority, prompting a state of emergency and widespread repression.

In 1957, limited African representation was introduced through the first African elections.

This was followed by the 1960 Lancaster House Conference, which laid the groundwork for Kenya's independence constitution.

In 1963, Kenya attained internal self-government, with Jomo Kenyatta becoming Prime Minister. On 12 December 1963, the country achieved



MMV Associates CLG Director James Njuguna Mahuria addressing journalists last year. Photo/Courtesy.

full independence as a dominion, with the Queen of the United Kingdom remaining Head of State. Exactly one year later, on 12 December 1964, Kenya became a republic, with Kenyatta as its first President.

Despite these milestones, the coalition argues that independence did not dismantle colonial land structures.

Instead, unresolved land claims and social inequalities persisted, continuing to shape Kenya's post-independence political and economic landscape.

Colonial Land Laws and Instruments of Control

Central to the grievances outlined is the Native Land Ordinance, a colonial law introduced in 1915 and revised in 1938.

The ordinance established "Native Reserves," confining indigenous communities to restricted areas and denying them access to fertile land and economic opportunities.

Under this framework, native Kenyans were barred from owning or occupying land outside designated reserves, required to obtain permits to move or work elsewhere and subjected to forced labour at the discretion of colonial authorities.

The statement describes these measures as deliberate instruments of control that dispossessed communities of ancestral land and entrenched exploitative labour systems.

These policies, it argues, directly fuelled resistance movements such as the Mau Mau.

During this period, Kenya remained

under British sovereignty, with Queen Elizabeth II as Head of State and executive authority exercised locally by a Governor-General. Her role ended in 1964 when Kenya became a republic.

Compensation Claims, Financial Institutions and the Path Forward

The coalition insists that forced labour and land dispossession remain at the heart of unresolved claims for historical justice.

At independence, they note, power was transferred within a global financial order that already included institutions such as the European Economic Community. Compensation frameworks were embedded in international and regional agreements, including arrangements under the United Nations, the European Union and Commonwealth Development Agreements signed during President Kenyatta's tenure.

These funds, the statement asserts, were intended to be channelled through Kenyan parastatals.

MMV Associates CLG says it is pursuing land and property claims under the Public Benefit Organizations Act No. 18 of 2013 and in relation to the Kenya Sovereign Wealth Fund.

The Mau Mau War Veterans Association, which reportedly has more than 200,000 members, about 40,000 of them active relies on modest volunteer contributions of approximately KSh 3,000 to support maintenance, public participation, documentation and outreach.

The group emphasizes that, despite

widespread assumptions, no funds have been received from the British government. Instead, claims are being pursued through historical financial institutions, including the East African Currency Board, the National Bank of India and South African institutions such as Standard Bank and the National Bank.

All MMV Associates CLG transactions, they stress, are conducted exclusively through the National Bank of Kenya.

The statement also revisits early post-independence financial arrangements, noting that Kenya's first Finance Minister, James Gichuru, later established the Central Bank of Kenya, though only a few individuals benefited from those early systems.

The National Social Security Fund, established in 1965, is cited as one of the institutions believed to hold land, funds and buildings linked to historical injustices that remain intact to this day.

The coalition expresses confidence that these long-standing injustices can finally be addressed under the leadership of President William Ruto. They have called for a nationwide process, spanning all 47 counties, to resolve land claims and compensate victims of colonial-era abuses, arguing that true independence remains incomplete without justice for those who bore the greatest cost of freedom and issued on behalf of Mau Mau veterans, their descendants and allied organizations determined to see Kenya confront and resolve the unfinished business of its colonial past.

Gikomba To Get Title-Deed In 90 Days

By: MKT Correspondents

[@themkenyatimes](#)

The Government will process and issue a title deed for Nairobi's Gikomba Market within 90 days, President William Ruto has announced.

The move is aimed at securing the market from land grabbers and ending decades of ownership disputes.

President Ruto said Gikomba Market sits on public land and that issuing a title deed in the name of the Nairobi County Government will conclusively settle its ownership status.

He directed Lands Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome and Principal Secretary Nixon Korir to work jointly with the National Land Commission to fast-track the issuance of the title deed.

"This will once and for all address speculation by land grabbers," the President said.

The President also announced that construction of phase three of Gikomba Market will commence after the completion of the ongoing phase two.

He spoke at State House, Nairobi yesterday during a meeting with Gikomba Market traders and businesspeople.

A market with a long, troubled history Gikomba Market is one of Kenya's oldest and largest open-air markets, tracing its roots to the colonial period.

Over the decades, it has grown into a major trading hub for second-hand clothes, foodstuffs, metal works and household goods, supporting tens of thousands of traders and livelihoods across Nairobi and beyond.

However, the market has also been plagued by frequent devastating fires that have repeatedly destroyed traders' goods, sometimes wiping out entire sections overnight. While electrical faults have often been cited as the cause, traders have for years alleged that some fires are linked to powerful individuals and cartels who have long eyed the prime land on which the market sits.

These claims have persisted alongside prolonged legal and political battles over ownership, making the title deed a long-standing demand by traders.

Engagement with other Nairobi markets

Earlier in the day, President Ruto met chairpersons and committee members from other Nairobi County markets.

The markets represented included Kangundo Road, Wakulima,



The President addressing the traders at State House, Nairobi yesterday. Photos/Courtesy.

Muthurwa, Burma, Kangemi, City Park, Othaya (Woodley-Jamhuri) and Kawangware.

The President said the National Government is working closely with the Nairobi City County Government to address persistent waste and garbage management challenges in the city.

"We are supporting the County Government of Nairobi so that we provide a lasting solution to that challenge," he said.

He added that the National Government will also collaborate with the county to improve access to electricity, urging market leadership to work with authorities to curb illegal power connections within markets.

Massive investment in modern markets

President Ruto reaffirmed the government's commitment to improving the working conditions of traders, including mama mboga, through the construction of 450 modern markets across the country.

In Nairobi alone, he said the government is investing KSh7.2 billion to build 15 new modern markets.

Of these, eight markets are currently under construction, while tenders for the remaining seven have either been awarded or procurement is ongoing.

He noted that the new markets will be equipped with adequate water supply, cold rooms, cyber services, proper sanitation and other essential facilities to reduce losses, improve hygiene and increase traders' incomes.

Status of key market projects

Starehe Constituency: A KSh350 million market is under construction

and is 77 per cent complete.

Kasarani Constituency: The KSh415 million Maji Mazuri Market is 72 per cent complete and will accommodate 1,200 traders.

Ruaraka (Mathare North): A KSh177 million market is 93 per cent complete and will serve 305 traders.

Riruta: A KSh313 million market is 36 per cent complete and will accommodate 667 traders.

Kasarani Wholesale Market: Valued at KSh1.7 billion, the project is 60 per cent complete.

Gikomba (Block D): A KSh729 million market, accommodating over 1,700 traders, is 92 per cent complete.

Uhuru Market, Makadara: Construction of the KSh315 million market with 853 stalls has just begun.

Kangemi Market: A KSh275 million tender for phase one, comprising 750 stalls, has been awarded. Phase two, also with 750 stalls at a cost of KSh275 million, will be advertised in the coming weeks.

Hustler Fund boost for traders

The President also highlighted the role of the Hustler Fund in improving access to affordable credit for traders and reducing reliance on shylocks who charge exploitative interest rates.

He said the Hustler Fund offers loans at 8 per cent per year, compared to shylocks who charge up to 10 per cent per day.

According to the President, about KSh50 million is borrowed from the Hustler Fund every morning between 3 a.m. and 11 a.m., with around 800,000 frequent borrowers accessing the fund once or twice daily.

Some beneficiaries, he noted, have graduated to borrowing up to KSh150,000.

"Since the launch of Hustler Fund on November 30, 2022, KSh80 billion has been borrowed," President Ruto said.

The President was accompanied by several leaders from the city, led by Governor Johnson Sakaja.



A past scene of Gikomba Market on fire.



Worth Noting:

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Waiguru Waives Business Permits For NYOTA Start-Ups In Kirinyaga

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyaintimes

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru has reaffirmed her administration's unwavering commitment to youth empowerment by waiving business permits for NYOTA-supported start-ups in the county, a bold move aimed at removing barriers that often hinder young entrepreneurs at the early stages of their ventures.

Speaking at Kasarani Stadium during the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) Program, where she joined President William Ruto, she positioned her county as a strong partner in the national agenda to transform young people into job creators rather than job seekers.

The NYOTA Program, which celebrates youth talent, resilience and innovation, is already delivering tangible results in Kirinyaga.

A total of 1,265 young people from the county have benefited, gaining critical skills, exposure and confidence to pursue entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods.

Waiguru emphasized that her administration has deliberately aligned county policies to support such initiatives, noting that waiving business permits for NYOTA start-ups will allow young entrepreneurs to focus on growth and innovation without the burden of regulatory costs.

"As the County Government of Kirinyaga, we are fully committed to supporting this program. We have waived licenses for our youth so that they can start and grow their businesses without unnecessary obstacles," she said.

Responding to President Ruto's call for counties to establish business support units to nurture start-ups and mainstream youth into the entrepreneurial space, Waiguru outlined concrete steps Kirinyaga has taken to institutionalize youth empowerment.

She revealed that the county has set aside KSh60 million to complement the NYOTA initiative and to support some of the young people who applied but were not absorbed into the national program.

"With over two million applicants nationally, it is clear that the demand for youth empowerment far exceeds available slots. That is why we have



Governor Ann Waiguru at Kasarani on Monday. Photo/Courtesy.

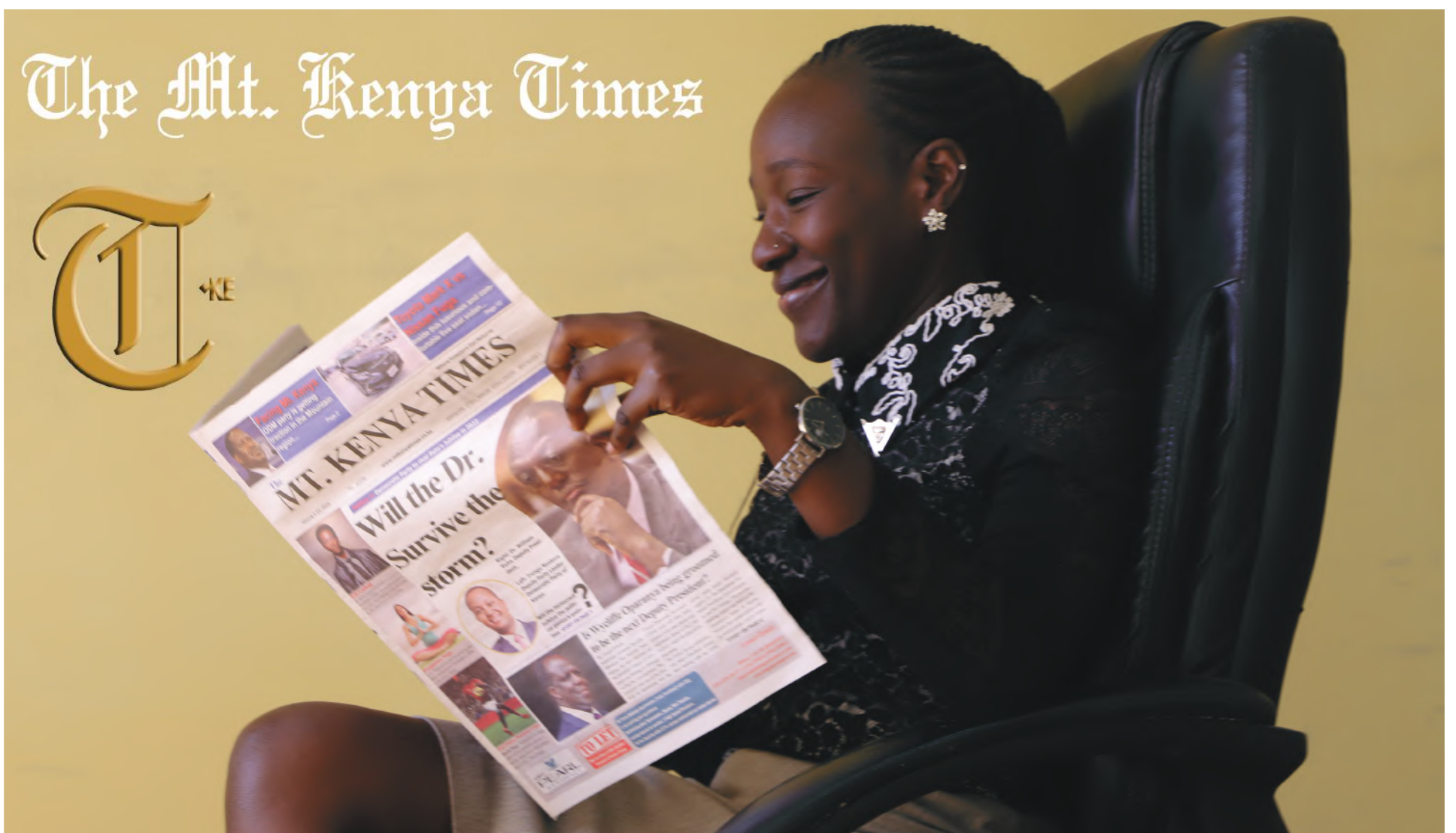
allocated resources at the county level to ensure that young people with viable business ideas are not left behind," Waiguru stated.

Beyond financing, the Governor noted that the county will roll out targeted capacity-building programs to equip youth with entrepreneurial, financial and technical skills necessary

to succeed in business and overcome unemployment.

To further entrench equality of opportunity and participation, Governor Waiguru disclosed that Kirinyaga County has proposed amendments to the County Empowerment and Development Fund, converting it from a loan-based facility to a grant-based

fund following public participation. The regulations have already been tabled before the County Assembly for approval, a move expected to unlock the KSh60 million budgeted for empowerment programs.



New Lease Of Life For EAPC As Kalahari Cement Commits To A US\$ 200 Million Strategic Business Turnaround And Modernisation Plan

.....anchored on a shared prosperity model prioritising staff and stakeholder value

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Local cement manufacturer and concrete products provider East African Portland Cement Plc (EAPC) is set for a major revamp in its production facilities following a pledge by its majority equity investor, Kalahari Cement, to triple its production capacity. The production enhancement and turnaround projects, including staff welfare enhancement initiatives, to be undertaken by Kalahari Cement, highlight the growing investor confidence in responding to progressive industrialisation policies championed by President William Ruto, as part of a national economic and development transformation agenda.

According to the latest (November, 2025) Kenya National Bureau of Statistics Leading Economic Indicators report, cement production reached 9.5 million MT in the first eleven months of 2025, up from 8.1 million MT recorded during the corresponding period in 2024. Similarly, cement consumption for the first eleven months of 2025 rose to 9.3 million MT, compared with 7.8 million MT over the same period in 2024.

The Blue Triangle Brand cement manufacturer, with an installed capacity of 1.3 million tonnes of cement annually (1.3 Mtpa), will receive financial and equipment modernisation support from Kalahari Cement to increase its capacity to nearly 4 million tonnes of cement per annum within the next three years.

Kalahari Cement, a locally incorporated investment firm, is a subsidiary of the pan-African Energy and manufacturing business conglomerate Amsons Group, and recently completed its bid to acquire a majority equity stake in EAPC as part of a strategic long-term investment plan geared at advancing President William Ruto's 10-year roadmap on road, rail, ports, airports, and oil pipeline infrastructure development and expansion.

Speaking during a recent facilities familiarisation tour of EAPC's Integrated Manufacturing plant in Kitengela, Kajiado County, Amsons Group Managing Director Mr Edha

Nahdi confirmed that plans are at an advanced stage to facilitate investments valued at more than US\$ 200 million to support the strategic business turnaround and modernisation of EAPC's manufacturing infrastructure.

During the tour conducted by EAPC Managing Director Mohamed Osman Adan, flanked by senior EAPC and Amsons Group Executives, Mr Nahdi confirmed that his firm, which holds a 69% controlling stake in EAPC, will invest in a new energy-efficient grinding and clinkerisation plant to power EAPC's strategic turnaround. Kalahari Cement, he disclosed, has already commissioned a leading global Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contractor to provide a turnkey clinkerisation plant design for EAPC.

Jubilant EAPC Staff members, while welcoming the Amsons delegation, celebrated the recent equity acquisition and business turnaround plans outlined by the Pan-African business conglomerate. The acquisition, they said, will now clear operating and investment uncertainties that had hindered growth. The turnaround plans, the staff members noted, now provide a new lease of life for EAPC, with renewed job security.

"Amsons Group last year promised to facilitate the full revival and modernisation of EAPC, and we can now confirm that plans to invest more than US \$ 200 million in the first phase of the modernisation agenda have been secured. Amsons is a family-owned business with a rich heritage, and we commit to maintaining a shared prosperity model, prioritising staff welfare initiatives to secure the lives of EAPC Staffers, their families and other stakeholders," Mr Nahdi said.

He added, "We are fast-tracking this investment agenda to ensure that EAPC will be at hand to make a meaningful contribution to President William Ruto's recently announced 10-year roadmap on road, rail, ports, airports, and related infrastructure development and expansion. Such developments will also help to create new job opportunities for thousands of Kenyans."

Through the business turnaround and manufacturing infrastructure upgrades at EAPC, the firm will also be well-positioned to more than tri-

ple its dwindling market share and contribute to major infrastructure developments.

"As I have said before, Amsons Group is putting its money where its mouth is to power Kenya's development and economic transformation. We appreciate that the delivery of the 10-year national development roadmap will be heavily reliant on the local availability of quality cement and concrete products," Mr Nahdi reiterated.

The bold and ambitious KSh 5 trillion 10-year roadmap championed by President Ruto will be financed by the National Infrastructure Fund and aims to transform Kenya into a first-world economy.

About Amsons Group

Amsons Group is a family-owned business founded in 2006 in Tanzania, built on a foundation of integrity and a commitment to shared prosperity. While its roots lie in the importation of bulk oil and petroleum products under the Camel Oil Tanzania retail brand, the firm has steadily grown and diversified into a wide range of sectors. The firm's manufacturing operations now include an installed cement production capacity of 6,000MT/day, bolstered by the recent acquisition of Mbeya Cement. With Bamburi Cement's integration, Amsons Group's total



Amsons Group CEO Edha Nahdi with EAPC MD CPA. Mohamed Osman Adan during an recent Amsons Management Team familiarisation visit.

cement manufacturing capacity has now grown to 13,000MT/day. The firm also operates a 500 MT/day wheat flour milling plant, a state-of-the-art premix concrete plant, Inland Container Depots (ICDs), Fuel and lubricants, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), and a transportation fleet

spanning Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, and Tanzania. In the fuel sector, Amsons Group operates fuel depots in several countries, including Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, and the DRC, with a robust network of over 150 retail stations.



Amsons Group MD Edha Nahdi addressing East Africa Portland Cement staff at the firm's Kitengela manufacturing plant.

Kagwe Rejects Bid To Merge Human, Veterinary Medicines Regulation

By: MKT Correspondents

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during a visit to the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) in Loresho, Nairobi, Kagwe said the separation of human and veterinary medicines regulation, introduced in 2015, is grounded in science and aligned with international best practices under the East African Community (EAC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).
- “Human medicines and veterinary medicines are fundamentally different in their use, risks and impact on food systems,” Kagwe said, adding, “That is why the separation remains valid and must not be reversed through legislation.”
- The CS cautioned that bills currently under consideration in Parliament and EALA, including proposals emerging from mediation processes between the National Assembly and the Senate, risk weakening oversight of veterinary medicines at a critical time when livestock are facing heightened disease pressure due to drought.

Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mutahi Kagwe has strongly opposed proposals before the Kenyan Parliament and the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) seeking to merge the regulation of human and veterinary medicines, warning that the move would undermine public health, food safety and livestock production.

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The CS cautioned that bills currently under consideration in Parliament and EALA, including proposals emerging from mediation processes between the National Assembly and the Senate, risk weakening oversight of veterinary medicines at a critical time when livestock are facing heightened disease pressure due to drought.

He said collapsing veterinary medicines regulation into a human medicines authority would contradict global standards and Kenya’s regional obligations, adding that the government will actively engage lawmakers at both national and regional levels to safeguard the integrity of veterinary regulation.

“Even regionally, EAC and COMESA should uphold the separation of human and animal medicines. Kenya will not be the weak link,” Kagwe warned.

The Cabinet Secretary emphasized that the Veterinary Medicines Directorate plays a crucial role in protecting farmers, consumers and public health, particularly in preventing misuse of medicines that can lead to antimicrobial resistance and food safety risks.

Principal Secretary for Livestock Development Jonathan Mueke said veterinary medicines regulation has a direct bearing on human health through food safety, environmental protection and the control of antimicrobial resistance, underscoring the need to strengthen, rather than dilute, the Directorate’s mandate.

CS Kagwe also issued a warning to unlicensed operators, noting that dis-



CS Mutahi Kagwe, PS Jonathan Mueke and other government officials at Veterinary Medicines Directorate in Loresho..

pensing veterinary medicines without approval from the VMD is illegal, regardless of whether a county government has issued a business permit. “A county license is not a professional authorization. Anyone dispensing veterinary medicines without approval from the Directorate will be prosecuted,” he said.

The CS announced a raft of reforms aimed at strengthening the VMD, including the recruitment of additional staff, the introduction of an annual internship programme targeting

1,500 young professionals, and the establishment of regional offices to improve regulatory coverage across the country.

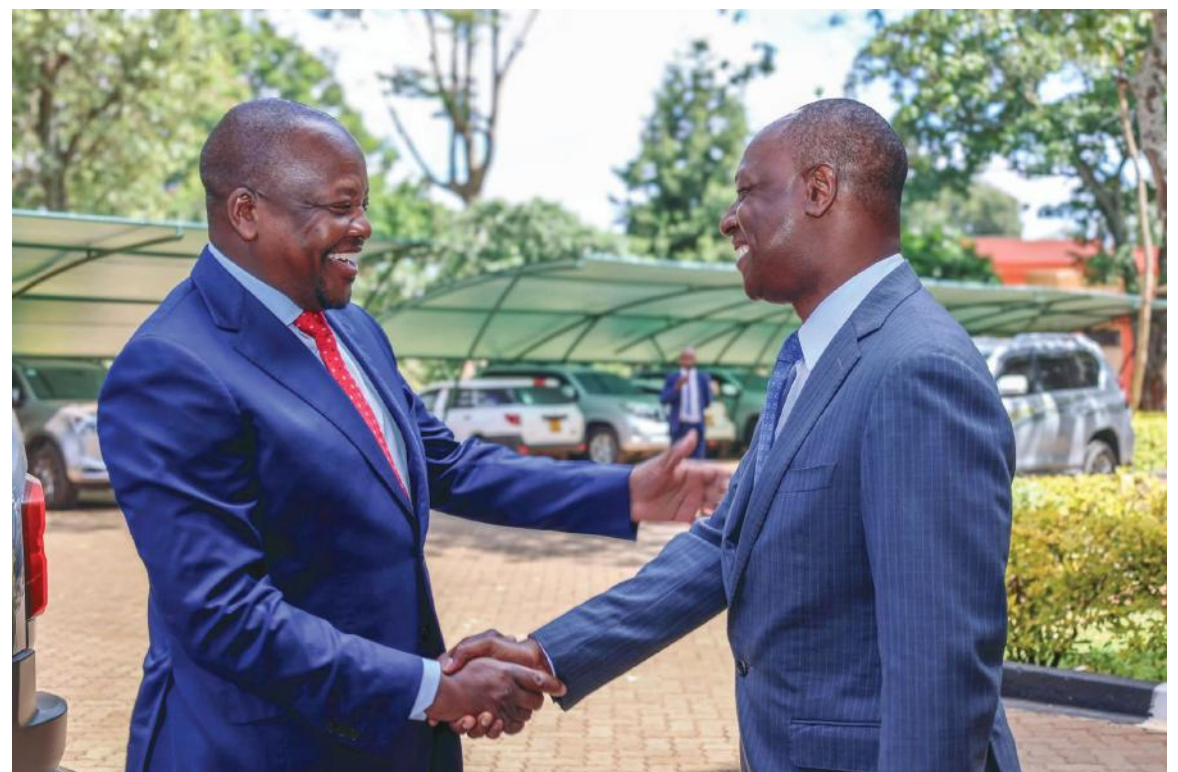
Plans are also underway to operationalise the National Veterinary Medicines Quality Control Laboratory to enhance quality assurance and protect farmers from substandard or counterfeit products.

In addition, the Ministry plans structured annual engagement with county governments and practitioners through conferences, public sensi-

tisation programmes and improved intergovernmental coordination.

CS Kagwe reaffirmed that upcoming legislation, including the Veterinary Practice Bill, will entrench the Veterinary Medicines Directorate in law to ensure its long-term institutional stability.

“We will defend the separation of human and veterinary medicines because it protects our farmers, our consumers and our country,” he said.



PS Jonathan Mueke welcoming CS Mutahi Kagwe at Veterinary medicines Directorate. Photos/Courtesy.

Ruto Tasks Envoys Abroad With Driving Kenya's First-World Transformation

By: PCS
@themtkenyentimes

President William Ruto has urged Kenya's envoys abroad to support the government's mission of transforming the country to a first-world economy.

The President called on Ambassadors and High Commissioners to safeguard national interest and foster mutually beneficial relations.

Speaking at State House Nairobi when he met and officially dispatched Kenya's Ambassadors and High Commissioners to their respective stations yesterday, President Ruto highlighted the country's ambitious development plan requiring concerted efforts.

"Those of us serving within the Republic and those of us serving outside Kenya are working collectively towards a common goal of elevating our country to a first-world status," he said.

At the same time, President Ruto explained that the government has rolled

out a robust infrastructure framework to support Kenya's quest to transition into a first-world economy.

He said the government made the first step on Monday when it went to the capital market to raise KSh106 billion through the Kenya Pipeline Company Initial Public Offering.

In the next one month, he said, the government will have raised the funds, pointing out that they will be channelled strictly towards development of mega infrastructure.

He explained these funds won't go into paying debt, salaries or recurrent expenditure.

"This money is going to be dedicated to the development of infrastructure that is going to lift our country to the next level," he said.

The ambassadors, high commissioners and consuls-general included Anthony Mwaniki Muchiri (Turkey), Lucy Kiruthu (Thailand), Henry Wambuma (Burundi), Catherine Kirumba Karemu (Tanzania), George Morara Orina (Ireland), Abdirashid Salat Abdille (Indonesia), and Joseph



President William Ruto with the new Ambassadors and High Commissioners yesterday. Photo/Courtesy.

Musyoka Masila (Saudi Arabia), (Tanzania), Judy Kiaria Nkumiri Also at the meeting was Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Korir Sing'oei.
Others were Edwin Afande (Austria), (DR Congo), Mohamed Amin Sheikh
Florence Chepngetich Bore (Namibia), Nuh (Germany), and David Mwangi
Mohamed Ramadhan Ruwange Karanja (Korea).

Six Senior Homabay's County Officials Released On Bond Over Ksh 348 Million

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themtkenyentimes

The Six accused persons have been released on Ksh 5 million cash bail or Ksh 30 million bond.

The Six accused persons were charged of defrauding the county government of Homa Bay County by unlawfully awarding a tender sum not bided for Ksh 348 Million.

Former clerk of the county assembly Daniel Odhiambo, Faith Adhiambo, Japhet Tunoi, Mary Oyuka, Roseline Odhiambo and Hartland enterprises limited appeared before chief magistrate Ada Obura in Kisii Law Courts.

Daniel Odhiambo was charged that on 10th, February 2022 in Homa Bay, used his office to improperly confer a benefit with a contract to tender.

Odhiambo also failed to ensure

Hartland enterprises limited provided a valid performance guarantee at the time of executing a project resulting to unlawful payment of sh.66,714,924 from the county assembly

While Patrick Tonui was charged that on 15th, April 2021 within Nairobi, he used his office as a quantity surveyor he used his office to improperly confer a benefit of 31,597,605 to hartland enterprises limited and prepared irregular second payment certificate for the proposed construction of office block certying the project has been undertaken.

Faith Odhiambo clerk of Homa Bay county assembly was charged that on 24 June 2021, she facilitated the approval of sh 31,597 605 to heartland enterprise without a proper execution payment voucher. She was also charged for failing to ensure heartland enterprise submitted a valid performance guarantee.

James Mumali and Pauline Oduor



Six senior County officials appeared before kisii law courts, released on bond over Ksh 348 million. Photo/ Elizabeth Angira

who are public health officer and a principal nurse acquired interest in a private land for the proposed project and were directors of heartland en-

terprises limited.

They all pleaded not guilty and were released on a cash bail of Ksh 5 million each and two a surety or a bond

of 30 million of similar amount.

The case will be mentioned on 2 February.

14 POEMS

You Will Never Know God's Strength Until He Has Supported You In Deep Waters



Windy days and stormy nights
make us hope on God's shower.

Right time and right place
God only knows when to shower.
And nobody will stop.
What God wants to give us.

Rajesh Kanna B N

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

When the opportunity knocks the door
We never mind that sound.
Slowly we realised that - but
There is no use of it.

Struggling in the life ocean he will be there
as a lighthouse .

Wisely capture those rays and try to get
shore.

Let Our Actions Speak Louder Than Words



Others may not like you to win
They may tend to keep obstacles

Overcome that in a diplomatic manner
Your action is the proof
Just live it and be true
Practical life speaks for you
Action is far better than words
Let your actions attract others like a magnet

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

Let our actions speak louder than words
People follow only our activities, not
preachings
Good actions will receive good responses
And bad actions will receive bad responses

Need not worry about others
To win, actions are important

Mama Africa's Whisp



our ancestors' spirits linger
hear their stories, learn from their scars
When you pray, move your feet too

The baobab stands tall, rooted
in the earth's ancient wisdom
A person is like a basket
made from many strands, woven

Heed the call of the morning sun
A journey begins with a single step
_don't let the hyena's laughter
distract you from the path

In the Okavango's delta waters
your future ripples, a possibility
shape it with care, with courage
The earth has enough for need
but not enough for greed

Your hands weave the fabric
of tomorrow's Africa, intricate
threads of hope, justice, peace
Mama's love is the thread
that sews the continent together.

Norman Mwale [The PenPusher]

Daughter, son, listen close
when the savannah wind whispers
a mother's wisdom: _A tree grows strong_
in the winds that buffet it

Hear the call, daughters and sons
beneath Mt Kenya's snow-kissed peak
where Jomo's spirit walks, a legacy remains
A river cuts through rock not with force
but with persistence, my child

In the shade of acacia trees

Stay Close To The People Who Want To See You Win



Some people want to see our growth and
development Be close with them and show
our gratitude for ever.

When we stumble they take a step forward
and encourage us without any expectations.

They advise with out controlling us.
They sit beside us in silence listen without
judgment.

Q.PATRICIA
GRADUATE TEACHER
PUGMSCHOOL
MELPATTAMPAKKAM
CUDDALORE. 1

We choose somepeople to be with us in our
every situations.

We stay close with them and we share our
dreams and efforts with them.

Life is not just shaped by our dreams and
efforts but also by the voices that surround
us.

Honesty



Honesty teaches us not to lie,
It gives us courage and strength to try.
Honesty helps us face problems boldly,
And saves us from being cowardly.

An honest person gains trust from others,
And commands respect forever.

If we follow honesty,
We can live a life of dignity.

By, S.S. Nikshith
VI Standard
PUMS Chinna Obulapuram,
Gummidipoondi Block,
Thiruvalluvar District,
Tamil Nadu, India

Honesty is the best policy,
It makes you a person of great integrity.
When we follow rules honestly,
Our lives will run smoothly.

Training Period Atrocities



Anyways happy we make situations
Learnt a lot of informations
Ready to accept everything
Sleepless night is irritating

But the lessons taught wonderful
Renewal of our college powerful
Teaching techniques so helpful
Evening recreations colorful

ALICE.P
Teacher
creative writers
Ramanathapuram
Tamilnadu India

Seen the name of our school
In the Whats App message as a whole
Enjoyed Christmas New year Pongal seasons
Ready to go with preparations

Day one starts at half past seven
With great expectations reached then
Awesome feel to see Hotel Aalayam
Yet room and food problem

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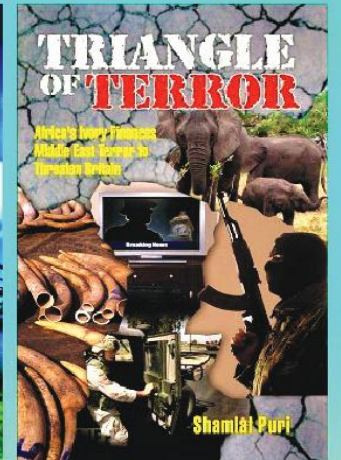
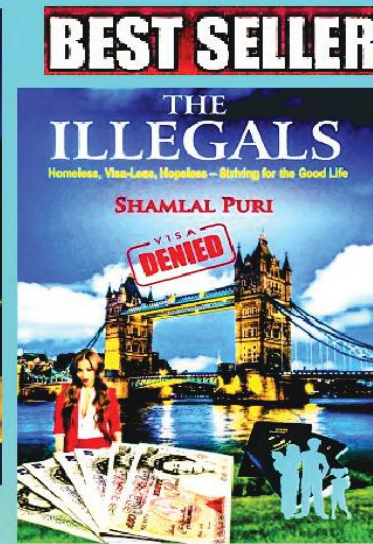
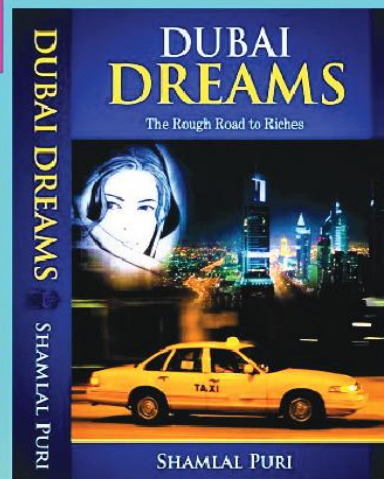
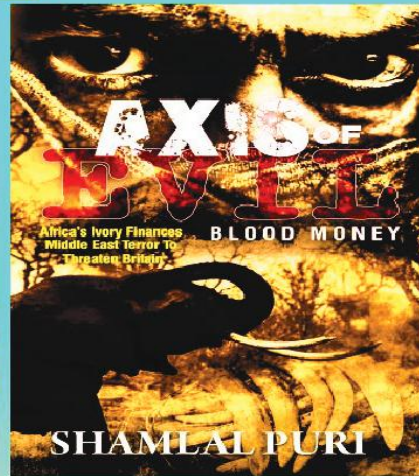
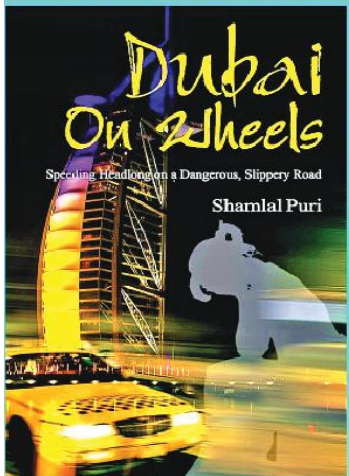
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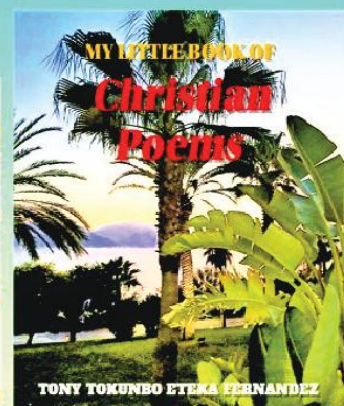
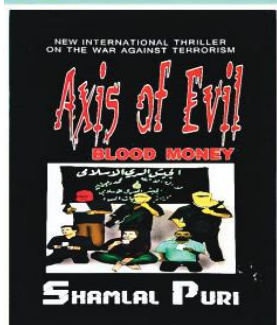
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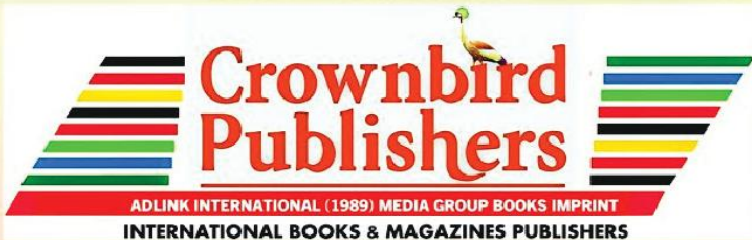


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HEALTH

Metropolitan Hospital Nairobi And Marengo Asia Hospitals Perform Region's First Robotic-Assisted Knee Surgeries

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themtkenyatimes

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Worth Noting:

- The procedures were performed by a joint team of orthopedic surgeons. The inaugural case was led by Metropolitan's Dr. Faraj Alkizim, supported by Marengo Asia specialists Dr. Anurag Aggarwal and Dr. Rohit Thakkar. A subsequent procedure was performed by Metropolitan's Dr. Nathan Khamala, assisted by the same specialist team. All surgeries adhered to established clinical protocols, regulatory requirements, and documented patient consent processes.
- Dr. Kanyenje Gakombe, Founder and CEO of Metropolitan Hospital, remarked:
- "The introduction of robotic-assisted surgery at Metropolitan Hospital expands access to high-precision care in Kenya and the wider region. This milestone is the culmination of over 30 years of investment in clinical training, infrastructure, and medical technology. We believe that strong partnerships and continuous innovation are essential to building local capacity in specialized care."



Metropolitan Hospital Nairobi, in a landmark clinical partnership with India's Marengo Asia Hospitals, has successfully performed the first robotic-assisted knee replacement surgeries in East and Central Africa. The inaugural procedures were completed on December 10, 2025, at the Metropolitan Hospital facility in Nairobi.

The surgeries were conducted under a structured skills-transfer and clinical governance framework.

The collaboration is designed to strengthen local capacity for precision-based orthopedic surgery and expand regional access to advanced joint replacement care.

Clinical Execution and Leadership

The procedures were performed by a joint team of orthopedic surgeons. The inaugural case was led by Metropolitan's Dr. Faraj Alkizim, supported by Marengo Asia specialists Dr. Anurag Aggarwal and Dr. Rohit Thakkar. A subsequent procedure was performed by Metropolitan's Dr. Nathan Khamala, assisted by the same specialist team. All surgeries adhered to established clinical protocols, regu-

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Addressing a Growing Healthcare Need

Knee replacement is typically required when joint damage often caused by osteoarthritis, trauma, or inflammatory diseases severely limits daily activities. Osteoarthritis remains the most common driver for these procedures.

The demand for joint replacement is rising alongside aging populations. A 2024 study published in the Pan African Medical Journal highlighted an

arthritis prevalence of 44.6% among adults over 40 in rural Nyamira County, Kenya, underscoring the urgent need for enhanced orthopedic capacity.

Dr. Faraj Alkizim, Orthopedic Surgeon at Metropolitan Hospital, added: "Robotic-assisted knee replacement supports surgeons with patient-specific planning and precise bone preparation. By improving the accuracy of alignment and component positioning, we are helping patients' access world-class orthopedic care closer to home."

Reducing the Burden of Medical Tourism

According to the Ministry of Health, a significant number of Kenyans still seek specialized treatment abroad. This partnership aims to reverse that trend by establishing regional centers of excellence.

Metropolitan Hospital already maintains a robust arthroplasty service. A 2025 study in the Journal of Health, Medicine and Nursing documented that the hospital performed over 140 total knee replacements between Jan-

uary and May 2023 alone.

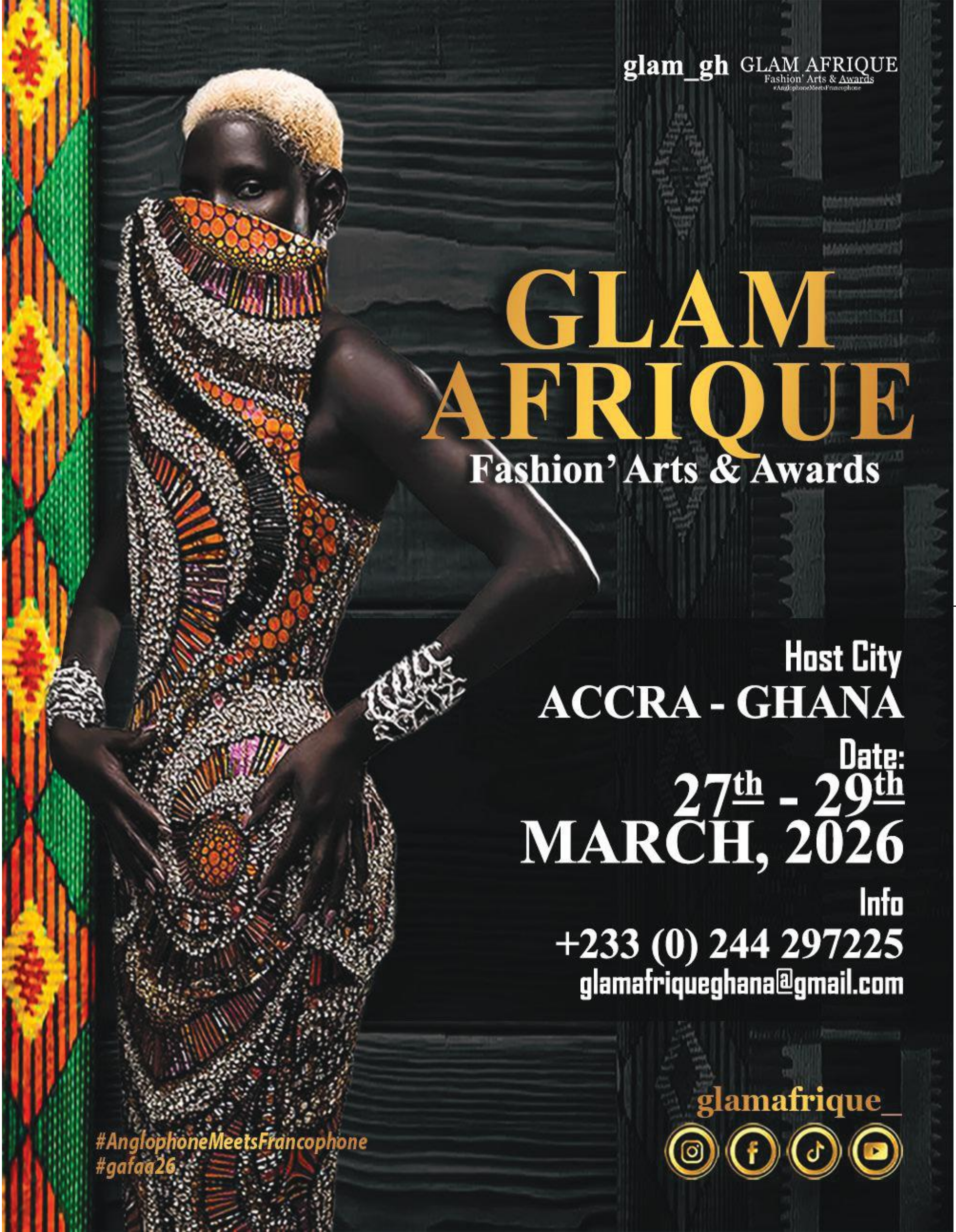
Dr. Raajiv Singhal, Founding Member and Group MD/CEO of Marengo Asia Hospitals, stated:

"Our collaboration follows a 'Teach, Train, and Treat' philosophy. By working closely with local teams to embed global standards of execution and governance, we aim to reduce the necessity for patients to travel across borders for advanced medical treatment."

Technology and Support

The robotic system utilized in these procedures was supplied by Meril Life Sciences. The program is further supported by Wessex Pharmaceuticals and KCB.

Metropolitan Hospital and Marengo Asia Hospitals intend to scale this partnership, focusing on expanded training, strengthened governance, and increased access to robotic-assisted procedures for patients across East and Central Africa.



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When Compliance Becomes Exclusion: The eTIMS Directive And The Dismantling Of Kenya's Informal Economy



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Consider the absurdity of the system itself. eTIMS captures invoiced transactions, primarily in the VAT space, yet vast categories of legitimate business income and expenses never generate invoices at all.
- Salaries paid to employees, interest earned on deposits, dividends received from investments, foreign income, capital gains, accrued expenses, provisions for future liabilities; none of these fit neatly into an invoice-based validation system.
- A company that pays rent under a lease agreement, accrues interest on a loan, or recognizes revenue over time under a long-term contract will find itself in immediate conflict with a system that only understands discrete, invoiced transactions.



The Kenya Revenue Authority's January 2026 directive requiring all income and expenses to be validated against eTIMS invoices represents something far more dangerous than bureaucratic overreach. It is the quiet demolition of Kenya's economic foundations, carried out not through parliamentary debate or public consultation, but through an administrative notice that rewrites the rules of economic participation. By declaring that what cannot be electronically invoiced does not exist for tax purposes, KRA has effectively told millions of Kenyans that their livelihoods, their transactions, and their economic contributions are invisible to the state unless they can produce a digital receipt. This is not tax reform. This is economic apartheid by algorithm.

The legal fiction at the heart of this directive is staggering in its audacity. Kenyan tax law has never required electronic invoices as the sole evidence of income or expenses. The Income Tax Act recognizes books of account, contracts, bank statements, payrolls, and other commercial documents as legitimate proof of economic activity. eTIMS was designed as a supplementary compliance tool for VAT administration, not as a replacement for the entire accounting infrastructure of a nation. By elevating eTIMS from a reporting mechanism to the arbiter of tax deductibility, KRA has bypassed the legislative

process entirely. This is taxation without representation in its most modern form: a notice masquerading as law, a database masquerading as justice.

Consider the absurdity of the system itself. eTIMS captures invoiced transactions, primarily in the VAT space, yet vast categories of legitimate business income and expenses never generate invoices at all. Salaries paid to employees, interest earned on deposits, dividends received from investments, foreign income, capital gains, accrued expenses, provisions for future liabilities; none of these fit neatly into an invoice-based validation system. A company that pays rent under a lease agreement, accrues interest on a loan, or recognizes revenue over time under a long-term contract will find itself in immediate conflict with a system that only understands discrete, invoiced transactions. The directive treats the Kenyan economy as if it operates like a retail shop, when in reality it is a complex ecosystem of relationships, contracts, and obligations that cannot be reduced to a series of electronic receipts.

The collision with accrual accounting principles reveals the directive's fundamental incompetence. Income tax in Kenya is assessed on when income is earned and when expenses are incurred, not when an invoice happens to be transmitted to a government server. A construction company that recognizes revenue over the

life of a project, a law firm that bills clients quarterly but incurs expenses daily, or a manufacturer that purchases raw materials on credit will all face systematic mismatches between their accounting reality and what eTIMS records. The system punishes taxpayers not for dishonesty but for following generally accepted accounting principles. It demands that businesses abandon professional accounting standards to satisfy a database that was never designed to understand how businesses actually operate.

The cruelty of the directive lies in how it distributes punishment. A buyer who purchases goods from a supplier is now responsible not just for their own compliance, but for the technological capability, administrative competence, and system reliability of every person they do business with. If a supplier's internet fails, if they mistype a PIN, if their eTIMS device malfunctions, if they simply lack the literacy or confidence to navigate the system, the buyer loses their tax deduction. This is collective punishment dressed up as accountability. It tells businesses that unless they can control their entire supply chain an impossibility for anyone operating in Kenya's actual economy they will be taxed on phantom profits. The farmer who sells maize to a miller, the mama mboga who supplies a restaurant, the jua kali artisan who repairs equipment: unless they can issue compliant

electronic invoices, their customers will be forced to abandon them or absorb punitive tax costs.

Small and medium enterprises will bear the brunt of this violence. Large corporations can demand eTIMS compliance from suppliers, invest in enterprise resource planning systems, and hire accountants to navigate the complexity. SMEs operate in the real Kenya, where suppliers range from sophisticated businesses to individuals selling from the roadside. They cannot dictate terms to their supply chains. They cannot refuse to buy from farmers who lack smartphones or traders who operate from informal markets. Under this directive, every transaction with an informal supplier becomes a liability. The rational response is not to formalize those suppliers that assumes time, resources, and institutional trust that do not exist but to avoid them entirely. Procurement will shift from villages to towns, from small suppliers to large ones, from relationships built on trust to transactions mediated by technology. The directive does not formalize the informal economy; it starves it.

The data sources KRA proposes to use are fundamentally incompatible with each other, guaranteeing

When Compliance Becomes Exclusion: The eTIMS Directive And The Dismantling Of Kenya's Informal Economy

Contd from page 18

Worth Noting:

- The instruction that taxpayers should request eTIMS schedules from their account managers is perhaps the most revealing detail of all. It is an admission that taxpayers cannot independently verify the data being used to judge them. A fair system would give taxpayers real-time access to the same information KRA sees, allowing them to identify and correct discrepancies before filing.
- Instead, taxpayers must beg for access to their own transaction data, which KRA may or may not provide accurately or in time. A system that is opaque to the taxpayer but binding on them is not a compliance tool; it is a trap. When fear and uncertainty replace clarity and fairness, people do not become more compliant; they become more desperate, more likely to abandon formal economic activity altogether.



false positives and endless disputes. Withholding tax data captures gross amounts before deductions. Customs data uses CIF valuations and tariff classifications that bear no relationship to the actual cost of goods for income tax purposes. eTIMS data is fragmented, often incomplete, and prone to transmission errors. Comparing these datasets mechanically and treating discrepancies as evidence of tax evasion is not validation; it is statistical malpractice. A business that imports machinery will find that the customs valuation differs from the supplier invoice, which differs from what eventually appears in eTIMS, which differs from the depreciation schedule used for tax purposes. None of this represents fraud. It represents the inherent complexity of cross-border trade and the reality that different regulatory systems measure different things. KRA's approach assumes a level of data harmony that has never existed and never will.

By collapsing filing, audit, and assessment into a single automated moment, the directive obliterates due process. Historically, taxpayers filed returns based on their books of account, and KRA conducted audits later if questions arose. This created space for explanation, for the provision of supporting documents, for

human judgment to distinguish between error and evasion. Under the new regime, discrepancies are presumed to be wrongdoing at the moment of submission. The iTax system becomes judge, jury, and executioner, denying deductions before a taxpayer has any meaningful opportunity to explain timing differences, provide alternative documentation, or demonstrate compliance through other means. This is not efficient administration; it is the automation of injustice.

The instruction that taxpayers should request eTIMS schedules from their account managers is perhaps the most revealing detail of all. It is an admission that taxpayers cannot independently verify the data being used to judge them. A fair system would give taxpayers real-time access to the same information KRA sees, allowing them to identify and correct discrepancies before filing. Instead, taxpayers must beg for access to their own transaction data, which KRA may or may not provide accurately or in time. A system that is opaque to the taxpayer but binding on them is not a compliance tool; it is a trap. When fear and uncertainty replace clarity and fairness, people do not become more compliant; they become more desperate, more likely to abandon formal economic activity

altogether.

The path forward requires humility, flexibility, and a recognition that technology is a tool, not a substitute for law. KRA must create meaningful exemptions for transactions that by their nature cannot generate eTIMS invoices: small-value purchases below a reasonable threshold, transactions with informal suppliers who lack the capacity to comply, sectors where invoicing is impractical such as agricultural procurement from smallholder farmers, and expenses supported by alternative documentation including bank statements, receipts, contracts, and payroll records. The directive must acknowledge that timing differences between eTIMS data and accrual-based accounting are normal, not evidence of fraud, and create a reconciliation process that allows taxpayers to explain discrepancies before deductions are denied. Taxpayers must be given direct, real-time access to their eTIMS data without needing to request it from account managers. KRA must shift from automated rejection to human review, treating discrepancies as triggers for inquiry rather than proof of wrongdoing. Most critically, any system that validates returns against external data must be implemented gradually, with a transition period that allows businesses to adapt and

with genuine consultation involving the small businesses, farmers, traders, and informal sector participants who will be most affected.

The stakes here are not technical. They are human. Every time a buyer stops sourcing from a smallholder farmer because they cannot issue an eTIMS invoice, a family loses income. Every time a restaurant stops buying from a mama mboga because the tax risk is too high, a woman loses her livelihood. Every time a manufacturer shifts procurement from local artisans to large suppliers who can navigate the system, a community loses economic opportunity. The directive, as written, does not formalize the economy it cleanses it, pushing out those who cannot afford the cost of visibility. Tax administration is supposed to fund the state's ability to serve all its citizens. When it becomes a mechanism that excludes the majority from economic participation, it has failed not just operationally, but morally. The question before Kenya is simple: will we build a tax system that works for the economy we have, or will we sacrifice that economy on the altar of a database that was never designed to replace it?

The writer is a legal researcher

4.2 Million Children, Women In Sudan Face Acute Malnutrition In 2026

By: Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyatimes

The Global Nutrition Cluster warned that around 4.2 million children and pregnant or breastfeeding women in Sudan are projected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2026 amid ongoing conflict and the deterioration of basic services.

The report, issued by the UN-led coordination group, estimates that about 8.4 million people will need nutritional assistance in 2026, including 5 million children under the age of five and 3.4 million pregnant and breastfeeding women. Meanwhile, about 824,000 children under five are projected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition, the most life-threatening form, which dramatically increases mortality risk without urgent interventions. The Cluster is a coordination mechanism led by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to organize the response

to food crises. It added that among its recent surveys, 31 out of 61 reported a prevalence of global acute malnutrition at 15 percent or higher, exceeding the World Health Organization's emergency threshold. The global acute malnutrition is a measurement of the nutritional status of a population that is often used in protracted refugee situations.

The report said that the situation is expected to deteriorate further in 2026 due to the expanding conflict, declining food security, and damaged health and water services. In 2026, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) plans to mobilize nearly 1 billion U.S. dollars to help 13.8 million people in Sudan, including 7.9 million children. The agency warned that 3.4 million children face life-threatening diseases, as about 70 percent of health facilities in conflict-affected states remain nonfunctional. On Jan. 15, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) cautioned that without immediate funding, its food stocks in Sudan will be depleted



Some of the affected Sudanese children.

by the end of March, leaving millions without aid. A late 2025 UN report confirmed famine in the cities of El Fasher in North Darfur and Kadugli in South Kordofan. The Sudanese

government, however, has dismissed famine reports as "exaggerated." Sudan has been engulfed in a deadly conflict since April 15, 2023, when fighting broke out between the Suda-

nese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, leaving tens of thousands dead and millions displaced within the country and across its borders.

Mercedes-Benz Starts Production Of All-Electric Version Of GLB In Hungary

By: Xinhua
@themtkenyatimes

German premium auto-maker Mercedes-Benz this week started series production of the all-electric version of its GLB model at its manufacturing plant in Kecskemet, central Hungary, according to Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Peter Szijjarto.

Szjijarto made the remarks at a ceremony marking the start of production, saying the new production line represents a further expansion of Mercedes-Benz's manufacturing presence in Hungary and supports the development of the country's automotive industry. The minister said the Kecskemet facility is the second-largest plant



within the Mercedes-Benz Group and the largest automotive factory in Hungary. Szjijarto also said research and development activities at the plant are being strengthened, with Hungarian engineers increasingly involved in prototype development. The factory currently employs about 4,500 people, making it the largest employer

in the region. According to official data, Hungary has attracted 452 automotive-related investments over the past 11 years, with a total value of about 6,800 billion forints (20.4 billion U.S. dollars), creating approximately 65,000 jobs. (1 Hungarian forint = 0.0030 U.S. dollar)

Britain Launches Consultation On Children's Social Media Use, Tightens School Phone Bans

By: Xinhua
@themtkenyatimes

The British government has launched a nationwide consultation on children's use of social media and mobile phones amid growing concerns that excessive screen time is undermining young people's mental health, learning and social development.

The move signals a new phase in Britain's approach to regulating the digital environment for children, as policymakers face growing pressure from parents, schools and lawmakers to curb the expanding influence of social media and smartphones on daily life. Backed by a national public discussion, the consultation will gather views from parents, young people and civil society on how to ensure children develop a healthier relationship with technology, the government said.

Alongside the consultation, immediate steps were announced to tighten mobile phone restrictions in schools. Ofsted, the school watchdog, will be required to check at every inspection whether phone bans are properly enforced, with schools expected to be "phone-



Underage children using mobile phones...

free by default." The policy shift comes amid mounting evidence that smartphones remain widely used in classrooms despite existing rules. Official data show that 58 percent of secondary school pupils reported mobile phones being used without permission in at least some lessons, rising to 65 percent among older students.

The consultation will examine a broad set of regulatory options, including raising the digital age of consent, improving age-verification systems, introducing phone curfews to limit excessive use, and restricting potentially addictive design features such as "infinite scrolling" and "streaks." The government will also publish evidence-based screen-time guidance for parents of children aged 5-16, following separate

guidance for parents of under-fives due in April, aimed at helping families manage children's use of digital devices at home. Updated school guidance will further clarify that pupils should not have access to mobile phones during lessons, breaks or between classes. British media reported that the initiative also reflects growing political pressure for tougher action on children's online safety, with lawmakers from multiple parties backing proposals to ban under-16s from social media platforms. The British government said it will respond to the consultation in the summer as part of a broader strategy to improve children's well-being in the digital age.



Water Conservation: A Shared Duty, Not An Option

The world is running dry—and the clock is ticking. From parched riverbeds to shrinking reservoirs, water scarcity is no longer a distant threat but a present crisis. What was once taken for granted is now rationed, fought over, and increasingly scarce.

Population growth, climate change, and reckless water management have pushed supplies to the brink. Farmers watch helplessly as erratic rains devastate harvests, driving food prices higher and deepening poverty. Cities, too, are feeling the squeeze, with households forced to adapt to rationing and dwindling taps.

Experts warn that without urgent intervention, water scarcity could spiral into a global emergency. Governments must act decisively: invest in rainwater harvesting, recycle wastewater, and protect catchment areas. Enforce strict laws against pollution and illegal logging, which choke the very sources of life.

But responsibility does not rest solely with policymakers. Citizens must step up. Fixing a leaking tap, installing water-effi-



cient appliances, harvesting rainwater, and curbing waste are not trivial acts—they are lifelines. Schools and community groups are already sounding the alarm, spreading awareness that every drop counts.

Environmentalists remind us that water conservation is not charity for the planet—it is survival for humanity. The choices

we make today will determine whether future generations inherit abundance or thirst.

Water is life. Protecting it is not optional. It is a collective duty, and the time to act is now—before the last drop slips away.

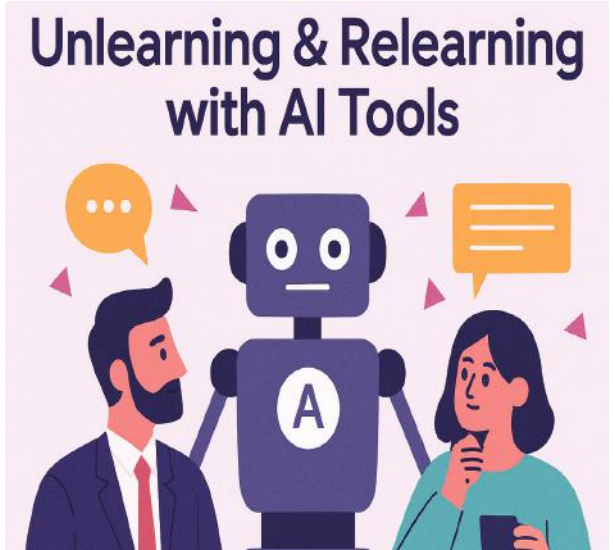
Gladwin Nyarichi, Laikipia University

Unlearning In The Age Of Information

The greatest threat today is not ignorance—it is the illusion of knowledge. In an era drowning in data, the real illiteracy lies not in failing to read or write, but in failing to learn, unlearn, and relearn. Futurist Alvin Toffler's warning rings louder than ever: those who cannot adapt will be left behind.

Modern society has mastered the art of conditioning. From classrooms to newsrooms, people are taught what to think, not how to think. Facts are memorized, rules obeyed, narratives swallowed whole. Obedience masquerades as intelligence, conformity as wisdom. Independent thought becomes suspect because it unsettles the comfortable and challenges authority.

But growth demands discomfort. Knowledge is not fixed; it shifts with discovery and collapses under scrutiny. To cling to the same conclusions year after year is to risk intellectual stagnation. Progress requires courage—the courage to discard outdated beliefs and embrace new perspectives. Unlearning is not weakness; it is survival.



True education is more than consumption. It is interrogation: questioning sources, probing motives, testing claims against evidence. Those who dare to think critically often appear disruptive, but they are society's catalysts. By refusing blind obedience, they expose cracks in systems built on unquestioned authority.

Awakening the mind means dismantling inherited frameworks and resisting the comfort

of conformity. The process is unsettling, but liberation rarely comes easy. In a century defined by rapid change, the ability to relearn is not just power—it is the difference between leading the future and being crushed by it.

Pascal Okoth, Laikipia University

Why Student Leaders Must Be Chosen By The Comrades

Democracy dies when voices are silenced—and nowhere is this more dangerous than on our campuses. Universities are not just lecture halls; they are crucibles where civic responsibility, leadership, and democratic values are forged. If student leadership is to be legitimate, accountable, and effective, it must rest on the will of the comrades—the students themselves.

Representation is the bedrock of leadership. Student leaders speak for their peers, and that mandate can only be earned through elections. Imposed or appointed leaders lack moral authority, often drifting into irrelevance or serving interests other than those of the student body.

Accountability flows directly from the ballot. Leaders who know they must answer to the comrades act with transparency and urgency. Elections empower students to reward competence and reject failure, ensuring leadership remains tethered to real student needs.

Equally vital is inclusivity. Elections open the door to diverse voices—students from different faculties, backgrounds,



and ideologies—strengthening unity and fostering ownership of governance structures. This democratic practice is not symbolic; it is a living lesson in civic engagement, preparing students for active citizenship beyond campus walls.

Elected leaders are also better positioned to defend student interests in negotiations over tuition, housing, and welfare. Their legitimacy compels them to resist external pressures and remain grounded in student realities.

Trust thrives when comrades choose their leaders. Elections dismantle favoritism and elitism, replacing suspicion with confidence in governance.

Democracy on campus is not a luxury—it is a necessity. When comrades elect their leaders, student governance reflects collective will, ensuring leadership serves the students, not the system.

By Wicklif Achieng, Laikipia University

Public Concern as Kakamega School's KCSE Results Spark National Debate

When an entire class sits for the KCSE and emerges with nothing above a D plain, the alarm bells should be deafening. That is precisely the case at a secondary school in Kakamega County, where reports of dismal results have ignited outrage and soul searching across the nation.

Parents, educators, and the public are asking the obvious: how can an entire cohort collapse so completely? The shock is understandable, but experts caution against simplistic blame. This is not an isolated failure—it is a symptom of deeper systemic rot.

Chronic understaffing, inadequate learning materials, dilapidated infrastructure, and high teacher turnover plague many rural schools. Socio economic hardships compound the problem, leaving learners ill equipped to compete in national examinations. Teachers' unions point to delayed postings by the Teachers Service Commission, forcing one teacher to juggle multiple subjects. The result is



predictable: students left behind before they even begin.

Education analysts argue the conversation must shift from ridicule to reform. What support systems were missing? What interventions failed? Local leaders are right to demand audits, remedial programs, counseling, and urgent investment in infrastructure. Without such measures, the cycle of failure will repeat.

Equally important is resisting the temptation to shame learners and teachers. Viral narratives may trend, but they crush mo-

rale in already struggling communities. KCSE results should be a catalyst for reform, not a weapon of humiliation.

The Kakamega case is more than a school's tragedy—it is a mirror reflecting the inequalities in our education system. If Kenya is serious about equity, accountability, and opportunity, then no child, regardless of county, should be condemned to failure by design.

Doreen Mueni, Laikipia University

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Mohamed Salah made his much-anticipated return to the Liverpool squad yesterday following the Africa Cup of Nations as the club prepare to face Marseille in the Champions League.

Salah Back In Liverpool Squad After AFCON



Liverpool's Egyptian striker Mohamed Salah (2R) laughs with Liverpool's Dutch defender Jeremie Frimpong (R) during a team training session at their training ground in Kirkby, Liverpool, north-west England on January 20, 2026, on the eve of their UEFA Champions League, league phase football match against Olympique Marseille in Marseille. (Photo by Oli SCARFF / AFP)..

Mohamed Salah made his much-anticipated return to the Liverpool squad yesterday following the Africa Cup of Nations as the club prepare to face Marseille in the Champions League.

A smiling Salah was put through his paces at the club's training centre with the rest of Arne Slot's squad ahead of Wednesday's match in France.

The return of the Egypt forward has been a major talking point after he took aim at Liverpool in an explosive interview early last month.

Salah accused the club of throwing him "under the bus" after he was benched for three games in a row and said he had no relationship with Slot.

But he appeared as a substitute in a 2-0 Premier League win against Brighton on December 13, providing an assist, and Slot subsequently said the club had moved on from the furore.

Last week, Slot said he welcomed Salah's return, refusing to divulge the content of his conversations with the 33-year-old, whose team finished fourth at the Africa Cup of Nations.

Slot said before Saturday's 1-1 draw against struggling Burnley he was unsure whether the forward would face Marseille.

But on Tuesday afternoon Liverpool said Salah had been named in the 20-man squad for the trip to France.

"Mohamed Salah is included

having returned to the club after representing Egypt at the Africa Cup of Nations," a statement on the club's official website said.

Liverpool are currently ninth in the league phase of the Champions League.

The top eight qualify automatically for the last 16 while teams placed from ninth to 24th face a play-off round.

Salah is Liverpool's third-highest goalscorer of all time with 250 goals in 421 appearances, winning two Premier League titles and the Champions League since joining from Roma in 2017.

He signed a lucrative new two-year contract last year as he played a starring role in guiding

Liverpool to a record-equalling 20th English top-flight title.

But he has been a shadow of his former self during Liverpool's struggles this season, managing just five goals in all competitions.

Liverpool's Premier League defense collapsed with a run of six defeats in seven matches starting in late September.

The club are now unbeaten in 12 games in all competitions but remain 14 points behind Premier League leaders Arsenal.

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Manchester City suffered a humiliating 3-1 defeat against Bodo/Glimt yesterday as the Norwegian minnows caused one of the biggest shocks in Champions League history.

Man City Stunned By Bodo/Glimt In Epic Champions League Upset

Manchester City suffered a humiliating 3-1 defeat against Bodo/Glimt yesterday as the Norwegian minnows caused one of the biggest shocks in Champions League history.

Pep Guardiola's side were blown away by Kasper Høgh's first half brace and a second half strike from Jens Petter Hauge at the ecstatic Aspmyra Stadion.

Rayan Cherki got one back moments after Hauge's goal, but Rodri's dismissal for two bookings left City in tatters as Bodo/Glimt celebrated their first ever win in the Champions League group phase.

In a fishing town situated 200km north of the Arctic Circle, the 2023 European champions were caught cold in freezing temperatures of minus two degrees.

Bodo's entire population of only 55,000 people could almost fit into City's Etihad Stadium.

But Kjetil Knutsen's underdogs ignored the huge financial and talent gap between the clubs to inflict a chastening defeat on the Premier League giants.

Bodo/Glimt, who hadn't played since December after the end of the Norwegian season, reached the Europa League semi-finals last term, an impressive run that maintained their remarkable rise over the last decade.

In their first ever season in the Champions League group phase, Bodo/Glimt had already earned credible draws against Borussia Dortmund and Tottenham.

City failed to heed the warning, playing with a lack of urgency in the face of Bodo/Glimt's relentless pressing.

They travelled to Norway earlier than Guardiola's usual schedule to ensure his players were able to practise on Bodo/Glimt's artificial pitch.

Yet they were totally out of sync in the latest disjointed display in an increasingly troubled season.

City are without a win in their last four Premier League matches, with Saturday's 2-0 defeat at Man-



Manchester City's players greet their fans after the UEFA Champions League, league Phase - day 7 football match between Bodo/Glimt and Manchester City in Bodo, Norway on January 20, 2026. (Photo by Mats Torbergson / NTB / AFP)

chester United leaving them seven points behind leaders Arsenal.

Guardiola will be alarmed by City's second successive tame surrender, which exposed the Spainard's claim that his players had rediscovered their hunger after finishing without a trophy last season.

The City boss had said he planned to enjoy the Northern Lights from his hotel before the match, but that will be his only fond memory from one of the most embarrassing losses of his glittering career.

City's final group phase fixture is at home to Galatasaray on January 28 as they try to seal an automatic place in the last 16 via a top-eight finish.

- Sloppy City -

Bodo/Glimt took a shock lead in the 22nd minute.

It was a shambolic goal to concede, underlining the defensive issues that convinced Guardiola to sign England centre-back Marc Guehi.

Max Allegne, who was playing on loan at second tier Watford ear-

lier this season, showed his lack of experience, failing to deal with a high ball over the top.

Ole Didrik Blomberg pounced on the blunder, lofting a cross to the far post, where Høgh was left unmarked to guide his header through the legs of Gianluigi Donnarumma.

As if that wasn't bad enough, City paid the price for another Alleyne mistake just two minutes later.

With City's defence out of position after Alleyne was caught out by a high bounce, Blomberg's cross picked out Høgh, who was left completely unmarked to slot a cool finish past Donnarumma.

City striker Erling Haaland once again laboured for long periods and has now scored just once in eight games in all competitions after wasting two good chances late in the first half.

There was no improvement from City after the break and Bodo/Glimt delivered the knockout blow in the 58th minute.

Rodri lost possession and Hauge curled a brilliant finish into the top

corner from long-range.

Cherki netted two minutes later with a clinical finish from the edge of the area.

But City's misery was compounded in the 62nd minute when Rodri was dismissed for fouls on Evjen and Blomberg in the space of just 54 seconds.

AFP

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Dr. Jo-Ann Jefferson “A Life Of Faith, Leadership, And Community Legacy”



By: Anila Bukhari
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

• One of Dr. Jefferson's most impactful contributions is her work as the founder of the Jefferson Foundation. Through this organization, she has provided scholarships and structured programs for youth in public speaking, education, tutoring, acting, modeling, dancing, and etiquette. The Foundation was created not merely to teach skills, but to cultivate self-worth, discipline, and leadership in young people. Dr. Jefferson believes that when children are exposed to excellence early, they begin to see themselves as capable, valuable, and deserving of success.

• As an author and co-author, Dr. Jefferson has used storytelling and education as tools for healing, awareness, and empowerment. She co-authored *Daddy's Girl* and *The Effect of Mothers*, works that explore family dynamics and emotional development.

Dr. Jo-Ann Jefferson was born in Newark, New Jersey, a city known for its resilience, culture, and strong sense of community—qualities that would come to define her own life's work. From an early age, she displayed a deep sense of purpose, compassion for others, and a natural leadership ability that would later expand into a multi-dimensional career rooted in service, faith, and empowerment.

Dr. Jefferson is a true renaissance woman. She is a businesswoman, community leader, author, radio personality, humanitarian, educator, and a devoted woman of God. Each role she carries is not a title for display, but a responsibility she lives out daily. Her life's mission has consistently centered on uplifting people—especially women, children, and underserved communities—by creating opportunities, restoring dignity, and nurturing confidence through education, faith, and practical support.

One of Dr. Jefferson's most impactful contributions is her work as the founder of the Jefferson Foundation. Through this organization, she has provided scholarships and structured programs for youth in public speaking, education, tutoring, acting, modeling, dancing, and etiquette. The Foundation was created not merely to teach skills, but to cultivate self-worth, discipline, and leadership in young people. Dr. Jefferson believes that when children are exposed to excellence early, they begin to see themselves as capable, valuable, and deserving of success.

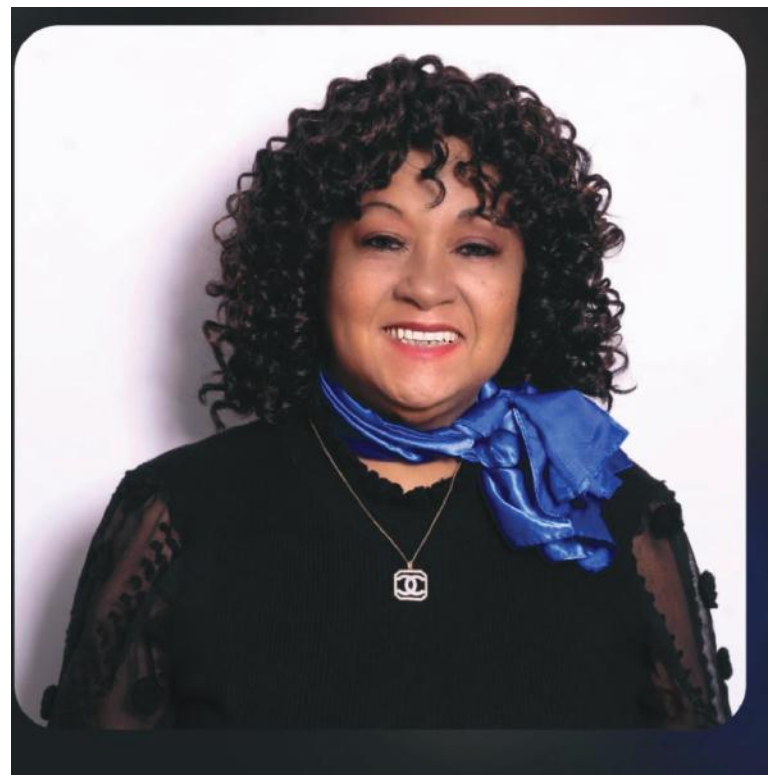
As an author and co-author, Dr. Jefferson has used storytelling and education as tools for healing, awareness, and empowerment. She co-authored *Daddy's Girl* and *The Effect of Mothers*, works that explore family dynamics and emotional development. Her solo publications reflect her heart for children, families, and faith-centered entrepreneurship. These include *Stop Bullying Me*, a powerful book addressing the emotional impact of bullying; *Starting a Business in a Godly Way*, which blends entrepreneurship with Christian principles; *E.J.'s Learning Center Alphabet Book*, designed to support early

childhood education; and *Cooking with Mama Jo*, a warm, personal reflection of family, culture, and love through food.

Dr. Jefferson's influence also extends into pageantry, where she has long been a champion of grace, confidence, and cultural pride. In 1980, she was a Miss Black America candidate and went on to become the Miss Black America New Jersey titleholder that same year. Decades later, her legacy continued when she was honored as a 2023 All-Time Miss Black America candidate and the 2023 All-Time Black America Candidate of New Jersey. Beyond participation, she became a leader in the pageant world by franchising the local New Jersey Miss Black America Pageant and founding a series of pageants including Baby Divas, Tiny Divas, Teen Divas, Elegant Divas, Silver Divas, Fabulous Divas, and Queen Divas in Montclair, New Jersey. These platforms were designed to celebrate confidence, poise, and personal growth at every stage of life.

Her dedication to service and excellence has been recognized through numerous awards. In 2012, Dr. Jefferson received both the Community Award and the Businesswoman Award, honoring her impact in entrepreneurship and outreach. In 2023, she was presented with a Humanitarian Award for her lifelong commitment to helping others. In 2024, she received one of her highest honors—the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award from President Joseph Biden—recognizing decades of sustained volunteer service and community leadership.

Entrepreneurship is another cornerstone of Dr. Jefferson's legacy. Alongside her husband, Mr. Jefferson, she has been a 40-year owner of the beloved Jefferson Café in Montclair, New Jersey. The couple also owns J's Southern Style Café in Orange, New Jersey, and Mama Jo's in Belleville, New Jersey. These establishments are more than restaurants—they are community landmarks. People travel from around the world to experience the food, warmth, and hospitality that reflect Dr. Jefferson's belief that serving a meal is also serving the soul.



Dr. Jo-Ann Jefferson

In addition to her restaurants, Dr. Jefferson owns several service-based businesses, including Sparkling Clean Housekeeping Service LLC, Sparkling Clean Homecare LLC, and Loveable and Caring Homecare. Through these ventures, she has provided employment opportunities while delivering essential care and support to families and individuals in need. Her businesses reflect her philosophy that success should always be tied to service.

For more than 20 years, Dr. Jefferson has also been a powerful voice on the airwaves. As a radio personality, she hosted *The Amazing Women of Excellence Show* on WSNR 620 AM Davidson Radio. Through this platform, she highlighted stories of faith, resilience, leadership, and achievement, giving women a space to be seen, heard, and celebrated. Expanding this vision further, she founded *The Amazing Women of Excellence (AWOE) Magazine*, continuing her mission to uplift and honor women making a difference.

At the heart of everything Dr. Jefferson does is her Christian faith. Through the Jo-Ann Jefferson Agency, she continues to bless individu-

als and communities, guided by her belief that success is most meaningful when it is used to serve God and others. Her life stands as a testament to what is possible when faith, purpose, and perseverance walk hand in hand.

Dr. Jo-Ann Jefferson's story is not simply one of achievement, but of impact. She has built businesses, shaped leaders, nurtured children, empowered women, and strengthened communities—leaving behind a legacy defined by love, service, and unwavering faith.