



**When Advocates Abandon Logic: The Intellectual Collapse Of The Law Society Of Kenya Elections**  
 Over 19,000 advocates are registered with the Law Society of Kenya. These individuals spent years studying jurisprudence, mastering rules of evidence, and learning to construct airtight arguments. Yet during LSK elections campaign, a staggering number abandon every principle of rational thought they claim to uphold in courtrooms. Page 18

**THANK YOU FOR ADVERTISING WITH US**  
 For any news you would wish us to publish,  
 email us: [news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke](mailto:news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke)  
 For Adverts & Sponsorship  
 email us: [ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke](mailto:ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke)

The Creative Rewards  
**MT. KENYA TIMES**  
 Daily ePAPER

Thursday, January 22, 2026

No. 01476 [www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke](http://www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke)

[f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [thentkenyatimes](#)



**News>> Mau Mau Group Calls Special Meeting to Chart Next Phase of Compensation Campaign**


**P. 8.** A caucus of former freedom fighters and their descendants is set to convene a special meeting next week chart the way forward over their longstanding compensation claims.



**News>> Lewa Conservancy Invests KSh8 Million In Digital Classrooms At Rugusu School**

**P. 12.** Lewa Wildlife Conservancy has commissioned five modern digital classrooms at Rugusu Primary and Junior Secondary School, marking a major milestone in a long-term public-private partnership

# Gov't Blamed For Grade 10 Admission Crisis

 The government has come under heavy criticism for inefficiencies that have now culminated in thousands of Grade Nine learners being unable to report for Grade 10. Elimu Bora Policy and Strategy Advisor, Mr Boaz Waruku says many have not reported because of poor preparations by the State, which should have released information earlier to give parents time to prepare. There are also too many hidden fees, frequent transfers and poor placement adding to the high cost of living and parent frustrations.



The panelists and hosts posing for a photo after the show. Photo/Courtesy.

STORY ON PAGE 9

## NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"

**Contact Us:**

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438  
 +254 706 237 040 / +254 724 613 401

[business@exponentialinternational.com](mailto:business@exponentialinternational.com)



SCAN TO REGISTER



"ALL BUSINESSES  
 ONE PLATFORM"

# Ruto Doubles President's Award Budget To Empow Youth

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes

## Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto has announced that the government will double the budget of President's Award-Kenya to enable the agency to reach more students nationwide. The move aims to overcome financial constraints limiting the programme's operations. Additional staff will also be recruited, and a modern office will be sourced to strengthen the agency's capacity.

Speaking at the Gold Award presentation at State House Nairobi, the President highlighted the significance of the Gold Level; the highest achievement under the programme. It rewards young people who demonstrate commitment, maturity, leadership, and participation across Service, Skills, Physical Recreation, and Adventurous Journey, including a residential project promoting teamwork among diverse participants.

This year, 1,252 young people earned the Gold Award.

President Ruto pledged to give Gold Award recipients priority in public service opportunities and acknowledged mentors for their role in nurturing youth.

He emphasized the government's ongoing investment in human capital, noting plans to scale the National Research Fund to 2% of GDP, and urged young people to remain optimistic and proactive despite societal pessimism.

Sports and Youth Affairs CS Salim Mvurya lauded the programme for equipping youth with life skills, while MPs and recipients praised its role in fostering responsibility, resilience, and leadership. President's Award-Kenya CEO Margaret Kiogora described it as transformative, shaping young people into productive citizens.

Ruto reaffirmed that Kenya's youth have the talent and determination to realize the nation's long-term goal of becoming a first-world economy.



NEXT

"ONE-S



Editor's Desk

### The Mt. Kenya Times



The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, 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, providing Communications and Media services.

Group Executive Chairman  
M. Danson

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

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



# EXPOENTIAL GENERATION CLASSIFY BUSINESS DIRECTORY



"ALL BUSINESSES  
ON ONE PLATFORM"

BUSINESSES  
ON ONE PLATFORM"



SCAN TO REGISTER



## Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438

+254 706 237 040 / +254 721 274 369

+254 724 613 401 / +254 100 423 971

+254 724 613 401



business@exponentialinternational.com



www.businessavaibale.com

## NEWS IN BRIEF



President William Ruto has nominated Mr. Francis Meja as the new Chairperson of the Public Service Commission. Mr. Meja, currently a member of the Commission since January 2025, brings extensive experience in both public and private sectors. He previously served as the founding Director-General of the National Transport and Safety Authority, Registrar of Motor Vehicles, and Council Member at Murang'a University of Technology. In addition, he has over fifteen years of experience in banking and financial services, holding senior roles at Equity Bank Kenya and the Housing Finance Company of Kenya. Mr. Meja holds an MBA in Strategic Management from the University of Nairobi. The

nomination has been forwarded to the National Assembly for consideration and approval.



President William Ruto having a chat with Uhuru Kenyatta's brother, Muhoho, at State House, Nairobi yesterday during presentation of The President's Award.



Kitutu Chache South Member of Parliament Anthony Kibagendi was released on cash bail of KSh100,000 or an alternative bond of KSh200,000 following his arraignment at Narok Law Court yesterday. The MP was charged with Assault, Malicious damage of JAVA property in Kisii worth KSh20,000 and the damage of iPhone valued KSh230,000.



A fire destroyed a boys' dormitory at Enkasiti Comprehensive School in Kajiado East Constituency. The 82-bed dormitory was completely destroyed, though no injuries or deaths were reported and all students are safe. Kajiado East MP Kakuta Ole Maimai pledged to support efforts to rebuild the facility and restore normal learning as he also called on well-wishers to donate essential items to assist the school and urged government agencies to investigate the cause of the blaze.



The National Government has urged residents of Chemamul Location, Belgut Sub-County, Kericho County, to remove eucalyptus and other exotic trees planted along the Cheptulwo River banks and surrounding wetlands within the next three months. Authorities say these trees deplete water, disrupt habitats, and reduce soil fertility, threatening both the environment and local livelihoods. Experts noted that species such as *Eucalyptus grandis*, *E. saligna*, *E. camaldulensis*, and *E. globulus* prevent rivers and wetlands from performing vital ecological functions, including flood absorption, natural water purification, and wildlife habitat provision.



Officers from the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) have arrested a notorious female drug trafficker and seized cannabis valued at over KSh4 million during a coordinated crackdown at Ahero Market, Nyando Sub-County, Kisumu County. Acting on a reliable tip-off, NACADA officers conducted a raid on Tuesday morning, targeting multiple locations linked to an active drug trafficking network. During the operation, officers arrested a repeat offender at a homestead under surveillance for some time. NACADA CEO Dr. Anthony Omerikwa described the suspect as a hardcore peddler found with large quantities of bhang packaged as twigs, small packets (tarrifs), and brooms.



Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Dr. Deborah Barasa held discussions with Italian Ambassador to Kenya and Seychelles, Vincenzo Del Monaco, to advance Kenya's sustainable waste management agenda. The talks focused on reviving the Kajiado Integrated Solid Waste Management (KISWAM) Project, a flagship initiative aimed at decommissioning the Ngong dumpsite, establishing a Waste-to-Energy facility, and creating an Integrated Resource Recovery Centre (IRRC) to promote circular economy practices, green jobs, and improved public health. The CS highlighted progress toward preliminary project approval and outlined complementary national interventions aligned with Kenya's sustainable waste management goals. Both parties pledged to unlock pending milestones and position KISWAM as a national pilot for integrated and sustainable waste management.



**IEBC**  
Your Vote, Your Future  
INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

**KURA YAKO SAUTI YAKO!**

**REGISTER AS A VOTER TODAY**

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN**

**Don't miss out**

**HON PETER GITHINJI TROPICAL**  
~Mathira Mp 2027~

**The Africa Largest eCOMMERCE**



**www. gotyou.co.ke**

**NOW OPEN**

**Call/Text/WhatsApp: +254 714 090 155**

**NEWS PAPER**



**IN BUSINESS**

# The Mount Kenya Times

+254 724 439 949, +254 720 918 828, +254 721 103 040, +254 713 318 438

website: <https://mountkenyatimes.co.ke>

# Government To Expand President's Award-Kenya, Boosting Opportunities For Youth

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- Speaking at State House Nairobi during the presentation of the Gold Award, the President highlighted that the government will double the agency's budget in the upcoming financial cycle to address financial constraints that have limited its operations.

- In addition, President Ruto directed the recruitment of additional staff and instructed the Head of Public Service to secure modern office facilities for the agency, underscoring the government's commitment to enhancing the programme's capacity and effectiveness.



President William Ruto with government officials and some of the beneficiaries. Photo/Courtesy.

President William Ruto has announced plans to significantly expand the President's Award-Kenya programme, aiming to reach more students and strengthen youth development across the country.

Speaking at State House Nairobi during the presentation of the Gold Award, the President highlighted that the government will double the agency's budget in the upcoming financial cycle to address financial constraints that have limited its operations.

In addition, President Ruto directed the recruitment of additional staff and instructed the Head of Public Service to secure modern office facilities for the agency, underscoring the government's commitment to enhancing the programme's capacity and effectiveness.

The President's Award-Kenya is

designed to develop leadership, resilience and personal growth among young people.

The Gold Award, the highest level of achievement, recognizes participants who demonstrate consistent commitment and leadership across the programme's core areas; Service, Skills, Physical Recreation and Adventurous Journey.

It also includes a residential project that brings together young people from diverse backgrounds to live, work, and serve as a team in an unfamiliar environment. This year, 1,252 young people qualified for the Gold Award.

President Ruto emphasized that Gold Award recipients will be given priority consideration for opportunities in public service, with mentors also receiving recognition for their guidance.

He highlighted the broader government strategy to invest in education and youth training, including scaling up the National Research Fund to 2 percent of Kenya's GDP, noting that human capital development and innovation are central to the nation's long-term prosperity.

The President appealed to young people to embrace optimism and pursue opportunities despite challenges, stressing that Kenya's future belongs to those who act with hope, effort, and purpose.

Sports and Youth Affairs Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya described the programme as a strategic initiative that complements formal education by equipping young people with life skills and the ability to address personal and community challenges.

Thika Town MP Alice Ng'ang'a

emphasized that the initiative keeps youth engaged in productive activities, reducing vulnerability to substance abuse.

Gold Award recipient Amani Njoki praised the programme for shaping young people into responsible and professional adults, calling for its expansion; a commitment the President assured would be implemented.

President's Award-Kenya CEO Margaret Kiogora described the initiative as transformative, instilling integrity, service and resilience in young participants.

Through these measures, the government aims to strengthen youth engagement, foster leadership, and prepare a generation of skilled, responsible and optimistic citizens ready to contribute to Kenya's development.

## The MT. KENYA TIMES

Where Investors Get Returns

To advertise in Mt. Kenya Times read by discerning Kenyan professionals and the business community contact our exclusive **UK & Europe** Advertising and Marketing representatives.



**ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP**  
 16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF  
 Phone: 0330 606 1438 (44 330 606 1438)  
 Email: [media@adlinkinternational.com](mailto:media@adlinkinternational.com)  
[www.adlinkinternational.com](http://www.adlinkinternational.com)  
 Contact: Mr Shamlal Puri

# KTDA Announces Broad Payment Increases: Farmers Set To Benefit Across Regions

By: WMW

@themtkenyetimes

## Worth Noting:

- At regional annual general meetings and directors' forums across the tea growing areas, factory boards confirmed increases to the monthly rates; meant to cushion farmers while they await the larger annual second payment which is commonly referred to as bonus.
- In several central Kenya factories, the directors have announced increase in monthly green leaf prices adjusted upwards to around KSh30 per kilogram as part of these reforms, a revision seen as a timely relief given the prevailing economic pressures.
- The broader context for these changes includes sector-wide discussions on improving smallholder incomes. The tea industry continues to be a critical pillar of Kenya's rural economy, contributing significantly to livelihoods and foreign exchange earnings.



KTDA Holdings board member and chairman of Embu region (Zone 6) Mr Enos Njeru briefing journalists after yesterday's meeting. Photo/Courtesy.

In a significant move welcomed by tea growers nationwide, the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) and boards of various KTDA-managed factories have agreed on an upward revision of the monthly advance payments that smallholder tea farmers receive for green leaf delivered to factories.

The payment hikes come amid ongoing efforts to shore up earnings for farmers confronted with rising costs of production, volatile global markets, and fluctuating bonus payouts.

At regional annual general meetings and directors' forums across the tea growing areas, factory boards confirmed increases to the monthly rates; meant to cushion farmers while they await the larger annual second payment which is commonly referred to as bonus.

In several central Kenya factories, the directors have announced increase in monthly green leaf prices adjusted upwards to around KSh30 per kilogram as part of these reforms, a revision seen as a timely relief given the prevailing economic pressures.

The broader context for these changes includes sector-wide discussions on improving smallholder incomes. The tea industry continues to be a critical pillar of Kenya's rural economy, contributing significantly to livelihoods and foreign exchange earnings.

Stakeholders have been working on

aligning value chain incentives, addressing market access challenges and encouraging quality improvements that can fetch better auction prices overseas.

Yesterday, Mr Enos Njeru, one of KTDA's board member and chairman of Embu region which is categorized as Zone 6 lauded the new rates terming it "A great New Year gift for farmers"

Speaking after holding a directors meeting where they ratified the initiative, Njeru, who is also a former KTDA Holdings Chairman noted that the increase is intended to directly improve farmers' cash flows and complements the broader adjustments made by KTDA across the country.

The new monthly payment rate from KSh25 to KSh30 will effective with

the January 2026 crop which will be paid on 5th February.

To ensure farmers reap more, KTDA has advised them to cap pickers payments at KSh15 per kilogramme.

While monthly payment rates are increasing, annual bonus payouts have been under pressure in recent seasons due to global market dynamics and exchange rate shifts, which have affected overall earnings from tea exports.

KTDA has publicly explained that such market factors, not internal mismanagement are largely responsible for declines in some bonus payments and has urged stakeholders to focus on quality and productivity.

Despite these challenges, the incremental increases in monthly advance payments are widely perceived as

meaningful steps toward ensuring regular income for farmers and helping them meet day-to-day needs.

For many growers, especially smallholders who deliver leaf weekly to their local KTDA-managed factories, these payments represent crucial cash flow that sustains their households and farm activities throughout the year.

As KTDA and regional factory boards continue to refine payment models and pursue strategies to enhance farmer incomes, the tea sector remains a central force in Kenya's agricultural landscape; driving economic growth, supporting rural communities and reinforcing the importance of responsive leadership and stakeholder unity.



# Mau Mau Group Calls Special Meeting to Chart Next Phase of Compensation Campaign

By: MKT Reporter  
@themkenyaintimes

A caucus of former freedom fighters and their descendants is set to convene a special meeting next week chart the way forward over their longstanding compensation claims.

MMV Associates CLG has announced that the special meeting will be held at Panari Resort in Nyahururu from 30 January to 5 February 2026, as the organisation intensifies efforts to revive compensation claims linked to the Mau Mau liberation struggle.

The organisation Director James Njuguna Mahuria, the organisation said the week-long meeting will bring together key officials, regional coordinators and associates to deliberate on legal strategy, financial administration and the structure of its national network.

At the top of the agenda is a discussion on the historical and legal basis for renewed compensation claims.

The caucus has for years been involved in documenting the experi-

ences of Mau Mau veterans and their descendants, many of whom suffered land dispossession, detention, forced labour, and torture during the colonial period. Although a landmark 2013 settlement by the British government compensated more than 5,000 veterans, many survivors and families argue that thousands were left out and that broader questions of land justice and reparations remain unresolved.

The meeting will also address internal governance and financial systems as the organisation prepares for expanded operations. Delegates are expected to clarify the opening of an account with the National Bank of Kenya and review the status of MMV Associates' current accounts across the 47 counties, sub-counties, and wards.

Another key item is the management of personnel accounts that will remain active for two months, a move seen as part of efforts to streamline contributions and accountability.

Members will further consider the proposed payment of Kenya shillings 3,000 through Paybill number 625625, Account Number 20191820, a contribution intended to support



MMV Associates CLG Director James Njuguna Mahuria addressing members in the past. Photo/Courtesy.

administrative costs and upcoming legal and advocacy activities. The notice also highlights the formal association between the Mau Mau War Veterans Association and MMV Associates CLG, signalling closer coordination between veterans and civil society actors.

Mahuria said the special meeting

is meant to “consolidate our organisational structures and lay a firm foundation for the next phase of the compensation struggle.”

MMV Associates CLG has positioned itself as a coordinating body for Mau Mau veterans, descendants, and partner organisations seeking comprehensive justice, including

land restitution, memorialisation, and reparations.

Observers say the outcomes of the Nyahururu meeting could shape the direction of a renewed national campaign to address colonial-era injustices more than six decades after independence.

# Nairobi Coffee Exchange: 40,918 Bags Worth KSh 2.45 Billion Traded



By: Henry Kinyua  
@themkenyaintimes

Coffee trading at the Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) on Tuesday saw a strong performance in this week's sale as both volumes and market activity surged.

A total of 40,918 bags, equivalent to 2,500,105 kilos, were successfully traded, generating USD 18,870,048.32 (about KSh2,449,809,404.78) at an average price of USD 379.80 per 50kg bag, or KSh151 per kilogram of cherry.

Premium lots continued to attract fierce competition, with the highest price reaching USD 490 for 29 bags of Grade AA from the Kiairia factory,

part of Gititu FCS in Kiambu County. This underscored Kenya's continued strength in the high-quality coffee segment.

This week's sale outperformed last week's sale, which traded 27,788 bags at an average price of USD 401 per bag, marking an increase of 13,130 bags, or roughly 47 percent, although the average price dipped by about USD 21.20 per bag due to the heavier supply mix.

Compared with the same sale last season, which moved 28,956 bags at an average of USD 339 per bag, this week's sale reflects a 41 percent increase in volume and a 12 percent rise in average price, signaling a firm and active coffee market.

The supply side was dominated by a handful of key brokers. Alliance Berries Limited led the volumes, followed by New KPCU PLC and Kirinyaga Slopes Coffee Brokerage. Notably, Kirinyaga Slopes achieved one of the highest average prices at USD 415.19 per bag, reflecting strong demand for premium coffee in its catalogue.

Other active brokers included Kipkelion Broker Company, Minnesota Coffee Marketers and Coffee Estates Bourgeoisie Brokers Ltd, among others.

On the demand side, purchasing remained highly concentrated.

The top five buyers; Kenyacof Limited, Taylor Winch (Coffee) Limited, Ibero Kenya Ltd, C. Dormans SEZ Ltd and Sasini (K) Limited accounted for over 83 percent of the total auction volume, purchasing 34,021 bags collectively.

This concentration underscores the continued influence of a few major dealers in shaping market demand and price discovery at the NCE.

With 40,918 bags traded worth KSh 2.45 billion, this week's sale confirms that Nairobi's coffee auction is in a high-activity phase, supported by stronger deliveries and robust interest in premium lots. Analysts expect volumes to continue rising in the coming weeks, reflecting growing confidence in the Kenyan coffee market.



A graphic illustration of the sale.

# Government Blamed For Grade 10 Admission Crisis

By: James Wakahiu  
 @themtkenyatimes

The government has come under heavy criticism for inefficiencies that have now culminated in thousands of Grade Nine learners being unable to report for Grade 10.

Elimu Bora Policy and Strategy Advisor, Mr Boaz Waruku says many have not reported because of poor preparations by the State, which should have released information earlier to give parents time to prepare.

There are also too many hidden fees, frequent transfers and poor placement adding to the high cost of living and parent frustrations.

“We also thought categorization of schools into national, provincial and district schools had ended with the Prof Munavu report. This creates pressure for kids to join the top ranked schools (C1 and C2),” he said.

Released in August 2023, the Presidential Working Party on Education Reform (PWPER) proposed the scrapping of the four-tier clustering of public secondary schools in favor a career-oriented categorisation dividing schools into three.

The Prof. Raphael Munavu-led team recommended three broad clusters namely; STEM, Social Science and Arts, and Sports Science.

“Ministry of Education to discontinue categorisation of public Secondary Schools from the current nomenclature (National, Extra-County, County, and Sub-County) to career pathways at Senior School,” PWPER proposed. Today, the Ministry of Education has re-classified the schools into C1, C2, C3 and C4.

Day schools now re-classified as C4 face a dark future due to lack of infrastructure.

In many schools, not a single learner had reported by last weekend. Only 61 per cent of learners had reported by last Sunday.

According to Dr Vincent Gaitho, Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the University Council, Mount Kenya University (MKU), the Competency-Based Education (CBE system is not an accident.

“Students being forced to attend local day schools instead of dream national schools where they were invited to. We should have been better prepared. Kenya is 63 years old,” he said.

“It scares me of what will happen in 2029 when Cohort 1 of CBE enters university. We must invest and be prepared to face the challenge head on. The Cabinet secretary for Education should be able to steer the process. The entire echo system must work; the Education ministry, politicians and NG-cdf,” he said.



Parents taking their children to join Senior School. Photo/Courtesy.



## Worth Noting:

- Elimu Bora Policy and Strategy Advisor, Mr Boaz Waruku says many have not reported because of poor preparations by the State, which should have released information earlier to give parents time to prepare.
- There are also too many hidden fees, frequent transfers and poor placement adding to the high cost of living and parent frustrations.
- “We also thought categorization of schools into national, provincial and district schools had ended with the Prof Munavu report. This creates pressure for kids to join the top ranked schools (C1 and C2),” he said.
- Released in August 2023, the Presidential Working Party on Education Reform (PWPER) proposed the scrapping of the four-tier clustering of public secondary schools in favor a career-oriented categorisation dividing schools into three.

Dr Gaitho regretted that everything is now being left to the President.

“Are the CSs working? What happened to 100 per cent transition? Why is this impossible with CBE?” he posed.

Dr Gaitho said while all students take same exam, some get lower marks due to lack of teachers, laboratories and poor facilities.

“Some have to imagine how a computer or a swimming pool looks like,” he noted.

Although the number of students who got C + and above is going up (the minimum university qualification), there is a need to review the TVET curriculum.

“Private sector schools in basic education are also not investing in private senior schools,” he said.

They were speaking as part of a panel of experts hosted by a local TV station to discuss the crisis in the current intake of students into senior secondary schools. Former nominated MP and Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) secretary general Wilson Sossion said the problem did not start today.

“We are not tracing the root cause of the problem. It started in 2016 when the change of curriculum was introduced without proper planning,” he said.

Sossion said in 2022, KNUT did a report on the collapse of basic education.

“Teachers were not prepared for the CBC curriculum. The government admitted its mistakes and said curricula review was an ongoing process. The State has also taken a deliberate step to reform the Teachers Service Commission and instituted extensive curriculum changes,” he added.

He praised the placement of junior

schools in primary schools since senior schools could have been overwhelmed.

On the current Grade 10 reporting crisis, Sossion said school fees are putting pressure on parents and on demand for bursaries.

“Parents are also choosy on the schools available. There is need to mop up the pupils at home,” noted.

Mr Yusuf Chanzu, former MP for Vihiga constituency said government institutions are not working resulting in 700,000 learners being stranded at home. “Presidential Commissions reports in the education sector are not implemented. The President keeps boasting about how many teachers he has employed. Where is the TSC Teachers Service?”

He decried lack of continuous investment in the education sector. “Commissions, Parliament and other institutions are not working. It starts with corruption in General Elections process, which results in poor leadership” he noted.

The panelists said the children and parents have been let down by the government at the KJSEA (Kenya Junior School Education Assessment) level.

Problems of teachers and infrastructure in junior schools still glaring, they said.

“About 74 per cent in senior schools are day scholars. Transition to day schools must be going up towards 80 per cent. This can only happen if we invest in quality laboratories, classrooms and other facilities. Transition to senior schools is not a choice. The road to Singapore is via a skilled human resource,” noted Sossion.

Mr Chanzu regretted that a huge part of the national budget in Kenya

is going to education without proper accountability.

“The CS education not visiting schools like the CS for Interior, Kipchumba Murkomen, is doing in security. He has meeting chiefs, sub-chiefs, police in regions to motivate them while at the same time understanding challenges from the ground level (mashinani),” he said.

The former MP said the entire government information gathering system is not working, from ministerial advisory committees to the PS office to budget to Treasury.

“It is high time we looked into the information flow. Are there leakages? The NG-CDF has a lot of money, about KSh170 million for some constituents. Parliament is not supervising the use of NG-CDF. MPs even say Sh100 million is peanuts,” he added.

Mr Waruku criticized the delivery of capitation to schools, which is characterised by late disbursement of inadequate funds. He said since the mechanism of reporting in the Education ministry is not working, the CEOs must take decisive actions.

“Even the information about 700,000 learners still at home came from the Ministry of Interior,” he regretted.

Mr Sossion called for quality assurance on the buildings being constructed using NG-cdf funds in schools.

“There is no supervision on the use of CDF funds. Some schools have over 100,000 applications, yet nobody wants to join others. The CDF can remain with MPs, but we need accountability. Maybe a national conference on NG-CDF accountability now could a starting point,” he said.

# Mudavadi Holds Bilateral Talks With German Foreign Minister To Deepen Strategic Partnership

By: OPCS PS

@themtkenyatimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi yesterday held extensive bilateral discussions with Germany's Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Johann Wadephul, who is in the country for a two-day official visit.

Their discussions focused on deepening cooperation in key priority areas, including migration and mobility, climate change and renewable energy, peace and security and multilateral cooperation as Kenya and Germany enjoy a robust relationship that has evolved over decades into a strategic partnership and collaboration across multiple domains.

The discussions further covered regional and global peace and security related matters and the two Ministers exchanged views on the situations in Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and the



Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi with Germany's Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Johann Wadephul in Nairobi yesterday. Photo/PCS PS.

Democratic Republic of Congo, and reaffirmed a shared support approach for African-led peace processes and a coordinated international engage-

ment.

They agreed to future engagements on areas that have yielded tangible benefits including trade and invest-

ment, education, technology transfer and healthcare, directly and indirectly impacting on the lives of the citizens of these two nations.

The meeting preceded another one with President William Ruto.

# Kihika Applauds Faith Groups, Details Development Milestones

By: Suleiman Mbatiah

@themtkenyatimes

Religious institutions are important partners in delivering social services, pushing for accountability and driving national development, Governor Susan Kihika has said.

The Governor commended faith-based organisations for their strong presence in education, healthcare and humanitarian work. She said they often fill critical gaps left by the State.

Kihika spoke yesterday during the Nakuru County Annual Prayer Breakfast at Nakuru Girls Senior School in an event that was organised by the Nakuru Christian Leaders Fellowship.

"Leadership without God risks losing its moral direction. This forum

provides an opportunity for reflection, unity and accountability," the Governor said while highlighting the spiritual nourishment role.

The Governor was accompanied by her deputy, David Kones and top county officials.

The event also brought together Members of the County Assembly, the business community and security agencies.

While outlining her administration's key achievements across key sectors, she reaffirmed her commitment to servant leadership anchored on faith, integrity and inclusive development.



# NIFC Positions Nairobi As Africa's Hub For Financial Services And Regulated Digital Assets At Davos

.....as ChainBLX SPC and SCC Fund SP confirm plans to establish operations in Kenya

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themkenyaintimes

**Worth Noting:**

- The engagements marked a significant step forward in Kenya's investment agenda, with ChainBLX SPC and SCC Fund SP confirming plans to establish operations in Kenya, supported by the Nairobi International Financial Centre Authority.
- Speaking in Davos, Mr Daniel Mainda, Chief Executive Officer of the NIFC stated; "Kenya has made a deliberate shift from momentum to architecture. Through the Nairobi International Financial Centre, we are building markets not experiments anchored in regulatory clarity, strong institutions and real economic outcomes. Nairobi is positioning itself as Africa's trusted platform for capital, innovation and regulated digital assets, offering active facilitation, sandbox support and targeted incentives for regional headquarters, holding companies, venture capital and private equity funds, and high-growth startups. We will compete on regulatory quality, not regulatory arbitrage and we are open for serious business."



SCC Fund SP Fund CEO Dr Yutaka Niihara with Nairobi International Financial Centre Authority CEO Mr Daniel Mainda and the Founder and Managing Partner of ChainBLX SPC Mr Karl Seelig at the USA House in Davos, Switzerland.

The Nairobi International Financial Centre Authority (NIFC) has successfully concluded a series of high-level engagements at the World Economic Forum in Davos, reinforcing Kenya's emergence as a leading African hub for financial services, digital innovation, green finance and regulated virtual assets.

At a private leadership breakfast hosted by SCC Fund SP, ChainBLX SPC, and Digital.Davos, global investors and technology leaders engaged with NIFC on the deployment of compliant blockchain infrastructure, institutional-grade digital platforms and scalable innovation aligned with global regulatory standards.

The engagements marked a significant step forward in Kenya's investment agenda, with ChainBLX SPC and SCC Fund SP confirming plans to establish operations in Kenya, supported by the Nairobi International Financial Centre Authority.

Speaking in Davos, Mr Daniel Mainda, Chief Executive Officer of the NIFC stated; "Kenya has made a deliberate shift from momentum to architecture. Through the Nairobi International Financial Centre, we are building markets not experiments anchored in regulatory clarity, strong institutions and real economic outcomes. Nairobi is positioning itself as Africa's trusted platform for capital, innovation and regulated digital assets, offering active facilitation, sandbox support and targeted incentives for regional headquarters, holding companies, venture capital and private equity funds, and high-growth startups. We will compete on regulatory quality, not regulatory arbitrage and we are open for serious business."

Discussions also highlighted Kenya's progress in establishing a clear regulatory framework for digital and virtual asset service providers, following the enactment of the Vir-

tual Asset Service Providers Act and subsequent regulations. This framework positions Nairobi as a competitive base for international digital asset firms seeking to serve African markets from a stable and well-governed jurisdiction.

Mr. Karl Seelig, Founder and Managing Partner of ChainBLX SPC, welcomed the engagement, noting; "Kenya's approach combines regulatory certainty with a strong innovation ecosystem. The collaboration with NIFC reflects a shared commitment to building compliant, scalable digital infrastructure with real commercial relevance."

Commenting on Kenya's broader positioning, SCC Fund SP Fund CEO Dr Yutaka Niihara added; "Kenya is demonstrating how forward-looking regulation and digital infrastructure can support trusted innovation at scale. The discussions in Davos reflect growing confidence in Nairobi as a regional platform."

In parallel, NIFC engagements underscored Kenya's advancing work on national capital platforms, including the National Infrastructure Fund and sovereign investment frameworks, aimed at mobilising long-term private capital and strengthening project delivery.

The NIFC reaffirmed that Nairobi is open to international firms across financial services, fintech, digital assets, carbon markets and green finance, offering regulatory clarity, deep talent and strategic access to African markets.

As global capital increasingly prioritises jurisdictions that combine innovation with trust, Kenya continues to position itself as a credible and competitive partner for long-term investment.

# Lewa Conservancy Invests KSh8 Million In Digital Classrooms At Rugusu School

By: Dennis Dibondo  
 @themkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:**

- Speaking during the commissioning ceremony, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy's Chief Programmes and Partnerships Officer, John Kinoti, said the project demonstrates the power of collaboration between local communities, government and development partners in driving sustainable development.
- He noted that learners spend most of their formative years in classrooms, making safe and well-equipped learning spaces essential for meaningful education and a better future.
- Kinoti said improved facilities at Rugusu School have significantly boosted enrolment and attendance, with the school population growing from 112 learners to more than 600 in recent years.
- He added that the five classrooms are fully furnished and equipped with electricity, tiled floors, adequate desks, reliable water supply and Starlink internet with paid subscriptions.

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy has commissioned five modern digital classrooms at Rugusu Primary and Junior Secondary School, marking a major milestone in a long-term public-private partnership that has transformed the once-isolated institution into a digitally enabled centre of learning.

The new classrooms are part of a broader infrastructure programme aimed at improving access to quality education in communities neighbouring the conservancy.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy's Chief Programmes and Partnerships Officer, John Kinoti, said the project demonstrates the power of collaboration between local communities, government and development partners in driving sustainable development.

He noted that learners spend most of their formative years in classrooms, making safe and well-equipped learning spaces essential for meaningful education and a better future.

Kinoti said improved facilities at Rugusu School have significantly boosted enrolment and attendance, with the school population growing from 112 learners to more than 600 in recent years.

He added that the five classrooms are fully furnished and equipped with electricity, tiled floors, adequate desks, reliable water supply and Starlink internet with paid subscriptions.

Lewa's Head of Education Programmes, Purity Kinoti, said the conservancy currently supports 28 schools in the region and has constructed more than 100 classrooms across the county. Many of these are fitted with digital smart boards, Starlink Wi-Fi and supported through teacher training to strengthen digital learning. She said the education investments are designed to complement conservation by improving livelihoods and creating long-term opportunities for surrounding communities.



Some of the donors pose for a picture with Purity Kinoro head Lewa Education program at one of the classrooms.

plement conservation by improving livelihoods and creating long-term opportunities for surrounding communities.

At Rugusu School, Lewa's intervention extends beyond classrooms.

The conservancy has supported the construction of a kitchen and dining hall, boys' and girls' dormitories, an office block and staffroom, and has provided office equipment, including a printer used for examinations. Kinoti said the land hosting the school was acquired by Lewa with support from parents, and a borehole has been sunk to supply water to both the school and

the wider community.

The five newly commissioned classrooms form part of 12 modern units constructed at the school at a total cost of Sh8 million. Kinoti said the investment aligns with national education priorities, particularly the Competency-Based Education system, which places strong emphasis on digital literacy and preparation for the modern job market.

County Director of Education Joseph Maki praised the initiative for addressing critical infrastructure gaps and improving learner morale and attendance. Parents have also wel-

comed the transformation, with Philis Kanana saying the new facilities have eased daily burdens and attracted learners from distant areas.

The project was achieved through a global partnership involving the Lewa Education Programme, Zoo Zürich, its Rotary Club, the Zoo Zürich Conservation Fund and long-time supporter Martin Bucher.

Lewa has now built 12 of the school's 16 classrooms, bringing quality education closer to every child in the community.



Some of the children at Rusungu School where Lewa Wildlife Conservancy donated four classrooms worth KSh8 million..



Some of the classes at Rusungu School that were donated by Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. Photos/Dennis Dibondo .

# Vocational Training Boosting Youth Skills, Creating Jobs

By: Alex Njeru  
@themkenyatimes

Vocational Training has emerged as a key driver of practical skills development as youths increasingly embrace trades that power a modern economy in Tharaka Nithi County.

Governor Muthomi Njuki has positioned vocational training as a cornerstone of the county's strategy to create a skilled, employable and innovative youth population. The county currently operates 24 Vocational Training Centres (VTCs), ensuring that every ward has at least one functional institution.

This approach promotes equitable access to technical skills while aligning with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), Vision 2030's human capital pillar and Africa Agenda 2063's aspiration for a well-skilled workforce.

Significant progress has been made in strengthening the quality of training through expanded infrastructure across the VTC network. Over the

past year, the county has completed nine dormitories, three workshops, a computer laboratory, an administration block, a motor vehicle workshop, a kitchen and an ablution block. In addition, six pending workshops and four dormitories have been finalised.

Speaking at the county headquarters in Kathwana, Governor Njuki said routine infrastructure upgrades are ongoing across all 24 VTCs, including Mugumango, Muthambi, Marimanti, Kieganguru, Nguruki, Kajuki and Ibiriga. He noted that dormitories, workshops and administration blocks in these centres have been expanded or improved to enhance learning conditions.

The governor said the investments have led to increased enrolment and improved safety in learning environments. He added that all county VTCs continue to implement the Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) model, the nationally approved standard for technical and vocational institutions as mandated by the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA) and the Curriculum Development, Assessment and Certification Council



Tharaka-Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki interacting with a student during opening of Kibuka Vocational Training Centre in Chiakariga ward. Photo/Alex Njeru.

(CDACC).

According to Governor Njuki, the CBET approach equips trainees with practical, job-ready skills aligned with industry needs, while enhancing employability and entrepreneurship. He noted that qualifications earned in

county VTCs in trades such as welding, electrical installation, tailoring, masonry, ICT and automotive technology meet both national and global standards.

Through sustained investment and adherence to CBET, the county gov-

ernment continues to strengthen the quality and relevance of vocational training, positioning young people as key contributors to economic growth and development.

# Kenya Launches Satellite-Based Mission To Protect Endangered Mountain Bongo

By: Muturi Mwangi  
@themkenyatimes

The Kenya Space Agency (KSA) has launched Project Centinela, a satellite-aided conservation initiative to protect the endangered Mountain Bongo at Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy, with similar efforts in the Aberdares and Kakamega forests.

The project uses high-resolution satellite imagery to monitor bongo habitats, assess land cover changes, guide restoration activities, and support long-term conservation planning.

Kenya Space Agency Director Charles Mwangi highlighted the role of space science in supporting national conservation priorities.

He noted that the initiative applies satellite technology to real-world conservation challenges, while Planet Labs' Andrew Zolli emphasised the value of daily satellite observations for precise monitoring of habitats.

"Project Centinela reflects the Ken-



The Bongo

ya Space Agency's mandate to apply satellite technologies to address real-world challenges. Through Earth observation data, we are supporting evidence-based environmental management and strengthening institutional capacity for biodiversity conservation," said Mwangi.

Planet Labs Chief Impact Officer, Andrew Zolli, underscored the need

for timeliness and accessibility of satellite data for conservation outcomes.

"Daily Earth observation allows conservation partners to see change as it happens and respond with greater precision. Through Project Centinela, satellite imagery is supporting more informed habitat monitoring and helping translate data into



Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy Director Dr. Robert Aruho (left) and Kenya Space Agency Director Charles Mwangi during the launch of Project Centinela on Tuesday, January 21, 2026, in Nanyuki.

practical conservation action," Zolli said.

According to Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy Director, Dr. Robert Aruho, satellite imagery will boost the Mountain Bongo breeding and rewilding programme.

"Project Centinela is crucial for Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy because it enables the monitoring of

Bongo habitats with high precision through satellite imagery, said Dr. Aruho.

The Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy Director said the technology demonstrates how government, conservation institutions, and partnerships can advance biodiversity protection in Kenya.

**14 POEMS**

# The Sculpture Sees The Statue In The Stone Before The First Strike



The Doctor knows the patient's pulse,  
The Conceived woman knows the movement  
of the baby,  
Farmer knows the plant growth in a seed  
Teacher knows the student's potential  
A chef knows the deliciousness in goats

meat  
Tailor knows the measurement of a man  
Ultrasonographer knows about a baby in a  
womb  
A Foreteller knows one's future  
As the sculpture sees the idol in the stone.

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.

# NASA: Vanguard Of Celestial Inquiry And Aerospace Preeminence



The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) constitutes a paramount entity within the United States government, superintending the nation's endeavors in aerospace research, space exploration, and aeronautical innovation. As a pioneering force in the realm of space exploration, NASA has indelibly etched its presence on the annals of human history, leaving an inimitable mark on the cosmos .

the Artemis II mission, issued to LATHA SANKARAN, a testament to NASA's ongoing endeavors in space exploration. The Artemis Program aims to return humans to the Moon by 2024 and establish a sustainable lunar presence. The mission patch, featuring the names of the crew members, including Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen, symbolizes the collaborative spirit and dedication of the individuals involved in this ambitious endeavor. The boarding pass provides a glimpse into the mission's details, including the rocket and spacecraft used, the launch site, and the destination. The SLS (Space Launch System) rocket and Orion spacecraft will propel the crew on their journey around the Moon, marking a significant milestone in humanity's quest for lunar exploration.

Current Endeavors and Futuristic Prospects  
NASA's ongoing and forthcoming initiatives include:

- The James Webb Space Telescope, poised to succeed the Hubble Space Telescope and explore the universe in infrared wavelengths. This next-generation observatory will unveil the secrets of the cosmos, from the formation of the first stars to the search for life beyond Earth.
- The Perseverance Rover, searching for signs of life on Mars and caching samples for future retrieval. This intrepid rover is paving the way for a new era of Mars exploration, one that may ultimately lead to human presence on the Red Planet.

Etymological Genesis and Foundational Tenets

Established on October 1, 1958, NASA emerged as a response to the Soviet Union's Sputnik launch, catalyzing the United States' foray into space exploration. The agency's foundational charter, the National Aeronautics and Space Act, stipulates its mission to "provide for research into the problems of flight within and outside the Earth's atmosphere." This legislative mandate has enabled NASA to embark on a trajectory of unprecedented discovery, pushing the frontiers of human knowledge and understanding.

Pioneering Achievements and Odysseys  
NASA's storied legacy encompasses a plethora of groundbreaking accomplishments, including:

- The Apollo 11 Moon Landing (1969), wherein Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. became the inaugural humans to set foot on the lunar surface. This monumental achievement not only demonstrated the United States' technological prowess but also ignited a new era of space exploration.
- The International Space Station (1998-present), a collaborative endeavor with international partners, exemplifying humanity's capacity for cooperation in space exploration. This orbiting laboratory has facilitated groundbreaking research in microgravity, fostering a deeper understanding of the cosmos and our place within it.

Challenges and Opportunities  
As NASA continues to push the boundaries of human knowledge and exploration, it faces numerous challenges, including:

- The harsh environments of space, which pose significant technological and logistical hurdles.
- The need for sustainable and efficient propulsion systems, enabling humanity to explore the vast expanse of the solar system.
- The imperative to foster international cooperation, ensuring that space exploration remains a collaborative and peaceful endeavor.

Despite these challenges, NASA's prospects are brighter than ever, with a new generation of scientists, engineers, and explorers poised to carry the torch of discovery forward .

Conclusion

NASA's storied legacy, marked by groundbreaking achievements and a commitment to exploration, has cemented its position as a vanguard of celestial inquiry and aerospace preeminence. As the agency continues to push the frontiers of human knowledge, it serves as a beacon of inspiration, illuminating the path forward for humanity's journey into the cosmos. The Artemis II mission, as represented by the boarding pass issued to LATHA SANKARAN, exemplifies NASA's unwavering dedication to advancing our understanding of the universe and expanding humanity's presence in space.

- The Mars Curiosity Rover (2012-present), a robotic geologist investigating Martian habitability and searching for biosignatures. The rover's discoveries have rewritten the narrative of Mars' geological history, revealing a planet that was once conducive to life.
- The Hubble Space Telescope (1990-present), a space-based observatory revolutionizing our understanding of the cosmos. Hubble's breathtaking images have not only captivated the imagination of the public but also provided invaluable insights into the universe's mysteries, from dark energy to the expansion of the cosmos.

The Artemis Program: A New Era of Lunar Exploration  
The image depicts a boarding pass for

Dr. Latha Sankaran  
Music Connoisseur  
Creative Writers

# Echoes Of The Unseen



A flicker of golden light in the velvet sky,  
A silver tiny bird learning how to fly.  
They are the anchors in a restless rough sea,  
The remote whispers of who and what we

hope to be.  
Like golden sleek threads through a needle's eye,  
They stitch the earth to the glowing clear midnight sky.  
Though they dance, blink , sway away at the break of light,  
They are the twinkling bright tiny stars that burn throughout the night.

A colourful garden with blooming flowers in chilly winter's deep,  
Where secrets arise while the senses sleep.

# Absence Will Tell You



the importance of your presence

Absence will tell you  
the importance of your presence  
We know the value of shade  
when we feel the piercing sun's rays  
A hungry man knows food's worth  
more than one who had stomach full  
Only when you are absent,

others know your value and worth  
Give a chance of absence,  
let them realise your value  
Only when you're missing,  
others will miss your deeply  
They'll know your value,  
importance, and worth  
Absence shows the importance  
of your presence,  
One day wish to get lost or die  
Wish to see who all miss me dearly

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

# My Sincere Apologies



As this year folds its pages,  
I pause with a humbled heart,  
For words left unsaid,  
And moments where I fell apart.

Sorry for silences that hurt,  
For patience I couldn't keep,

For promises made in hope,  
But broken in careless sleep.

This year taught me softly,  
That kindness matters most,  
So I carry my apologies  
Into the dawn I toast.

May the coming year find me wiser,  
More mindful in all I do,  
With a heart that chooses empathy,  
And a soul that stays true.

SRIPRIYA R  
BT ENGLISH GHSS KOLAPAKKAM  
KANCHIPURAM DISTRICT TAMILNADU INDIA

# DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

## ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

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

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

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

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



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

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



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP  
Books Division  
16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF (UK)  
Tel: 44 330 606 1438  
Email: media@adlinkinternational.com  
www.adlinkinternational.com

## BUSINESS

## Nedbank Moves To Take Control Of NCBA In Landmark East Africa Banking Deal

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes

Nedbank Group Limited has announced plans to acquire a controlling 66 per cent stake in NCBA Group through a strategic tender offer, a move that could reshape the banking landscape in East Africa and anchor Kenya as the hub of Nedbank's regional expansion.

In a press release issued in Nairobi yesterday, NCBA confirmed it had received a Strategic Investment Proposal and a formal Notice of Intention (NOI) from the South African lender.

If the transaction is successfully completed, NCBA will become a subsidiary of Nedbank, while the remaining 34 per cent of its shares will continue to trade on the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE).

The proposed acquisition values NCBA at 1.4 times its book value.

Under the transaction structure, shareholders who participate in the tender offer will receive 20 per cent of the consideration in cash, with the remaining 80 per cent paid through the issuance of Nedbank ordinary shares listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE).

NCBA operates across six African markets; Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ivory Coast and Ghana with a network of 122 branches serving more than 60 million customers.

The Group holds assets of KSh665 billion and disburses over KSh1 trillion in digital loans annually, while averaging a return on equity of about 19 per cent since the 2021 financial year.

Formed from the merger of NIC Group PLC and Commercial Bank of Africa Limited, NCBA has built a strong reputation in digital banking, asset finance and investment banking.

Nedbank, one of Africa's largest financial institutions, is headquartered in South Africa and holds a primary listing on the JSE, with a secondary listing on the Namibia Securities Exchange.

The bank has an established presence across Southern Africa and international offices in London, Dubai, the Isle of Man and Jersey.

Currently, Nedbank only maintains a representative office in East Africa, meaning the deal will not require complex in-country systems integration.

The acquisition aligns with Nedbank's strategy to diversify beyond its core Southern Africa market and tap into high-growth economies in East Africa. Kenya's role as a re-



Nedbank Group Limited.

gional financial centre, supported by strong institutions, advanced capital markets and a dynamic technology sector, was cited as a key attraction.

NCBA Group Managing Director John Gachora described Nedbank as an ideal growth partner.

He noted that Nedbank commands 16 to 17 per cent market share of loans and deposits in South Africa, leads vehicle and commercial property finance with 36 per cent market shares, and ranks in the top 10 per cent globally on ESG ratings.

He added that Nedbank's balance sheet would help NCBA scale in existing markets and explore opportunities in Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Nedbank Chief Executive Jason Quinn said East Africa had been identified as a priority growth region, citing Kenya's status as a financial hub and the region's stable macroeconomic performance, youthful population and vibrant business community.

With a combined focus on Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, the partners see long-term opportunities in a regional market of about 190 million people with GDP approaching USD 300 billion.

Ethiopia, with 136 million people and GDP of USD 135 billion, and the

DRC, with 110 million people and GDP of USD 70 billion, are also key targets.

Nedbank has indicated it intends to preserve NCBA's brand, governance structures, operational model and

management team.

The transaction is subject to regulatory approvals from central banks in the relevant jurisdictions and is expected to close within six to nine months.



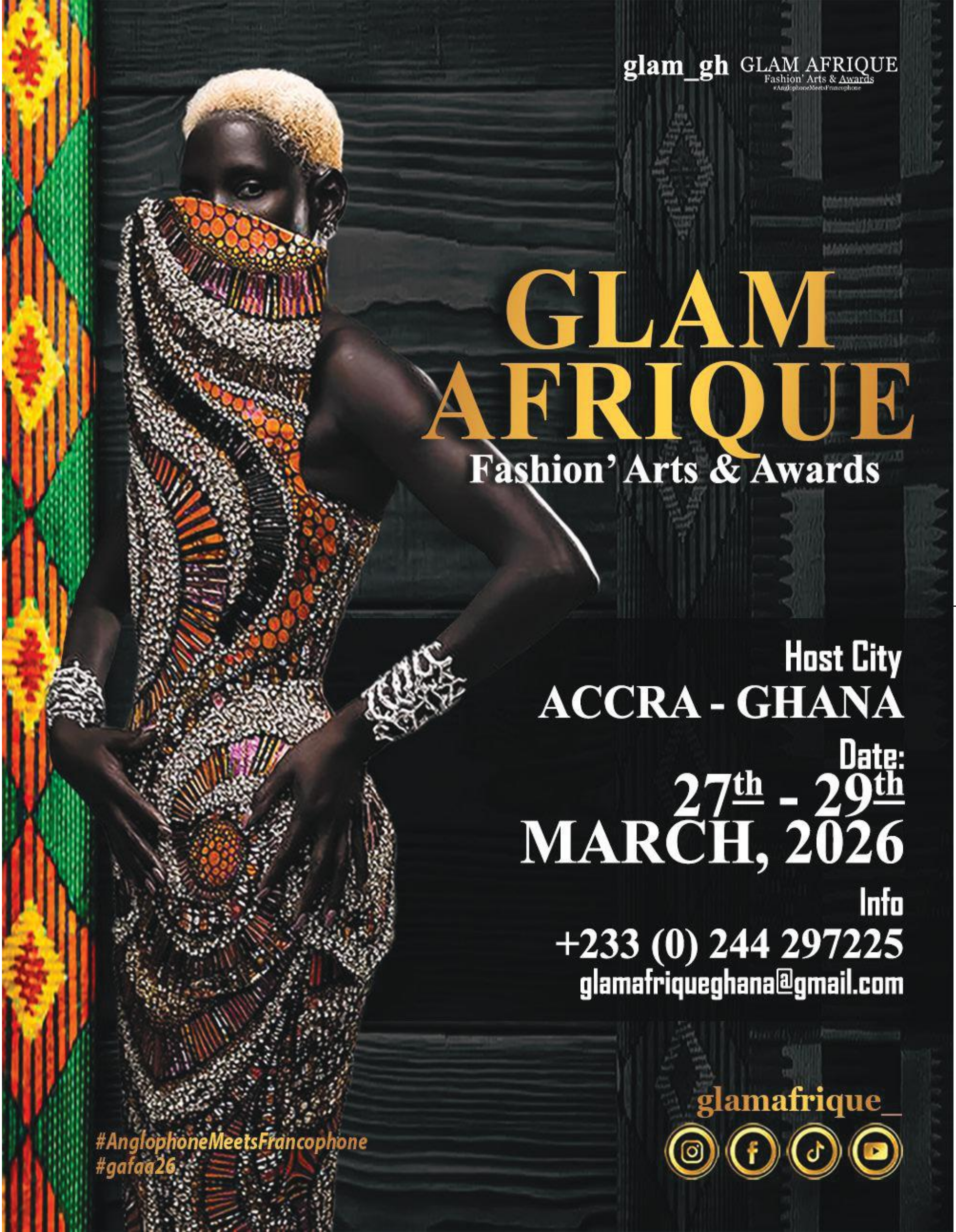
NCBA.

## Worth Noting:

- Under the transaction structure, shareholders who participate in the tender offer will receive 20 per cent of the consideration in cash, with the remaining 80 per cent paid through the issuance of Nedbank ordinary shares listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE).

- NCBA operates across six African markets; Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ivory Coast and Ghana with a network of 122 branches serving more than 60 million customers.

- The Group holds assets of KSh665 billion and disburses over KSh1 trillion in digital loans annually, while averaging a return on equity of about 19 per cent since the 2021 financial year.



glam\_gh GLAM AFRIQUE  
Fashion' Arts & Awards  
\*AnglophoneMeetsFrancophone

# GLAM AFRIQUE

Fashion' Arts & Awards

Host City  
**ACCRA - GHANA**

Date:  
**27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**MARCH, 2026**

Info  
**+233 (0) 244 297225**  
**glamafriqueghana@gmail.com**

#AnglophoneMeetsFrancophone  
#gafaq26

glamafrique\_

# When Advocates Abandon Logic: The Intellectual Collapse Of The Law Society Of Kenya Elections



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor  
@themkenyatimes

Over 19,000 advocates are registered with the Law Society of Kenya. These individuals spent years studying jurisprudence, mastering rules of evidence, and learning to construct airtight arguments. Yet during LSK elections campaign, a staggering number abandon every principle of rational thought they claim to uphold in courtrooms. The 2025 electoral cycle has exposed a disturbing reality: many of Kenya's legal professionals the very gatekeepers of justice and reason are making decisions based on tribalism, religious prejudice, and self-serving fantasies rather than competence, vision, or track record. This isn't merely disappointing; it reveals a fundamental crisis in how Kenya's legal elite think, or rather, fail to think.

Consider the advocate who declared he cannot vote for a candidate because the man chairs the Kenya Christians Professionals Forum and belongs to Opus Dei, reasoning that the LSK membership includes "queer members." This argument collapses under the slightest scrutiny. First, it employs guilt by association a logical fallacy so elementary that first-year law students learn to identify it. The candidate has made no statement indicating he would discriminate against queer lawyers; the voter has simply assumed religious affiliation equals guaranteed persecution. Second, the argument reveals profound ignorance about the actual powers of an LSK president. What exactly is this imagined "magic" the president would wield against queer advocates? The LSK Council operates through collective decision-making, constitutional mandates, and public accountability. One person's religious beliefs cannot override institutional structures, yet this voter has constructed an entire fantasy scenario to justify bias. This is confirmation bias in its purest form selecting a conclusion first, then retrofitting evidence to support it.

Equally troubling is the criterion voiced by another advocate: vote for a president "who you can call when arrested by EACC, Police, or DCI to rescue you." Unpack this statement and you find layers of corruption masquerading as pragmatism. This voter is explicitly seeking a fixer, not a leader. He wants someone who will manipulate the justice system on his behalf, which suggests he anticipates engaging in conduct that would warrant investigation by anti-corruption bodies or criminal investigators. The psychology here is instructive: this is what researchers call "moral licensing" the voter absolves himself of ethical responsibility by ensuring he has a safety net for his misconduct. More disturbing still is what this reveals about his conception of the LSK presidency.



File photo.

ethical responsibility by ensuring he has a safety net for his misconduct. More disturbing still is what this reveals about his conception of the LSK presidency. The office exists to defend the rule of law, advocate for judicial independence, and protect constitutional rights. This voter has reduced it to a personal insurance policy against accountability. That a practicing lawyer can express this sentiment without shame demonstrates how thoroughly transactional and corrupt legal culture has become in certain circles.

The age argument presents another fascinating exercise in flawed reasoning. Some advocates insist they must vote for a young candidate "I can associate with" rather than an experienced practitioner with whom they "cannot get a rapport." This is classic in-group bias elevated to an electoral principle. The voter prioritizes personal comfort over institutional competence. Consider the absurdity: would you want a surgeon who makes you comfortable or one who can actually perform the operation? The LSK president must negotiate with the Chief Justice, engage with parliamentary committees, navigate complex policy terrain, and represent Kenya's legal profession on international platforms. These responsibilities demand experience, gravitas, and established relationships across the legal ecosystem. But none of that matters to this voter, who has decided that feeling personally connected is paramount.

This reflects what psychologists call "availability heuristic" overweighting easily imagined scenarios (having a drink with the president) while underweighting abstract but crucial factors (the president's ability to advance legislative reforms).

The attack on a candidate serving as both a civil servant in corporate law and seeking LSK vice presidency exemplifies motivated reasoning at its worst. The critic claims this constitutes "serving two masters" and represents an intolerable conflict of interest, yet simultaneously supports a private practitioner who, by identical logic, would be serving clients and the LSK simultaneously. Where exactly is the conflict for the civil servant that doesn't exist for the private lawyer? Both are members of the bar in active practice; both would owe duties to their professional roles and to the LSK. The critic hasn't identified an actual conflict he's simply dressed up his personal opposition in the language of ethics. This is a textbook example of special pleading: applying standards to one candidate that you refuse to apply to your preferred alternative. What makes this particularly egregious is that it comes from someone trained to identify logical inconsistencies and argue in good faith.

Then there's the emotional intelligence critique: a voter warns that if a particular presidential and vice-presidential ticket wins, Council members who disagree with them will be

"lectured, yelled at, or kicked out" due to their lack of temperament. This argument weaponizes pop psychology without evidence. Has the voter attended Council meetings and witnessed this behavior? Can he cite specific instances where these candidates demonstrated such conduct in leadership roles? Or is he extrapolating from courtroom demeanor, personal encounters, or worse, rumors? Without concrete evidence, this is character assassination masquerading as concern. Conversely, another voter praises a different candidate for his "temperament, courtesy, and respect for young lawyers" implying senior and mid-level advocates should think what, exactly? That they don't merit courtesy? Both arguments reveal the same problem: voters are selecting isolated characteristics that confirm pre-existing preferences while ignoring the comprehensive skills the position demands. Leadership isn't reducible to whether someone makes you feel warm inside.

The guilt-by-clientele argument represents perhaps the most intellectually dishonest tactic in this electoral circus. Candidates are being castigated because they previously represented controversial clients or state interests, with critics claiming this proves they cannot be neutral or will inevitably

## Worth Noting:

- Equally troubling is the criterion voiced by another advocate: vote for a president "who you can call when arrested by EACC, Police, or DCI to rescue you." Unpack this statement and you find layers of corruption masquerading as pragmatism.
- This voter is explicitly seeking a fixer, not a leader. He wants someone who will manipulate the justice system on his behalf, which suggests he anticipates engaging in conduct that would warrant investigation by anti-corruption bodies or criminal investigators.
- The psychology here is instructive: this is what researchers call "moral licensing" the voter absolves himself of ethical responsibility by ensuring he has a safety net for his misconduct. More disturbing still is what this reveals about his conception of the LSK presidency.

# Government Launches The Kenya Pipeline Company IPO

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themkenyatimes

The Government has launched the Kenya Pipeline Company Limited (KPC) Initial Public Offering (IPO) at the Nairobi Securities Exchange, marking the country's largest IPO and the first fully electronic public offer in Kenya's capital markets history.

The transaction, which offers 65 percent of KPC's issued ordinary shares to the public at an offer price of Sh9.00 per share, opens ownership of one of Kenya's most strategic energy infrastructure assets to local, regional, and international investors.

It also represents the Government's first state-led market listing in 17 years, following the Safaricom IPO of 2008.

The IPO aligns with the Government's broader economic agenda

aimed at strengthening macro-economic stability, reducing the burden on taxpayers, and de-risking public investments through market-driven reforms.

Proceeds from the offer will be applied within the national budget framework as seed capital for priority national infrastructure, strategic investments, and fiscal consolidation.

Anchored by KPC's strong fundamentals including revenues of KSh38.6 billion and after-tax profits of KSh10.37 billion for the financial year ended 30 June 2025, and supported by its 1,300-kilometre pipeline network that underpins national energy security and regional trade, the IPO marks a defining step in transforming a profitable state enterprise into a people-owned company while strengthening long-term economic resilience.

The transaction has been spearheaded by the National Treasury under the leadership of CS John Mbadi, working closely with regulators and



capital market institutions to ensure transparency, strong governance, and broad public participation.

Speaking when he presided over the launch, Mbadi said the IPO clears the path for the eventual listing of KPC and signals a renewed and deliberate commitment by the Government to

deepen Kenya's capital markets as a central pillar of economic growth.

He emphasised the mutually reinforcing relationship between economic development and capital market advancement, noting that well-functioning markets mobilise capital, catalyze investment, and

strengthen market institutions.

The listing of KPC, he observed, will broaden the universe of investable assets at the NSE, attract both domestic and international institutional investors, and stimulate increased inflows of portfolio capital into the economy.

# When Advocates Abandon Logic: The Intellectual Collapse Of The Law Society Of Kenya Elections

Contd from page 18

yield to government pressure. This argument fundamentally misunderstands the adversarial system that Kenya's legal framework depends upon. Every accused person, every corporation, every government agency deserves legal representation this is foundational to justice. A lawyer representing an unpopular client isn't endorsing that client's actions; he's ensuring the system functions. To disqualify candidates based on past clients is to attack the very principle these voters claim to uphold. Moreover, it's strategically myopic: the LSK's role as "guardian of public interest" is strengthened, not weakened, by having leaders who understand how power operates from multiple vantage points. Someone who has worked with state machinery may be better positioned to check it than someone who has only opposed it from outside.

The tribal voting blocs constitute the most damning indictment of the bar's intellectual surrender. Region-

al and ethnic associations within the LSK have openly endorsed candidates from "their community," and members are falling in line with shocking obedience. This is herd mentality in its most literal form the wholesale abdication of independent judgment in favor of group identity. The psychology here is well-documented: in-group favoritism combined with conformity pressure creates a powerful override of individual reasoning. But for advocates, professionals specifically trained to resist such cognitive shortcuts this is inexcusable. These voters aren't asking whether the candidate has a superior platform on legal aid, judicial reforms, or advocate welfare. They're simply checking whether the candidate shares their ethnicity. This transforms the LSK election into a miniature version of Kenya's notoriously tribal national elections, complete with the same zero-sum thinking, the same elevation of identity over competence, and the same guarantee of mediocre outcomes.

Perhaps most revealing are the voters motivated purely by grudges and punishment. One candidate apparently made remarks in a previous election that "were real but taken out

of context" and is now being systematically opposed as retaliation. Truth doesn't matter; context doesn't matter; whether the candidate is actually qualified doesn't matter. What matters is settling scores. This is classic retributive psychology the satisfaction of punishment outweighs any consideration of collective benefit. These voters aren't selecting the best leader for the LSK; they're using their ballot as a weapon. The tragedy is that this behavior is entirely predictable. Research on voting behavior consistently shows that negative partisanship voting against someone rather than for someone is a powerful motivator, often stronger than positive preference. But awareness of this tendency should prompt educated professionals to guard against it, not surrender to it gleefully.

The accumulated weight of these failures raises an existential question: if Kenya's legal professionals the men and women who stand in court and demand that others respect logic, evidence, and constitutional principles cannot apply those same standards to their own institutional elections, what hope exists for the rule of law in this country? The LSK elections aren't just about selecting

administrators; they're a mirror reflecting the legal profession's intellectual and ethical health. And the re-

bad. When learned friends abandon learning, when officers of the court abandon logic, when guardians of



lection is grim. Tribalism, religious prejudice, transactional corruption, emotional reasoning, motivated reasoning, herd mentality every cognitive failure and moral compromise that undermines Kenya's democracy is on full display among the very people who should be its most zealous defenders. The troubling conclusion isn't that bad candidates might win, but that the electorate is incapable of distinguishing good from

justice seek fixers and favor tribal kin over competence, the institution is already compromised regardless of who takes office. Perhaps the LSK isn't beyond redemption, but redemption requires something this election has proven many advocates lack: the courage to think.

*The writer is a lawyer*

# China-Tanzania Cooperation Advances With Trained Female Railway Talent

By: Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes



Amina works at her office in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, last week. Photo/ Xinhua/Emmanuel Herman.

## Worth Noting:

- Amina, a 35-year-old transport officer with the TRC, said this nerve center is more than a workplace -- it is where Tanzania's ambitions for connectivity, efficiency, and growth converge. In 2025, her career took her far beyond Tanzania's borders.
- Selected for a special capacity-building program, she spent three months in China undergoing intensive railway training, an experience she describes as "a golden opportunity." Amina was among 67 Tanzanian railway professionals, including 11 women, who completed the program commissioned by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) and hosted by Beijing Jiaotong University and Zhengzhou Railway Vocational and Technical College.
- The program was designed to address the urgent need for skilled personnel to operate Tanzania's rapidly expanding standard-gauge railway (SGR) network.

For three and a half years, Amina Ally Sauko has helped coordinate Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) train operations from its Operation Control Center (OCC) in the port city of Dar es Salaam, where precision and teamwork are essential.

Amina, a 35-year-old transport officer with the TRC, said this nerve center is more than a workplace -- it is where Tanzania's ambitions for connectivity, efficiency, and growth converge. In 2025, her career took her far beyond Tanzania's borders. Selected for a special capacity-building program, she spent three months in China undergoing intensive railway training, an experience she describes as "a golden opportunity." Amina was among 67 Tanzanian railway professionals, including 11 women, who completed the program commissioned by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) and hosted by Beijing Jiaotong University and Zhengzhou Railway Vocational and Technical College. The program was designed to address the urgent need for skilled personnel to operate Tanzania's rapidly expanding standard-gauge railway (SGR) network. Participants came from diverse roles, ranging from drivers, wagon inspectors, technicians, dispatchers, freight personnel, to safety officers.

At Beijing Jiaotong University,

trainees were introduced to the fundamentals of modern railway systems. "It was intense, but it gave us a strong foundation," Amina told Xinhua. After a week in the capital, Beijing, the group moved to Zhengzhou, a bustling railway hub in central China, where they spent nearly three months immersed in practical, hands-on learning. At Zhengzhou Railway Vocational and Technical College, the curriculum focused on four core areas, namely mechanical and vehicle maintenance-ensuring locomotives and wagons meet international safety standards, passenger and freight safety management-learning protocols to safeguard both people and cargo, dispatch efficiency-mastering the art of coordinating trains across busy networks, and operational system management-integrating technology with human oversight for seamless control.

The approach blended classroom instruction with field practice. Trainees observed live dispatch operations, studied advanced signaling systems, and practiced simulations that mirrored real-world challenges. "We combined what we already knew from Tanzania with what we learned in China. That combination made our skills much stronger," said the soft-spoken Amina. The program was not only technical but also deeply personal. Living in China for

three months meant adapting to new routines, languages, and cultures. "At first, it was difficult. I missed my family a lot. But over time, I adapted, made new friends, and started to enjoy the experience," recalled Amina. From navigating bustling Chinese cities to tasting regional dishes like noodles and dumplings, participants discovered a new world. "China's culture is rich and welcoming. We learned to appreciate diversity, and that understanding works both ways," she added.

China's railway system, widely regarded as one of the most advanced globally, left a lasting impression. High levels of automation, punctuality, and integration stood out. "Technologically, China is far ahead. Their innovation and efficiency are impressive. It motivates us to think bigger about what is possible back home," said Amina. Exposure to such systems helped Tanzanian professionals envision their own railway future, not as a distant dream, but as a practical roadmap. "Seeing how things work in China helps us understand how to improve safety, punctuality, and coordination in Tanzania," she explained. The CCECC emphasized that the trainees would return as "seed instructors," tasked with sharing knowledge and training additional personnel within the TRC. This multiplier effect is expected to build a sustainable talent

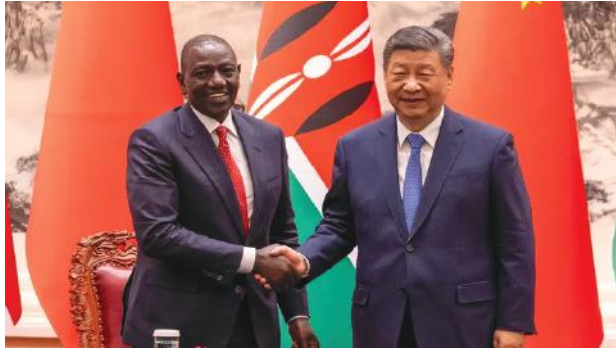
pipeline for Tanzania's railway sector. "This program is not just about individual training," the CCECC noted in a statement. "It represents a shift from construction support to joint development of operational capabilities."

From the historic TAZARA railway, built in the 1970s with Chinese assistance, to today's modern SGR projects, cooperation between Tanzania and China has evolved from infrastructure construction to skills transfer and long-term sustainability. Now back in Dar es Salaam, Amina applies her new skills daily. The screens and signals at the OCC feel familiar, but her perspective has changed. "I look at our operations differently now. I think more about efficiency, coordination, and safety. I also feel a stronger sense of teamwork," she said. For her, the journey from Dar es Salaam to Beijing and Zhengzhou, and back again, is a reminder that behind every train schedule and control system are people who are learning, adapting, and working across borders to keep the rails moving forward. "I am happy and proud to have been part of this program," she said with a smile. "It was challenging, rewarding, and unforgettable, and it has made me believe even more in the future of Tanzania's railway."



## Kenya Gains Trade Boost Through China Duty-Free Export Deal

Kenya's economy has long relied on its agricultural exports, yet global market barriers have often limited the full potential of its producers. The announcement of a preliminary trade agreement with China, granting duty-free access to more than 98 percent of Kenyan goods, marks a significant turning point. This deal, forged through high-level discussions between President William Ruto and Chinese leadership, promises to expand opportunities for farmers, manufacturers, and small-scale traders alike.



Tea, coffee, and horticultural produce—cornerstones of Kenya's export portfolio—stand to benefit most immediately. By removing tariffs, the Chinese market could absorb greater volumes of these goods, offering producers both stability and growth. Equally important is the potential for value-added exports, which may encourage local industries to innovate and diversify beyond raw commod-

ities.

Government officials have hailed the agreement as a catalyst for job creation and income growth. For a country grappling with unemployment and fluctuating global demand, the prospect of expanded market access is undeniably appealing. Yet, caution remains warranted. Kenya's deepening economic ties with China raise questions about dependency and long-term trade balance. Critics argue that while duty-free access is advantageous, Kenya must ensure that its industries are not overshadowed

owed by Chinese imports or vulnerable to shifting geopolitical dynamics.

Still, the broader outlook is optimistic. If implemented effectively, the deal could provide timely relief to local producers, strengthen Kenya's global trade position, and contribute to sustainable economic growth. The challenge now lies in translating opportunity into tangible prosperity.

*By Whytney Nasir, Laikipia University*

## Education Should Be An Equalizer, Not A Privilege

Education has long been celebrated as the great equalizer, a force that offers every child the chance to rise above circumstance. Yet this promise is increasingly hollow as many Grade 10 students remain at home, unable to afford school fees and the mounting list of requirements. What was meant to be a right is fast becoming a privilege reserved for those with means.

The transition to senior school under the new education system was envisioned as inclusive. Instead, it has imposed crushing financial demands on parents, particularly those in low-income households. Beyond tuition, families must shoulder costs for uniforms, textbooks, and project materials—expenses that far exceed their daily earnings. Learners who persevered through earlier grades now find themselves excluded, not for lack of effort but because of poverty.

This exclusion is deeply troubling. Parents who rely on casual labor or small-scale farming cannot realistically raise large



sums within short deadlines. Education should empower such families, not deepen their despair. When government leaders proclaim education as a fundamental right, the rhetoric rings hollow against the reality of students sent home for unpaid fees.

The consequences are dire. Prolonged absence from school exposes youth to early marriages, child labor, crime, and loss of academic morale. Dreams are

extinguished, and the nation's future is compromised.

Urgent intervention is needed. Genuine free education, increased capitation, and transparent bursary programs must replace empty promises. If equality is truly our goal, policies must ensure that no child is denied learning because of poverty.

*By Brian Kiplagat, Laikipia Campus*

## Education As A Foundation For Sustainable Development

Education remains the cornerstone of sustainable development, shaping not only individual destinies but also the collective future of nations. As a universally recognized human right, it empowers societies to confront challenges, innovate solutions, and foster inclusive growth. In today's interconnected world, where competition and collaboration coexist, education is the backbone of progress.

From early childhood to higher learning, education nurtures critical thinking, creativity, and resilience. It equips learners with the confidence and discipline to navigate real-life challenges while instilling values that strengthen social cohesion. Beyond personal development, education drives national advancement by producing skilled professionals, informed citizens, and visionary leaders. A society that invests in education invests in its long-term stability and prosperity.

Yet, the promise of education cannot be divorced from the realities facing the youth in the 21st century. Unemployment remains



a pressing concern, with many graduates struggling to find opportunities that match their skills. Mental health challenges, exacerbated by social media pressures and academic expectations, further complicate the journey to adulthood. Peer influence and societal instability add layers of complexity, demanding holistic support systems that extend beyond classrooms.

Despite these hurdles, young people embody immense potential. Their creativity, adaptability, and energy can drive trans-

formative change if harnessed through mentorship, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement. Education must therefore evolve to meet contemporary needs, integrating innovation with inclusivity. By addressing youth challenges alongside educational reforms, societies can unlock a brighter, more sustainable future where development is both equitable and enduring.

*By Dorothy P. Wemah, Laikipia University*

## Increased Depression Cases Among Many People: Causes And Consequences

Depression has emerged as one of the most pressing public health challenges of our time. Globally, cases rose by 13.4 percent between 1990 and 2021, and in the United States, more than 18 percent of adults reported experiencing depression in both 2024 and 2025—an alarming increase of eight percentage points since 2015. These figures underscore a troubling reality: depression is no longer a marginal issue but a widespread crisis affecting millions.

Young adults and adolescents are bearing the brunt, with one in six adolescents and one in three young adults affected. Women, particularly during pregnancy and postpartum, are disproportionately vulnerable. Meanwhile, individuals with lower incomes or those living alone face heightened risks, revealing how social and economic inequalities compound mental health struggles.

The consequences of untreated depression are severe. Emotion-



al symptoms such as guilt, hopelessness, and suicidal thoughts are often accompanied by physical manifestations including disrupted sleep, appetite changes, and chronic fatigue. Socially, depression erodes relationships, undermines workplace performance, and diminishes daily functioning. Left unaddressed, it contributes to chronic illnesses like diabetes and heart disease, fuels substance abuse, and imposes a heavy economic burden through lost productivity.

Multiple factors drive this surge: financial instability, food insecurity, housing challenges,

and the isolating effects of social media and cyberbullying. While reduced stigma has encouraged more people to seek help, the sheer scale of the crisis demands urgent action.

Depression is treatable, but recovery begins with recognition. Professional support, self-care, strong social networks, and accessible community resources are essential. Societies that prioritize mental health not only heal individuals but also safeguard their collective future.

*By Agnes Otieno, Laikipia University*

# SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS



**Sports >> \*Windsor Golf & Country Club professional Njoroge Kibugu has been crowned the Order of Merit champion of the inaugural Sunshine Development Tour East Africa Swing**

## Njoroge Kibugu Crowned Order Of Merit Champion In Inaugural Sunshine Development Tour Season

Windsor Golf & Country Club professional Njoroge Kibugu has been crowned the Order of Merit champion of the inaugural Sunshine Development Tour East Africa Swing, following a dominant victory at the season finale, the Absa Invitational Series, played at Karen Country Club. Kibugu, who began the final round tied for the lead with Rwanda's Celestin Nsanuwera on 8-under par, delivered a composed and clinical performance, carding a final-round 6-under par 64 to pull clear and secure both the tournament title and the overall Order of Merit crown.

His final round featured seven birdies on holes 6, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, and 18, against a single bogey on the 3rd, as he closed the tournament on an impressive 14-under par 196.

The victory confirmed Kibugu's place at the top of the final Sunshine Development Tour East Africa Swing Order of Merit, where he finished with 1,497 points following four tournament wins and top finishes during the season. He also walked away with Ksh 400,000 from the tournament's Ksh 2 million prize purse.

Speaking after his win, Kibugu said:

"This one means a lot to me. Coming into the season finale, I wasn't feeling my best after the holiday break, but I trusted my game and focused on giving myself chances. I putted well and stayed patient, and that made the difference. Winning the Order of Merit feels like a real statement and a reward for the work I've put in. It gives me confidence and motivation for what lies ahead."

Celestin Nsanuwera finished second overall on 9-under par 201, after a determined final-round effort as he chased a third title on the Tour. He started strongly with birdies on the 1st and 2nd, but dropped shots



*Njoroge Kibugu poses for a photo with his trophy after winning the final leg of the Sunshine Development Tour, the Absa Invitational at Karen Country Club*

on the 4th, 5th and 15th, before closing with birdies on 17 and 18 to sign for a 1-under par final round.

His runner-up finish saw him end the season second on the Order of Merit with 1,317 points, having claimed two tournament wins during the campaign.

Reflecting on his round, Nsanuwera said:

"I started well, but mistakes on holes four and five cost me momentum. I stayed focused and tried to play my game, but a few missed chances made the difference. Finishing second on the Order of Merit is still a strong result, and I'm proud of the season I've had."

Taimur Malik finished as the leading amateur at Karen, producing a superb final-round 5-under par 65 to finish third on the leaderboard with a total of 8-under par 202.

"It feels great to finish this way. I struggled on the first day, but played really well in the second and third rounds. I hit the ball

better today and was able to take advantage of my chances, which helped me finish strong," said Malik.

Mutahi Kibugu finished fourth on 4-under par 206, while Isaiah Otuke claimed fifth place on 3-under par 205.

Zimbabwe's Visitor Mapwanyana produced the lowest round of the tournament, firing a 7-under par final round, to finish tied on 2-under par 208 alongside Greg Snow and Mike Kisia.

On the final Order of Merit standings, Dismas Indiza finished third with 753 points, followed by amateur John Lejirma in fourth with 605 points, and Greg Snow in fifth with 578 points.

The Sunshine Development Tour East Africa Swing concludes its inaugural season, having established a clear competitive pathway for professional and elite amateur golfers across the region.

The top performers now advance to continental playoff op-

portunities and Sunshine Tour qualification events.

Following the Karen event, eyes now turn to the Big Easy Tour Playoff, which will be held at the Modderfontein Golf Club on January 27 – 29, 2026.

Following the event, the top 12 players on the combined East Africa Swing and Big Easy Tour Order of Merit will earn direct playing cards to the Sunshine Tour.

Afterwards, the top 30 players from the SDT East Africa Swing and top 30 from South Africa's Big Easy Tour will contest the Big Easy Tour Finals, scheduled for March 2026 in South Africa, where 12 slots will be on offer to play at the Sunshine Tour Final Qualifying School for a chance to secure additional Sunshine Tour cards.

*Capital Sport*

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*Football Kenya Federation (FKF), in partnership with ACAKORO Football Academy, will on Sunday, January 25, roll out the first implementation phase of the Road to Under-17 World Cup 2027

# FKF, ACAKORO Launch Under-15 Scouting Drive In Homa Bay



Harambee Stars head coach Francis Kimanzi during the team's training camp in France in June 2019. PHOTO/Timothy Olobulu .

Football Kenya Federation (FKF), in partnership with ACAKORO Football Academy, will on Sunday, January 25, roll out the first implementation phase of the Road to Under-17 World Cup 2027 project with an official Under-15 National Team Scouting Day at the ACAKORO Campus in Ndhiwa, Homa Bay.

The exercise targets boys born in 2011 and signals the start of a structured, nationwide talent identification programme aimed at laying a strong foundation for Kenya's future Under-17 national team.

It represents a major shift from planning to action in the country's youth development agenda.

Players identified during the scouting exercise will be placed on a long-term development pathway and offered scholarships at

Kenya's first residential football academy, where they will combine formal education with elite football training under a structured system.

FKF Technical Director Francis Kimanzi said the federation will take a hands-on role to ensure the exercise meets the project's long-term goals.

"This is a step in the right direction for our youth development structures. We will be on the ground to oversee the entire process and ensure that the scouting is done in a structured, transparent and professional manner. This is about laying a proper foundation for the future of our national teams," Kimanzi said.

ACAKORO General Manager Lukas Mott described the Ndhiwa event as the moment the project officially moved from concept to

reality.

"We are really looking forward to this, and we even have an international scout on the ground to support the process. We are very happy to see the programme move into the implementation phase," Mott said.

He added, "People can now see and believe in it; it is no longer just an idea on paper. From this first phase, we expect to select between 10 and 15 players. This is only the beginning. We are starting with this region and will gradually move into other regions across the country."

The initiative is designed to create a clear and sustainable pathway from grassroots football to the national teams, with the ultimate aim of preparing a competitive squad for the FIFA Under-17 World Cup in 2027.

FKF and ACAKORO have emphasized that eligibility requirements will be strictly enforced.

All players must present original birth certificates upon arrival, with no admission allowed without the document.

Participants are also required to come with their own sportswear and football boots.

Attendance for the scouting exercise is free of charge, with parents and guardians advised to plan logistics early and ensure players arrive on time.

The Ndhiwa scouting day marks the first of several regional activities that will be conducted across the country as FKF and ACAKORO seek to uncover and nurture the next generation of Kenyan football talent.

*Capital Sport*

# SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS





## Book: Under The Rain



By: Munyal Markus Manunyi  
Email: [talkmunyal@gamil.com](mailto:talkmunyal@gamil.com)  
WhatsApp: +234816352022

### Worth Noting:

- One of Bolaji's major flaws is his inability to openly express his feelings. He carries a love letter everywhere, yet lacks the courage to hand it to Shola. In contrast, Shola is portrayed as vibrant and high-spirited, often surrounding herself with different boys from her school. This behaviour eventually places Bolaji in trouble, particularly when one of these boys gifts her a wristwatch and Shola's father thinks it's from Bolaji!
- Ayo Deforge demonstrates a remarkable command of emotional storytelling. She skillfully evokes tension, provocation, and suspense, keeping the reader constantly eager to know what will happen next. The narrative's unpredictability is one of its strongest assets and reflects the hallmark of effective storytelling, drawing readers deeper into the plot with each chapter.

### Book Review:

**Author:** Ayo Deforge  
**Book:** *Under The Rain*  
**Genre:** Fiction  
**Reviewer:** Munyal Manunyi

If you are looking for a novel that allows you to momentarily escape the daily hullabaloo of life or take a refreshing break from social media, *Under The Rain* by Ayo Deforge is an ideal companion. The novel is engaging, emotionally charged, and deeply suspenseful, with a storyline that remains largely unpredictable. Beyond its entertainment value, it is also profoundly thought-provoking.

*Under The Rain* is a love story intricately woven into medical fiction, with a particular focus on genotype incompatibility. The narrative follows Bolaji and Shola, childhood neighbours in a Lagos estate, whose bond begins at a tender age. Despite strict parental restrictions, the two repeatedly find time to be with each other, a testament to the innocence and intensity of their early affection. When Shola's parents discover her secret meetings with Bolaji, her father responds with brutal punishment, flogging her severely. Bolaji's decision to visit her home after days of not seeing her, despite the risk of being caught, highlights his youthful bravery and the quiet strength of his devotion. It becomes clear that only love could inspire such daring acts.

One of Bolaji's major flaws is his inability to openly express his feelings. He carries a love letter everywhere, yet lacks the courage to hand it to Shola. In contrast, Shola is portrayed as vibrant and high-spirited, often surrounding herself with different boys from her school. This behaviour eventually places Bolaji in trouble, particularly when one of these boys gifts her a wristwatch and Shola's father thinks it's from Bolaji!

Ayo Deforge demonstrates a remarkable command of emotional storytelling. She skillfully evokes tension, provocation, and suspense, keeping the reader constantly eager to know what will happen next. The narrative's unpredictability is one of its strongest assets and reflects the hallmark of effective storytelling, drawing readers deeper into the plot



Ayo Deforge.

with each chapter.

The emotional peak of the novel occurs as Bolaji patiently waits for Shola to end her series of university relationships so he might finally confess his love. Deforge intensifies the emotional weight when Bolaji, instead of being honest, continues to support Shola through repeated heartbreaks, including accompanying her through multiple abortions after she is abandoned by the man who impregnates her. Despite these painful circumstances, Bolaji still struggles to declare his love, until the defining moment in an abortion room when Shola admits she loves him, prompting Bolaji to finally respond, "Shola, I've always loved you."

Beyond romance, the novel tackles serious social and medical issues. One of its most thought-provoking elements is its portrayal of the struggles faced by sickle cell patients. This is vividly illustrated through Bamidele, Bolaji's younger brother, who suffers not only physically but emotionally. The cruelty he faces from his own grandmother who calls him "half human", reveals deep-seated stigma and selfish motivations, particularly her desire for Bolaji's father to marry a second wife due to genotype complications. Genotype incompatibility resurfaces as a major obstacle when it prevents Shola from marrying the man she truly loves. Although both characters go on to marry other partners, they remain emotionally attached to each other, unable to find fulfilment in their respective marriages.

Deforge also highlights pressing issues confronting women in contemporary society, including ectopic pregnancy and unsafe medical prac-



tices. Shola's experiences, alongside those of other women in the novel, expose the dangers of misinformation and reliance on quack doctors, decisions that later lead to irreversible consequences in her marital life. Another striking theme is female genital mutilation, portrayed through Yetunde, Bolaji's wife. Deforge powerfully illustrates how harmful cultural practices affect women's physical and emotional wellbeing. Yetunde's inability to enjoy intimacy in her marriage, and her eventual fear of sex, underscore the long-term trauma of such practices, even to the point where she suggests her husband marry a second wife.

Shola's parents are excessively strict, a trait that prevents her from opening up to them about her problems. As a result, her life becomes increasingly difficult, leaving too

much room for vulnerability, reliance on peer advice, and repeated unwanted pregnancies, which ultimately shape her regrets later in life. The novel's conclusion is particularly commendable. Shola's final choices reflect emotional maturity and compassion, and the way her marriage is handled adds complexity to the narrative, as it avoids easy resolutions.

Overall, *Under the Rain* is a compelling blend of romance, medical fiction, and social commentary. Ayo Deforge succeeds in delivering a powerful narrative that entertains while challenging readers to reflect on love, choice, culture, and consequence.