The
MT. KENYA TIMES
WEEKEND ePAPER

Sat & Sun, January 24-25, 2026

Our Paper, Our Stand

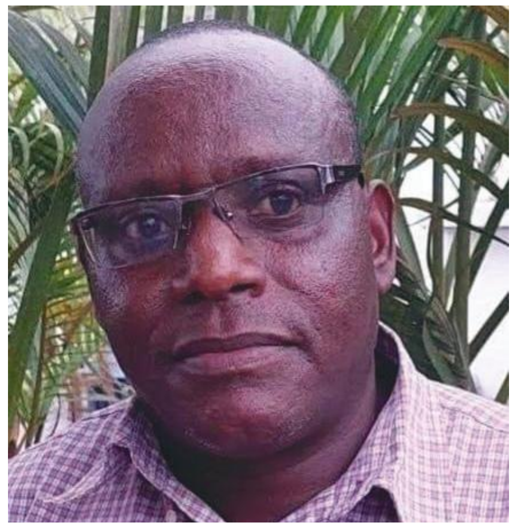
www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke   No. 0278   themtkenyatimes

Gachagua Slams Northern Leaders, Defends Record

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

P.6

Politics: Ruto Unveils Massive Youth Internship Drive, Defends Privatisation As Key To Trillion-Shilling Infrastructure Push P.9



Opinion: Reviewing Devolution Implementation Progress P.12

News: Former Freedom Fighters Welcome Ida Odinga's Nomination As Kenya's UNEP Ambassador P.13

President Ruto Highlights Infrastructure Investments As Engine For Youth Employment

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto has emphasized the government's commitment to using public infrastructure projects as a catalyst for job creation and economic growth, particularly for Kenya's youth.

Speaking at State House, Nairobi, during the launch of the Affordable Housing Programme Internship Programme, the President noted that investing in infrastructure is a globally proven strategy for boosting employment, citing examples from the United States, Germany, and the Philippines.

Under Kenya's Affordable Housing Programme, more than 500,000 citizens are currently employed, with over 240,000 housing units uunder construction across the country. These initiatives are designed not only to address the nation's housing deficit but also to create large-scale employment opportunities for young people entering the workforce.

The newly launched internship programme will provide career pathways for 5,500 young Kenyans in the building and construction sector, covering more than 40 professional roles including engineering, architecture, planning, ICT, finance, environment, surveying and construction management.

Beyond housing, President Ruto highlighted that the government is scaling up investments in roads, railways, airports, seaports, energy, and water storage.

These projects are expected to transform Kenya's economic landscape while opening opportunities for graduates and young professionals to contribute meaningfully to national development.

Through these initiatives, the government aims to harness the potential of Kenya's youthful population, ensuring that large-scale infrastructure not only modernizes the country but also empowers young citizens with skills and employment.

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures














Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times


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

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

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

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"

ngLASSIFY

"ALL BUSINESSES ONE PLATFORM"

SCAN TO REGISTER

FREE REGISTRATION

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 Ruto has nominated Ida Betty Odinga as the Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Ida replaces Ababu Namwamba who was recently appointed as the high commissioner to Uganda

Bodaboda riders in Majengo, Narok town, have vowed to deal firmly with rogue individuals using motorcycles to commit crimes, insisting that no one should tarnish the reputation of their business. The declaration came after a suspected motorcycle thief was beaten to death following a theft incident. Narok Bodaboda Association Chairman Brian Lemayian condemned such criminal acts, emphasizing that the industry provides livelihoods for many and that rogue members will be rooted out. Narok Central Sub-County Police Commander Benson Pamba confirmed the incident and urged riders to cooperate with investigations, noting that sharing information with police is crucial for curbing the vice.

Wajir County has launched a school meals programme for Early Childhood Development Education learners to sustain learning during prolonged drought. The initiative will benefit 27,802 children in 376 centres across all sub-counties, providing 356 tonnes of fortified Con-Soy porridge to improve nutrition, concentration and learning outcomes. Governor Ahmed Abdullahi said the programme aims to boost attendance and retention among drought-affected families. The county has also introduced a sanitary kits initiative for school-going girls to reduce menstruation-related absenteeism and promote dignity and equal opportunity. Education officials said the combined interventions will strengthen early learning, ease pressure on families, and protect education as part of the county's broader drought mitigation strategy.

The Supreme Court has lifted the two-year ban on Senior Counsel Ahmednasir Abdullahi and his law firm, allowing them to resume practice. The Court said the sanction that started in January last year had served its purpose following assurances of reformed conduct and future decorum. He had been barred over conduct the judges said undermined the Court's authority.

The government has urged a multi-sectoral strategy to fight terrorism, violent extremism and radicalisation by combining community-led initiatives with intelligence-driven operations to disrupt recruitment and dismantle terror networks. Speaking at the end of a three-day crisis communication training in Garissa organised by the National Counter Terrorism Centre, Acting Director General of the National Government Communication Centre Charles Owino said national security requires all stakeholders to work together and speak with one voice. He stressed that terrorism affects the whole society, not just individuals, and called for collaboration among government, security agencies, civil society, NGOs, communities and the media. Owino warned journalists against airing graphic images that could serve terrorists' propaganda and spread fear. He noted terrorism is a global threat affecting both Kenyans and foreigners, and urged international partners, especially the European Union, to support Kenya's counterterrorism efforts.

Principal Secretary for Transport Mohamed Daghar has allayed fears that the Kenya Railways Corporation (KRC) plans to evict creative artists from the Little Theatre Club in Mombasa. He clarified that KRC intends to construct a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centre while modernising the theatre, noting that the initiative aligns with the government's agenda to promote the creative economy, empower youth, and spur economic growth.

Gachagua Accuses Northern Leaders Of Silencing Media, Defends Record On Regional Development

By: William Muchiri
@themtkenyatimes

> **Worth Noting:**
>
> - **According to Gachagua, the leaders allegedly coordinated a boycott aimed at preventing the truth from reaching the public.**
> - **He claimed that pressure was exerted on radio stations from Mandera, Garissa, Marsabit, Wajir and Isiolo to withdraw from the interview, effectively blocking the broadcast on mainstream regional platforms.**
> - **Despite the reported interference, the interview went ahead and was eventually aired online through North Eastern Digital Media, allowing Gachagua to address the controversy surrounding his relations with the region.**

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has accused a group of leaders from Northern Kenya of attempting to sabotage a planned media engagement by intimidating journalists and creating an atmosphere of fear ahead of a roundtable interview at his Karen residence.

According to Gachagua, the leaders allegedly coordinated a boycott aimed at preventing the truth from reaching the public.

He claimed that pressure was exerted on radio stations from Mandera, Garissa, Marsabit, Wajir and Isiolo to withdraw from the interview, effectively blocking the broadcast on mainstream regional platforms.

Despite the reported interference, the interview went ahead and was eventually aired online through North Eastern Digital Media, allowing Gachagua to address the controversy surrounding his relations with the region.

Responding to persistent accusations that he fuels ethnic divisions and marginalizes Northern Kenya, Gachagua dismissed the claims as politically motivated propaganda.

He said the narrative is deliberately crafted to set the Mt. Kenya region against Northern Kenya, despite what he described as a long history of cooperation between the two communities, especially in trade and business.

He argued that tensions in the region are not driven by ethnic hostility but by the actions of a small group of corrupt leaders who, he said, have manipulated communities for personal benefit.

When confronted with criticism from North Eastern leaders over development and inclusion, Gachagua insisted that ordinary residents hold no grievances against him. Instead, he placed blame on what he described as a handful of self-appointed spokespersons who misuse development funds while claiming to represent their people.

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua during the interview on Thursday evening. Photo/Courtesy.

He maintained that the core demand among residents is not preferential treatment, but accountability from their elected leaders.

Gachagua further revealed that since 2013, the five counties of Northern Kenya have received more than KSh1 Trillion in development allocations. However, he said the funds have not translated into visible progress on the ground, accusing regional leadership of diverting public resources for private enrichment.

On infrastructure and social services, he said the region has sufficient budgetary support to match development levels seen in other parts of the country, but poor governance has stalled meaningful change.

He pointed to continued struggles in education, where students from the region compete for limited opportunities nationwide due to underinvestment at home.

Providing broader context, Northern Kenya has historically lagged behind in infrastructure, education, healthcare and water access, a legacy of decades of marginalization, insecurity and weak institutional capacity.

Although devolution has significantly increased county funding, governance challenges, corruption and project mismanagement have continued to undermine service delivery.

Gachagua called for stronger oversight and public scrutiny of regional leaders, arguing that lasting progress will only be achieved when those entrusted with public resources are held fully accountable to the people they serve.


The Mt Kenya Times
10
10th
Anniversary
Celebration

DCP Remains A Strong Party Despite Defections, Says Mathira Politician

By: WMW
@themtkenyatimes

Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) is a strong party, founded on democratic principles with those failing to meet them opting to move out.

Mathira politician cum entrepreneur, Peter Githinji alias Tropical says the party is preparing to face others in the 2027 General Elections and will exercise democracy and people's will during the exercise.

Speaking in Mathira after having consultative meeting with his supporters, Githinji said those leaving the party were expecting to be handed over direct nomination tickets.

"Those saying they are leaving are the ones who thought they would get direct nomination but our party leader Rigathi Gachagua said all will be subjected to nominations where the public will decide. They were not happy," he noted.

Githinji who is seeking to be the next Mathira MP noted that the party was growing strong through registration mobilisation and told those seeking various political seats to be prepared to face their opponents.

At the same time, he hit out at one of his opponent in the constituency for looking down upon coffee farmers in the area.

He claimed that the opponent recently labeled him "a Mbuni" dealer for being a Nairobi Coffee Exchange broker. Mbuni, he said where fetching good proceeds at the market, just like cherry following reforms that were introduced by Gachagua when he served as Deputy President.

"Coffee is fetching good money," he noted as he disclosed that one of the area coffee society assisted its members to a tune of KSh12 million in bursaries.

Githinji, through Alliance Berries is the leading Coffee Broker in the country where he controls about 40 per cent of the entire commodity that

Peter Githinji alias Tropical in Mathira on Thursday. Photo/Courtesy.

is traded at the exchange, every Tuesday.

He at the same time said they were not opposed to coffee reforms like Direct Settlement System but on direct payment to farmers through mobile cash transfer.

Nairobi To Host World Health Summit Regional Meeting On Africa's Health Priorities In April

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Nairobi will host the World Health Summit Regional Meeting from April 27 to 29, bringing together global health leaders, policymakers, researchers and development partners to deliberate on Africa's most pressing health priorities.

The three-day meeting will take place at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) and is expected to advance African-led solutions aimed at strengthening health systems across the continent.

Preparations for the summit were outlined during a high-level donor roundtable held at Aga Khan University in Nairobi. The forum convened donors, policymakers, academics and development partners to discuss sustainable financing for integrated health systems.

Held under the theme "Re-imagining Africa's Health Systems", the roundtable underscored the need to move away from fragmented health interventions toward coordinated, continent-wide approaches that can deliver lasting impact.

The 2026 regional meeting will be hosted by Aga Khan University, marking the second time the World Health Summit Regional Meeting is held in East Africa and only the second time on the African continent. The meeting is convened by the World Health Summit, founded in 2009 and recognised as one of the leading platforms for global health dialogue, policy engagement and health diplomacy.

Speaking at the roundtable, Prof. Lukoye Atwoli said the Nairobi meeting comes at a critical moment as countries reassess health financing models, governance structures and preparedness frameworks. He described the summit as an opportunity for Africa to articulate its contribution to the global health agenda, rather than remain a passive recipient of external solutions.

Prof. Atwoli noted that unlike traditional scientific conferences, the World Health Summit Regional Meeting is designed as a multi-stakeholder forum bringing together science, policy, industry and civil society. This structure, he said, ensures accountability and promotes practical outcomes, with scientists addressing evidence, industries presenting innovations, governments shaping policy

Prof. Lukoye Atwoli

and civil society holding stakeholders to account.

The Nairobi meeting will feature eight parallel sub-themes reflecting Africa's major health priorities. These include health workforce development, primary health care, quality and patient safety, women's and children's health, mental health, pandemic preparedness, digital health and climate-related health risks. Participants at the donor roundtable also emphasised the importance of prioritising quality of care alongside expanded coverage, warning that increased access without improved quality does not necessarily translate into better health outcomes.

The meeting follows previous World Health Summit regional forums held in Kampala, Rome, Washington DC, Melbourne and most recently New Delhi, which have helped foster partnerships, mobilise resources and influence regional and global policy discussions.

Hosting the 2026 meeting in Nairobi is expected to elevate Africa's role in shaping global health conversations, positioning the continent as an active contributor to solutions. Beyond April 2026, Aga Khan University and its partners hope the outcomes will inform long-term cooperation across Africa and feed into deliberations at global platforms such as the World Health Assembly and the annual World Health Summit in Berlin.

Ruto Unveils Massive Youth Internship Drive, Defends Privatisation As Key To Trillion-Shilling Infrastructure Push

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

From left; DP Kithure Kindiki, President William Ruto and CS Alice Wahome. Photos/Courtesy.

Worth Noting:

- **The interns, drawn from disciplines including architecture, civil, mechanical and electrical engineering, quantity surveying and other construction-related fields, will be attached to more than 240 consulting companies participating in the Affordable Housing Programme for a one-year period.**
- **Addressing the young professionals on Friday, President Ruto described the internship as a deliberate government intervention to create jobs, transfer skills and prepare a new generation to drive Kenya's development agenda.**
- **"This is a launch pad; it is not a stop gap. And you must know that dreams are free, but hustles are not," the President told the interns, urging them to treat the opportunity as the foundation of their professional careers.**

President William Ruto hosted 5,500 building and construction graduate interns at State House, Nairobi, in a landmark ceremony that underscored his administration's twin focus on youth employment and ambitious infrastructure expansion under the Affordable Housing Programme.

The interns, drawn from disciplines including architecture, civil, mechanical and electrical engineering, quantity surveying and other construction-related fields, will be attached to more than 240 consulting companies participating in the Affordable Housing Programme for a one-year period.

Addressing the young professionals on Friday, President Ruto described the internship as a deliberate government intervention to create jobs, transfer skills and prepare a new generation to drive Kenya's development agenda.

"This is a launch pad; it is not a stop gap. And you must know that dreams are free, but hustles are not," the President told the interns, urging them to treat the opportunity as the foundation of their professional careers.

He said the internship programme is designed to equip graduates with practical skills and hands-on experience that universities alone cannot provide, adding that youth empowerment remains central to his administration's economic strategy.

The event also provided a platform for the President to defend the Affordable Housing Programme, which has faced political criticism since its launch.

He noted that affordable housing had appeared in party manifestos for many years but was repeatedly shelved for short-term political expediency. Under the current programme, he said, the government is rolling out projects countrywide, with the construction of more than 240,000 housing units already underway.

Beyond housing, President Ruto outlined an expansive infrastructure plan aimed at transforming Kenya into a first-world economy. He said the government is currently building 6,000 kilometres of roads and, under the long-term plan, intends to construct 30,500 kilometres of roads, including 2,500 kilometres of dual carriageways.

Other targets include generating 10,000 megawatts of electricity, building 50 mega dams, 200 medium-size dams and thousands of small dams across the country.

"Kenya is finally doing what is right. We are finally taking charge of our own destiny and changing our country for the better," the President said.

He revealed that the government has already signed contracts worth KSh600 billion, fully funded by locally raised resources. According to the President, 800 local companies and more than 300 consulting firms are currently working under the Affordable Housing Programme, with only one foreign company involved.

So far, he said, the programme has created more than 500,000 jobs for young people and women, including the 5,500 graduate interns hosted at State House.

"I am very proud that the Affordable Housing Programme is maturing and we have professional workers, companies and consulting firms in the equation," he said.

The President also commended consulting firms for agreeing to reduce their professional fees to two per cent from the usual range of eight to 14 per cent to support the programme's early stages. He announced that the government will increase the fee to three per cent in recognition of what he termed their impressive work.

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki said the internship scheme is one of several government programmes aimed at expanding opportunities for the youth and addressing graduate unemployment.

He noted that Kenyans are beginning to feel the impact of the Affordable Housing Programme and called for strict accountability in the construction sector.

Kindiki warned that professionals who make decisions that endanger public safety must face severe consequences.

"Those who approve the construction of a building must be held accountable if the building collapses or endangers lives. There must be consequences for all professionals as well as agencies involved. It must mean something for you to be a professional," he said.

Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome said the pace of construction across the country has silenced critics who doubted the programme would succeed, saying the progress had "ashamed the agents of doom".

At the same function, President Ruto used the occasion to strongly defend the government's privatisation programme, which has drawn sharp opposition from sections of the political class.

He said the partial sale of government stakes in key public companies is intended to unlock local resources needed to finance mega infrastructure

Contd page 9

All Local Rice Fully Taken Up, Farmers Paid In Full As Government Guarantees Market Support

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Rice farmers across Mwea and other key growing regions have received full payments for all locally harvested rice, with the entire domestic output fully taken up by the market.

This move has eased concerns over delayed payments and unsold stock, boosting confidence among producers.

During a monitoring visit to the Mwea Rice Growers Multipurpose Co-operative Society (MRGM), Dr. Bruno Linyiru, Director General of AFA Kenya, accompanied by officials from the State Department of Agriculture, the National Cereals & Produce Board (NCPB), and the Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC), confirmed that the rice market has absorbed all local rice deliveries.

MRGM leadership, including Chairperson Ndege Muriuki and Managing Director Anthony Waweru, reported that rice offloading and payments have proceeded efficiently. Carry-over stocks have dramatically reduced, now constituting less than one percent, compared to nearly 30 percent last year. Waweru assured farmers that KNTC remains ready to purchase any rice brought to the market.

Addressing concerns over the impact of imports, the cooperative emphasized that Mwea Pishori rice targets a premium segment that does not directly compete with imported non-basmati varieties.

Government officials highlighted that domestic rice still accounts for less than 20% of national consumption, necessitating controlled imports to maintain stable prices while protecting local producers. They further committed to buying all paddy and milled rice offered, with guaranteed payments within 30 days, and encouraged farmers with available stock to contact NCPB or KNTC immediately.

These measures are expected to strengthen farmer confidence, secure livelihoods, and support the continued growth of Kenya's rice sector.

Stakeholders during the Mwea visit.

UDA Dismisses High Court Ruling On Alleged ANC Merger, Insists Party Was Voluntarily Dissolved

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The United Democratic Alliance (UDA) has rejected a recent High Court ruling touching on the former Amani National Congress (ANC), insisting that there was never a merger between the two parties and that the court's decision is based on a mistaken premise.

In a press statement issued on Friday, UDA's 2nd Deputy Party Leader and Lamu Governor, Issa Timamy, said events had "overtaken" the ruling delivered on Thursday regarding the purported ANC–UDA merger.

Timamy argued that the central question before the court; whether ANC unlawfully merged with UDA is flawed because ANC had already ceased to exist as a political party before any merger could take place.

"For the record, on March 14, 2025, the then Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu, issued Gazette Notice No. 3449 confirming that ANC had voluntarily dissolved," Timamy said, citing sections 9 and 34C of the Political Parties Act and the party's Special National Delegates Congress held on February 7, 2025.

According to UDA, the dissolution was an internal decision taken by ANC members in line with the party constitution, and not the result of a negotiated merger with the ruling party.

Timamy maintained that in law and in fact, no merger agreement ever existed.

"To state that a 'merger' has now been declared unlawful is to create a fiction," he said, adding, "You cannot nullify a decision that never existed in the first place."

The controversy dates back to the turbulent period before the 2022 General Election, when ANC, then led by Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, entered into political cooperation with UDA and later aligned with President William Ruto's Kenya Kwanza coalition. Questions have since persisted over whether ANC formally merged into UDA or simply dissolved and allowed its members to join individually.

The High Court ruling appears to have revived that debate, raising concerns over the legality of the process and the fate of ANC's assets and membership.

UDA insists that after the dissolution, all ANC assets were lawfully transferred to UDA and that former ANC members were integrated through established legal procedures.

The party says there is no parallel structure, competing claim or operational ambiguity arising from the process.

Beyond the legal dispute, Timamy said the party's focus remains firmly on politics and governance rather than litigation.

"As members of UDA, our priority is to protect the integrity of the party, consolidate unity and mobilize our members as we work decisively towards the re-election of President William Ruto," he said.

He added that UDA remains committed to delivering the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and achieving "real, measurable development outcomes" for Kenyans.

President William Ruto with Issa Timamy at State House, Nairobi on January 17, 2025 when UDA Party incorporated former members of the ANC Party in its leadership structure following the merger of the two. Photo/File.

Ruto Unveils Massive Youth Internship Drive, Defends Privatisation As Key To Trillion-Shilling Infrastructure Push

Contd from page 11

projects without over-reliance on external borrowing.

According to the President, the government expects to raise more than KSh240 billion from the partial sale of its Safaricom shares and KSh110 billion from the Kenya Pipeline Company Initial Public Offering, bringing the total to KSh350 billion.

He explained that the KSh350 billion will be leveraged at a ratio of one to ten, enabling the government to raise between KSh3.5 trillion and KSh4 trillion to fund large-scale projects in dams, rail, airports, roads and dual carriageways.

"We had all agreed that privatisation of government companies was an alternative form of financing. This is the problem with Kenya. For a long time, politics has sabotaged our country," the President said, describing opponents of the plan as political conmen full of intellectual deceit.

He argued that investing in public infrastructure as a means of jump-starting the economy is a proven strategy, not a new invention of the Kenya Kwanza administration.

He cited the United States, which built the Interstate Highway system in the 1950s to pull its economy out of recession, creating millions of jobs in the process. More recently, he said, the Philippines created 6.5 million jobs between 2016 and 2022 through heavy investment in public infrastructure.

On education, President Ruto said the government is reforming the sector to align learning with the requirements of the future economy. He noted that exams are no longer treated as a life-and-death affair, with police no longer stationed in schools during examination periods.

He reiterated that no child should be denied access to education because of lack of school fees or uniform and announced that the government will soon make a decision on school uniforms, saying they are "becoming a source of corruption".

The combined focus on housing, internships, privatisation and education reforms, the President said, is aimed at laying a sustainable foundation for economic transformation driven by Kenyan professionals and locally raised resources.

President William Ruto addressing construction graduate interns at State House, Nairobi on Friday.

Reviewing Devolution Implementation Progress

Time to Complete the Devolution Promise: Why Kenya Must Fully Realign Governance with the 2010 Constitution

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **Within the implementation time framework, all existing statues, institutions, systems, etc of the old constitutional order were to be fully repealed, reformed, restructured, realigned and reordered into conformity with 2010 Constitutional order. This is yet to fully materialize.**
- **Further, and more critically, the entire governance system that pre-existed 2010 Constitution was to completely be overhauled to accord with and respect the devolved system of governance both vertically and horizontally. This is far from being achieved. We only have tinkering not overhaul.**
- **One consequence of failure to restructure, reform and align National government Ministries, Departments, agencies and state corporations/parastatals to accord with and respect devolution is putting the country in high economic and financial risks. This is what the country is witnessing.**

President Mwai Kibaki during the promulgation of the new Constitution on August 27, 2010. Photo/File...

The 2010 Constitution gave implementation time framework of 5 years with Parliament power to extend for 2 more years.

It is 15 years since promulgation and 12 years from beginning of full implementation (after 2013 general election).

Within the implementation time framework, all existing statues, institutions, systems, etc of the old constitutional order were to be fully repealed, reformed, restructured, realigned and reordered into conformity with 2010 Constitutional order. This is yet to fully materialize.

Further, and more critically, the entire governance system that pre-existed 2010 Constitution was to completely be overhauled to accord with and respect the devolved system of governance both vertically and horizontally. This is far from being achieved. We only have tinkering not overhaul.

One consequence of failure to restructure, reform and align National government Ministries, Departments, agencies and state corporations/parastatals to accord with and respect devolution is putting the country in high economic and financial risks. This is what the country is witnessing.

The current economic and financial challenges provide a pivotal moment to comprehensively downsize, restructure and align national government. This is a moment to fully implement the devolution, core promise of the 2010 Constitution.

Devolution has faced serious affront from the National Executive and National Assembly including direct attempts at recentralize and constant threats to the wellbeing of devolution.

Among structural problems facing devolution include

1. Major components of exclusive devolved functions are still heavily being performed by national government MDAs.
2. Concurrent/shared functions in different sectors remain indeterminate and are still not yet operationalized.
3. Significant overlaps and duplications creating wasteful expenditures, conflicts on projects/programs implementation and budgets double allocations
4. Cumulatively huge funds supposed to go to Counties for devolved funds are still with national MDAs
5. Most county Governments are facing technical, capacity and institutionalization failures. You find huge deficits in institutions, processes, procedures and systems.

Solution:

Starting point: You need to draft and table before the Senate a national legislation on functions and powers to clarify the constitutional assignment of functions and powers to the two levels of government. This is critical in actualizing devolution set in the Constitution and transfer of all devolved functions and funds

The legislation ' The Devolved Governance Functions and Powers Act', should have objectives of :

1. Operationalize Articles 186 and the Fourth Schedule, 183, and 187 of the Constitution making comprehensive provisions for the clarification of functional assignment and the functional lists(Money follows functions)
2. Establishment of clear framework for the national government assignment of additional functions and powers to the county Governments(most advanced countries in world are highly devolved)
3. Establishment of a coherent framework for the intergovernmental transfer of functions and powers as well as cooperation , coordination and consultation between two levels of government
4. Provide clear legal mechanism for inclusion and participation of County Governments in the critical fiscal and economic policy formulation
5. Establishment of Alternative Dispute Resolution between two levels of government
6. Provide for legal mechanisms for technical support, capacity development and collaboration
7. Establishment of proper functional, effective and efficient County's institutions, systems, procedures and processes. County governance is not the Governor.

Devolution in the next phase of democratizing and restructuring economy of Kenya.

Devolved Economic Revolution (DER) is only insurance for inclusion, stability, growth, services and participatory democracy

It is vital for equity, sense of belonging of every region and community, and unlocking the enormous potential of the country and Kenyans in all corners.

The Writer is Transitional Justice and Human Security Fellow @NdunguWainaina

Former Freedom Fighters Welcome Ida Odinga's Nomination As Kenya's UNEP Ambassador

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto has nominated Ida Odinga as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

She will succeed Ababu Namwamba, who was recently appointed as Kenya's High Commissioner to Uganda. The nomination, communicated by Head of Public Service Felix Koskei, has been forwarded to the National Assembly for consideration and approval.

The nomination received strong support from former freedom fighters and their descendants, represented through their caucus, MMV Associates CLG. They praised Ida Odinga for her significant contribution to the country's "second liberation," drawing parallels between her efforts and those of the Mau Mau fighters who fought for Kenya's independence.

President William Ruto with Mama Ida Odinga last year.

"Just like the way Mau Mau fighters contributed to the liberation of this country, Mama Ida did the same during the second liberation," said the caucus director James Njuguna Mahuria.

He expressed gratitude to President Ruto for the appointment, emphasizing hopes that Ida Odinga will use her new role to advance recognition and compensation for participants of the first liberation movement.

In a separate initiative, MMV Associates CLG members actively engaged in a public forum organized by the Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS) at the Kenya Industrial Training Institute (KITI) in Nakuru on Friday.

The event convened stakeholders to discuss legal instruments underpinning accreditation in Kenya, including the Kenya Accreditation Service (Amendment) Bill, 2025, Accreditation (General) Regulations, 2025, and Accreditation (Fees) Regulations, 2025.

Some of the MMV Associates CLG members at KITI, Nakuru on Friday. Photos/ Courtesy.

Key speakers included; Mr. Michael Talam, Acting Chief Manager at KENAS, and Nicasio Njue, Regional Industrialization Development Officer. Mr. Talam provided an overview of KENAS and the accreditation framework, followed by addresses from KENAS CEO Dr. Walter Ongeti and Prof. Erastus Gatebe, Industrialization Secretary.

During the plenary session, MMV Associates CLG highlighted the industrial and business expertise of their members and commended the initiative for promoting self-reliance. MMV Associates CLG announced plans to extend their presentations to Eldoret and Kibabii University next week, underscoring their continued commitment to national industrialization and public engagement.

Ndia MP Pushes For Urgent Road Safety Reforms After Nyeri Crash Injures Apple Pioneer

By: Felix Njenga
@themtkenyatimes

Ndia Member of Parliament and Chairperson of the National Assembly Transport and Infrastructure Committee, George Kariuki, has called for urgent reforms in road safety enforcement and infrastructure following a tragic accident along the Nyeri–Nyahururu Highway that seriously injured agribusiness pioneer Catherine Wambugu and claimed the lives of two of her employees.

On Thursday, Macharia visited Ms Wambugu at Outspan Hospital in Nyeri town where she is recovering after sustaining serious injuries in a crash that occurred on Monday night.

Widely known as the founder of Wambugu Apples and a champion of commercial apple farming in Kenya, Ms Wambugu has played a key role in transforming agribusiness in the country.

The accident also killed Teresia Mumbi Mwaniki and Dominic Dommie, two close employees who worked with her at the company.

Speaking to journalists after the visit, the MP expressed relief that Ms Wambugu's condition had stabilised and conveyed condolences to the bereaved families.

He described the loss of the two employees as deeply painful, noting that the tragedy had left a significant gap in both the Wambugu Apples family and the wider agribusiness community.

Using the incident as a platform to address the broader issue of road safety, the legislator warned that road carnage in Kenya had reached alarming levels. Citing statistics from the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA), he noted that road deaths rose by 3.4 per cent in 2025, increasing from 4,311 in 2024 to 4,458 in 2025.

Ndia MP George Kariuki consoles recuperating Catherine Wambugu an agribusiness entrepreneur at the outspan hospital. Photo/Courtesy..

Pedestrians accounted for the largest share of victims, with 1,685 fatalities recorded.

The MP observed that Kenya loses an average of about 15 people every day on the roads, amounting to nearly 5,000 deaths annually. He stressed that these figures represent real families losing parents, children and breadwinners, and argued that the situation demands urgent national action.

The MP blamed most accidents on human error and irresponsible behaviour, including drunk driving, speeding, use of defective vehicles and disregard for traffic rules by drivers, pedestrians and motorcyclists.

He insisted that most crashes are preventable and called for a change in attitude among all road users.

He also criticised weak enforcement of traffic laws, pointing to public service vehicles that pick and drop passengers indiscriminately.

The MP urged the Ministry of Interior and enforcement agencies to strengthen policing and ensure offenders are consistently punished.

In addition, he called for improved road infrastructure, including better lighting, proper surfacing and timely repair of potholes, particularly on busy and high-risk highways.

The Ndia legislature revealed that his committee is working with the Ministry of Transport and NTSA to digitise traffic enforcement systems, including electronic fines, to improve compliance, accountability and transparency.

Protect Yourselves From All Evil Thoughts

Protect yourselves from all evil thoughts
Because it will kill you more than any poison
Evil thoughts have the capacity to bend
any nail
Don't be affected by evil thoughts
It not only spoils the self
but also those nearby
It's contagious in all directions,
It may lead you mentally
and cheat you in all ways
So drive out all evil thoughts,
protect your heart and mind's carefully
Coz it enters gently but stays firmly
and spoils heart and mind fully
Protect yourself from evil thoughts
don't let evil thoughts make you fall.
protect yourselves from evil thoughts

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

It's Not Our Job To Fix Other People; But To Love Them When They Are Broken

Everyone's perspective is different
From their point of view it looks nine
For us it is six.
We should understand this.

It's not our job to correct others' mistakes
But to console them in their worries.
Giving a hand to support them.
To help them to rise from their hardships.

We should care about their pain
And help wipe away their tears.
We should be a light
For those in the darkest corners of a broken
heart.

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.

Let Your Life Be The Proof

My passion blooms differently from others.
I choose my path, and I follow my heart.
This life is a gift meant to be lived fully.

I want to soar like a bird in the endless sky.
I want to work like a bee, buzzing with
purpose.
I want to reach, touch, and feel the
vastness above.

I believe in the strength of my soul.
I want to smile like a flower opening to the
sun.
I want to run like a horse, free and untamed.

I wish to make my home a temple,
a sacred space where I need not prove
myself,
and where I need not explain a single thing.

Let my life be my story
my proof, my quiet truth.

V. JAYANTHI
Graduate teacher
Creative writer
Chengalpattu district
Tamil Nadu
India

Every Master Was Once A Beginner.

No one starts perfect, growth makes
progress.
Every lesson leaves a mark of mastery
Every skill begins with a single try
Every step forward matters
Every practice polishes the soul.

Small beginnings lead to big success
One learner, now a leader
Learning comes before mastery
Today's practice is Tomorrow perfection.
Greatness starts with a first step

What feels hard today becomes easy
tomorrow
Confidence grows with consistent effort.
Beginnings carry the seed of brilliance.
From hesitant hands to confident craft.
Effort today shapes expertise tomorrow.
From unsure steps to steady success.

V Ranjani Veera
M.A.,B.Ed.,
Creative writer
Graduate teacher (English)
Pondicherry district
India

The Significance Of OTT Platforms

OTT (Over-The-Top) platforms have transformed the way people consume entertainment by delivering content directly through the internet, without the need for traditional cable or satellite television.
One of the key significances of OTT platforms is convenience. Viewers can watch movies, series, and shows anytime and anywhere, using smartphones, smart TVs, tablets, or laptops. This flexibility suits modern, fast-paced lifestyles.
OTT platforms also promote content diversity. They offer movies and series in multiple languages and genres, including regional and independent content that often does not get space on traditional media. This has helped local creators reach global audiences.
Another major impact is creative freedom. Filmmakers and writers can explore bold themes and realistic storytelling without heavy restrictions, leading to high-quality and innovative content.
OTT platforms support personalized viewing through recommendations based on user preferences, improving the viewing experience. They also encourage binge-watching, changing audience habits.
Finally, OTT platforms are significant for their cost-effectiveness. Subscription plans are often cheaper than cable TV and provide access to vast libraries of content.
Overall, OTT platforms have revolutionized entertainment by making it more accessible, inclusive, and audience-centric.

Meera.T

Know Your Size

Shoes and people remember this truth,
If they hurt your feet or silence your youth,
They were never meant for your walk or way,
Let them go gently, don't beg them to stay.

Pain is a signal, not something to hide,
Comfort is where your spirit can reside.
What fits your soul will never bruise your
heart,
Peace feels right from the very start.

Don't shrink yourself to fit someone's frame,
Your worth was never theirs to name.
Choose paths that heal, choose bonds that
care,
Life feels lighter when you walk aware.

V. Jayanthi / Creative Writer

Ruto's Billion-Shilling Gambit: Safaricom Sale Sparks Political Firestorm

By: David Kimani
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking at State House, Nairobi, during an engagement with graduate interns onboarded under the Affordable Housing Programme on Friday, the President defended the government's privatisation strategy, saying it was a deliberate and transparent move aimed at mobilising resources for large-scale national development.
- He added that the government had agreed that divestiture was a prudent way of unlocking capital while expanding public participation in strategic assets. He cited the Kenya Pipeline Company initial public offering and Safaricom's share sale as examples.
- He noted that the government expected to raise about Ksh.110 billion from the Kenya Pipeline IPO and a further Ksh.240 billion from the partial divestiture of Safaricom, funds he said would be leveraged to unlock between Ksh.3 trillion and Ksh.4 trillion for development projects.

In the high-stakes arena of Kenya's economic reform, President William Ruto has chosen confrontation over compromise, telling off Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro with the stinging words "spare us your political conmanship" as debate rages over the government's planned partial divestiture of Safaricom shares. The clash, played out in public statements and parliamentary hearings, is more than a spat between allies; it is a defining moment in Kenya's struggle to balance fiscal necessity, political accountability, and public trust in the management of national assets.

Ruto's remarks at State House, Nairobi, during an engagement with graduate interns under the Affordable Housing Programme, were as sharp as they were deliberate. He defended privatisation as a transparent, deliberate strategy to mobilise resources for large-scale development. Citing the Kenya Pipeline Company IPO and Safaricom's share sale, he projected that the government would raise Ksh.110 billion from the pipeline offering and Ksh.240 billion from Safaricom, funds he claimed could leverage between Ksh.3 trillion and Ksh.4 trillion for transformative projects. His confidence was unshaken, promising that by next year Kenya would have raised Ksh.5 trillion to begin its march toward first-world status.

A photo collage of President William Ruto and Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro.

Nyoro, however, has emerged as a vocal skeptic. Appearing before the Joint Committee on Finance and Privatisation, he warned that Kenya risked losing billions by failing to subject the Safaricom sale to competitive international bidding. He alleged that the six billion shares earmarked for sale were undervalued, insisting they should fetch Ksh.45 each rather than the proposed Ksh.34. "We should not be discussing anything below Ksh.45 per share," he argued, portraying the government's plan as a rushed deal that shortchanged taxpayers. His criticism tapped into a familiar anxiety: Kenya's history of privatisation marred by opaque deals and undervalued sales that enriched a few while impoverishing the public.

Ruto's counterattack was uncompromising. He dismissed Nyoro's concerns as intellectual deceit, stressing that valuation of public listed companies is determined transparently by capital markets, not by committees or political bargaining. "Any Public Listed Company, the tested, proven, transparent valuation is done by the Capital Markets at the Exchange, not in boardrooms or committees," he said, underscoring his belief that the Nairobi Securities Exchange provides the fairest mechanism for pricing. For Ruto, the debate was not about politics or elections but about transforming Kenya's economic trajectory.

The confrontation has exposed deeper fissures within Kenya's political and economic discourse. On one side are reformists who argue that privatisation is essential to ease the country's debt burden, attract investment, and modernise infrastructure. Central Bank Governor Kamau Thugge has backed the move, noting that proceeds from the sale could help stabilise public finances. The Central Organisation of Trade Unions (COTU) has also lent support, framing the divestiture as a necessary step to prevent ballooning debt from strangling future generations. On the other side are skeptics like Nyoro, who warn that rushing into asset sales without competitive bidding risks repeating past mistakes where public wealth was transferred to private hands at bargain prices.

Safaricom's symbolic weight makes the debate particularly charged. As Kenya's most profitable firm and a regional telecommunications giant, Safaricom is more than a corporate entity—it is a national asset woven into the fabric of everyday life, from mobile money transactions to digital innovation. Any attempt to sell part of the government's stake inevitably raises questions about sovereignty, public trust, and the balance between short-term fiscal relief and long-term strategic control.

Observers note that Ruto's combative tone reflects the high stakes of his economic agenda. With mounting debt, a restless youth population, and ambitious promises of transformation, the administration is under pressure to deliver tangible results. Privatisation offers a quick infusion of capital, but it also exposes the government to scrutiny over transparency, valuation, and accountability. Nyoro's challenge, though politically charged, taps into public anxieties about whether Kenya's leaders can be trusted to safeguard national assets.

The debate also highlights the evolving dynamics within Ruto's political coalition. Nyoro, once seen as a loyal ally, has positioned himself as a watchdog on economic matters, raising uncomfortable questions that resonate with ordinary Kenyans. His insistence on higher valuation reflects a populist instinct to defend taxpayers, while Ruto's dismissal underscores the executive's determination to push through reforms without being derailed by dissent. The clash illustrates the tension between loyalty and accountability, a tension that will shape Kenya's political landscape as the country navigates economic turbulence.

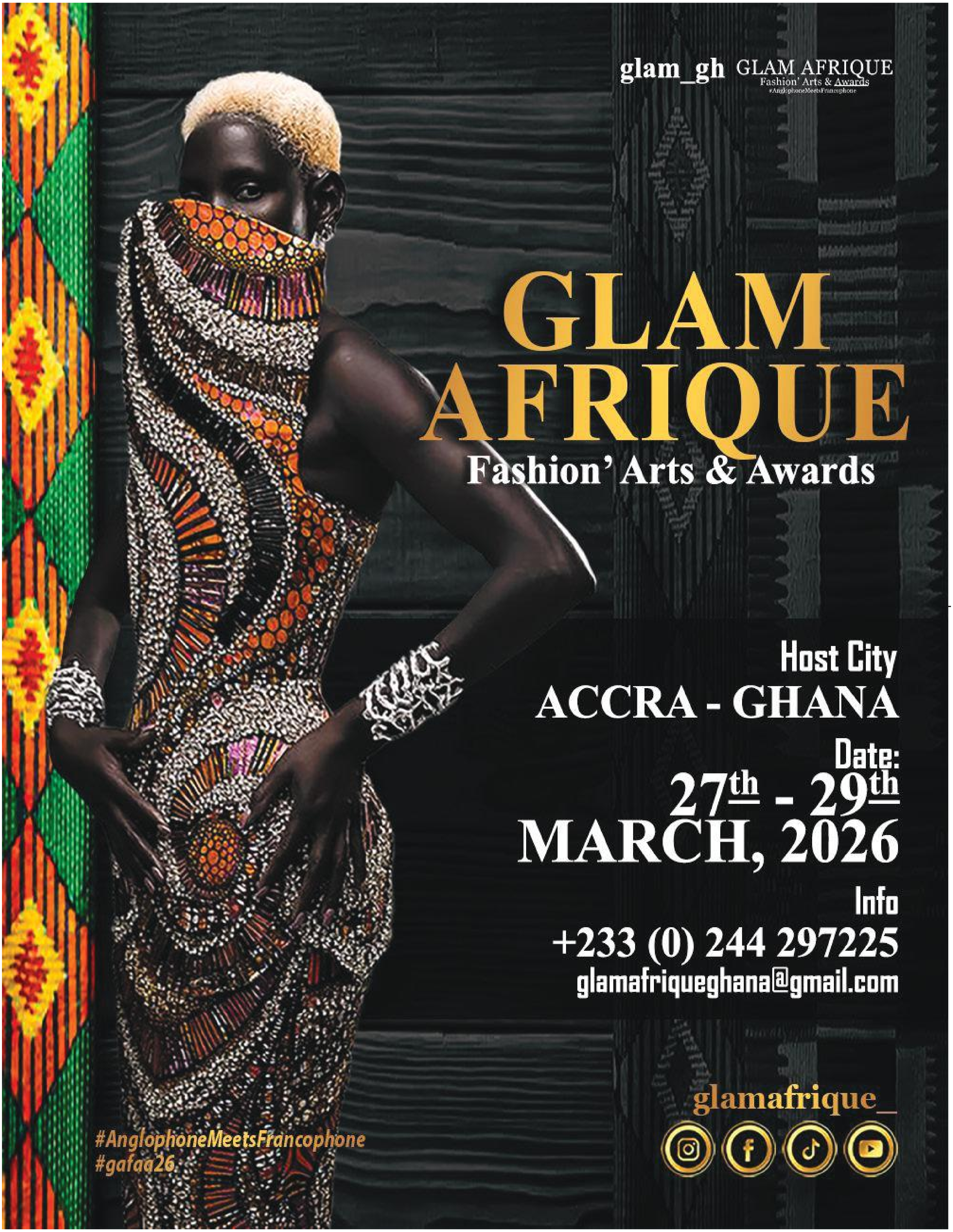
International analysts have weighed in, noting that Kenya's privatisation drive mirrors broader trends in Africa, where governments are increasingly turning to capital markets to raise funds. The World Bank has long advocated for transparent divestiture processes, warning against politically manipulated valuations. In this context, Ruto's reliance on the Nairobi Securities Exchange aligns with global best practices, but Nyoro's demand for competitive bidding reflects legitimate concerns about maximising value. The outcome of this debate will set a precedent for future asset sales, including the Kenya Pipeline IPO.

For ordinary Kenyans, the Safaricom sale is not an abstract policy issue but a matter of livelihoods. The company's dominance in mobile money means its ownership structure has direct implications for financial inclusion, innovation, and consumer trust. Any perception that shares are being sold cheaply to insiders could erode confidence in both the company and the government. Conversely, a transparent, well-executed sale could broaden public participation, allowing more citizens to own a piece of Kenya's corporate crown jewel.

As the dust settles, one truth remains clear: the Safaricom sale is a litmus test for Kenya's commitment to transparency, accountability, and economic transformation. Ruto's fiery rhetoric may silence critics in the short term, but the real verdict will come from the markets, the courts of public opinion, and the tangible outcomes of privatisation. Nyoro's challenge, whether dismissed as conmanship or embraced as caution, has forced the nation to confront uncomfortable questions about how public assets are managed.

In the end, the clash between Ruto and Nyoro is not just about numbers on a balance sheet—it is about trust, vision, and the future of Kenya's economic sovereignty. The President may have told off his critic with biting words, but the responsibility now lies with his administration to prove that privatisation is not another chapter in Kenya's long history of squandered opportunities.

Kenya cannot afford political theatre when billions are at stake; only transparency will turn promises into prosperity.


glam_gh
GLAM AFRIQUE
Fashion' Arts & Awards
GLAM AFRIQUE
Fashion' Arts & Awards
Host City
ACCRA - GHANA
Date:
27th - 29th
MARCH, 2026
Info
+233 (0) 244 297225
glamafriqueghana@gmail.com
glamafrique_
#AnglophoneMeetsFrancophone
#gafaa26

The Moral Interregnum: Why Kenya Must Embark On A National Search For Its Soul

By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- A nation is more than its borders, its flag, or its GDP; it is a collective agreement on a set of values. Currently, that agreement in Kenya appears to be in tatters. We are witnessing a "moral interregnum" a period where the old values of Undugu and communal integrity have been discarded, and in their place, a nihilistic "every man for himself" philosophy has taken root. If this persists, we are not merely facing a political crisis, but a civilizational decline that no amount of infrastructure development can fix.
- The search for the Kenyan soul must begin with an honest acknowledgment of our complicity. We have become a theater of the absurd where we cry for change but vote for the very architects of our misery.

Kenya stands at a precarious crossroads, defined by a stark statistical and social paradox. While we boast a literacy rate of over 82% and an economy that often leads the East African region, our "Social Capital Index" continues to be eroded by a pervasive culture of systemic graft and civic apathy. According to recent governance indices, the nation loses billions of shillings annually to corruption resources meant for the sick, the young, and the vulnerable. These are not merely economic figures; they are the ledger of a dying conscience.

The "bad manners" mentioned in our common parlance have evolved from minor social irritants into a terminal rot. We see it in the motorist who overlappingly defies traffic laws, the public official who demands a bribe for a basic right, and the citizen who applauds the "cleverness" of the thief. This normalization of deviance suggests that we have lost the ability to distinguish between success and plunder. When a society begins to admire the shortcut over the hard-earned path, its foundations are no longer built on stone, but on shifting sand.

A nation is more than its borders, its flag, or its GDP; it is a collective agreement on a set of values. Currently, that agreement in Kenya appears to be in tatters. We are witnessing a "moral interregnum" a period where the old values of Undugu and communal integrity have been discarded, and in their place, a nihilistic "every man for himself" philosophy has taken root. If this persists, we are not merely facing a political crisis, but a civilizational decline that no amount of infrastructure development can fix.

The search for the Kenyan soul must begin with an honest acknowledgment of our complicity. We have become a theater of the absurd where we cry for change but vote for the very architects of our misery. This cognitive dissonance is a symptom of a soul that has been bartered for temporary convenience. Maturity demands that we stop blaming a vague "system" and realize that the system is a mirror of our collective character. A corrupt leadership cannot thrive in a soil of integrity; it requires the nutrients of a compromised populace.

Should this culture of impunity and "bad manners" persist, we are doomed to follow the historical trajectory of failed states. History is littered with the carcasses of nations that possessed immense wealth but lacked the moral fiber to manage it. When trust the invisible currency of any economy evaporates, the cost of doing business becomes prohibitive, and the social contract becomes a worthless piece of paper. We are currently flirting with this void, where the law is seen as a suggestion rather than a mandate.

The decline of a nation usually happens in silence before it happens in screams. It starts when we stop feeling outraged by injustice. It continues when our religious and educational institutions become factories for conformity rather than bastions of character. We have built schools that produce doctors and engineers, but we have failed to build a society that produces honest men and women. The technical skill is present, but the moral compass is spinning aimlessly.

To find our soul, we must revisit the concept of the "Common Good." This requires a radical shift from the transactional nature of our interactions to a transformational one. We must foster a culture where shame is reintroduced into the public square. A society that cannot feel shame is a society that cannot be redeemed. We must make it socially expensive to be "bad-mannered," ensuring that the rogue, the bribe-taker, and the law-breaker are no longer celebrated as "hustlers" but are shunned as pariahs.

This search for our soul is not a religious endeavor, though it may carry spiritual undertones; it is, at its core, a strategy for national survival. It calls for an unflinching and deliberate introspection into what it truly means to be Kenyan beyond slogans, flags, and constitutional promises. Are we primarily defined by our tribes, by an insatiable appetite for accumulation, or by a shared humanity anchored in mutual responsibility and dignity? If the answer remains trapped in the narrow confines of ethnicity and greed, then decline is not a possibility but an inevitability. We will continue to mistake proximity for unity and coexistence for nationhood. At present, we resemble a collection of strangers occupying the same geographical space, bound together not by a common moral purpose but by the relentless pursuit of the shilling. Such a bond is transactional, shallow, and profoundly fragile. It cannot endure the pressures of economic inequality, political manipulation, or historical reckoning. A nation built on convenience rather than conscience will always fracture at the first serious test.

There is no comfortable middle ground in this reckoning. We are confronted with a stark choice: either we undertake the painful but necessary journey of national atonement and ethical reconstruction, or we resign ourselves to a slow descent into chaotic mediocrity, punctuated by periodic crises and collective amnesia. The "Kenya We Want" is frequently invoked in political manifestos and development plans, yet it remains hollow rhetoric unless it is first inscribed in the hearts, habits, and daily conduct of citizens. True national renewal cannot be outsourced to leaders alone; it must be cultivated from the ground up, in how we work, how we vote, how we treat one another, and how we respond to injustice. We must summon the courage to demand of ourselves the same discipline, excellence, and honesty we so loudly demand of those in power. Without this moral symmetry, reform will always be performative, and hope will remain perpetually deferred.

In conclusion, the destiny of Kenya is not written in the stars, but in our daily conduct. The "bad manners" that currently define our public and private lives are a cancer that will eventually consume the host if not treated with the radiation of truth and the surgery of reform. Let us embark on this search for our soul with the urgency of a people who realize their house is on fire. Only then can we move from the brink of decline toward the promise of a dignified, enduring republic.

The writer is social commentator

Why Draining Tala Dam In Machakos Is A Terrible Mistake

In a county where every drop of water is a lifeline, the decision to drain Tala Dam in Machakos is nothing short of reckless. Water scarcity defines daily life in arid and semi arid regions, and dismantling a vital reservoir to pave way for a bus terminus is a move that undermines survival, sustainability, and trust in governance.

Tala Dam is more than a body of water; it is a buffer against drought, a source of irrigation, and a pillar of household resilience. Removing it strips communities—especially women and children—of accessible water, forcing them into longer treks and harsher realities. In a region already strained by climate change, this action deepens vulnerability.

The ecological fallout is equally dire. Dams nurture micro ecosystems that sustain aquatic life, vegetation, and wildlife. Draining Tala Dam risks biodiversity collapse, soil erosion, and irreversible environmental damage. Such destruction contradicts Kenya's national investment in water harvesting and climate resilience.

Economically, the move is self defeating. Small scale farmers and livestock keepers depend on the dam for livelihoods. Eliminating this resource threatens food security and pushes families into poverty. Ironically, the proposed bus terminus may deliver little benefit if the community it serves is weakened by water scarcity.

Urban planning must prioritize sustainability. Alternatives exist that do not sacrifice essential infrastructure. Development should enhance life, not compromise it.

Draining Tala Dam is not progress—it is regression. In Machakos, where water scarcity is a daily battle, destroying a functioning reservoir is a betrayal of both people and future generations.

Every drop counts. Every dam matters. Tala must be protected.

—

Erick Otieno, Laikipia University

Breaking The Silence: Understanding Male Gender-Based Violence

For too long, the conversation on gender-based violence has been framed as a women's issue. Yet men and boys, too, suffer in silence—often ignored, stigmatized, or dismissed. Breaking this silence is not just overdue; it is urgent.

Male GBV encompasses physical, emotional, and sexual abuse rooted in rigid expectations of masculinity. It can take the form of assault, domestic violence, hazing rituals, verbal humiliation, coercion, or sexual assault. Despite its prevalence, male GBV remains underreported and underacknowledged.

Why? Society expects men to be stoic, strong, and invulnerable. Admitting victimhood is seen as weakness. Support systems are scarce, resources limited, and stigma pervasive. Shame silences survivors, leaving them isolated and invisible.

The consequences are devastating. Victims grapple with depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts. Many endure chronic pain, disability, and fractured relationships. Social withdrawal deepens the isolation, compounding the trauma.

Breaking this silence requires deliberate action. Awareness campaigns must challenge stereotypes and normalize conversations about male victimhood. Survivors need accessible services tailored to their realities. Safe spaces must be created where men can report abuse without fear of ridicule or judgment.

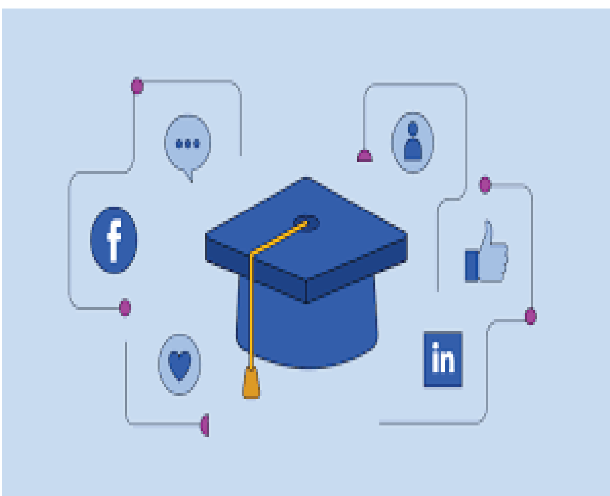
This is not about shifting focus away from women and girls—it is about broadening the lens to include all victims. Male GBV is complex, but acknowledging it is the first step toward building a society that is truly inclusive and compassionate.

Silence is complicity. Recognition is justice. Addressing male GBV is not optional—it is essential for a society that claims to value dignity and equality.

— Agnes Otieno, Laikipia University

The Power Of Social Media Networking In Education

Forget waiting for annual conferences or relying on a handful of school contacts—today, the real classroom is online. Social media has revolutionized how students and educators connect, learn, and grow. Platforms once dismissed as playgrounds for selfies and memes—LinkedIn, Twitter, even Instagram—are now powerful engines of mentorship, collaboration, and opportunity.



For students, the transformation is profound. Geography no longer dictates access. A learner in rural Kenya can engage with a Silicon Valley tech leader or a historian in London without leaving home. These platforms open doors to global communities, career guidance, and skill development that extend far beyond textbooks.

Mentorship thrives in this digital space. Online forums and professional groups allow students to ask questions, share ideas, and gain insights from experts who were once unreachable. The result is a democratization of knowledge—education without borders.

Educators, too, benefit. Teachers exchange lesson plans, collaborate on innovative methods, and stay abreast of global trends. This connectivity fosters a dynamic, inclusive ecosystem where learning is shared, not siloed.

Yet opportunity comes with responsibility. Students must learn to filter noise from knowledge, verify sources, and maintain professional boundaries. The value of social media lies not in the number of connections but in their quality.

In an era where digital presence shapes careers as much as diplomas, mastering social media networking is no longer optional—it is essential. Used wisely, it empowers learners to build relationships, access knowledge, and prepare for the future.

Social media is not just a platform—it is education's new frontier.

— Doreen Mueni, Laikipia University

Not Every Ending Is Celebrated, But Every Experience Teaches

Internships are supposed to be bridges—connecting theory to practice, classrooms to careers. Yet too often, those bridges end abruptly, leaving young professionals to wonder if their contributions mattered. I recently completed an internship at a media company, an experience rich in lessons but poor in closure.

From day one, the demands were real. I learned how programming works, how teamwork sustains live broadcasts, the discipline of time, and the resilience required under pressure. These lessons were invaluable, shaping both skill and character. For that, I remain grateful.

But the ending told another story. No farewell meeting. No reflection on the journey. Even recommendation letters—critical for future opportunities—were handed out casually, stripped of ceremony or recognition.

Interns may not earn salaries, but they carry weight. They arrive early, leave late, and shoulder responsibilities that keep operations running. A simple gesture—a send off, a structured debrief, or professional handling of documents—would affirm their value and dignity.

This is not bitterness, but concern. How internships conclude shapes how young professionals perceive leadership, workplace culture, and the industry itself. To neglect closure is to miss an opportunity to inspire loyalty and respect.

Despite the silence at the finish line, the experience remains meaningful. I leave with skills, resilience, and clarity. More importantly, I leave with the understanding that growth is not always wrapped in applause.

Internships should end with recognition, not indifference. Because even quiet endings deserve respect—and the lessons they leave behind last far longer.

— Collins Kibor

EAC Launches First Regional Framework To Boost Pandemic Preparedness

By: Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyatimes

The East African Community (EAC) has launched its first Regional Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response Policy Framework to strengthen collective action against public health emergencies across its eight partner states.

A statement issued by the EAC said the framework, unveiled at its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania, was approved by the 25th EAC Sectoral Council of Ministers of Health in May 2025.

The framework provides a roadmap for enhancing disease surveillance, preparedness and response, with a focus on equity and the protection of vulnerable populations. It adopts a One Health approach and calls for cross-sectoral collaboration to address disease risks that cross national and sectoral boundaries, the statement said.

Speaking at the launch, EAC Deputy Secretary-General in charge of Infrastructure, Productive, Social and Political Sectors Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth said the framework draws on lessons from recent outbreaks, including Ebola, Marburg virus disease, COVID-19, cholera and mpox.

"Pandemic preparedness is not the responsibility of the health sector alone. It requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach," he said, stressing the importance of coordinated regional action.

The EAC comprises Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

UNCTAD: 9th World Investment Forum To Be Held In Qatar

By: Xinhua
@themtkenyatimes

The 9th World Investment Forum (WIF) will be held in Doha, Qatar, in October 2026, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) announced on Wednesday on the margins of the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

Themed "Investing in the Future," the forum will look beyond short-term capital flows to focus on long-term value creation, productive capacity, and economic resilience, according to UNCTAD.

"At a time of growing fragmentation and uncertainty, investment must once again become a driver of shared prosperity," said UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan. The forum's program will include the Global Leaders Investment Summit, the Sustainable Stock Exchanges Global Dialogue, the Investment and Enterprise Ministerial Roundtable, and sessions on climate finance, digital transformation, and inclusive growth. "At the World Investment Forum, public and private leaders work together to turn long-term vision into investment action," said Nan Li Collins, director of Investment and Enterprise at UNCTAD and head of the WIF.

Organized biennially by UNCTAD, the WIF is the UN's leading platform for investment and development.

U.S. Still Owes WHO Membership Dues A Year After Withdrawal Announcement

By: Xinhua
@themtkenyatimes

The United States, which announced its withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO) a year ago, has yet to pay its outstanding membership dues, a WHO press official confirmed.

"As of today, the USA has not paid the invoiced amounts for its assessed contributions for the biennium 2024-2025," a WHO press official said in an email to Xinhua. According to a recent report by the National Public Radio (NPR), a U.S.-based media organization, the overdue sum totals approximately 278 million U.S. dollars. The formal withdrawal of the United States is on the agenda of the WHO's upcoming Executive Board meeting, the official added, noting that the WHO Secretariat "will act on advice and guidance of our governing bodies accordingly."

On Tuesday, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order on the country's withdrawal from the WHO. The United Nations received the formal notice two days later. The NPR cited WHO officials as saying that withdrawal from the organization takes effect one year after the notice is given, and when all the outstanding membership dues are paid, which Washington had refused.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said earlier this month that the U.S. decision will make both the country and the world "unsafe." Much of the work done by the WHO is beneficial to the United States, and "that's why I said the U.S. cannot be safe without working with the WHO," said the WHO chief.

Somaliland President Pitches Business Opportunities To Trump's Son

By: BBC
@themtkenyatimes

The President of Somaliland has held separate talks with his Israeli counterpart and the second son of the US leader, as the breakaway region continues to seek international recognition and foreign investment.

Somaliland President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi met Isaac Herzog and businessman Eric Trump at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.'

'Our discussions focused on strengthening and advancing bilateral relations between the Republic of Somaliland and the State of Israel," Abdullahi said in a post on X about the meeting with Herzog.

Last month, Israel became the first country to recognise Somaliland – 35 years after it declared independence from Somalia.

President "Cirro", as he is known in Somaliland, shared images on social media of the closed-door event, which was reportedly organised by the Greek House Davos programme, a private forum for discreet high-level gatherings.

Abdirahman Bayle, an advisor to Somaliland's leader, told the BBC that Eric Trump had "expressed interest in Somaliland and the opportunities it offers".

"Among the issues we discussed were global investors in the livestock and agriculture sectors, so that we can industrialise these sectors and export to the rest of the world," Bayle added.

Livestock is the territory's main export, primarily to Saudi Arabia.

Eric Trump does not have any official US government position but holds a senior role at the Trump Organization, which runs the family's businesses. The BBC has approached his representatives for comment but has not received a response.

Somaliland sits in a strategic position on major Red Sea and Gulf of Aden shipping routes.

During the talks, the president emphasised Somaliland's openness to investment, pointing to the deep-water port of Berbera as a potential logistics hub for trade and energy infrastructure.

Bayle told the BBC that his government's approach had shifted.

"For the first time, we are not asking the world for aid," he said. "We are offering our resources."

Israel's president described the talks as positive, posting on X: "I was pleased to meet here in Davos with the President of Somaliland.

"I welcome the establishment of diplomatic relations between us and look forward to deepening cooperation for the benefit of our two peoples."

Apex Court's Bold Signal: Accountability Cannot Be Short-Circuited

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

In a ruling that reverberates across Kenya's corridors of power, the Supreme Court has reminded the nation that constitutional accountability cannot be short-circuited. By dismissing the Attorney General's bid to halt proceedings in the case challenging the appointment of 51 Principal Secretaries by President William Ruto, the apex court has sent a clear message: executive authority must bow to constitutional scrutiny.

The petition, filed by activist Magare Gikenyi, questions whether the appointments adhered to the principles enshrined in Chapter Six of the Constitution—public participation, merit-based selection, and integrity in leadership. Gikenyi argues that the process was flawed and seeks to nullify the appointments, demanding a fresh recruitment exercise that fully complies with constitutional standards.

The Attorney General and government lawyers countered that the appointments were lawful, falling squarely within presidential prerogative, and warned against judicial interference in executive functions. Yet the Supreme Court was unpersuaded, ruling that the issues raised touch on constitutional interpretation and accountability, matters too weighty to be brushed aside.

Legal scholars note that the decision underscores the judiciary's role as guardian of constitutionalism. Professor Yash Pal Ghai has long argued that Kenya's Constitution was designed to prevent concentration of power, and this case illustrates that principle in action. Civil society groups, including the Kenya Human Rights Commission, hailed the ruling as a victory for transparency, insisting that appointments to high office must reflect fairness and public trust.

For President Ruto's administration, the stakes are high. Principal Secretaries are the technocrats who drive government policy, and any finding of illegality could disrupt the machinery of state. For citizens, however, the case is about more than bureaucratic titles—it is about whether constitutional promises are honored in practice.

President William Ruto addressing Cabinet and Principal Secretaries after signing Performance Contracts on November 19, 2024. / PCS.

The Supreme Court's decision ensures that the petition will proceed to full hearing, where the legality of the appointments will be tested against the Constitution's exacting standards. Whatever the outcome, the ruling has already fortified the principle that no office, however powerful, is immune from scrutiny.

In a democracy built on the rule of law, shortcuts are dangerous. The apex court has reminded Kenya that legitimacy flows not from convenience but from compliance. The case now moves forward, and with it, the nation's commitment to constitutional integrity.

Accountability is not optional—it is the cornerstone of governance.

Sports >> *The government on Friday announced that the 60,000-seater Raila Odinga International Stadium, is over 80 percent complete, marking another major milestone towards delivering Kenya's biggest sports infrastructure

PS Mwangi: Raila Odinga International Stadium 80-Percent Complete, To Be Ready In March

The government on Friday announced that the 60,000-seater Raila Odinga International Stadium, is over 80 percent complete, marking another major milestone towards delivering Kenya's biggest sports infrastructural project since independence.

Speaking after a high-level joint inspection of the facility and other key amenities within the massive sports complex, the Principal Secretary (PS) in the State Department for Sports Elijah Mwangi termed the remarkable construction progress of this ultra-modern stadium as adequate guarantee by the government on timely completion of the project within the set timelines.

Other Principal Secretaries present in the joint inspection tour include Patrick Mariru (Defence), Dr. Raymond Omollo (Interior) and Stephen Isaboke (Broadcast and Telecommunications).

State Department for Roads, Water, Transport, Energy and senior KDF officials were also represented by senior officials.

"This is proof that we are on course to deliver this project. The government is assuring Kenyans that AFCON will be held and we have the facilities to execute that tournament," said PS Mwangi.

He also disclosed that the country was expecting top delegations and inspections team from Confederation of African Football (CAF) to start visiting the country to assess the status of Kenya's infrastructure ahead of the AFCON tournament.

The PS noted that successful execution of a tournament of the magnitude of AFCON required a Whole-Of-Government-Approach through constituting multi-agency teams to streamline and coordinate various inter-related activities that will contribute towards the success of the tournament.

He cited security, transport, roads, water, energy and ICT among several others that will play a critical role in enhancing Kenya's readiness to host the tournament.

The inspection entailed walking around the main stadium to check on the interior works as well as examining the externals works to evaluate the progress of the two main outdoor pitches.

PS Patrick Mariru (Defence) said the project was well on course with most critical functions already done. He said the 80 percent was the most critical works of setting up the superstructures to support the façade and the terraces where the seats will be installed.

"The bulk of the work is done. That is the over 80 percent. The remain constitutes of works that can be done within a very short period," he said.

He cited the installation of seats, the putting up of giant screens and setting the lighting and sound systems as some of the works that were also ongoing.

Hailing the project progress, the Interior PS Dr. Raymond Omollo said the inter-agency approach in delivering a world-class stadium was part of the government's practical approach for enhancing effectively and maximizing results.

The Raila Odinga International Stadium, formerly Talanta Stadium, is Kenya's main venue for hosting Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) next year.

Designed for football and rugby, this premier facility will feature a modern canopy, a presidential pavilion and 52 luxury skyboxes.

.

Citizen sport

Sports >> *Harambee Stars midfielder Duke Abuya continues to enjoy a rich vein of form after being named the Tanzanian Premier League Player of the Month for December

Abuya Named Tanzania Premier League Player Of The Month For Dec.

Harambee Stars midfielder Duke Abuya continues to enjoy a rich vein of form after being named the Tanzanian Premier League Player of the Month for December, capping off an impressive run of performances for Tanzanian giants Young Africans SC.

Abuya's influence during the month stood out despite Yanga playing only two league matches due to continental assignments.

In those games, the 31-year-old delivered decisively, registering two assists and producing commanding midfield displays.

His performance in a 2–0 victory over Fountain Gate earned him a Man of the Match award, underlining his control, vision, and leadership in the engine room.

In January 2026, Abuya was named Man of the Match in Yanga's emphatic 6–0 win over Mashujaa FC, a game in which he also found the back of the net.

Earlier in the month, he received the same award following a narrow 1–0 victory in the Mapinduzi Cup, further highlighting his consistency across competitions.

Abuya's rise at Yanga follows a successful journey through Tanzanian football. He initially joined the club on a season-long loan from Kenya Police FC in July 2024, after a previous loan spell at Singida Black Stars.

Following a trophy-laden 2024/25 season in which he helped Yanga win five titles, including the league crown, the club secured his services permanently with a two-year contract running until July 2027.

Beyond club football, Abuya remains a dependable figure for the Harambee Stars under head coach Benni McCarthy.

A regular squad member for World Cup qualifiers and friendly matches, he brings experience, versatility, and leadership, having even captained the side in a friendly against Equatorial Guinea in November 2025.

The Kenyan midfielder is expected to feature as Yanga face the Cairo-based side Al Ahly in a CAF Champions League group stage clash in Egypt tonight from 7PM.

Citizen sport

SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN

The MT. KENYA TIMES
The Mt Kenya Times

Kujtim Hajdari Is A Finalist For "AUTHOR OF THE YEAR 2025" In Hollywood, USA

Kujtim Hajdari is an Albanian poet, writer, translator, publisher, literary critic, and promoter. He writes in Albanian, Italian, and, more recently, in English. Now he lives in the USA.

Kujtim Hajdari is a finalist for "AUTHOR OF THE YEAR 2025" in Hollywood, USA, with his poetry book "Through the Waves of Life." The ceremony for this event took place on October 4, 2025, at the Hollywood Salon in California, USA. This marks his second major award, following his win of the "International Impact Book Awards" in August 2024.

To date, he has published 18 poetry collections, three novellas and three novels, scholarly texts, and translated numerous volumes. He has participated in over 60 national and international competitions, receiving numerous awards, including cups, diplomas, certificates, and more. He has participated in over 250 national and international anthologies in three languages: Albanian, Italian, and English. His poetry has been translated and published in over 25 countries. He is the publisher of the anthology "All Together" on Amazon, which features creators from around the world and has so far been published in nine volumes.

You can contact him at:
E-mail: kujtimhajdari10@gmail.com

1. I AM SATIATED

I am satiated with the air of silence,
Where words remain suspended - lifeless corpses,
Thoughts wander like chaotic clouds,
In an endless, dark sky,
With mystical stains and marks.

I am satiated with old memories,
That, like frightened echoes in terrifying nights,
Return with the faint voices of the past,
And still, call to me like hopeless orphans,
Like cursed spirits in a spell.

I am satiated with lost moments,
That time is drowned in murky waters,
And I, weary, exhausted,
Dissolve on its frightening shores,
Waiting for a new wave,
To erase the epitaph of pain,
On the gravestone of joy.

I am satiated yet still remain in search,
For a light to ignite the cold night of my mind,
For a feeling - to warm my icy heart,
And for a hope to lead me somewhere,
Even if it's down a dead-end road of the future,
I just want to feel that I am moving forward
and making progress.
Kujtim Hajdari

2. MAYBE ONE DAY…

(A door stays locked for years.
Someone from afar pays all the bills,
but never comes alive.)

It stays abandoned, in front of me,
I look at it with pain and fear,
How long will it stay desolate?
How long has a knock not hit the gate?

In shadows deep, where secrets lie,
This door stands still, beneath the sigh,
Of years gone by, in silken threads,
A mystery where silence spreads.

Spider webs like whispers weave,
Around the frame, a tale to grieve,
What dreams or fears remain undone,
Behind this threshold, lightless, spun?

With every breath, the air grows thick,
A question hangs, a heavy tick.
Will courage find its place once more,
To break the hush—unlock the door?

But for now, in quiet grace,
The webs embrace this hidden space.
In patience, maybe the time will softly chime,
In patience, to wake the past in secret rhyme.
Maybe one day…
(Kujtim Hajdari)

*

3. MOTHER
In the passage of time, voices fade,
Under the circle of love, a life divided,
Mother, your figure – a shattered mosaic,
Pain of memories, with white light.

Your sacrifices, like a hidden flame,
A strong desire, a high mountain,
But in the moment of loss, clouds upon clouds,
Nothing remains, except for the golden shadow.

Now I see myself as a reflection,
A light that ignites but shadows again.
I am no longer a child but a soul that yearns,
lost and found in pieces of life.

Mother, you're gone, but you're always near,
In the depths of my heart, and breath of my dreams.
The love you leave, the love you took,
The ugly symphony I will never forget.
(Kujtim Hajdari)

*

4. THE WOMAN

A woman does not adore a man who follows her from behind,
but one who creates space, shows respect, and makes her curious.
Michele L.W. ("Michele")

She is not a shelter for the frantic tide,
Nor the wave that runs, so visible and so quiet,
That melts all of itself upon the waiting shore,
Then, breathless, it has no beauty left to keep.

She is not a vixen for the baying hound,
that chases after her with noise and shadow,
Only a song can follow and intoxicate her,
within the constellation of dreams she weaves.

She is a planet that flies in a silent dance,
Who does not want the sun too close to burn her,
She loves the moon, full of grace, dark and distant,
The quiet and mystical sphere that relies on its light.

She loves the architect of the calm and troubled night,
Loves a castle of space where beats its wings for the sky,
The gardener of wild and perfumed roses,
Who knows and discovers the mysteries of the hidden root.

She seeks a book, written in the language of the heart,
A relic that preserves a precious dream,
A melody that fills an empty hall of soul,
The compass that points to the distant, holy north.

Because she is not an enigma to be solved,
But a deep ocean, bottomless and unfathomable

Kujtim Hajdari

Published at Shashil Court Westlands & Printed at Mombasa Road, Nairobi by Exponential International Limited. P.O. Box 101675 - 00101 Nairobi.
Email: editorial@mtkenyatimes.co.ke | To place Adverts: Email: ads@mtkenyatimes.co.ke Tel: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262, 0781 894 777. www.mtkenyatimes.com