



**Kiambu Rolls Out Free Learning Materials For 40,000 ECDE Pupils As 2025 School Year Begins**  
 More than 40,000 children enrolled in Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) centres across Kiambu County are set to benefit from free learning materials following a countywide distribution programme launched yesterday. Governor Kimani Wamatangi officially flagged off the exercise at the county headquarters in Kiambu town

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

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

No. 01466 [www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke](http://www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke)

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**News>> Ruto To Flag Off NYOTA Youth Cash Boost As KSh1.1B Business Grants Roll Out In 27 Counties**

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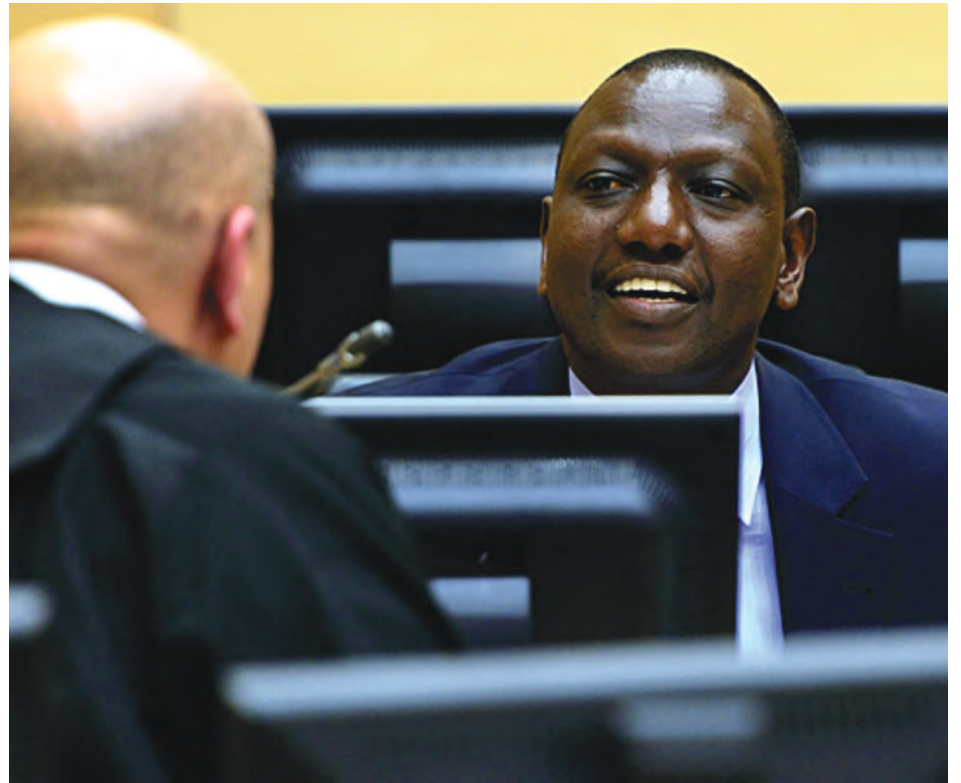


**News>> Drought, Rice Prices And A Looming Food Crisis: Why Kenya Is At A Critical Crossroads**

P. 12. Kenya is staring at a deepening food crisis as drought conditions tighten their grip on key food-producing regions, domestic rice production falters, and a legal battle threatens to block emergency imports that the Government says are essential to stabilising prices

# Lawyer Warns: Ruto Not Immune If US Moves In

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President William Ruto sits in the courtroom of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, Netherlands.

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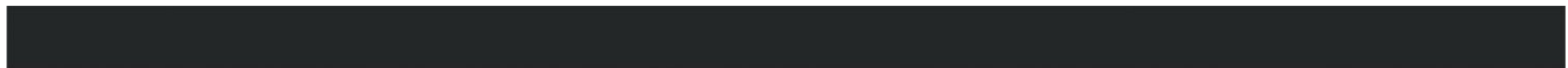
"ALL BUSINESSES  
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# NPS Advances Plans To Establish National Police University

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes

## Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

The National Police Service (NPS) has taken another step towards the establishment of the proposed National Police University, as efforts continue to strengthen police training, professionalism and institutional capacity. Yesterday, Inspector General of the National Police Service, Douglas Kanja hosted a delegation from the National Police Leadership Academy (NPLA) and the National Defence University-Kenya (NDU-K) at his office. The delegation, led by NPLA Commandant AIG David K. Mathiu briefed the Inspector General on progress made so far and sought his guidance to inform the next phase of the initiative. Kanja, who has championed the idea since its inception noted that the proposed university aligns with the NPS vision of a professional, efficient and responsive police service. He said the initiative is anchored in the Service's Strategic Plan and the constitutional requirement to ensure officers are trained to the highest standards of competence, ethics and integrity. He further acknowledged the critical role played by NDU-K in providing technical guidance and institutional support throughout the planning process, describing the collaboration as key to ensuring sustainability and credibility of the proposed university. The meeting brought together senior leadership from across the NPS, including Deputy Inspector General of the Kenya Police Service Eliud Lagat, Deputy Inspector General of the Administration Police Service Gilbert Masengeli, and Director of Criminal Investigations Mohamed Amin. The team from NDU-K was represented by the Head of Teaching and Curriculum, Col (Dr) Charles Imbiakha; Head of Graduate Programmes Lt. Col (Dr) Emmanuel Kondoliony and the Deputy University Librarian, Dr. Dickens R. Wendo. Several directors from NPS training, reforms, legal, human capital and logistics departments also attended. The presentation marked the culmination of sustained consultations and strategic engagements, setting the stage for the next steps in establishing the National Police University.



**Editor's Desk**

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

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company (NYEWASCO) yesterday received an Award and Certificate of Appreciation from the Kenya Red Cross Society in recognition of its continued commitment to humanitarian service. The award was presented to the firm Managing Director Eng. Peter Kahuthu by the County Coordinator for Nyeri and Murang'a, Mr. Malcom Kanyoko, who commended the organisation's consistent support for initiatives aimed at alleviating human suffering through resource provision and compassionate action. Eng. Kahuthu described the recognition as both humbling and inspiring, noting that it reinforces the organisation's dedication to strengthening partnerships and sustaining efforts that improve the well-being of communities. The firm reaffirmed its commitment to serving the public with care, responsibility and a strong sense of shared purpose.



Nyeri County Deputy Governor David Kinaniri (2nd right) on Monday presided over the issuance of cheques under the Governor's Scholarship Program on behalf of Governor Mutahi Kahiga at the Nyeri Cultural Centre. The ceremony was held in the company of the CECM for Education, Training and Devolution, Margaret Macharia (left), and the Chief Officer for Education, Dr. Lucy Ndumba. A total of 153 Form Three and Form Four students from all sub-counties across Nyeri County benefited from the scholarships, which were issued through the Elimu Fund and the Nyeri Diaspora Leadership Academy. The Deputy Governor reaffirmed the County Government's commitment to investing in education as a key pillar of human capital development and sustainable growth.



Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen has dismissed reports suggesting that the National Police College, Kiganjo, Nyeri is set to be relocated, clarifying that the government has no such plans. He explained that the intention is to establish additional police training facilities in regions facing security challenges to complement existing institutions. Murkomen noted that officers will continue to undergo their classroom and academic training at established colleges such as Kiganjo before being deployed to areas affected by insecurity for practical exposure and specialised training. He emphasized that this approach is meant to strengthen operational readiness and enhance skills without disrupting existing institutions. Murkomen stressed that Kiganjo remains a key national training facility and will not be closed or moved under the current government plans.



Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) has withdrawn its motion to expel its Secretary General Edwin Sifuna (pictured) instead opting for dialogue and alternative dispute resolution to address ongoing internal disagreements. Yesterday's decision follows wide consultations with Party Leader Senator Oburu Oginga and takes into consideration the founding spirit of the late Raila Amollo Odinga, who championed dialogue even with his fiercest critics. Migori Senator Eddy Oketch had made the petition.



Tree-hugging record holder Truphe-na Muthoni yesterday visited Pastor James Irungu in Murang'a town to show her support as he attempts an 80-hour challenge to break her 72-hour record in support of cancer awareness. Irungu is taking the challenge from Ihura stadium in Murang'a town where he began the exercise on Sunday evening.



Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU) Secretary General Francis Atwoli has been endorsed by 42 General Secretaries from affiliated Trade Unions to run for COTU (K) president ahead of the elections scheduled for August. He will be seeking reelection as he marks 25 years in office.



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IN BUSINESS



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# Mwale Hails e-Procurement In The Fight Against Corruption

By: Melechezedek Ejakait  
@themkenyentimes

## Worth Noting:

- Mwale, who is also the Chairperson of the National Assembly Public Accounts Committee, made the remarks while addressing residents in the Seregeya area in the Likuyani Constituency, Kakamega County.
- He said the e-GP system would help the government control and effectively manage procurement processes in a transparent manner that benefits all Kenyans.

Butere Member of Parliament Tindi Mwale has defended the newly introduced Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) system, describing it as a game changer in the fight against corruption and mismanagement of public resources.

Mwale, who is also the Chairperson of the National Assembly Public Accounts Committee, made the remarks while addressing residents in the Seregeya area in the Likuyani Constituency, Kakamega County.

He said the e-GP system would help the government control and effectively manage procurement processes in a transparent manner that benefits all Kenyans.

“We want to control and manage the procurement process for the benefit of the public. Everyone should support electronic procurement because we cannot claim to be doing procurement while deciding who gets tenders,” Mwale said.

He added that adopting an electronic system would ensure transparency, accountability, and prudent utilisation of public funds.

“If we go the electronic way, public resources will be used transparently and in a manner that satisfies public expectations. Leaders opposing this system are the ones who fear accountability,” he stated.

Mwale was responding to remarks by Mumias East MP Peter Salasya, who had earlier criticised the system, claiming it was slowing down development projects at the grassroots level.

While acknowledging concerns over delays, Mwale said the President had recently reminded leaders to perform their constitutional roles and deliver



Butere MP Tindi Mwale

services to the public.

“I fully support President William Ruto’s call for leaders to deliver. However, leaders cannot deliver services when resources are tied up due to implementation challenges,” Mwale noted.

He pointed out that since the introduction of the e-GP system in July 2025, many development projects have stalled, with the country now in the third quarter of the financial year.

“From July last year to date, we have been unable to implement planned

projects. Even governors cannot execute projects because their hands are tied,” he said.

Mwale urged the government to address the challenges facing the rollout of the system, warning that delays could hamper development.

“If the government was not fully ready with the system, it should find a way to allow leaders to continue implementing development projects within their mandates as the system is being stabilised,” he said.

Last year, the National Treasury is-

sued a circular directing all public institutions, including ministries, state corporations, and county governments, to exclusively use the e-GP system for procurement by the end of the 2024/2025 financial year.

The system, launched in July 2025, is designed to automate procurement, enhance efficiency and transparency, and curb corruption and inefficiencies in public spending.

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# Ruto To Flag Off NYOTA Youth Cash Boost As KSh1.1B Business Grants Roll Out In 27 Counties

By: MKT Reporter  
@themkenyatimes



President William Ruto with other stakeholders during the launch of NYOTA programme last November. Photo/Courtesy.

## Worth Noting:

- In a statement issued yesterday, Susan Mang'eni, the Principal Secretary in the State Department for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development, said the disbursement will run until Friday next week and will benefit youths who successfully completed a mandatory three-day business skills training.
- The NYOTA Project is a flagship government programme designed to economically empower more than 100,000 vulnerable youth across all 1,450 wards countrywide, with a minimum of 70 beneficiaries per ward, through structured training, access to capital and sustained mentorship.
- According to the PS, the project has already completed the nationwide rollout of classroom-based business support training, setting the stage for the phased release of start-up capital to trained and vetted beneficiaries.

The government will from tomorrow roll out the second phase of business start-up capital under the NYOTA National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) Project, targeting close to 50,000 young entrepreneurs in 27 counties.

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The first phase of disbursement was conducted on November 7, last year, targeting the Western Kenya

cluster of Kakamega, Vihiga, Busia and Bungoma counties. During that phase, 12,155 beneficiaries each received KSh25,000, inclusive of KSh3,000 set aside for savings, bringing the total disbursement to approximately KSh303.9 million.

The second phase will cover counties in the Rift Valley, Central, Eastern and Nairobi regions.

The beneficiary counties include Uasin Gishu, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nandi, Trans-Nzoia, Turkana, West Pokot, Nakuru, Narok, Bomet, Kericho, Baringo, Laikipia, Isiolo, Samburu, Nyeri, Murang'a, Kirinyaga, Nyandarua, Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Embu, Machakos, Kitui, Makueni, Nairobi, Kiambu and Kajiado.

Under this phase, each beneficiary will receive KSh22,000 deposited directly into their NYOTA Pochi la Biashara wallet, while an additional KSh3,000 will be remitted to their NSSF Haba na Haba savings account to promote long-term financial security.

The disbursement will be accompanied by mentorship and engagement forums to be presided over by President William Ruto.

These events will be held in Eldoret tomorrow, Nakuru on Friday, Nanyuki and Nyeri on Monday, Meru on Wednesday, Machakos on Thursday and Nairobi on Friday,



bringing together beneficiaries from neighbouring counties.

Beyond financial support, beneficiaries will undergo a two-month mentorship programme facilitated by business development experts and local entrepreneurs, aimed at easing their entry into local business ecosystems and strengthening market linkages.

The youth will also participate in a second phase of Business Development Support training to prepare them for the second tranche of the business grant. Beneficiaries are expected to utilise the funds strictly in line with their approved business plans, with continuous technical support from business development experts.

The PS further announced that the schedule for the third phase of disbursement covering 16 counties; Kilifi, Lamu, Tana River, Mombasa, Kwale, Taita Taveta, Kisumu, Siaya, Homa Bay, Migori, Nyamira, Kisii, Marsabit, Garissa, Mandera and Wajir will be communicated in due course.

The NYOTA Project is part of the government's broader agenda to unlock youth-led enterprise growth, promote savings and accelerate inclusive economic development across the country.

# Lawyer Warns: Ruto Not Immune If US Moves In

By: David Kimani  
 @themkenyatimes

Could a foreign power storm into Kenya and take away a sitting president for trial abroad? That question, once the stuff of political thrillers, is now dominating public debate after the dramatic arrest and capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro by the United States. The shockwaves of that event have reached Nairobi, where High Court advocate Danstan Omari has warned that Kenya's own Constitution does not fully rule out such a scenario. His words have ignited a fiery conversation about sovereignty, accountability, and the fragile shield of presidential immunity.

Omari's intervention is not casual commentary. It is a legal bombshell. He insists that while President William Ruto enjoys immunity from prosecution in Kenyan courts, that protection does not extend to international crimes under global treaties Kenya has signed. "Many African presidents live with the fear that Americans can pick their president from the bedroom," Omari said during the first 2026 episode of his Court Helicopter Explainer. The imagery is deliberately provocative: a president, supposedly untouchable, whisked away in the dead of night by foreign powers. The question he posed is stark: can a foreign country come here, pick President William Ruto, and take him for trial elsewhere? His answer is unsettling—yes, under certain conditions, the Constitution itself allows it.

Article 143 of the Constitution is clear about immunity at home. A sitting president cannot be taken to Makadara, Milimani or Nyamira courts while in office. That immunity applies only to Kenyan courts and crimes under the Penal Code. But Omari points to a lesser known clause, Article 143(4), which he describes as a major exception. That clause says the president can be arrested and tried outside Kenya if the crime falls under international treaties that prohibit immunity. In simple terms, presidential immunity stops at Kenya's borders when it comes to serious international crimes.

The crimes that can trigger such an arrest are not minor infractions. They are the gravest offenses known to humanity: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression. Omari explained that genocide includes acts meant to destroy a community—killing people, causing serious harm, or even stopping births. Crimes against humanity include widespread attacks on civilians, murder, torture, forced disappearances, rape, or persecution. War crimes cover torture, enforced



President William Ruto sits in the courtroom of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, Netherlands.

disappearances, human trafficking, piracy, slavery, and international drug trafficking. If a president uses state power to commit such crimes, international law applies, and he can be arrested and taken for trial abroad.

Omari's remarks came days after the US ordered the arrest and capture of Venezuela's president, an event that shocked many across the world and raised fresh questions about presidential power and sovereignty. "The Venezuelan president is not the first," Omari noted. "History is full of leaders who believed they were untouchable." He cited former Serbian leader Slobodan Milošević, Liberia's Charles Taylor, Panama's Manuel Noriega, and Iraq's Saddam Hussein—all arrested and tried after leaving power or being forcibly removed. Other leaders mentioned include Libya's Muammar Gaddafi, Haiti's Jean Bertrand Aristide, and Congo's Patrice Lumumba. The list is sobering, a reminder that power does not guarantee immunity when international law is invoked.

Omari stressed that his message was not political but legal. "This is a wake up call to African leaders who think they can run countries without accountability," he said. "Our Constitution itself allows foreign governments to step in and protect citizens if a president misbehaves under international law." He compared presidential immunity to a shield that only works at home. "It protects you inside your house," Omari said. "But once you break the neighbourhood rules, the neighbourhood watch is allowed to step in."

The editorial lens must sharpen this into a broader reflection. Kenya's Constitution, hailed as progressive, embeds accountability even at the

highest office. Article 143(4) is not a loophole; it is a deliberate safeguard against impunity. It signals that Kenya is part of a global community where sovereignty is balanced against international justice. The International Criminal Court (ICC), headquartered in The Hague, has already tested these boundaries with African leaders. Former Sudanese president Omar al Bashir lived under the shadow of an ICC arrest warrant for years, unable to travel freely. Kenya itself has history with the ICC, when cases were brought against leaders after the 2007-2008 post-election violence. Though those cases collapsed, they left a permanent scar on the political psyche.

Omari's warning resonates because it touches a nerve: the fear that sovereignty can be pierced by foreign intervention. For many Kenyans, the idea that the US or any other power could "snatch" a sitting president from State House feels like an affront to national dignity. Yet international law is built precisely on the principle that no leader is above accountability when crimes against humanity are committed. The arrest of Maduro is a reminder that global powers are willing to act, sometimes unilaterally, to enforce that principle.

Multiple sources confirm the gravity of this debate. Legal scholars argue that Article 143(4) reflects Kenya's obligations under treaties such as the Rome Statute of the ICC. Human rights organisations insist that immunity cannot shield leaders from responsibility for atrocities. Political analysts warn that the precedent of foreign intervention raises questions about sovereignty and neo-imperialism. Civil society voices caution that while accountability is essen-

tial, the selective enforcement of international law often targets weaker nations while powerful states escape scrutiny.

Pundits say: Omari's words are not alarmist—they are a sober reminder of the constitutional and international realities that Kenyan leaders must confront. Presidential immunity is not absolute. It is bounded by law, both domestic and international. Leaders who imagine themselves untouchable are mistaken. The Constitution itself acknowledges that power does not cancel the law.

This debate must not be reduced to partisan politics. It is about the architecture of accountability in a globalised world. Kenya's leaders must understand that sovereignty is not a license for impunity. Citizens must recognise that their Constitution protects them not only from domestic abuses but also from international crimes committed in their name. And the global community must ensure that enforcement of international law is fair, consistent, and not weaponised for geopolitical ends.

The editorial voice must end with a sharper punch. The lesson is simple yet profound: immunity is a shield that works only at home, but justice is a net that stretches across borders. Leaders who abuse power may find that the walls of State House are not as impregnable as they imagine.

If a president believes State House walls can keep out the reach of justice, he may one day learn that those walls are paper thin when the world decides accountability cannot wait.



## Worth Noting:

- Article 143 of the Constitution is clear about immunity at home. A sitting president cannot be taken to Makadara, Milimani or Nyamira courts while in office. That immunity applies only to Kenyan courts and crimes under the Penal Code. But Omari points to a lesser known clause, Article 143(4), which he describes as a major exception. That clause says the president can be arrested and tried outside Kenya if the crime falls under international treaties that prohibit immunity. In simple terms, presidential immunity stops at Kenya's borders when it comes to serious international crimes.
- The crimes that can trigger such an arrest are not minor infractions. They are the gravest offenses known to humanity: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression.

# Mudavadi Condoles Bangladesh Following Death Of Former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia

By: MKT Reporter  
@themkenyatimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi yesterday visited the Bangladesh High Commission in Nairobi to convey Kenya's condolences following the death of former Bangladeshi Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.



The late Khaleda Zia

On behalf of the Government and people of Kenya, Mudavadi signed the condolence book and expressed solidarity with the Government and citizens of the People's Republic of Bangladesh during the period of national mourning.

Prime Minister, died on Tuesday last week.

He also met Bangladesh High Commissioner to Kenya, Chiranjib Sarker and reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to strengthening the long-standing relations of friendship, cooperation and partnership between the two countries.

She was a dominant figure in Bangladeshi politics for decades and played a central role in the country's democratic evolution. She first served as Prime Minister from 1991 to 1996 after leading her Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) to victory following the restoration of multi-party democracy. She later returned to office for a second term from 2001 to 2006.

Zia, 80, Bangladesh's first female



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi signing the condolence book yesterday. Photos/Courtesy.

remained one of the most influential

leaders in South Asia. Her death marks the end of an era in Bangladesh's political history, drawing tributes from leaders across the world.

During her tenure, she oversaw key political and economic reforms and

Bangladesh's political history, drawing tributes from leaders across the world.

# The Mt. Kenya Times



# CS Duale Meets Dawoodi Bohra Leaders Ahead Of Spiritual Head's Nairobi Visit

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale yesterday held a consultative meeting with leaders of the Dawoodi Bohra Community of Kenya to discuss preparations for the upcoming visit by their Spiritual Leader, Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, who is expected in Nairobi from tomorrow.

The meeting, led on the community's side by Head Priest Koserali Najmuddin, was informed that His Holiness will be accompanied by a team of highly experienced laparoscopic surgeons from Mumbai.

The medical team plans to conduct 50 free laparoscopic surgical procedures for patients who cannot afford specialised care.

The surgeries are scheduled to take place on Tuesday and Wednesday next week at Kenyatta National Hospital and Kenyatta University Teaching, Research and Referral Hospital.

The team informed the CS that where possible, the visiting surgeons will work alongside Kenyan medical professionals, offering hands-on support and sharing expertise to help strengthen local capacity.

The Community representatives sought guidance from the Ministry of Health on coordination arrangements to ensure full compliance with all clinical, professional and regulatory requirements.

They reaffirmed their commitment to adhere to all directives issued by the ministry.

The CS welcomed the initiative, noting that the Ministry continues to leverage strategic partnerships to expand access to quality healthcare in line with the Universal Health Coverage agenda.

Duale was accompanied by Director-General for Health Patrick Amoth and the Secretary, Administration for Public Health and Professional Standards, Adan Harakhe.



Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale, his officers with Dawoodi Bohra community leaders yesterday. Photo/Courtesy.

# Student Bus Involved In Road Crash In Kimende Amid Rise In Road Accidents

By: MKT Correspondent  
 @themtkenyatimes

A bus transporting students was involved in a road crash in Kimende early yesterday morning, authorities confirmed.

According to the Motorist Association of Kenya, the bus was carrying children returning to school when the incident occurred.

"This morning in Kimende, a bus carrying students was involved in a road crash. The children were traveling back to school," the Motorists Association of Kenya stated.

Emergency responders and local authorities are on site to assist the students and manage the scene. Traffic in the area has been disrupted, and motorists are urged to exercise caution.

This latest incident comes amid a series of road accidents in Kenya over

the past weeks, particularly involving public service vehicles and school transport.

In late December, the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) reported multiple crashes that resulted in fatalities and injuries, highlighting ongoing concerns about road safety, vehicle maintenance, and driver compliance with traffic regulations.

Authorities continue to urge motorists to exercise caution, especially during school commutes, and to adhere to speed limits and safety protocols to prevent further tragedies.



# Drought, Rice Prices And A Looming Food Crisis: Why Kenya Is At A Critical Crossroads



By: MUTAHI KAGWE  
@themkenyaintimes

**Worth Noting:**

- According to official data presented before the High Court, Kenya's rice deficit is structural, persistent and worsening. National demand stands at between 1.3 and 1.5 million metric tonnes annually, yet domestic production supplies less than 20 per cent of that requirement.
- The pressure is expected to intensify in the first half of 2026. From January to June 2026, Kenya will require about 750,000 metric tonnes of rice, but domestic production for the same period is projected at just 110,000 metric tonnes of paddy rice, a shortfall that cannot be bridged through local stocks alone.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development's Contingency Emergency Response Action Plan 2025 paints an even starker picture, projecting a rice deficit of 381,225 metric tonnes by the end of January 2026.

Kenya is staring at a deepening food crisis as drought conditions tighten their grip on key food-producing regions, domestic rice production falters, and a legal battle threatens to block emergency imports that the Government says are essential to stabilising prices and safeguarding the constitutional right to food.

At the centre of the unfolding crisis is rice, a staple whose importance has steadily grown in Kenyan households, particularly in urban areas and Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) counties where climate stress has narrowed food choices. With erratic rainfall disrupting planting cycles and reducing yields, rice prices are already showing signs of volatility, raising fears of a wider food inflation spiral that could spill over into maize and other staples.

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The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development's Contingency Emergency Response Action Plan 2025 paints an even starker picture, projecting a rice deficit of 381,225 metric tonnes by the end of January 2026.

These supply gaps are unfolding against a backdrop of worsening food insecurity. By November 2025, an estimated 1.8 million people in ASAL counties were already experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity. Without timely intervention, that number is projected to rise sharply to 3.5 million people, underscoring the human cost of delayed policy action.

Climate forecasts presented to the Court show erratic and below-average rainfall across key food-producing regions, disrupting planting calendars and sharply reducing yields. For irrigated rice schemes such as Mwea, Ahero and Bunyala, reduced water availability has increased production costs and constrained output. In rain-fed areas, failed or delayed rains have wiped out entire planting seasons.

The Government warned that these



AFA Director General Bruno Linyiru, KNTC MD Lucy Anangwe and AFA Director Crop Calistus Kundu with other officials during a rice mop up activity at the Mwea Rice Cooperative Society/Courtesy.

climate shocks are not isolated events but part of a broader pattern of climate variability that continues to undermine food production and price stability.

It is against this backdrop that the Government has come under legal challenge over its decision to allow controlled, time-bound importation of duty-free rice as a food security intervention.

During detailed submissions before the High Court sitting in Kerugoya, State Counsel Samuel Kaumba, Erick Theuri and other government lawyers warned that rice prices could rise sharply if the Court blocks imports needed to plug the widening national deficit.

The case, HCCHRPET/E009/2025, pits the Government against substituted petitioners Hon. James Kamau Murango and Hon. David Munyi Mathenge, who are challenging Gazette Notice No. 10353 of July 28, 2025, which authorised the importation of rice on a duty-free basis.

The State told the Court that the lapse of the Gazette Notice had already triggered price volatility in non-basmati long-grain rice, with retail prices fluctuating sharply in the second half of 2025, a warning sign of what could follow if imports are blocked entirely.

Government lawyers argued that rising rice prices disproportionately affect low-income households, particularly in informal settlements and

drought-affected counties, where food consumes the largest share of household income.

"If rice becomes unaffordable, households shift to maize, pushing up maize prices as well," the State submitted, warning of a cascading food inflation effect across the entire food system. Such knock-on effects, officials argued, could undermine national efforts to stabilise food prices and protect vulnerable populations.

The Ministry firmly rejected claims that duty-free imports were designed to benefit a few individuals, maintaining that the policy was anchored in the Constitution's obligations under Articles 21 and 43, which guarantee the right to food.

Blocking imports, the Government warned, would expose millions of Kenyans to higher food prices, reduced access to staple foods, and heightened hunger, particularly in ASAL counties already grappling with drought.

Addressing claims that locally produced rice remains unsold, the Ministry explained that the mop-up of local rice has been ongoing, lawful and conducted in good faith through the Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC).

Since 2020, KNTC has purchased rice from cooperatives in Mwea, Ahero, Bunyala, Kuja, Kano and Bura, among other schemes, for redistribution to public institutions such as

schools, hospitals and prisons.

However, the Government was emphatic that even full absorption of available local stocks cannot bridge the national deficit nor stabilise prices countrywide.

"Localized surplus cannot be mistaken for national food security," the State submitted, stressing that food security must be assessed at a national scale, not based on conditions in a single production zone.

In a pointed argument, the Government cautioned the Court against overstepping into executive policy space, noting that food security decisions involve complex climatic, economic and logistical considerations best handled by the Executive.

Citing Supreme Court and Court of Appeal decisions — including *Mitu-Bell Welfare Society v Kenya Airports Authority* and *British American Tobacco Kenya PLC v Cabinet Secretary for Health* — the State argued that courts should exercise restraint where Government action is evidence-based, lawful and taken in good faith.

The Government further submitted that gazette notices granting tax exemptions are executive actions, not legislative instruments requiring pub-

# Jackson Kiplagat Takes Over As WWF-Kenya CEO

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themkenyatimes

Mr. Jackson Kiplagat has formally assumed office as the Chief Executive Officer of World Wide Fund for Nature - Kenya (WWF-Kenya) following his appointment by the organisation's Board last year.

In a statement issued by the Board Chairman, Isaac Awuondo, the Board expressed strong confidence in Kiplagat's leadership, vision and experience, noting that he is well-positioned to steer WWF-Kenya to greater heights while delivering innovative conservation solutions with lasting benefits for people, nature, and the economy.

Kiplagat brings with him more than 24 years of extensive experience in conservation, spanning training, sustainable finance, governance, and policy advocacy.

Over the course of his career, he has played a central role in advancing WWF's strategic priorities, mobilising significant resources, and building partnerships that have strengthened conservation outcomes at national, regional, and global levels.

Before his appointment as CEO,

Kiplagat served as Head of Conservation Programmes at WWF-Kenya, where he led a far-reaching strategic realignment and programme transformation process aimed at enhancing impact, effectiveness and long-term sustainability, while positioning the organisation to respond to emerging conservation and development challenges.

He has also held several senior roles within the wider WWF global network, including serving as a member of WWF's Global Conservation Committee and as Regional Sustainable Investments Manager.

In these roles, he championed green finance and sustainable infrastructure across Africa, helping to advance nature-positive investments and influence policy reforms in support of conservation.

Earlier in his career, Kiplagat played a key role in mobilising civil society input into the development of Kenya's 2010 Constitution, particularly in strengthening provisions on natural resource governance.

He has also represented WWF-Africa in major global policy forums, including international climate change negotiations that culminated in the Paris Agreement, as well as processes that led to the adoption of the United Na-

tions Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

His professional journey further includes stints at the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya (WCK) and the Forest Action Network (FAN), where he served as Head of Training and Programme Coordinator respectively. In these roles, he was instrumental in training mid-level managers within the tourism and wildlife sector and actively engaging in forest sector reforms in Kenya.

Mr. Awuondo said the Board looks forward to working closely with Kiplagat as he takes the helm of WWF-Kenya, guiding the organisation in delivering innovative and inclusive conservation solutions for the benefit of current and future generations.



John Kiplagat

# Drought, Rice Prices And A Looming Food Crisis: Why Kenya Is At A Critical Crossroads

Contd from page 12

lic participation, as affirmed by the Court of Appeal.

While acknowledging the concerns raised by the petitioners, the State argued that the interests being advanced were narrow and private when weighed against the broader public interest of ensuring affordable food for millions of Kenyans.

"The Court is being asked to weigh competing interests," the Government submitted. "On one side are commercial concerns; on the other are the livelihoods, dignity and survival of millions of Kenyans."

Government lawyers warned that denying leave to import rice could endanger livelihoods, fuel social instability and deepen the food crisis outcomes that would contradict constitutional guarantees and undermine national stability.

The High Court is expected to deliver its ruling on 29th January 2026 at 2.30pm, a decision that could have far-reaching implications for food prices, household welfare and Kenya's food security trajectory.

As drought tightens its grip, production deficits widen and food insecurity indicators worsen, the case has become a defining test of how Kenya balances judicial oversight, executive policy-making and the constitutional right to food, at a moment when the cost of delay could be counted not just in shillings, but in hunger.

*The writer is the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development*



A harrower in Mwea Rice Scheme.

## My Best Advice To All Is Never Advise Anyone



My best advice to all is never advise anyone  
Because no one will listen  
Advice seems to be bitter and sour  
No one likes it

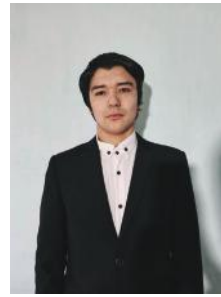
They don't know the value of advice  
When they come to know the value of advice  
It will become too late  
By knowing others' pain

and punishment,  
one should feel and know what's right  
He who listens  
to the advice of the elders

will shine in the future  
But often we turn deaf  
and our eyes become blind  
Let wisdom guide us,  
let us learn from others failures

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

## The Beautiful Autumn Is About To End



Is there a cure for my pain,  
The flowers bloom in my longing heart.  
The one who reminds me of you,  
The autumn season is about to end.

Nothing is out of my control,  
Even my heart is filled with a thousand  
thoughts.  
As if a father had planned for me,

The autumn season is about to end.

The leaves with rain and sorrow,  
My tears have been taken from my eyes.  
My true love is a joke,  
The autumn season is about to end.

Making an unfaithful person fall on me,  
This fate laughed at me.  
But today my heart is burning,  
The autumn season is about to end.

Among a thousand lovers, the only one,  
Our love has become painful.  
I have become a poet, a madman,  
The autumn season is about to end.

ODILOV Husankhan.  
Uzbekistan

## Her Dance, My Pride



When I saw my daughter on the stage,  
My heart paused in wonder and joy.  
Amazed by her graceful performance,

I watched her shine with quiet power.  
At the Indian Dance Festival,  
Her passion spoke through every step.

Dance is not just her art  
It is the rhythm of her soul.  
Lights glittered softly on the stage,

Falling gently on her glowing face.

Confidence bloomed within her eyes,  
Revealing strength beyond her age.  
She danced like Lord Perumal himself,  
Divinity flowing in each movement.

In that sacred moment, words failed me,  
And tears of pride filled my eyes.  
By the seashore, even the waves seemed  
still,  
As if bowing to her devotion and grace.

A parent's heart overflowed with emotion  
At the Mamallapuram seashore, her dance  
blossomed into living grace.  
V. JAYANTHI

## Bread

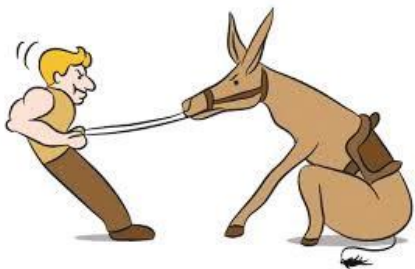


Bread is one of the most precious  
Blessings in this world,  
It adorns the table with beauty,  
It is sacred and revered.  
Bread is the source of nourishment,  
Without it, life seems impossible.  
Never waste it at any time,  
Its value must always be honored.  
Young and old alike all know  
Its endless blessed worth,  
They touch it to their eyes with respect,

Cherishing every single crumb.  
It is the fruit of human labor,  
If you only knew, my dear friends,  
Through countless efforts and struggles  
It graces our tables with honor.  
When taken fresh from the clay oven,  
Its taste becomes truly delightful,  
Its fragrant aroma fills the world,  
Leaving everyone amazed and in awe.

Navro'zova Zarina Alisher qizi was born  
on July 8, 1997, in Angor district of  
Surxondaryo region. She graduated from  
Secondary School No. 3 in her district and  
is currently studying in the 5th stage of  
the Primary Education program at the ISFT  
Institute, Mirzo Ulug'bek district, Tashkent  
city.

## Tapiwa's Stubborn Stumble



Children Story: For Primary School Grades  
A story of The importance of listening,  
Humility, Friendship and Self improvement:

Norman Mwale [The PenPusher]

In the jungle, Tapiwa the elephant loved to  
dance. She'd twirl and spin, her trunk waving  
high. Her friends, Hare Kudzai and Tortoise  
Golden, would watch with wide eyes and  
cheer her on. "Kkk, Tapiwa, you're a natural!"  
they'd say.

But whenever Kudzai and Golden tried to  
offer advice, Tapiwa wouldn't listen. "Be  
careful, Tapiwa! You're going too fast!"  
Kudzai would say. "Watch your step,  
Tapiwa! You're near a hole!" Golden would  
warn. Tapiwa would just laugh and continue  
dancing.

One day, she tripped and fell into a deep  
hole. Her friends rushed to help her out.  
As they pulled her up, Golden said, "A wise  
proverb says, 'A tree that does not bend  
in the wind will break.' Maybe if you had  
listened to our warnings, you wouldn't have  
fallen."

The Lion King, Leo, appeared, nodding in  
agreement. "My friends, wisdom comes  
from listening. As our ancestors say,  
'When elephants fight, it is the grass that

suffers.' But when friends offer advice, it's  
the one who listens who benefits."  
Tapiwa realized her friends were trying to  
help her. She apologized and promised to  
listen more carefully in the future. From  
that day on, Tapiwa paid attention to her  
friends' warnings. She danced with more  
care and caution. Whenever Kudzai or  
Golden offered advice, she'd say, "Thank  
you! I appreciate your help." kkk, the jungle  
creatures would laugh, happy to see  
Tapiwa's newfound wisdom.

The moral of the story remains: Listening  
to others' advice and criticism can help us  
avoid trouble and become better versions of  
ourselves. And as the proverb goes, "When  
you pray, move your feet." Tapiwa moved her  
feet with care, and her friends were happy  
to dance alongside her.

As time passed, Tapiwa became known as  
the most graceful dancer in the jungle. Her  
friends would gather around her, eager to  
learn from her experiences. Tapiwa would  
share her story, reminding them that  
wisdom comes from listening and learning  
from others. And whenever they danced  
together, their laughter and music filled the  
jungle, a joyful celebration of friendship and  
growth.

Years later, young animals would gather  
around Tapiwa, now a wise elder, and ask  
her to tell them the story of her stubborn  
stumble. And Tapiwa would smile, her  
eyes twinkling with mirth, and say, "Kkk,  
my young friends, let me tell you a tale of  
wisdom learned and friendship gained." And  
so, the story would live on, passed down  
through generations, a reminder of the  
power of listening and learning.

## What I'm Today Is Only Because Of My Teachers



I am the symbolic representative of my  
teachers.  
Their dedication and hardwork takes me  
higher.

Their unwavering support and persistence.  
It takes me to do my performance.

They shape and help my journey.  
Helps to find my strengths and overcome

weary.

Nurturing hopes and ignites our potential  
Beyond the classroom they helped our miles.

Trained our mind and constructed our souls.  
They are the living Gods with our goals.

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.  
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# EDUCATION

## Nyoro's Capitation Ultimatum: Parents, Pupils And The Price Of Broken Promises

By: Grace Wanja  
@themtkenyatimes

### Worth Noting:

- The lead is punchy because the stakes are visceral. Capitation is not an abstract budget line; it is the lifeblood of public schools. It pays for desks, chalk, electricity, and the meals that keep children attentive.
- When delayed, classrooms grind into debt, head teachers beg suppliers for mercy, and pupils are sent home for levies that were never supposed to exist under the free education policy. Nyoro, a former Budget and Appropriations Committee chairperson, knows the numbers and the excuses.
- He accuses the government of sending only enough money to limp through the current term, leaving schools starved and parents betrayed. "You have not funded schools in the year 2026. You've only sent money that can only run our schools for this term," he declared, his tone more indictment than plea.

The simmering tension between government promises and the lived reality of Kenyan classrooms has found its sharpest voice yet in Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro, who has threatened to mobilise parents nationwide if the state fails to release full school capitation funds for the 2026 academic year. His words are not the usual political theatre; they are a blunt reminder that the constitutional right to free basic education is not a favour dispensed at the whim of Treasury officials but a binding obligation. In a country where parents already stagger under the weight of taxes, inflation, and the rising cost of living, Nyoro's warning cuts to the bone: if the government cannot fund schools, then parents will be forced to rise and demand accountability.

The lead is punchy because the stakes are visceral. Capitation is not an abstract budget line; it is the lifeblood of public schools. It pays for desks, chalk, electricity, and the meals that keep children attentive. When delayed, classrooms grind into debt, head teachers beg suppliers for mercy, and pupils are sent home for levies that were never supposed to exist under the free education policy. Nyoro, a former Budget and Appropriations Committee chairperson, knows the numbers and the excuses. He accuses the government of sending only enough money to limp through the current term, leaving schools starved and parents betrayed. "You have not funded schools in the year 2026. You've only sent money that can only run our schools for this term," he declared, his tone more indictment than plea.

The editorial voice must sharpen the contrast between rhetoric and reality. Government officials routinely assure Kenyans that education is fully funded, yet on the ground, head teachers whisper of unpaid bills and classrooms without resources. Nyoro insists that leaders will make it their obligation to expose these contradictions, telling stakeholders that "what the government is saying is actually not true. It is incorrect." His threat of mobilisation is not idle. He has set a mid term deadline: if full capitation is not disbursed by then, parents across the country will be rallied to demand their children's rights.

This is not the first time capitation delays have disrupted learning. Reports from the Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers (KUP-



Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro

PET) and the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) have repeatedly warned that stalled disbursements cripple schools, forcing administrators into debt traps and undermining access to education. The Constitution of Kenya, under Article 53, guarantees every child the right to free and compulsory basic education. Yet the gap between constitutional promise and fiscal reality has widened, leaving parents to shoulder costs that should never have been theirs.

The editorial must also situate Nyoro's threat in the broader political economy. Kenya's public debt has ballooned, squeezing the fiscal space for social services. Treasury has often prioritised debt repayment and infrastructure over recurrent expenditure, leaving schools at the mercy of delayed releases. Parents, already taxed through VAT, PAYE, and levies on fuel, cannot be expected to finance education through backdoor contributions. Nyoro's rhetoric resonates because it channels the frustration of millions who see their taxes vanish into opaque budgets while classrooms remain unfunded.

The symbolism of mobilisation is powerful. Parents are not a fringe group; they are the backbone of the electorate. A nationwide mobilisation

would be a political earthquake, shaking the foundations of government complacency. It would remind leaders that education is not negotiable, that the future of Kenya's children cannot be mortgaged to fiscal mismanagement. Nyoro's language is deliberate: "The Kenyan parents cannot continue to observe silently as the government continues to tear down and annihilate the right of learners in Kenya by not adequately funding free basic education."

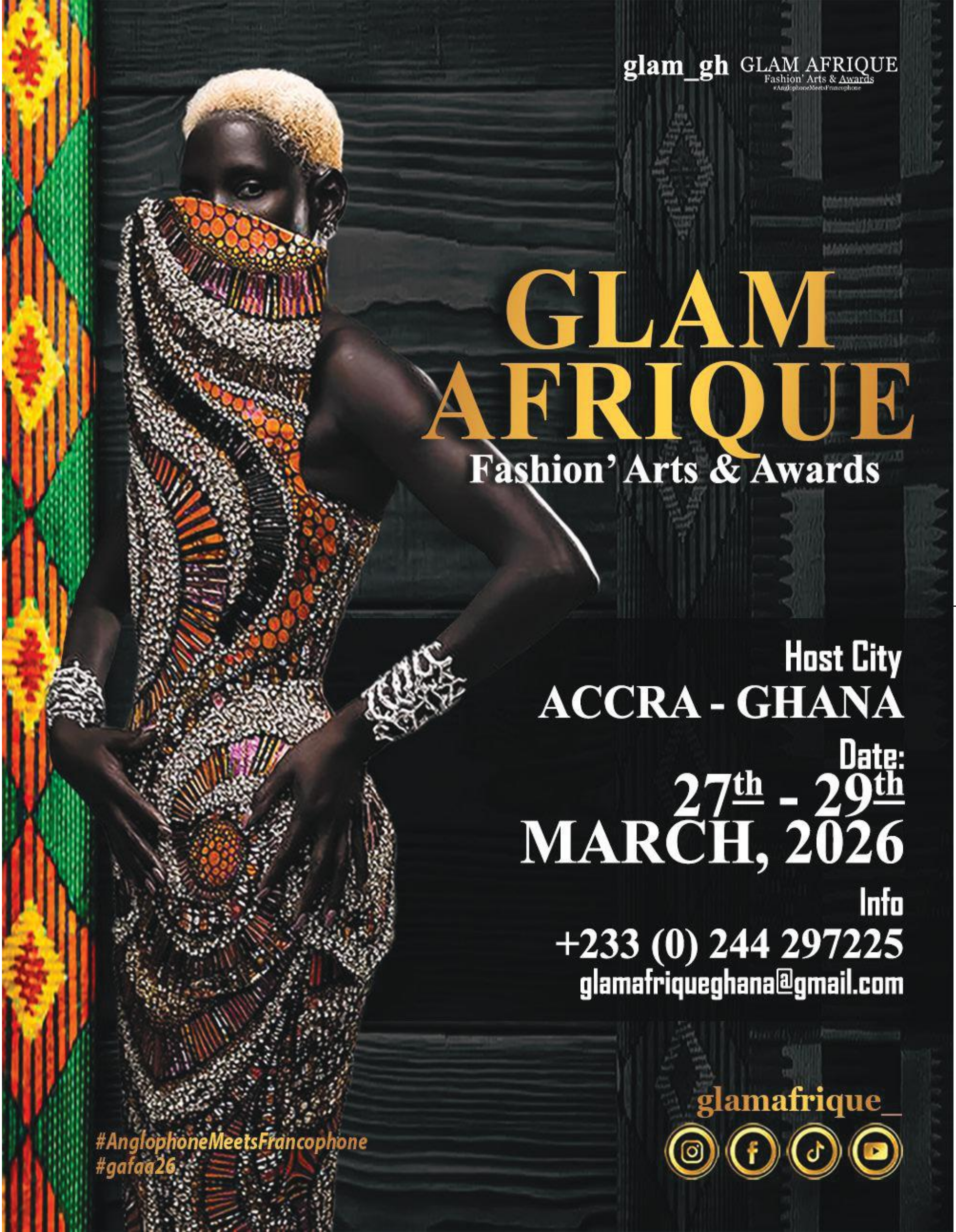
The editorial voice must cut sharper: this is not about Nyoro alone. It is about the credibility of government. When leaders promise free education but fail to fund it, they erode trust in institutions. When parents are forced to pay hidden levies, they lose faith in the social contract. When pupils are sent home, the dream of universal education collapses into cynicism. The government's "demeanour, body language" in disbursing funds, as Nyoro put it, will be closely watched. Parents are no longer passive recipients of policy; they are active stakeholders ready to demand their rights.

Multiple sources confirm the gravity of the situation. Education experts note that capitation delays have a cascading effect: schools accumulate debts, suppliers withdraw

services, and learning is disrupted. Civil society organisations argue that underfunding education undermines Kenya's Vision 2030 goals and Sustainable Development Goals commitments. International observers, including UNESCO, have long warned that inconsistent financing jeopardises progress in literacy and human capital development. The editorial must weave these voices into a sharper indictment: Kenya cannot afford to gamble with its children's future.

The Mt Kenya Times editorial stance is clear: Nyoro's threat is not mere political grandstanding. It is a wake up call. Parents must not be forced into the streets to demand what is already enshrined in law. The government must act decisively, release full capitation funds, and restore confidence in the education system. Anything less is a betrayal of the nation's children.

The closing line must be punchier, sharper, and unflinching: If the government cannot fund the classrooms where Kenya's future is being shaped, then it is not just failing schools—it is failing the Republic itself.



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# Kiambu Rolls Out Free Learning Materials For 40,000 ECDE Pupils As 2026 School Year Begins

By: MKT Correspondent  
@themkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- Governor Kimani Wamatangi officially flagged off the exercise at the county headquarters in Kiambu town, paving the way for the delivery of supplies to 524 public ECDE centres located in all the county's 60 wards.
- The programme aligns with the opening of the 2026 academic year and forms part of the county's broader strategy to strengthen access to quality education at the foundational level.
- The consignment includes exercise books, pencils with erasers, child-sized desks and chairs, as well as other age-appropriate instructional resources intended to create a safe, comfortable and stimulating learning environment for young children.
- County education officials said the items were procured in line with national ECDE standards and tailored to meet the specific developmental needs of pre-primary learners.



Kiambu governor Kimani Wamatangi flagging-off the learning materials. Photos/Courtesy.

More than 40,000 children enrolled in Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) centres across Kiambu County are set to benefit from free learning materials following a countywide distribution programme launched yesterday.

Governor Kimani Wamatangi officially flagged off the exercise at the county headquarters in Kiambu town, paving the way for the delivery of supplies to 524 public ECDE centres located in all the county's 60 wards.

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County education officials said the items were procured in line with national ECDE standards and tailored to meet the specific developmental needs of pre-primary learners.

Addressing parents, teachers, and education stakeholders during the launch, Wamatangi reiterated his administration's commitment to ensuring equity in education.

He said no child should be disadvantaged because of their family's economic status.

"A child whose parent earns a living on the streets deserves the same quality of education as one from a well-off household. That is the principle

guiding our investments in ECDE," the governor said.

The learning materials distribution builds on major infrastructure investments made by the county government over the past two years. More than 520 ECDE centres have either been newly constructed or upgraded to modern standards, complete with PP1 and PP2 classrooms, teachers' offices, kitchen facilities, sanitation blocks, and outdoor play areas equipped with swings, slides and sandpits.

Kiambu County has also implemented a comprehensive school feeding programme for ECDE learners, providing porridge, milk and eggs on a daily basis.

The initiative has been credited with improving pupil attendance, nutrition, and concentration in class. In addition, the county has issued new uniforms to learners, giving public ECDE centres a look comparable to private schools.

To further enhance learning outcomes, the county is supporting

ECDE teachers to upgrade their skills through diploma-level training programmes. Looking ahead, Governor Wamatangi disclosed that plans to procure school buses and construct swimming pools for ECDE learners are at an advanced stage.

Education officials say the combined interventions have led to healthier, more confident and more engaged learners, positioning Kiambu as a leader in early childhood education development.



Governor Wamatangi interacting with some pupils during the flagging-off ceremony.



## The Evolution Of Entertainment: How Technology Is Rewriting The Story

Entertainment is no longer confined to living rooms, cinema halls, or stacks of DVDs. In just two decades, technology has ripped up the old script and delivered a new era where stories, music, and games stream seamlessly into our hands. The revolution is not subtle—it is cultural, global, and unstoppable. What once relied on CDs, DVDs, and printed magazines has shifted to digital streaming, interactive content, and social media platforms. Movies, music, and games are now accessible on demand, reshaping global culture and influencing trends, fashion, and lifestyle choices. Streaming platforms have become the world's stage, beaming films and series across borders and exposing audiences to fresh voices and diverse cultures. This democratization of content has created stars who bypass traditional studios, proving that creativity thrives when access is universal. Gaming, once dismissed as a hobby, has exploded



ed into a billion dollar industry rivaling Hollywood in scale and spectacle. Today's games are cinematic, immersive, and social, connecting millions in real time. E sports tournaments now pack stadiums, while virtual and augmented reality push boundaries, transforming play into fully lived experiences. Social media has rewritten the rules of fame, turning ordinary people into global entertainers. TikTok dancers, YouTube comedians, Instagram influencers, and podcasters shape trends with instant

visibility and creative freedom, proving that anyone with a smartphone can command an audience. The future promises even more disruption: AI generated music, holographic concerts, and personalized digital experiences are already emerging. The curtain has risen on a boundless future—where technology ensures the show never ends, and the audience is the world.

*By: Valentine Loktari, Laikipia University*

## Degrees Are Not Just Papers

A graduation gown may symbolize triumph, but behind the smiles lies a story rarely told—the struggles, sacrifices, and resilience that define university life. Degrees are not mere papers; they are hard won victories carved out of sleepless nights, financial battles, and the unyielding pursuit of knowledge.

For many students, campus is a dream nurtured since childhood, a place of freedom and self discovery. Yet beneath the allure of independence, countless comrades wrestle with harsh realities. Fee arrears force some into endless fundraising drives just to sit exams. Others endure exploitative landlords who squeeze them for rent, while students from less privileged families often survive on one meal a day, their stomachs rumbling after long lectures.

Peer pressure adds another layer of challenge. While some remain steadfast, others are easily swayed into destructive paths—drug abuse, alcoholism, or transactional relationships disguised as “self maintenance.” The campus environment tests character as much as intellect,



demanding strength of will to resist temptations and stay focused.

Assignments, projects, and exams pile up relentlessly, draining energy but sharpening skills. Students burn the midnight oil not for the paper at the end, but for the competence and resilience it represents. Each degree is a testament to endurance, discipline, and the refusal to sur-

render in the face of adversity.

The cap and gown may fade, but the struggle behind them endures as proof: a degree is not just paper—it is the story of survival, sacrifice, and the relentless pursuit of a better tomorrow.

*By: Grace Ekwom, Laikipia University*

## From Festive Cheer To Focused Minds: Going Back To School After The Holiday

As the festive season winds down, the sparkle of celebrations, travel, and family gatherings gives way to a familiar rhythm—returning to school. For learners across the country, this transition is more than a change of routine; it is a pivotal moment of shifting from leisure back to discipline, responsibility, and academic focus. Holidays provide a welcome break, but the reopening of schools offers a chance to reset goals and renew commitment to education.



The festive period often disrupts normal schedules. Late nights, endless screen time, and irregular study habits can make the return feel daunting. Early mornings, concentration in class, and keeping pace with academic demands suddenly become challenges. Yet this adjustment is natural. With preparation—restoring healthy sleep patterns, organizing school materials, and revising past work—students can ease back into the rhythm of learning.

Parents and guardians play a crucial role in this transition. Beyond paying fees and buying supplies, their emotional support is vital. Encouraging children, discussing expectations, and helping set realistic goals can boost confidence and motivation. A positive home environment reassures learners that school is not a burden but a pathway to growth and opportunity. Teachers, too, are central. By welcoming students warmly, reviewing previous content, and gradually introducing new topics, they reduce anxiety and

spark enthusiasm. Schools that emphasize mentorship and discipline create supportive spaces where learners thrive.

Ultimately, going back to school after the holidays is not just about resuming classes—it is a fresh start. As the celebrations fade, the classroom becomes the stage where future success is shaped, reminding us that education is the greatest gift beyond festive cheer.

*By: Mutinda Erick, Laikipia University*

## Renewable Energy Solutions For Mitigating Climate Change In Kenya

Kenya stands at a crossroads where climate change is no longer a distant threat but a daily reality. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and mounting energy demands have made one truth undeniable: the country's future depends on renewable energy. With abundant solar, wind, and geothermal resources, Kenya is uniquely positioned to lead Africa's green transition and prove that sustainability is not a luxury but a necessity.



Solar power has become the most visible face of this revolution. Blessed with year round sunlight, Kenya has rapidly expanded solar installations in both urban and rural areas. Beyond reducing reliance on fossil fuels, solar energy has brought electricity to communities once excluded from the national grid, transforming livelihoods and opportunities. Wind energy, too, is reshaping the landscape. Projects such as the Lake Turkana Wind Power initiative now supply significant capacity, demon-

strating how clean energy can power growth without polluting the environment.

Geothermal energy remains Kenya's crown jewel. Tapping into the Rift Valley's reservoirs, the country has emerged as a continental leader in geothermal generation. This resource offers stability, sustainability, and a reliable backbone for economic expansion while safeguarding the environment.

The shift to renewables is more than an environmental impera-

tive—it is a strategy for energy security, economic resilience, and social equity. By prioritizing clean energy, Kenya can reduce emissions, create jobs, and shield itself from the volatility of global fuel markets.

The message is clear: Kenya's green future is not a distant dream—it is a present duty. The time to power progress sustainably is now.

*By: Angela Mwangi, Laikipia University*

# Maduro Decries His Abduction As UN Meeting Slams U.S. Intervention

By: Xinhua News Agency  
 @themtkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:**

- Pleading not guilty to all four charges in his first U.S. courtroom appearance, Maduro told the judge he had been “kidnapped” in the U.S. raid on Caracas, a “military abduction” that his lawyer argued raised questions over its legality. In an operation that unfolded swiftly on Saturday, Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, were seized in a large-scale U.S. military strike in the dead of night, flown out of Venezuela, and put in custody in the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn.
- On the same day, the Justice Department unsealed an indictment against Maduro and five others, including his wife and son.
- Arriving in a helicopter on Monday, Maduro and Flores were escorted onto an armored van bound for the courthouse, flanked by Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents, handcuffed.

While the UN Security Council in midtown Manhattan echoed with denunciations from U.S. allies and foes alike over Washington’s “crime of aggression” against Venezuela, a few kilometers south, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his wife were being arraigned at a federal court on Monday.

Pleading not guilty to all four charges in his first U.S. courtroom appearance, Maduro told the judge he had been “kidnapped” in the U.S. raid on Caracas, a “military abduction” that his lawyer argued raised questions over its legality. In an operation that unfolded swiftly on Saturday, Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, were seized in a large-scale U.S. military strike in the dead of night, flown out of Venezuela, and put in custody in the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn.

On the same day, the Justice Department unsealed an indictment against Maduro and five others, including his wife and son.

Arriving in a helicopter on Monday, Maduro and Flores were escorted onto an armored van bound for the courthouse, flanked by Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents, handcuffed.

Bandages were observed on Flores’ forehead during the proceedings.

Her attorney, Mark Donnelly, told U.S. District Judge Alvin Hellerstein his client had sustained “significant injuries during her abduction” and suggested she may have a fracture or severe bruising on her ribs and would need a physical evaluation.

“I am innocent. I am not guilty. I am a decent man. I am still president of my country,” Maduro said through an interpreter, before being cut off by the judge.

“I am a prisoner of war,” he added.

Outside the court hundreds of protesters had gathered, waving banners that read “Free Maduro,” “USA hands off Venezuela,” and chanting “No blood for oil, hands off Venezuela soil!” “The charges are completely outrageous,” Sydney Loving, one of the protesters, told Xinhua. “We’re against any intervention like that on a sovereign nation.”

“To kidnap a president of another country is absolutely crossing a red line. It definitely violates international law,” she said. At the very moment Maduro was being arraigned, Venezuelan UN ambassador Samuel Moncada said at an emergency meeting of the Security Council that the U.S. aggression had subjected Venezuela to an “illegitimate armed attack,” putting not only the coun-



This photo taken on Monday shows people protesting outside a courthouse in New York, the United States. Photo/Xinhua

try’s sovereignty at stake but also “the credibility of international law” and the authority of the UN.

Warning that tolerating the “kidnapping of a head of state” and attacks on civilians would signal that “the law is optional,” Moncada said the U.S. actions were “driven by Venezuela’s natural resources and geopolitical position.”

Referring to “oil” roughly 20 times in his remarks following Saturday’s operation, U.S. President Donald Trump told NBC News on Monday that Washington may subsidize oil companies to rebuild Venezuela’s energy infrastructure, noting that such a project could take less than 18 months.

He added that he regarded himself as effectively in charge of Venezuela, noting that the country would not hold new elections within the next 30 days.

Ernesto Soberon Guzman, Cuba’s permanent representative to the UN, said the kidnapping of Maduro is driven by a quest for “control over Venezuela’s land and natural resources,” calling it “imperialist and fascist aggression,” and demanded the immediate release of Maduro and his wife. Accusing the United States of unilateral coercive measures, “economic asphyxiation” and maritime terrorism, he said Washington’s “hegemonic and criminal plans” for Venezuela have produced serious and unpredictable consequences for regional stability.

Long-time U.S. ally France also criticized the operation, highlighting that it undermined international rules and norms.

“The military operation which has led to the capture of Nicholas Maduro runs counter to the principle of peaceful dispute resolution and runs counter to the principle of non-use of force,” said France’s Deputy UN Ambassador Jay Dharmadhikari.

He added that a permanent member of the Council flouting international law and the UN charter “chips away at the very foundation of the international order.” Other Latin American countries also voiced their condemnation.

Celso Amorim, chief advisor to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, said in a recent interview that “the most serious thing to me is that this return to interventionism isn’t even disguised.”

“There isn’t even a, let’s say, ‘No, we went there to defend democracy.’

There is an objective that is obviously economic,” he said.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said that no nation can impose its will on other countries, and does not have the right to their resources. “Latin American history is clear and overwhelming. Intervention has never brought democracy, never has generated wellbeing, nor lasting stability,” she said.

“Only the people can build their own future, decide their path, exercise sovereignty over their natural resources and freely define their form of government,” she said. “Each nation has the inalienable right to decide its political, economic and social model, free from external pressure.”



Nicolas Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores in a past photo.

# High Court Set To Rule On Fate Of Duty-Free Rice Imports In Landmark Case

By: Jimmy Mbogoh  
 @themkenyatimes

The High Court in Kirinyaga is set to deliver a ruling on January 29, 2026, on a decision that could shape the country's food policy, influence household budgets and redefine how the government responds to perceived threats to food security.

This comes after Gazette Notice No. 10353 of July 28, 2025, which authorized the importation of rice on a duty-free basis, was stopped by the court.

The decision was challenged in court, with petitioners questioning both the existence of the alleged shortfall and the process through which the policy was adopted.

According to lawyer Andrew Muge, who appeared for the petitioners, the justification for duty-free imports is not supported by realities on the

ground.

He maintains that if Kenya was facing a genuine rice shortage, its effects would already be evident in markets through empty shelves, panic buying, a sharp price spike or even street protests, none of which has materialized to warrant flooding the market with imports.

Lawyers who appeared on behalf of the government, including former LSK chair Eric Theuri, however, say the Gazette Notice is a lawful and prudent exercise of executive authority.

They argue that the state has a constitutional obligation to safeguard food security and protect consumers from potential shocks, even when those shocks have not yet fully materialized, noting that waiting until shortages trigger public unrest or severe price spikes is not prudent.



# City Hall Cracks Down On 'Witchdoctors', Demands Business Permits

By: Irene Mwangi  
 @themkenyatimes

The Nairobi County Government has cracked down on individuals purporting to be witchdoctors, introducing new measures that require all such practitioners to obtain valid business permits and comply with county regulations.

The move follows a surge in complaints from city residents who have been defrauded by people advertising dubious "healing" services and promising instant solutions to personal and social problems.

Citizen Engagement and Customer Service Chief Officer Geoffrey Mosiria said the trend had become alarming, noting that some victims had suffered financial exploitation and psychological manipulation.

"This trend is alarming. We have noted a worrying rise in so-called witchdoctors advertising their services across the city," Mosiria said, warning that some residents have al-

ready suffered financial exploitation and psychological manipulation.

Mosiria said the practice must be regulated like any other business, adding that anyone claiming to offer genuine services must apply for a unified business permit, obtain licences from relevant regulatory bodies and operate transparently.

He also raised concern over illegal advertising, noting that posters and flyers have been placed on walls, electricity poles, road signs and other public infrastructure, often at night.

"Most of these adverts are put up in wrong locations, interfering with the aesthetic beauty of our city. The manner in which they are installed raises serious questions about legitimacy and intent," he said.

The CEC said advertising will only be allowed in approved and designated areas, warning that those flouting the rules risk enforcement action by the county.

Mosiria appealed to Nairobi residents to help identify and report fake witchdoctors and illegal advertisements, saying public vigilance was



Citizen Engagement and Customer Service Chief Officer Geoffrey Mosiria

critical in protecting vulnerable people from exploitation.

"I am calling upon city residents to help us identify and report these

fake witchdoctors. Your information will help protect others from being conned and help us restore order and dignity in our city," he said.

The county government said it will intensify enforcement as it seeks to rein in the growing trend and protect residents from fraud.

**Sports >>** \*Portuguese Ruben Amorim walked away with a whopping Ksh 1.7 billion (£10million) pay-off on Monday when he was sacked as Manchester United's head coach after 14 months in charge at Old Trafford.

# SPORTS NEWS

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## Staggering Money That Amorim Pocketed After Being Fired By Manchester United



By AGENCIES

Portuguese Ruben Amorim walked away with a whopping Ksh 1.7 billion (£10million) pay-off on Monday when he was sacked as Manchester United's head coach after 14 months in charge at Old Trafford.

Amorim was summoned to the club's Carrington training base and dismissed by chief executive Omar Berrada and director of football Jason Wilcox after clashing with United's hierarchy over the last week.

Under-18s coach Darren Fletcher has been installed as caretaker manager for Wednesday night's trip to Burnley, with United set to name an interim boss until the end of the season.

Fletcher's former team-mate Michael Carrick, who took temporary charge for three games in 2021, and ex-United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer were among the early contenders last night

Amorim's compensation package took the total cost of hiring and firing him to nearly Ksh 4.7 billion (£27 million)

United bought out his contract

at Sporting Lisbon in October 2024 for Ksh 1.4 billion (£8.3 million), and paid another Ksh 157,000 (£900,000) so he could start work early. He signed a Ksh 1.1 billion (£6.5 million-a-year deal until June 2027, meaning his pay-off for the remainder of his contract is around Ksh 1.7 billion (£10.05 million)

### -Compensation of backroom team-

United will also have to compensate the five-man backroom team who followed him from Portugal.

Amorim presided over the second half of United's worst season in more than half a century as the club missed out on European football for only the second time in 35 years.

He only won 25 of his 63 games in charge, giving him the worst win percentage and lowest point-per-game average in the Premier League era. He leaves with United sixth in the table.

His downfall was sealed by a reluctance to compromise on his preferred system of three central defenders which brought him into conflict with his bosses.

Daily Mail Sport understands that the decision to dismiss Amorim was taken by the United hierarchy on Friday, two days before the 1-1 draw at Leeds.

The verdict followed a meeting between Amorim and Wilcox after last Tuesday's draw against bottom-placed Wolves – a match in which Amorim reverted to a back-three.

According to sources, Amorim was told that United's squad, bolstered by £250m of summer recruitment, were good enough to earn trust and that they were capable of playing more attacking football.

However, it would appear that the message failed to hit home and was met with a furious response from the Portuguese boss.

Amorim made veiled comments about his issues with the hierarchy in a press conference before the trip to Elland Road. When he launched into an extraordinary rant after the game, his fate was sealed.

The decision to sack him is understood to have been made with the full backing of the board and minority owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe. United sources said that they

have not seen 'enough signs of evolution or progress' and had axed Amorim to give the squad the best chance to achieve its aims this season.

The 40-year-old had complained over his role as head coach but insiders pointed out that he had agreed to work within the set-up and had been given unwavering support.

Amorim had also hinted at a lack of backing in the current window. Sources said that while there is room to do business, United had targeted the summer for their next major recruitment push and the head coach was on board with those plans.

Fletcher is expected to take charge of at least the next two matches against Burnley and Brighton in the FA Cup.

Installing an interim until the summer would give the club time to assess a permanent appointment, with a host of top managers such as Thomas Tuchel and Carlo Ancelotti potentially available after the World Cup.

-By Daily Mail-

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*Chelsea have appointed Strasbourg manager Liam Rosenior as their new head coach.

# 'It Means The World To Me' – Chelsea Appoint Rosenior

Chelsea have appointed Strasbourg manager Liam Rosenior as their new head coach.

The 41-year-old Englishman joins the club on a five-and-a-half-year deal with an option for a further season as he replaces Enzo Maresca, who left on New Year's Day.

Rosenior will be in the stands at Craven Cottage when Chelsea face Fulham in the Premier League on Wednesday, and will take charge of his first training session on Thursday before Saturday's FA Cup third-round meeting with Charlton Athletic.

"I am extremely humbled and honoured to be appointed head coach of Chelsea Football Club," Rosenior said.

"To be entrusted with this role means the world to me and I want to thank all involved for the opportunity and faith in undertaking this job. I will give everything to bring the success this club deserves."

Earlier on Tuesday, in his last press conference as Strasbourg manager, Rosenior confirmed he had "agreed verbally" to take over at Chelsea.

"I cannot turn down this opportunity to join an incredible club, incredible squad who are Club World Cup champions," Rosenior said.

Strasbourg are part of the Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital-owned BlueCo multi-club ownership group that also controls Chelsea.

Rosenior said Strasbourg first-team coach Kalifa Cisse, assistant head coach Justin Walker and head of analysis Ben Warner will join him at Stamford Bridge.

Rosenior was appointed by Strasbourg in July 2024 and guided the French club to seventh in Ligue 1 last season, securing European football for the first time in eight years.

His final match was a 1-1 draw at Nice on Saturday, their fifth league game without a win.



*Liam Rosenior has coached in the Championship with Derby County and Hull City*

They are seventh in Ligue 1 and top of the Conference League.

"The last 18 months have been a joy and the best of my professional career," Rosenior said.

"I'm here because I care about this club [Strasbourg] and I felt it was right to answer your questions physically here today before I move on.

"I will love this club for the rest of my life, but I cannot turn down Chelsea."

Former Fulham and Hull City defender Rosenior has never managed in the Premier League.

"I would not have accepted the Chelsea job if I was not ready," he said.

"There are clubs you just cannot turn down. I hope the Strasbourg fans can see that and be proud of that.

"I have had interest from many clubs, including Champions League clubs, which I have al-

ways been open with to [Strasbourg president] Marc [Keller] and our ownership."

Caretaker manager Calum McFarlane took charge for Sunday's 1-1 draw at Manchester City.

**'Rosenior wanted to look people in the eye' – analysis**

It is highly unusual for any outgoing manager to explain their departure in a news conference, but that is exactly what Rosenior did on Tuesday morning.

After flying into London to seal a verbal agreement with Chelsea to become their next manager, Rosenior returned to France and Strasbourg to say goodbye.

In a remarkable news conference at Stade de la Meinau, the stadium he has called home for 18 months, he looked emotional and allowed local reporters to ask difficult questions.

He spoke warmly about his fa-

vorite moments and said he wanted to look people in the eye and explain his reasons for leaving mid-season.

What complicates matters is that both clubs are owned by BlueCo, which could become a flashpoint if this does not go well.

But Rosenior appeared simply motivated by doing the right thing and explaining himself to supporters after a role that has propelled him to what he called "one of the biggest clubs in the world".

BBC

# SPORTS NEWS



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The Mt Kenya Times



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# The Inspiring Journey Of Mary Holguín: A Life Of Beauty, Passion, And Perseverance



By: Anila Bukhari

@themtkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

As Mary grew older, her passion for fashion only intensified. She began to take modeling seriously, honing her skills and learning everything she could about the industry. With each step, she gained confidence and developed a sense of purpose. Her hard work and dedication paid off, and she started to make a name for herself in the modeling world.

Mary's journey is not just about her own success; it's also about inspiring others to discover their own beauty and potential. She believes that every woman has a unique story to tell and a special gift to share with the world. Through her modeling career and beyond, Mary aims to empower women to embrace their individuality and celebrate their strengths.

In the heart of Paso, Texas, a shining star was born – Mary Holguín, a woman who would go on to captivate the world with her elegance, poise, and determination. From a young age, Mary discovered that fashion and modeling were more than just a hobby; they were her passion and her form of self-expression. Her life is a testament to the power of hard work, dedication, and believing in oneself.

### A Childhood Steeped in Dreams

Mary's childhood was filled with love, warmth, and encouragement. Growing up in a simple yet nurturing environment, she was able to explore her creative side and develop a deep passion for the world of fashion. Her parents and family members played a significant role in shaping her interests and supporting her dreams. As she gazed into the mirror, Mary would strike poses, imagining herself strutting down the catwalk. These early moments sparked a fire within her, and she knew that she wanted to pursue a career in modeling.

### The Journey Begins

As Mary grew older, her passion for fashion only intensified. She began to take modeling seriously, honing her skills and learning everything she could about the industry. With each step, she gained confidence and developed a sense of purpose. Her hard work and dedication paid off, and she started to make a name for herself in the modeling world.

### Inspiring Others

Mary's journey is not just about her own success; it's also about inspiring others to discover their own beauty and potential. She believes that every woman has a unique story to tell and a special gift to share with the world. Through her modeling career and beyond, Mary aims to empower women to embrace their individuality and celebrate their strengths.

### A Life of Purpose

Today, Mary Holguín is a shining



Mary Holguín.

example of what can be achieved through hard work, determination, and a passion for one's craft. Her life is a testament to the power of following one's dreams and never giving up. As she continues to inspire and uplift others, Mary's journey serves as a reminder that with faith, discipline, and perseverance,

anything is possible.

Mary Holguín's story is one of beauty, passion, and perseverance. Her journey is a source of inspiration for anyone looking to pursue their dreams and make a positive impact on the world. As she continues to shine brightly in the world of fashion and beyond, Mary's legacy

will undoubtedly inspire generations to come.