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WEEKEND ePAPER

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Senate Speaker Warns Governors Against Evading Oversight Committees

By: WMW
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Senate Speaker Amason Kingi has issued a stern warning to County Governors who ignore invitations to appear before Senate committees, emphasizing that the upper house will not tolerate any attempts to undermine its constitutional oversight mandate.

Speaking at the opening of the Fifth Session Assessment and Planning Retreat in Naivasha, Kingi condemned recent defiance by the Council of Governors, calling it “untenable.” He noted that accountability must follow the historic KShs 415 billion allocated to counties in the 2025/2026 financial year. “Any directive barring Governors from appearing before Senate Committees is inconsistent with the Senate’s constitutional mandate,” he said, adding that seeking Senate support for revenue enhancement while resisting oversight is contradictory. Kingi emphasized that accountability is not optional but a legal requirement.

The Speaker urged Senators to maintain discipline as the 2027 election season approaches, stressing that legislative business must not suffer as a result of political campaigns. He highlighted the achievements of the Fourth Session, including 127 plenary sittings and over 800 committee meetings, and called for continued momentum to address pending reforms in health, social policy, and climate action.

The retreat, themed “Advancing the Senate’s Agenda: Review, Strategy and Sustainable Progress,” is intended to guide the penultimate session of the 13th Parliament. Kingi concluded by appealing for unity among Senators, reminding them that beyond political differences, they share the responsibility of protecting the interests of all 47 counties.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Kenya Patriots Party leader Agnes Kagure has intensified her grassroots engagements as she prepares to vie for the Nairobi gubernatorial seat in next year's General Election. Kagure met leaders of the Mbogi na Mama movement to review progress and outline the way forward, expressing confidence in the group's structure and commitment to accountable leadership. She said she was encouraged by their support for her candidature and shared vision for the city. Members of the movement pledged to aggressively campaign for her across wards and estates, vowing to mobilize support at the grassroots level. Kagure has recently held a series of meetings with community leaders across Nairobi as she seeks to consolidate her political base and build momentum ahead of the polls.



A team of specialist doctors under the Kenya Association of Urological Surgeons has performed 165 free surgical procedures for patients with various urological conditions in Kisii and neighbouring counties. The medical outreach programme, which began on February 22, has seen the specialists stationed in Kisii to offer much-needed services to underserved patients. Association Chairman and Consultant Urologist Dr. Joshua Matu said the number of beneficiaries has been increasing over the years due to growing awareness and better coordination. Surgeries were carried out at Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital, Homa Bay County Teaching and Referral Hospital, Nyamira County Referral Hospital, and selected private hospitals in the region.



Kenya Tea Development Agency Holdings Ltd has announced four senior management vacancies as part of its ongoing transformation strategy anchored on the "Farmer First Mantra." The agency, the leading tea sector player said the recruitment drive aims to strengthen its leadership team and enhance returns for over 650,000 small-scale tea farmers across the country. The available positions are General Manager-KTDA Power, Head of Data Analysis and Management, Manager Resource Mobilization and Business Development, and Manager Programmes Management, Impact, Reporting and Learning. Interested candidates are required to access full job profiles on the company's website and submit applications online by March 13, 2026.

Mweiga Ward MCA Kawanjiku held talks with Kenya's High Commissioner to India, Peter Munyiri, on possible partnerships to strengthen healthcare services in Nyeri County. During a courtesy call at the Kenyan High Commission in New Delhi, the two leaders discussed challenges facing Kenya's health sector, particularly the rising number of cancer cases that have strained public health facilities. Kawanjiku noted that increasing demand for chemotherapy, radiotherapy and MRI services has overwhelmed government hospitals, exposing gaps in the current healthcare model. He said there is need for new approaches to better meet patients' needs. The meeting explored opportunities for collaboration between the Nyeri County Government and Indian health stakeholders to enhance medical capacity, technology transfer and specialized treatment services in the county.



Kajiado North Deputy County Commissioner Yusuf Mohamed led a tree planting exercise at the sub-county headquarters as part of the Presidential directive on the National Tree Growing and Restoration Campaign targeting 15 billion trees by 2032. The initiative, involving public servants and political leaders, aims to mitigate climate change, promote environmental conservation and strengthen community resilience. Mohamed urged chiefs and officers to mobilize residents to plant trees during the rainy season, noting he has 1,000 seedlings and support from the Kenya Forest Service. Sub-County Administrator Samuel Muchiri said planted areas will be fenced and monitored to ensure proper care and survival.



Kenya Space Agency hosted Brigadier General Jacob Middleton in Nairobi for high-level bilateral discussions on space cooperation. The meeting, led by KSA Director General Hillary Kipkosgey, focused on education, training, commercial data applications for border and maritime monitoring, and other potential collaborative areas. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the U.S.-Kenya partnership in the space sector. Senior officers and staff from both countries participated in the discussions. Kipkosgey expressed appreciation for the United States' support in advancing Kenya's space ecosystem, emphasizing the partnership's role in boosting national capabilities and expanding opportunities in the growing space industry.

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Public Pushes For Strict Safeguards In Proposed National Infrastructure Fund

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during the final public hearings on the Bill at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi, participants largely supported the establishment of the Fund but called for strict controls to ensure accountability, transparency and value for money.
- The forum was convened by the National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning.

Members of the public have urged Parliament to tighten safeguards in the proposed National Infrastructure Fund, warning that without strong oversight the initiative could falter like previous well-intentioned projects.

Speaking during the final public hearings on the Bill at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi, participants largely supported the establishment of the Fund but called for strict controls to ensure accountability, transparency and value for money.

The forum was convened by the National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning.

David Mburugu, who travelled from Nakuru County to present his views, described the Fund as a progressive idea but stressed the need to "ring-fence" its resources to guarantee maximum benefit to Kenyans.

"I support the Bill, but we must craft this law in a way that enables us to derive maximum benefits from the Fund," he said.

Mburugu proposed that the Fund should not finance stalled projects and recommended capping administrative expenses at three per cent. He further suggested that only mega projects worth at least Sh50 billion be eligible for support to ensure timely completion and significant economic impact.

He also called for rigorous feasibility studies and due diligence to ensure that only projects with a high return on investment are approved.

On governance, Mburugu advocated for a lean board serving three-year terms, renewable once, and proposed that the chairperson and chief executive officer be required to have at least



Some of the members of public who have their views at KICC. Photo/Courtesy..

20 years' experience, up from the 15 years proposed in the Bill.

Committee members, however, expressed reservations about the higher experience threshold. Session Chair David Mboni argued that such a requirement could lock out many qualified professionals.

"This recommendation means perhaps only persons who are about 50 years would qualify," he said.

Julius Rutto echoed the concern, questioning how young professionals would access leadership opportunities under such strict criteria.

John Towett, a Nairobi resident, supported the Fund but warned against misallocation or misappropriation of

resources. He cautioned that the Fund should not be diverted to settle public debt, arguing that government's primary role is to facilitate service delivery rather than engage in business.

Hagai Thenye, representing Bunge La Mwananchi, called for punitive measures against officers involved in misappropriation and urged that the Fund's operations be subjected to public procurement laws. He also proposed mandatory and regular reporting to Parliament.

Not all submissions were supportive. Fred Ogolla of the Liberal Democratic Party questioned the necessity of the Fund, arguing that Kenya's development challenges stem from weak man-

agement and poor prioritisation rather than lack of financing.

"Infrastructure development is essential, but this Fund raises serious constitutional, fiscal and governance concerns," he said, adding that execution, not legislation, remains the country's biggest bottleneck.

Ogolla proposed focusing on rural roads, reducing energy costs and improving water access and logistics to spur agricultural productivity and industrial growth.

Mboni concluded the session by thanking participants and pledged that the Committee would consolidate public views as it prepares its report to the House.

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The Mt Kenya Times



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Man Jailed 30 Years For Killing Wife Over Instagram Dispute

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

The High Court in Mombasa has sentenced a Kilifi County man to 30 years in prison for the murder of his wife following a domestic dispute linked to her use of Instagram.

In a judgment delivered at the High Court of Kenya in Mombasa, Justice Wendy Kagendo Micheni found 40-year-old Murad Awadh Mbaraka guilty of killing his wife, Nuru Ibrahim, at their home in Majengo Kana-mai, Kilifi County.

The court heard that the couple had been experiencing persistent domestic disagreements, including quarrels over the deceased's social media activity. On the night of June 19, 2022, the disputes turned fatal.

Prosecutors from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, led by Principal Prosecution Counsel Frank Sirima, presented testimony from 10 witnesses to prove the charge of murder.

The court ruled that the prosecution had established malice aforethought

and premeditation beyond reasonable doubt.

Evidence showed that the attack occurred in the presence of the couple's five children. Their 11-year-old daughter told the court she heard her mother scream for help as the accused repeatedly assaulted her. Neighbours who responded to the distress calls were allegedly threatened and prevented from intervening.

Forensic analysis linked Mbaraka to the crime scene.

The deceased's blood was found on a knife, on broken pieces of a baby's cot believed to have been used in the assault, and on the accused's clothing.

The defence claim that an intruder committed the crime was dismissed after witnesses contradicted the account.

The accused's employer also refuted his alibi.

In sentencing, Justice Micheni said the killing was deliberate and violent, adding that the 30-year jail term would serve as both punishment and a deterrent against domestic violence.

Mbaraka has 14 days to appeal the sentence.



Murad Awadh Mbaraka

Director Of Global Face Limited Charged With Trafficking Kenyans To Russia

By: MKT Correspondents
@themtkenyatimes

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) has charged the director of Global Face Limited with recruiting Kenyan youths to Russia.

Festus Arasa Omwamba, a 33-year-old, is alleged to have recruited twenty-two Kenyan youths to Russia for exploitation by means of deception.

The court heard that on diverse dates between 1st December 2024 and 24th September 2025 at Great Wall Gardens in the Athi River area, Mavoko Sub County within Machakos, with another before the court trafficked by recruiting twenty-two Kenyan nationals to Russia for the purpose of exploitation by means of deception.

He pleaded not guilty to charges before Gideon Kiage.

Omwamba surrendered himself at the Moyale immigration border

point and was arrested on 2nd February 2026, booked and escorted by Moyale DCI officers to Isiolo police station, and handed over to TOCU officers.

The prosecuting counsel, Kennedy Amwayi, informed the court that twenty-two victims of human trafficking were rescued on 24th September 2025 at Athi River.

It is alleged that three others who had already travelled to Russia found themselves at the frontline of the Russia-Ukraine war, and they later came back with injuries.

"Your honour, the accused person is a flight risk, and this case has attracted public interest both locally and internationally; therefore, the public demands accountability following the loss of life in Russia," Amwayi told the court.

The court ordered the accused person to remain in police custody for the hearing of the bond and bail application.



Festus Arasa Omwamba

United Opposition: We Will Make Ruto A 'Wantam' President

By: David Kimani
@themkenyatimes

The skies opened over Nakuru, but the rain did not dampen the resolve of thousands who gathered to witness what opposition leaders called the rebirth of Kenya's resistance. It was not just a rally—it was a declaration of war against the political establishment. Rigathi Gachagua, former Deputy President and now a key face of a coalition stitched together from united opposition luminaries, stood before the crowd and thundered: "We will make William Ruto a wantam president—one who wanted power but could not hold it."

From Naivasha to Gilgil, Maai Mahiu to Nakuru CBD, the caravan of leaders moved with purpose. Each stop became a stage, each microphone a weapon. Gachagua's rhetoric was populist fire, painting Ruto's administration as a regime of broken promises and economic despair. He accused the government of weaponizing state institutions against dissenters and warned that the patience of ordinary Kenyans was running thin. "Nakuru is the de facto political capital of Kenya. It is here that national realignment begins, and today we declare a rebirth," he told the crowd.

Dr. Fred Matiang'i, once Interior CS and now Jubilee's elder statesman, followed with a speech steeped in accountability. He spoke of corruption scandals, of public funds siphoned into private pockets, and of a government that had "lost its moral compass." His tone was sober, almost prosecutorial. "Kenya is doing badly because of bad leadership and individuals who loot public resources meant for development. We shall open offices across the country to strengthen our party and save this nation," Matiang'i declared.

Kalonzo Musyoka, the Wiper leader, brought his trademark calm but firm cadence. He appealed to unity, urging Kenyans to look beyond tribal lines and see the bigger picture: a coalition that could rescue the nation from economic stagnation. He spoke of farmers unable to afford fertilizer, of families crushed by the rising cost of living, and of youth whose dreams had been deferred. His refrain—"The current regime attacks us daily because they sense what we already know: change is coming, and it is inevitable. They claim we lack an agenda. The truth? They fear our agenda,"—was met with chants that echoed across Nakuru's streets.

Martha Karua, the iron lady of Kenyan politics, injected steel into the proceedings. Her speech was sharp, uncompromising, and laced



United opposition leaders in Nakuru

with moral urgency. She accused the government of silencing dissent and warned that democracy itself was under siege. "We will not be intimidated. We will not allow freedoms to be trampled. This government must know that Kenyans are watching, and we will resist every attempt to silence us," Karua told the soaked but cheering crowd.

Eugene Wamalwa, representing the Democratic Action Party of Kenya, struck a conciliatory yet determined note. He spoke of inclusivity, of building a government that reflected Kenya's diversity. His emphasis was on coalition-building, reminding supporters that unity was their greatest weapon against a ruling party that thrived on division. "Hata ulete jua ama mwezi, Ruto is a wantam regardless of what he does. We must be united if we want to defeat him in 2027," Wamalwa said, drawing laughter and applause.

Mithika Linturi, the DCP Organising Secretary, leaned into the language of mobilization. He urged the crowd to register to vote, to guard their ballots, and to resist intimidation. His speech was tactical, focused on the mechanics of winning an election rather than the poetry of politics. "Rallies are not enough. We must register, we must vote, and we must protect that vote. That is how we will send Ruto home," Linturi roared.

The MPs, Senators, and senior officials who spoke throughout the day amplified these themes. Some hammered the government on economic mismanagement, others on insecurity, and still others on the erosion of civil liberties. Together, they painted a portrait of a country in crisis and



positioned the United Opposition as the antidote. The symbolism was unmistakable: leaders who once stood on opposite sides of Kenya's political divides now shared a stage, united by a common enemy and a common goal.

What made the Nakuru rally remarkable was not just the speeches but the atmosphere. Residents braved the rain, chanting, waving placards, and singing songs of resistance. The energy was raw, unfiltered, and deeply emotional. It was a reminder that politics in Kenya is not just about policy—it is about identity, belonging, and hope.

The opposition's challenge, however, is formidable. Ruto remains entrenched, with the machinery of state at his disposal. The coalition must navigate internal rivalries, regional interests, and the skepticism of voters who have seen alliances rise and fall before. Yet, in Naku-

ru, for one rain-soaked evening, the dream of unity felt tangible.

The lead line of the day—"We will make Ruto a wantam president"—was more than a slogan. It was a rallying cry, a promise, and a provocation. Whether it will translate into electoral victory in 2027 remains uncertain. But the opposition has found its voice, and in Nakuru, it spoke loudly enough to be heard across the nation.

And so, as the crowd dispersed into the wet streets, the message lingered: Kenya's political future is not yet written, but the opposition has declared its intent to hold the pen.

The rain may have soaked their clothes, but it did not dampen their resolve. If Nakuru was the beginning, then the battle for Kenya's soul has only just begun.

Worth Noting:

- From Naivasha to Gilgil, Maai Mahiu to Nakuru CBD, the caravan of leaders moved with purpose. Each stop became a stage, each microphone a weapon. Gachagua's rhetoric was populist fire, painting Ruto's administration as a regime of broken promises and economic despair. He accused the government of weaponizing state institutions against dissenters and warned that the patience of ordinary Kenyans was running thin. "Nakuru is the de facto political capital of Kenya. It is here that national realignment begins, and today we declare a rebirth," he told the crowd.

- Dr. Fred Matiang'i, once Interior CS and now Jubilee's elder statesman, followed with a speech steeped in accountability.

Kenya Launches National Sanitation Policy To Boost Access By 2030

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya has officially launched the National Sanitation Management Policy, marking what the government described as a major step towards achieving safely managed sanitation for all by 2030 and beyond.

The policy was unveiled on Friday under the theme “Towards Safely Managed Sanitation for All by 2030 and Beyond” at a ceremony led by Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Eric Mugaa.

Speaking during the launch, Mugaa said the new framework elevates sanitation to a national development priority, anchored on every Kenyan’s constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment.

“For too long, sanitation has been treated as an afterthought. This policy signals a decisive shift from policy to action,” he said.

The Cabinet Secretary noted that the policy provides a coherent structure to strengthen accountability, clarify

institutional mandates and accelerate service delivery across the sector. It also emphasises public participation and shared responsibility among national and county governments, development partners and citizens.

The Ministry said the framework seeks to align institutions and communities towards achieving universal access to safely managed sanitation services within the next five years.

Principal Secretary for Water and Sanitation Julius Korir and Council of Governors Water and Natural Resources Committee Chairperson, Jushua Irungu, attended the event, alongside National Assembly Departmental Committee on Water and Irrigation Chairman Kangogo Bowen.

Development partners also reaffirmed their support, with representatives from UN-Habitat, UNICEF Kenya, African Population and Health Research Center and DAI among those present.

Senior officials from key water sector agencies, including Water Resources Authority, Water Services Regulatory Board, Water Sector Trust Fund and Kenya Water Institute, also attended the launch.



CS Eric Mugaa with PS Julius Korir after the launching exercise. Photo/Courtesy.

The Ministry expressed appreciation to Parliament, development partners and sector agencies for their role in developing the policy document.

Officials said the rollout will now focus on implementation, monitoring and resource mobilisation to ensure that the country meets its sanitation

targets and improves public health outcomes nationwide.

The Mt. Kenya Times



Ruto: By-Elections Win Is A Vote Of Confidence In Government

By: PCS

@themtkenyentimes

President William Ruto has described the victory of the ruling United Democratic Alliance (UDA) party in four by-elections on Thursday as a demonstration of confidence in the government's development record.

The President also recalled that two months ago, UDA and ODM won seven out of seven seats in the by-election.

He said the opposition's lack of a clear agenda for the country has proven to the people of Kenya that they had nothing to offer, giving the broad-based alliance an easy path to victory in the next General Election.

"We have defeated them in Kakamega, Isiolo and Embu. I suggest we just focus on delivering our development agenda and ignore the opposition. They will only waste our time," he said.

The President spoke on Friday when he inspected the construction progress at the Bomas International Convention Complex in Nairobi County.

The facility is a modern complex that will position Kenya in global tourism and international conferencing.

The President pointed out that the development will also include three hotels, a shopping mall and an amphitheatre.

"We have talked about a modern a conference centre for the past 30 years. But I decided we must build a modern conference facility," he said.

Once complete, the complex will accommodate 11,000 delegates across 35 halls and meeting rooms, with the main conference hall hosting 3,000 participants.

More than 2,500 workers are on site around the clock to meet the deadline.

The President said the project is one of the many transformative public infrastructure projects that the government is implementing to expand job opportunities for the youth and make the country a first-world economy.

"Jobs don't just happen; they are planned to happen. You have to make deliberate, intentional and practical plans to create jobs," he said.

Speaking to the thousands of workers at the site, President Ruto assured them that more projects will be rolled out.

"We are going to build an affordable housing programme next to this facility," he added.

The President explained that over

600,000 young people were working at various construction sites, citing affordable housing, modern markets, institutional housing and student hostels across the country.

He also said many mega projects are in the pipeline, including a new airport, extension of the Standard Gauge Railway to Uganda, roads and dams.

He assured Kenyans that the government is securing funds for these infrastructure projects.

President Ruto explained that construction of mega dams for water storage and harvesting will help put 2.5 million acres under irrigation to increase food production and eradicate the shame of hunger.

Soon, the President said, construction of the rail line from Narok to Kisumu, Malaba and onwards to Uganda and DRC Congo will begin.

At the same time, President Ruto asked Kenyans to reject leaders who are out to divide the country along tribal lines.

He urged the country to be wary of politicians who thrive on division, saying no one chooses where to be born.

"When they come to you with that narrative, tell them you are Kenyans," he said.

He told his competitors that Kenyans are not interested in personal disagreements among politicians, but in the issues affecting their lives.

The President said elections are a one-day affair and leaders cannot spend all their time on the next polls. "When the time comes, Kenyans will know what to do," he said.

He explained that he is focused on delivering the transformation agenda he pledged to Kenyans, adding that he will not be distracted.



Worth Noting:

- The President also recalled that two months ago, UDA and ODM won seven out of seven seats in the by-election.

- He said the opposition's lack of a clear agenda for the country has proven to the people of Kenya that they had nothing to offer, giving the broad-based alliance an easy path to victory in the next General Election.

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- The President spoke on Friday when he inspected the construction progress at the Bomas International Convention Complex in Nairobi County.

The Line In The Sand: Why 2027 Must Be Kenya's Election Of Electoral Integrity



By: Gitile Naituli
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Not a suggestion. Not a plea. A warning, that Kenya has reached the limit of its tolerance for electoral manipulation.
- For decades, elections in this country have carried both hope and anxiety. Hope, because they represent the sovereign will of the people. Anxiety, because history has taught us that power rarely relinquishes itself gracefully. Kenya has bled for the ballot.
- From the struggle for multiparty democracy in the 1990s to the trauma of 2007–2008, citizens have paid a heavy price to affirm a simple democratic truth: leadership must flow from the will of the people. The 2010 Constitution was born from that pain. It sought to institutionalize safeguards, devolve power, and insulate elections from executive interference.

There are moments in a nation's life when words stop being rhetoric and start becoming resolve. When Fred Matiang'i declared that the 2027 election will not be stolen, it did not sound like campaign language. It sounded like a line drawn in the sand. Not a suggestion. Not a plea. A warning, that Kenya has reached the limit of its tolerance for electoral manipulation.

For decades, elections in this country have carried both hope and anxiety. Hope, because they represent the sovereign will of the people. Anxiety, because history has taught us that power rarely relinquishes itself gracefully. Kenya has bled for the ballot.

From the struggle for multiparty democracy in the 1990s to the trauma of 2007–2008, citizens have paid a heavy price to affirm a simple democratic truth: leadership must flow from the will of the people. The 2010 Constitution was born from that pain. It sought to institutionalize safeguards, devolve power, and insulate elections from executive interference.

Yet the shadow of doubt has never fully disappeared. Every election cycle reawakens an old fear, that votes may be altered, results delayed strategically, systems manipulated, or state machinery deployed not for neutrality but for advantage. Whether proven or alleged, the mere perception of interference erodes public trust.

And when trust erodes, democracy weakens.

This is why the declaration that "rigging will not happen" resonates beyond party lines. It speaks to a deeper national fatigue. Kenyans are tired of contesting not only policies and personalities, but also the credibility of the process itself.

An election should not feel like a battle between citizens and their own institutions.

In 2027, the stakes are unusually high. The political atmosphere is polarized. Economic frustrations are widespread. Public discourse is charged. In such an environment, the integrity of the electoral process becomes not just procedural, but existential.

If citizens believe their votes will not count, cynicism replaces participation. If they believe outcomes are predetermined, disengagement replaces debate. And when citizens disengage, democracy becomes performance rather than substance.

The message emerging now is unmistakable: the vote is sacred.

But safeguarding it requires more than strong speeches. It requires systems. First, the Independent Electoral



Dr Fred Matiang'i addressing a public meeting in Gilgil on Friday. Photo/Courtesy..

and Boundaries Commission must operate with unquestionable transparency. Technology procurement, voter register audits, results transmission protocols, every component must withstand scrutiny. Openness is not a concession to the opposition; it is a constitutional obligation.

Second, security agencies must demonstrate neutrality. Their loyalty is to the Republic, not to incumbency. The use of administrative power to intimidate critics or suppress dissent in the pre-election period would only deepen suspicion.

Third, political actors themselves must commit to lawful contestation. Declaring that an election will not be stolen must go hand in hand with a commitment that it will not be destabilized if outcomes are unfavorable. Vigilance must not morph into incitement. Democracy demands courage from both the governed and those who seek to govern.

There is a growing sense among citizens that 2027 represents a moral crossroads: accountability versus impunity, transparency versus opacity, constitutionalism versus personalization of power. It is not merely about replacing one administration with another. It is about reinforcing the principle that leadership is leased, not owned.

The phrase "the people versus the machinery of state power" captures a

sentiment that has long simmered in Kenyan politics, the fear that incumbency confers unfair advantage. State resources, visibility, and influence can distort the playing field if not carefully restrained by institutional guardrails.

But here lies a crucial distinction: the state is not the property of any individual. It belongs to the people. The machinery of government must serve elections, not control them. In mature democracies, electoral defeat is not humiliation; it is transition. In fragile democracies, it is often treated as existential threat. Kenya must choose which category it wishes to inhabit.

The confidence now expressed by many citizens, that "the ballot will speak" and "no one will silence it", reflects a political awakening. Civil society is more vigilant. Digital spaces amplify scrutiny. Young voters are more assertive. Information circulates faster than ever before.

Yet vigilance must be disciplined.

An awakened citizenry must pair passion with patience, resolve with restraint. Protecting the vote does not mean undermining institutions before evidence emerges. It means demanding verifiable processes, lawful conduct, and credible oversight. It also means accepting outcomes that reflect the genuine will of the electorate.

If 2027 is to mark the end of elector-

al anxiety, it must become an election where losers concede because they trust the process, and winners celebrate without triumphalism because they know victory was earned transparently.

Kenya has matured politically. The Constitution provides the framework. What remains is collective discipline.

The line in the sand has been drawn. Not against a person, but against malpractice. Not against political competition, but against manipulation. Not against government itself, but against the abuse of governmental power.

The true test of our democracy will not be who wins in 2027. It will be whether, on the morning after the results are declared, Kenyans across the political divide can look at one another and say: the process was fair. When that day comes, when the vote is beyond suspicion, Kenya will finally have closed one of the longest chapters of its democratic struggle. And the ballot, once feared and contested, will simply speak. Without silence.

Prof. Gitile comments of topical issues

Kindiki: Broad-Based Government Will Win 2027 Elections

By: DPCS

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The DP said those pushing one-term politics are focused on a fruitless theoretical engagement that will result in defeat in next year's elections.
- "This broad-based government has brought real and tangible benefits to all the people across the country. No one should issue threats about one-term politics. One-term is theory; broad based is practice and serving all Kenyans," DP noted.
- The Deputy President spoke on Friday when he graced the Resource Mobilization Event for micro and small trader groups in Suba South Constituency, Homa Bay County.
- He underscored that broad-based government is inclusive and seeks to ensure equitable development in every part of the country.



From left: CS Kipchumba Murkomen, DP Kithure Kindiki and Oburu Odinga on Friday..

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has expressed confidence that the broad-based government will secure another term in 2027, citing massive development projects and programmes that have consolidated its national support.

The DP said those pushing one-term politics are focused on a fruitless theoretical engagement that will result in defeat in next year's elections.

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He underscored that broad-based government is inclusive and seeks to ensure equitable development in ev-

ery part of the country.

"Broad-based does not exclude anyone. This government is not about one against the other. All of us can have a place in a broad-based administration because there is enough for all the people of Kenya and all communities to have a stake in the government of the Republic of Kenya," DP emphasized.

Earlier, the DP inspected the construction of the 150 million-shilling Nyandiwa Fish Landing Site in the area that will ensure fisherfolk get access to fish coolers and modern facilities once complete. It is among several landing sites being constructed by the government in Lake Victoria.

Prof. Kindiki praised ODM leaders from the region for standing firm against attempts to drag the party away from the government saying they are fulfilling the wishes of the late party leader Raila Odinga.

"This time, the people of Nyanza and members of ODM have said they are

tired of opposition politics. The work of opposition has been done by ODM and the people of Nyanza for a long time, and now they are part of the government and will be inside this government to ensure they benefit from development like other Kenyans," DP said.

The government is funding projects worth billions of shillings in Homa Bay County as it accelerates their completion.

In Suba South Constituency, the Mfangano Island Ring Road project, being funded at 3.3 billion shillings, is steadily progressing.

"President Ruto has directed Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi to ensure the funds are available for the project," DP revealed.

Similarly, the Homa Bay Town Fish Market has been completed and handed over. It was constructed at 350 million shillings. In total, 22 modern markets are underway in the County. Affordable housing projects

are ongoing and more homes have also been connected to electricity in the county.

"This is the development we are talking about - electricity, markets, roads, housing, and empowerment of youth," DP stated.

The DP praised National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi, who hails from the county, for ensuring faster release of funds to finance projects going on in various parts of the country.

"When you hear about all this development - roads, electricity, markets, and fish markets - the person managing and signing for Kenya's funds is a son of Suba South, a son of Homa Bay, Mr. John Mbadi," DP said.

Take Decision Wisely



Better to take right decisions in right time,
without delay,
Don't let opportunities slip away.
Learn the art of decision making, it's key,
Decide wisely, and timely, for that's the way
to be free.

Procrastination's a thief, it steals time
A right choice late, can still lead to sorrow
So seize the moment, wisely
Make decisions timely, properly

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

We take decisions as we wish,
Using rational thinking to decide right from
wrong,
But timing' is important,
A right decision, late, can still be a mistake

At times, even right decisions, in late time,
will turn, into wrongs
haunt, will pain that aches
If the moment' is lost, the chance is gone,
A decision is correct, but late,
Becomes a fault

Instinct Of A Sparrow



Myriad scenes of life
Parade before my eyes each day;
Some dissolve from my memory;
Only a handful adhere to my mind
And keep nagging me;
A scene depicted in front of my eyes
One fine evening
Enamoured me and left me spellbound;
Leaves danced and trees waved to and fro
Perturbed by gentle breeze;
Yon a wandering Sparrow
In solitude perched on a branch

Laden with tiny twigs and fibres
In its pointed beak
And plunged in to the deed
Of weaving a nest
With plethora of zest
Exposing the tinge
Of a skilled engineer
Unruffled by the barricades
Neither storm nor rain;
After a fort night, a full furnished
Home for survival
Hung from the tree;
The instinct of the bird
That surged its skill
Is undoubtedly a miracle.

By
Shyni. S. S,
English Teacher,
GHSS, Rameshwaram.

Even A Correct Decision Is Wrong When It Is Too Late



Action is more important than planning.
Time and tide waits for none.
Correct decision to be implemented
immediately.
If takes to long time to fit
No fruitful but it is a correct decision.

N. SELVARANI
B. T. ASST
GHS-SAKKARAKKOTTAI
RAMANATHAPURAM
TAMIL NADU
INDIA

All problems have one solution
That solution will be found out through
discussion.

Discussion is going on too long.
Why? To find out a correct decision.
The problems won't wait for us.
It will give it's result at time.
Sow in right weather can yield more.

A Little Angel, A Lifelong Legacy



Left all of us in sorrow
The youngest organ donor living endlessly
She's the real giver of today and tomorrow

Living through four souls
Leaving behind dearest mom and dad
Reaching out the destined goals
Making parents and every humane soul feel

sad
Shortest life on Earth
Like flowers spreading fragrance
Spreading the kindness, now at dearth
Never ever encountered such resemblance

Sacrificing soul of the land
Helping four lives to continue life
Like candle, spreading light grand
Being a role mode of true life
Sorry dear we miss you to the core
Loving your soul please don't depart
You may be no more
Living in hearts of millions of mother's heart
N. SIVASANKARI, CREATIVE WRITER
B.T. ASSISTANT IN ENGLISH
GMGBHSS PERAIYUR MADURAI DISTRICT
TAMILNADU

Be Happy With Your Offline Work Too



A planning to decrease.
Jumping off your stress and strain,
Watching the green without drain,
The colorful flowers and plants of this
universe.
Play with the lovely pets of yours—
Puppies, kittens, rabbits and goats,
Lovebirds and parrots,
Doves and colorful fish.
Hop and jump and dance with glee,
Getting off from online to free.
Our eyes go cool,
Not using any gadget tool.
Our brain escapes strain,
And enjoys nature's shine.

Becoming brisk, staying out of radiations,
Be happy with your offline work too,
To find "you" in "you"
— V.R. Vijayalakshmi, M.A., B.Ed., PGDSE,
M.Phil., Graduate Teacher, CW Group,
Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu, India.

Be happy with your online work too,
Online work is not our scheme.
Physical work energizes our team,
It makes us shine in gleam.
Just relaxing in regime,
Walking on the beach,
With fellows to tease,
Working with ease,

Love Has No Religion



Love is an emotion — a beautiful light.
Through it, we see the world with kinder eyes.

Even across oceans and distant lands,
Love lives and travels beyond borders.
Love carries no religion.
It is simply two souls connecting.
In times of trouble,
It may not be your own who reach you first —
A stranger may hold your hand,
Not because you share a faith,
But because you share humanity.
Humanity is the true religion.
Love is the universal language.
Food is the healing medicine.
Care is the purest devotion.
Every religion teaches love —
Yet love itself needs no religion

By
ZAHETHA R
BT ASST
GHS PAPPANTHANGAL
TVM DIST

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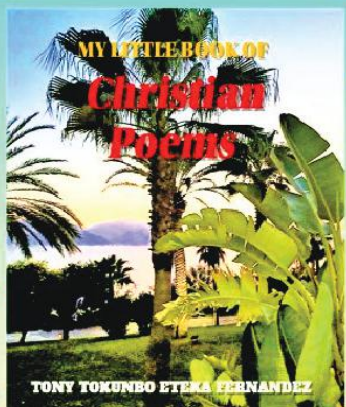
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Moderate Returns Expected As Global Markets Weaken And Supply Peaks



By: Henry Kinyua
@themkenyatimes

If coffee prices behaved like the weather, February would feel like one of those mornings when you step outside expecting sunshine and suddenly meet cold wind instead. That was the mood across Kenya's coffee sector after the Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) this week's sale delivered lower-than-expected prices, reminding farmers once again that global markets can change direction quickly.

The auction held on Tuesday recorded a total of 35,447 bags, equivalent to 2,164,624 kilograms, generating approximately USD 13.08 million (about KSh 1.69 billion). The overall average price stood at USD 302 per 50kg bag, confirming a notable correction from the season

peak of USD 403 achieved earlier in November.

When translated into farmer-level economics, the figures provide a clearer picture of expected payments.

At the auction average of \$302 per bag, the clean coffee value is roughly KSh780 per kilogram. Using the standard conversion ratio of 6.5 kilograms of cherry to produce one kilogram of clean coffee, this equates to approximately KSh 120 per kilogram of cherry at cooperative level.

However, cooperatives typically retain about 20 percent of the value to cover pulping, milling, transport, administration, financing, and operational costs.

After these deductions, the estimated farmer take-home price is about KSh95 to 100 per kilogram of cherry.

Despite the overall market correction, premium coffees continued to attract strong demand.

The highest price of the sale USD 458 per bag was achieved by Lot 7098 from Muthithi Estate in Kiambu County, a Natural Heavy (NH) coffee weighing 742 kilograms (12 bags).



Sale 19 of Tuesday, February 24, 2026

GRADE	Bags offered	Weight offered	Min price	Max price	Value (USD)	Average price
AA	8,843	539,291	172.00	421.00	3,680,625.02	341.25
AB	13,436	816,355	187.00	387.00	5,265,253.78	322.49
C	4,563	281,091	132.00	322.00	1,589,728.78	282.78
E	242	14,835	140.00	323.00	82,200.60	277.05
HE	217	13,339	136.00	256.00	61,567.08	230.78
MH	1,912	116,306	181.00	269.00	533,322.20	229.28
ML	448	27,332	105.00	179.00	77,691.32	142.13
NH	88	5,462	242.00	417.00	39,637.46	362.85
PB	1,936	119,578	165.00	365.00	746,964.92	312.33
SB	312	18,658	130.00	180.00	51,229.12	137.28
T	954	59,008	70.00	267.00	245,656.04	208.15
TT	704	43,580	158.00	306.00	234,578.16	269.14
UG1	1,174	71,438	148.00	308.00	346,433.72	242.47
UG2	577	35,799	115.00	253.00	120,246.94	187.95
UG3	41	2,552	107.00	144.00	6,800.88	129.33
TOTAL:	35,447	2,164,624	70.00	421.00	13,081,736.02	302.17

Note Prices are in USD per 50 Kg

A table showing coffee prices.

Although the lot was relatively small, it demonstrated that well-prepared specialty coffees can still command exceptional premiums even when the broader market softens.

Market analysts attribute the weaker prices primarily to falling Arabica futures on the New York Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) and increased supply volumes entering the Kenyan market during the peak

harvest window.

Such mid-season adjustments are common in commodity markets and do not necessarily signal reduced demand for Kenyan coffee.

For farmers, the key takeaway is that auction prices do not translate directly into pocket income.

Cooperative efficiency, cost structures, quality premiums, and market timing all play significant roles in

determining final payments.

And as many farmers know from experience, coffee markets like farming itself rarely move in a straight line, the best decision is to keep tending the trees and wait for the next harvest because coffee, unlike politics, usually gets better with time

Court Of Appeal Declares Explicit WhatsApp Messages As Sexual Harassment

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

The Court of Appeal has delivered a landmark ruling that sending sexually explicit messages to a colleague's WhatsApp account constitutes sexual harassment under Kenyan law. The decision, which arose from a case involving a former employee and her company's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), is expected to reshape workplace conduct in the digital age.

The case was filed after the employee alleged that she had received repeated sexually explicit texts from the CEO, creating a hostile work environment. She argued that the messages amounted to harassment and sought redress against her former employer. The matter escalated through the courts, culminating in the appellate court's decisive pro-

nouncement.

In its ruling, the Court of Appeal emphasized that harassment is not confined to physical spaces or face-to-face interactions. The judges noted that digital platforms such as WhatsApp are now integral to workplace communication, and inappropriate use of these channels can have the same damaging effect as in-person misconduct. "Sexually explicit messages sent to an employee's personal account create a hostile work environment and fall squarely within the definition of sexual harassment," the court stated.

Legal analysts have hailed the judgment as a progressive step in protecting employees from abuse in the workplace. The ruling underscores that harassment can take many forms—verbal, written, or digital—and that employers have a duty to ensure safe and respectful communication across all platforms. It also signals that senior executives and



managers will be held to the highest standards of accountability, regardless of the medium through which misconduct occurs.

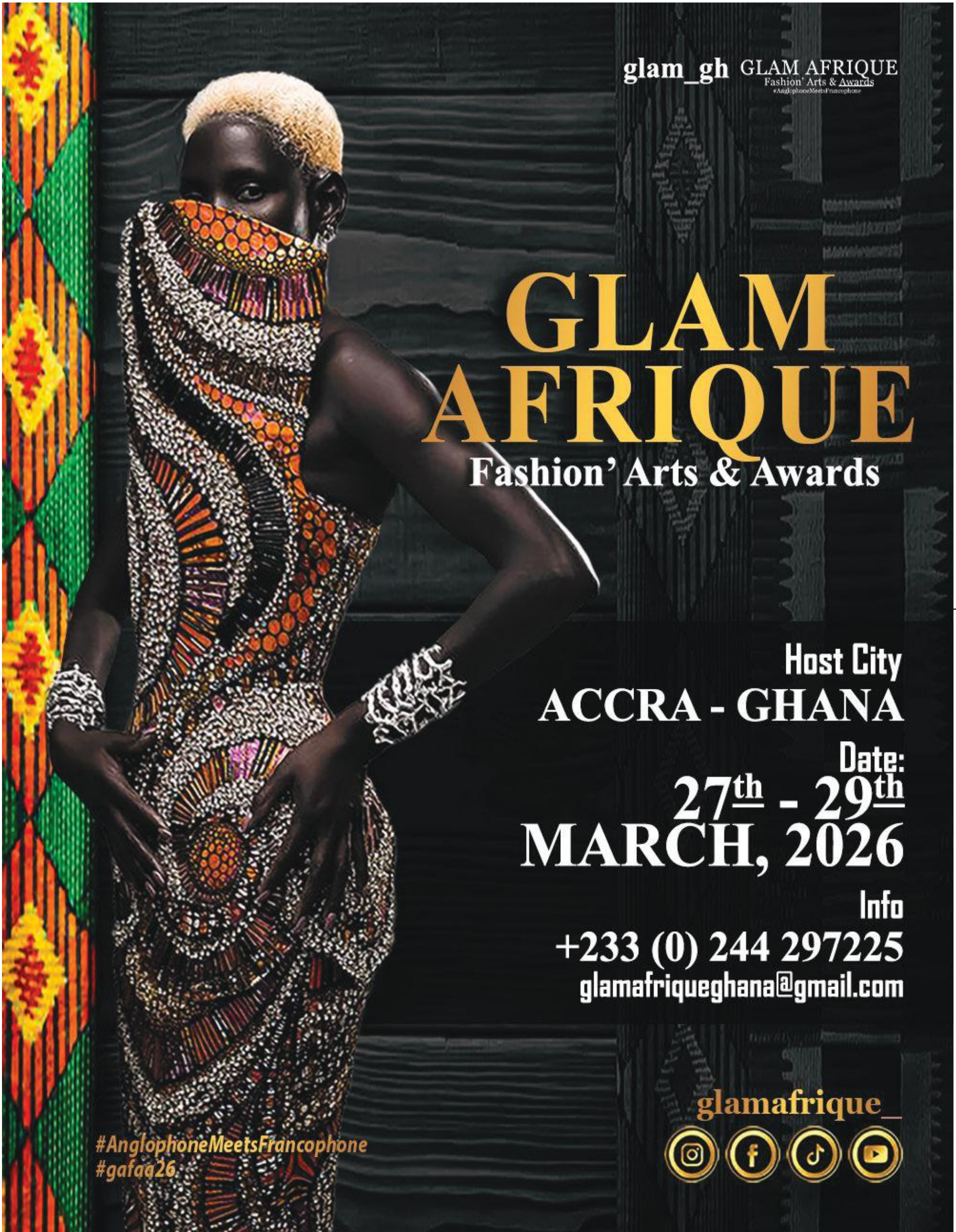
Employment lawyers note that the decision strengthens the interpretation of Kenya's Employment Act and the Sexual Offences Act, both of which prohibit harassment and discrimination in professional settings. By explicitly recognizing digital

harassment, the court has expanded the scope of protection available to workers, particularly in an era where remote communication has become the norm.

For employees, the ruling offers reassurance that inappropriate messages, even when sent outside office hours or through personal devices, are actionable under the law. For employers, it serves as a stern re-

minder to implement clear policies on digital conduct, train staff on appropriate communication, and enforce disciplinary measures against violators.

This judgment is expected to set a precedent for future cases, reinforcing the principle that dignity and respect must extend beyond the physical workplace into the digital realm.



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DPP Closes The Last Case In The Shakahola Massacre Trial After Calling 95 Witnesses

By: The ODPP
 @themkenyatimes



Paul Mackenzie greeting his followers in the courtroom on Thursday. Photo/Courtesy.

Worth Noting:

- Chief Inspector Raphael Wanjohi told Chief Magistrate Alex Ithuku that Mackenzie and his co-accused shared a suicide pact, perpetrating the massacre with the pretext of meeting Jesus before the end of December 2020.
- The 95th and last prosecution witness stated that Mackenzie instructed his followers to hasten their deaths through starvation in order to meet Jesus before his purported December arrival on Earth.
- “The suspects had a mutual agreement and shared intention, both individually and collectively, for a suicide pact. They had a common purpose to commit acts of manslaughter by overseeing the deaths of their children through enforced fasting,” said Wanjohi.

The Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) has closed the last of the four Shakahola massacre cases, in which Paul Nthenge Mackenzie and 94 others were charged with 238 counts of manslaughter, shortly after the investigation officer revealed the horrifying extent of Mackenzie’s control over his followers, which led to the deaths of 429 people.

Chief Inspector Raphael Wanjohi told Chief Magistrate Alex Ithuku that Mackenzie and his co-accused shared a suicide pact, perpetrating the massacre with the pretext of meeting Jesus before the end of December 2020.

The 95th and last prosecution witness stated that Mackenzie instructed his followers to hasten their deaths through starvation in order to meet Jesus before his purported December arrival on Earth.

“The suspects had a mutual agreement and shared intention, both individually and collectively, for a suicide pact. They had a common purpose to commit acts of manslaughter by overseeing the deaths of their children through enforced fasting,” said Wanjohi.

He added, “They had a specific intent to fast to death to meet Jesus and possessed knowledge of committing an unlawful act, as evidenced by the way graves were concealed.”

Wanjohi told the court that Mackenzie and 94 co-accused bore the

greatest responsibility for the crime of manslaughter of 238 deceased persons.

Ithuku further heard that those who resisted the pact fled the settlement, highlighting the extreme indoctrination and coercion imposed by Mackenzie over his followers.

The group had settled several kilometers deep inside the dense Shakahola forest, strategically away from authorities.

Mackenzie’s militia monitored movements and ensured strict compliance with the deadly fasting, the court further heard.

The settlement’s remoteness was striking, with Wanjohi revealing to Ithuku that it was 14 kilometers from schools, 35 kilometers from Lango Baya Police Station, and 32 kilometers from the nearest chief’s camp, hindering detection.

Inside the deep forest, away from the eyes of authority, Mackenzie and his close associates imposed his doomsday ideology on hundreds he had lured through indoctrination.

Call data analysis revealed systematic coordination between Mackenzie and his security team.

The homicide investigator said these communications were used to monitor activities within the expansive Shakahola forest while enforced fasting was underway.

On the first day of exhumation operations, approximately 25 kilometers

inside the forest, Wanjohi and his team uncovered 65 graves, including 14 containing multiple bodies.

The same day, 17 bodies were exhumed and meticulously documented before being transferred to Malindi Subcounty Hospital for preservation.

Each body was assigned a unique identifier, placed in labelled body bags, and transported to the subcounty hospital mortuary.

The mass graves, containing several bodies of male and female adults and minors, were shallow, with some bodies wrapped in bed sheets or lesos tied with knots before being buried, the court also heard.

Wanjohi told Hon. Ithuku that some bodies were transferred from one grave to another, likely to avoid detection.

Fast-growing crops were planted on mass graves, many flattened to conceal evidence.

Several months after the exhumation operations, the homicide detective and his team joined pathologists to conduct post-mortems in four phases on 429 bodies to establish the causes of death.

Starvation was the leading cause of death, followed by injuries, while some deaths remained undetermined due to decomposition.

DNA testing helped confirm identities and link victims to relatives.

Investigators highlighted that only two burial permits had been obtained,

far below legal requirements, reflecting systematic lawlessness.

Children and adults were often buried together, with graves flattened or concealed by crops.

Investigators said these practices demonstrated deliberate attempts to obscure evidence of the crimes.

Wanjohi explained that followers abandoned jobs, sold property, withdrew children from schools, and destroyed identity documents before relocating to Shakahola.

The extreme fasting imposed by Mackenzie directly caused numerous deaths, with Mackenzie’s armed militia guarding women and children undergoing fasting inside canopies.

Mackenzie and his lieutenants developed a coded language to convey key messages to followers during the fasting period within Shakahola forest.

Among the coded language terms are “Wateule,” referring to members; “Mataifa,” to outsiders; “Harusi,” to burial; “Kunyakuliwa,” to rapture; and “Kanisa Jagwani,” to mean Shakahola.

This secrecy reinforced control and prevented outsiders from understanding internal operations.

Searches at Mackenzie’s premises recovered DVDs, religious books, files, and registers containing radical end-times teachings.



Community Conservation Efforts Transform Wildlife Protection In Northern Kenya

Northern Kenya is proving that conservation thrives when communities take the lead. In a region long scarred by poaching and human-wildlife conflict, grassroots initiatives are rewriting the story of survival for elephants, rhinos, and countless other species.

Local conservancies in Samburu, Isiolo, and beyond have forged powerful partnerships with conservation organizations, blending traditional knowledge with modern strategies. Eco-tourism ventures now generate income while reinforcing the value of living alongside wildlife. Families who once viewed elephants as threats now see them as assets, vital to both culture and economy.

Technology has become a game-changer. GPS tracking and drone surveillance have tightened the net on poachers, driving down illegal hunting. Meanwhile, environmental education campaigns are reshaping attitudes in rural schools and



villages, instilling pride in biodiversity and responsibility for its protection.

The results are striking: fewer poaching incidents, stronger community ownership, and a growing reputation for northern Kenya as a model of conservation-driven development. This is not charity—it is empowerment. By linking livelihoods to conservation, these initiatives ensure that protecting wildlife is not a burden but a shared opportunity.

The lesson is clear. Conservation cannot succeed as an out-

sider's project; it must be rooted in the people who live closest to the land. Northern Kenya's communities have shown that when locals become guardians, wildlife gains a fighting chance—and the world gains a blueprint worth following.

From poaching grounds to protection hubs, northern Kenya is proving that survival begins at home.

By Emmy Jemutai, Laikipia University

Paused Dreams: The Real Cost Of The Lecturers' Strike On Students

When the lecturers' strike erupted across Kenya's public universities, students initially shrugged it off as a passing storm. But as days turned into weeks, the silence in lecture halls grew deafening. Learning had stopped, futures were stalled, and no one could say when the pause button would be released.

The strike's ripple effects were immediate. Group discussions gave way to speculation, and social media became the only classroom—filled not with lessons, but rumors. For final-year students, the disruption was brutal. Job applications, internships, and graduation plans were suddenly suspended. In a competitive market, even a short delay can feel like a lifetime lost.

Financial realities compounded the frustration. Rent, food, transport, and internet bills did not wait for negotiations. HELB disbursements arrived on schedule, but lectures did not. Parents



and guardians, already strained by rising costs, bore the weight of supporting idle students.

Beyond money and academics, the emotional toll was stark. Anxiety and helplessness spread as decisions made far from campus dictated the rhythm of student lives. Lecturers' demands for fair pay and better conditions were valid, but the strike underscored a harsh truth: students remain the collateral damage in disputes where they have

no voice.

Classes may have resumed, but the scars remain. Calendars are reshuffled, content crammed, and dreams delayed. For students, the strike was not just about contracts—it was about stolen time.

And in the race to build a future, lost time is the cost no student can afford.

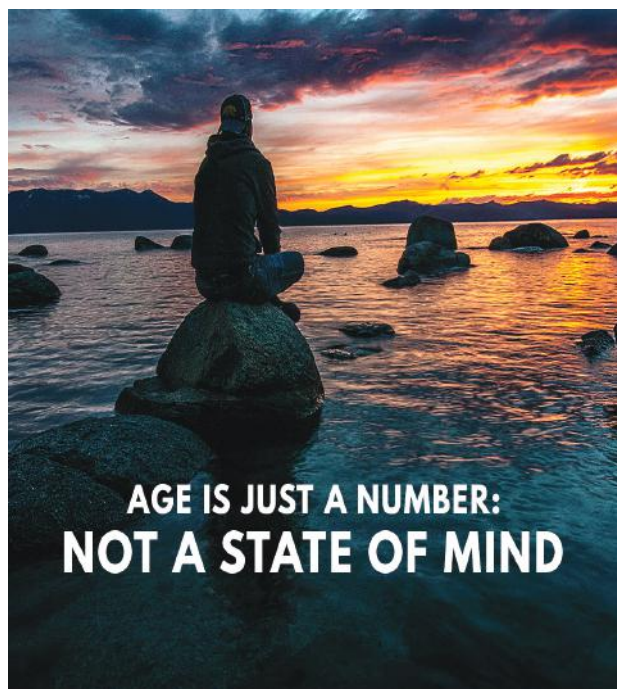
By Joy Luka, Laikipia University

Age Is Just A Number

Society loves to police love, especially when age gaps are involved. Whispered judgments, raised eyebrows, and outright condemnation often greet couples who dare to defy convention. Yet the truth is simple: age is just a number, and what sustains a relationship runs far deeper than birthdays on a calendar.

For decades, older-younger relationships have been branded as exploitative or doomed. Critics assume manipulation, selfish motives, or wasted time. But these assumptions ignore the reality that emotional connection, trust, and shared values matter far more than chronology. When two people find joy and respect in each other, the arithmetic of age fades into irrelevance.

Across cultures and generations, couples with age differences have built lasting partnerships. Technology and globalization have only widened the possibilities, allowing people to connect based on compatibility rather than conformity. As relationship expert Flora Li of LovetoMore notes, age should never be a barrier to happiness. What counts is mutual understanding, patience, and the courage to choose love on your own terms.



The stigma, however, remains stubborn. Friends gossip, families interfere, and communities cast judgment. But love is not a public referendum—it is a private commitment. Those who dismiss such unions reveal more about their prejudices than about the couples themselves.

The lesson is clear: happiness is not measured in years but in

moments shared. Age gaps may raise eyebrows, but they should never raise barriers.

Love thrives on connection, not calendars—and age will never be the final word.

By Grace Akiru, Laikipia University

Laikipia University Community Mourns Dr. Muga

Laikipia University has been shaken by the loss of Dr. Muga, a lecturer whose dedication to teaching and mentoring left an indelible mark on the institution. His passing has plunged the university community into grief, silencing a voice that inspired countless students.

Dr. Muga was more than an academic; he was a guide, a motivator, and a pillar of support. Colleagues recall his tireless commitment to excellence, while students remember a teacher who pushed them to aim higher and believe in their potential. His lectures were not just lessons but conversations that challenged minds and nurtured ambition.

Tributes have poured in from staff, students, and alumni, each testimony underscoring the profound impact he had on both the university's growth and the personal success of those he taught. His influence extended beyond classrooms, shaping lives and strengthening the institution's



academic reputation.

The university leadership has expressed heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues, pledging to honor his legacy. Funeral and memorial arrangements will be communicated in due course, but the mourning has already united the community in shared sorrow.

Dr. Muga's death is not just a personal loss—it is a collective wound for Laikipia University

and the wider academic fraternity. His absence will be felt in lecture halls, in mentorship sessions, and in the quiet encouragement he offered to students finding their way.

A great teacher has fallen, but his lessons will echo long after the grief fades.

By Pascal Okoth, Laikipia University

Iran-U.S. Geneva Talks Show Diplomacy Keeps Door Ajar, But Core Differences Persist

By: Xinhua News Agency

@themkenyatimes

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Worth Noting:

- Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said the delegations exchanged "very important and practical proposals" on the nuclear file and sanctions relief. According to Iran's official news agency IRNA, negotiators held three hours of intensive discussions, paused for internal consultations, and then resumed for an additional two hours.
- Araghchi said "good progress" had been achieved and announced that technical-level discussions would begin in Vienna next week.
- He added that a fourth round of talks could take place within days.
- Oman's Foreign Ministry described the atmosphere as reflecting "unprecedented openness to new and creative ideas." However, significant gaps persist over the scope and durability of any potential agreement.

Iranian and U.S. delegations concluded their third round of indirect talks in Geneva on Thursday, reporting notable progress but leaving fundamental disputes unresolved.

The talks, mediated by Oman, were led by Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi and U.S. President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff.

While both sides described the discussions as constructive, deep divisions remain over uranium enrichment, sanctions relief and broader regional security concerns.

Progress Without Breakthrough

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Oman's Foreign Ministry described the atmosphere as reflecting "unprecedented openness to new and creative ideas." However, significant gaps persist over the scope and durability of any potential agreement.

According to a report by The Wall Street Journal, Washington is demanding a deal with no expiration date and is pushing for the closure of Iran's main nuclear facilities at Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan, as well as the transfer of enriched uranium abroad.

The report said the United States is offering only limited sanctions relief initially, with further easing tied to verified compliance.

Iran has rejected transferring its enriched uranium outside the country and insists on the full lifting of U.S. sanctions.

Senior Iranian official Ali Shamkhani reiterated that if the primary concern is preventing nuclear weapons, an agreement is "within reach," citing a religious decree against such arms.

Tehran continues to defend its right to peaceful uranium enrichment on its own soil.

Dual-Track Strategy



Delegates outside the meeting hall. Photo/Courtesy.

Regional analysts say both sides are pursuing a dual-track approach: negotiating diplomatically while signaling readiness for confrontation.

The United States has reinforced its military presence in the region, deploying aircraft carrier strike groups, combat aircraft including F-35 fighters, and strengthening bases in Jordan and Israel. President Trump has warned of a "phase two" should diplomacy fail. The New York Times reported that he is considering limited strikes to pressure Tehran, though such action could escalate into a broader campaign.

Iran, meanwhile, conducted live-fire drills in the Strait of Hormuz last week, briefly closing the strategic waterway in a show of its ability to disrupt global oil shipments.

Tehran has repeatedly warned that it would respond forcefully to any attack.

Mohammed Nader al-Omari, a Syrian conflict researcher, described the U.S. buildup as "not routine," suggesting serious military preparations. Analyst Sinan Hassan characterized the situation as "coercive diplomacy," where military signaling accompanies negotiations.

However, Jordanian political analyst Amer Sabailah argued the scale of U.S. deployments suggests the risk of actual strikes is high.

Tactical Flexibility, Strategic Red Lines

Despite tensions, some observers

point to limited flexibility in Tehran's position. Analysts note that Iran has indicated willingness to cap uranium enrichment at 3.67 percent, accept an international fuel consortium and place its 60-percent stockpile under enhanced monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

However, Iran continues to exclude its missile program and regional alliances from negotiations.

Mohamed Mohsen Abo El-Nour, head of the Arab Forum for Analyzing Iranian Policies, emphasized that tactical flexibility does not equate to a shift in Iran's broader strategic doctrine.

Palestinian analyst Samer Anabtawi said Iran's preparation of draft proposals signals seriousness, but Washington's acceptance will depend on wider political calculations. Gaza-based analyst Akram Atallah argued that Israel, though absent from the talks, remains influential in shaping U.S. demands.

Risk of Escalation

Experts widely agree that the core dispute remains unresolved. Iran considers its civilian nuclear program, missile deterrent and regional role non-negotiable.

Some analysts believe Washington's objectives extend beyond the nuclear file to reshaping Iran's broader security posture.

Omani analyst Khalfan al-Touqi warned that any war would be more

destructive than previous regional conflicts, with consequences far beyond Iran.

Yet others believe both sides recognize the high costs of escalation.

Abdulaziz Alshaabani of the Al Riyadh Center for Political and Strategic Studies said a full-scale war remains less probable because both parties prefer managing tensions through negotiations.

Trump faces a narrowing set of options.

Accepting a compromise risks criticism from domestic opponents who reject any agreement resembling the 2015 nuclear deal. Military action, however, carries unpredictable consequences, including potential retaliation against U.S. forces and regional instability.

Thair Abu Ras of the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute questioned whether Washington has sufficient political and legal grounds for war, noting that many regional allies appear reluctant to support such action.

After a significant military buildup, Trump is left with two principal choices: authorize strikes or secure an agreement that can be presented domestically as a diplomatic victory. For now, diplomacy has kept the door open.

But with core disagreements intact and military forces on alert, the path ahead remains uncertain.

Opposition Leaders Face Backlash Over 'Racist' And Divisive Statements

By: Elizabeth Angira

@themkenyetimes

Following the recent tour of Kisii and Nyamira counties by leaders of the United Opposition, political temperatures in the region remain high, with a section of a section of Kisii residents expressing dissatisfaction over remarks made during the visit.

Addressing the press in Kisii town, Samwel Matunda said residents had expected issue-based engagement from the visiting leaders, but were instead treated to what he described as personal attacks.

"Our people value respect, dialogue, and issue-based politics. We expected the visiting leaders to present clear policies, practical solutions, and a compelling alternative agenda. Instead, much of their speeches centered on direct attacks against our Governor, Simba Arati, and other elected leaders," he said.

Matunda noted that while political competition is healthy in a democracy, it should not degenerate into personal hostility.

He expressed concern that former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua appeared particularly focused on Governor Simba Arati.

"This pattern is not new. During his tenure in office, GSU officers were previously sent to the Governor's residence in Kisii under controversial circumstances. In the latest visit, remarks made went beyond criticism and entered the territory of insults and statements many residents viewed as divisive. Leadership must calm the people, not steer them towards chaos," he added.

Residents also took issue with claims made by leaders allied to Fred Matiang'i alleging that goons disrupted their meeting and that lives were lost.

"In Omogusii culture, invoking death is a grave matter. Such claims cannot be made lightly," Moraa Omwenga said, adding that, to date, there has been no official confirmation of any fatalities.

"No public police report has been shared. No family has come forward to report a loss. We are calling on investigative and security agencies to provide clarity. Did any deaths occur? If so, how many? Where are the official reports? Have any arrests been made? Kenyans deserve truth and transparency."

Kennedy Kombo termed as unfair attempts to link Governor Arati to the alleged chaos, noting that the county



A section of Kisii residents addressing the press in Kisii town have demanded united opposition apology over the recent remarks. Photo/Elizabeth Angira

boss has been away from the county for nearly a month.

"Political rivalry should not translate into damaging accusations. To Dr. Matiang'i, who is seeking the presidency as our governor prepares to defend his second term, we speak with respect. A national leader must rise above local confrontations. The focus should be on national unity, not sustained attacks on a county leader," he said.

John Mosora emphasized that Kisii residents are more concerned about development and peaceful coexistence than political vendettas.

He cited ongoing projects across sectors as milestones initiated by Governor Arati in fulfillment of his campaign pledges.

"Let politics compete on ideas. Let leaders persuade with vision. Let truth guide public discourse. Kisii deserves unity, dignity, and progress," he concluded.

Meanwhile, in Nyaribari Chache constituency, residents have demanded an apology and accountability following remarks made by Rigathi Gachagua during the opposition's tour in Kisii.

The controversy stemmed from comments directed at Nyaribari Chache MP Zaheer Jhanda, which protesters described as racist and derogatory.

Speaking at Keumbu market, Gachagua was quoted as saying:

"So you people of Kisii didn't have

an alternative but to be governed by the Indian? You want me to laugh at you? The Indian should go."

The remarks sparked outrage, particularly among traders, including mama mboga, who accused the former Deputy President of demeaning both their elected leader and the constituents.

"We respect Matiang'i and he is our political kingpin, but we cannot allow the United Opposition to insult our MP through racist language. Jhanda was born and brought up here. We have seen him grow here; he schooled here," said Winfridah Kerubo.

Mary Moraa echoed similar sentiments, insisting that leadership, not skin colour, informed their choice at the ballot.

"We elected Jhanda not because of his skin colour but because of his leadership. We now have electricity, tarmacked roads, and equal bursary allocations. That is enough reason for us to re-elect him for a second term," she said.

She strongly denounced hate speech and urged leaders to promote inclusivity and mutual respect, warning that inflammatory rhetoric threatens social harmony and democratic engagement.

Residents have called on the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) to investigate the incident and take appropriate action, arguing that Kenya cannot champion national unity while tolerating divisive language from senior leaders.

Residents have insisted that Kisii should not be reduced to a battleground of personal attacks. For many, the message remains clear: politics must be anchored on ideas, accountability, and respect not division.



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Sports >> *Kenya's golf calendar is set to welcome a new fixture as the inaugural Invest Kenya Golf Tournament (IKGT) tees off on 27th March 2026 at Muthaiga Golf Club.

Invest Kenya Tournament Joins Kenya Golf Calendar With Debut At Muthaiga Golf Club In March



Investment Promotion Principal Secretary Abubakkar Hassan Abubakkar Teeing Off. Looking on are Muthaiga Chairman Dennis Mwirigi, Muthaiga Captain Ben Murimi, Invest Kenya CEO John Mwendwa and Sports Director Ministry of Sports Jackson Indakwa

Kenya's golf calendar is set to welcome a new fixture as the inaugural Invest Kenya Golf Tournament (IKGT) tees off on 27th March 2026 at Muthaiga Golf Club.

The tournament, which will be played in a Stableford format, is expected to attract approximately 200 players, including local and international corporate players and selected professional golfers from Kenya's expanding golf scene.

Hosted at Muthaiga Golf Club, one of Africa's most prestigious championship courses and home to leading international tournaments, the event adds a high-profile fixture to Kenya's golf ecosystem while reinforcing the country's reputation as a major golf destination.

Absa is the main sponsor of the inaugural edition.

The tournament is being introduced as a strategic event of the Kenya International Investment Conference (KIICO 2026) and will serve as the sport's contribution to the conference week, creating an environment where competition, networking, and national visibility intersect.

Commenting on the new tournament, Sports Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya said it goes a long way in leveraging on the power of sports for economic growth.

"Sport continues to showcase Kenya on the world stage. Initiatives such as Invest Kenya Golf Tournament (IKGT), strengthen Kenya's reputation as a destination for major sporting events while supporting the growth of golf locally. International events such as the Olympics and Commonwealth Games play a critical role in marketing Kenya

internationally," Mvurya said in a speech read on his behalf by Jackson Indakwa, the Director of Sports.

John Mwendwa, OGW, Chief Executive Officer of Invest Kenya, noted:

"This inaugural tournament reflects our commitment to creating platforms where meaningful connections can develop. Golf provides a setting for sustained interaction, strategic dialogue, and trust-building; values that mirror both sport and long-term investment partnerships," Mwendwa said.

At the same time, Muthaiga Golf Club chair Dennis Mwirigi expressed his delight at hosting the premium tournament.

"Muthaiga Golf Club has hosted over 95% of the Magical Kenya Open tournaments historically. The Club has played a significant

role in promoting Kenya's image globally through golf. Hosting investors at the Club marks a milestone in aligning sports with national investment objectives. The Invest Kenya Golf Tournament adds an important new fixture to Kenya's golf ecosystem and reinforce Kenya's position as one of Africa's leading golf destinations," he said.

The draws are scheduled to close in early March with over 150 players registered so far.

Invest Kenya intends for the Golf Tournament to become a recurring annual event, strengthening Kenya's golf calendar and supporting the country's continued emergence as a leading golf destination.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Head coach Eddie Howe has urged Anthony Gordon to stay "fully focused" after the Newcastle United forward was linked with a move to Arsenal.

Gordon Needs To Stay 'Fully Focused' After Arsenal Talk – Howe



Anthony Gordon celebrates his goal against Manchester City. PHOTO/NEWCASTLE UNITED FC X

Head coach Eddie Howe has urged Anthony Gordon to stay "fully focused" after the Newcastle United forward was linked with a move to Arsenal. Gordon is the latest key figure at the club to have been subject of reported interest elsewhere. This is despite the England international dismissing such talk as "a load of rubbish" in an interview with reporters just last week. Newcastle sold Alexander Isak to Liverpool for a British record £125m fee last summer – after the

Swede went on strike – and Howe was asked how he could avoid a repeat of a similar saga. "I'm not sure there's a lot I can do about that," he said. "I've not seen the story, so it's news to me. "But we're mid-season, we're in the middle of some of the biggest games of his career, and who knows what's going to happen internationally with Anthony in the summer as well. "He's not got time to look left or right. He's got to be fully focused on straight ahead and the next

game, and trying to be as good as he can be." Gordon, Sandro Tonali and Tino Livramento are just some of the Newcastle players who have been touted with moves away in the media in recent months. But Howe said it comes with the territory. "It's your industry that is creating those stories," he added. "I'm slightly secluded from it. "If you don't read it you don't know who has been linked to who. Is it not just part of modern

day football that everyone is just linked with moves these days, not just Newcastle players, but potentially a lot of other clubs have the same issues. "It's irrelevant really. It's how the players react to that. If they absorb it and it affects them, then that's a negative. But I think our players are robust enough to ignore it."

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Methodological Foundations For The Effective Use Of Multimedia Tools In Literature Lessons



By: Abduhamidova Nihola
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Worth Noting:

- In recent years, the rapid digital transformation of education has necessitated the adoption of innovative teaching strategies. Within the context of literature education, the effective use of multimedia tools plays a crucial role in developing students' artistic thinking, aesthetic sensitivity, and interpretive skills. Traditional teacher-centered methods are increasingly being supplemented by digital technologies that enhance lesson interactivity and student engagement (Ahmedova, 2020).

- Modern educational practice emphasizes transforming learners from passive recipients of information into active participants in the learning process. Multimedia technologies—such as audio, video, images, animations, and interactive texts—create a multisensory learning environment that supports deeper comprehension and long-term retention. These tools enable students to visualize historical and cultural contexts, analyze literary texts more effectively, and establish emotional connections with literary works (Karimova, 2019).

This article examines the methodological and organizational foundations for the effective integration of multimedia tools in literature education. It highlights the pedagogical potential of multimedia technologies in developing students' literary and aesthetic worldview, fostering critical thinking, and increasing learning motivation. Based on theoretical analysis and practical teaching experience, the study offers methodological recommendations for literature teachers on the purposeful use of modern digital resources in classroom instruction.

Keywords: literature education, multimedia technologies, interactive lessons, teaching methodology, instructional effectiveness, digital learning tools

Introduction

In recent years, the rapid digital transformation of education has necessitated the adoption of innovative teaching strategies. Within the context of literature education, the effective use of multimedia tools plays a crucial role in developing students' artistic thinking, aesthetic sensitivity, and interpretive skills. Traditional teacher-centered methods are increasingly being supplemented by digital technologies that enhance lesson interactivity and student engagement (Ahmedova, 2020).

Modern educational practice emphasizes transforming learners from passive recipients of information into active participants in the learning process. Multimedia technologies—such as audio, video, images, animations, and interactive texts—create a multisensory learning environment that supports deeper comprehension and long-term retention. These tools enable students to visualize historical and cultural contexts, analyze literary texts more effectively, and establish emotional connections with literary works (Karimova, 2019).

For instance, presenting scenes from Abdullah Qodiriy's *Bygone Days* through film adaptations, his-

torical maps, or visual illustrations allows learners to better understand the social and cultural realities of the depicted period. Audio recordings of literary texts, digital books, infographics, and interactive quizzes further accommodate diverse learning styles and promote learner-centered instruction.

Methodological Approaches to Using Multimedia in Literature Lessons

The effective integration of multimedia tools in literature classes requires systematic methodological planning at all stages of the lesson. The following instructional framework is recommended:

Preparation Phase: Introducing background information through short videos, presentations, or infographics related to the author, historical period, or literary movement.

Presentation Phase: Combining text reading with multimedia resources such as documentaries, author interviews, thematic video clips, or visual illustrations.

Consolidation Phase: Reinforcing learning through interactive activities, including online quizzes, digital storytelling, group discussions, or collaborative multimedia tasks.

Assessment Phase: Evaluating learning outcomes using online tests, multimedia project presentations, peer assessment, and reflective digital portfolios.

This structured approach supports differentiated instruction and enhances students' analytical, interpretive, and creative abilities.

Pedagogical and Theoretical Foundations, Audiovisual and Multimodal Pedagogy

Audiovisual education emphasizes the combined use of visual and auditory stimuli to improve comprehension and memory retention. Multimodal instruction enables learners to process information through multiple channels, increasing engagement and understanding.

Active and Constructivist Learning

Research demonstrates that active learning strategies—where students discuss, analyze, and interact with content—significantly improve academic performance compared to traditional lecture-based methods. Constructivist learning theory suggests that multimedia tools facilitate active knowledge construction, particularly through collaborative projects and digital storytelling.

Cognitive Load and Multimedia Design

According to Cognitive Load Theory, well-designed multimedia materials that integrate relevant visuals, narration, and text can enhance learning without overloading students' working memory. Effective multimedia instruction minimizes extraneous information and presents content in a clear, sequential manner.

Evidence of Multimedia Effectiveness

Empirical studies across educational disciplines confirm that multimedia-based instruction improves learner motivation, comprehension, and academic performance. In literature education specifically, the use of films, animations, presentations, and audio recordings has been shown to increase students' interest in literary texts and deepen their understanding of themes, characters, and stylistic features (Mamarasulova, 2021).

Activities such as dramatizing literary scenes, listening to poetry performances, or creating student-produced videos encourage creativity and critical thinking. These practices shift learners from passive consumers of content to active creators, which is essential for effective literature instruction.

Best-Practice Methodological Strategies

Alignment of Tools and Objectives: Multimedia tools should be selected according to lesson goals—for example, digital storytelling for narrative analysis, interactive quizzes

for formative assessment, and infographics for collaborative interpretation.

Scaffolding and Media Literacy: Students should be guided in both technical skills and critical analysis of multimedia content to support deeper literary understanding.

Differentiation and Accessibility: Subtitles, adjustable pacing, and multiple content formats should be used to accommodate diverse learning needs and promote inclusive education.

Assessment and Evaluation: Clear rubrics should be developed to assess literary interpretation, multimedia literacy, creativity, and collaboration.

Conclusion

The integration of multimedia tools into literature teaching creates a dynamic and student-centered learning environment that effectively combines traditional and modern pedagogical approaches. When used purposefully and methodologically, multimedia technologies enhance instructional quality, support diverse learners, and foster deeper literary comprehension.

To achieve these outcomes, literature teachers must develop both subject-matter expertise and digital pedagogical competence. Multimedia tools should function as enriching instructional resources aligned with educational objectives rather than as replacements for fundamental teaching methods. Thoughtful and systematic use of multimedia ensures meaningful, engaging, and effective literature education in the digital age.

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