



The Erosion Of Constitutional Guarantees: A Critique Of The Court Of Appeal's "Light Touch Review" In Dr. Gabriel Mukuria v. Director Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) & Another

On 27th August 2010, Kenya promulgated a transformative Constitution that entrenched fair administrative action as a fundamental right under Article 47, guaranteeing every person the right to administrative action that is expeditious, efficient, lawful, reasonable, and procedurally fair

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News>> Honouring A Fallen Freedom Fighter: Veterans Association Appeals For Funds To Bury General Kiambati

P. 8. The Mau Mau War Veterans Association (MMWVA) has issued a heartfelt public appeal for financial support to facilitate the burial of the late General Njora Muronjo Kiambati



News>> Koskei Hails TVET Reforms As Kenya Positions Itself For The Global Skills Market

P. 12. The Head of Public Service and Chief of Staff, Felix Koskei, has lauded ongoing reforms in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector, saying they are central to positioning Kenya as a competitive supplier of skilled labour in the global economy.

Ruto Urges Global Investors To Back KSh5 Trillion Agenda

President William Ruto has called on the international community to invest in Kenya's ambitious KSh5 trillion, 10-year national transformation programme, describing it as a sustainable pathway to economic growth without burdening citizens with excessive debt or taxes.

Speaking during the annual New Year Diplomatic address to ambassadors, high commissioners, and heads of international organisations at State House, Nairobi yesterday, the President appealed to development finance institutions, global investors, pension funds, and the private sector to participate through the National Infrastructure Fund. He said the Fund offers long-term, stable investment opportunities with sustainable returns while supporting Kenya's development priorities.



President William Ruto

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"ALL BUSINESSES
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President Ruto Calls For Deeper Global Partnerships To Drive Kenya's Transformation Agenda

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatices

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President Ruto met diplomats at State House, Nairobi, where he reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to strengthening diplomatic engagement with the international community in pursuit of shared prosperity. Addressing ambassadors, high commissioners and heads of international institutions resident in Kenya during the New Year Diplomatic Briefing, the President underscored the importance of global cooperation in supporting Kenya's development ambitions.

He noted that Kenya's KSh5 trillion national transformation programme relies significantly on strong international partnerships. President Ruto invited development finance institutions, pension funds and private sector players to invest through the National Infrastructure Fund, describing it as a viable platform for long-term, sustainable investment that supports economic growth and job creation.

On regional peace and security, the President called for urgent international action to restore stability in Sudan, emphasising that a civilian-led political process remains the only viable path to lasting peace. He also urged continued dialogue and peace efforts in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, saying regional stability is essential for economic progress.

At the continental level, President Ruto reiterated Kenya's support for a stronger and better-funded African Union, a more effective Pan-African Parliament and the operationalisation of the African Court of Justice. He further advocated the full implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area to boost intra-African trade.

Globally, the President called for an inclusive, representative and equitable United Nations capable of responding decisively to today's complex challenges.



Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



President William Ruto yesterday met Italy's Minister for Universities and Research, Anna Maria Bernini, at State House, Nairobi, to discuss strengthening bilateral relations and witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Higher Education, Training, and Research between Kenya and Italy. The MoU aims to enhance cooperation through joint programmes, including the exchange of researchers, faculty, and students, implementation of collaborative research projects, and shared use of scientific and technological infrastructure. Both sides agreed to expand collaboration between universities, improve mobility for students and teaching staff, equip TVET institutions, and promote knowledge transfer, with a particular focus on Artificial Intelligence, strengthening Kenya's capacity in education, research, and innovation.



The High Court in Nyeri yesterday deferred plea-taking for Administration Police officer Peter Wamiti, who is accused of fatally shooting Karatina businessman George Gathu to next Wednesday. Lady Justice Maureen Odero has directed that Wamiti undergo a mental assessment to determine if he is fit to stand trial on murder charges. She further ordered that he remain in custody at Nyeri Maximum Prison until he appears in court next week.



African countries have been urged to adopt a coordinated approach to support the International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) Net-Zero Framework (NZF) as global shipping moves to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Association of African Maritime Administrations (AAMA) stressed that fragmented responses could increase costs and undermine competitiveness in the evolving maritime sector. The call follows the IMO's 2023 Revised GHG Strategy, which commits the shipping industry to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, with milestones in 2030 and 2040. The Net-Zero Framework, approved in April 2025, provides the operational blueprint for this transition.



The Nairobi AI Forum 2026, themed "Accelerating Adoption & Impact: Building Green Scalable AI Infrastructure with Africa's Innovators," was officially opened by Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and the Digital Economy, William Kabogo. The two-day forum aims to accelerate cross-border collaborations and financing models for green, sovereign AI infrastructure, turning Africa's resources into industrial economies that drive inclusive development. Kabogo emphasized Kenya's commitment to leveraging AI and digital technologies in line with the AI Strategy 2025-2030, including digital skilling, entrepreneurship, and public service transformation. Participants explored integrated approaches linking infrastructure builders, innovators, industry, and governments to accelerate AI adoption. The forum was co-hosted by Kenya, Italy, and the UNDP, with representatives from Italy, the EU, the G7, and regional industry leaders attending.



Homa Bay County Commissioner Ronald Mwiwawi has urged public servants to improve communication on government programs and policies. He stressed that as implementers of projects, they have a duty to inform citizens about initiatives aimed at improving livelihoods and driving national economic transformation. Mwiwawi noted that the public remains insufficiently informed about government progress and called for better coordination, monitoring of projects, and a strong stance against corruption. He warned against impunity and excessive politicking, especially on social media, and emphasized the importance of educating citizens on key programs, including universal health coverage, food security, affordable housing, and job creation.



Ndia MP George Kariuki (left) has announced a major education support initiative for students in his constituency. He revealed that Day Secondary School students will pay zero fees for the 2nd and 3rd terms, while Form 3 and Form 4 students will pay only KSh 3,000 for the 1st term. The bursary program, offered by the local NG-CDF aims to ease the financial burden on parents and make education more accessible. "Education is a right, not a privilege. By supporting our learners today, we are investing in a brighter future for our community," he said, reaffirming his commitment to empowering children through education. He spoke when he presided over the issuance of the bursary, totaling KSh62 million.

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Governors Suspend Senate Audit Appearances Over Alleged Extortion And Intimidation

By: Suleiman Mbatiah and Alex Njeru

@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The meeting, attended by more than 30 governors, reviewed the state of devolution, service delivery, and relations with national oversight institutions.
- Reading a statement on behalf of the council, CoG chairperson and Wajir Governor Ahmed Abdullahi accused some senators of abusing oversight powers and turning accountability forums into hostile interrogations targeting elected county leaders.

Governors have escalated a simmering dispute with the Senate after unanimously resolving to suspend all appearances before the Senate's County Public Accounts and Investment Committee (CPAIC), citing allegations of extortion, intimidation and humiliation during audit hearings.

The decision was reached during a two-day governors' retreat convened by the Council of Governors (CoG) in Kilifi County under the theme "Re-positioning the Council for Effective Service Delivery in Light of the Political Environment."

The meeting, attended by more than 30 governors, reviewed the state of devolution, service delivery, and relations with national oversight institutions.

Reading a statement on behalf of the council, CoG chairperson and Wajir Governor Ahmed Abdullahi accused some senators of abusing oversight powers and turning accountability forums into hostile interrogations targeting elected county leaders.

"The Council notes with great concern the continuous and escalating extortion, political witch-hunt, harassment, intimidation and humiliation of governors," Abdullahi said, adding that the situation had become untenable.

As a result, governors resolved they will not appear before the CPAIC until their grievances are addressed through a structured and candid engagement with Senate leadership. However, they maintained that the boycott does not amount to resistance to scrutiny.

"We support accountability that is lawful, ethical and respectful of constitutional offices. Accountability must be exercised professionally and



Governors in a group photo yesterday.

without intimidation if intergovernmental relations are to remain stable," the council said.

In a significant escalation, governors revealed they have identified four senators whom they allege are notorious for extorting governors during audit hearings. Although they did not name the senators publicly, the council said it is ready to present evidence, including names, during an open meeting with Senate leadership.

Abdullahi accused the committee of turning oversight into a public spectacle meant to embarrass and blackmail governors. He further alleged that some senators had installed cameras in committee rooms to livestream proceedings and shape what he termed "a different narrative."

The standoff follows a series of high-profile confrontations during audit hearings. Earlier this month,

Bungoma County was sharply questioned over Sh3.6 million spent on a Christmas tree lighting ceremony in September 2019. Bungoma Governor Kenneth Lusaka told the committee the expenditure predated his tenure, saying he was being held accountable for decisions made before he assumed office.

In another incident, Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki reportedly walked out of a hearing, prompting threats of enforcement action from senators. Garissa Governor Nathif Jama has also complained publicly of threats of penalties and travel restrictions over delayed appearances.

Beyond CPAIC, governors raised concerns over repeated summons by the Senate's Committee on Public Investments Committee (CPIC) within a single audit cycle.

They argued that multiple appearanc-

es over similar issues disrupt service delivery at the county level.

To streamline engagements, governors resolved they will appear only once per audit cycle before the investment committee, while continuing to cooperate with other lawful oversight processes.

The dispute echoes concerns previously raised at the national level.

Last year, President William Ruto alleged that some Senate proceedings had turned into a "marketplace," claiming governors were subjected to demands for bribes during audit and impeachment hearings.

Despite the hardline stance, governors reaffirmed their commitment to transparency and prudent use of public funds, insisting their actions are aimed at protecting devolution and restoring credibility, integrity and mutual respect in intergovernmental oversight.

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Honouring A Fallen Freedom Fighter: Veterans Association Appeals For Funds To Bury General Kiambati

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyentimes

The Mau Mau War Veterans Association (MMWVA) has issued a heartfelt public appeal for financial support to facilitate the burial of the late General Njora Muronjo Kiambati, a celebrated Mau Mau freedom fighter from Ngorika, Nyandarua County, who passed away recently.

In an appeal released yesterday, the Association called upon well-wishers, fellow veterans, patriotic Kenyans, institutions, and friends of the liberation movement to stand with the family during this difficult moment.

The Association noted that the late General deserves a dignified burial befitting his immense sacrifice and lifelong service to the nation.

General Njora Muronjo Kiambati, also known as General Njoro Muronjo Kiambati, was among the brave men and women who took up arms

against British colonial rule during the 1950s Mau Mau uprising.

Like many freedom fighters of his generation, he endured detention, forced displacement, and severe hardship during the State of Emergency. Despite these ordeals, he remained steadfast in his commitment to the liberation of Kenya.

According to the Association, the late General's courage and resilience exemplified the spirit of resistance that ultimately led to Kenya's independence in 1963.

"He was a true patriot whose sacrifices cannot be measured in material terms," the statement read.

"As a nation, we owe him and his peers eternal gratitude."

To ensure that the late General is laid to rest with dignity, the Mau Mau War Veterans Association has appealed for contributions to support burial arrangements and assist the bereaved family. Donors have been asked to channel their support through the following accounts:

Co-operative Bank, Hilton Branch –

Nairobi

Account Number: 01100685149001

Alternatively, contributions may be sent via:

Pay Bill Number: 400200

Account Number: 842548

The Association emphasised that all funds received will be used solely for burial-related expenses and family support.

Last week, a few days after the General died, the association wrote a similar letter to a caucus for surviving Mau Mau fighters and their families across the country seeking its interventions in raising funds for the same purpose.

Both letters were signed by the association's officials; Githaiga Gikonoyo (National Coordinato), Pius Njogu (National Secretary General) and Bishop Jane Mumbi Ngethe Kinyiriria (National Patron).

The letter to the caucus; MMV Associates CLG was written to its director James Njuguna Mahuria.

Yesterday, Mahuria said his organization was working with other stake-



General Njora Muronjo Kiambati

holders to ensure that the late General is accorded a fitting burial.

He said his group's mandate goes beyond welfare assistance to include advocacy for recognition, restitution, and dignity for freedom fighters.

They also play a vital role in preserving the history of Kenya's liberation struggle, ensuring that the sacrifices of veterans are documented and passed on to future generations.

Senate PAC Chair Hits Back At Governors' Threat To Boycott Oversight Committees

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyentimes

Senate Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Chairman Moses Kajwang has condemned a resolution by the Council of Governors (CoG) in Kilifi County, in which governors threatened to appear before Senate oversight committees only under their terms. Kajwang said the move undermines the Senate's constitutional mandate and called on governors to respect their accountability obligations to the public.

In a statement, Kajwang noted that the CoG resolution implies governors would dictate who sits on the committees, when they should appear, and how they should be questioned. "I have never seen a case where suspects demand to empanel the bench," he said, describing the move as an attempt to intimidate and limit Senate

oversight.

The CoG, at a two-day retreat in Kilifi themed "Re-positioning the Council for Effective Service Delivery in Light of the Political Environment," accused some senators of extortion, harassment, and humiliation during audit hearings.

The council said it would suspend appearances before the Senate County Public Accounts and Investment Committee (CPAIC) until grievances are addressed through structured engagement with Senate leadership. Governors also raised concerns over repeated summons, alleged misuse of oversight powers, and the negative impact of frequent hearings on service delivery.

Responding to the CoG, Kajwang stressed that Articles 229 and 125 of the Constitution empower the Senate to consider Auditor General reports and summon anyone to give evidence. He said recent Auditor General reports and media coverage

highlight serious allegations of county-level corruption, and he accused governors of trying to shield themselves from scrutiny.

"Kenya is not foolish; citizens have seen the plunder in counties and can tell when governors are bullying the Senate to stop asking hard questions," Kajwang said. He called on governors to present any evidence of extortion or harassment to relevant authorities, while affirming that the Senate will continue investigating misuse of public resources without fear or favor.

Kajwang added that accountability is a duty to the public, not a favor to the Senate, reiterating the PAC's commitment to probe corruption and protect taxpayer funds. The stand-off comes amid increasing tension between county governments and national oversight bodies, with both sides insisting they are defending their constitutional mandates.

This latest exchange signals that



Senator Moses Kajwang

relations between governors and the Senate remain tense, with potential implications for the implementation of oversight, county audits, and inter-governmental coordination.

President Ruto Urges Global Investors To Back Kenya's KSh5 Trillion Transformation Agenda

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- President Ruto explained that the transformation programme is anchored on large-scale infrastructure expansion, including accelerated growth of the national road network and a significant increase in energy generation capacity to 10,000 megawatts. This, he noted, will provide reliable power to drive industrialisation, innovation, and job creation.
- The plan also prioritises water security through expanded water storage, harvesting, and irrigation infrastructure. These investments are expected to bring an additional 2.5 million acres under cultivation, strengthening food security and boosting agricultural productivity.
- Education, research, and innovation form another key pillar of the agenda. The President said Kenya will fully implement its statutory commitment to increase funding for research and development from 0.8 per cent to 2 per cent of GDP. Over the next decade, this will build a research and innovation fund estimated at KSh1 trillion, positioning Kenya as a regional knowledge and innovation hub.

President William Ruto has called on the international community to invest in Kenya's ambitious KSh5 trillion, 10-year national transformation programme, describing it as a sustainable pathway to economic growth without burdening citizens with excessive debt or taxes.

Speaking during the annual New Year Diplomatic address to ambassadors, high commissioners, and heads of international organisations at State House, Nairobi yesterday, the President appealed to development finance institutions, global investors, pension funds, and the private sector to participate through the National Infrastructure Fund. He said the Fund offers long-term, stable investment opportunities with sustainable returns while supporting Kenya's development priorities.

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"We estimate that these initiatives will require about \$40 billion (KSh5 trillion) in investment," President Ruto said, adding that the government is determined to mobilise resources through partnerships, including public-private collaborations, rather than unsustainable borrowing.

On foreign policy, the President reaffirmed that regional peace and stability remain central to Kenya's international engagement. He called for urgent international action to restore peace in Sudan, emphasising that there is no military solution to the crisis and that an inclusive, civilian-led political process is the only viable path to lasting peace. He also urged



President William Ruto with Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi yesterday. Photos/Courtesy

dialogue and cooperation to stabilise the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan.

At the continental level, President Ruto advocated for stronger, better-funded African institutions. He called for enhanced financing of the African Union and its Peace Fund, a more effective Pan-African Parliament, and the full operationalisation of the African Court of Justice. He further stressed the importance of fully implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area to boost intra-African trade.

Globally, the President pushed for a stronger and more responsive United Nations, warning that defunding UN agencies weakens multilateral cooperation. He argued that Africa's exclusion from permanent representation on the UN Security Council undermines the institution's legitimacy and called for comprehensive reforms to reflect 21st-century realities.

President Ruto also highlighted the need to reform the global financial architecture to support sustainable debt management and unlock private capital for development. He noted

Kenya's progress in strengthening trade through agreements with the European Union and the United Arab Emirates, with negotiations with China and the United States at advanced stages.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi said Kenya continues to earn global respect, while diplomats and UN officials praised the government's openness and commitment to international cooperation and sustainable development goals.



Some of the diplomats during yesterday's meeting.

DPP Opens Murder Trial Of MP Charles Ong’ondo Were

The Director of Public Prosecutions
By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

(DPP) has signaled the start of a high-profile trial over the murder of Charles Ong’ondo Were, pledging to present a detailed account of the conspiracy and greed that led to the lawmaker’s death.

In an opening statement delivered by Senior Assistant DPP Gikui Gichuhi before Kibera High Court Judge Lady Justice Diana Kavedza, the prosecution described Were’s killing as a “carefully orchestrated plot executed by a friend-turned-foe.” Investigators allege that a bodyguard, entrusted with the MP’s protection, colluded with others seeking to eliminate him, using hired machinery to carry out the crime.

“The prosecution will present credible and cogent evidence to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the five accused persons before you jointly planned and executed this heinous act,” Gichuhi told the court.

The prosecution outlined the roles of each accused: the third accused allegedly pulled strings to protect his secrets, while the first accused meticulously planned the murder. The second accused is said to have provided the weapon and concealed the crime. The fourth allegedly pulled the trigger for financial gain, and the fifth abused a position of trust to hand the MP to his killers.

The DPP emphasized the personal and public loss, noting that Were was not only a legislator but also a father and husband, whose family depended on him for care and guidance.

The five accused—William Imoli alias Imo, Edwin Odour Odhiambo alias Machuani, Ebel Ochieng alias Dave Calo, Isaac Kuria, and Allan Ogola—are charged with murdering Ong’ondo Were on the night of April 30, 2025, at around 7:40 p.m.

The prosecution team is led by Vincent Monda, Gikui Gichuhi, Peris Maina, and Christine Timoi. The court is set to hear testimony and examine forensic and documentary evidence linking the accused to the murder, as the trial unfolds.



The suspects



Experts Raise Red Flag On Toxic Foods, Urge Government To Prioritize Organic Farming

By: Felix Njenga
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during a graduation ceremony at the College of Sustainable Agriculture for Eastern Africa in Kilimambogo, stakeholders cautioned that Kenya is at a public health crossroads.
- The event, which saw a new cohort of students certified in organic studies, became a platform for a heated critique of the country's current food production systems.
- Ngugi Mutuura, Director of the Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programme (SACDEP), led the charge, claiming that the push for high yields has come at a deadly cost.
- "We are raising a red flag. The food we are consuming today is increasingly becoming toxic due to excessive use of fertilizers and harmful chemicals," Mutuura said.
- He specifically called out "get-rich-quick" entrepreneurs who use unauthorized chemicals to artificially ripen crops for the market.



Ngugi Mutuura Executive director SACDEP with Chief guest Annette Massman from Germany.

Agricultural experts have issued a stern warning to the government, calling for an urgent shift toward organic farming as chemically produced foods continue to drive a surge in lifestyle diseases and cancers across the country.

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"We are raising a red flag. The food we are consuming today is increasingly becoming toxic due to excessive use of fertilizers and harmful chemicals," Mutuura said.

He specifically called out "get-rich-quick" entrepreneurs who use unauthorized chemicals to artificially ripen crops for the market.

Mutuura linked these practices directly to the rise in chronic illnesses, suggesting that without intervention, the nation's food supply is effectively being "turned into poison."

The experts criticized current agricultural policies that heavily subsidize synthetic fertilizers and Genet-

ically Modified (GMO) seeds while neglecting organic alternatives. Mutuura alleged that Kenya has become a "dumping ground" for agro-chemicals that are restricted or banned in other parts of the world.

To protect the public, the experts proposed several key interventions like clear labeling where there will be mandatory separation and labeling of organic and GMO produce on supermarket shelves, Policy Support with the government backing for institutions training the next generation of organic farmers and Market Regulation with stricter oversight on the use of ripening agents and pesticides.

The ceremony's chief guest, Dr. Annette Massman from Germany, high-

lighted the dual benefit of organic agriculture, health and wealth.

She urged Kenyan youth to view sustainable farming not just as a lifestyle choice, but as a lucrative career.

"Organic food plays a significant role in reducing lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and heart disease," Dr. Massman noted.

However, she clarified that the focus must remain on the nutritional value and integrity of the soil rather than just the "organic" label.

Despite the growing demand for clean food, the infrastructure for training remains thin. Ruth Mukiri, the college principal, noted that the institution is unique in its focus but cannot meet the national demand

alone.

She called for private sector investment to bridge the gap in organic agricultural education.

"The future of agriculture must not only feed the nation—it must safeguard its health," Mukiri stated, adding that organic value chains could simultaneously solve the twin crises of environmental degradation and youth unemployment.

Graduates, including Meshack Mutata, expressed readiness to return to their communities; ranging from the highlands to arid pastoral lands to implement climate-resilient, chemical-free farming methods.



Some of the graduates

Koskei Hails TVET Reforms As Kenya Positions Itself For The Global Skills Market

By: MKT Correspondents

@themtkenyentimes

The Head of Public Service and Chief of Staff, Felix Koskei, has lauded ongoing reforms in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector, saying they are central to positioning Kenya as a competitive supplier of skilled labour in the global economy.

Koskei spoke last Friday during the third Nyeri National Polytechnic International Research and Innovation Conference and Skills Expo, in remarks delivered on his behalf by Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba.

He said the government has deliberately placed skills development at the heart of national growth, noting that Kenya's economic future will be shaped not by the number of academic degrees produced, but by the availability of skilled hands, innovative minds and competent professionals prepared for industry, enterprise and the world of work.

He explained that the renewed focus on TVET is driven by changing global labour market demands. According to global projections, the world is expected to face a shortage of more than 85 million skilled workers by 2030, a reality that underscores the urgency for countries to realign their education and training systems. Kenya, he said, has responded by rolling out sweeping reforms in the TVET sector.

These reforms include the introduction of a dual training model that blends classroom learning with hands-on industry experience, the operationalisation of the recognition of prior learning to certify existing skills, the digitisation of skills mapping, and major investments in modern equipment and infrastructure across TVET institutions. Koskei emphasised that these measures are not mere administrative adjustments, but structural shifts designed to reposition Kenya as a serious player in the global skills economy.

"For many years, technical and vocational education was viewed as an alternative path. Today, it sits at the very centre of our national development agenda," he said, adding that TVET institutions must move beyond theory to practical application in workshops, laboratories, enterprises and communities.

The three-day conference and expo was held under the theme "Applied Research and Innovation as a Cata-

lyst for Skills, Employment and Sustainable Development." It brought together researchers, policymakers, industry leaders, trainers and development partners at a time when the country is rethinking the role of technical and vocational skills in addressing unemployment and driving sustainable development.

Nyeri Governor Dr. Mutahi Kahiga described the conference as a game-changer in skills development. He said the county government has implemented targeted and affirmative programmes to ensure young people access relevant education, practical training and opportunities that prepare them for dignified livelihoods.

Kahiga highlighted investments aimed at improving the quality and relevance of training in Nyeri's 28 youth polytechnics, including the distribution of modern tools and equipment and the construction of workshops to provide conducive learning environments. To boost access and retention, he said the county has dedicated 30 per cent of the Nyeri County Elimu Fund bursary to support learners in tertiary institutions.

The governor reaffirmed his commitment to partnering with the national government and other stakeholders to ensure quality, relevant education remains accessible. He also urged young people to embrace technical and vocational careers, noting that despite adequate training capacity, enrolment remains low due to negative perceptions, yet such careers often offer more reliable employment opportunities than white-collar jobs.

Meanwhile, Car & General (C&G), a leading supplier of power generation, engineering, and mobility solutions in East Africa, participated in the forum that brought together educationists, innovators, researchers, policymakers, and TVET stakeholders to advance skills development and technology adoption across Kenya.

At the expo, C&G exhibited TVS motorcycles, power generation equipment, and initiatives under its CarGen Tech-Up program, highlighting the company's commitment to supporting TVET institutions and empowering youth with industry-relevant skills. Raphael Atanda, Head of Communications at C&G, emphasized, "Collaboration between technical institutions and industry produces not only job-ready graduates but also self-reliant youth that drive the economy through en-



Education CS Julius Ogamba, Nyeri National Polytechnic Chief Principal Dr David Mwangi, Nyeri Governor Dr Mutahi Kahiga with other officials at the institution last week. Photo/Courtesy.

trepreneurship."

As part of its partnership with Nyeri National Polytechnic, C&G will inaugurate a state-of-the-art motorcycle repair centre at the institute. Atanda noted, "Motorcycles are not just mobility tools but economic lifelines powering millions of lives across Kenya, from youth

employment to last-mile delivery."

He added that the company is enhancing investments in two- and three-wheeler electric vehicles and the necessary supporting infrastructure.

The two-wheeler sector, which employs millions and includes over two million riders; 75% of whom

are youth contributes about 4.4% of Kenya's GDP and over KSh60 billion in fuel taxes. This year, C&G celebrates 90 years of shaping East Africa's mobility and power landscape through innovation, resilience, and sustainability.



Consolata Mungai (left), Marketing Executive of Car & General, discuss a point on the TVS HLX 125 motorcycle with John Chomba, Head of the Automotive Engineering Department of Nyeri National Polytechnic during the 3rd International Research, Science and Innovation Conference and Skills Expo 2026 held at the polytechnic. Looking on is Francis Ngugi (right), TVS Sales Executive of C&G.

Invisible Labour, Visible Pain: The Hidden Cost Of Unpaid Care Work

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themtkenyentimes

It is pitch black in a village in Ri-ana Ward of Bonchari Constituency in Kisii County. A rooster crows, breaking the silence.

While most villagers are still asleep, 34-year-old Ruth Moraa has already swept her compound, made two return trips to fetch water from a stream a kilometre away, and is now stirring porridge on a firewood stove for breakfast for her husband and three children.

“Wake up. You will be late for school,” Moraa calls to her children as she pours uji into mugs.

Once the children are up, she helps them brush their teeth, put on their uniforms, eat porridge, and leave for school. She then heads to the family’s farm to till, weed, or pick tea. Later, she returns to serve her husband breakfast, releases the family’s two cows from the pen, and takes the tea she has picked to the buying centre.

Moraa’s caring for children, and occasionally looking after her ailing mother-in-law and anything else that comes up, day is filled with unpaid care tasks—tending crops, cooking, cleaning, collecting firewood. She barely rests, yet none of this is recognised as “work” in the economic sense.

When she asks her husband for money to buy soap and sanitary pads for their teenage daughter, or sugar for tea, arguments erupt. He often dismisses her with harsh words: “You do not work and bring money to this house. So, do not try to assist me in spending the little I have made.”

Sometimes verbal insults escalate into physical violence.

Invisible backbone of society

Moraa’s story mirrors the experience of many women across Kenya. The 2021 Time Use Survey by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) found that women in Kenya spend an average of 27.38 hours per week on unpaid care and domestic work, compared to men’s 5.38 hours.

“In these counties, women wake up between 4.00 am and 5.00 am, and their day’s work rarely ends before 9.00 pm,” says Jane Nyamusi, a gender officer in Nyamira.

UN Women describes care work as the backbone of households and so-

cieties, yet it remains invisible, unpaid, and undervalued. According to the UN body, African women spend 3.1 times more time on unpaid care work than men, including fetching water, collecting firewood, doing laundry, preparing food, and caring for children, the sick, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

“Women’s unpaid contributions subsidize the economy, but at the personal cost of missed income opportunities, financial vulnerability, and limited autonomy,” notes the Women’s Economic Empowerment Strategy released in January 2024 by UN Women.

Globally, women perform 75 per cent of unpaid care and domestic work. Despite being essential, care work is excluded from gross domestic product (GDP) calculations and overlooked in policy planning in most countries, especially in Africa.

Economic dependence and gender-based violence

Across much of Africa, unpaid care work has become an invisible trap, binding women to economic dependence and increasing their vulnerability to gender-based violence (GBV).

In rural areas, where cultural norms assign household duties almost exclusively to women, and access to water, electricity, and childcare is limited, the burden is heavier, more exhausting, and often dangerous.

Nyamusi explains that because these tasks go unpaid and unrecognised, women remain financially dependent on their husbands.

“This dependence becomes a trigger for violence whenever money is discussed,” she says.

In Kisii town, 30-year-old Kwamboka* became a housewife after quitting her tailoring following the birth of her second child. With no daycare and no one to watch their children, she stayed home to tend to them and the family farm. She relies on her husband, a boda boda rider, for everything from rent to food and school fees for the children.

“Any time I request him for even Sh100 to buy vegetables, he insults me, saying I am lazy,” Kwamboka whispers. “Sometimes he withholds money deliberately, knowing I have nowhere else to turn.”

Thomson Osoro, an activist with Rigena Human Rights, a local lobby group, says this form of economic violence, where men use money as a weapon of control, is common.

“Women are forced to endure verbal

abuse, forced sex, or being locked out of household financial decisions simply because they are not seen as ‘breadwinners’ since they stay at home,” Osoro says.

A 2022 report by the National Crime Research Centre found that poverty is one of the leading drivers of intimate partner violence in Kenya. Without independent income or ownership of land, women often have little bargaining power. Yet, even career women are not spared.

Lilian Gor, a nominated Member of the County Assembly (MCA) in Kisii County, says unpaid labour extends to workplaces. In schools, female teachers, particularly those in Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) and lower primary, are often expected to take on tasks outside their professional duties, such as cooking and serving guests.

“These responsibilities are disproportionately assigned to women, despite not falling within their job description,” she says.

“They are expected to deliver the curriculum while also attending to the out-of-classroom needs of learners. Yet, their compensation only covers teaching,” Gor adds, and urges counties to develop policies that would support the employment and remuneration of both ECDE teachers and caregivers.

Samwel Bosire, chairperson of the Abagusii Council of Elders, observes that women are expected to shoulder the burden of domestic chores, often at the expense of their personal growth and participation in income-generating activities. He adds that women are increasingly contributing to household income, but expectations at home have not shifted.

“A woman who works the whole day in the market or office is still expected to prepare food, clean, and attend to children without fail,” he says. “When she cannot meet these demands due to fatigue or lack of time, conflicts arise. Many of these conflicts escalate into gender-based violence.”

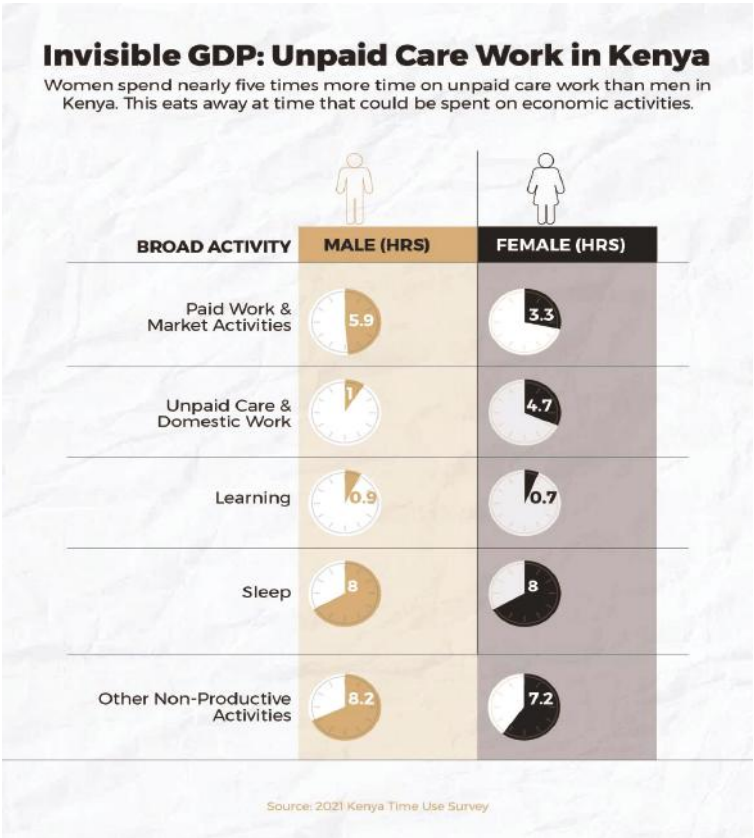
Bosire says the imbalance in sharing domestic responsibilities breeds resentment, which can fuel emotional, physical, or economic abuse. Men, feeling entitled to certain services at home, may resort to violence when their expectations are not met.



Ruth Moraa's caring for children, and occasionally looking after her ailing mother-in-law and anything else that comes up, day is filled with unpaid care tasks Photo / Elizabeth Angira



Kwamboka relies on her husband, a boda boda rider, for everything from rent to food and school fees for the children.photo/Elizabeth Angira



My Human Medicine Is



Making others feel happiness
Be a load bearing stones
Be a sign board for path finders
Be a healer for their worries
Be humility and spread humanity .

Rajesh Kanna B N

RAJESH KANNA.B N
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My Butterfly



Oh...! My butterfly...My butterfly ...
How colorful you are...!!!
How beautiful you are...!!
My dear butterfly...!!!

Oh...! My butterfly... My butterfly ...
I look for you in my garden..
And I found you in the flower....
I like you so much....
My dear butterfly...!!!

Oh...! My butterfly... My butterfly...
I imagine myself as a butterfly..
I flew with joy all over the garden..
I am so happy as a butterfly..
My dear butterfly...!!!

Oh....! My butterfly...My butterfly...
I learn colours by admiring your wings..
Let me say some colours..
Violet, indigo, blue, green
Yellow , orange, red, brown
Black, pink .. and more..
My dear butterfly...!!!

Oh...! My butterfly.... My butterfly...
I like to see you tomorrow
with my friends ...
Good bye my dear butterfly!!!
You are so beautiful...!!!
You are my happiness...!!!
And you are my best friend...!!!

G.YASMINSIRAJUDHEEN
SGT
Pums Karadikuppam Melmalayanur Block
Villupuram District.

G. Yasmin Sirajudheen

Every One Becomes A Poet



Ferrying the fresh fragrance
Of blushing blossoms;
A sachet of jogging clouds
And I prepared a spicy dish
Named as poetry
Garnished with ornamental
Metaphors and Similes.
When respiting nature wakes up
Everyone becomes a poet.

By
Shyni. S. S,
B. T. Assistant,
GHSS Rameshwaram.

I culled a spoonful of tepid sunlight
Blended with Argentine mist;
A bushel of pacifying breeze

Smile On The Face, Coolness On The Inside



Smile on the face, coolness on the inside,
Clarity of mind, that's happiness!
Happiness that does not bring great feelings,
A little smile would be enough!"

"All worries vanish in the air,
Without a teardrop, the heart blossoms,
Isn't a smile enough?
Healing wounds!"

"Peace is not outside.
The joy you are looking for in your heart!
Life is a journey, enjoy it,

Don't run in search of happiness, breathe it!"

"I'm glad you have a mind that protects your mind.

True happiness is the blossoming of the mind and character.

Sprinkle love and reduce desires,
Let's live happily ever after!"

"A smile that blossoms,
The burden of the mind,
Pleasant laughter,
You will make what you don't have!"

Let's laugh and live!

Sr.Amala
Krishnagiri

Passion



a bang.
Go deeper.
Practice what once felt impossible.
Fall, learn, rise—
but never give up.
When frustration weighs you down,
pause.
Breathe.

Begin again with freshness.
Don't take everything too seriously;
let life unfold in its own way.
Enjoy the ride.

In moments of struggle,
close your eyes and listen—
your inner voice will always stand by you.
Happiness is, after all,
your own responsibility.
Figure your path,
and make your life precious, rare, and valuable.

By
ZAHETHA R
BT ASST
GHS PAPPANTHANGAL
TVM DIST

Finding your passion
is the most important journey of life,
because it helps you to discover
who you truly are.
Believe in yourself—
you are capable of more than you imagine.
Live through your heart.
Overcome your fears.
Face the challenges that reveal your
strength,
for only then does life become meaningful.
Be thankful to God for this breath, this
moment, this life.
Write down your joys and your wounds—
let your words bring you back stronger, with

Prayer For A Better Tomorrow



Oh Lord,
We thank Thee for this best today,
For better than our hope,
We pray for a brighter morrow than this day.
Without any dangers,
Without any pains,
Without chaos,
Without panic situations...

May tomorrow be a day of awesome events.
May patients not suffer,
May elders not stumble,
May women not cry with fear.
May we not be loaded with our toils,
May we not fight with endless struggles,
May we have a very peaceful day.
Supporting with prayers, meditation, and
silence,
For the consequent day in sequence...
Oh Lord, please grant our prayers.

V.R. Vijayalakshmi, Graduate Teacher,
Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, India

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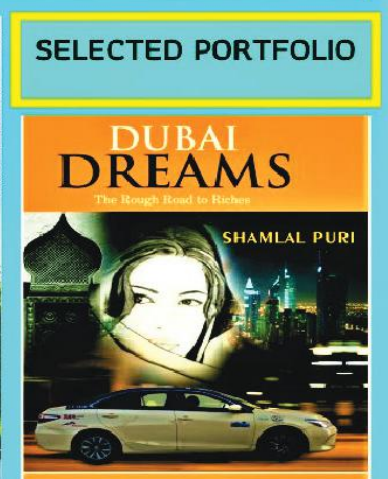
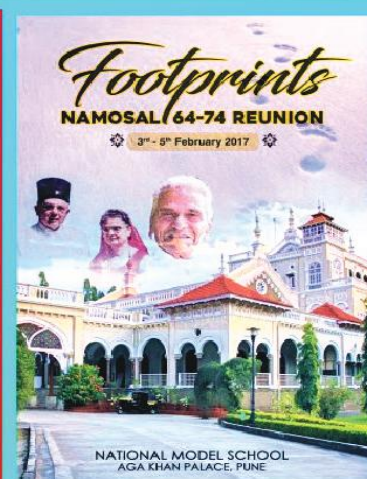
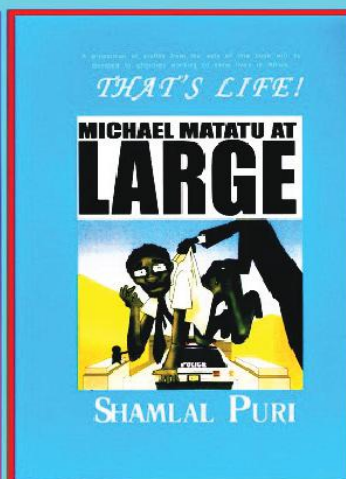
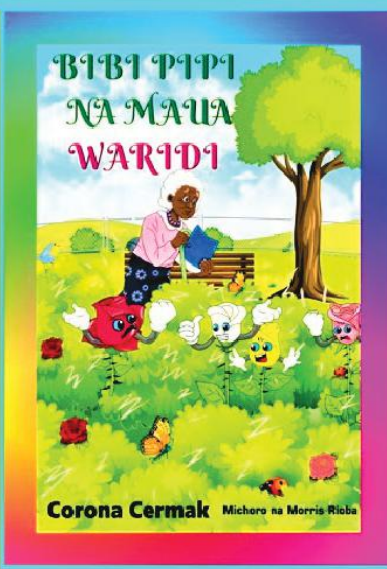
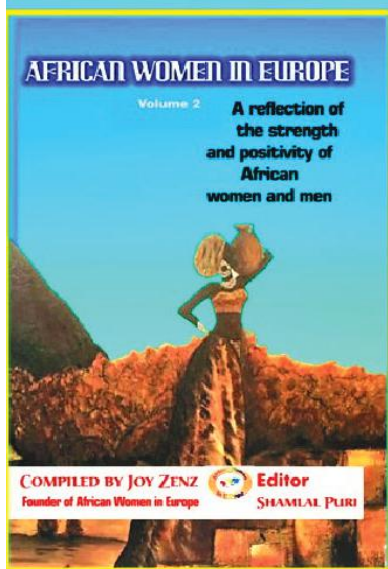
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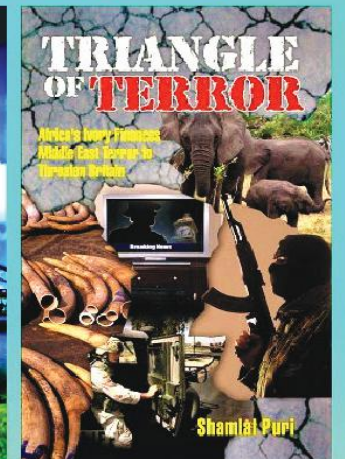
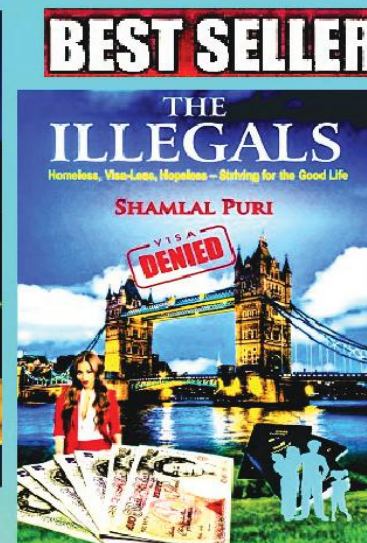
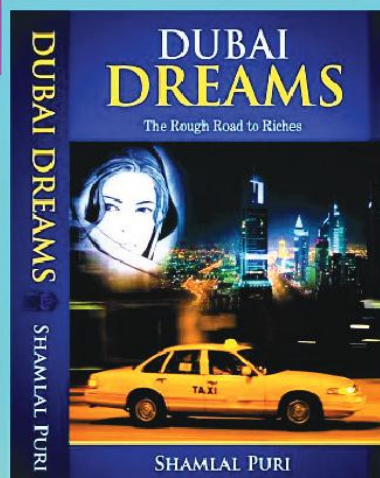
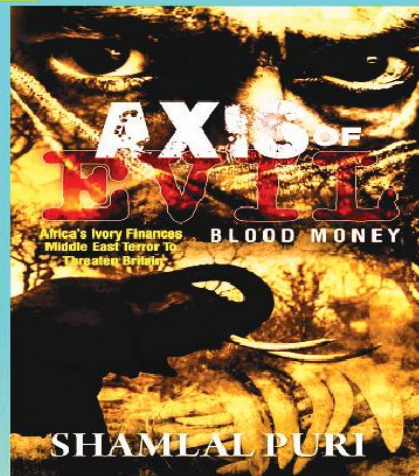
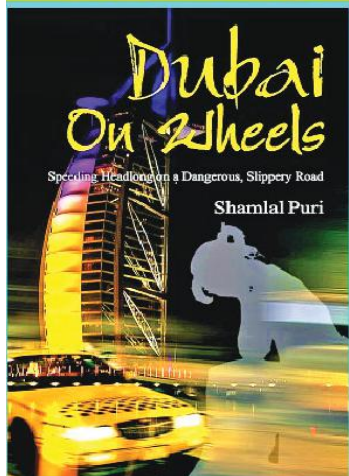
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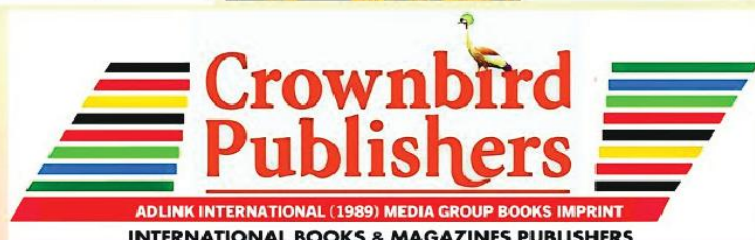
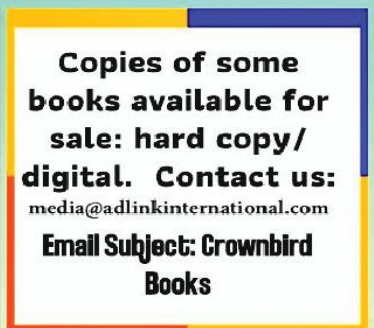
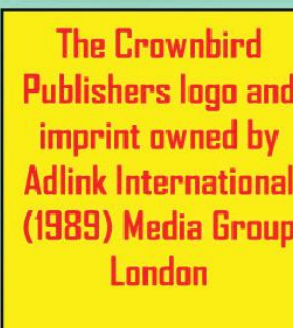
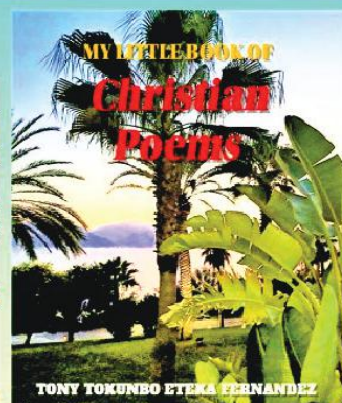
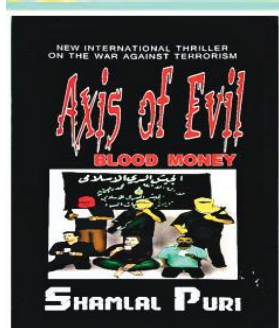
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Invisible Labour, Visible Pain: The Hidden Cost Of Unpaid Care Work

Contd from page 13

“Unpaid care work has silently trapped many women into cycles of violence,” he says.

This is because some men, instead of appreciating the dual roles their wives play, interpret any delay or shortcoming as neglect.

“That is where you hear cases of verbal abuse, beatings, or even abandonment,” he says.

“As a community, we must begin to see unpaid care work as work. If men and women share these responsibilities fairly, there will be less tension in homes, stronger families, and fewer cases of violence. Our cultural values must evolve to match today’s realities,” he adds.

Addressing the gap

Although Kenya has frameworks like the National Policy on Gender and Development (2019), unpaid care work remains largely invisible in budgeting and planning.

Citing global examples, policy analyst Dennis Anyoka says that Kenya could learn from countries that have integrated time-use surveys into policy planning.

“In countries like Mexico and South Africa, data from time-use surveys have been used to design childcare services, flexible work arrangements, and targeted social protection programmes,” he says. “Kenya must follow suit by recognising unpaid care work in economic statistics and developing policies that redistribute this burden.”

He emphasises that addressing unpaid care work is not just about women’s rights; it is also about economic growth and social stability.

While there are cash transfer programmes for older persons and orphans, few directly target women caregivers.

Gor, the MCA, welcomes the Persons with Disability Act (Act No. 4 of 2025), describing it as one of the few legal frameworks that explicitly recognise the contribution of caregivers. It provides a monthly stipend for caregivers of persons with severe disabilities, particularly those with mental health conditions.

“This is a huge relief to caregivers who are full-time providers of these services,” she says.

At the county level, Gor, the MCA, says the current frameworks are not fully gender-responsive. She says

most of the focus is on infrastructure spending meant to address general needs across the population.

“We look forward to more specific budgeting, for example, an additional earning for female workers with children, which can help cover the cost of domestic workers and allow women to focus fully on their jobs,” she says.

Gaps also exist in supporting women who suffer GBV associated with unpaid care work.

“GBV rescue centres exist but are underfunded and lack long-term solutions for women who return home to the same cycle of unpaid care and economic dependence,” says Kisii County Woman Representative Dorice Donya.

Local solutions offering hope

Nevertheless, some community-led initiatives are making a difference.

Daycare centres allow mothers time to go to the markets or pursue small businesses. More than 20 children are dropped off at Roset Daycare in Nyanchwa Estate in Kisii County every morning by mothers working as traders, tailors, and casual labourers.

Jackline Kemunto, a banana trader, previously carried her children to the market, costing her sales whenever she took time to attend to a child who was crying or unwell.

“Whenever business was low, and I made little, quarrels at home grew, with my husband accusing me of not working hard or hiding some earnings,” she adds.

Now with daycare, her earnings are fairly stable, and she says, “Our home is peaceful.”

“Since we started the daycare, women report better sales and less stress,” says Emily Kemunto, who is in charge of Roset Daycare. “It may look small, but it’s transformative.”

Even cultural attitudes are shifting as fathers who once avoided childcare now occasionally drop off and pick up their children.

“Wednesdays are mine,” says John Ong’era, a carpenter from Nyamira, “I pick up my son, and on the way home, I buy milk. My wife respects me more, and I respect her hustle.”

Bringing water closer home

According to Donya, access to water has also proven transformative. In Bobaracho, Kisii County, a solar-powered borehole installed in 2024 reduced water-fetching time from three hours to under 30 min-

utes.

“Before, I walked nearly four kilometres to fetch water, sometimes at dawn or dusk when it was unsafe,” says Milka Kemuma, a mother of five. “My husband would be angry when I returned late. Now, the borehole is 10 minutes away. We fetch water together sometimes. Even my sons help.”

Local chief Charles Ayienda says his office sees fewer domestic violence cases linked to household chores after the borehole was commissioned.

“When water was scarce, we had incessant conflicts,” Ayienda says. “The borehole has reduced both quarrels and risks of sexual harassment that women faced in forests and rivers.”

The borehole committee, which includes both men and women, ensures the resource’s transparent management and discussions, including topical issues like shared household responsibility.

The way forward: Sharing the care load

Experts stress that solutions must go beyond infrastructure. Changing gender norms is crucial.

“Men must be part of the conversation,” argues Bishop Lawrence Nyanuga, “If we do not teach boys and men to share care work, cooking, washing, and watching children, then women will continue to suffer silently.”

He adds that economic empower-



Samwel Bosire, chairperson of the Abagusii Council of Elders, says that Unpaid care work has silently trapped many women into cycles of violence photo/Elizabeth Angira

ment programmes should integrate land rights, access to credit, and protection from GBV.

“Otherwise, giving women skills without freeing their time or securing their safety is like pouring water into a basket,” he says.

Moraa’s unbroken dawn

As the sun sets over Nyamira’s rolling hills, Moraa sits by the fire, stirring ugali for her family’s dinner. She wonders what life would be like if her labour was valued, if she had her own income, or if her husband treated her as an equal partner.

“I do not want riches,” she says softly. “I just want respect and some

freedom.”

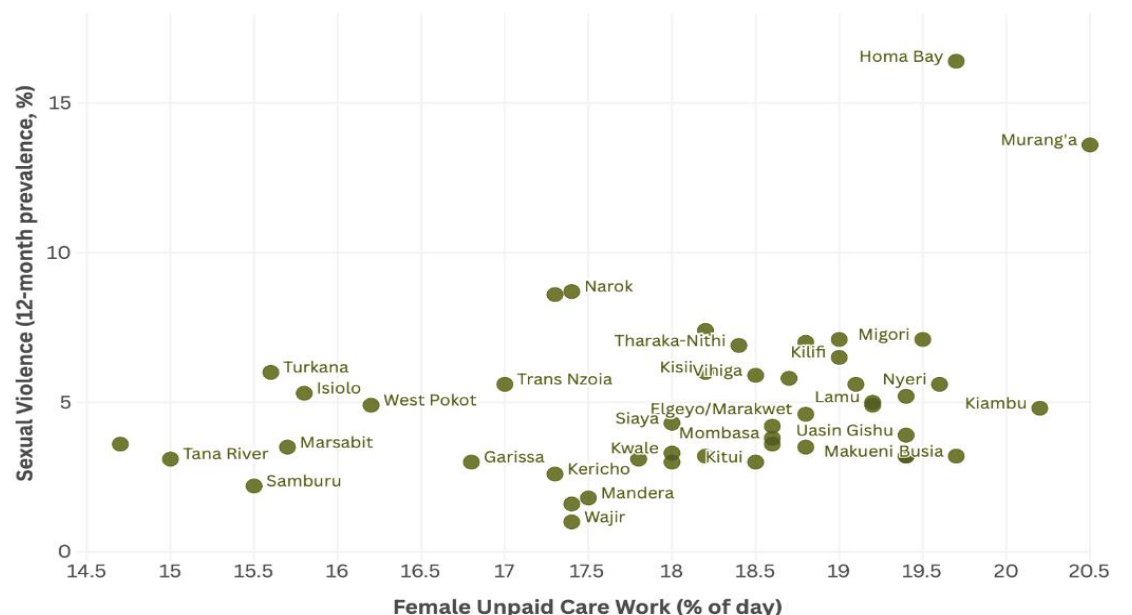
Her words echo the silent hopes of countless women in Kisii and Nyamira Counties and many parts of Kenya and Africa whose unpaid care keeps families alive, yet their economic dependence leaves them vulnerable to violence.

Until unpaid care work is recognised, reduced, and redistributed, their dawns will continue to break the same way: with invisible labour, invisible rights, and invisible wounds.

This article was produced with support from the Africa Women’s Journalism Project (AWJP).

Kenya Counties: Unpaid Care Work vs. Sexual Violence

Counties where women spend more time on unpaid care work tend to have slightly higher rates of reported sexual violence.



Source: 2022 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey, 2021 Kenya Time Use Survey

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The Erosion Of Constitutional Guarantees:

A Critique Of The Court Of Appeal's "Light Touch Review" in Dr. Gabriel Mukuria v. Director Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) & Another



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

On 27th August 2010, Kenya promulgated a transformative Constitution that entrenched fair administrative action as a fundamental right under Article 47, guaranteeing every person the right to administrative action that is expeditious, efficient, lawful, reasonable, and procedurally fair, with written reasons provided for decisions affecting their rights. This constitutional provision was not merely aspirational rhetoric but a deliberate departure from the colonial administrative law tradition that had previously governed Kenyan jurisprudence. Article 47 was designed to be self-executing and justiciable, creating substantive rights enforceable through judicial review without requiring legislative elaboration.

The Fair Administrative Action Act, 2015 (FAAA) subsequently operationalized these constitutional guarantees, establishing mechanisms through which citizens could vindicate their rights against arbitrary state action. Together, these provisions constituted a comprehensive framework for ensuring administrative justice, with judicial review serving as the constitutional mechanism for enforcing compliance. However, recent jurisprudential developments, particularly the Court of Appeal's decision in *Dr. Gabriel Mukuria v. Director KENFRI*, threaten to fundamentally undermine this constitutional architecture through the introduction of an undefined and constitutionally unmoored concept of "light touch review."

Article 47 of the Constitution must be understood within the broader context of Kenya's constitutional transformation, which sought to replace the permissive administrative law regime inherited from British colonial rule with a rights-based framework grounded in constitutional supremacy. The Constitution explicitly provides in Article 2(1) that it is the supreme law of the Republic and binds all persons and state organs, while Article 47(3) mandates that Parliament shall enact legislation to give effect to the right to fair administrative action. This legislative mandate was fulfilled through the enactment of the FAAA, which establishes

specific grounds for judicial review including illegality, irrationality, procedural impropriety, and proportionality grounds that significantly expand upon the traditional *Wednesbury* unreasonableness test.

The constitutional design contemplates robust judicial oversight of administrative action, not deferential abdication of judicial responsibility. Section 7 of the FAAA explicitly empowers courts to review administrative decisions on substantive and procedural grounds, while Section 9 grants courts remedial powers including quashing decisions, requiring reconsideration, and awarding damages. These provisions collectively establish that Kenyan courts possess both the jurisdiction and the duty to conduct searching review of administrative action to ensure constitutional compliance, a duty that cannot be diluted through judicially-created doctrines of deference that find no basis in the constitutional text.

The post-2010 constitutional era in Kenya has witnessed a confused and inconsistent evolution of judicial review standards, reflecting judicial ambivalence about the scope of Article 47 guarantees. Initially, courts applied the traditional *Wednesbury* unreasonableness test imported from English administrative law, which limited judicial intervention to decisions so unreasonable that no reasonable authority could have made them a notoriously high threshold that privileged administrative discretion over rights protection. Recognizing the inadequacy of this approach under a constitutional dispensation that prioritized rights, Kenyan courts gradually developed more robust review standards, moving toward substantive engagement with administrative decisions rather than mere process review.

The Supreme Court's decision in *Republic v. Director of Public Prosecutions & 2 Others Ex Parte Saisi Ole Taiko* represented a watershed moment, establishing that in cases involving uncontroverted evidence, courts could conduct merit review to determine whether administrative decisions were justifiable, defensible, and rational on the evidence. This approach harmonized judicial review with constitutional values by ensuring that administrative power was exercised on credible evidentiary foundations rather than arbitrary preference. Subsequently, the Supreme Court's decision in *Attorney General v. Dande* appeared to endorse even more robust merit review, suggesting that courts could reassess evidence to determine whether administrative decisions

were supportable, thereby ensuring that fundamental rights were not sacrificed on the altar of administrative convenience.

Against this backdrop of progressively expanding judicial protection of administrative justice rights, the Court of Appeal's introduction of "light touch review" in *Dr. Gabriel Mukuria v. Director KENFRI* represents a constitutionally unjustifiable regression toward pre-2010 administrative law orthodoxy. The Court of Appeal, without providing constitutional justification or doctrinal foundation, declared that judicial review should be conducted with a "light touch," suggesting heightened deference to administrative decision-makers and limited judicial scrutiny of substantive rationality. This approach fundamentally misapprehends the nature of judicial review under Kenya's constitutional dispensation, which is not a discretionary common law remedy subject to judicial policy considerations but rather the primary mechanism for vindicating constitutional rights against administrative violation.

The "light touch review" standard lacks any grounding in Article 47 or the FAAA, both of which contemplate robust judicial oversight rather than deferential abstention. Moreover, the Court of Appeal failed to define what "light touch" means operationally: does it preclude examination of evidence, limit remedial options, or simply counsel judicial restraint in borderline cases? This conceptual vagueness creates legal uncertainty and undermines the predictability essential to rule of law governance. Most fundamentally, the Court of Appeal's approach contradicts the constitutional imperative that administrative action must be "reasonable" a requirement that necessarily demands judicial assessment of substantive rationality, not merely procedural regularity.

The "light touch review" doctrine suffers from multiple constitutional infirmities that render it incompatible with Article 47 guarantees and the broader constitutional framework. First, it violates the principle of constitutional supremacy enshrined in Article 2 by subordinating express constitutional rights to judicially-created doctrines of deference that privilege administrative convenience over rights protection. Second, it contradicts the express language of Article 47, which guarantees the right to "reasonable" administrative action a substantive standard that requires judicial assessment of whether decisions are defensible on their merits, not merely whether decision-makers followed correct



procedures. Third, it undermines the remedial scheme established by the FAAA, which contemplates courts quashing unreasonable decisions and substituting their own determinations where appropriate, powers that become meaningless under a deferential review standard. Fourth, it conflicts with Article 50(1), which guarantees the right to a fair hearing before a court or tribunal, a right that is illusory if courts abdicate their responsibility to adjudicate disputes meaningfully. Fifth, it violates separation of powers principles by allowing administrative bodies to operate as final arbiters of their own jurisdiction and the reasonableness of their decisions, contrary to the constitutional design that establishes courts as guardians of rights and constitutional values. The cumulative effect of these constitutional deficiencies is to render "light touch review" fundamentally incompatible with Kenya's constitutional architecture.

The Court of Appeal's "light touch review" doctrine cannot be reconciled with binding Supreme Court precedent, creating hierarchical inconsistency within Kenya's judicial system. In *Saisi*, the Supreme Court explicitly held that where evidence is uncontroverted, courts conducting judicial review may assess whether administrative decisions are supported by that evidence and whether alternative conclusions would be more reasonable a standard that necessarily requires substantive engagement with merits rather than deferential process review.

The Supreme Court justified this approach by reference to Article 47's requirement of reasonableness, concluding that courts cannot assess reasonableness without examining whether decisions are defensible on

available evidence. This represents a coherent constitutional methodology that takes Article 47 seriously as creating enforceable substantive rights rather than mere procedural formalities. The subsequent decision in *Dande* appeared to go further, suggesting that courts could conduct full merit review including reassessment of evidence to ensure administrative decisions were justifiable. While *Dande* has been criticized as potentially going too far in eroding administrative autonomy, it at least reflects fidelity to constitutional text and the rights-protective purpose of Article 47. By contrast, the Court of Appeal's "light touch review" represents a retreat from both *Saisi* and *Dande*, returning Kenyan administrative law to a deferential posture inconsistent with Supreme Court guidance and constitutional imperatives.

The proliferation of competing judicial review standards *Wednesbury* unreasonableness, process review, merit review, full merit review, and now "light touch review" creates legal incoherence that undermines rule of law values and frustrates litigants seeking to vindicate constitutional rights. This doctrinal confusion stems from judicial reluctance to accept the full implications of Article 47's transformation of administrative law, with courts attempting to preserve traditional common law deference while simultaneously acknowledging constitutional rights guarantees. However, these objectives are fundamentally incompatible: either Article 47 creates enforceable substantive

The Erosion Of Constitutional Guarantees:

A Critique Of The Court Of Appeal's "Light Touch Review" in Dr. Gabriel Mukuria v. Director Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) & Another

Contd from page 18

rights to reasonable administrative action, requiring courts to assess substantive rationality, or it merely requires procedural regularity, in which case its constitutional enshrinement was meaningless.

The Court of Appeal's introduction of yet another undefined standard exacerbates this incoherence, leaving litigants, administrators, and lower courts without clear guidance on applicable review intensity. This uncertainty particularly disadvantages vulnerable litigants who lack resources to navigate complex and shifting jurisprudence, while empowering administrators who can exploit doctrinal confusion to shield unreasonable decisions from meaningful scrutiny. A constitutional rights framework demands clarity and consistency, not a multiplicity of review standards applied unpredictably based on unstated judicial preferences about appropriate deference levels in particular contexts.

The Court of Appeal's "light touch review" doctrine demonstrates inadequate engagement with the FAAA, which Parliament enacted specifically to operationalize Article 47 guarantees and establish the framework for judicial review of administrative action. Section 4 of the FAAA requires that administrative action be procedurally fair, giving affected persons' adequate notice, opportunity to be heard, and reasons for decisions requirements that demand substantive judicial assessment of compliance, not deferential acceptance of administrative assurances. Section 5 mandates that administrative decisions be lawful, reasonable, and procedurally fair, with reasonableness requiring that decisions be rationally connected to purposes authorized by enabling legislation, based on reasons supported by evidence, and proportionate to legitimate objectives.

These are substantive standards requiring judicial evaluation of decision quality, not mere process compliance. Section 7 explicitly empowers courts to review administrative action on grounds including illegality, irrationality, procedural impropriety, and lack of proportionality grounds that contemplate searching scrutiny rather than light touch deference. Section 9 grants courts remedial powers to quash decisions, require reconsideration, and substitute their own decisions where appropriate, powers that would be

meaningless under a deferential review standard. By introducing "light touch review" without analyzing these statutory provisions, the Court of Appeal effectively rendered the FAAA's detailed review framework nugatory, substituting judicial policy preferences for legislative design.

Comparative constitutional experience demonstrates that robust judicial review of administrative action is essential to protecting fundamental rights in constitutional democracies, undermining the Court of Appeal's premise that deference represents the appropriate judicial posture. In South Africa, whose Constitution similarly guarantees the right to lawful, reasonable, and procedurally fair administrative action under Section 33, courts have developed substantive reasonableness review requiring that administrative decisions be rationally connected to authorized purposes, supported by evidence, and proportionate to objectives standards that demand searching judicial scrutiny rather than deference.

The South African Constitutional Court has repeatedly emphasized that constitutional rights to administrative justice cannot be vindicated through process review alone, requiring courts to assess substantive rationality to ensure rights are not sacrificed to administrative convenience. Similarly, in Canada, the Supreme Court's decision in *Doré v. Barreau du Québec* established that where administrative decisions affect Charter rights, courts must assess whether decisions proportionately balance rights with statutory objectives a standard incompatible with light touch deference. The European Court of Justice has developed proportionality review requiring that administrative measures be suitable, necessary, and proportionate to legitimate objectives, again demanding substantive assessment rather than deferential process review. These comparative examples demonstrate that constitutional rights frameworks demand robust judicial oversight of administrative action, not the deferential abdication represented by "light touch review."

The practical implications of the Court of Appeal's "light touch review" doctrine are profoundly troubling for administrative justice in Kenya, particularly given the persistent challenges of corruption, political interference, and weak institutional capacity that characterize Kenyan public administration. By counseling deference to administrative decision-makers, the doctrine shields unreasonable, corrupt, and politically motivated decisions from



meaningful judicial scrutiny, undermining accountability and enabling impunity. This is particularly problematic in employment contexts, where administrators may make disciplinary decisions based on political considerations, personal animosity, or corruption rather than evidence and merit.

In *Dr. Gabriel Mukuria v. Director KEFRI* itself, robust judicial review was essential to assess whether the dismissal decision was supported by credible evidence and complied with procedural safeguards, yet "light touch review" would privilege administrative determinations over individual rights. More broadly, deferential review undermines the constitutional promise that administrative power will be exercised fairly, reasonably, and in accordance with law, reducing Article 47 to a hortatory aspiration rather than an enforceable right. This is particularly consequential for vulnerable populations who lack political power to resist administrative overreach and depend on courts to vindicate their constitutional rights. By privileging administrative autonomy over rights protection, "light touch review" fundamentally betrays the transformative constitutional promise of 2010.

Kenyan courts need to abandon the proliferation of variable review standards and embrace a constitutionally grounded approach that takes Article 47 seriously as creating enforceable substantive rights. This requires accepting that the Constitution transformed administrative law from a common law discretionary remedy into a constitutional rights vindication mechanism, demanding judicial

scrutiny commensurate with rights protection rather than traditional administrative law deference. The Saisi framework provides the most constitutionally sound approach, requiring substantive assessment of whether administrative decisions are defensible on available evidence while respecting administrative expertise in areas requiring technical judgment.

This approach harmonizes robust rights protection with institutional competence considerations, allowing courts to intervene where decisions are unsupported by evidence or otherwise unreasonable while respecting administrator judgments on matters requiring specialized knowledge. Courts should explicitly ground review standards in Article 47's text and purpose rather than imported common law doctrines, recognizing that constitutional supremacy requires constitutional interpretation rather than common law transplantation. The FAAA provides detailed guidance on grounds and procedures for review that should be applied faithfully rather than displaced by judicially-created deference doctrines. Most fundamentally, courts must recognize that their constitutional role is to protect rights against administrative violation, not to defer to administrative preferences out of misplaced concern for institutional comity.

The Court of Appeal's introduction of "light touch review" in *Dr. Gabriel Mukuria v. Director KEFRI* represents a constitutional wrong turn that threatens to undermine the fundamental guarantees of Article 47 and the broader project of constitutionalizing administrative law

in Kenya. By privileging administrative autonomy over rights protection, creating incoherence in review standards, contradicting binding Supreme Court precedent, failing to engage with the FAAA's detailed framework, and ignoring comparative constitutional experience, the doctrine is constitutionally indefensible and practically pernicious. The Supreme Court must intervene to clarify that Article 47 creates enforceable substantive rights to reasonable administrative action requiring robust judicial scrutiny, not deferential process review.

The Saisi framework, properly understood and applied, provides a constitutionally sound methodology for conducting substantive reasonableness review while respecting institutional competence boundaries. Until courts embrace their constitutional responsibility to protect administrative justice rights through searching review rather than deferential abstention, Article 47's transformative promise will remain unrealized, and Kenyan citizens will continue to suffer administrative arbitrariness without effective remedy. The judicial hostility toward Article 47 must end, replaced by judicial fidelity to constitutional text, purpose, and supremacy for without robust judicial enforcement, constitutional rights become empty promises, and the rule of law degenerates into the rule of administrative discretion unconstrained by legal principle or constitutional value.

The writer is a social commentator

Water Security, Stability Top Agenda As African Leaders Convene Annual Summit

By: Habtamu Worku and Liu Fangqiang
@themkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- Announcing this year's focus, the AU said that Africa's aspirations for economic growth, social transformation, regional integration, trade, peace, and security "are all dependent on assuring sustainable water availability for all purposes."
- Recent AU data show that more than 300 million Africans lack access to clean drinking water, while over 700 million people across the continent live without adequate sanitation. With Africa's population projected to reach 1.6 billion by 2030, the AU warned that population growth and rapid urbanization will require at least 50 percent more food and a tenfold increase in water demand for energy production.
- Emphasizing the critical significance of this year's theme, Youssouf said it underscores water's critical role in Africa's development and its growing importance as a global geopolitical issue.

African leaders will convene in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from tomorrow to Sunday for the 39th African Union (AU) Summit, with safeguarding continental water security expected to rank high on the agenda alongside persistent peace and security challenges.

Themed "Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063," the annual gathering will begin with a meeting of the AU Executive Council tomorrow and Wednesday, followed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

Officials and analysts say the summit comes at a pivotal moment, as the continent seeks to translate long-standing priorities into concrete initiatives that can advance Africa's development and security.

Summit critical juncture

"This year's summit arrives at a critical juncture, particularly as the second 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 gains momentum," Costantinos Bt. Costantinos, a former advisor to the AU and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, told Xinhua. He said the meeting's significance lies in its relevance in moving beyond agenda-setting and serving as a platform for advancing a resource-secure, food-sovereign, and peaceful continent. "By endorsing concrete outcomes of continental significance, African leaders at the summit are expected to bridge the enduring gap between continental aspiration and attainment," he said. The scholar noted that the summit's importance is further amplified by a complex global landscape, marked by geopolitical rivalries, economic fragmentation, surging protectionism, and dwindling multilateralism. "The summit must, therefore, serve as a strategic council where African leaders forge a unified front to strengthen Africa's global positioning as a key player in the emerging world order," he said.

In preparation for the summit, African envoys last week concluded a meeting of the AU Committee of Permanent Representatives (PRC), finalizing draft agendas and work programs. In addition to water security, the envoys also highlighted key priorities, including peace and security, inclusive economic growth, good governance, education and healthcare, and Africa's position in global affairs. Expressing concern



over the "increasingly complex global environment," AU Commission Chairperson Mahmoud Ali Youssouf called for strengthening solidarity, unity, and self-reliance to safeguard the continent's collective interests at the PRC meeting. Youssouf reaffirmed the 55-member continental bloc's commitment to working closely with members to ensure a successful summit capable of addressing Africa's emerging and perennial challenges, advancing peace and development, and promoting Africa's voice on the global stage.

Water security tops agenda

Announcing this year's focus, the AU said that Africa's aspirations for economic growth, social transformation, regional integration, trade, peace, and security "are all dependent on assuring sustainable water availability for all purposes." Recent AU data show that more than 300 million Africans lack access to clean drinking water, while over 700 million people across the continent live without adequate sanitation. With Africa's population projected to reach 1.6 billion by 2030, the AU warned that population growth and rapid urbanization will require at least 50 percent more food and a tenfold increase in water demand

for energy production. Emphasizing the critical significance of this year's theme, Youssouf said it underscores water's critical role in Africa's development and its growing importance as a global geopolitical issue. According to Costantinos, the move elevates water from a developmental challenge to a strategic and cross-cutting imperative, central to Africa's development, climate resilience, and stability. Addressing water security and sanitation challenges, he said, will require effectively harnessing the nexus between water, energy, agriculture, and poverty dynamics. With climate change further exacerbating the continent's water stress, threatening agricultural livelihoods, energy production, and public health, the AU warned that the inability to address this challenge will lead to more food insecurity, disease burden, human displacement, conflict, and obstruct economic development.

Address perennial security perils

Expectations are also high that the summit will address the root causes of insecurity, which are increasingly intertwined with governance deficits and broader vulnerabilities. Highlighting a challenging security context, the AUC chief acknowl-

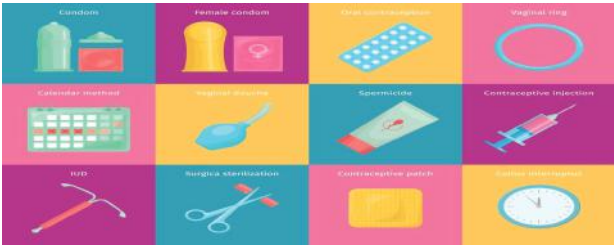
edged ongoing peace and security perils across different parts of Africa, notably in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Sudan, Libya, the Sahel region, as well as the rise in unconstitutional changes of government. Youssouf underscored the need "to act with urgency" to address these crises and advance reforms, particularly within the African peace and security architecture. Costantinos said the summit is expected to strengthen the AU's role in safeguarding continental stability through "decisive political interventions." This, he noted, could include fully operationalizing the African Standby Force and empowering the AU Peace and Security Council to authorize rapid deployments supported by predictable financing. "The ongoing crises in Sudan and eastern DRC, along with challenges posed by terrorism and extremism, serve as immediate litmus tests for the AU and its leaders as they convene in Addis Ababa," he said. "The summit is expected to produce concrete outcomes aimed at facilitating timely resolutions to Africa's security crises through African solutions."



The Importance Of Family Planning Methods And Possible Side Effects

Family planning remains one of the most vital pillars of reproductive health, empowering individuals and couples to make deliberate choices about family size and timing. Beyond its personal significance, family planning carries profound social, economic, and health benefits. It reduces maternal and infant mortality, prevents unintended pregnancies, and lowers the risk of pregnancy-related complications. Economically, it enables women to pursue education, careers, and financial independence. At a societal level, it helps manage population growth, easing pressure on limited resources, while also safeguarding personal freedom by allowing couples to shape their reproductive futures.

The methods available are diverse, ranging from hormonal options such as pills, injections, and implants, to barrier methods like condoms and diaphragms. Intrauterine devices (IUDs), whether copper-based or hormonal, provide long-term



solutions, while sterilization procedures such as tubal ligation and vasectomy offer permanent choices. Each method, however, carries potential side effects. Hormonal methods may cause weight gain, mood changes, irregular periods, or nausea. IUDs can lead to cramping, spotting, or heavier periods, while barrier methods occasionally trigger allergic reactions or reduced sensation. Sterilization, though effective, carries surgical risks and the possibility of regret.

Informed decision-making is therefore essential. Consulting healthcare providers ensures that choices align with medical history, lifestyle, and personal preferences. Understanding

effectiveness rates, monitoring side effects, and adjusting methods when necessary are part of responsible reproductive health management. Importantly, most side effects are manageable, often temporary, and can be addressed with professional support. Access to guidance and the option to switch methods further strengthen the safety net.

Ultimately, family planning is not merely about contraception—it is about health, empowerment, and dignity. Informed choices secure well-being for individuals, families, and society at large.

By: Agnes Otieno, Laikipia University

Cyber Crime Is Growing Faster Than Kenya's Willingness To Report It

Cybercrime is rapidly emerging as one of Kenya's most dangerous threats, expanding at a pace that far outstrips the country's willingness to confront or report it. As Kenya embraces digital transformation through mobile money, online banking, e-government services, and e-commerce, criminals are exploiting the same technologies to defraud individuals, businesses, and institutions with alarming sophistication. From phishing emails and fake loan apps to identity theft and ransomware attacks, cybercrime has evolved from an occasional nuisance into a systemic risk.

Yet despite mounting losses, many victims remain silent. Fear of reputational damage, lack of trust in enforcement agencies, limited awareness of reporting channels, and the perception that little will be done even if cases are filed all contribute to underreporting. Small businesses often absorb cyber losses quietly to avoid alarm-



ing customers, while individuals blame themselves for being "tricked," normalizing fraud as a personal failure rather than a criminal act. This silence creates a dangerous feedback loop: low official statistics suggest cybercrime is manageable, leading to underinvestment in cyber policing, digital forensics, and public education, while criminals grow bolder knowing detection rates remain low.

The rise of artificial intelligence, deepfake technology, and cross-border digital platforms is further complicating the fight, making cybercrime harder to trace and easier to scale. Kenya's laws and institutions, though evolving, still lag

behind the speed and complexity of digital crime, particularly in rural and informal settings where awareness is lowest.

Breaking this cycle requires urgent action: normalizing reporting, strengthening cybercrime units, protecting whistleblowers, and building public confidence in digital justice systems. Kenya's digital future depends not only on innovation and connectivity, but on the courage to confront cybercrime openly and consistently—before silence becomes the criminal's strongest weapon.

By: Melody Akinyi Ochieng, Laikipia University

Confronting Gender Inequality: A Call For Change

Gender inequality continues to cast a long shadow across societies worldwide, undermining the potential of girls and women and perpetuating cycles of disadvantage. Education remains one of the most visible battlegrounds. Despite global progress, millions of girls are denied access to quality schooling due to entrenched cultural norms, early marriage, and economic barriers that prioritize boys' education. UNESCO estimates that 130 million girls are currently out of school, a staggering figure that not only curtails personal growth but also entrenches poverty across generations.

The workplace reflects similar disparities. Women often face persistent pay gaps, earning less than men despite equal qualifications. Leadership positions remain disproportionately occupied by men, stifling diversity and innovation. This imbalance not only diminishes women's contributions but also weakens organizational resilience and



growth. True equality in the workplace requires dismantling these barriers and ensuring women are valued equally for their skills and leadership.

Healthcare further illustrates the inequities. Women frequently encounter discrimination in accessing reproductive health services and maternal care, leading to poorer outcomes and preventable suffering. Addressing these gaps is not merely a matter of fairness but of safeguarding fundamental human rights.

Confronting gender inequality demands a multifaceted re-

sponse: expanding educational opportunities, enforcing equal pay, ensuring comprehensive healthcare, and challenging cultural norms that perpetuate discrimination. These measures are not optional—they are essential for building inclusive, sustainable societies. Gender equality is both a moral imperative and a cornerstone of development, offering a pathway to justice, prosperity, and collective well-being.

By: Angela Mwanga, Laikipia University

Nairobi Women Advocacy Groups Decrying Increased Incidences Of Violence Ahead Of 2027 Election

Nairobi, Kenya – Women advocacy groups are sounding the alarm over rising cases of violence against women as the country edges closer to the 2027 elections. Their concerns are rooted in Kenya's history of post-election unrest, where women have often borne the brunt of insecurity and targeted attacks. Activists argue that social and economic disparities, coupled with low legal awareness, are fueling the disturbing trend, leaving women vulnerable in both public and private spaces.

Reports indicate that women are facing harassment, threats, and physical attacks, with some incidents tragically resulting in loss of life. This reality is particularly shocking given Kenya's constitutional and legal frameworks designed to protect women's rights. While government officials have pledged action, advocacy groups insist that current measures remain inadequate and fail to match the scale



of the crisis.

The National Gender-Based Violence Working Group has intensified calls for urgent reforms, demanding stronger legal protections, increased resources for enforcement agencies, and comprehensive public education campaigns. The group has gone further to urge the government to declare gender-based violence a national disaster, a move they believe would elevate the issue to the highest level of political and social priority.

As Kenya prepares for another pivotal election, the safety of women cannot be treated as a secondary concern. Protecting women from violence is not only a matter of justice but also a prerequisite for democratic integrity. Without decisive action, the cycle of fear and silence risks undermining both women's rights and the nation's democratic future.

By: Alex Nyongesa, Laikipia University

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Sports >> *Head coach Eddie Howe says he would step aside if he did not think he was still the right man to lead Newcastle United.

I'd Resign If I Wasn't Still Right For Job - Howe



Newcastle United's English head coach Eddie Howe (L) speaks with Newcastle United's English midfielder #10 Anthony Gordon (R) during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Newcastle United at the Emirates Stadium in London on February 24, 2024. (Photo by JUSTIN TALLIS / AFP).

Head coach Eddie Howe says he would step aside if he did not think he was still the right man to lead Newcastle United.

Newcastle were booed off by their supporters following a damaging 3-2 defeat against Brentford at St James' Park on Saturday.

Howe was crestfallen afterwards and said he was "not doing my job well enough at the moment" after his side slipped to 12th place in the Premier League table.

However two days later, Howe - who ended the club's seven-decade wait for a major domestic trophy 11 months ago - said there was "no doubt in my mind" he was the right man for the job.

"That's why I'm sitting here," he said on the eve of Tuesday's game at Tottenham Hotspur.

"If there was doubt, I wouldn't be - because the club is the most important thing. I've never put myself before the club.

"If I didn't think I was the correct man to take the team forward, and I couldn't give the players what they need, then I would step aside and let someone else do it."

Newcastle have won only one of their last eight games in all competitions, but Howe retains the backing of the club's hierarchy.

He has had a transformational impact since his appointment in 2021, beating Liverpool in the Carabao Cup final last year and

taking Newcastle into the Champions League twice.

Newcastle will be favourites to progress to the last 16 of the Champions League against Azerbaijan side Qarabag and have a FA Cup fourth-round tie against Aston Villa on Saturday.

The Newcastle head coach acknowledged he was going through one of the toughest periods of his reign but is drawing on the experiences of previous difficult periods to turn things round. "Those experiences I have been through countless times before stand me in good stead for this moment," he added.

"The collective spirit is what we're after. We're after the collective fight from all the players

and if you have that resolve within the group, you can do amazing things again, so it can turn very quickly.

"The momentum is against us at the moment. We have to swing it back and then the world can look a very different place within a couple of games."

Courtesy- BBC Online

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *David Nyangige is the surprise inclusion in Coach Kevin 'Bling' Wambua's squad announced on yesterday as Shujaa gear up for the HSBC SVNS Series this weekend at Nyayo National Stadium.

Shujaa, Lionesses Squads Named Ahead Of HSBC SVNS



FILE: Kenya Lionesses players celebrate victory against Uganda Ladies during the 2024 Safari Sevens Tournament at Kenyatta Stadium, Machako on October 13, 2024. Kenya won 15-14. Photo/Sportpicha

David Nyangige is the surprise inclusion in Coach Kevin 'Bling' Wambua's squad announced on yesterday as Shujaa gear up for the HSBC SVNS Series this weekend at Nyayo National Stadium.

The 12-man squad will be captained by George Nyaoro, with Samuel Asati serving as co-captain. Other players named include John Okoth, Dennis Abukuse, veteran Vincent Onyala, Kevin Wekesa, Patrick Odongo, Festus Shiasi, Nygel Amaitisa, Floyd Wabwire, and Christant Ojwang.

Coach Wambua expressed confidence in his squad ahead of the highly anticipated matches, noting the energy the home crowd will bring, especially with tickets already sold out.

"The pressure we shall receive is very welcome. Abroad, we draw energy from the Kenyan corner, and this weekend, the whole stadium is the Kenya corner. We are confident this will push us forward during our games," Wambua said.

Vice-captain Samuel Asati shared his excitement about playing on home soil.

"It is personally an honour to play at home this weekend. We will try our best to make the country proud as we vie for qualification to the top tier, Division One," Asati said.

Meanwhile, Lionesses head coach Simon Odongo has handed call-ups to Marvel Oswago and Charity Nilah. They join Naomi Amumgumi, Maureen Muritu, Sheila Chajira [Captain], Sinaida Nyacho, Edith Nariaka, Freshia Oduor [Co-Captain], Grace Okulu, and Stella Wafula and Pheobe Akinyi.

Odongo praised the experience that the international players bring to the squad.

"We are expecting to raise the flag high this weekend as we play in front of our home fans," he said.

In the opening matches, Shujaa will face Canada, Belgium, Germany, Uruguay, and the USA, while the Lionesses will take on

Brazil, China, South Africa, Argentina, and Spain.

The games kick off on February 14, marking the start of both teams' campaigns to qualify for Division One this season. Currently in Division Two, Kenya's squads have the chance to reach the top tier with a top-four finish across the three-leg tournament, the first of which takes place at home.

Equally, the Kenyan Rugby Union's youth and talent development programme received a boost with the Kenyan Power Lighting Company (KPLC) pledging KSh 3 million to support grassroots initiatives. KPLC representatives emphasized the importance of nurturing young talent to secure the future of Kenyan rugby.

Full Squads
Shujaa:
George Ooro(Captain)
Samuel Asati (Co Captain)

John Okoth
Dennis Abukuse
Vincent Onyala
Kevin Wekesa
Patrick Odongo
Festus Shiasi
Nygel Amaitisa
Floyd Wabwire
Chrisant Ojwang
David Nyangige (Debut)

Lionesses
Naomi Amumgumi
Moreen Muritu
Sheila Chajira(Captain)
Sinaida Nyacho
Edith Nariaka
Janet Okello
Marvel Oswago (Debut)
Freshia Oduor (Co captain)
Charity Nilah (Debut)
Grace Okulu
Stella Wafula
Phoebe Akinyi

Citizen Sport

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Milangela Suarez Quero A Legacy Of Empowerment, Beauty, And Leadership



By: Anila Bukhari
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Academically and professionally accomplished, Milangela is a journalist and publicist with a master's degree in business management. Her diverse qualifications extend to being a professional model, a certified announcer, a coach, and a manager. These roles have allowed her to develop a multifaceted career that blends creativity with strategic leadership.
- As the director of her academy and event production brands, she channels her expertise into initiatives that prioritize education and the protection of the well-being of girls, teenagers, and women. Her mission is clear: to create safe, empowering spaces where young women can grow in confidence, knowledge, and self-worth.

Milangela Suarez Quero is a remarkable Venezuelan woman whose life and career embody perseverance, empowerment, and an unwavering commitment to uplifting others. Recognized as an influential icon in the world of beauty and leadership, she has dedicated more than 28 years to inspiring women to believe that everything is possible in life. Through her work, she encourages housewives, mothers, wives, sisters, and aunts to remain steadfast in the face of adversity, proving that constancy and determination can transform dreams into reality.

From an early stage in her journey, Milangela demonstrated a strong passion for communication, creativity, and personal growth. She ventured into the competitive world of modeling and beauty pageants, where her charisma and professionalism quickly set her apart. Over the years, she has earned more than 16 crowns and 30 special titles, achievements that reflect not only her talent but also her discipline and dedication. For Milangela, however, success has never been measured solely by accolades. Her greatest aspiration has always been to leave a meaningful legacy built on passion, love, and service to others.

Academically and professionally accomplished, Milangela is a journalist and publicist with a master's degree in business management. Her diverse qualifications extend to being a professional model, a certified announcer, a coach, and a manager. These roles have allowed her to develop a multifaceted career that blends creativity with strategic leadership. As the director of her academy and event production brands, she channels her expertise into initiatives that prioritize education and the protection of the well-being of girls, teenagers, and women. Her mission is clear: to create safe, empowering spaces where young women can grow in confidence, knowledge, and self-worth.

Working closely with a dedicated team, Milangela mentors aspiring talents and supports them in achieving their personal and professional goals. She believes that empowerment is most effective when it is shared collectively. Through work-

shops, training sessions, and events, she provides tools that help women discover their potential and pursue their dreams fearlessly. Her leadership style is characterized by empathy, resilience, and a genuine desire to see others succeed.

One of the most distinctive aspects of Milangela's career is her commitment to continuous learning. She remains actively engaged in expanding her knowledge, understanding that growth is a lifelong process. By constantly updating her skills and perspectives, she ensures that she can offer relevant guidance and innovative opportunities to those she mentors. This dedication to self-improvement reinforces her credibility as a leader and serves as an example for the many women who look up to her.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Milangela is deeply committed to social responsibility. In the coming months, she will host her sixth annual fashion show, an event designed not only to celebrate creativity and style but also to support charitable causes. Proceeds from the show will benefit a foundation focused on helping vulnerable communities. Central to her philanthropic vision is the global campaign, "Let's give smiles to all abandoned children," an initiative aimed at bringing hope and joy to children in need. Through this campaign, she invites people around the world to join her in making a tangible difference in young lives.

Looking toward the future, Milangela has announced an exciting international project scheduled for 2026, a surprise that promises to further expand her global influence. While details remain under wraps, this upcoming venture reflects her ambition to reach broader audiences and continue promoting empowerment on an international scale. Her forward-thinking mindset and global outlook position her as a dynamic figure in both the beauty industry and the sphere of social advocacy.

Milangela Suarez Quero's story is one of resilience, vision, and compassion. She has successfully merged her talents in communication, business, and modeling to build platforms that empower others. Her



Milangela Suarez Quero

work transcends aesthetics, focusing instead on nurturing confidence, education, and social awareness. As a mentor, entrepreneur, and humanitarian, she exemplifies the power of determination and the importance of giving back to the community.

Today, Milangela continues to inspire thousands through her projects and public presence. Those who wish to follow her journey and learn more about her initiatives can connect with her on social media, where she shares insights, achievements, and opportunities for collaboration. Her life's work stands as a testament to the belief that with perseverance, passion, and a commitment to service, it is possible to create lasting change. Through her enduring ef-

forts, Milangela Suarez Quero remains a beacon of inspiration for women everywhere, proving that true success lies in empowering others to rise alongside you.