



## Do We Go To Singapore Illiterate? Education Crisis In Kenya

As President William Ruto continues to champion his Singapore dream for Kenya and calls for patience as his government makes tough policy choices ahead of the 2027 general elections, a growing crisis is unfolding in the education sector. Thousands of children transitioning to Grade 10 under the new senior secondary system are facing steep school fees

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**News>>Cabinet Approves KSh4.7T Budget**

**P. 8.** President William Ruto's Cabinet has approved the 2026/27 financial year Budget, totalling KSh4.7 trillion, signalling a continuation of the government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda aimed at inclusive and sustainable growth.



**Opinion>>Running From The Light: Why Governors Are Afraid Of Oversight**

**P. 12.** There is a line attributed to Plato that remains painfully relevant: "Those who tell the stories rule society." In modern democracies, oversight is one of those stories, the story that power tells itself about limits.

## High Stakes Trial For Gachagua



The stage is set in Nairobi for one of the most consequential legal battles in Kenya's recent political history. From April 14 to 16, the High Court will hear the case of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, who is challenging his impeachment and seeking compensation for what he describes as an unlawful removal from office. The hearings promise to be more than a courtroom drama; they are poised to become a litmus test for Kenya's constitutional order, the resilience of its institutions, and the political future of a man once at the heart of power.



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

STORY ON PAGE 9

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# Ruto Applauds Mobile Share Trading as Game-Changer for Inclusive Wealth Creation

By: MKT Reporter  
[@themkenyatimes](#)

President William Ruto has praised the capital markets and Safaricom for rolling out innovations that allow Kenyans to buy and sell shares using their mobile phones, describing the move as a major boost to financial inclusion and citizen participation in wealth creation.

Speaking during the launching of Safaricom's Ziidi Trader at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), President Ruto said the platform has opened up the capital markets to millions of Kenyans who were previously excluded due to high entry barriers and limited access.

The President noted that enabling share trading through mobile phones is democratising public assets and transforming ownership by giving ordinary citizens the opportunity to participate confidently in the country's economic growth.

"These innovations are expanding access to the capital markets and revolutionising how Kenyans invest, bringing opportunity directly to the people," he said.

President Ruto reiterated the government's commitment to reforming and strengthening the capital markets as a key pillar for mobilising resources to deliver the KSh5 trillion national transformation plan. He explained that funds raised through the National Infrastructure Fund and the Sovereign Wealth Fund will be used to attract private investment, finance critical national priorities and safeguard inter-generational equity.

Ziidi Trader allows Kenyans to buy and sell NSE-listed shares directly through the M-Pesa mobile money platform, enabling investors to transact from the comfort of their homes or on the move.

The President said the initiative underscores the government's focus on inclusive growth and innovation-driven development, positioning the capital markets as a powerful tool for broad-based wealth creation and sustainable economic progress.

## *Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures*



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Group Executive Chairman  
M. Danson

### Our Contacts

P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262  
Editorial Desk: [editorial@mountkenyatimes.co.ke](mailto:editorial@mountkenyatimes.co.ke), Adverts: [ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke](mailto:ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke),  
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## NEWS IN BRIEF



The National Land Commission Chief Executive Officer Kabale Tache Arero met officers from the Directorate of Finance and Corporate Planning, underscoring the unit's central role in the Commission's operations. The CEO said the directorate's work in financial stewardship and strategic planning provides the foundation for delivering the Commission's constitutional mandate. She commended the team for their dedication in managing public resources, noting that sound fiscal management is critical to institutional stability and public confidence. The CEO urged staff to uphold the highest standards of integrity and efficiency in their daily work. She particularly emphasized timely and responsible preparation of compensation payments for Project Affected Persons, stressing that prompt settlements are essential for fairness and accountability nationwide.



Nyeri CEC for Gender, Youth Sports and Social Services Ms. Esther Ndung'u yesterday hosted officials from the Kenya Scouts Association during a courtesy call at her office, where discussions centred on the forthcoming Scouts Pre-Camp scheduled for February 19–21 at Kamwenja Teachers College, ahead of Founder's Day celebrations. The meeting also explored plans to improve the Baden-Powell facilities, with emphasis on involving young people in designing a modern, inclusive structure responsive to diverse needs. The engagement underscored a shared commitment to youth development, leadership and community service. Also present were Director of Social Services Monica Thumbi, KSA Deputy CEO Fred Mosasi, Corporate Manager Risper Omala and Senior Social Welfare Officer Virginia Mbugua.



Kilimani detectives have recovered a Glock 19 pistol stolen from a hotel room and arrested four suspects in connection with the incident. The firearm, belonging to a licensed holder, was taken after unknown persons broke into the locked hotel room and made away with the pistol and two magazines loaded with 30 rounds of 9mm ammunition. Following investigations and forensic leads, detectives traced the suspects to Kangemi in Dagoretti North, where they arrested Alex Agar, Harrison Oyuoma, Dan Karani and Beatrice Njoki. A search of their residence led to the recovery of the stolen firearm. The suspects are currently in custody and are being processed ahead of their arraignment in court.



Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) Party Leader Dr. Oburu Oginga landed in Mombasa yesterday for the ODM NEC meeting and a three day tour of the Coast. This comes after the party split into two factions; one backing President William Ruto's re-election bid and another strongly opposed to it.



Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale yesterday opened the 16th KEMRI Annual Scientific and Health Conference in Nairobi, reaffirming the government's commitment to local vaccine manufacturing and Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Held under the theme on the future of health research, innovation and manufacturing, the three-day forum brings together researchers, policy-makers and partners to advance sustainable health solutions. Duale said the conference supports President William Ruto's vision of health sovereignty, including producing 60 per cent of Africa's vaccines locally by 2040. He outlined key UHC pillars, pledged increased research funding, and highlighted digital health reforms and strengthened local manufacturing through KEMRI and BioVax initiatives.



Principal Secretary for Broadcasting and Telecommunications Stephen Isaboke hosted a Kenya School of Government delegation led by Director Humphrey Mokaya for a courtesy call at the Ministry. The meeting focused on strengthening the capacity of Public Communication and Information Officers to adapt to emerging trends in the fast-evolving communications sector and enhance delivery of government programmes. Discussions explored practical, targeted training aligned with modern communication best practices. It was agreed that technical teams from both institutions will further engage to identify priority training needs and develop effective capacity-building programmes. The meeting was also attended by Director of Human Resource Management Nancy Wachira.

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IN BUSINESS

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# Gachagua Dismisses Sh4 Billion Drought Plan, Demands Disaster Declaration

By: MKT Correspondent  
[@themtkenyatimes](https://twitter.com/themtkenyatimes)

## Worth Noting:

- Speaking yesterday during a press briefing at the Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) offices in Nairobi, Gachagua said the Sh4 billion announced by the government; including the Sh4.1 billion monthly expenditure approved by Cabinet falls far short of what is required to support an estimated 3.3 million people in urgent need of food and water across arid and semi-arid counties.

- According to Gachagua, the allocation translates to about Sh1,200 per affected person per month, which he noted is less than half the United Nations' minimum food basket estimate of Sh2,700 per person.

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has sharply criticised the government's response to the worsening drought in northern Kenya, arguing that the funds set aside are grossly inadequate to address the humanitarian crisis facing millions of Kenyans.

Speaking yesterday during a press briefing at the Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) offices in Nairobi, Gachagua said the Sh4 billion announced by the government; including the Sh4.1 billion monthly expenditure approved by Cabinet falls far short of what is required to support an estimated 3.3 million people in urgent need of food and water across arid and semi-arid counties.

According to Gachagua, the allocation translates to about Sh1,200 per affected person per month, which he noted is less than half the United Nations' minimum food basket estimate of Sh2,700 per person. He argued that the funding fails to meet internationally accepted humanitarian standards and called on President William Ruto to immediately declare the drought a national disaster to unlock additional resources and international support.

"The situation in at least 10 counties is dire. People are starving, livestock are dying, and water sources have dried up. This is not the time for half-measures," Gachagua said.

The former Deputy President also accused the government of mismanaging public resources at a time when citizens are grappling with the effects of prolonged drought. He cited what he termed as excessive and unnecessary spending within government offices, alleging that millions of shillings have been spent on helicopter travel and political activities instead of emergency



Rigathi Gachagua addressing the media yesterday.

relief.

He further claimed that relief supplies, including foodstuffs and blankets, had been diverted for political campaigns in some regions, arguing that such resources should instead be sent to drought-hit areas in northern Kenya.

Beyond the drought crisis, Gachagua used the briefing to broaden his attack on President Ruto's administration, accusing it of prioritising politics over governance. He alleged that State House Nairobi had been turned into a political command centre for the

ruling United Democratic Alliance (UDA), rather than a neutral national institution serving all Kenyans.

Gachagua also raised concerns over what he described as increasing intolerance and political intimidation, referencing a recent incident in Witema, Othaya, where him and his allies were attacked. He called for an end to political violence and urged leaders to respect democratic competition and freedom of association.

In addition, the DCP leader called for respect for former President Uhuru Kenyatta, saying attacks against him

and his legacy were unnecessary and divisive. He urged President Ruto to focus on uniting the country and addressing pressing economic and social challenges rather than engaging in political vendettas.

President Ruto is expected to begin a three-day tour of northern Kenya, starting with a Nyota programme disbursement forum in Garissa County, as the drought situation continues to draw national attention and political debate.

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# Cabinet Approves KSh4.7T Budget

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

- During a cabinet meeting yesterday, the team also reviewed the performance of the current 2025/26 Budget, noting positive strides in key economic indicators, despite fiscal pressures.
- GDP growth is projected at 5 per cent in 2025 and expected to rise to 5.3 per cent in 2026, supported by favourable weather, improved agricultural productivity, climate-smart investments, and continued implementation of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.
- Priority investments in the 2026/27 Budget target education, health, energy, infrastructure, agriculture, social protection, and national security.
- The government also emphasises reforms in public finance management, digitisation, State-owned enterprises, and public-private partnerships to improve efficiency and deliver results.

President William Ruto's Cabinet has approved the 2026/27 financial year Budget, totalling KSh4.7 trillion, signalling a continuation of the government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda aimed at inclusive and sustainable growth.

The Budget Policy Statement, themed "Accelerating Gains under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth," marks a transition from fiscal stabilisation to scaled-up investment in priority sectors to drive the next phase of economic growth.

The 2026/27 Budget projects total revenues of KSh3.53 trillion against expenditures of KSh4.7 trillion, with allocations including KSh3.46 trillion for recurrent spending, KSh749.5 billion for development, KSh495.7 billion in transfers to county governments, and KSh2 billion for the Contingency Fund. Under the Division of Revenue Bill, 2026, county governments are set to receive KSh420 billion as their equitable share, representing 21.9 per cent of the most recent audited revenue, alongside KSh15.2 billion for the Equalisation Fund. Additional allocations under the County Governments Additional Allocation Bill bring total county transfers to KSh495.7 billion.

During a cabinet meeting yesterday, the team also reviewed the performance of the current 2025/26 Budget, noting positive strides in key economic indicators, despite fiscal pressures.

GDP growth is projected at 5 per cent in 2025 and expected to rise to 5.3 per cent in 2026, supported by favourable weather, improved agricultural productivity, climate-smart investments, and continued implementation of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.

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The government also emphasises reforms in public finance management, digitisation, State-owned enterprises, and public-private partnerships to improve efficiency and deliver results.

In parallel with the Budget, the Cabinet approved far-reaching payroll reforms to address long-standing governance and integrity challenges within the Government Human Resource Information System-Kenya (HRIS-K).

A special audit covering the 2024/25 financial year revealed widespread payroll anomalies involving identity records, tax compliance, and bank accounts, compounded by poor system integration and the failure of about 300 State Corporations to migrate to HRIS-K. Alarmingly, 720 system



President William Ruto and his deputy Kithure Kindiki at State House, Nairobi yesterday.

editors altered over 4.7 million payroll records without audit trails, with instances of staff editing their own records.

Weak cybersecurity, unauthorised payments, excessive salary arrears, expired ICT licences, and inadequate disaster-recovery arrangements were also identified.

To remedy the situation, the Cabinet sanctioned a reform roadmap including mandatory security certification of HRIS-K by March 11, 2026, deployment of forensic analytics for disciplinary and legal action, governance restructuring of HRIS-K, full integration of statutory deductions platforms, and strict effecting of statutory deductions at source across all public entities.

Accounting officers were directed to submit verified payroll data, cooperate fully with audits, and take personal responsibility for irregularities.

Payroll Audit Units and urgent ICT upgrades were also approved to strengthen oversight and safeguard public resources.

On drought management, the Cabinet authorised the release of KSh4.1 billion to scale up response interventions in affected counties, following poor short rains between October and

December 2025.

Currently, an estimated 3.3 million Kenyans face acute food insecurity, a figure projected to rise to 3.6 million by June 2026 if urgent interventions are not implemented.

Mandera, Wajir, Kwale, and Kilifi are in the Alarm phase, while 12 other counties are in the Alert phase, with acute malnutrition affecting over 810,000 children and 104,000 pregnant and lactating women. Cabinet noted deteriorating livestock conditions, rising human-wildlife conflict, and the risk of escalation into a full-scale emergency, highlighting the urgency of continued support.

The Cabinet also approved a series of education reform bills aimed at overhauling Kenya's education system to align governance, curriculum, assessment, financing, and teacher training with the Competency-Based Education and Training framework.

Key measures include consolidation of tertiary education funding and placement agencies into a single authority, clarification of the Kenya National Qualifications Framework, reforms to assessment systems, and enhancements to teacher preparation and professional development.

Additionally, Cabinet authorised

Phase III of the Kenya-China TVET project to equip 70 technical and vocational institutions, approved KSh16.6 billion in additional financing to complete the Mwache Multi-purpose Dam in Kwale, endorsed the revised Policy on the Devolved System of Government, and approved the reorganisation of the Kenya National Convention Bureau to enhance Kenya's position as a competitive MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions) hub.

Other approvals included legislation modernising consumer protection, a national acceleration plan to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation by 2025/26, and several international agreements to reinforce Kenya's role in regional diplomacy, health, science, and multilateral engagement, including hosting the International Nuclear Conference in Mombasa in March 2026.

Overall, the Cabinet's decisions reflect a broad focus on fiscal consolidation, inclusive growth, governance reforms, and strategic investments to strengthen Kenya's economic resilience, public service delivery, and human capital development.



Cabinet in session at State House, Nairobi yesterday. Photos/Courtesy.

# A Trial Of Power: Gachagua's Impeachment Case Set To Test Kenya's Political Soul

By: MKT Correspondents  
 @themtkenyatimes

The stage is set in Nairobi for one of the most consequential legal battles in Kenya's recent political history. From April 14 to 16, the High Court will hear the case of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, who is challenging his impeachment and seeking compensation for what he describes as an unlawful removal from office. The hearings promise to be more than a courtroom drama; they are poised to become a litmus test for Kenya's constitutional order, the resilience of its institutions, and the political future of a man once at the heart of power.

The urgency of the matter is palpable. Gachagua's team will present its arguments on April 14, the State will respond on April 15, and a rejoinder will be heard on April 16. The tight schedule underscores the gravity of the case, which has already stirred intense debate in political circles, legal forums, and among ordinary citizens. For many, the trial is not merely about one man's fate but about the credibility of Kenya's democratic safeguards.

At the heart of Gachagua's petition is the claim that his impeachment was procedurally flawed and politically motivated. He argues that due process was ignored, constitutional protections were trampled, and the decision to oust him was driven more by political expediency than by legitimate grounds. His lawyers are expected to highlight alleged irregularities in the parliamentary proceedings that led to his removal, pointing to what they describe as a rushed process lacking transparency and fairness.

The State, on the other hand, is preparing a robust defense. Officials insist that the impeachment was carried out in accordance with the Constitution and that the charges against Gachagua were substantive enough to warrant removal. They argue that the Deputy President's office, while powerful, is not immune to accountability, and that the impeachment was a necessary step to preserve integrity in government. The State's response will likely emphasize the principle that no leader, however high-ranking, stands above the law.

The case has already drawn comparisons to past political impeachments in Kenya and beyond. Analysts note that while Kenya's Constitution provides clear mechanisms for removing senior officials, the practical application of these provisions has often been fraught with controversy. The Gachagua case, therefore, is seen as a defining



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua



## Worth Noting:

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moment: will the judiciary assert its independence and scrutinize the impeachment on its merits, or will political considerations overshadow the legal process?

Beyond the courtroom, the case carries immense political weight. Gachagua, once a key figure in the executive, has maintained a loyal following, particularly in the Mt. Kenya region. His supporters view the impeachment as a betrayal and a deliberate attempt to sideline their political voice. For them, the trial is not just about justice for Gachagua but about restoring dignity to a constituency that feels marginalized. The hearings are expected to galvanize political mobilization, with rallies, commentary, and public discourse intensifying as the dates draw closer.

Critics, however, caution against romanticizing Gachagua's plight. They argue that the impeachment reflected genuine concerns about governance and accountability, and that the former Deputy President must answer to the charges leveled against him. For these voices, the trial is an opportunity to reinforce the principle that leadership must be earned and maintained through integrity, not merely through political alliances or regional loyalty.

Legal experts are watching closely, noting that the case could set important precedents. If the court rules

in Gachagua's favor, it may redefine the boundaries of parliamentary authority in impeachment proceedings and strengthen protections for officeholders. If the State prevails, it will affirm the legitimacy of the impeachment process and reinforce the principle of accountability at the highest levels of government. Either way, the outcome will reverberate across Kenya's political landscape.

The timing of the case adds to its drama. Kenya is navigating a period of economic strain, social unrest, and political realignment. The impeachment of a Deputy President was already a seismic event; the legal challenge now threatens to reopen wounds and reignite debates about the balance of power within the executive. Observers note that the trial could influence future elections, party dynamics, and even constitutional reform discussions.

International attention is also expected. Kenya's democratic institutions have long been under scrutiny, and the handling of Gachagua's case will be seen as a measure of the country's commitment to rule of law. Diplomats, investors, and regional partners will be watching for signals of stability or turbulence, aware that political uncertainty in Nairobi often ripples across East Africa.

For Gachagua himself, the stakes could not be higher. A favorable ruling would not only vindicate him

but potentially pave the way for a political comeback. Compensation, if awarded, would symbolize recognition of injustice and bolster his narrative as a victim of political machinations. A loss, however, could cement his downfall and close the chapter on his career at the highest levels of government.

As the April hearings approach, the atmosphere is charged with anticipation. Commentators describe the trial as a "battle for Kenya's constitutional soul," a confrontation between law and politics, between accountability and ambition. The courtroom will be the arena, but the audience is the nation itself, waiting to see whether justice will prevail or whether power will once again dictate the outcome.

In the end, the Gachagua impeachment case is more than a dispute over one man's removal. It is a mirror reflecting Kenya's democratic journey, its struggles with governance, and its aspirations for a future where institutions stand firm against the tides of political expediency. The hearings from April 14 to 16 will not only determine the fate of a former Deputy President but will also test the resilience of Kenya's democracy at a moment when the nation can ill afford further fractures.

# Nine-Year-Old Girl Found Dead In Pit Latrine As Suspect Arrested In Mathira

By: MKT Correspondents

@themtkenyatimes

Detectives in Mathira West, Nyeri County, have arrested a man in connection with the brutal murder of a nine-year-old girl whose body was recovered from a pit latrine in Kianjathi village, days after she was reported missing.

The body of Shantel Waruguru Kagemwa was retrieved yesterday following her disappearance on Saturday, under circumstances that shocked residents and drawn widespread condemnation.

According to police, Shantel was left at home with her four-year-old sister after their parents left for the day at around 8.00 a.m. When the parents returned home at about 6.30 p.m., they found Shantel missing and immediately alerted authorities.

An intensive search by police and villagers led to the discovery of undergarments and shoes believed to belong to the child on a blue mattress

inside an abandoned house near the family's home.

The items were identified by Shantel's mother and documented by Crime Scene Investigations (CSI) officers as exhibits.

Following intelligence-led investigations, detectives arrested her uncle, Peter Njuguna, who later led officers to his homestead, where Shantel's body had been concealed in a pit latrine.

The body was retrieved with the help of members of the public and taken to the mortuary pending a post-mortem examination.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the suspect allegedly lured Shantel's younger sister out of the house by giving her Sh10 to buy sweets, leaving him alone with the victim.

Police say the suspect committed the crime before disposing of the body.

Njuguna was presented in a Karatina court yesterday where detectives secured a 21-day custodial order to allow for further investigations.

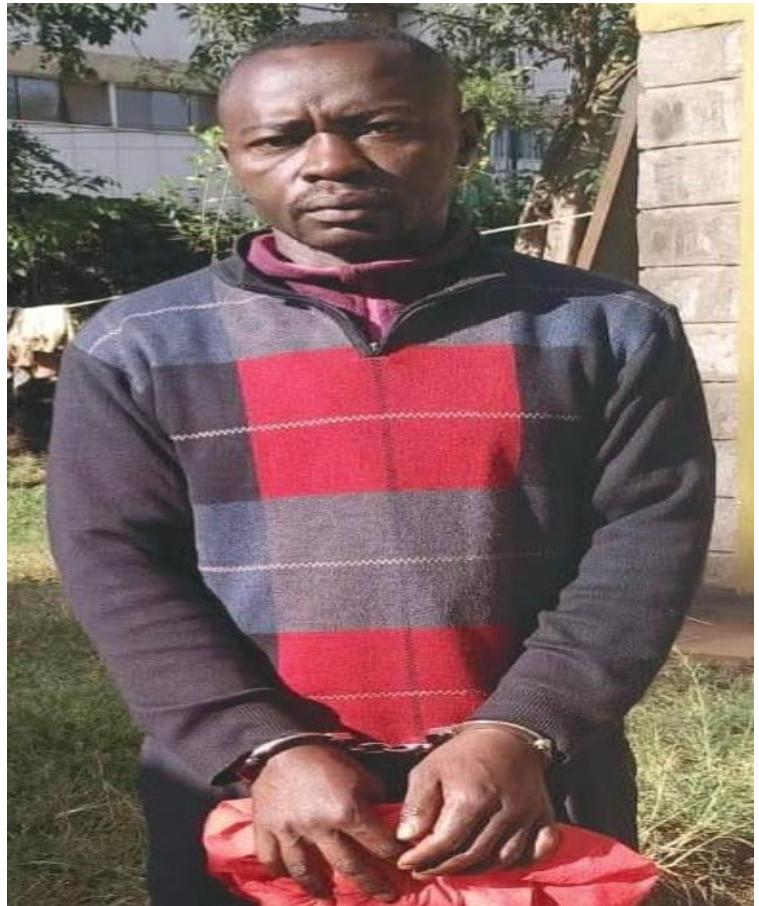
Tension gripped Kianjathi village

following the discovery, with angry residents torching the suspect's house and that of his mother, prompting police to step up security in the area to prevent further violence.

In a statement, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) condemned the killing, terming it a heinous crime against an innocent child and a grave violation of community values.

The agency assured the public that it would pursue justice for the victim and her family.

Police have urged members of the public to report suspicious activities and crimes involving children through the DCI toll-free line **0800 722 203** or via WhatsApp on **0709 570 000**.



## The Mt. Kenya Times

MT. KENYA TIMES



# Mudavadi In Addis Ababa For Key African Union Executive Council Meeting

By: MKT Reporter

@themtkenyatimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi is in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for the 48th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union (AU).

The meeting, scheduled for February today and tomorrow precedes the 39th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, which will take place on February over the weekend.

This year's AU Summit is themed "Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063." Mudavadi said the theme is timely and forward-looking, noting that it builds on outcomes of the second African Climate Summit held in Addis Ababa in September 2025, which itself followed the inaugural summit hosted by Kenya in 2023.

He observed that water security is emerging as a critical development and security issue across the continent. According to World Bank projections, water-related climate impacts such as droughts, floods and pollution could reduce GDP growth by up to six per cent across large parts of Africa, Asia and the Middle East by 2050.

Mudavadi also cited warnings by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan that competition for fresh water could become a major source of conflict in the future, potentially replacing oil as a strategic resource, while also offering opportunities for cooperation.

On the sidelines of the AU Executive Council meeting, Mudavadi is expected to hold a series of bilateral talks with leaders from across the continent as he advances Kenya's foreign policy priorities under President William Ruto.

President Ruto currently holds several key continental and regional leadership roles, including AU Champion



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi in his office on Monday. Photo/Courtesy.

for Institutional Reform, Chair of the Committee of African Heads of State

and Government on Climate Change, and Chair of the East African Com-

# Murang'a ECDE Teachers Protest Low Pay, Demand Permanent Employment

By: Bernard Munyao

@themtkenyatimes

Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) teachers in Murang'a County staged a peaceful demonstration to protest what they termed as unfair pay and prolonged job insecurity under the county government.

On Monday, the teachers marched to the office of Governor Irungu Kang'ata, calling for their immediate absorption on permanent and pensionable terms after serving for years on short-term contracts. The tutors said many of them were hired in 2016 and have remained on contract for nearly a decade, despite repeated promises by successive county administrations to regularise their employment.

Speaking during the protest, the teachers said the continued use of contractual arrangements has sub-

jected them to economic hardship and denied them basic employment benefits enjoyed by other county employees.

These include job security, allowances, promotions and clear career progression paths.

One of the demonstrators, Joyce Wanjiku, said ECDE teachers earn a gross monthly salary of Sh17,000, which reduces to about Sh14,000 after statutory deductions. She noted that the amount is insufficient to meet basic needs such as rent, food, transport and family responsibilities. She further complained that unlike other county workers, ECDE teachers do not receive commuter or house allowances.

Wanjiku emphasised that ECDE teachers play a critical role in shaping children's foundational learning, yet their contribution continues to be undervalued by the county government.

Another protester, Felina Kahia, accused the county administration of defying a court ruling that ordered the employment of all 1,200 ECDE

teachers in Murang'a on permanent and pensionable terms. She said it was disappointing that while the county government has invested in building and rehabilitating ECDE classrooms, it has neglected the welfare of the teachers who work in those facilities.

Caroline Wambura, also an ECDE teacher, said the low pay has demoralised teachers and negatively affected service delivery across the county. She further criticised the county's grading system, noting that all ECDE teachers are placed in job group G regardless of their academic qualifications or years of experience.

"Whether one holds a master's degree, a bachelor's degree, a diploma or a certificate, everyone earns the same salary. There is no recognition of training or experience," she said.

The teachers urged Governor Kang'ata to honour his campaign pledge to employ ECDE teachers on a permanent basis, saying such a move would improve their welfare and enhance the quality of education



Some of the ECDE teachers during demonstration on Monday.

offered to young learners.

They vowed to continue pressing for their demands until the county government addresses their grievances. The tutors submitted a petition to the governor's office and said they would also present a similar petition to the county assembly once Members of the County Assembly resume from recess.

The protest comes amid growing nationwide pressure on county governments to improve the working conditions of ECDE teachers, who play a key role in implementing the Competency-Based Education system.

# Running From The Light: Why Governors Are Afraid Of Oversight



By: Gitile Naituli  
 @themtkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- That is why the recent signals from the Council of Governors are so disturbing. Governors have threatened to boycott Senate County Public Accounts Committee (CPAC) proceedings, alleging a “witch-hunt.” But after closely following CPAC sessions, one struggles to locate the witch. What exists instead are questions, uncomfortable, inconvenient, but legitimate questions, about how public money is being used.

• What was wrong with asking the Mandera Governor to explain KSh 19 million spent on seedlings that do not exist? What was wrong with asking why millions were spent on a house-warming ceremony in Vihiga? What was wrong with questioning Bungoma’s Christmas lighting budget in September? These are not ambushes. They are not persecution. They are not vendettas. They are the ordinary work of public accountability.

There is a line attributed to Plato that remains painfully relevant: “Those who tell the stories rule society.” In modern democracies, oversight is one of those stories, the story that power tells itself about limits. It is the ritual through which authority reminds itself that it is temporary, conditional, and accountable. When leaders resist oversight, they are not merely rejecting a process; they are rejecting the very idea that power belongs to the people and not to them.

That is why the recent signals from the Council of Governors are so disturbing. Governors have threatened to boycott Senate County Public Accounts Committee (CPAC) proceedings, alleging a “witch-hunt.” But after closely following CPAC sessions, one struggles to locate the witch. What exists instead are questions, uncomfortable, inconvenient, but legitimate questions, about how public money is being used.

What was wrong with asking the Mandera Governor to explain KSh 19 million spent on seedlings that do not exist? What was wrong with asking why millions were spent on a house-warming ceremony in Vihiga? What was wrong with questioning Bungoma’s Christmas lighting budget in September? These are not ambushes. They are not persecution. They are not vendettas. They are the ordinary work of public accountability.

Yet in Kenya today, we increasingly inhabit a political culture where being asked to explain yourself is interpreted as hostility. Where audit is framed as harassment. Where transparency is treated as insult. This inversion is not accidental. It is strategic. Because the easiest way to protect mismanagement is not to justify it. It is to delegitimise the process that exposes it. Oversight is not persecution. Accountability is not optional. And democracy does not survive when those entrusted with public resources decide that they will only answer to the public when it is convenient.

At the heart of devolution was a moral promise: that bringing government closer to the people would bring honesty closer too. That counties would not replicate the secrecy, impunity, and elite insulation that characterised centralised rule. That governors would not merely be powerful, they would be answerable. Senate oversight was not an afterthought to this architecture. It was its spine. To boycott CPAC is therefore not a protest against abuse; it is an attempt to hollow out devolution’s ethical core. But the deeper danger is not procedural. It is cultural. It is the growing



Governors addressing the media in Naivasha on Monday..

belief among Kenyan elites that power entitles one to privacy, and that public office entitles one to opacity. That once elected, leaders graduate from questioning to unquestionability. That scrutiny is something done to others, enemies, rivals, juniors, but never to oneself.

This mindset is not new. It is the same logic that turned audit queries into political persecution during the single-party era. It is the same reflex that taught ministers to respond to questions with rage rather than answers. It is the same psychology that treats institutions as obstacles rather than safeguards.

What is new is that this logic is now being asserted not from State House but from county headquarters. Not from centralised authority but from devolved power. This should trouble every Kenyan, because it means the disease devolution was meant to cure is now infecting the cure itself.

When governors flee scrutiny, it is not democracy under attack. It is public money being protected from the public. And make no mistake: this is not about wounded pride. It is about billions of shillings, in health, water, roads, agriculture, and early childhood education, that never reach the people they are meant to serve. It is about clinics without drugs, classrooms without teachers, roads that collapse before the rains end, and farmers who wait for seedlings that exist only in paperwork. It is about the quiet violence of misappropriation, not dramatic enough to trend,

but devastating enough to ruin lives. In every serious democracy, public officials compete not only for votes but for credibility. They treat audit as hygiene, not hostility. They recognise that legitimacy does not come from power alone but from transparency. They understand that leadership without accountability is not authority. It is domination. Kenya must insist on the same standard.

It is not Senate CPAC that is on trial here. It is the idea that those who manage public funds should explain themselves publicly. It is the belief that power must be visible to be legitimate. It is the principle that no office, however devolved, is above scrutiny. Governors are not sovereigns. They are stewards. And stewardship without oversight is simply discretion without discipline.

The tragedy is that instead of welcoming the opportunity to clean house, some governors have chosen to burn the house lights and claim darkness as dignity. Instead of confronting the substance of audit queries, they are attacking the process. Instead of correcting weaknesses, they are politicising accountability. This is not strength. It is fragility.

Strong leaders do not fear questions. Weak systems do.

There is something profoundly revealing about leaders who mistake being questioned for being entitlement. And when entitlement replaces service, democracy begins to hollow out from within.

Kenyans persecuted. It suggests not

confidence but insecurity. Not innocence but anxiety. Not service but must reject this retreat from accountability. Not loudly, not theatrically, but firmly. We must refuse to normalise contempt for oversight. We must refuse to accept that public officials can walk away from questions while holding onto power. We must refuse to let the language of “witch-hunt” replace the language of explanation. Because if governors succeed in insulating themselves from Senate scrutiny today, tomorrow Cabinet Secretaries will reject Parliament. After that, the executive will reject courts. And eventually, power will reject the people altogether. Democracy does not die in coups alone. It also dies in boycotts.

The real witch-hunt in Kenya today is not against governors. It is against accountability. The real persecution is not of leaders but of truth. The real victim is not power. It is the public. Oversight is not optional. It is constitutional. It is ethical. It is non-negotiable. And the day leaders stop answering questions is the day citizens must start asking harder ones.

*Prof. Gitile Naituli is a former Commissioner with National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC). He comments on topical issues*

# IFAD Forum Spotlights Youth Enterprise And Water Security In Africa's Development Agenda

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes

Young entrepreneurs and water security emerged as central pillars in Africa's push for inclusive growth during the 49th session of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Governing Council held in Rome, Italy.

Convened under the theme "From Farm to Market: Investing with Young Entrepreneurs," the meeting brought together IFAD Member States, private sector leaders and innovators to examine how youth-led enterprises can transform rural economies, enhance food security and create jobs.

In one of the sessions, moderated by journalist Melissa Bell, opened with a fireside discussion between IFAD President Alvaro Lario and African investor and philanthropist Tony Elumelu, who both underscored the importance of investing in young rural entrepreneurs. Lario noted that youth bring energy, digital skills and creativity, which can be turned into viable enterprises through targeted



Panelists in one of the sessions. Photos/Courtesy.

investments in training, finance, market access and networks. Elumelu added that supporting young entrepreneurs strengthens communities, reduces poverty and drives sustainable growth from within.

A panel of young innovators shared experiences from farm to market, showcasing how youth-led businesses are modernising agriculture, strengthening value chains and building resilience amid climate and economic challenges.

Kenya was represented by Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Sen. Mutahi

Kagwe, Principal Secretary for Water and Sanitation Julius Korir, and Principal Secretary for Livestock Development Jonathan Mueke. The Kenyan delegation highlighted national initiatives promoting youth participation in agriculture through skills development, access to finance and mentorship, aligning with IFAD's rural development strategy.

On the sidelines of the forum, PS Korir held bilateral engagements with representatives from the United Kingdom and Zambia to explore partnerships in the water and sanitation sector. He also participated in a



From left; PS Julius Korir, CS Mutahi Kagwe and PS Jonathan Mueke

high-level session on investing in water security, part of preparations for the upcoming UN Water Conference in Abu Dhabi.

Discussions emphasised water security as a critical enabler of climate resilience, food systems and inclusive

economic growth. Kenya reaffirmed its commitment to deepening collaboration with multilateral institutions and development partners to attract private sector investment in sustainable and resilient water solutions.

# CBK Cuts Central Bank Rate To 8.75% To Boost Lending And Economic Growth

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes

The Central Bank of Kenya's (CBK) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has reduced the Central Bank Rate (CBR) by 25 basis points to 8.75 percent from 9 percent, in a move aimed at stimulating private sector lending and supporting economic growth.

The decision was made during the MPC meeting held yesterday.

In its statement, the Committee noted that Kenya's overall inflation declined to 4.4 percent in January 2026, down from 4.5 percent in December 2025, remaining below the mid-point of the target range of 5±2.5 percent. Non-core inflation fell to 10.3 percent, driven by lower prices of some vegetables such as tomatoes and onions, while core

inflation edged slightly higher to 2.2 percent due to increases in processed food items, particularly maize flour. The MPC expects inflation to remain under control in the near term, supported by stable prices for energy and processed foods and exchange rate stability.

The Committee cited resilient domestic economic growth, with real GDP estimated at 5 percent in 2025 and projected to rise to 5.5 percent in 2026 and 5.6 percent in 2027. Growth is supported by a rebound in the industrial sector, resilience in services, and stable agricultural performance, although risks remain from adverse weather, geopolitical tensions, and trade uncertainties.

The MPC highlighted that the banking sector remains strong, with improved liquidity and capital adequacy. Non-performing loans (NPLs) fell to 15.5 percent in January 2026 from 16.7 percent in October 2025, while commercial bank lending to

the private sector increased to 6.4 percent in January 2026, reflecting lower lending rates and improved credit demand. Average lending rates have eased to 14.8 percent from 15 percent in October 2025.

To enhance monetary policy transmission, the MPC approved narrowing the interest rate corridor around the CBR from ±75 basis points to ±50 basis points, aligning the Kenya Shilling Overnight Interbank Average (KESONIA) more closely with the policy rate. The discount window rate was also adjusted to 50 basis points above the CBR, down from 75 basis points.

The Committee cited positive global developments, including resilient growth of 3.3 percent in 2025, declining global inflation, and improved prospects for the United States, Euro area, and China, while noting risks from geopolitical tensions, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and trade uncertainties.



CBK governor Kamau Thugge.

Given the supportive domestic and global outlook, the MPC concluded that there was room for a measured easing of monetary policy to stimulate lending, support economic activity, and maintain exchange rate

stability. The Committee will continue to monitor developments and meet again in April.

## Karakalpak Girl



Karakalpak girls  
Along the Aral's quiet shore,  
Karakalpak girls walk everymore.  
In dresses bright, with patterns old,  
They carry stories softly told.

Their laughter dances with the wind,  
A gentle strength lives deep within.  
Eyes like rivers, hearts like land,  
Holding the steppe in every hand.

Through songs of reeds and golden light,  
They honor the past, embrace what's  
right.

Roots in the earth, dreams in skies,  
Karakalpak girls - graceful and wise.

Munavvar Tlewbayeva was born on June 6, 2005, in Chimboy District of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. She graduated from the academic lyceum of NMPI with a specialization in social and humanitarian sciences. Currently, she is a third-year student at the Chimboy Faculty of Berdakh Karakalpak State University, majoring in Philology and Language Teaching (Karakalpak language). She is fluent in Karakalpak, Uzbek, and Turkish. She has a strong interest in creative writing, enjoys writing poems and short stories, and is actively engaged in translation.



(Written as a poetic response to Alexander Feinberg's "The Shore of Bliss")  
Zamira Moldiyeva

From depths of years, a trembling dream  
appears,  
An unhealed ache still lives within my heart.  
As if somewhere afar a place exists  
Where silence blooms, where springtime has  
its start.

I asked the travelers once along the way:  
"Tell me, have you found true peace at last?"  
They said: "We walked and saw a thousand  
roads,  
Behind each destination—questions cast."

"Perhaps it lives in dreams before the dawn,  
Or hides within the heart, unseen, unknown?"  
A quiet voice then whispered from inside:  
"Search not afar—this place is yours alone."

I soared above the clouds, so high, so free,  
The stars shone softly, blinking in my sight.  
The sky is vast, the roads are countless—yet  
I learned: peace lives within my heart's own  
light.

Now hope itself I chose to shape and keep,  
I freed my dreams from fear that held them

tight.

"If happiness is found right here and now,"  
I booked a place within my heart tonight.

Zamira Moldiyeva Bahodirovna was born on May 14, 2006, in Zomin District, Jizzakh Region. From 2013 to 2024, she studied at Secondary School No. 47 named after Khayrulla Akhmedov in Zomin District. During her school years, a poetry collection titled "Swallows", created together with amateur student writers, was published, as well as a short story collection entitled "Lines Left in the Shadows."

She is currently a second-year student at the Faculty of English Philology of the Uzbekistan State World Languages University.

Zamira Moldiyeva is a member of the Argentine Association of Science and Literature Writers, an International Global Peace Ambassador, and a participant in prestigious international initiatives on children's rights protection in India, conducted in cooperation with the United Nations (UN) and UNICEF.

She is the founder of the "Alexander Feinberg Heritage" Club, a coordinator of the "Qizlarjon," "Students Union," and "Leader Girls" clubs, and an active member of the sports club, representing the "Aurora" volleyball team. She is also a winner of numerous competitions.

She has actively participated in projects such as "English Quest: Freshmen Edition," "EmpowerHer: Republican Forum of Women Leaders," and the "Eco Marathon." She is an official member of the "Intellectual Youth" team and the recipient of the "Quiz Competition on World AIDS Day with Certificate 2023," along with several international certificates.

Zamira Moldiyeva is a participant in various conferences and the author of approximately 15 academic and creative articles.

## Take Care Of Our Health, Because Life Is Precious



A comfortable job and a beautiful life are valuable, so we must care of our health. Taking medicine alone is not true health care.  
we must have confidence that we will recover soon. Don't be fed up- always keep strong hope that we can do anything. when the soul feel happy, laughter and celebrations spread happiness. keep a smile and face every problem with courage.

Mohana K, BT Assistant,  
PUMS Kovakkulam, Karur.

## Trust That God Will Put The Right People In Your Life At The Right Time And For The Right Reasons.



Trust to feel safe with someone.  
God only know the universe.  
What happen? what will happen?  
He wait for the right time.  
Don't rush to achieve your goal.  
If you trust in God  
Even in hardship, don't quit.  
Exist along with patience.  
We know God is  
Omnipotent, Omniscent, Omni present.  
God is love.  
Love is God.

N. SELVARANI.

B. T. ASST.

GHS. SAKKARAKKOTTAI  
RAMANATHAPURAM.  
TAMILNADU.  
INDIA.

God, the Supreme Power.  
Make us waiting.  
Be patient with Him.  
It's difficult to realise  
Why need such patience?  
We why trust God?

## The Way Your Relatives Treat You Depends On Your Father's Income...!!



Seeing discrepancies is a human nature  
We can see everyone equal  
Through our broad vision.  
If we realise, everyone is unique and special  
We never think of discrepancies.  
It's not a matter of money how much do they  
have  
It's a matter of humanity how much they  
have.  
Animals and birds never see the partialities.  
Rain, Wind and Sun never see the place

to pour, to blow and to shine.  
Trees and plants never see the people  
It gives its yields to all.  
As the Rainbow, we the people learn to give  
beauty to others.  
Even though it has different colours, it looks  
together.

Rajesh Kanna B N

RAJESH KANNA.B N  
M.Sc.,M.A.,M.A., B.Ed., PGD G&C, CELT.,  
BT Asst  
GMHSCHOOL,  
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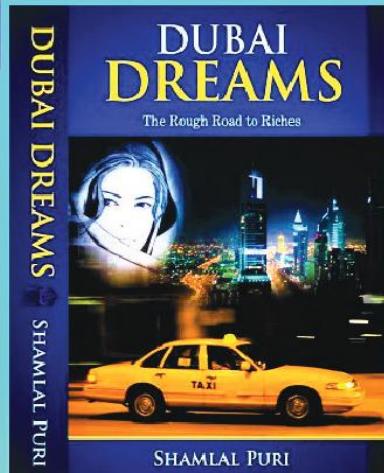
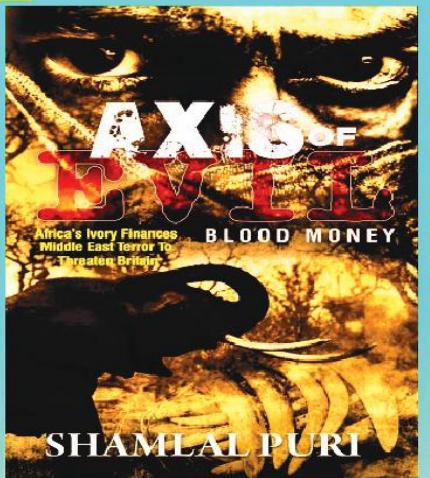
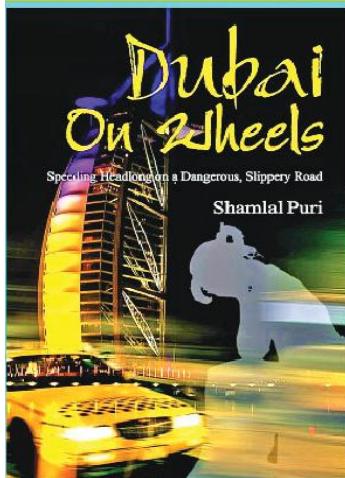
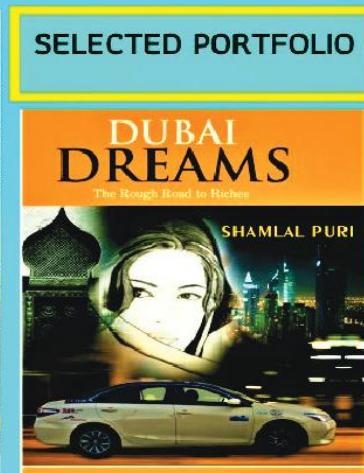
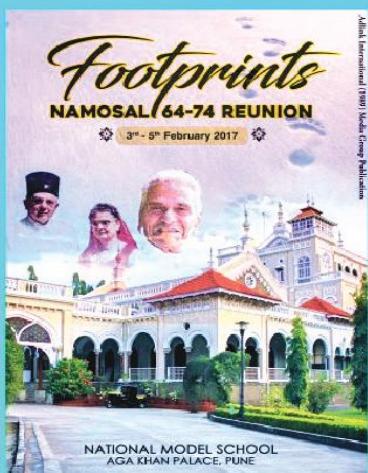
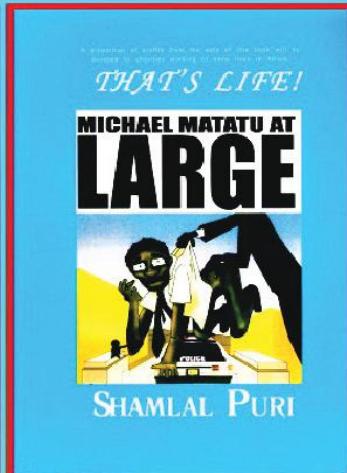
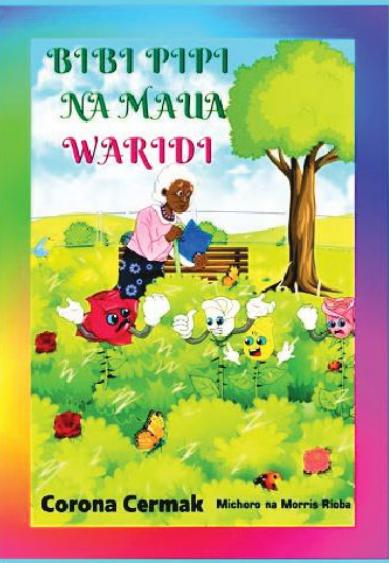
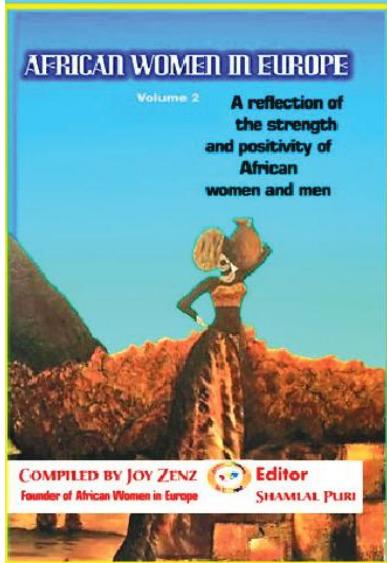
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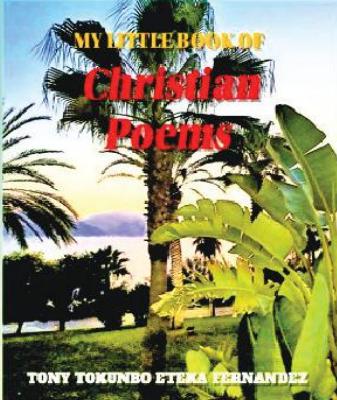
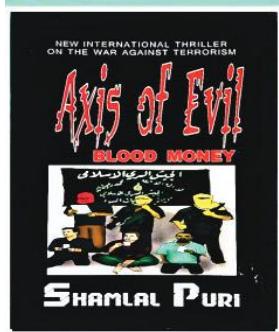
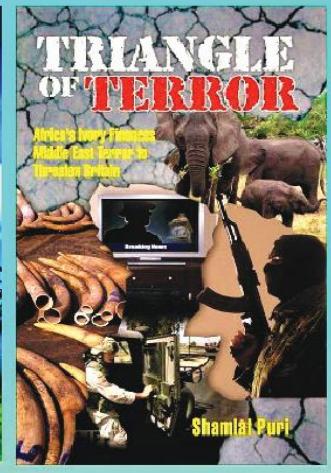
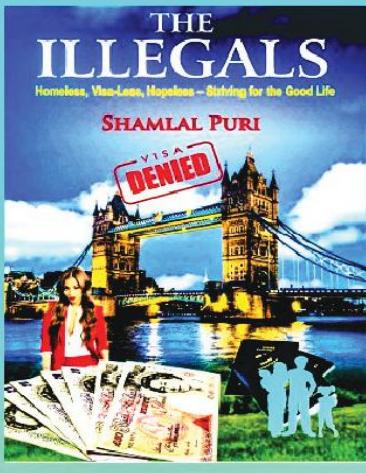
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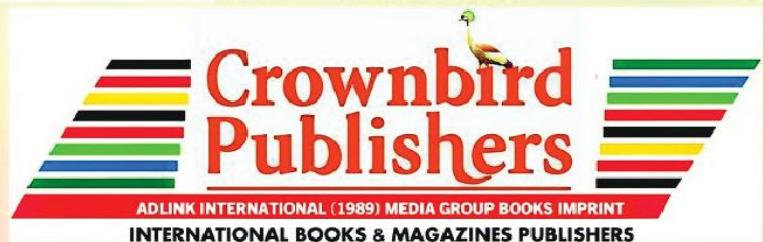
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## BUSINESS

# Ruto Hails Mobile-Based Share Trading As Capital Markets Open Up To Millions Of Kenyans

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- Speaking yesterday at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) during the launch of Safaricom's Ziidi Trader platform, President Ruto said the innovation allows Kenyans to buy and sell listed shares directly through the M-Pesa mobile money platform, significantly lowering the barriers to entry that have historically locked out millions of potential investors.
- The President said the platform aligns closely with the government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, which seeks to prioritise low-income earners and ensure that economic opportunities reach those at the base of the economic pyramid.
- "This is a decisive turning point in how Kenyans engage with the stock exchange," President Ruto said, noting that mobile-based trading dismantles long-standing obstacles to participation in the capital markets. "It opens the doors of market participation wider than ever before and brings opportunity closer to all citizens."

President Ruto directed the National Treasury to work closely with capital market stakeholders to eliminate any remaining barriers that could limit uptake of the Ziidi Trader platform. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to continuous reforms aimed at deepening and strengthening the capital markets.

President William Ruto has praised Kenya's capital markets regulator and Safaricom for leveraging mobile technology to expand access to share trading, describing the move as a major step towards inclusive economic growth and citizen-led wealth creation.

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The President said the platform aligns closely with the government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, which seeks to prioritise low-income earners and ensure that economic opportunities reach those at the base of the economic pyramid.

"This is a decisive turning point in how Kenyans engage with the stock exchange," President Ruto said, noting that mobile-based trading dismantles long-standing obstacles to participation in the capital markets. "It opens the doors of market participation wider than ever before and brings opportunity closer to all citizens."

He added that the innovation is transforming how public assets are owned, enabling ordinary Kenyans to participate confidently in wealth creation rather than leaving capital markets to a small, elite segment of society.

President Ruto directed the National Treasury to work closely with capital market stakeholders to eliminate any remaining barriers that could limit uptake of the Ziidi Trader platform. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to continuous reforms aimed at deepening and strengthening the capital markets.

Highlighting recent progress, the President said the NSE has recorded one of its strongest performances in over a decade, driven by deliberate policy and regulatory reforms over the past two years. Among the most significant changes was the removal of the previous KSh50,000 minimum investment threshold, which had excluded many Kenyans from participating in the stock market.

As a result of these reforms, President Ruto said market capitalisation grew by approximately 48 per cent, rising from KSh1.968 trillion to about KSh3 trillion in a single year. He expressed confidence that the number of Kenyans participating in the capital

markets will soon grow from about 200,000 to several million.

"We remain committed to building markets that are deep, efficient and accessible—markets capable of financing innovation, empowering enterprise and advancing national priorities," he said.

The President emphasised that the capital markets will play a central role in mobilising resources to finance the government's KSh5 trillion national transformation plan. He said this approach will allow Kenya to fund development without placing additional tax burdens on citizens or accumulating unsustainable public debt.

According to President Ruto, funds channelled through instruments such as the National Infrastructure Fund and the Sovereign Wealth Fund are intended to attract private investment, support national priorities and protect inter-generational equity.

"This is not an untested experiment," he said, pointing to countries that have successfully leveraged privatisation, strong capital markets and institutional reforms to transform their economies. By listing strategic state-owned enterprises, such countries deepened liquidity, attracted global capital and elevated their stock exchanges from frontier to developed markets, he noted.

In this context, President Ruto said the ongoing privatisation of the Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) is a deliberate and carefully sequenced policy decision guided by global best practice. He encouraged Kenyans to participate in the upcoming Kenya Pipeline IPO, noting that ordinary citizens will be given first priority.

"This is an opportunity for Kenyans



President William Ruto signing the NSE book

to own a high-value national asset built over many years," he said.

The President also announced reforms in board governance for public entities, stating that private shareholders will be allowed to sit on boards in proportion to their shareholding. He said the move will enable investors to influence corporate direction, improve accountability and support sustainable growth.

National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi echoed the President's sentiments, saying the Treasury is committed to strengthening the capital markets through supportive policies and incentives. He said inclusive capital markets are key to ensuring that economic growth benefits a wider segment of the population.

"When people say the economy is growing but the benefits are concentrated in a few hands, it is because the capital market is not inclusive enough," Mr Mbadi said, adding that

a vibrant capital market also boosts investor confidence.

NSE Chairperson Kiprono Kittony said digital innovation is at the heart of efforts to democratise investment in Kenya. He said the goal is to ensure that access to investment opportunities is a right rather than a privilege.

"Today we are opening the doors of the Kenyan capital markets to millions of Kenyans through a simple, secure and innovative platform integrated into M-Pesa," he said.

Safaricom Chief Finance Officer Dilip Pal said Ziidi Trader places wealth creation within reach of anyone with a mobile phone, inviting Kenyans to move from being passive observers to active participants in the country's economic growth.

"This platform allows every Kenyan to build wealth and contribute to national development," he said.



President William Ruto launching the new shares trading platform. Photos/Courtesy

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# Do We Go To Singapore Illiterate? Education Crisis In Kenya

By: T. Vundi Mwili

@themtkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

- When President William Ruto took the oath of office, the UDA manifesto was hailed by many as a blueprint for a Kenyan renaissance. Central to this vision was a commitment to overhaul the education sector promising to bridge the teacher deficit within two years and create a world-class workforce modeled after Singapore's economic miracle. Fast forward to early 2026 and the Singapore of Africa dream is facing a grueling reality check and a widening gap between the haves and have-nots.

- Despite a government directive that no learner should be turned away for lack of fees and repeated assurances by Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Migos Ogamba that Kenya remains committed to 100 per cent transition, the reality in schools tells a different story.



As President William Ruto continues to champion his Singapore dream for Kenya and calls for patience as his government makes tough policy choices ahead of the 2027 general elections, a growing crisis is unfolding in the education sector. Thousands of children transitioning to Grade 10 under the new senior secondary system are facing steep school fees, inadequate learning facilities and acute shortages of teachers and textbooks, especially in the marginalized areas. For many families, the cost of transition has become an unexpected burden threatening to lock vulnerable learners out of school altogether. These realities have sharpened public scrutiny of the United Democratic Alliance manifesto, The Plan, as Kenyan's question whether the administration's development vision is keeping pace with the basic needs of its youngest citizens.

For thousands of families, this disconnect is no longer abstract policy failure but a lived crisis. The transition to Grade 10 has come with sharply increased school fees, limited placement options and glaring inequalities between well-resourced private and national schools and underfunded public institutions. Many learners who successfully completed junior secondary now face the real

possibility of dropping out because their families cannot afford the cost of senior school. Shortages of classrooms, laboratories and trained teachers have further strained an already fragile system raising difficult questions about preparedness and equity. As parents scramble to raise fees and students wait uncertainly at home, the promise of an inclusive, world-class education system appears increasingly distant, turning the CBC transition into a defining test of the government's education reform agenda.

When President William Ruto took the oath of office, the UDA manifesto was hailed by many as a blueprint for a Kenyan renaissance. Central to this vision was a commitment to overhaul the education sector promising to bridge the teacher deficit within two years and create a world-class workforce modeled after Singapore's economic miracle. Fast forward to early 2026 and the Singapore of Africa dream is facing a grueling reality check and a widening gap between the haves and have-nots.

Despite a government directive that no learner should be turned away for lack of fees and repeated assurances by Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Migos Ogamba that Kenya remains committed to 100 per cent transition, the reality in schools tells

a different story. Headteachers say they are being pushed to implement policy promises without the financial support to sustain them, as capitation delays and shortfalls force schools to impose charges families cannot afford. "The President tells the country education is free, but the CS sends us circulars with fee structures parents cannot meet," said Kiptoo Matthew, a secondary school principal in Uasin Gishu. For parents, the frustration is mounting with some learners reportedly turned away despite official directives. "They tell us in Nairobi that the gates are open," said Jane Musyoka, a parent in Makueni, "but when we reach the school, only those who have paid are allowed in, while our children are left at home."

Education stakeholders argue that the UDA manifesto's promise to make learning affordable is being undermined by policies that increasingly shift costs to households, turning the New Funding Model into a barrier rather than a bridge for vulnerable learners. Beyond finances, the crisis extends to staffing and security, particularly in the North Rift and parts of the Coast, where teacher safety remains a persistent concern. Although the government pledged to recruit 100,000 teachers, heavy reliance on interns on short-term contracts has

left many schools understaffed and educators demoralized. Teachers' unions have warned that this approach risks sacrificing the quality of education for numerical targets, eroding professional dignity and creating an unstable workforce ill-equipped to deliver the world-class education envisioned in the manifesto.

Singapore's success was anchored in deliberate, inclusive investment in education before economic ambition followed. Kenya's current path, however, risks producing a divided society where opportunity is determined by ability to pay rather than ability to learn. When the poor are priced out of classrooms the promise of global competitiveness rings hollow. If government directives remain disconnected from the financial realities of schools and families, the question posed by this article's title answers itself: do we go to Singapore illiterate? Without urgent course correction, the journey may proceed in rhetoric alone while a generation is left behind without the skills, knowledge, or classrooms needed to reach that destination.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Online Pressure For A “Better Life”

In today's digital age, the internet has become more than a communication tool — it is now a lifestyle mirror. Social media platforms overflow with images of success, luxury, happiness, and achievement. While these snapshots can inspire, they also create intense online pressure to live a “better life.” Many users compare their realities with carefully curated versions of others, often leading to stress, dissatisfaction, and unhealthy competition.

The cycle begins with constant exposure. Every scroll reveals expensive cars, perfect bodies, thriving businesses, traveling influencers, and couples living what looks like a dream. What most forget is that social media showcases highlights, not struggles. Behind every polished post are debts, failures, and personal battles rarely displayed. When viewers ignore this, they feel left behind, even when their progress is perfectly normal.

This pressure has serious mental health consequences. Anxiety, low self esteem, and fear of missing out (FOMO) are common. Some individuals rush into



risky shortcuts — scams, debt, fake lifestyles, or unhealthy habits — simply to appear successful. Others lose confidence, believing they are not good enough because their lives do not look “viral.” Yet online pressure is not entirely destructive. It can serve as a youth awakening. Seeing others succeed pushes many young people to reject stagnation, learn new skills, start businesses, and chase opportunities they might otherwise ignore. The same pressure that hurts some motivates others to rise, compete, and improve. It exposes youth

to possibilities beyond their environment and encourages ambition in a generation that might otherwise settle too early.

The challenge is balance. When pressure becomes obsession, it destroys peace. When it becomes motivation, it builds progress. Young people must redefine what a better life means — not just money or fame, but stability, growth, health, and purpose. Social media should be a tool for learning, not a scale for self worth.

By John Irungu Maina



## Faith, Evidence, And The Debate Around The Owuor Documentary

A recent television documentary examining the activities of controversial Kenyan preacher Dr. David Owuor has ignited intense national debate, placing issues of faith healing, medical ethics, and media accountability at the center of public discussion. The programme, which aired on local television and quickly spread across social media platforms, questioned the authenticity of several miracle healing testimonies associated with the Repentance and Holiness Ministry, particularly claims involving serious illnesses.

According to the documentary, some of the cases presented as miraculous healings were subjected to scrutiny by medical professionals who raised concerns about inconsistencies in medical records and the verification of diagnoses. The programme suggested that in certain instances, documentation used to confirm healing claims might not have met established medical standards. These al-



legations sparked immediate reactions across the country, with supporters of the ministry strongly defending the preacher and critics demanding independent investigations.

The ministry, in response, rejected the documentary's assertions and indicated that it was considering legal action against the broadcasters, arguing that the programme misrepresented the church's work and undermined the faith of millions of followers. Medical regulators and public health experts have used the moment to remind citizens of the importance of continuing prescribed treatment even when seeking spiritual support. At the same time, several religious organizations have

called for respectful dialogue, emphasizing that faith and medicine should complement rather than oppose each other.

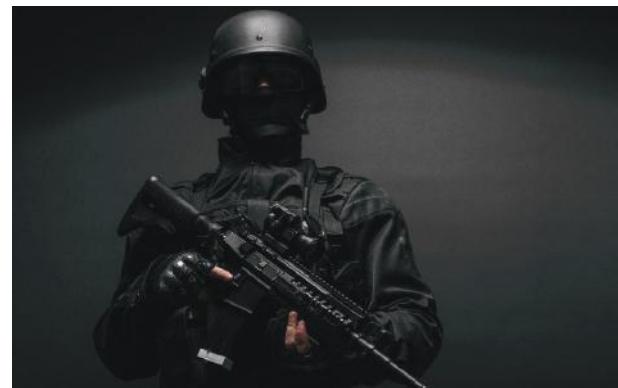
Beyond the immediate controversy, the documentary has raised broader questions about the responsibility of media houses when handling sensitive religious matters and the need for rigorous fact checking when reporting on health related claims. As discussions continue, the Owuor documentary serves as a reminder of the powerful intersection between faith, media, and science in modern society.

By Pascal Okoth, Laikipia University

## Why The Government Must Reconsider The “Shoot To Kill” Order

The recent “shoot to kill” directive issued to police officers is one of the most troubling policy decisions Kenya has witnessed in recent times. Intended to restore law and order, the order has instead exposed innocent citizens to grave danger, eroded public trust in security agencies, and blurred the line between law enforcement and unlawful violence. The tragic shooting of a Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) student, Sheryl, at her place of work by a police officer is a painful reminder that this directive is not only misguided but deadly.

At its core, the shoot to kill order contradicts the fundamental principles of policing in a democratic society. Police officers are trained to protect life, maintain peace, and enforce the law — not to act as judge and executioner. When leaders issue blanket orders that permit lethal force without strict accountability, they create an environment where abuse of power thrives.



Innocent Kenyans, who have nothing to do with criminal activities or protests, end up paying the ultimate price.

Moreover, the directive undermines the rule of law. Kenya's Constitution guarantees the right to life and due process. Even suspected criminals are entitled to arrest, fair trial, and justice through the courts. Encouraging lethal force as a first response renders these safeguards meaningless, fostering fear rather than security and turning officers into symbols of terror instead of

guardians of the people.

Kenya's history shows that violence begets violence. Dialogue, intelligence led policing, community engagement, and respect for human rights have proven far more effective. Sheryl's death should not be another statistic buried under silence but a turning point. Security must never come at the expense of humanity.

By Erick Otieno, Laikipia University

## Growing Job Opportunities In Our Community

As our local economy continues to evolve, we are witnessing a surge of job opportunities across various sectors, providing essential livelihoods for residents and fostering a vibrant economic environment. Currently, the job market is diverse and dynamic, featuring positions in healthcare, technology, retail, education, and construction.

Healthcare has become a major driver of job creation, with hospitals and clinics actively seeking professionals ranging from nurses to administrative staff, driven by the increasing demand for services. Simultaneously, the technology sector is booming as businesses rely more on digital solutions, leading to a need for skilled workers in software development, data analysis, and cybersecurity.

The retail and hospitality industries are also expanding, with restaurants and shops hiring to meet the growing consumer demand. Many of these positions offer flexible schedules, making them appealing to students and part time workers. In education, local schools and institutions



are hiring teachers and support staff to meet community needs, while the construction sector is thriving with ongoing infrastructure projects, creating high demand for skilled tradespeople.

For job seekers, numerous resources are available, including local job boards, job fairs, and networking events that connect individuals with potential employers. Additionally, skill development programs offered by community organizations can enhance qualifications and read-

iness for the job market. Overall, the local job market is robust and full of opportunities, reflecting the resilience and growth of our community. Now is an exciting time for individuals to explore the wealth of career paths available, contributing to our ongoing economic vitality.

By Angela Mwanga, Laikipia University

# Where Is Japan's Politics Headed After Lower House Election?

By: Xinhua News Agency  
 @themtkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- The ruling LDP won 316 of the 465 seats in the House of Representatives, exceeding the two-thirds threshold. Its coalition partner, the Japan Innovation Party (JIP), secured 36 seats, taking their combined total to 352 seats. On the opposition side, the Centrist Reform Alliance (CRA), newly formed before the election by the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDPJ) and the Komeito party, saw its seat count drastically reduced to 49 from the pre-election tally of 172.
- Among left-wing parties, the Japanese Communist Party saw its representation halved to four, while Reiwa Shinsengumi fell from eight seats to one. Meanwhile, the far-right Sanseito increased its presence from two seats to 15. Overall, right-wing parties and forces expanded notably, with their gains largely coming at the expense of centrist and left-wing groups.

Following Sunday's lower house election, Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) gained a significant boost in seats and secured a two-thirds majority alone in the House of Representatives.

Experts observe that LDP President and Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi seized the moment before the harmful consequences of her policies were fully exposed, consolidating her ruling base through a "lightning-fast" and "entertainment-oriented" election. However, Japan's deep-seated economic and livelihood challenges remain unresolved amid mounting concerns over Takaichi's accelerated push for a political rightward drift. For the Takaichi administration, the real test may have only just begun.

### Entertainment-Oriented election

The ruling LDP won 316 of the 465 seats in the House of Representatives, exceeding the two-thirds threshold. Its coalition partner, the Japan Innovation Party (JIP), secured 36 seats, taking their combined total to 352 seats. On the opposition side, the Centrist Reform Alliance (CRA), newly formed before the election by the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDPJ) and the Komeito party, saw its seat count drastically reduced to 49 from the pre-election tally of 172. Among left-wing parties, the Japanese Communist Party saw its representation halved to four, while Reiwa Shinsengumi fell from eight seats to one. Meanwhile, the far-right Sanseito increased its presence from two seats to 15. Overall, right-wing parties and forces expanded notably, with their gains largely coming at the expense of centrist and left-wing groups.

Experts noted that the trend of "political entertainment" became even more pronounced in this election, as Takaichi and the LDP carefully shaped campaign narratives and avoided controversial issues, gaining a traffic advantage through mobile and online platforms. Amid prolonged economic stagnation and mounting livelihood problems, some politicians have repeatedly played up so-called external threats, stirring public sentiment and spreading radical rhetoric to attract attention and online traffic, said experts. In addition, only 16 days elapsed between the dissolution of the House of Representatives on Jan. 23 and the election vote on Feb. 8, the shortest in Japan's postwar history. Under such a short timeline, the CDPJ was forced into a rushed campaign, and its newly formed alliance with Komeito failed to gain sufficient voter recognition. The extreme shortening of the election cycle made it difficult for voters to fully distinguish between policy positions, leading many to make choices largely based



Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi (C), leader of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), places red flowers symbolizing success onto names of candidates at the headquarters of the LDP in Tokyo, Japan, Feb. 8, 2026. (Kim Kyung-Hoon/Pool via Xinhua)

on exposure and visibility, said Hiroshi Shiratori, a professor at Hosei University in Tokyo.

### Possible chain reactions

Analysts believe that after political maneuvering, Takaichi swiftly dissolved the lower house and called an early election, a move that could trigger a series of chain reactions across Japan's political landscape. The election results have enabled Takaichi to further consolidate her governing base. Within the ruling coalition, the LDP's more than two-thirds majority weakens the "kingmaker" position of its partner JIP, thereby reducing potential pressure from within the coalition. Within the LDP itself, Takaichi had previously been viewed as having risen to power with support from party heavyweight Taro Aso and the former Abe faction. With the party's victory in her "high-stakes election gamble," Takaichi's standing within her own party is likely to be strengthened. She may also use this opportunity to cultivate her own intra-party base, as many newly elected lawmakers are seen as potential protégés. The opposition, meanwhile, has suffered a major blow. Several heavyweight lawmakers from the CRA lost their seats. The alliance's co-leaders, Yoshihiko Noda and Tetsuo Saito, announced on Monday that they would resign to take responsibility for the crushing defeat. Looking ahead, centrist and left-wing opposition forces may face a new round of fragmentation and realignment.

### More dangerous prospect

Experts caution that although Takaichi succeeded in her "lightning-fast" election strategy, the harmful nature of some of her policy proposals is

likely to become increasingly evident in the period ahead, with lasting negative consequences that could make Japan "more dangerous." First, Takaichi may take the election outcome as a political endorsement to accelerate Japan's shift toward the right, a prospect that has raised widespread concern. In a television program on Monday evening, she said that the scope of defense equipment exports would be "further expanded," and that priority would be given to strengthening national intelligence capabilities and establishing a national intelligence agency. Japanese media have also noted that with the LDP holding more than two-thirds of the seats in the lower house, surpassing the threshold to initiate constitutional amendment proposals, Takaichi may seek to accelerate efforts to revise the pacifist Constitution.

Yet the ruling coalition remains a minority in the House of Councillors, or the upper house, and whether it can secure the required two-thirds support there remains uncertain. Kanako Takayama, a professor at Kyoto University, noted that many of the Takaichi administration's policies cause substantive harm to national interests and lack long-term sustainability. Pushing through legal changes based solely on a "seat advantage," without the public being fully informed, would essentially amount to trampling on democracy, she said. Experts further point out that Japan's right-wing forces, represented by Takaichi, have exaggerated so-called regional threats as a pretext to accelerate military expansion, heightening regional tensions. The economic costs of such provocations are already rebounding on Japan itself and are likely to intensify.

Second, this "entertainment-ori-

ented" election offered little help in addressing Japan's economic and social livelihood challenges. The business community argues that Takaichi's economic policies rely heavily on expanding fiscal spending and issuing debt, which could exacerbate yen depreciation and inflationary pressures. Amid rising inflation and increasing living costs, Takaichi's campaign remarks, which portrayed yen depreciation as beneficial to foreign-currency asset returns, stood in stark contrast to the everyday hardships faced by the public. Japanese military journalist Makoto Konishi said that the current Takaichi administration appears intent on setting off a "final burst of fireworks," warning that relentlessly boosting military spending would inevitably mean deep cuts to welfare and healthcare, potentially provoking strong public backlash.

Third, in the eyes of many Japanese, while Takaichi has capitalized on the political novelty of being Japan's first female prime minister to gain popularity, her governing style has increasingly appeared arrogant, with numerous controversial remarks and actions during the campaign. Her sudden absence from a major televised party leaders' debate, citing a "hand injury," drew skepticism and was widely seen as an attempt to avoid addressing scandals related to political funding. Kazuhiko Togo, an international politics scholar and former diplomat, said it remains a cause for concern whether Takaichi, now on firmer political footing, will show due tolerance for different views, especially informed and constructive opinions. After this election, he said, the Takaichi administration will face its true test.

# Mudavadi To Visit Russia As Kenya Rescues 27 Citizens Drawn Into Ukraine War

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes

The Kenyan government has successfully rescued and repatriated 27 Kenyans who were stranded in the Russian Federation after being illegally recruited to take part in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Musalia Mudavadi, confirmed the development in an official update released yesterday, attributing the successful operation to swift diplomatic and consular interventions coordinated by Kenya's embassy in Moscow. According to the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, most of the rescued Kenyans were victims of deceptive recruitment networks linked to the Russian military.

"We have facilitated 27 Kenyans to come back home away from the frontline, having been lured by promises of jobs that turned out to be di-

rect involvement in battle," Mudavadi said.

In response to the unfolding situation, Mudavadi announced that plans are at an advanced stage for him to visit Moscow next month to engage directly with Russian authorities.

The visit aims to address the circumstances that have exposed Kenyans to the conflict and to prevent further recruitment and loss of life.

"We have seen loss of lives, and this is something that needs to be arrested," he said, noting that Kenya intends to pursue structured bilateral labour agreements similar to those signed with countries such as Germany and Austria, where Kenyans access legitimate and regulated employment opportunities.

Mudavadi said Kenya's Ambassador to Russia, Peter Mathuki, has been engaging relevant agencies to strengthen cooperation and safeguard Kenyan nationals.

He emphasised that the government's approach is anchored on diplomacy and dialogue, with a focus on protecting citizens abroad.

The Prime CS also raised concern over increasing cases of Kenyan youth being lured into unsafe jobs overseas through misinformation, illegal recruitment, and false promises. Some of the rescued Kenyans reportedly revealed they were forced to assemble drones or handle hazardous chemicals without proper training or protective equipment, while others sustained serious injuries and suffered exploitation under the Russian military.

Mudavadi further warned that the risks facing Kenyans abroad extend beyond war zones. He cited cases of forced labour, drug trafficking, and alleged human trafficking, including organ trafficking, describing them as "hidden traps" preying on vulnerable job seekers.

Upon return, the rescued Kenyans are enrolled in a structured reintegration programme coordinated by the State Department for Diaspora Affairs.

The programme provides psycho-social support to help them recover and reintegrate into society.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi with a delegation from the European Union led by Kajsa Ollongren after they held a bilateral meeting at Railways Headquarters on Monday. Ms Ollongren (2nd left) is the EU Special Representative for Human Rights.

Mudavadi also disclosed that President William Ruto has engaged the Ukrainian government diplomatical-

ly over Kenyans detained as prisoners of war, with efforts ongoing to secure their release and safe return.

# DCI Steps Up Fight Against Money Laundering, Terror Financing With Nationwide Training Drive

By: MKT Correspondents  
 @themtkenyatimes

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) has intensified Kenya's war against money laundering and terrorism financing by rolling out targeted sensitisation seminars aimed at strengthening investigative capacity across the country.

Yesterday, the DCI launched the fifth and sixth cohorts of its Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing (AML/CFT) Sensitisation Seminar, bringing together senior officers and field investigators in parallel sessions held in Naivasha and Kisumu.

The two-day seminars are part of an ongoing capacity-building programme that began last week and is designed to enhance intelligence-led investigations, inter-agency coordination, and effective enforcement of financial crime laws.

The Naivasha session for senior officers was officially opened by the Director of Forensics, Ms Rosemary Kuraru, on behalf of the Director of Criminal Investigations, Mr Mo-



Some of the senior officers undergoing training in Naivasha.

hamed I. Amin. At the same time, the Kisumu session for field investigation officers was launched by the Deputy Director of the Investigations Bureau, Mr George Kisaka.

Addressing participants in Naivasha, Ms Kuraru underscored the increasingly sophisticated methods used by criminals to launder money and finance terrorism. She emphasised the need for well-coordinated, results-driven investigations anchored on timely intelligence and strong forensic support.

Mr Amin, in remarks delivered

during the seminar, described Kenya's placement on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Grey List as a critical wake-up call. He noted that the listing exposed significant gaps in investigations, prosecutions, and inter-agency collaboration, which have negatively affected investor confidence and the country's international reputation.

In response to these challenges, the government has enacted wide-ranging legal and institutional reforms, most notably through the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of



Some of the field officers undergoing training in Kisumu.

Terrorism Financing Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025. The amendments introduce stricter oversight of financial institutions and designated non-financial businesses, enhanced Know-Your-Customer requirements, and tougher penalties for non-compliance.

As the country's lead investigative agency, the DCI has stepped up implementation of standard operating procedures, prioritised parallel financial investigations alongside predicate offences, strengthened specialised investigative units, and improved intelligence-sharing frameworks to disrupt illicit financial networks.

With previous cohorts having fo-

cused on senior leadership, the DCI has now shifted attention to field investigators—the officers at the front-line of complex financial crime cases. The Kisumu seminar marks the first session dedicated to this cadre, paving the way for a phased nationwide rollout that will extend similar training to all regions in the coming months.

The seminar series, the DCI says, reflects its firm commitment to professionalism, accountability, and robust enforcement in the fight against financial crimes, with the ultimate goal of safeguarding Kenya's financial system and economic stability.

**Sports >>** \*The "fastest half marathon in the world" is set for a historic return as Kenya's legendary Geoffrey Kamworor and Ethiopia's former world record holder Ababel Yeshaneh prepare to headline the 19th edition of the Ras Al Khaimah

# SPORTS NEWS

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## Kamworor, Yeshaneh To Headline Star-Studded 2026 RAK Half Marathon



Kamworor, Yeshaneh To Headline Star-Studded 2026 RAK Half Marathon

The "fastest half marathon in the world" is set for a historic return as Kenya's legendary Geoffrey Kamworor and Ethiopia's former world record holder Ababel Yeshaneh prepare to headline the 19th edition of the Ras Al Khaimah (RAK) Half Marathon on Saturday, February 14.

Organizers have confirmed a formidable elite field for the World Athletics Elite Label road race, which will be held exclusively on the scenic and lightning-fast Al Marjan Island.

For both athletes, the return to

Ras Al Khaimah is a homecoming to the roads that helped define their storied careers. Kenya's Geoffrey Kamworor, widely regarded as one of the greatest distance runners of all time, first announced himself to the world on this very course in 2013, where he secured a breakthrough victory.

A decade later, the three-time World Half Marathon champion and two-time New York City Marathon winner returns as the fastest man on the 2026 start list, boasting a blistering personal

best of 58:01.

Challenging for the women's title is Ethiopia's Ababel Yeshaneh, a runner whose name is etched into RAK history.

In 2020, Yeshaneh stunned the global athletics community by clocking a then-world record of 1:04:31 on this course, shattering the previous mark by 20 seconds.

After a strong runner-up finish in 2024, she returns with her sights set firmly on reclaiming the top step of the podium.

The 2026 edition promises to be one of the most competitive in

the event's history, with the flat, sea-level route designed specifically to produce world-leading times.

As the athletics world turns its eyes to the UAE this Valentine's Day, the stage is set for a classic Kenya-Ethiopia showdown over the 21.1km distance.

**Capital Sport**

# GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*Safaricom, through its M-PESA brand, has committed Ksh 10 million in support of the upcoming HSBC SVNS2 Rugby Sevens Tournament, scheduled for Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th February 2026

## HSBC SVNS2 Nairobi Receives Safaricom's M-PESA Sponsorship



Safaricom, through its M-PESA brand, has committed Ksh 10 million in support of the upcoming HSBC SVNS2 Rugby Sevens Tournament, scheduled for Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th February 2026 at Nyayo National Stadium.

As the official technology partner of the tournament, Safaricom will provide a fully kitted, world-class media centre and internet connectivity across key functional areas, as well as communication support in the form of devices and airtime to ensure seamless coordination and coverage of the global event.

Speaking during the announcement, Safaricom CEO Peter Ndegwa praised the Kenya Rugby Union for successfully securing hosting rights for the international event.

"I want to applaud the Kenya Rugby Union for the tremendous work they have put in to ensure Kenya hosts this world-class tournament. As Safaricom, we are

proud to be part of this journey," Ndegwa announced.

He added, "Through our remittance business, 'Safaricom Money Transfer Services Limited' our support for Shujaa and the Kenya Lionesses has focused on ensuring players receive their salaries and allowances reliably. Beyond that, we want fans to stay connected on our strong and reliable network, while empowering journalists with a world-class media centre for seamless coverage. We are also delighted to offer fans and customers special M-PESA App discount deals and exclusive Rugby BLIVE data bundles throughout the tournament."

During the tournament, fans attending the matches will also enjoy exclusive discounts on flights and cab services through the M-PESA App from the 14th to the 16th. Customers who spend Ksh 5,000 on trips and flight bookings will receive a 25% discount, while those who spend Ksh 1,500 on bus

bookings will also enjoy 25% off. Little users who spend Ksh 250 will receive Ksh 100 back on their trips.

The announcement builds on Safaricom's broader commitment to Kenyan rugby. M-PESA is currently the official sponsor of the National Sevens teams, Shujaa and the Kenya Lionesses, under a two-year partnership deal with the Kenya Rugby Union (KRU).

The sponsorship, valued at over Ksh 100 million, supports player and official monthly allowances, comprehensive medical insurance, airtime allowances, and financial literacy programs for the teams.

The two-day international tournament will see Kenya's Shujaa and Lionesses competing for a return to the HSBC SVNS Division 1, as they take on elite opposition in front of a home crowd.

A total of 12 teams will compete across the men's and women's categories.

The men's teams include hosts Kenya, USA, Uruguay, Germany, Belgium, and Canada, who qualified through the SVNS3 pathway.

The women's competition will feature Kenya, Brazil, Spain, China, South Africa, and Argentina, as well as qualifiers from SVNS3.

"We are truly thrilled to compete on home soil. This tournament means a great deal to us, and we are ready to give it our all. To our sponsors, thank you for your continued support; your financial and institutional backing has inspired us and elevated our performance on the pitch. To our fans, we invite you to come out in large numbers and cheer us on as we aim to make history," said Kenya Lionesses Captain Sheila Chajira.

The HSBC SVNS2 tournament forms part of the global HSBC SVNS series, showcasing fast-paced, high-intensity rugby sevens action.

*Capital Sport*

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## The Role Of Youth In Green Technologies And Sustainable Development



By: Suyunova Zuhra Oybekovna  
 @themtkenyatimes



### Worth Noting:

- In recent decades, environmental problems have intensified due to industrialization, urbanization, and excessive consumption of natural resources. These issues threaten not only ecosystems but also human health and future generations. As a response, the concept of sustainable development has emerged, aiming to meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- Green technologies play a central role in sustainable development by reducing environmental damage and promoting efficient use of resources. In this global process, young people are considered one of the most influential forces due to their creativity, adaptability, and openness to innovation. Their involvement is crucial for building a sustainable and environmentally responsible society.



In the face of global environmental challenges such as climate change, resource depletion, and pollution, green technologies and sustainable development have become critical priorities for the modern world. Young people play a vital role in promoting and implementing environmentally friendly innovations that contribute to a sustainable future. This article examines the concept of green technologies, their importance in sustainable development, and the active role of youth in driving environmental awareness, innovation, and global change. The study emphasizes that empowering young generations is essential for achieving long-term ecological balance and sustainable growth.

**Keywords:** green technologies, sustainable development, youth, environmental protection, innovation

### Introduction

In recent decades, environmental problems have intensified due to industrialization, urbanization, and excessive consumption of natural resources. These issues threaten not only ecosystems but also human health and future generations. As a response, the concept of sustainable development has emerged, aiming to meet present needs without compromising the ability of future gen-

erations to meet their own needs. Green technologies play a central role in sustainable development by reducing environmental damage and promoting efficient use of resources. In this global process, young people are considered one of the most influential forces due to their creativity, adaptability, and openness to innovation. Their involvement is crucial for building a sustainable and environmentally responsible society.

### The Concept of Green Technologies

Green technologies, also known as clean or environmental technologies, refer to innovations designed to minimize negative impacts on the environment. These technologies focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, waste reduction, recycling, and sustainable resource management.

Examples of green technologies include solar and wind energy systems, electric vehicles, eco-friendly construction materials, smart energy grids, and water-saving technologies. By reducing greenhouse gas emissions and pollution, green technologies contribute significantly to environmental protection and economic sustainability.

### Sustainable Development and Its Importance

Sustainable development is a holistic approach that balances economic growth, social well-being, and environmental protection. It emphasizes responsible consumption, social equity, and long-term environmental stability.

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) highlight the importance of innovation, education, and youth participation in achieving sustainability. Without sustainable practices, economic progress may lead to environmental degradation and social inequality.

### The Role of Youth in Promoting Green Technologies

Young people play a key role in promoting green technologies through education, innovation, and activism. As digital natives, they are more likely to adopt new technologies and advocate for environmentally friendly solutions.

Youth actively participate in environmental movements, startups, and research initiatives focused on sustainability. Many young innovators develop green startups that introduce renewable energy solutions, sustainable agriculture methods, and eco-friendly products.

### Education and Youth Empowerment for Sustainability

Education plays a crucial role in

empowering youth to contribute effectively to sustainable development. Environmental education enhances awareness, critical thinking, and responsibility toward nature.

When young people are provided with opportunities, resources, and support, they can actively contribute to solving global environmental problems.

### Challenges and Future Prospects

Despite their potential, young people face challenges such as limited access to funding, lack of institutional support, and insufficient environmental education.

Looking ahead, greater investment in youth-led initiatives, green education, and technological innovation will strengthen sustainable development.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, green technologies are essential tools for achieving sustainable development in the modern world. Youth play a decisive role in promoting environmental awareness, innovation, and sustainable solutions. By empowering young people through education, technology, and policy support, societies can ensure long-term environmental protection and economic stability.

*Author Suyunova Zuhra Oybekovna*