



The Delicate Balance Between Wealth Declaration And Right To Privacy In Kenya

Kenya finds itself navigating one of the most complex ethical and legal terrains in modern governance, where the promise of a transparent democracy meets the constitutional guarantee of individual privacy. The question of how much of a public servant's wealth should be disclosed, and to whom, has become a defining issue in the nation's fight against corruption while simultaneously testing the boundaries of constitutional rights that every Kenyan holds dear.

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News>> Mau Mau Veterans Seek KSh555 M Stake In Kenya Pipeline

P. 8. In a move that blends history with economic ambition, MMV Associates CLG has formally expressed interest in purchasing shares in KPC under the government's privatization programme.



News>> Police Asked To Probe Ruiru Stalls Arson Attack As Traders Rebuild Structures

P. 12. Police have been asked to investigate and prosecute those behind the arson attack on business stalls in Ruiru, Kiambu County, as traders began rebuilding their destroyed structures.

Edwin Sifuna Ousted As ODM SG



The Orange Democratic Movement has removed Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna as Secretary General with immediate effect following a resolution by the party's National Executive Committee meeting in Mombasa.

The decision was announced yesterday in a statement read by Deputy Secretary General Catherine Omanyoo, who was appointed acting Secretary General pending the election of a substantive office holder.



Senator Edwin Sifuna

STORY ON PAGE 9

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"ALL BUSINESSES
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By: James Wakahiu
 @themtkenyatimes

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Kiserian Catholic Junior Seminary witnessed an emotional homecoming when 92-year-old retired teacher Mr Gabriel Gaitho walked back to the school where he taught nearly seven decades ago.

Mwalimu Gaitho served at the institution in 1956 when it was known as Conception Immaculate Seminary, shortly after graduating as a P3 teacher from Kilimambogo Teachers College.

The elderly educationist was accompanied by members of his family led by his son, Dr Vincent Gaitho, Chairman of the Mount Kenya University (MKU) Council and Pro-Chancellor.

They were joined by his siblings including Mwalimu Mrs Eveline Wambui Kiarie, Father Francis Wairegi Gaitho of the Nairobi Archdiocese and Mrs Hellen Gichuru Gaitho.

Addressing students and staff, Mwalimu Gaitho encouraged learners to remain focused on their studies and remain open to opportunities the future may offer. He reminded the seminarians that pursuing religious vocation does not limit one from advancing academically or professionally, noting that the Church and society require well-prepared individuals grounded in morals, integrity and honesty.

He was warmly received by the Father Rector in Charge, Rev. Joseph Waratho, who expressed joy at hosting a teacher who had served the institution 70 years ago, describing the visit as both historic and inspiring to the current generation.

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures At The Institution And In His Some Of His Social Activities In The Past



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) yesterday hosted the Chargé d’Affaires of the United States Embassy in Nairobi, Ms. Susan M. Burns, during a visit that highlighted the institution’s growing role in innovation and technology. Ms. Burns toured the University and Semiconductor Technologies Limited, the anchor client of the Dedan Kimathi Science and Technology Park, where she was briefed on cutting-edge projects led by various departments and centers. She praised the strong collaboration between DeKUT and Semiconductor Technologies Limited, commending efforts to grow Africa’s semiconductor industry and noting that the future of semiconductors should be in Kenya.



The Tea Board of Kenya (TBK) held a high-level meeting to explore strategies for expanding tea exports to Egypt and the Middle East, following a 29% decline in exports to Egypt from 7 million to 5 million kilos. Egypt remains a key market due to its high consumption, preference for strong CTC teas, and reliance on imports. Discussions, led by TBK CEO Willy Mutai, included AMAC CEO Abraham Ng’etich, CIB Kenya, ACE Global Depository, and advisor Hon. Moses Kuria. The meeting focused on developing a digital trade platform to promote Kenya Orthodox tea in Egypt and the UAE, enhancing transparency, traceability, financing access, and sustainable growth for farmers and exporters.



Seth Mwabe Okwanyo, also known as Seth Onyango Odhiambo, was arrested and arraigned by the Banking Fraud Investigation Unit for orchestrating a Sh11.4 million cyber heist targeting a leading microfinance institution. The fraud involved 38 unauthorized transactions executed on July 16, 2025, with system and database logs erased to conceal the theft. Investigators found a malicious Java application had been installed to manipulate the system and launder funds through accomplices. Okwanyo faces 20 charges, including unauthorized computer access, computer fraud, and money laundering. He pleaded not guilty and was granted bail of Sh1.5 million or Sh500,000 cash. The case is set for mention on March 3, 2026.



The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) joined KBC Channel 1 to celebrate World Radio Day at their Nairobi headquarters, emphasizing radio’s critical role in voter education and civic engagement. Represented by Commissioner Dr. Alutalala Mukhwana, Chair of VEPSEC, the Commission highlighted radio as the most accessible and trusted medium, especially for youth, marginalized communities, and remote areas. Dr. Alutalala encouraged young Kenyans to register and participate in elections, noting that technology should complement, not delay, civic engagement. He assured the public that the 2027 General Election will be secure, free, fair, and credible, with robust voter verification measures in place. The event also traced radio’s history and technological evolution, showcasing its continued relevance in information dissemination.



Othaya constituency Member of Parliament Wambugu Wainaina yesterday led a sensitization of the area sub-county UDA party members and leaders on the internal party election procedures ahead of the upcoming repeat grassroots polls scheduled for 7th March 2026. The session was conducted by the officials from National Elections Board (NEB).



Nyeri National Polytechnic (NNP) hosted a KOICA DTVET Implementation Monitoring Visit as part of the “Promotion of Employment for Women and Green Industry” project. The visit focused on assessing progress, strengthening collaboration, and ensuring effective implementation of activities aimed at empowering women through skills development and expanding employment opportunities. It also highlighted support for green industry initiatives, enhancing TVET delivery through innovation and industry-driven training, and promoting inclusive economic development. NNP reaffirmed its commitment to building strong partnerships that foster quality training, green skills, and women empowerment. The collaboration underscores a shared vision of shaping a more sustainable, inclusive, and skilled workforce for the future.

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Tharaka Nithi Assembly Approves Supplementary Budget To Tackle Drought And Boost Development

By: Alex Njeru

@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

- The drought, which has resulted in massive crop failures, poses serious threats to food security and livelihoods. The reallocated funds aim to mitigate these impacts while supporting critical county projects and service delivery.

- Part of the funds, totaling Sh150 million, were originally earmarked as a matching fund for an industrial park, but the absence of the national government's counterpart allocation made it impractical to retain them.

The Tharaka Nithi County Assembly has approved the First Supplementary Budget for the 2025/2026 Financial Year, enabling the reallocation of funds to address pressing needs, particularly the ongoing drought affecting the county's agricultural sector. The supplementary budget comes in response to emerging priorities that require immediate financial intervention, said Murithi Gaturu, Chairperson of the Assembly's Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations and MCA for Karingani Ward.

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Additional resources were redirected from the delayed Itugururu Airstrip project, which faces setbacks due to pending land compensation by the National Land Commission and ongoing legal challenges.

Significant portions of the reallocated funds have been designated for the completion of the County Headquarters building in Kathwana. The Sh400 million project, initiated during the tenure of the county's first governor, stalled due to delays in a conditional grant from the national government. The supplementary allocation will cover final construction work and



Mukothima ward MCA Luke Marengo address press after Tharaka-Nithi County Assembly passed supplementary budget. He lauded Governor Muthomi Njuki for the allocation of money for several projects in his ward. Photo/Alex Njeru...

furniture procurement, ensuring the premises are ready for occupation and improving service delivery.

Other departments also received enhanced funding under the revised budget. The County Department of Health Services gained additional resources to strengthen healthcare delivery, while the Department of Roads, Infrastructure, Public Works, and Urban Development secured funds to improve connectivity and support economic activities. The Department of Education and Vocational Training received an increased allocation to enhance learning facilities and skills development programs. Similarly, the Department of Water Services and Irrigation will benefit from additional

funding to support water access initiatives and irrigation projects, critical for cushioning residents against erratic weather patterns.

County Assembly members expressed confidence that the supplementary budget will enhance service delivery and accelerate development across Tharaka Nithi. They commended Governor Muthomi Njuki, in his final term, for achieving significant development milestones despite financial constraints and delays in national government disbursements.

The approval of the supplementary budget now empowers the County Executive to implement the revised spending plan in line with the Assembly's recommendations. Leaders em-

phasized the need for accountability and prudent use of public resources to ensure maximum benefit to the residents, particularly in addressing urgent drought-related challenges while sustaining long-term development initiatives.

The budget represents a strategic effort to balance immediate humanitarian needs with ongoing infrastructure and social service priorities, reflecting a proactive approach to governance and resource management in the county.

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Mau Mau Veterans Seek KSh555 M Stake In Kenya Pipeline

By: y MKT Correspondents
@themkenyatimes

In a move that blends history with economic ambition, MMV Associates CLG has formally expressed interest in purchasing shares in Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) under the government's privatization programme.

The initiative is aimed at securing an economic stake for former Mau Mau freedom fighters and their descendants, marking what supporters describe as a transformative moment in post-independence empowerment.

In a letter dated 9th February 2026 and addressed to the Managing Director of the Privatization Authority, Mau Mau Veterans Associates CLG declared its intention to acquire 61,666,666.67 shares valued at KSh 555,000,000. The organization affirmed that it meets the eligibility criteria outlined in the IPO prospectus and expressed readiness to comply with all regulatory requirements.

The letter, signed by Director James Njuguna Mahuria, underscored the seriousness of the proposal and included identification documents as part of the formal application process.

Copies of the correspondence were forwarded to National Bank of Kenya headquarters and its branches, Francis Drummond & Company Limited, and the Mau Mau War Veterans Association.

The investment plan is backed by a coalition of partners including Mau Mau War Veterans Associates, Mau Mau Indigenous Knowledge, the Jeremiah Mugi Foundation and MMV Associates CLG. Operating under the broader vision of uplifting "Mau Mau Children Post-Colonial Elites," the group says the proposed purchase represents more than a financial transaction. It is intended to anchor the legacy of the liberation struggle within Kenya's modern economic framework.

Supporters of the initiative argue that while the Mau Mau fighters played a pivotal role in securing Kenya's independence, many veterans and their families have not fully benefited from the country's economic progress.

Acquiring shares in a strategic state corporation like KPC is seen as a step toward correcting that imbalance by promoting collective ownership and long-term financial security.

Compliance and Financial Struc-

turing

Following the expression of interest, Francis Drummond & Company Limited, a stockbroking firm established in 1949, formally acknowledged receipt of the application. In a letter dated 10th February 2026, the firm confirmed its readiness to facilitate the Central Depository and Settlement Corporation (CDSC) account opening and IPO application process.

Chief Executive Officer Daniel Gikandi noted that participation in the IPO must comply with the requirements of the IPO Prospectus, CDSC regulations and Capital Markets Authority guidelines. He indicated that all investors are required to have an active CDSC account and submit complete Know Your Customer documentation before shares can be allocated.

To streamline the process, Francis Drummond offered to visit the offices of MMV Associates CLG to assist with account opening and document verification. Among the required documents are the certificate of incorporation, CR12 listing of directors, company KRA PIN certificate, board resolution authorizing the share purchase and account opening, identification documents and KRA PINs of authorized signatories, passport photos, official contact details and a declaration of source of funds supported by audited financial statements.

The structured response from the stockbroker signals that the proposed KSh 555 million investment is progressing within established regulatory frameworks.

It also reflects the group's commitment to transparency and compliance as it seeks to participate in one of Kenya's significant privatization transactions.

Government Recognition and Broader Mission

The investment effort unfolds against the backdrop of formal recognition of Mau Mau Veterans Associates CLG by the government. On 26th January 2026, the Office of the President through the Ministry of Interior and National Administration issued a communication to all County Commissioners requesting administrative support for the organization.

The letter described Mau Mau Veterans Associates as a duly registered Community-Led Group serving as an umbrella body for Mau Mau or-



Former freedom fighters in a meeting...

ganizations engaged in public benefit initiatives, local governance and national development. It highlighted the group's dedication to peacebuilding, strengthening community cohesion and safeguarding the legacy of the freedom fighters.

Representatives have been appointed at county, sub-county and ward levels to carry out civic awareness campaigns, tree planting activities and documentation of historical heroes and heroines. County Commissioners were asked to accord the organization the necessary administrative support as it undertakes these

activities within their jurisdictions.

The recognition, signed by Kodeck Makori for the Principal Secretary for Internal Security and National Administration, provides an institutional framework within which the organization operates. It also reinforces the legitimacy of its broader agenda, including economic empowerment initiatives such as the proposed KPC share purchase.

For MMV Associates CLG and its partners, the bid to acquire Kenya Pipeline shares represents a symbolic and practical bridge between the sacrifices of the past and the oppor-

tunities of the present. By seeking ownership in a key national asset, the group aims to position former freedom fighters and their descendants not only as custodians of Kenya's liberation history, but also as active participants in its economic future.

MMV Associates CLG has about 185,000 members with each required to purchase about 333 shares at KSh9 which will bring a total of KSh555 million worth of shares.



James Njuguna Mahuria addressing former freedom fighters in the past. Photos/Courtesy.

Edwin Sifuna Ousted As ODM SG

By: Suleiman Mbatiah
@themtkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- The decision was announced yesterday in a statement read by Deputy Secretary General Catherine Omanyo, who was appointed acting Secretary General pending the election of a substantive office holder.
- According to the NEC, the removal followed extensive deliberations on discipline and leadership conduct, with the committee citing rising cases of indiscipline within the party, particularly among senior officials.
- The NEC said the party is governed by its constitution, the rule of law, and collective decision-making, stressing that no individual, regardless of rank, is above ODM's established structures and processes.
- "Having deliberated on matters relating to the conduct of the Secretary General, Senator Edwin Sifuna, the NEC resolved to remove him from office with immediate effect," the statement read.



Catherine Omanyo reading the press statement yesterday.

The Orange Democratic Movement has removed Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna as Secretary General with immediate effect following a resolution by the party's National Executive Committee meeting in Mombasa.

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"Having deliberated on matters relating to the conduct of the Secretary

General, Senator Edwin Sifuna, the NEC resolved to remove him from office with immediate effect," the statement read.

In a parallel and far-reaching resolution, the committee also agreed to initiate the formal process of withdrawing ODM from the Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition, citing repeated violations of the coalition's founding agreement.

The NEC said sustained breaches by coalition partners had undermined ODM's autonomy and strategic direction, prompting the party to begin disengagement in accordance with legal and constitutional provisions.

The developments unfolded amid visible internal tensions. Sifuna did not attend the Mombasa meeting, sending apologies without disclosing reasons, while Deputy Party Leader Godfrey Osotsi cited Senate duties in Nairobi.

Sifuna, a vocal and influential figure within ODM, had in recent months

taken public positions that diverged from the party's dominant line, particularly on cooperation with President William Ruto's administration.

Those remarks drew criticism from sections of the party leadership, who accused him of undermining collective resolutions and blurring ODM's political messaging during a sensitive realignment period.

Last week, Sifuna dismissed reports of an imminent ouster, saying he would remain in ODM regardless of his official position, insisting party membership did not depend on holding office.

ODM's constitution allows the NEC to remove office bearers but requires that affected officials be given an opportunity to respond to allegations, a provision that may shape internal responses to the decision.

The fallout has drawn reactions from senior figures. Siaya Governor James Orengo previously warned that removing Sifuna risked deepening divisions within the party.

Orengo described Sifuna as loyal and steadfast, cautioning that punitive action could weaken ODM at a time of transition following the death of party leader Raila Odinga last year.

The NEC, however, maintained that discipline and institutional authority were central to ODM's survival and renewal as it prepares for a National Delegates Convention scheduled for March.

Under the new arrangement, Omanyo will oversee the party secretariat as ODM repositions itself ahead of the 2027 General Election and a potential realignment of opposition politics.

Learning Resumes At Chuka Girls High School

By: Dickson Mwiti and Christine Ngitori
@themtkenyatimes

Learning resumed on Tuesday at Chuka Girls High School after the institution had been closed since January 29 following a series of protests by parents.

The school was closed indefinitely after parents demonstrated at the Tharaka Nithi County Education Offices, accusing Principal Joan Muchina of alleged mistreatment of students, intimidation of parents, and administrative mismanagement. Education authorities ordered the closure pending investigations into the claims.

Prior to resumption under the interim leadership of the Deputy Principal, fresh demonstrations occurred, with parents and students demanding the principal's removal.

The demonstrators, including parents accompanied by their daughters, marched from Chuka town to the Teachers Service Commission (TSC)

offices, insisting that learning should continue only under new leadership. The protests were triggered by reports that the principal had been seen within the school compound, prompting some students to temporarily boycott classes.

Addressing the demonstrators, Tharaka Nithi County TSC Director Emmy Kigeti assured parents that learners' safety and welfare had been prioritised and confirmed that the Deputy Principal had officially taken charge of the school.

"The learners are safe, and arrangements have been made to ensure learning continues smoothly," Kigeti said, urging parents to allow students to continue with their studies.

Chuka North Deputy County Commissioner Benson Karani described the dispute as largely a mismanagement issue and said authorities were working to restore normalcy at the institution.

"The current directive is that the Deputy Principal is in charge. We want all students to report back to school and



A section of parents with students at Chuka Girls.

resume learning," Mr Karani said. He added that a meeting involving parents would soon be convened to address outstanding concerns.

Director of Education Mbugua Kabaki reiterated that matters within the Ministry of Education's mandate had been addressed and assured parents that concerns regarding the Board of Management would be reviewed accordingly.

Despite the resumption of learning under the Deputy Principal's supervision, parents maintained their demand for the substantive principal's removal as investigations continue.



Retired Educationist Revisits Institution He Was A Teacher 70 Years Ago

By: James Wakahiu
@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

- Mwalimu Gaitho, 92, was one of the teachers at the institution in 1956.
 - He taught the seminarians in intermediate classes (Standard 5 to 8) soon after graduating as a P3 teacher from Kilimambogo Teachers College.
 - "It was then called the Conception Immaculate Seminary, Kiserian," the retiree told the students and staff.
- During the visit, Mr. Gaitho's son Dr. Vincent Gaitho who is also the chairman of the Mount Kenya University (MKU) Council accompanied him together with other siblings namely Mwalimu Mrs Eveline Wambui Kiarie, formerly a tutor at Machakos Teachers College; Father Francis Wairegi Gaitho of Nairobi Archdiocese and Mrs Hellen Gichuru Gaitho.

A retired teacher and longtime educationist, Mr Gabriel Gaitho, surprised staff and students at Kiserian Catholic Junior Seminary when he paid them an impromptu visit, 70 years after he taught at the school.

Mwalimu Gaitho, 92, was one of the teachers at the institution in 1956.

He taught the seminarians in intermediate classes (Standard 5 to 8) soon after graduating as a P3 teacher from Kilimambogo Teachers College.

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The former teacher encouraged the students to remain focused in their studies with an intent to pursue the opportunities that the future holds for them.

"Though you are studying in a Catholic seminary, the world is available for you as religious leaders or in other careers that the world may offer," he said.

He encouraged them to seek opportunities in advancement of their education with knowledge that late vocation for religious people is a possibility.

Mr. Gaitho informed the students that pursuing a career as clergy doesn't deny people from advancing into other professions.

Indeed, the church and humanity requires well tuned and prepared individuals capable of offering long deserved transformations founded on morals, integrity and honesty.

Welcoming the guests, the Father Rector in Charge, Rev. Joseph Waratho, said he was very happy to receive someone who taught at the school 70 years ago. He said students and teachers had a lot to learn from the nonagenarian (a person aged between 90 and 99 years).

Mwalimu Gaitho said formerly, the seminary was established at present site of Kilimambogo Teachers College hence been the precursor of the college. From Kilimambogo the seminary was temporarily moved to Kabaa in Machakos county where it operated for 2 years before being relocated to Kiserian in 1956. Fa-

ther Grogan was the rector (head-teacher). Other teachers were Father Crimine and Father MacCarthy.

Mwalimu's fellow teachers were the late bishops Urbanus Kioko (Machakos Diocese) and Raphael Ndingi mwana'a Nzeki (Nairobi Diocese), both of whom had just returned for their probationary year from senior seminary school at Morogoro, Tanzania after completing their course of study of philosophy. Among the teacher was Mr. Henry Thou who was carpentry instructor.

In 1957, Mwalimu Gaitho returned to his home area in Gatundu North, where started an Intermediate Class at Kamwangi primary school. The following year (1958), Mwalimu Gaitho returned to Kilimambogo Teachers College for an upgrading course to Primary (P2) grade.

After his P2 training in 1959, Mwalimu Gaitho was posted teach at Kiriko Intermediate school. In 1961 Mwalimu was transferred to Mariaini (Mataara) Intermediate schools. It was then decided that the Mataara Intermediate school for girls be swapped with Kiriko Intermediate school for boys. Mwalimu Gaitho moved with the boys to Mataara in 1961.

In the mid of 2nd term 1961 there were unrest in the Kiriko Intermediate school for girls. To manage the situation Mwalimu Gaitho was transferred to the girls school as the headmaster.

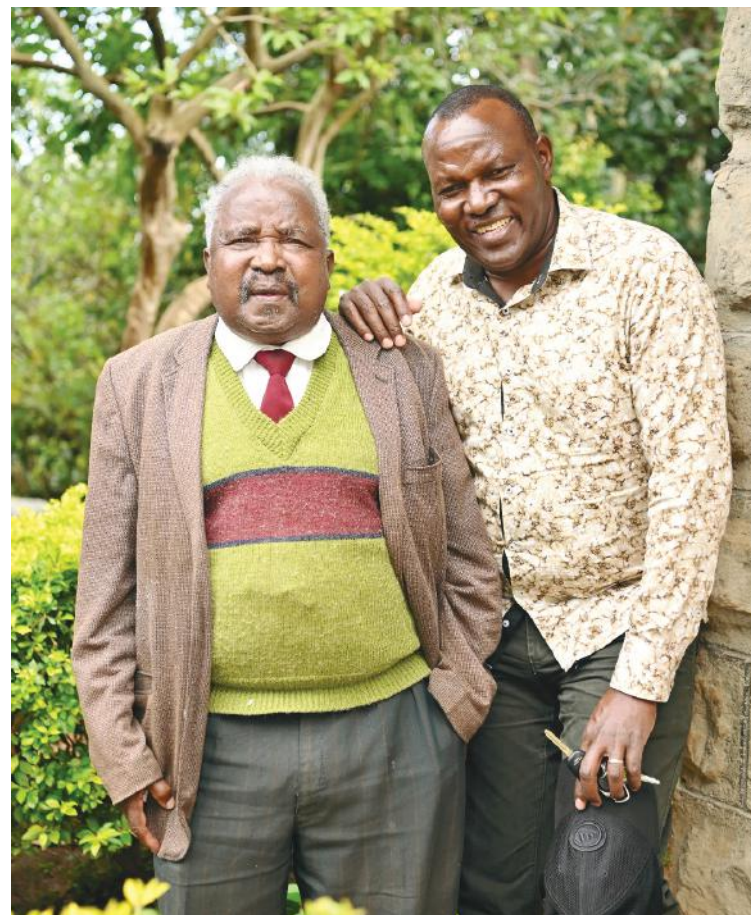
All the time, mwalimu was engaged in academic studies as a private candidate under tutelage of the Rapid Results College.

In 1961, he sat and passed his Cambridge O'levels, after which he left primary schools to start a career as a secondary school teacher at Kiriko Secondary School in 1966.

The following year, he was upgraded to Secondary School (S1) status after attending a course at the Institute of Adult Studies in Nairobi where he qualified with an equivalent of GCE A'Level and University Entrance Examination. In 1968, he gained admission to the University of Nairobi to pursue a degree in Education (History, Geography and Psychology).

After graduation, the educationist found himself back at Kilimambogo Teachers College as tutor and later as deputy principal. In the course of his career as a tutor at Kilimambogo he won 10-months scholarship to study comparative education in Australia where he was attached to Sydney University.

Mwalimu Gaitho retired in 1992,



Mwalimu Gabriel Gaitho with son Dr Vincent Gichuru Gaitho, MKU Pro-Chancellor and Council Chairman.

having taught in several primary, secondary schools and colleges. Among his many students, he recalls Prof Simon Gicharu, founder and chairman of the Board at MKU and Mr Mwangi Mbothu, Chief Principal at Kiungu High School.

In resonance with Mwalimu Gaitho's career path, his son Dr Vincent Gaitho, (Chairman of MKU Council and the pro -chancellor) relates MKU as a beneficiary of Mwalimu's influence especially in the education frontier. As it were MKU offers Bachelor of Education programs in Arts, Science, Primary Education, and Special Needs Education. There also Master of Educa-

tion programs with specializations like Educational Counseling Psychology, Educational Management Administration, and Special Needs Education.

"We also offer Diplomas in Early Childhood Studies and in Special Needs Education as well as Post-graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). For tutors, there is the Teacher Professional Development (TPD) program, accredited by the Teachers Service Commission (TSC). MKU also offers flexible learning modes, including online and distance learning, making it accessible for working teachers," he added.



Father Rector In Charge at Kiserian Junior Seminary, Rev Joseph Waratho (seated centre, left) with some of his students when they welcomed a former teacher at the school, Mr Gabriel Gaitho (seated, centre). Mwalimu Gaitho. Photo/Courtesy.

Police Asked To Probe Ruiru Stalls Arson Attack As Traders Rebuild Structures

By: John Kamau
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Traders said nothing was rescued from the midnight inferno that was allegedly started by a gang that arrived in motor bikes and harassed watchmen guarding the premises before proceeding to torch the stalls.
- Led by area Member of the County Assembly Kimani Wa Nduta, local leader and businessman Sammy Onyango and their Chairman Michael Njuguna, the traders asked the government to ensure justice prevails and that the victims' rights are safeguarded.
- Area MP Simon King'ara also came under fire for allegedly ordering the removal of the businesses to pave way for construction of a Huduma Center within the compound which also houses the local Chief's office and an ICT hub.

Police have been asked to investigate and prosecute those behind the arson attack on business stalls in Ruiru, Kiambu County as traders began rebuilding their destroyed structures. Local leaders also pledged to initiate legal measures seeking compensation for those who lost their property during last Friday's fire that gutted more than 100 stalls at Junction area. Traders said nothing was rescued from the midnight inferno that was allegedly started by a gang that arrived in motor bikes and harassed watchmen guarding the premises before proceeding to torch the stalls. Led by area Member of the County Assembly Kimani Wa Nduta, local leader and businessman Sammy Onyango and their Chairman Michael Njuguna, the traders asked the government to ensure justice prevails and that the victims' rights are safeguarded. Area MP Simon King'ara also came under fire for allegedly ordering the removal of the businesses to pave way for construction of a Huduma Center within the compound which also houses the local Chief's office and an ICT hub. Kimani dismissed the MP's decision as unprocedural, maintaining that the land in question is under the county government and that no consultation was made with the Governor's office over the matter. "There was no public participation held with all requisite stakeholders to discuss about the intended use of the piece of land. The affected traders were yearning to be heard but instead they were ignored and their properties torched. This was not an accident but a well calculated and planned arson attack," Kimani said. He also urged the traders to continue guarding the premises even after the reconstruction of the stalls is finalized, while at the same time appealing to well-wishers to come to their support. The MCA said Governor Kimani Wamatangi had provided materials for reconstruction of the business structures, insisting that only the regional government has the authority to determine their fate. "This section is part of a huge tract of land that is owned by the county government and the county leadership grieves with the affected traders. We are grateful to Governor Kimani Wamatangi for aiding the victims rebuild their structures," the MCA noted. Mr Onyango said those behind the destruction should be arraigned in court and made to pay for the huge



Businessman Sammy Onyango together with the affected traders in Ruiru on Tuesday.

loss incurred by the business people. "We believe in the rule of law and this is what should be applied. We are calling on the authorities and especially the DCI to act swiftly and apprehend the masterminds and all those involved in this brazen attack. They must be compelled by law to duly compensate all victims," Onyango said. He similarly made an appeal to Kenyans of goodwill to support the affected business persons many of whom have huge financial and family obligations to meet. "We are calling on all kind-hearted Kenyans to join efforts and help our brothers and sisters whose businesses were reduced to ashes rebuild again. We can try as Ruiru people but we cannot make it but if all Kenyans come together we shall help the victims get back on their feet," he noted. Onyango also rallied on the electorate to be mindful of the leaders they elect and make a wise decision at the ballot by voting in leaders who uphold the public interest instead of pursuing selfish interests in total disregard of the law. The traders said they incurred losses running into millions of shillings in the fire and appealed for support from the government and good Samaritans so as to rebuild their lives.



The traders rebuilding their structures after the Saturday night arson attack...

Pwani University Hosts Kenya’s First Wikimedia Club

By: Stephen Mrira
@themtkenyetimes

Wikimedia User Group Kenya has launched the country’s first university-based Wikimedia club at Pwani University in Kilifi County, marking a significant step toward empowering students to document and preserve Kenya’s cultural heritage online.

The Pwani Wiki Club seeks to equip students with digital skills to create, edit and share credible content about African history, traditions and contemporary culture on Wikimedia platforms, including Wikipedia.

The initiative aims to bridge the content gap on African issues online while promoting authentic storytelling by local communities.

Speaking during the launch at Pwani University, Wikimedia Kenya Executive Director Winnie Kabintie said the club will provide young people with an opportunity to tell their own stories and present African culture accurately

and confidently.

“This process will help explain our culture in a way that is accurate, relatable, and reflective of who we truly are,” said Kabintie. “For a long time, many African narratives have been told from an external perspective. It is time for us to shape and share our own knowledge.”

Pwani University Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Rose Ruto observed that limited online information about African culture has contributed to misconceptions and the gradual erosion of traditions.

“The lack of African cultural content on the internet has led to increased reports of degradation of our traditions and heritage. We must take responsibility to document and safeguard our identity,” she said.

Ruto encouraged students, lecturers, and researchers to utilize Wikimedia platforms responsibly by uploading well-researched and verifiable content that showcases the richness and diversity of African communities.

Kilifi County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Education and

Vocational Training Colleges Felkin Kaingu described the establishment of the club as timely, noting that it complements county and national efforts to preserve heritage.

“The Wikimedia club will play a key role in preserving and promoting our culture. The information generated will support academic research, improve access to cultural knowledge and engage communities by highlighting aspects that have not been documented online,” said Kaingu.

Knowledge, Empowerment, and Youth Trust official Gladys Kerich said her organization is developing a strategy to establish digital libraries accessible without data bundles to improve information access in underserved areas.

“It’s not just about supporting students with books and infrastructure development; we are prioritizing cultural content in these libraries to ensure communities can access information easily. So far, we have established 46 libraries across 14 counties,” she said.

Pwani Wiki Club chairperson Wel-



Some of the officials in a group after the meeting. Photo/KNA

lington Karani said students are eager to use the platform to promote the coastal region digitally.

“We want to take advantage of this opportunity to showcase the Coast online by documenting the resources and heritage available in our region,” he said.

The launch aligns with Wikimedia

Kenya’s strategic plan and broader efforts within the global Wikimedia movement to promote equitable access to knowledge, education and inclusive community participation, particularly in underserved regions.

Government Officers Urged To Monitor And Evaluate Projects

By: Bernadette Khaduli
@themtkenyetimes

National Government Administrative Officers (NGAO) in Nairobi Region have been called upon to enhance the monitoring and evaluation of government-funded programmes and projects to enable the intended beneficiaries reap benefits.

The Nairobi Regional Commissioner Gilbert Kitiyo said the government has initiated several programmes and projects in the region, a need he emphasized requires NGAO and other public officers implementing the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) projects and Presidential Directives to track the projects to ensure success.

“Our effectiveness will be judged not by meetings held, but by projects completed, livelihoods improved and transformed, and bottlenecks resolved in real time,” said Kitiyo.

The RC made the remarks in a

speech read on his behalf by the Nairobi North Sub Region County Commissioner Simon Osumba during the Nairobi Region sensitization workshop for NGAO Officers and agencies implementing bottom-up economic transformation agenda initiatives, held at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development.

The two-day meeting, that was also attended by Government Delivery Unit officers and Regional and County heads of national government departments, is aimed at evaluating achievements and successes of BETA programmes and projects, their tangible results, accountability and their measurable impact at the grassroots level.

He directed NGAO officers who are the backbone of the government at the Regional, County and Sub County levels, to align the NGAO structure with the Executive Office of the President by ensuring that Presidential Directives are clearly understood, properly tracked, and accurately reported and acted upon without delay.

Kitiyo also told the officers to ensure that the policy on BETA programmes initiated by the government translates into deliverables, of which they must also be tracked and reported.

“These programmes’ success or failure is based on how well we coordinate, monitor and escalate issues on the ground,” he stated, and urged NGAO officers to support ministries and agencies by identifying gaps early enough.

He also called upon the officers to escalate challenges through structured, evidence-based reporting, to ensure uniform interpretation of Presidential Directives, as well strengthen collaboration and coordination across counties and de-

Regarding the BETA programmes and projects that have been implemented in the region, the RC noted that they are viable and expanding, singling out the Hustler Fund uptake, the market infrastructure upgrade and construction of modern markets in various sub counties.

Other successful programmes are



Nairobi North Sub Region County Commissioner Simon Osumba. Photo/Courtesy.

the construction of affordable housing units, students’ hostels, digital superhighway centres and the East Africa Kidney Institute that will be carrying out kidney transplants at a cost of Sh650,000, cheaper than those seeking the transplants abroad

among other projects.

Kitiyo also urged Kenyans to register with the Social Health Authority and Social Health Insurance Fund to enable them benefit from affordable medical cover.

Our Life In This World Is Just A Short Trip



Our life in this world is just a short trip,
From the womb to the tomb,
So let's make this trip enjoyable
Within that time, let's all utilize it fruitfully
With no jealousy, greed, hatred, or ego,

Because all will vanish one day,
Only good memories will stay back,
reverberating
Rich or poor, beautiful or ugly, fat or thin,
young or old,
All will lead the same life, go to graveyard
one day

Our ancestors lived and have gone,
Now we live, remember it's not permanent,
it's just a history

Hardly anyone remembers our great
grandparents' names,
Or their grandparents' names,
it's a forgotten by all

Same will happen to us too, after 3 or 4
generations,
So let's leave all ego and lead a happy life.
Beauty is only skin deep, don't give
importance that
One day wrinkles will form, hair will turn
grey, it is nature

Hands will tremble, can't walk properly, it's
true,
It's laws of nature, common for all,
So live for today, enjoy each and every
second,
Make the most of it, life's short, let's not
point out fingers to others

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

The Earth



The Earth is a beautiful planet,
A shining home for you and me.
Third from the bright and glowing sun,
The only world with life to see

Filled with air and flowing water,
Mountains tall and forests green,
Rivers, lakes, and mighty oceans

The most wonderful sight ever seen.

With deserts wide and atmosphere,
Earth protects all living things.
Seventy-one percent is water,
And twenty-nine percent land it brings.

It spins to make our days and nights,
And circles the sun each year;
Let us protect our precious Earth,
And keep our planet safe and clear.

Akshitha. V
Eighth standard
PUMS KONGANANCHERRY
CHENGALPATTU DISTRICT

My Father – A Precious Gift



It's a fruit of exertion,
Offers rest to the God's gifts.
What's it?

Get stagger – the gift to travel,
Seem senseless – the gift to handle,
Turn furnace – the gift to view.
In extreme, our blossoms are
on the verge to be buds,

If we have it,
What's it?

It makes us feel,
Even the shadow of a tree
Like a bed of roses,
What's it?

This fruit ends with 'ness',
And we call it 'Tiredness'.

P. Sowmiya,
BT Assistant,
GHS, Kannanur,
Trichy



My father is a gift from God,
Everyone loves their father dearly.
I love my father very much,
His memories stay close and clearly.

Though he is no longer here,
His dreams still light my way.
He wished for me to rise and shine,
And make him proud someday.

I will follow the path he showed,
And turn my dreams into true;
With courage in my heart each day,
Dad, I do it all for you.
I miss you, Dad
But your love lives on in all I do.

E. Hemaasree
PUMS KONGANANCHERRY
CHENGALPATTU DISTRICT

Life Is Short



Have you enjoyed each bite of your long
meal?
Have you ever listened to the sweet song
of quail?
Have you chased a rainbow, bus left behind?
Have you followed a butterfly, heart
intertwined?

If not,
Just make a pause, life's short.
It is single, No replays.
Even if you believe in rebirth,
I am sure there is no second death.
Just make a pause life's short.
Enjoy each moment, feel your heart.

RAJITHA D,
BT Assistant(English),
G(G)HSS, PADAPPAL,
KANCHIPURAM

I May Not See You Everyday But I Love You Everyday



I am away from you.
But thinking of you.
You are not here by near.
Though I can't see you
Feelings about you interrupt me.
where you are? what you are?
How is it possible?
The thoughts have potential.
To vibrate on you.
So that I may wonder
One day you will think of me.

And promise me for my favour
My manifestations become true.
I ever love you
because I trust you.

N. Selvarani.
B. T. ASST.
GHS SAKKARAKKOTTAI.
RAMANATHAPURAM.
TAMILNADU.
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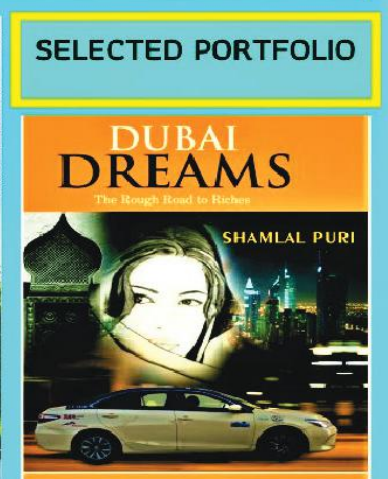
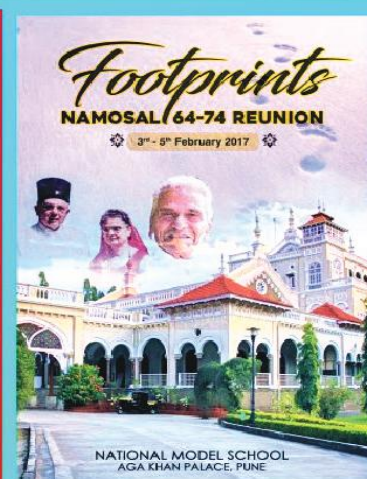
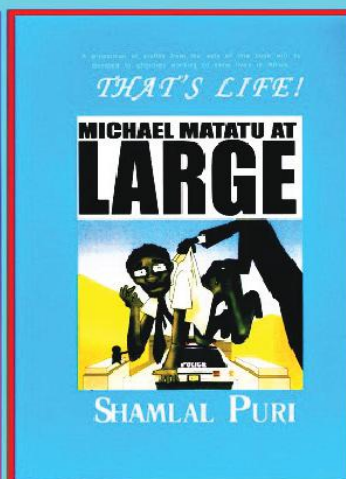
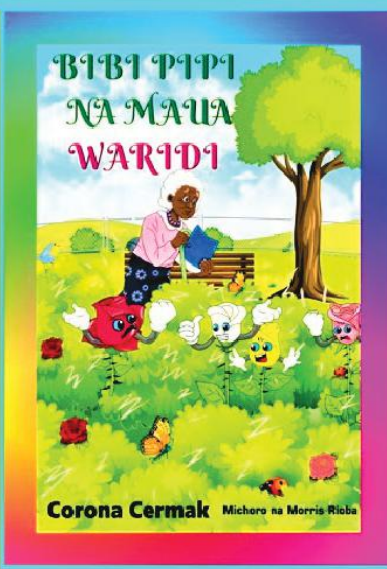
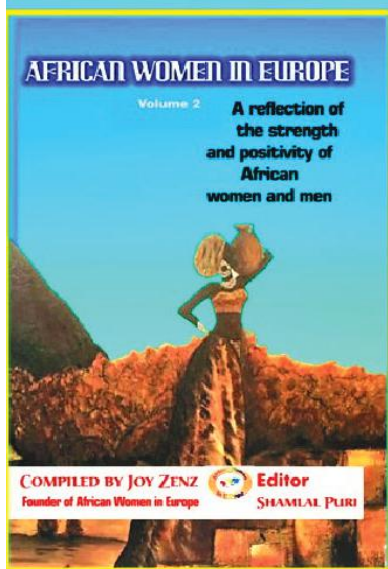
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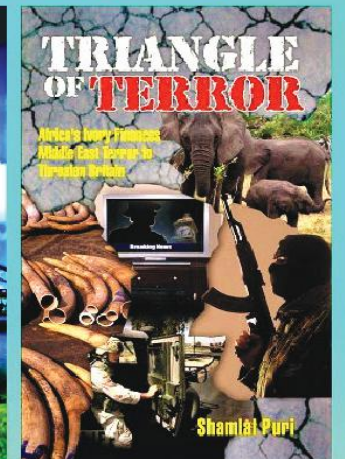
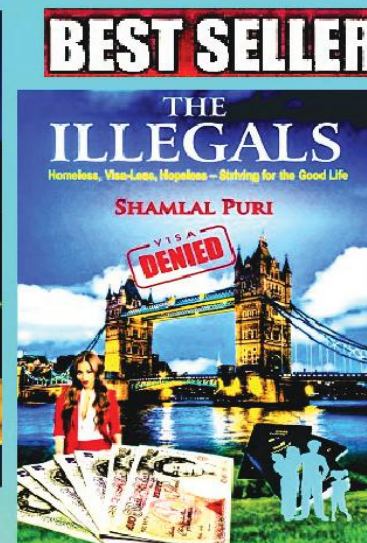
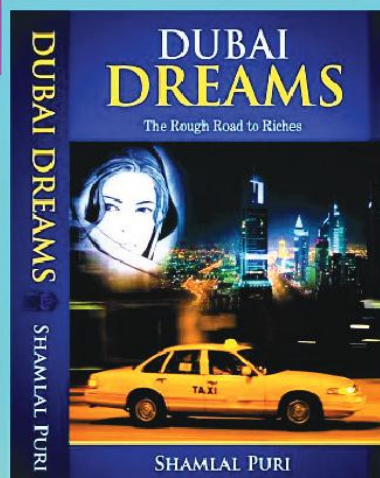
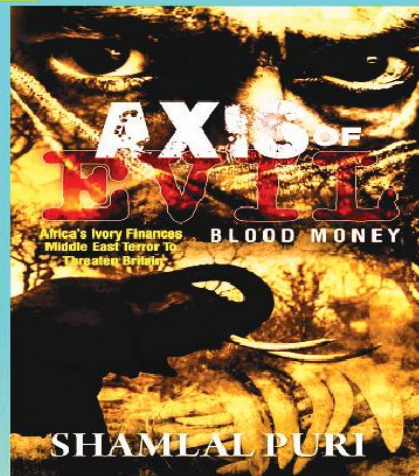
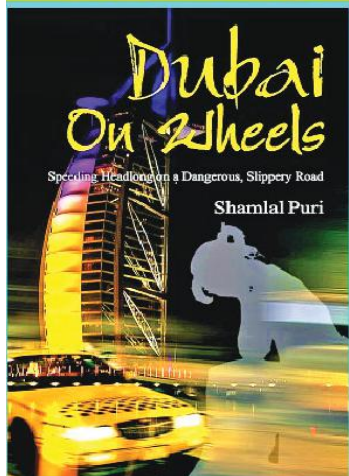
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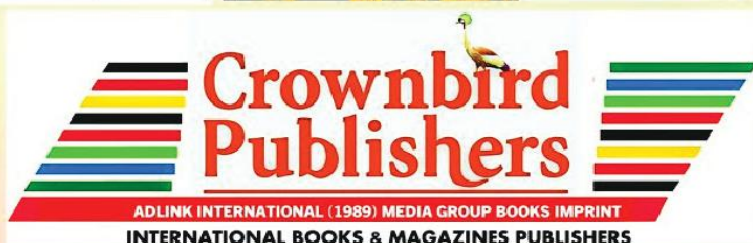
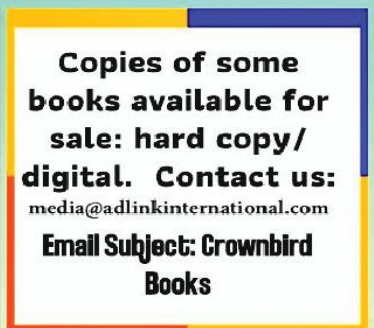
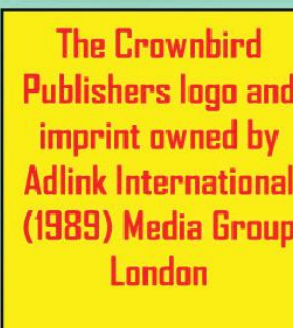
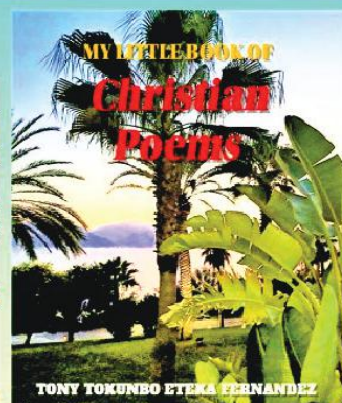
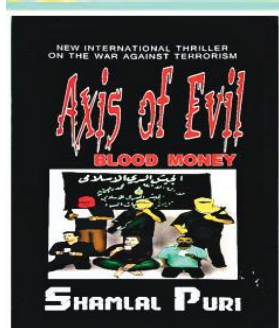
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Kenya And Japan Mark 60 Years Of JOCV Partnership With Renewed Focus On Skills And Industrial Growth

By: Naif Rashid
@themtkenyaintimes

The Government of Kenya has reaffirmed its commitment to deepening cooperation with Japan in skills development, industrial transformation and human capital growth as the country marked 60 years of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOVC) programme.

The milestone celebration, held at a Nairobi hotel, brought together senior government officials, Japanese diplomats, development partners and beneficiaries to reflect on six decades of partnership and shared progress.

Speaking during the anniversary ceremony, Principal Secretary for Industry Dr. Juma Mukhwana described the JICA Volunteer Programme as a cornerstone of Kenya's technical and institutional development.

He noted that the programme has significantly strengthened the country's technical capacity, innovation ecosystem and long-term industrial ambitions.

"JICA's story in Kenya is not written in reports alone. It is written in our classrooms and laboratories, in our hospitals and farms, in our roads, ports and power plants, and most importantly, in the lives and opportunities of millions of Kenyans," Dr. Mukhwana said.

He emphasized that Kenya is drawing critical lessons from Japan's post-war development model as it accelerates its industrialisation agenda.

According to the PS, Japan's transformation into a global industrial leader was anchored on discipline, skills development, innovation and long-term strategic planning; principles Kenya is seeking to emulate.

As the country expands its manufacturing base, promotes value addition and works to create decent jobs for its youthful population, Dr. Mukhwana said collaboration with Japan remains vital. He described Japan as one of Kenya's most trusted and strategic development partners, with cooperation spanning education, research, infrastructure, energy and industrial growth.

"This anniversary is not just about celebrating the past. It is a celebration of friendship, trust and a shared development destiny between Kenya and Japan," he added.

The event commemorated six decades since Kenya became the first African country to host Japanese volunteers in 1966. Since then, more than 1,800 JOVC volunteers have served across the country, contributing to national development in sectors such as education, healthcare, sports, environmental conservation, industrial development and community empowerment.



Guests being taken through some of the exhibition stands during the forum. Photos/Courtesy.

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during the anniversary ceremony, Principal Secretary for Industry Dr. Juma Mukhwana described the JICA Volunteer Programme as a cornerstone of Kenya's technical and institutional development.
- He noted that the programme has significantly strengthened the country's technical capacity, innovation ecosystem and long-term industrial ambitions.
- "JICA's story in Kenya is not written in reports alone. It is written in our classrooms and laboratories, in our hospitals and farms, in our roads, ports and power plants, and most importantly, in the lives and opportunities of millions of Kenyans," Dr. Mukhwana said.
- He emphasized that Kenya is drawing critical lessons from Japan's post-war development model as it accelerates its industrialisation agenda.

Japan's Ambassador to Kenya, Matsuura Hiroshi, described the volunteer programme as a pillar of people-to-people diplomacy and a key foundation for the enduring friendship between the two nations.

He said the strength of the initiative lies in the trust built at the grassroots level and the deep human connections formed between Japanese volunteers and Kenyan communities over the years.

"The strength of this programme lies in the trust built at the grassroots level and the deep human connections formed between Japanese volunteers and Kenyan communities over the last sixty years," the Ambassador noted.

JICA Executive Senior Vice President Ms. Miyazaki Katsura also underscored Kenya's importance as one of JICA's most vital global partners. She said the volunteer programme represents the heart of Japan's commitment to sustainable and people-centred development.

"Kenya continues to be one of JICA's most important partners worldwide, and the volunteer programme represents the very heart of our cooperation," she stated.

Inspector-General of the National Police Service Douglas Kanja highlighted the programme's impact on Kenya's security and safety systems. He said JICA support has strengthened capacity within the police service through training, knowledge transfer and community-based initiatives.

"For six decades, this programme has stood as a powerful testament to international cooperation, people-to-people exchange and a shared commitment to human security and

development," Kanja said.

He cited a recent JICA-supported training programme in Japan focused on strengthening the Safe System Approach to road traffic accident prevention. Such initiatives, he said, continue to enhance professional standards and operational effectiveness within the National Police Service.

Kanja emphasized that JICA volunteers are more than technical advisors. "The volunteers are not just advisors; they are colleagues, friends and catalysts for change. This JICA philosophy aligns perfectly with our mission to provide people-centred, accountable and professional policing services," he said.

The Inspector-General also assured Japanese partners that the government remains committed to ensuring the safety and security of all JICA volunteers serving in Kenya, both present and future.

Beyond official speeches, the ceremony showcased the long-term impact of the volunteer programme through testimonials and personal stories from beneficiaries whose lives have been transformed. One of the most emotional moments was a reunion between former Japanese volunteer Mr. Futaki Hiroyuki and Mr. Gilbert Mwangi, a former beneficiary of the Kenya Students' Educational Scholarship (KESTES). Mwangi now serves as a county official in Kakamega County, demonstrating the lasting ripple effects of mentorship, education and cross-cultural cooperation.

Additional success stories highlighted improved learning outcomes at Nkaimurunya Senior School, youth empowerment initiatives through the Bondeni Football Club, and economic transformation among members of

the Chuodho Women Group. These accounts illustrated how grassroots interventions have translated into measurable community progress over time.

The event also featured a karate demonstration and a photographic exhibition chronicling six decades of volunteer service, symbolizing the cultural exchange and community engagement fostered by the JOVC initiative.

JICA Chief Representative Shinkawa Makoto expressed gratitude to both Japanese volunteers and Kenyan host communities for what he termed "sixty years of shared journeys." He said the anniversary was not only a celebration of past achievements but also an opportunity to renew commitments for the future.

"This anniversary is not only about celebrating the past but also about renewing our commitment to strengthening partnerships that will shape the future," Shinkawa said.

He reiterated that the volunteer programme continues to play a central role in promoting knowledge transfer, capacity building and people-centred development.

As the celebrations concluded, Kenya and Japan reaffirmed their shared vision of expanding cooperation in skills training, industrial transformation, infrastructure development, community empowerment and sustainable growth. The 60-year milestone served as both a reflection on a rich history of collaboration and a renewed pledge to deepen ties as Kenya advances its economic and social development agenda.

Kenya Replaces KNEC With KNEAC

By: Faustine Agnes
@themtkenyetimes

In a landmark move to overhaul the education sector, the Government of Kenya has officially proposed dissolving the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) and replacing it with the Kenya National Educational Assessments Council (KNEAC).

The new KNEAC Bill, 2025, approved by Cabinet on Tuesday, introduces stringent penalties for academic malpractice, signalling a “zero-tolerance” era for school administrators and candidates.

The Bill, spearheaded by the Ministry of Education, seeks to align national evaluation methods with the Competence-Based Curriculum (CBC) where traditional single final exams would be replaced by continuous assessments, focusing on

measuring each child’s abilities accurately.

Under the new law, school heads face up to 10 years in prison or fines of Sh10 million for document forgery, while leaks of assessment materials on social media carry a five-year jail term.

Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba described the reform as essential for safeguarding the integrity of Kenyan certificates.

“This Bill is the final nail in the coffin for examination cartels. We are replacing a rigid, exam-centric model with a credible competency-based framework that ensures every child’s ability is measured fairly and accurately,” stated CS Ogamba during a briefing.

However, teachers’ unions have expressed concerns about the severity of the penalties with Collins Oyuu, Secretary General of the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT), urging for a balanced approach.



“Integrity is non-negotiable, but we must ensure that our educators are not criminalized for administrative bottlenecks beyond their control. A Sh10 million fine is a death sentence for a teacher,” he said.

The public is divided, torn between the desire for clean exams and the shock of the new penalties.

Mary Wanjiku, a parent and local trader, said, “For years, we have seen rich kids buy grades while our hardworking children suffer. If these tough laws finally bring equality to our schools, then the government has my full support.”

If Parliament fast-tracks the Bill, KNEC will have 60 days to wind up its operations and transfer all assets, liabilities, and records to the newly formed KNEAC. All current KNEC employees are expected to transition into the new body, subject to fresh vetting.

Nakuru County Launches Policy Promoting Sustainable Agroecology Practices

By: Esther Mwangi
@themtkenyetimes

Nakuru County Government has unveiled an agro-ecology policy, a farmer-led initiative designed to promote sustainable agriculture and climate-resilient farming systems.

The policy aims to encourage eco-friendly practices, improve food security, reduce malnutrition, and enhance environmental conservation.

According to Chief Officer for Livestock, Fisheries, and Veterinary Services Dr. Michael Cheruiyot, the policy guides farmers toward practices that restore the environment while ensuring safer, healthier, and traceable food.

He emphasized the need for decision-makers to adopt agroecology and agrobiodiversity-based approaches to address climate change and support economic and social livelihoods for farmers.

Speaking during an Agroecology Multi-Stakeholder Forum which convened county and national government representatives, civil society, farmer organizations, re-

searchers, private sector actors, and development partners, Dr. Cheruiyot highlighted strategies to disseminate training and information saying public barazas, extension officers, and farmer field days would be used to encourage locals to adopt agroecology, safeguarding both livelihoods and the environment.

The forum focused on strengthening governance and institutional arrangements essential for implementing the Nakuru County Agroecology Policy effectively. Dr. Cheruiyot reaffirmed the county’s commitment to collaborating with stakeholders to ensure successful adoption of agroecological practices. He said the policy outlines strategic interventions, regulatory frameworks, and institutional mechanisms to support the transition across Nakuru County.

Agroecology aims to restore ecosystems, reduce post-harvest losses, and ensure access to safe, nutritious food. It also seeks to improve productivity while enhancing environmental sustainability. The policy underscores coordinated, inclusive, and sustainable approaches under Governor Susan Kihika’s administration.

“The country’s food system faces

threats from climate change, land degradation, and rising hunger levels. We must now shift to resilient, sustainable, and people-centered farming practices,” Dr. Cheruiyot said.

He noted that agroecology supports soil health, smallholder farmers, and long-term food security, offering a solution to environmental and economic challenges simultaneously.

Nakuru joins other counties, including West Pokot, Kiambu, and Murang’a, in promoting agroecology to address food insecurity and climate pressures. Agroecological practices mimic natural ecosystems, enhance resilience, reduce reliance on harmful inputs, and empower smallholder farmers, who are the backbone of Kenya’s food system.

Chief Officer for Agriculture, Eng. Margaret Kinyanjui, highlighted the central role of smallholder farmers as custodians of Kenya’s land and engines of the national food system. She said the policy focuses on soil health, farmer-led innovations, indigenous seeds, organic fertilizers, and reducing migration from arid and semi-arid lands by boosting local productivity.

The policy also emphasizes climate



Stakeholders during a forum

resilience, promoting diversified food production systems integrating agro-pastoralism, agroforestry, and landscape farming. Empirical studies demonstrate that agroecology strengthens smallholder resilience, improves soil fertility, fosters low-emission farming, and supports locally adapted solutions through peer-to-peer networks.

Agroecology-based approaches address major challenges in the food system, including dependency on chemical inputs, poor soil quality, degradation of water and biodiversity, and climate change. By inte-

grating agroecology into Nakuru County’s agricultural, food, environmental, and climate policies, the government ensures that budgetary allocations support sustainable farming practices.

“Transforming our food systems is essential if we want to feed our people and preserve our land for future generations,” Dr. Kinyanjui said.

The policy provides a roadmap for promoting agroecology while enhancing livelihoods, environmental stewardship, and food security across Nakuru County.

The Delicate Balance Between Wealth Declaration And Right To Privacy In Kenya



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- The case for robust wealth declaration requirements rests on compelling anti-corruption rationale. Kenya has consistently ranked poorly on global corruption indices, with Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index regularly placing the country in the bottom half of nations surveyed.
- Grand corruption scandals, from Goldenberg to Anglo-Leasing to the more recent National Youth Service saga, have cost taxpayers billions of shillings. Wealth declaration serves as a crucial accountability mechanism, allowing authorities and the public to track unexplained wealth accumulation and identify potential conflicts of interest.

Kenya finds itself navigating one of the most complex ethical and legal terrains in modern governance, where the promise of a transparent democracy meets the constitutional guarantee of individual privacy. The question of how much of a public servant's wealth should be disclosed, and to whom, has become a defining issue in the nation's fight against corruption while simultaneously testing the boundaries of constitutional rights that every Kenyan holds dear.

The constitutional and legal framework governing wealth declaration in Kenya is anchored in Chapter Six of the 2010 Constitution, which sets out principles of leadership and integrity. Article 80 specifically requires State officers to publicly declare their income, assets, and liabilities as prescribed by national legislation. This constitutional mandate was further operationalized through the Public Officer Ethics Act of 2003 and strengthened by the Leadership and Integrity Act of 2012. These legislative instruments created a comprehensive regime requiring senior government officials, from the President to county government officers, to submit biennial declarations to the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC). The legal architecture reflects Kenya's commitment to transparency following decades of grand corruption that saw public resources plundered while perpetrators operated behind veils of secrecy.

However, this transparency imperative collides with equally important constitutional protections enshrined in Article 31 of the Constitution, which guarantees every person the right to privacy, including the right not to have information relating to their family or private affairs unnecessarily disclosed. This provision creates a fundamental tension: at what point does the public's right to know about their leaders' wealth override an individual's constitutional right to keep personal financial matters private? The collision between these two constitutional values has generated intense debate among legal scholars, civil society activists, and political leaders, with no clear consensus on where the line should be drawn.

The case for robust wealth declaration requirements rests on compelling anti-corruption rationale. Kenya has consistently ranked poorly on global corruption indices, with Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index regularly placing the country in the bottom half of nations surveyed. Grand corruption scandals, from Goldenberg to Anglo-Leasing

to the more recent National Youth Service saga, have cost taxpayers billions of shillings. Wealth declaration serves as a crucial accountability mechanism, allowing authorities and the public to track unexplained wealth accumulation and identify potential conflicts of interest. When Daniel Toroitich arap Moi left office in 2002 after 24 years as President, questions about wealth accumulated during his tenure highlighted the urgent need for transparency. The same patterns repeated with subsequent administrations, reinforcing the argument that without mandatory disclosure, corruption becomes endemic and impossible to detect until it reaches scandalous proportions.

Proponents of stringent disclosure argue that public service is a privilege, not a right, and those who choose to serve must accept a commensurate reduction in privacy expectations. This social contract theory suggests that the moment an individual assumes public office, they voluntarily surrender certain privacy rights in exchange for the power and trust vested in them by citizens. Civil society organizations like Transparency International Kenya and the Institute for Social Accountability have consistently advocated for not just declaration to regulatory bodies, but public disclosure accessible to ordinary citizens. They argue that sunlight remains the best disinfectant, and that genuine accountability requires public scrutiny, not just bureaucratic oversight by commissions that have themselves occasionally been accused of complicity or incompetence in fighting corruption.

Even so the privacy concerns are neither trivial nor merely self-serving objections from reluctant officials. Critics of expansive disclosure requirements point out that publicizing detailed wealth information can expose public servants and their families to security risks, including kidnapping, extortion, and targeted violence. In a country where personal security remains precarious and organized crime syndicates operate with sophisticated intelligence, publishing comprehensive asset registers could make public officials and their families vulnerable targets. Furthermore, there are legitimate concerns about the privacy of family members who have not chosen public life: should a spouse's business interests or a child's inheritance be subject to public scrutiny simply because one family member holds public office? The constitutional protection of family privacy suggests these concerns de-



serve serious consideration.

The implementation of wealth declaration in Kenya has been marked by selective enforcement and practical challenges that undermine its effectiveness. While the law requires declarations, compliance has been inconsistent, and consequences for non-compliance have been minimal. The EACC has struggled with limited capacity to verify the accuracy of declarations, often accepting them at face value without the resources or political support to conduct thorough investigations. High-profile cases where officials declared modest assets only to later be exposed living lavish lifestyles have eroded public confidence in the system. The declaration process has sometimes become a mere bureaucratic formality, a box-ticking exercise that provides legal cover without delivering meaningful accountability. This gap between legal requirement and practical reality suggests that the debate should focus not just on what should be declared, but on how declarations are verified and enforced.

International comparisons offer instructive lessons for Kenya's balancing act. Countries like Sweden and Norway maintain public registries of tax returns and wealth information, reflecting a cultural acceptance of transparency that may not translate directly to Kenya's context. The United States requires extensive financial disclosure from senior federal officials, with detailed public forms, but also provides exemptions for certain assets and allows redactions for secu-

rency reasons. South Africa's approach, more comparable to Kenya given shared colonial histories and corruption challenges, requires detailed declarations but limits public access, making information available primarily to oversight bodies and journalists through formal requests. Each model reflects different cultural values and constitutional frameworks, but successful systems share common features: independent verification mechanisms, meaningful sanctions for non-compliance, and clear standards for what constitutes legitimate privacy versus unacceptable secrecy.

The technological dimension of this debate adds new complexities and possibilities. Digital platforms could make wealth declarations easily searchable and analyzable by citizens and civil society, democratizing accountability in unprecedented ways. However, digitization also amplifies privacy risks, making personal financial information vulnerable to hacking, identity theft, and misuse. Kenya's digital infrastructure, while advancing rapidly, faces significant cybersecurity vulnerabilities that must be addressed before wholesale digitization of sensitive financial information. The challenge is to harness technology's potential for transparency while building safeguards against its risks, a balance that requires sub-

Gov't Bans 21 Unapproved Mobile Phone Brands Over Safety Concerns

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

The Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) has banned 21 mobile phone brands from the local market, warning that they pose significant safety and health risks to consumers. CA Director General David Mugonyi issued the notice on Tuesday, describing the devices as “non-type approved” and cautioning the public against purchasing or using them. Among the affected brands are Tinsik, Realfone, F+, Fonrox, Mez, Nemojo, Vue, Bundy, Qqmee, U-FM, Chatada, Superx, Momofly, WR, X Oda, Smba, Q-Seven, Ugbad, FT, Raeno, and Switch. Mugonyi urged Kenyans to buy mobile phones only from licensed ven-

dors and verify the approval status of devices before purchase. Consumers can check authenticity by dialing *#06# to obtain the IMEI number and sending it via SMS to 1555, or by visiting the CA website free of charge. “The Authority, through a Type Approval process, ensures that all ICT devices comply with national and international standards related to safety, health, and electromagnetic compatibility (EMC),” Mugonyi explained. “This protects consumers from hazardous products, minimizes health risks, and prevents interference with other electronic equipment.” The CA’s move comes amid rising concerns over the influx of cheap, unregulated mobile phones flooding the market, which could compromise user safety and device performance. Vendors caught selling the



banned brands face strict penalties under the law. Consumers are advised to remain vigilant and prioritize approved devices to safeguard their health and ensure compliance with national ICT standards.

The Delicate Balance Between Wealth Declaration And Right To Privacy In Kenya

Contd from page 18

stantial investment in secure systems and data protection frameworks that align with the Data Protection Act of 2019. A nuanced approach to resolving this tension might involve graduated disclosure requirements based on the level of office and public trust involved. The President, Deputy President, Cabinet Secretaries, and governors, who wield enormous power and control vast resources, should face the highest disclosure standards with presumptive public access to their declarations. Mid-level officials might be required to submit detailed declarations to the EACC with public access available upon request, subject to legitimate privacy protections for family members. This tiered system would acknowledge that privacy expectations legitimately vary based on the degree of public responsibility assumed. Such an approach could be coupled with strong verification mechanisms, including lifestyle audits and cross-referencing

with tax records, land registries, and corporate filings, making declarations meaningful rather than merely formal. The role of judicial interpretation in striking this balance cannot be overstated. Kenyan courts have an opportunity to develop jurisprudence that harmonizes the competing constitutional values of transparency and privacy. Decisions in cases challenging disclosure requirements or seeking access to declarations will shape the practical boundaries of both rights. The judiciary should apply proportionality tests, asking whether disclosure requirements are rationally connected to anti-corruption objectives, whether they minimally impair privacy rights, and whether their benefits outweigh their costs. Such analysis would provide a principled framework for resolving specific disputes while respecting both constitutional imperatives. Recent court decisions suggesting that public interest can override privacy in matters involving public officials provide a foundation, but more refined guidance is needed. Ultimately, the delicate balance between wealth declaration and pri-



vacy in Kenya reflects the broader tension in democratic governance between individual rights and collective accountability. There is no perfect equilibrium, only choices that reflect societal values and priorities at particular moments in history. For Kenya, a nation still building its democratic institutions while confronting entrenched corruption, the scales may justifiably tip toward transparency for those in positions of public trust. However, this tilt must be accompanied by robust procedural safeguards, independent verification, meaningful enforcement, and sensitivity to legitimate privacy concerns, particularly for family members and regarding information that poses genuine security risks. The goal should not be to eliminate privacy for public servants, but to calibrate it appropriately to the responsibilities they have accepted and the trust they must earn. Only through such calibration can Kenya build a system that deters corruption while respecting the dignity and rights that the Constitution guarantees to all, including those who serve the public. The journey toward this balance is ongoing, requiring constant dialogue, legal refinement, and political will to ensure that neither transparency nor privacy becomes a casualty in the pursuit of the other.

The writer is a social commentator.

Epstein Files Cast Doubt Over Justice System’s Credibility In U.S., The West

By: Xinhua News Agency
@themkenyatimes

The recent release of files related to late U.S. financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein has rattled U.S. politics and triggered turbulence in many European countries. Not only did it expose the corruption and privilege of the powerful elite, along with their disregard for morality, it also shattered the self-proclaimed universal values of Western society. More importantly, it compelled a sobering reassessment of the Western justice system’s fairness, revealing a structure that seems to grant impunity to the rich and powerful.

Turmoil across the West

On Jan. 30, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) released the remaining Epstein files, including over 3 million pages, more than 2,000 video segments and 180,000 images. In total, the DOJ has released nearly 3.5 million pages of documents related to the case. In the United States, the latest documents include references to President Donald Trump and several figures from his inner circle. According to multiple U.S. media reports, Trump’s name appears more than 1,000 times. “While some of the references are benign, others include newly disclosed unverified sexual assault claims against Trump as well as fresh details about how some of Epstein’s victims described their interactions with the future president,” CNN reported. Trump, meanwhile, said the allegations are nothing but a “conspiracy” targeting him.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and Kevin Warsh, who was nominated by Trump to chair the Federal Reserve, entrepreneur Elon Musk, who has close ties to Trump, and Stephen Bannon, an advisor during Trump’s first term, are also mentioned in the latest documents. Several Democratic lawmakers, along with Republican Congressman Thomas Massie, one of the advocates behind the Epstein Files Transparency Act, have already called for the commerce secretary to resign. In a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on Tuesday, Lutnick admitted that he and his family had lunch with Epstein on the latter’s private island in 2012, but denied having any relationship with him. “I did not have any relationship with him. I barely had anything to do with that person,” he said in his testi-

mony. In Europe, the latest files have triggered even greater turbulence. In Britain, Morgan McSweeney resigned as chief of staff to Prime Minister Keir Starmer following controversy over the appointment of Peter Mandelson as ambassador to the United States.

Norway’s Foreign Ministry said on Sunday that Mona Juul had stepped down as Norway’s ambassador to Jordan, also accredited to Iraq, after revelations about her contact with Epstein. Former French Culture Minister Jack Lang resigned as president of the Arab World Institute, a Paris-based cultural and academic institution, over alleged past financial links to Epstein. The impact extends beyond politics. Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, the late pop king Michael Jackson, among others, were also mentioned in the files. “This is actually a glimpse into the darkened hearts of the very rich and powerful who have become so blinded by their greed, power and sense of entitlement that not only can they ‘do no wrong’ but that, given their power and status, they have the ‘right’ to use others for their own purposes regardless of the impact of such manipulation on their victims,” Greg Cusack, a former member of the Iowa House of Representatives, told Xinhua.

Transparency to what degree

The Trump administration’s handling of the document release has triggered widespread skepticism and criticism. The administration delayed the release for months, heavily redacted numerous files, and even the latest release did not include all materials, prompting the question: transparency to what degree?

Releasing the Epstein-related files was a campaign promise Trump made during his re-election bid in 2024. However, after taking office in January 2025, his administration failed to fulfill this commitment. It was not until the U.S. Congress passed the Epstein Files Transparency Act with an overwhelming majority in mid-November that the DOJ began releasing the documents in batches, starting from the Dec. 19 deadline. Following the latest release, Democratic Congressman Ro Khanna, who co-sponsored the bill alongside Republican lawmakers, said in a press release that while the DOJ claimed to have collected over 6 million potentially relevant pages, only about 3.5 million pages were released after review and redaction. Khanna noted that he would closely examine whether the DOJ had dis-

closed materials he has long advocated for public release, including FBI victim interview records, draft indictments and prosecution memos from the 2007 Florida investigation, as well as hundreds of thousands of emails and files from Epstein’s computers.

In addition, redaction errors by the DOJ exposed a significant amount of victim information, sparking public outrage. Following the release, the names and personal details of nearly 100 victims were made public. This blunder has prompted victims to ask: who exactly is being protected by these redactions? Over the past several months, the release of the Epstein case files has been repeatedly delayed and fraught with complications. This has not only amplified public skepticism toward what many see as the “delayed, selective transparency” of the U.S. government, but also further eroded external trust in the Trump administration and the broader U.S. political system.

Justice system in doubt

Western governments uphold judicial fairness as a core value and have repeatedly cited it to lecture other countries on issues such as human rights and corruption. Yet the “minor stir” following the release of the Epstein files reveals how Western judicial systems can protect the elite and exposes the hypocrisy of their proclaimed values.

Despite a massive document dump related to the Epstein case, the DOJ has said that it does not currently expect more arrests based on the disclosures. “There’s a lot of correspondence. There’s a lot of emails. There’s a lot of photographs. There’s a lot of horrible photographs that appear to be taken by Mr. Epstein or people around him,” Deputy U.S. Attorney General Todd Blanche told CNN. “But that doesn’t allow us necessarily to prosecute somebody.” Some disagree. Members of Congress who reviewed unredacted documents on Monday reported finding proof that at least six individuals had been kept hidden from the public without clear legal justification, reigniting accusations that the Trump Administration protected influential individuals from investigation. Republican Congressman Thomas Massie and Democratic Congressman Ro Khanna said the DOJ redacted the names of at least six men who are “likely incriminated.”

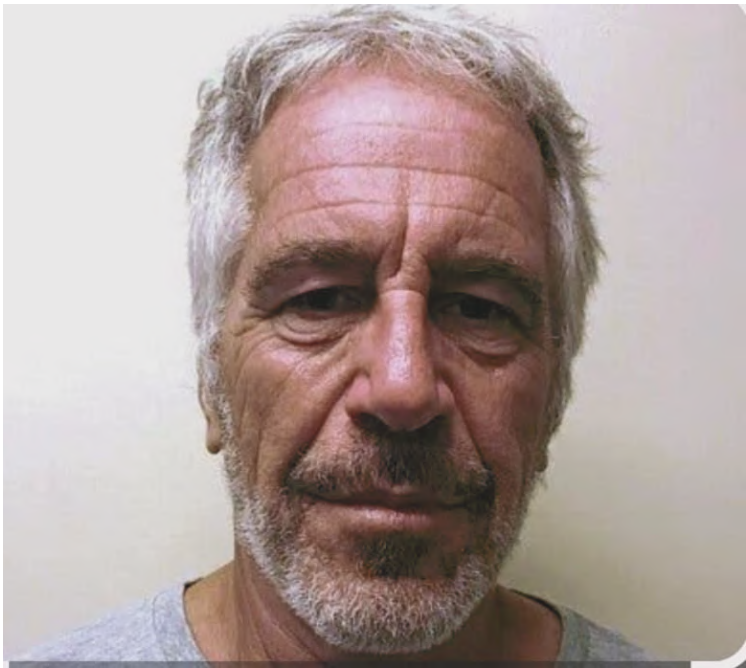
Despite heightened attention from Congress and intensified public criticism, the latest revelations appear to have caused little stir in U.S. pol-



Donald Trump

itics, which has grown almost immune to scandal and operates with a notable lack of shame and oversight. “As Europe moves to address its shame, it’s highlighting the comparative lack of accountability in the U.S.,” the Politico reported. While Trump said on Feb. 3 that it’s time for the country to move on from the Epstein files, U.S. public opinion appears unprepared to “turn the page,” because many feel that justice has not been served. “Americans are not

ready to move on from the Epstein story because there remain unanswered questions. The big issue is culpability for bad behavior. What will happen to those named in the files,” Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West told Xinhua. “The administration has said there will be no further releases, no investigations, and no indictments. But the scope of the bad behavior leads many to question that approach,” West said.



Jeffrey Epstein



The Downfall Of Edwin Sifuna: A Predictable Shift In ODM Leadership

The removal of Edwin Sifuna as Secretary General of the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) is more than a personnel change; it is a reflection of the turbulence that has engulfed the party since the death of its long time leader, Raila Odinga. For years, Sifuna embodied Odinga’s vision, serving as a vocal defender of the party’s ideals and a sharp critic of its opponents. Yet, in the aftermath of Odinga’s passing, loyalty became less of an asset and more of a liability, as ODM struggled to redefine itself in a new political era.

Sifuna’s downfall was not sudden. It was the culmination of months of internal maneuvering, factional rivalries, and the inevitable contest to fill the vacuum left by Odinga. His alignment with Odinga’s legacy placed him at odds with emerging voices eager to chart a different course. In a party searching for fresh identity, Sifuna’s steadfastness to the past became a predictable point of fracture. The timing of his



removal underscores the fragility of ODM’s cohesion and the shifting sands of Kenyan political alliances. What lies ahead for Sifuna is uncertain but consequential. He may attempt to rally loyalists and reclaim influence within ODM, or he could choose to forge a new movement rooted in Odinga’s ideals. His ability

to engage grassroots supporters and build strategic alliances will determine whether he remains a relevant force or fades into political obscurity. In the end, adaptability—not loyalty—will define his survival in a rapidly evolving landscape.

By: Angela Mwanga, Laikipia University.

The Pollution Crisis In Kenya: A Growing Concern

Kenya, celebrated for its breathtaking landscapes and rich biodiversity, is now facing a pollution crisis that threatens both its environment and its people. Air, water, and land pollution have become pressing issues, eroding the very foundations of health, sustainability, and economic growth.

Nairobi’s air quality ranks among the worst in Africa, with particulate matter levels far exceeding World Health Organization limits. Rivers such as the Nairobi and Ngong are heavily contaminated with industrial waste, sewage, and plastics, turning once vital waterways into toxic streams. On land, plastic waste clogs landscapes, suffocates wildlife, and overwhelms landfills, leaving scars on Kenya’s natural beauty.

The consequences are severe. Pollution contributes to respiratory diseases, cancers, and other illnesses, placing immense strain on healthcare systems. Aquatic life suffers from poisoned waters, while ecosystems buckle under the weight of plastic waste. Economically, the



crisis undermines tourism and increases public health costs, creating a burden that Kenya cannot afford to ignore. Solutions exist, but they demand urgency. The government must enforce bans on single use plastics and invest in recycling infrastructure. Waste management requires modernization, with proper disposal and composting systems. A push for clean energy—solar, wind, and other renewables—can reduce reliance on polluting fuels. Public awareness campaigns should educate citizens on eco friendly

practices, while strong policy enforcement must back green initiatives. Citizens, too, have a role: using reusable bags and bottles, participating in clean up drives, conserving energy and water, and supporting sustainable policies. With collective action, Kenya can reverse the tide and protect its future.

By: Agnes Otieno, Laikipia University.

Kenya’s Hustle Culture Is Slowly Exhausting Us



Kenya has long celebrated the hustle. From the boda boda rider braving the cold dawn, to the mama mboga arranging her stall with quiet optimism, to the graduate scattering CVs like seeds in barren soil, the narrative has been simple: work hard and eventually, fortune will smile. Hustle has become our national anthem. Yet today, the chorus feels weary, the rhythm broken. Young Kenyans wake daily to headlines of corruption, soaring costs, and joblessness. The refrain is always the same—grind harder. But grinding in a system that rarely rewards effort fairly is

not resilience; it is exhaustion. Many are not unwilling to work. They are simply tired of running in circles, chasing opportunities that remain elusive. Social media magnifies the strain. Timelines overflow with curated success stories, soft life captions, and motivational quotes urging focus. But focus does not pay rent. The pressure to perform creates silent battles, where worth is measured by productivity alone. If you are not earning, you are branded a failure, regardless of circumstance. What cuts deepest is not just the scarcity of opportunity, but

the normalization of struggle. We laugh at our pain, turning hardship into memes. Behind the humor lies a generation unheard, unseen, and under relentless pressure to prove its usefulness. Kenya needs more than pep talks. We need systems that function, leadership that listens, and opportunities that reward merit over connections. Hustle should not be a lifetime sentence. Hard work must open doors, not merely build character.

By: Levis Wangamati, Laikipia University.

Voters Should Think Beyond Party Affiliations And Tribal Loyalty When Electing Leaders

The recent talk of a possible political reunion between former President Uhuru Kenyatta and former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has reignited debates about Mt. Kenya’s political future ahead of the 2027 general elections. While such a reunion may be interpreted as regional unity, the critical question for residents remains: what tangible benefits will they derive from it?

Politics is ultimately a game of interests, and the interests of politicians often outweigh those of the public. Voters must recognize that the rhetoric of unity and development is frequently a camouflage designed to secure power. The challenge is whether citizens will see through this hypocrisy and vote for leaders who genuinely seek to build a better society, or whether they will once again fall into the traps of cunning political actors.

Mt. Kenya, a vote rich region, has long delivered electoral victories that primarily benefit



the political elite. The time has come for voters to break free from the dictates of kingpins and party waves. It is disheartening to see leaders bargain for personal power at the expense of citizens who continue to suffer after every election cycle. Ideologies and manifestos should now guide electoral choices. Independent, development oriented leaders with proven track records must be prioritized. Voters should research aspirants thoroughly,

assessing their qualifications and community service. Gen Z, though vocal in pushing for change, must also register in large numbers to translate activism into electoral impact. Kenya’s democracy thrives when citizens place their interests above loyalty to politicians. The power to shape governance lies squarely in the hands of the people.

By: Daniel Maina, Laikipia University.

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Sports >> *The 2027 African Cup of Nations (Afcon), set to be co-hosted by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, could be postponed due to the unpreparedness of the three countries.

Panic Mode Ahead As Reports Emerge Over Possible Postponement Of Afcon 2027



Outside view of the Talanta Stadium.

The 2027 African Cup of Nations (Afcon), set to be co-hosted by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, could be postponed due to the unpreparedness of the three countries.

A report by the Guardian indicates that the Confederation of African Football (Caf) are set to discuss the possibility of pushing the continental tournament to 2028 as the three co-hosts labour to finalise the construction of the designated sports facilities in time.

Ahead of Caf's Executive Committee (ExCo) meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on Friday, doubts persist over whether the three East African neighbours are ready for the rigours of hosting the 24-team tourney, to be spread across 10 cities.

This may prompt the continental governing body to push it back by 12 months, thereby forcing the 2028 Afcon to be held a year later.

To complicate matters, Caf had earlier announced that Afcon will revert to a quadrennial competition from 2028.

South Africa and Botswana have expressed an interest to co-host the 2028 Afcon as have Ethiopia.

The decision to push Afcon 2027 to 12 months later could allow Caf to transition to the four-year cycle in addition to allowing teams that will be competing in this year's World Cup to prepare well for the competition.

Caf has also introduced a new competition — the Africa Nations League — initially set

for 2029 while scrapping the Africa Nations Championships (CHAN).

A confident country

The latest rumours come amid bullish declaration from Ministry of Sports officials in Kenya as well as the local organising committee (LOC) chair Nicholas Musonye about the country's readiness to host the competition.

On Wednesday afternoon, Musonye expressed confidence that Kenya is comfortably capable of hosting the tournament, even by itself.

"You go to Talanta (Stadium)... what you see in Talanta is what you saw in Morocco, so we are not far away (in terms of quality). People say Kenya is a vil-

lage, but it is not a village. We have the best hotels in the world. We would have hosted this AFCON on our own without going to Uganda and Tanzania," Musonye said.

Two of the country's biggest stadia — Nyayo and Kasarani — that are set to be used for the tourney will be closed after the coming weekend for year-long renovations.

At the same time, the 60,000-seater Talanta Stadium is currently under construction, with Sports Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya recently revealing that it is 85 per cent complete.

By: Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Lewis Hamilton says that the new rules this year make Formula 1 “ridiculously complex” and that “none of the fans are going to understand it”.

Hamilton Says New Formula Rules Are ‘Ridiculously Complex’

Lewis Hamilton says that the new rules this year make Formula 1 “ridiculously complex” and that “none of the fans are going to understand it”.

The seven-time champion was referring to the increased degree of energy management required by the new engines, which have a near 50-50 power split between internal combustion engine and electrical components.

Briton Hamilton, speaking after driving the Ferrari on the first morning of this week’s pre-season test in Bahrain, said: “I sat in a meeting the other day and they’re taking us through it. And yeah, it’s like you need a degree to fully understand it all.”

The rules have set up a situation where the engines are energy starved most of the time, and teams and drivers have to maximise the amount of energy recovery they do.

This has led to unusual technical strategies and driving techniques.

These will include not going flat out exiting a corner before starting a qualifying lap, and backing off on the straights to conserve energy.

There are four kinds of energy recovery:

- Regenerative braking, where the motor recovers energy while slowing for a corner
- Part-throttle overload, where the battery takes power from the engine in parts of the track where the driver does not need full throttle, such as cornering, where engines may run at high revs when a driver is not on the power
- Lift and coast – lifting off before corners so the electric motor can run against the engine
- ‘Superclip’ – the electronic control unit diverts energy to the battery when the driver is still at full throttle on the straight

These are all complicated by the fact that the drivers can operate a ‘boost’ button for extra power to facilitate an overtake, but then



Lewis Hamilton’s last drivers’ championship was in 2020

risk being short of power and vulnerable to being re-passed on the following straight.

Hamilton said: “If you look at Barcelona, for example, we’re doing 600 metres lift and coast on a qualifying lap. That’s not what racing is about. Here (in Bahrain), we’re not having to do that because there’s lots of braking zones.”

Drivers will also have to use lower gears than they would like to help with energy recovery.

Hamilton added: “The low gears that we have to go down into is just because we can’t recover enough battery power.

“We can’t recover enough battery power, so that’s why we have to go and rev the engines very, very, very high. So we’re going down to second and first in some places just to try to recover that extra bit of power.”

Hamilton’s comments should be seen in the context that the teams are just beginning to learn about their new cars, and they will not be seen in anger until the start of the season.

It is also the case that some of

these energy management strategies, such as lift and coast, were already being used last year, with the previous engines.

Rulemakers are likely to give the rules some time to settle down before jumping to conclusions or making knee-jerk reactions.

Hamilton gets new engineer but Ferrari still ‘looking for right person’

Hamilton also addressed the question of having a new race engineer after Riccardo Adami, who worked with him last year, was moved to a new role running the driver development programme.

The 41-year-old had a poor first season with Ferrari, failing to finish on the podium in any of the 24 races.

Hamilton said that splitting with Adami was “a very difficult decision to make”, and added that that he would be working with a temporary engineer for the first part of the season.

“It’s actually quite a difficult period because it’s not long-term,” Hamilton said. “The solution that I currently have is only going to

be a few races. Early on into the season, it’s going to be switching up again.

“I’ll have to learn to work with someone new. That’s detrimental to me, too. A season where you want to arrive with people that have done multiple seasons, that have been through thick and thin and calm.

“It is the situation that I’m faced with and I’ll try to do the best I can. The team is trying to do the best they can to help make it as seamless as possible.”

Hamilton’s new engineer is Carlo Santi, who performed the same role for Kimi Raikkonen in his second stint at Ferrari, which ended in 2018.

A Ferrari spokesperson said Hamilton was “in good hands”. They added that they were “looking for the right person”, but insisted Hamilton was “not being put at a disadvantage”.

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Shaping Minds, Transforming The World

By: Zainab Mustafa
@themtkenyatimes

"Artificial intelligence is not the future; it is the present shaping our tomorrow."

Artificial intelligence has quietly moved from the pages of science fiction into the center of modern life. What once felt distant and imaginary is now deeply woven into our daily routines, often working silently in the background. AI Week is observed across the world to highlight this powerful transformation, to spread awareness about how artificial intelligence works, and to encourage its responsible and ethical use. More than a celebration of technology, AI Week is a reminder that intelligence created by humans must be guided by human values.

Every day, whether we realize it or not, we interact with artificial intelligence. When a smartphone unlocks using facial recognition, when a navigation app suggests a faster route by analyzing traffic, or when a streaming platform recommends movies based on personal interests, AI is actively learning and responding. These systems analyze massive amounts of data, recognize patterns, and improve with experience. AI Week helps people understand that artificial intelligence is not hidden inside complex machines alone; it is already shaping how we live, communicate, work, and think.

One of the main purposes of AI Week is to build awareness. Many people use AI-powered tools without understanding how they function or what impact they may have on society. Artificial intelligence refers to machines and software that can perform tasks usually requiring human intelligence, such as learning, decision-making, problem-solving, and language understanding. Unlike traditional machines that follow fixed instructions, AI systems adapt and improve over time. This ability to learn is what makes AI powerful, but it also makes responsibility essential.

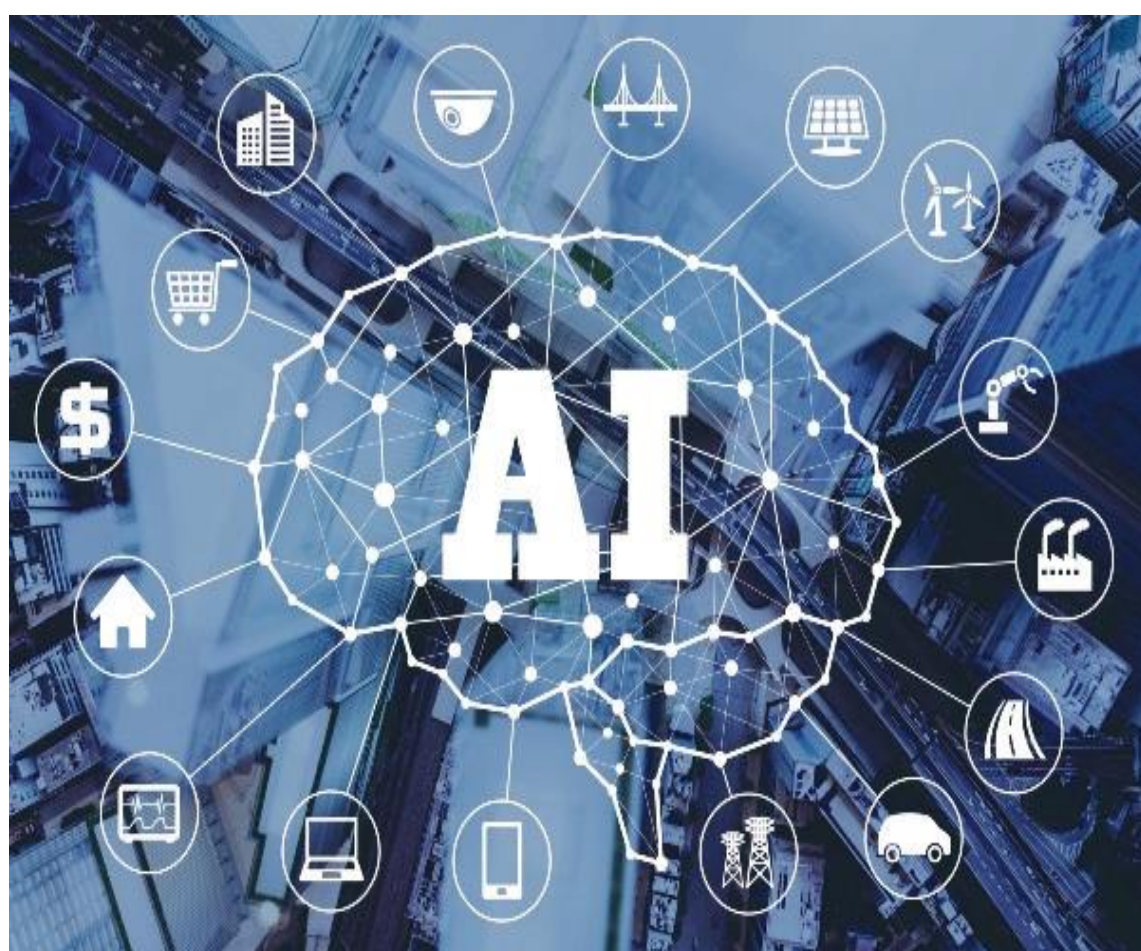
In everyday life, AI has become a source of convenience and efficiency. Voice assistants answer ques-

tions instantly. Email filters protect users from harmful or unwanted messages. Camera applications enhance image quality automatically. Online shopping platforms recommend products that match customer preferences. These examples may seem simple, but together they show how artificial intelligence saves time and improves daily experiences. AI Week highlights these familiar examples to remove fear and replace it with understanding.

Education is one of the most promising fields influenced by artificial intelligence. AI-powered learning platforms personalize lessons according to a student's pace and level of understanding. Students who need more practice receive extra support, while those who learn quickly are encouraged to move ahead. Teachers benefit as well, as AI helps with grading, lesson planning, and identifying learning gaps. AI Week emphasizes that such tools can reduce educational inequality, especially in remote or underdeveloped areas. At the same time, it reminds us that technology should support teachers, not replace the human connection that lies at the heart of education.

Healthcare provides some of the most meaningful examples of AI's positive impact. Artificial intelligence systems analyze medical images such as X-rays, CT scans, and MRIs to detect diseases at early stages. In many cases, AI can identify patterns that may not be easily visible to the human eye. AI also helps in predicting disease outbreaks, managing patient data, and improving hospital efficiency. Wearable devices use AI to monitor heart rate, sleep patterns, and physical activity, encouraging people to take better care of their health. AI Week highlights these developments to show how technology, when used wisely, can save lives and improve well-being.

The business and economic world has also been transformed by artificial intelligence. Companies use AI to analyze customer behavior, predict market trends, and improve decision-making. Chatbots provide customer support at any time of the day, reducing waiting times and im-



proving satisfaction. In banking and finance, AI systems detect fraud by identifying unusual transactions and patterns. In agriculture, AI helps farmers predict weather changes, monitor crop health, and increase productivity. AI Week encourages businesses to see artificial intelligence not just as a tool for profit but as a means to create sustainable and efficient systems.

Despite its many benefits, artificial intelligence also raises important ethical concerns. Issues such as data privacy, surveillance, bias, and job displacement cannot be ignored. AI systems learn from data, and if that data is biased or incomplete, the results can be unfair. For example, automated decision-making systems used in hiring or lending may unintentionally disadvantage certain groups. AI Week creates space for discussions about transparency, fairness, and accountability, emphasizing that technology must be guided by strong ethical principles.

One of the biggest fears associated with AI is its impact on employment. Many worry that machines will replace human workers. While

automation may change the nature of some jobs, history shows that new technologies also create new opportunities. AI Week focuses on preparing people for this change by promoting skill development and lifelong learning. Jobs of the future will require creativity, critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and ethical judgment — skills that machines cannot replace.

Young people play a central role in AI Week. Students are encouraged to explore artificial intelligence through workshops, seminars, competitions, and online campaigns. Learning basic coding, data analysis, and problem-solving skills empowers youth to become creators rather than just users of technology. AI Week sends a strong message that the future belongs to those who are curious, informed, and willing to learn.

At its core, AI Week is about balance. It recognizes the immense power of artificial intelligence while reminding us that technology alone cannot solve every problem. Human values such as empathy, fairness, and responsibility must guide inno-

vation. Artificial intelligence should not control society; society should control how artificial intelligence is developed and used.

In conclusion, AI Week serves as a global reminder that artificial intelligence is a tool shaped by human choices. When guided by knowledge and ethics, AI can improve lives, strengthen economies, and solve complex global challenges. When used without care, it can deepen inequalities and raise serious concerns. AI Week invites everyone — students, professionals, policymakers, and citizens — to engage with technology thoughtfully and responsibly. The future is intelligent, but it must also be humane. By learning, questioning, and guiding artificial intelligence wisely, we can ensure that progress benefits all of humanity.