



Alimony And The Constitutional Guarantee Of Equality In Marriage: A Critical Analysis Of Spousal Maintenance Under Article 45(3) Of The Constitution Of Kenya

The institution of alimony, or spousal maintenance, has long been a cornerstone of matrimonial law in Kenya, finding expression in statutes such as the Matrimonial Property Act (2013) and the Marriage Act (2014).

Page 18

THANK YOU FOR ADVERTISING WITH US
 For any news you would wish us to publish,
 email us: news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke
For Adverts & Sponsorship
 email us: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

The MT. KENYA TIMES

Daily ePAPER

Friday, February 13, 2026

No. 01491 www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

[f](https://www.facebook.com/themtkenyatimes) [i](https://www.instagram.com/themtkenyatimes) [t](https://www.twitter.com/themtkenyatimes) themtkenyatimes



News>>Kenya And Nigeria Explore Fertilizer Trade, Boost Agricultural Exports

P. 8. Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe held a high-level bilateral meeting with Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. Abubakar Kyari



News>>High Court Throws Out Mbeere North Election Petition Over KSh500,000 Security Deposit

P. 12. An Election Court in Embu has dismissed an Election Petition after the petitioners failed to deposit the mandatory KSh500,000 security for costs within the legally prescribed time.

ODM Eyes Deputy President Bid As Oburu Denies U-Turn



Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party leader Oburu Odinga has reaffirmed the party's ambition to contest for the Deputy President's seat in the 2027 General Election, dismissing claims that he had softened the party's position following recent remarks made in Kisumu.

Speaking during a party meeting in Mombasa on Wednesday, Oburu clarified that he had been misquoted earlier this month when he appeared to suggest that ODM was only interested in dialogue with President William Ruto's administration and not in pursuing top executive positions.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki shaking hands with ODM party leader Oburu Odinga on February 2. Photo/Courtesy.

STORY ON PAGE 9

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"



SCAN TO REGISTER

Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438
 +254 706 237 040 / +254 724 613 401
 business@exponentialinternational.com

 **CLASSIFY**

**"ALL BUSINESSES
 ONE PLATFORM"**

Over 121,000 Youth Benefits From NYOTA Programme As Final Counties Receive Grants

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

More than 121,800 young Kenyans across the country have benefited from the NYOTA Business Start-Up Capital programme, designed to empower youth to start or expand businesses. The final phase of the rollout was launched yesterday in Mandera and Wajir counties, where President William Ruto presided over the disbursement of KSh63 million to 2,520 beneficiaries.

Speaking during the event, President Ruto emphasized that the programme goes beyond financial support, noting that it provides structured mentorship over six months and links young entrepreneurs to additional affordable credit to ensure their businesses grow sustainably.

"This initiative is about creating opportunities for our youth, enabling them to build enterprises, create jobs, and strengthen the local economy," he said.

The NYOTA programme has so far disbursed KSh2.5 billion nationwide in its first phase, with each beneficiary set to receive an additional KSh25,000, bringing total support to KSh50,000 per entrepreneur.

President Ruto who was accompanied by several leaders led by his deputy Kithure Kindiki highlighted that the initiative is part of broader efforts to foster youth empowerment, entrepreneurship, and inclusive economic growth.

Alongside NYOTA, the government is scaling up interventions in Northern Kenya, including the installation of a 3-megawatt generator in Mandera to address power shortages and the distribution of food and livestock feed to drought-affected communities.

A 10,000-seater stadium is also under construction in Wajir, set to host this year's Madaraka Day celebrations, marking the first national holiday in the Northern Frontier.

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures



The Mt. Kenya Times



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

Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson

Our Contacts

P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262
Editorial Desk: editorial@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke,
News Desk: news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, Web: www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

Facebook: facebook.com/themtkenyatimes, Instagram: instagram.com/themtkenyatimes/, Twitter: twitter.com/themtkenyatimes
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/the-mt-kenya-times/>

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"



"ALL BUSINESSES
ONE PLATFORM"



SCAN TO REGISTER

FREE
REGISTRATION



Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438



+254 706 237 040 / +254 721 274 369

+254 724 613 401 / +254 100 423 971

+254 724 613 401



business@exponentialinternational.com

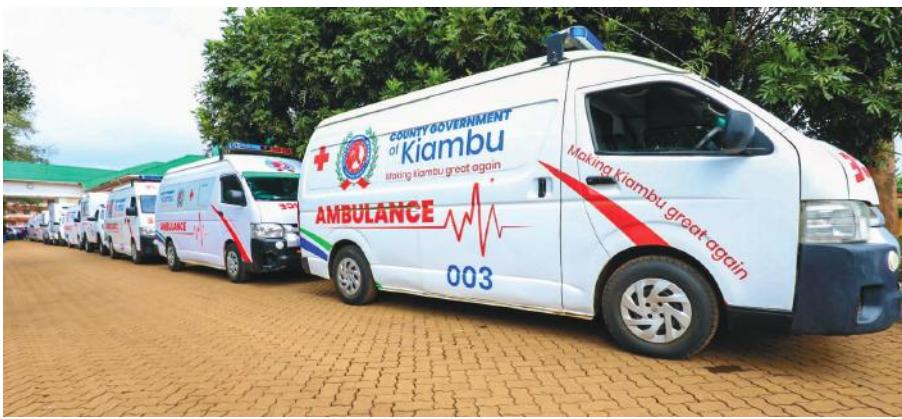


www.businessavaibale.com

NEWS IN BRIEF



KTDA group Acting Group CEO Eng. Francis Miano yesterday hosted a senior delegation from SBM Bank Kenya led by Director of Corporate and Institutional Banking Mr. Eric Wambua and Senior Relationship Manager Mr. Alfrick Koech. The strategic meeting focused on deepening the partnership, strengthening collaboration, and exploring new avenues of financial support for the tea sector. Also in attendance was KTDA MS General Manager Finance, Ms. Tarsila Wanja.



Under Governor Kimani Wamatangi, Kiambu County has transformed its emergency medical response, ending the costly dependence on hired ambulances that previously cost over KSh 60 million annually. The county now operates 19 modern, fully equipped ambulances functioning as mobile intensive care units, staffed by trained personnel and capable of rapid response. A dedicated maternity ambulance has significantly improved outcomes for mothers and newborns, providing urgent, life-saving care. This strategic investment has yielded remarkable results, with Kiambu Level Five Hospital reporting zero maternal deaths for 11 consecutive months last year, earning recognition both locally and internationally.



A farmer in Teso North, Peter Rotich, has appealed to the government for support to expand his palm oil processing plant in Moding, which currently produces about 300 liters weekly. He aims to scale up production to one tonne daily, creating a reliable market for local farmers and employment opportunities for youth in production, packaging, transport, and sales. Challenges cited include limited access to seedlings. MP Oku Kaunya urged government backing for palm cultivation, value addition, and local startups, while also calling for revival of cotton farming and distribution of coffee and Hass avocado seedlings to diversify agriculture and boost farmers' incomes in the constituency.



The Nursing Council of Kenya Board is holding a retreat in Mombasa County to enhance nursing and midwifery training, regulation, and practice standards. The Board is reviewing key tools, including the Nurses and Midwives Graduate Internship Guidelines, the Manual of Clinical Procedures in Advanced Practice Nursing (Trauma and Emergency), syllabi, learners' guides, clinical practice logbooks, and examination-setting guidelines. It is also assessing the implementation of its Strategic Plan 2023–2028, Performance Contracting targets for FY 2025/26, and term priorities. Recognizing nurses and midwives as the backbone of Primary Health Care, the retreat reaffirms the Council's commitment to developing a competent, responsive, and people-centered workforce to support quality service delivery and advance Universal Health Coverage.



The Tobacco Control (Amendment) Bill 2024 in Kenya seeks to strictly regulate vapes, nicotine pouches, and shisha to protect public health. While proponents argue the law will standardize products and limit youth access, critics, including small business owners and BAHITA, warn it could drive black-market activity, threaten jobs, and undermine harm reduction efforts. Observers also caution against repeating mistakes seen in countries like Germany, where similar bans led to a surge in illegal sales. Experts emphasize that effective public health policy should be evidence-based and developed through inclusive dialogue, balancing community protection, support for lawful businesses, and measures that do not fuel illicit trade.

Police in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County, have arrested a suspected phone hacker in Kimumu, Turbo Sub-County, and recovered several electronic devices. At the suspect's residence, officers seized 13 mobile phones believed to be stolen, five HP laptops fitted with flashing tools, and flashing software thought to have been used in illegal activities. The suspect is in police custody pending further investigations and court arraignment, while all recovered items have been secured as evidence. The National Police Service reiterated its commitment to combating cybercrime and urged the public to protect personal information and report suspicious activities through designated hotlines or digital platforms.



MARIDADY FOUNDATION PRESENTS



Wezesia
By Maridady Foundation

SCAN TO APPLY

QR code for application

**EMPOWERING LIVES,
ONE ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR
AT A TIME.**

Register or Nominate someone deserving and stand a chance to receive an Electric Wheelchair.

HOW TO APPLY:
SCAN QR CODE OR CHECK LINK IN DESCRIPTION

The Africa Largest eCOMMERCE



www.gotyou.co.ke

**NOW
OPEN**

Call/Text/WhatsApp: +254 714 090 155

NEWS PAPER



IN BUSINESS

The Mount Kenya Times

+254 724 439 949, +254 720 918 828, +254 721 103 040, +254 713 318 438

website: <https://mountkenyatimes.co.ke>

Residents Decry Alleged Harassment By Kiambu County Officials In Disputed Housing Estate

By: Felix Njenga
[@themtkenyatimes](https://twitter.com/themtkenyatimes)

Worth Noting:

- The residents, some of whom say they have lived in the houses for more than 40 years, claim county enforcement officers recently carried out a rent collection exercise despite conservatory court orders preserving the status quo.

The tenants argue that the matter of rent collection and management of the houses is still pending before the courts and should not be enforced until a final determination is made.



Tensions have escalated at the former Kiambu County Council houses in Kiambu town and the Indian Bazaar area, where long-term residents accuse county government officials of harassment and defying court orders in an ongoing housing dispute.

The residents, some of whom say they have lived in the houses for more than 40 years, claim county enforcement officers recently carried out a rent collection exercise despite conservatory court orders preserving the status quo.

The tenants argue that the matter of rent collection and management of the houses is still pending before the courts and should not be enforced until a final determination is made.

Peter Kuria, a resident of over four decades, said tenants moved to court after the county attempted to introduce rent collection measures they considered unlawful. According to him, the

court issued orders barring eviction or interference with their occupation of the homes.

"We obtained clear orders preserving the status quo. There were to be no evictions or interference," Kuria said, alleging that county officers have instead interpreted the orders in their own way and proceeded to demand rent under provisions of the Finance Act.

Kuria noted that the dispute has been heard in multiple courts over the years, including the Thika Law Courts, which he says reaffirmed earlier directives preventing eviction or disruption until the case is concluded. Despite this, residents claim enforcement officers recently locked several houses, marked doors with paint indicating rent arrears, and in some cases removed occupants.

He further alleged that his daughter,

who is recovering from breast surgery, was ordered to vacate their home. Other residents claimed an elderly man was evicted and an epileptic individual locked inside a house during the operation. Allegations were also made that a young girl was detained for several hours by members of the enforcement team, with her family reportedly receiving calls demanding money for her release. These claims had not been independently verified at the time of reporting.

Joyce Kibuthu, another long-serving resident, described the operation as heavy-handed and distressing. She said officers arrived without prior notice or formal invoices outlining alleged rent arrears before locking homes with their own padlocks.

Residents maintain that the housing units were previously managed by the National Housing Corporation on be-

half of the former Municipal Council of Kiambu before reverting to the municipal authority. They claim the houses were later condemned and that rent payments ceased more than a decade ago as legal disputes over allocation and management continued.

The tenants have appealed to Governor Kimani Wamatangi to intervene and facilitate dialogue, expressing willingness to resolve the matter lawfully.

By press time, responses from the Kiambu County Government and police were still pending.

The dispute highlights broader challenges in public housing management in Kiambu County and leaves the fate of dozens of families uncertain as the legal battle continues.

The MT. KENYA TIMES

Where Investors Get Returns

To advertise in Mt. Kenya Times read by discerning Kenyan professionals and the business community contact our exclusive UK & Europe Advertising and Marketing representatives.



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF
Phone: 0330 606 1438 (44 330 606 1438)
Email: media@adlinkinternational.com
www.adlinkinternational.com
Contact: Mr Shamlal Puri



REHABILITATION MENTAL WELLNESS HOSPITAL

OUR SERVICES

LABORATORY SERVICES

PHARMACY

DETOXIFICATION

CONSULTATION

COUNSELLING SESSIONS

NURSE AID TRAINING

0750 222337/ 0712 201695

info@ars.co.ke

www.ars.co.ke

Nyeri County, Along Marua-Kiganjo Highway

The Mt Kenya Times

10

10th

*Anniversary
Celebration*

Kenya And Nigeria Explore Fertilizer Trade, Boost Agricultural Exports

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe held a high-level bilateral meeting with Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. Abubakar Kyari, who also chairs the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), on the sidelines of the 49th IFAD Governing Council session.

The talks focused on strategic collaboration to strengthen intra-African trade and build resilient agricultural value chains.

A key area of discussion was the potential importation of urea fertilizer from Nigeria to Kenya.

The move is expected to support local farm production and reduce Kenya's reliance on global suppliers, which has been disrupted in re-

cent years by geopolitical tensions, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict, driving up prices and exposing vulnerabilities in supply chains. Nigeria, one of Africa's leading urea producers, offers a reliable regional alternative. Sourcing fertilizer locally would stabilize supply, reduce costs, promote industrial linkages, and enhance Africa's self-sufficiency in essential agricultural inputs.

The two leaders also discussed expanding Kenya's agricultural exports to Nigeria. Currently, Kenya ships tea, horticultural produce, processed foods, beverages, pharmaceuticals, and manufactured goods to the West African nation, but trade remains below its potential.

With a population exceeding 200 million and a growing middle class, Nigeria presents significant market opportunities for Kenyan products.

Both sides agreed that removing non-tariff barriers and strengthening trade facilitation mechanisms would be critical to unlocking this potential.

CS Kagwe highlighted that the bilateral engagement complements Kenya's broader food security and market expansion strategies, especially amid climate shocks, rising production costs, and global market volatility.

The discussions also reinforced Kenya's ongoing partnership with IFAD. The country's current IFAD-supported portfolio totals US\$1.246 billion, with US\$581.9 million in direct financing supporting youth agripreneurship, livestock commercialization, aquaculture, rural enterprise development, and climate resilience initiatives.

Notably, the Integrated Natural Resources Management Programme (INReMP), Kenya's largest IFAD-supported project with US\$126.8 million in financing, focuses on ecosystem restoration and climate adaptation. Kagwe reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to the fund, having fully paid its US\$2 million contribution to IFAD13, while advocating for a robust IFAD14 replenishment prioritiz-



Agriculture CS Mutahi Kagwe (right) with his Nigerian counterpart Abubakar Kyari. Photo/Courtesy.

ing climate financing, youth employment, and blended funding models.

The Kenya-Nigeria engagement signals a strategic partnership between two major African economies to boost food security, deepen agricultural trade, and foster regional coop-

eration. By leveraging intra-African trade, both countries aim to reduce dependency on international markets, promote fertilizer self-reliance, and transform Africa's agricultural sector into a more resilient and prosperous engine for growth.

NYOTA Programme Transforms Life Of Kisii Youth With Disability Through Business Support

By: Elizabeth Angira
 @themkenyatimes

Josphat Kerongo, a young entrepreneur from Kisii South, has found renewed hope and stability through the government's NYOTA youth empowerment programme. Born with a physical disability, Kerongo operates a small phone accessories and repair shop at Mwalimu Plaza in Kisii town.

Each day, he arranges chargers, earphones, smart watches and screen protectors within easy reach, his crutches resting beside him as he serves customers with determination and optimism.

Despite completing his studies, Kerongo faced repeated rejection in the job market. He says employers often focused on his crutches rather than his qualifications, denying him opportunities. Determined to earn a living independently, he started his small business two years ago with modest savings and family support. While the venture required minimal physical strain, it demanded consistency and adequate stock; something he frequently struggled to maintain

due to limited capital. Sales fluctuated, and restocking goods became increasingly difficult.

His turning point came when he encountered an online advertisement for the NYOTA programme, a government initiative targeting youth empowerment. Initially skeptical, he applied and was later selected.

After attending a four-day financial management training, he received KSh25,000 in funding. For Kerongo, the support represented more than financial assistance; it symbolized recognition and inclusion.

He invested the funds in expanding his stock and improving repair services, enabling him to attract more customers and stabilize his income.

Now financially independent, he is planning to grow the business further and eventually employ another young person. He describes the programme as restoring his dignity and giving him the same opportunity afforded to others.

Kerongo was among more than 8,000 youth from Kisii, Nyamira and Migori counties who received funding during an event at Gusii Stadium presided over by President William Ruto.

In total, about 8,800 beneficiaries in the three counties received sup-

port. Of the KSh25,000 allocated to each participant, KSh22,000 was disbursed directly to mobile money accounts, while KSh3,000 was deposited into the National Social Security Fund under the Haba na Haba savings plan to encourage long-term financial discipline.

Principal Secretary for the State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications, Stephen Isaboke, said the programme targets youth aged 19 to 29, particularly those who did not advance beyond Form Four.

He described NYOTA as an effort to reach young people at the bottom of the economic pyramid and offer them practical opportunities for advancement.

The initiative is designed to be inclusive, cutting across gender, region and social background, with eligibility based on registration and verification.

President Ruto said the programme forms part of the Kenya Kwanza administration's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, which prioritizes investment in entrepreneurship, digital innovation and skills development to combat youth unemployment. He emphasized that the initiative extends beyond direct funding to include broader employ-



Principal Secretary for the State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications, Stephen Isaboke, during a visit to the shop of Nyota beneficiary Josphat Kerongo, where he engaged with the trader on the impact of government support in boosting small businesses. Photo/Elizabeth Angira.

ment pathways through labour mobility, the digital and creative economy, and the Affordable Housing Programme.

For youth living with disabilities, the programme's impact is especially significant. In a country where disability often limits access to opportunity, inclusion in national economic initiatives sends a powerful message about equality and potential.

According to the Kenya National

Bureau of Statistics, about 2.2 percent of Kenya's population; between 900,000 and one million people live with some form of disability.

For Kerongo, the future now feels promising. He continues to manage his shop with quiet confidence, grateful not for special treatment, but for a fair chance to succeed.

ODM Eyes Deputy President Bid As Oburu Denies U-Turn

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during a party meeting in Mombasa on Wednesday, Oburu clarified that he had been misquoted earlier this month when he appeared to suggest that ODM was only interested in dialogue with President William Ruto's administration and not in pursuing top executive positions.

“The Deputy President’s seat is the one we are targeting the most,” Oburu told party supporters amid cheers. “What I said was that we have no personal animosity towards the Deputy President, but his seat is a public seat.”

His comments mark a firm restatement of ODM’s 2027 strategy, which has consistently placed the deputy presidency as the minimum position the party would accept in any political formation.



Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party leader Oburu ..

Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party leader Oburu Odinga has reaffirmed the party’s ambition to contest for the Deputy President’s seat in the 2027 General Election, dismissing claims that he had softened the party’s position following recent remarks made in Kisumu.

Speaking during a party meeting in Mombasa on Wednesday, Oburu clarified that he had been misquoted earlier this month when he appeared to suggest that ODM was only interested in dialogue with President William Ruto’s administration and not in pursuing top executive positions.

“The Deputy President’s seat is the one we are targeting the most,” Oburu told party supporters amid cheers. “What I said was that we have no personal animosity towards the Deputy President, but his seat is a public seat.”

His comments mark a firm restatement of ODM’s 2027 strategy, which has consistently placed the deputy presidency as the minimum position the party would accept in any political formation.

On February 2 in Kisumu, Oburu had told Deputy President Kithure Kindiki that ODM’s engagement with President Ruto’s government was focused on dialogue and advancing the party’s agenda rather than seeking to remove the administration from power.

The remarks had sparked speculation that the party might be reconsidering its 2027 ambitions.

However, Wednesday’s address left little room for doubt.

Oburu has maintained this stance since last year.

In a November 2025 interview with a national TV, he declared that ODM would not return to the opposition benches and would not bargain for any position lower than deputy president.

“If we have to go for a lower position, it must not be lower than number two in any formation. That is my take. We should not take less than that,” he said at the time.

Political analysts say ODM’s renewed push for the deputy presidency could fuel fresh debate over Kindiki’s political future, particular-

ly if ODM opts to align itself with President Ruto in 2027.

In the same Mombasa meeting, Oburu also took aim at former President Uhuru Kenyatta, urging him to stay out of ODM’s internal affairs and cease involvement in restructuring the Azimio la Umoja–One Kenya coalition.

“I urge Uhuru Kenyatta to leave us alone and let us do what we please to do as ODM. He should not interfere with our party and people,” Oburu said.

He further declared that Azimio had effectively ceased to exist following ODM’s decision to join the broad-based government with President Ruto.

“Azimio died when ODM left and joined the broad-based government with Ruto. We will do the formality of writing a letter to leave officially. Azimio should end and be buried forever,” he stated.

The remarks come in the wake of changes announced by the Azimio Council, led by Uhuru, which recently submitted meeting notices, minutes, resolutions and statutory

documents to the Registrar of Political Parties to formalise a new coalition structure ahead of the 2027 polls.

Under the new structure, Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka was appointed Azimio coalition leader, Suba North MP Caroli Omondi named Secretary-General, and veteran politician Philip Kisria appointed Executive Director. Former Secretary-General Junet Mohamed and former Executive Director Raphael Tuju were removed.

ODM has dismissed the changes as null and void, arguing that not all constituent parties were consulted as required under the Azimio coalition agreement. The party maintains that Oburu was not involved in the decision-making process and has called for the changes to be frozen and suspended.

With ODM doubling down on its 2027 ambitions and distancing itself from Azimio’s restructuring, Kenya’s political landscape appears poised for renewed realignments as parties position themselves ahead of the next General Election.

Kisima Ward Residents Celebrate Completion Of First Dam To Ease Water Shortages

By: Dennis Dibondo

@themtkenyatimes

Residents of semi-arid Kisima Ward in Buuri Constituency have welcomed the completion of the Subuiga Dam, a long-awaited project expected to ease persistent water shortages affecting the area.

The dam, constructed through a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative led by Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in partnership with other stakeholders, will benefit about 300 residents by providing water for domestic use.

John Kinoti, Chief of Programs and Partnerships at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, said the community must take ownership of the project to ensure its sustainability. He emphasized the importance of environmental conservation, urging residents to protect wildlife, which he described as a key source of livelihood in the region. Kinoti added that additional infra-

structure, including another water tank and solar-powered pumps, will be installed to ensure that households not served by gravity-fed supply can also access water.

Kisima MCA Mutuma Patrick noted that the dam project was first proposed more than a decade ago and expressed satisfaction that it is now operational. He credited strong collaboration between the county government, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, and local residents for the project's success. The MCA also revealed plans to install solar pumps to expand access and thanked the community for donating approximately 12 acres of land for the dam's construction. He urged residents to safeguard water pipes and tanks from vandalism.

Meru County Chief Officer for Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, Mutuma Kangote, reaffirmed the county government's commitment to partnering with non-governmental organizations to improve water access. He advised beneficiaries to use the water respon-



Lewa Wildlife Conservancy Chief of programs and partnership John Kinoti (right with hat) and other guests inspect a water tank and intake when they launched Subuiga dam to address water shortages. Photo/Dennis Dibondo

sibly and store it for future use during drought periods.

Local residents expressed optimism about the dam's impact. Martin Murianki said improved water access

would boost agricultural production in the fertile area, while Pastor Prisilla Kiruja highlighted the relief it would bring to women and children who previously trekked long distances in

search of water. Both voiced hope that phase two of the project will extend benefits to more households.

The Mt. Kenya Times

MT. KE



Ruto Empowers Youth And Advances Development Initiatives In Northern Kenya

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto has highlighted key government interventions in Northern Kenya aimed at empowering youth, boosting local economies, and addressing critical infrastructure and drought-related challenges.

Speaking from Wajir and Mandera counties, the President emphasized the transformative impact of the NYOTA Business Start-Up Capital programme, which supports young entrepreneurs across the country.

In Wajir County, the national roll-out of the NYOTA programme's first phase was concluded with the disbursement of KSh63 million to 2,520 beneficiaries.

He noted that across the country, 121,800 young people have so far received a total of KSh2.5 billion to start or expand businesses.

In the coming weeks, each beneficiary will receive an additional KSh25,000, bringing the total support to KSh50,000 per entrepreneur.

President Ruto noted that beyond financial aid, the government is committed to structured mentorship



President William Ruto, his deputy Kithure Kindiki with other leaders in Mandera yesterday.



President William Ruto with other officials joins women leaders in Wajir yesterday.

Photos/Courtesy

over the next six months and linking beneficiaries to affordable credit sources to ensure the sustainability and growth of their enterprises. He underscored the role of NYOTA in creating jobs, fostering economic independence, and empowering youth to contribute meaningfully to local and national development.

Alongside youth empowerment, the President outlined ongoing drought mitigation efforts across the Northern Frontier.

Over the past three months, the government has released more than

KSh10 billion to safeguard lives, protect livelihoods, and preserve livestock in the most affected regions. In Mandera County, additional support includes the distribution of animal feed to sustain livestock, the backbone of local economies, and the provision of food relief to drought-stricken communities.

Addressing infrastructure and cross-border trade challenges, President Ruto announced plans to reopen the Mandera Border Post in April, restoring connectivity with Somalia and revitalizing trade for the mutual

prosperity of residents on both sides of the border.

To tackle acute power shortages, a 3-megawatt generator will be installed in the short term while plans to connect Mandera to the Ethiopian power grid are fast-tracked for a sustainable energy solution.

In a move to further promote balanced development, President Ruto also revealed plans to construct a modern 10,000-seater stadium in Wajir town at a cost of KSh900 million.

The facility is set to host this year's Madaraka Day celebrations, marking

the first time a national holiday will be commemorated in the Northern Frontier, and signaling the government's commitment to infrastructural development in historically underserved regions.

By combining business support, mentorship, drought mitigation, energy solutions, and infrastructural investment, President Ruto's initiatives aim to empower youth, strengthen local economies, and foster inclusive growth across Northern Kenya.

Tribunal Blocks ODM From Removing Edwin Sifuna As Secretary-General Pending Hearing

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

of Motion application filed by Sifuna, along with supporting affidavits and annexures, demonstrated the urgency of the matter, leading to its certification as urgent.

In the orders, the tribunal directed that the complaint and application be served on the respondents; ODM and the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties immediately. The respondents have been given seven days to file and serve their responses, with the complainant allowed an additional three days to file any supplementary responses if needed.

The matter is scheduled for mention on February 26, during which the tribunal will review compliance with the orders and provide further directions on the case.

Significantly, the tribunal issued interim orders restraining the respon-



ODM Secretary-General Edwin Sifuna addressing the press yesterday.

dents from taking any steps to implement the resolution that sought to remove Sifuna as Secretary-General.

This includes a prohibition on publishing the resolution in the Kenya Gazette, effectively maintaining Sifuna in his position until the tribunal concludes its determination.

The Political Parties Disputes Tribunal (PPDT) has temporarily blocked the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) from removing Edwin Wanyonyi Sifuna as the party's Secretary-General, pending a full hearing on the matter.

The orders were issued yesterday by Gad Gathu, a member of the tribunal, following an urgent application filed by Sifuna.

The application, submitted under a Certificate of Urgency challenged a resolution by the ODM National Executive Committee to remove Sifuna from his position.

According to the tribunal, the Notice

High Court Throws Out Mbeere North Election Petition Over KSh500,000 Security Deposit

By: MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The petition, dated December 1, 2025, sought to contest the validity of the election of Mr. Njeru. Named as respondents were Mr. Njeru, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), John Mwii Kinyua, and the Speaker of the National Assembly.
- However, even before the substantive issues could be heard, the petition faced immediate procedural hurdles.
- On 18th December 2025, Njeru filed an application seeking to strike out the petition for non-compliance with Section 78 of the Elections Act. The law requires that a petitioner deposit KSh500,000 as security for costs within ten days of filing a petition challenging a parliamentary election.



Mbeere North MP addressing the press in the past.

An Election Court in Embu has dismissed an Election Petition after the petitioners failed to deposit the mandatory KSh500,000 security for costs within the legally prescribed time.

In a ruling delivered yesterday, Justice R. Mwongo struck out the petition filed by Julieta Karigi Kithumbu and Patrick Gitonga Gichoni, who had challenged the election of Leo Wa Muthende Njeru in the Mbeere North by-election.

The petition, dated December 1, 2025, sought to contest the validity of the election of Mr. Njeru. Named as respondents were Mr. Njeru, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), John Mwii Kinyua, and the Speaker of the National Assembly.

However, even before the substantive issues could be heard, the petition faced immediate procedural hurdles. On 18th December 2025, Njeru filed an application seeking to strike out the petition for non-compliance with Section 78 of the Elections Act. The law requires that a petitioner deposit KSh500,000 as security for costs within ten days of filing a petition challenging a parliamentary election.

The IEBC and the Returning officer followed suit with a similar application dated December 29, 2025, also asking the court to dismiss the petition for failure to pay the required deposit.

In addition, the MP filed another application challenging the jurisdiction of the court, citing various provisions of the Constitution, the Political Parties Act, the IEBC Act, and the Elections Act.

The argument was that certain disputes should have been handled by other bodies such as the Political Parties Disputes Tribunal or the IEBC's Dispute Resolution Committee before being brought to court.

Issues Before the Court

When the matter came up for ruling, Justice Mwongo narrowed down the dispute to two key issues:

Whether the petition should be struck out for failure to comply with Section 78 of the Elections Act on deposit of security for costs.

Who should bear the costs of the proceedings.

The judge observed that once the

issue of compliance with Section 78 was resolved, the fate of the entire petition would be sealed.

In his ruling, Justice Mwongo held that the requirement to deposit security for costs within ten days is mandatory and not discretionary. The court found that the petitioners had failed to deposit the KSh500,000 within the stipulated period.

The judge emphasized that election petitions are special proceedings governed by strict timelines and procedural requirements. Compliance with these rules is essential to ensure certainty, fairness, and expeditious resolution of electoral disputes.

Consequently, the court allowed both the First and Second Applications.

The judge declared that the petition "cannot proceed any further" and formally dismissed Election Petition No. E001 of 2025.

All other pending applications in the matter were rendered moot and marked as having lapsed, since their relevance depended on the existence of a valid petition.

Costs Awarded

The court awarded party-and-party costs to the respondents, capped at a maximum of KSh800,000, subject to taxation by the Deputy Registrar.

This means the exact amount payable will be assessed through a formal taxation process, but it will not exceed the capped figure set by the court.

What This Means

The ruling serves as a reminder to litigants that procedural compliance in election matters is critical. Courts have consistently held that the requirement to deposit security for costs protects respondents from frivolous or speculative petitions and ensures seriousness on the part of petitioners.

With Petition E001 of 2025 now dismissed, attention shifts to Election Petition No. E002 of 2025, filed by Newton Kariuki Ndwigwa, another contestant in the Mbeere North by-election.

That petition is scheduled to commence hearing on 9th March 2026 on a day-to-day basis until conclusion.

Kalonzo Engages Diaspora On Governance, Unity And National Development

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Wiper Patriotic Front party leader Kalonzo Musyoka has concluded a series of engagements in the United States, where he met with international diplomats, policymakers, university leaders, and Kenyans living abroad to discuss governance, accountability, and the responsibilities of leadership. Speaking to the media, Musyoka emphasized that his discussions were substantive, focusing on critical issues affecting Kenya rather than ceremonial formalities.

“Leadership must be grounded in conscience, courage, and accountability,” he said, noting that the true measure of leadership lies in respect for human dignity, constitutional rights, and integrity in public service.

During his visit, Musyoka spent time with Kenyans across several diaspora communities, drawing inspiration from their dedication to the homeland.

In Baltimore, he worshipped with the PCEA congregation, observing a community that has preserved language, culture, and faith across generations.

At the Kwanza Adventist Fellowship in Silver Spring, Maryland, he joined a vibrant congregation largely composed of members of the Abagusii community, sharing in devotion and fellowship united by the Kenyan flag and anthem.

“Faith, identity, and unity remain our anchors, even thousands of kilometers from home,” Musyoka said.

The party leader also held town hall meetings in Washington, Silver Spring, and Baltimore, where young professionals, students, and families engaged in open discussions about Kenya’s future. Participants voiced concerns over governance challenges, economic pressures, and the need to preserve dignity in public service.

Despite the challenges, the diaspora expressed optimism about Kenya’s potential, emphasizing that “hope is alive” and calling for leadership that listens, respects citizens, and restores integrity to institutions.

Musyoka stressed that these engagements reinforced his belief in service-oriented leadership.

“Policies and projects matter, but the true measure of leadership is respect for human life, dignity, and constitutional rights,” he said. He reiterated the message that unity and collective



Kalonzo Musyoka with some of the delegation he met. Photo/Courtesy.

action are vital for national progress, emphasizing, “We Are Kenya and Together, We Shall Komboa Kenya.”

He expressed gratitude to Deputy Minority Leader and Kathiani MP Robert Mbui, Senator Dan Maanzo, MCA Helen Ndeti, the SKM Diaspora

USA Chapter, and the entire delegation for facilitating the visit. Musyoka said their support ensured productive dialogue and meaningful engagement with the diaspora community.

The visit highlights the importance of including Kenyans abroad in national

discourse, acknowledging their contributions, and drawing on their perspectives to strengthen governance, civic responsibility, and development initiatives across the country.

IEBC, Partners Convene Workshop To Strengthen Election Campaign Financing And Leadership Integrity

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), in partnership with Transparency International Kenya yesterday convened a key workshop aimed at bolstering election campaign financing and reinforcing the Leadership and Integrity Framework for public office.

The session brought together representatives from a wide range of institutions, including the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), the Commission on Administrative Justice (Office of the Ombudsman), the Judiciary Committee on Elections, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission, ELGIA, Katiba Institute, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), the

Public Procurement and Legal Compliance Authority (PPLC), ELOG, and ORPP.

The workshop primarily focused on finalizing amendments to the Election Campaign Financing Regulations and developing a comprehensive framework to guide leadership and integrity, particularly in electoral conduct, management, and participation.

Under Chapter 6 of the Constitution, public leaders are required to meet high ethical standards, and the IEBC plays a central role in ensuring that all candidates comply with these constitutional and statutory requirements.

Participants also mapped out strategies for operationalizing the Election Campaign Financing Regulations, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in monitoring and enforcing leadership standards, and strengthening coordination among institutions tasked



The team that took part in yesterday’s forum. Photo/Courtesy.

with upholding integrity.

The workshop further identified key areas requiring policy, legislative, or operational improvements to ensure transparent, accountable, and ethical political leadership across the coun-

try.

By bringing together regulatory bodies, oversight institutions, and civil society organizations, the IEBC and its partners underscored the importance of a coordinated approach

to clean, credible, and accountable electoral processes, as Kenya continues to strengthen democratic governance and safeguard the integrity of its electoral system.

Sometimes The Best Medicine For All Pains Is To Spend Some Time With Special Person.



Many times we don't realize that he is the best person.

Pains and pleasures are part and parcel of life,
Some phase of life moves with lot of struggles,
Heart and mind get tired with the struggles,

The soul longs for a let out.
You decide to go to your bestie,
A person who solace with care and concern,
To let out all the pains and fear,
You become as light as a feather.
If possible will spend time with the good soul,
Catch up over the phone for an hour,
It may be the friend, neighbours or any family members,
We forget to realize that they are the best person.

S.Yamini Priya
Bt assistant
Pums Aathupalayam
Sulur block
Coimbatore district.

Even In Your Comfort Zone Be Careful



Even in your comfort zone, be careful,
Not every soft place is truly wonderful.
What feels safe today may slowly bind,
Keeping your body still, but trapping your mind.

Growth doesn't knock where you sleep too deep,
Dreams wake up when comfort falls asleep.
Rest if you must-but don't stay too long,
Your future waits where you feel a little wrong.

Ambuja

I May Not See You Everyday, But I Love You Everyday



Each dawn begins, each night ends true—
Not seeing you, yet loving you.

Some loves are loud, they beg, they plead;
Ours is calm, it simply is.
No daily sight, yet daily vow—
I love you then, I love you now.

R. SRIPRIYA
BT ENGLISH
GHSS KOLAPAKKAM KANCHIPURAM
DISTRICT TAMILNADU INDIA

I may not see you every day,
Yet love keeps time in gentler ways.
In absent hours, my heart still knows
Your name in breaths, your warmth in prose.

Distance may stretch the ticking clock,
But never loosens what we lock.

TREES



Trees are important for our entire life.
Don't cut the trees with a knife.
Because it gives many useful things.
If you cut the trees many problems it brings.

Children are playing under the tree.
It gives fresh fruits for free.
Under the trees we play in a circle.
It lives for a thousand years, it is a miracle.

By
N. Devishree
VIII Std
PUMS Chinna Obulapuram
Gummidipoondi
Thiruvallur Dt
Tamilnadu India.

In A Rare Life



In A Rare Life,
limitless suffering can come!
Fear not, my heart,
love is the best medicine...
Live with laughter,
and in small joys,
even diseases will fade away!

casts away worries and

fills your heart with dreams!
Today's moment is sweet,
smile and enjoy it...
If the heart is happy,
the body will also be healthy,
happiness is the best medicine!

if you were a flower that withers,
the breeze would come and caress you, my love!
The peace I seek is nowhere,
it lies in your smile!
Be happy,
forget sorrow!

Sr. Amala Krishnagiri



We are in an ocean of love,
A cool breeze touches my soul.
Rhythms of birds chirping, soothing my mood,
And it rejuvenates me with her gentle tale.
Reviving my memories with gladness—
Everything that strikes us
Can cause an overwrought heart.
Mitigate your grudges.
Be generous with a forward thought.

By
ZAHETHA R
BT ASST
GHS PAPPANTHANGAL
TVM DIST

Charm everyone with your smile,
Secure them with your comfort.
We have one life to live.
Support others with your heart.
Live every year with love.
Be kind with your words.
Nothing is permanent.
Problems are like passing clouds.
God will help you solve them.
Everything happens for a reason.
Have patience.
It will vanish soon.
Stay strong.
Spread confidence

By
ZAHETHA R
BT ASST
GHS PAPPANTHANGAL
TVM DIST

The Art Of Being Human

DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

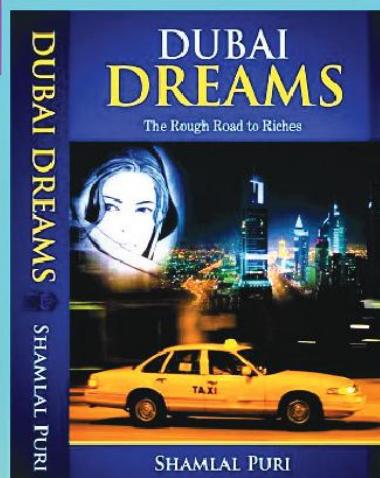
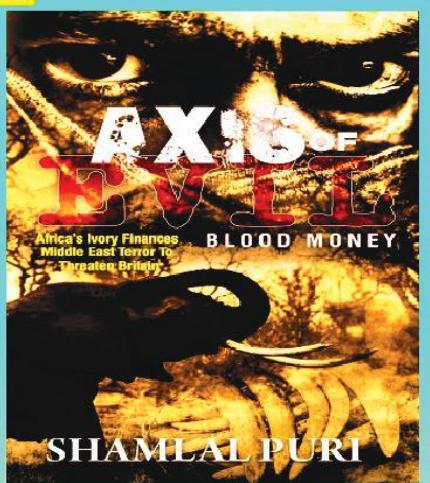
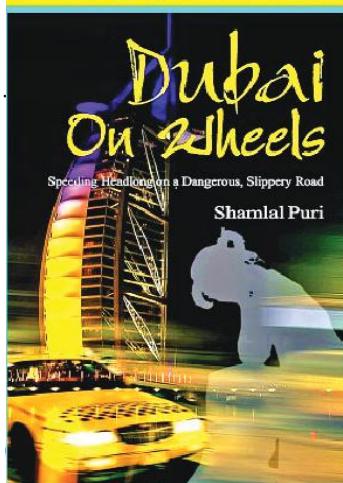
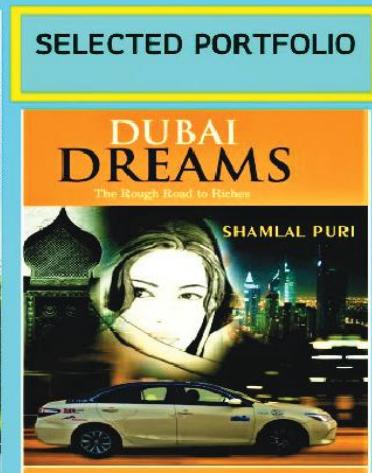
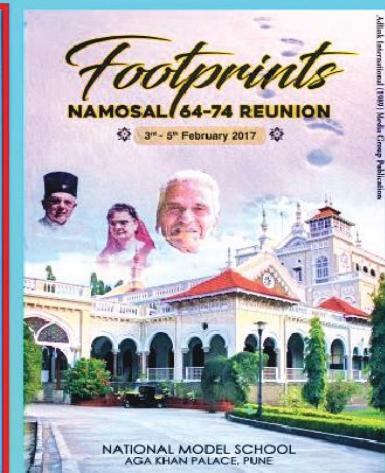
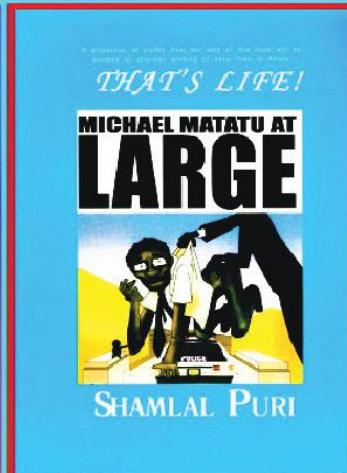
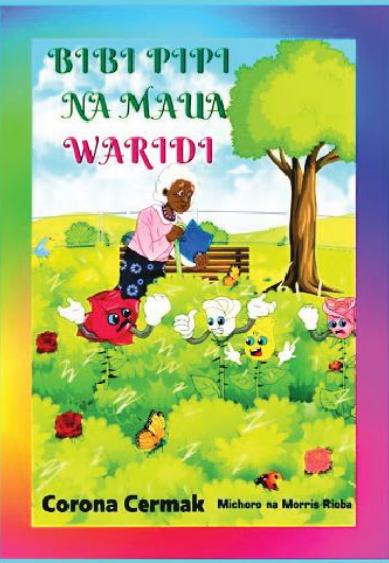
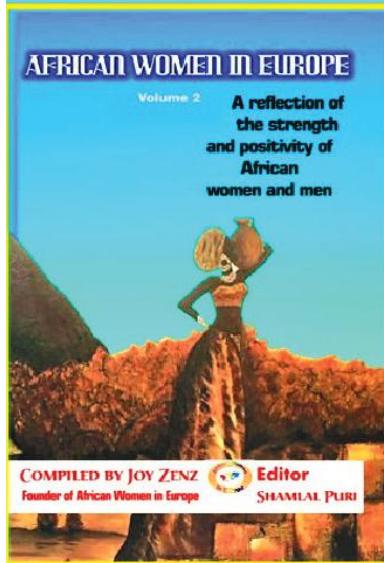
Let Professional Editors and Authors turn your story into a Dream Book.

THRILLERS - FICTION - FACTION - BIOGRAPHIES - TRAVELOGUES - HUMOUR - COFFEE TABLE - BROCHURES

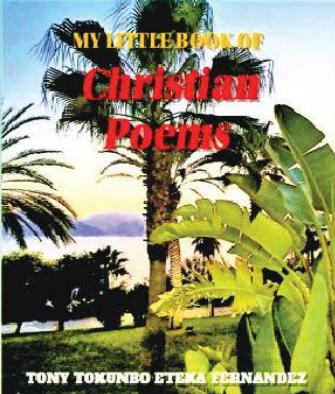
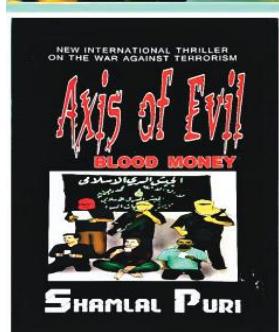
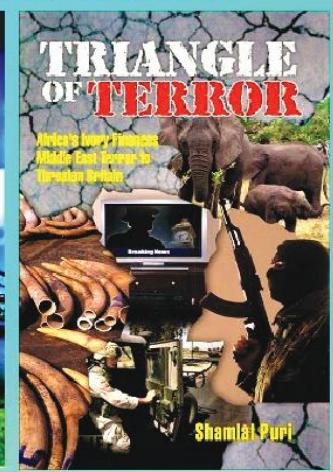
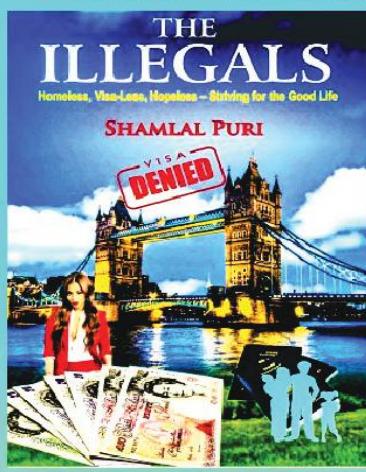
London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.

We offer one-stop top notch Editing, Expert Design, Proof Reading, Book Covers, Artwork, Digital, Litho Printing, E-Books, Corporate Brochures and UK ISBN number. Reasonable costs.

We print and deliver books. Authors retain 100% sales profits.

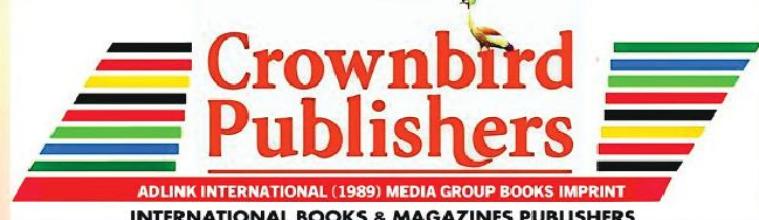


BEST SELLER NOVELS



The Crownbird Publishers logo and imprint owned by Adlink International (1989) Media Group London

Copies of some books available for sale: hard copy/digital. Contact us: media@adlinkinternational.com Email Subject: Crownbird Books



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP

Books Division

16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF (UK)

Tel: 44 330 606 1438

Email: media@adlinkinternational.com

www.adlinkinternational.com

BUSINESS

Standard Chartered Opens Co-Shared Banking Hub As Nanyuki Emerges As Mt Kenya's Economic Anchor

By: Murimi Kabotia
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The Nanyuki hub is the bank's second co-shared model in Kenya after the inaugural collaboration at Britam Centre in Upper Hill in 2021.
- The concept blends digital banking convenience with personalised wealth advisory services in a relaxed lifestyle setting, allowing customers to engage financial experts in a more informal environment while accessing the bank's digital platforms.
- Speaking during the launch, Standard Chartered's Head of Wealth and Retail Banking for Kenya and East Africa, Edith Chumba, said the decision to invest in Nanyuki was informed by the town's strong economic momentum and strategic location within the Mt Kenya region. She noted that Nanyuki has experienced visible growth, with new businesses opening and increased investor interest in recent years.

Nanyuki's rapid emergence as a commercial and tourism powerhouse in the Mt Kenya region has received a significant endorsement following the launch of a new co-shared banking hub by Standard Chartered Bank in partnership with ArtCaffé.

The innovative service centre, located at ArtCaffé Nanyuki within the refurbished Standard Chartered branch, reflects the lender's growing confidence in the town's economic potential and its evolving customer needs. The Nanyuki hub is the bank's second co-shared model in Kenya after the inaugural collaboration at Britam Centre in Upper Hill in 2021.

The concept blends digital banking convenience with personalised wealth advisory services in a relaxed lifestyle setting, allowing customers to engage financial experts in a more informal environment while accessing the bank's digital platforms.

Speaking during the launch, Standard Chartered's Head of Wealth and Retail Banking for Kenya and East Africa, Edith Chumba, said the decision to invest in Nanyuki was informed by the town's strong economic momentum and strategic location within the Mt Kenya region. She noted that Nanyuki has experienced visible growth, with new businesses opening and increased investor interest in recent years.

Chumba highlighted key infrastructure developments that have enhanced the town's attractiveness. These include the expansion of the Nanyuki Airstrip, improvements in road connectivity that have reduced travel time to about three hours from Nairobi, and the revival of the 240-kilometre Nairobi–Nanyuki railway line. According to her, improved logistics have opened up trade opportunities and strengthened Nanyuki's role as a gateway to economic activities across the broader region.

She added that the bank has deliberately positioned Nanyuki as a regional hub due to the convergence of commerce, tourism and investment across the Mt Kenya counties. The area has seen a rise in holiday homes and hospitality investments, with many property owners converting residences into short-stay accommodation to serve the growing tourism market. Situated at the foothills of Mt Kenya, the town is increasingly attracting affluent individuals, entrepreneurs and investors seeking both lifestyle and business opportunities.



Ms Bongiwe Gangeni, the Standard Chartered Bank's Head of Wealth and Retail Banking for Africa, Middle East and Europe (Left) and Ms Edith Chumba, Standard Chartered's Head of Wealth and Retail Banking for Kenya and East Africa (Right) launching the new Standard Chartered-ArtCaffé in Nanyuki town. PHOTOS BY MURIMI KABOTIA.

The expansion of the airstrip runway to accommodate larger aircraft is expected to lower air travel costs and further stimulate tourism and commerce. Combined with improved road networks, these developments are strengthening Nanyuki's appeal as both a holiday destination and a commercial centre.

Chumba explained that the co-shared model also responds to changing banking habits. She noted that nearly 95 percent of the bank's transactions are now conducted through alternative channels such as digital platforms, ATMs and cash deposit machines. As a result, foot traffic in traditional branches has significantly declined.

However, she said customers who visit physical branches increasingly seek in-depth financial consultations rather than routine transactions. The new model is therefore designed to deploy the bank's top advisory resources to support clients with complex financial needs, including wealth management and investment planning. Customers meeting at ArtCaffé can easily access relationship managers for personalised discussions in a comfortable setting.

Standard Chartered's Head of Wealth and Retail Banking for Africa, Middle East and Europe, Bongiwe Gangeni, described the launch as a pivotal moment for the bank in the region. She said the partnership with ArtCaffé aligns with the bank's strategy unveiled in late 2024, positioning Standard Chartered as an international wealth manager focused on delivering advisory-led services.

Gangeni emphasised that while digital platforms remain central to operations, demand for face-to-face financial advice persists, particularly among clients seeking tailored investment solutions. She noted that the bank aims to support customers looking to diversify investments across multiple jurisdictions where Standard Chartered operates globally, leveraging its international network to provide cross-border opportunities.

The co-shared hub concept reflects a broader shift in banking strategy, combining digital efficiency with curated in-person engagement. By integrating a café setting with advisory services, the bank hopes to create a more inviting and client-centred experience.

As Nanyuki continues to transform

Sacked SDA Pastors Reject Apostasy Claims, Allege Victimization Over Outspokenness On Financial And Moral Irregularities

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



Worth Noting:

- In an official letter dated February 3, 2026, the conference informed churches under its jurisdiction that the pastors had been terminated pursuant to EXCOM minute number 26EXCOM 010 passed on February 1, 2026.
- The letter, signed by Acting Executive Secretary Olgar Kemuma and stamped the same day, listed the 19 pastors by name and declared them no longer recognised as pastors, employees, or representatives of the church.
- Churches across the Central Rift Valley territory were instructed not to allow the named individuals to participate in any religious, administrative, or ministerial activities within the conference's jurisdiction.
- The communication cited "gross misconduct and formation of apostasy or organization under 'Mid Rift Valley Union of Churches Conference'" as grounds for the termination, stating the actions were contrary to church policy and the Church Manual.

A legal battle is looming within the Seventh-day Adventist Church after the Central Rift Valley Conference terminated the services of 19 pastors and withdrew their credentials with immediate effect, triggering a deep governance dispute.

In an official letter dated February 3, 2026, the conference informed churches under its jurisdiction that the pastors had been terminated pursuant to EXCOM minute number 26EXCOM 010 passed on February 1, 2026.

The letter, signed by Acting Executive Secretary Olgar Kemuma and stamped the same day, listed the 19 pastors by name and declared them no longer recognised as pastors, employees, or representatives of the church.

Churches across the Central Rift Valley territory were instructed not to allow the named individuals to participate in any religious, administrative, or ministerial activities within the conference's jurisdiction. The communication cited "gross misconduct and formation of apostasy organization under 'Mid Rift Valley Union of Churches Conference'" as grounds for the termination, stating the actions were contrary to church policy and the Church Manual.

In a detailed press conference yesterday in Nakuru, the affected pastors rejected the allegations and described the termination as unlawful, arguing that their disagreements were administrative and ethical rather than doctrinal.

They disputed the label of apostasy, stating that in Adventist theology the term refers to a conscious and deliberate rejection of biblical truth, core doctrines, and faith in Christ, not governance disputes.

The pastors maintained that they had not rejected the authority of Scripture, denied salvation through Christ, opposed the Spirit of Prophecy, or abandoned any of the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the church.

"Our disagreement with the leadership of CRVC and EKUC is not on any doctrinal matter," they stated, adding that their concerns relate to governance, accountability, transparency, and ethical leadership.

In the statement signed collectively, the pastors argued that calling for integrity in leadership is not rebellion against faith but "an expression of loyalty to the principles upon which the church stands".

They outlined what they termed credible concerns over high-level immorality within church leadership, alleging that moral misconduct

among senior officials had been tolerated or selectively handled, thereby eroding confidence among members.

The group also raised questions over alleged mismanagement and misuse of denominational funds, arguing that tithe and offerings require the highest standards of transparency, auditability, and financial disclosure.

Among the specific disputes cited was the Narok land saga, which they said involved unresolved questions surrounding ownership, acquisition, transfer, or management of church property.

They further referenced the Vanga Road apartment in Nairobi County issue, saying concerns had been raised regarding documentation, accountability, and transparent reporting on assets linked to that property.

The pastors also cited the WSG OptiCoin Kenya controversy, claiming alleged association or involvement of church leaders in the scheme had raised serious ethical and reputational concerns within the denomination.

Additional grievances included allegations of age manipulation in official records, intimidation and victimisation of workers, and governance practices they described as

dictatorial and dismissive of consultative processes.

They accused the conference leadership of breaching confidentiality by releasing the termination letter publicly before formally serving the concerned pastors, exposing them to public judgment without due process.

"Releasing the letters to the public before serving us violated all known ethical and professional standards," the pastors stated, arguing they were left with no responsible option but to respond publicly.

They further warned that they reserve the right to seek legal redress should what they termed defamatory actions continue, signalling a possible court challenge over the termination and related claims.

The Central Rift Valley Conference has not publicly addressed the detailed governance allegations beyond the February 3 communication, which focused on misconduct and alleged apostasy.

The dispute now threatens to widen divisions within the regional church structure, as congregants await clarity on leadership, governance standards, and whether the matter will ultimately be settled internally or in court.

Alimony And The Constitutional Guarantee Of Equality In Marriage: A Critical Analysis Of Spousal Maintenance Under Article 45(3) Of The Constitution Of Kenya



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevin Owuor
 @themtkenyatimes

The institution of alimony, or spousal maintenance, has long been a cornerstone of matrimonial law in Kenya, finding expression in statutes such as the Matrimonial Property Act (2013) and the Marriage Act (2014). Alimony represents a legal obligation imposed upon one spouse, typically following divorce or separation, to provide financial support to the other spouse. This obligation persists despite the dissolution of the marital bond and often continues indefinitely or until specific conditions are met, such as remarriage of the recipient spouse or death of either party.

In the Kenyan context, courts have traditionally awarded alimony based on considerations of financial disparity between spouses, the standard of living enjoyed during marriage, and the recipient's inability to maintain themselves post-divorce. However, the promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya in 2010 introduced Article 45(3), which radically reconceptualizes marriage as a union of equals, stating that "parties to a marriage are entitled to equal rights at the time of the marriage, during the marriage and at the dissolution of the marriage." This constitutional provision raises a profound question: can the institution of alimony, which creates post-dissolution financial obligations based on marital status rather than contractual agreement or tortious conduct, survive constitutional scrutiny under a framework that mandates absolute equality between spouses at dissolution?

Article 45(3) of the Constitution represents a deliberate departure from the patriarchal underpinnings of traditional matrimonial law. The provision must be read in conjunction with Article 27, which guarantees equality and non-discrimination, and Article 45(1), which protects the right to marry. The Supreme Court of Kenya in *In the Matter of the Interim Independent Electoral Commission eKLR* established that constitutional interpretation must be purposeful,

generous, and contextual. Applying this approach to Article 45(3), the phrase "equal rights at dissolution" cannot be read narrowly to mean mere procedural equality in divorce proceedings. Rather, it demands substantive equality in the legal and financial consequences flowing from marriage dissolution.

Professor Ben Sihanya, in his seminal work "Constitutional Implementation in Kenya, 2010-2015," argues that Article 45(3) was specifically designed to eliminate the historical subordination of women in marriage while simultaneously protecting both spouses from discriminatory treatment. The Canadian Supreme Court in *Bracklow v. Bracklow* [1999] 1 SCR 420, while ultimately upholding spousal support, acknowledged that such awards must be reconciled with constitutional equality guarantees. Similarly, the South African Constitutional Court in *Harksen v. Lane* established a rigorous test for justifying differential treatment, requiring that any distinction must be rationally connected to a legitimate government purpose and proportionate to its objectives.

The fundamental contradiction between alimony and Article 45(3) lies in the creation of ongoing financial obligations based solely on the fact of prior marriage. When a marriage dissolves, Article 45(3) demands that both parties emerge as equals, unburdened by continuing duties arising from the marital relationship itself. Alimony, however, perpetuates a hierarchical relationship where one spouse becomes a permanent debtor and the other a permanent creditor. There is a decision by the Kenyan High Court which awarded substantial monthly maintenance to a wife based on the lifestyle she had enjoyed during marriage, effectively requiring the husband to continue financing that lifestyle indefinitely. This approach is irreconcilable with equality at dissolution.

The UK Supreme Court in *Miller v. Miller; McFarlane v. McFarlane* identified three rationales for spousal maintenance: needs, compensation, and sharing. However, each of these rationales conflicts with the Kenyan constitutional framework. The Australian High Court in *Clauson v. Clauson* [1995] FamCA 92 recognized that ongoing maintenance obligations create a form of "involuntary servitude" that may be constitutionally suspect. Professor Patricia Mboite of the University of Nairobi, in her



article "Women, Land and Property Rights in Kenya: A Gendered Analysis," notes that while alimony was historically justified as protecting economically vulnerable wives, the constitutional framework now requires gender-neutral approaches that respect individual autonomy and economic independence.

A critical distinction must be drawn between matrimonial property division and alimony. Article 45(3) is fully consistent with equitable division of property acquired during marriage, as this represents a one-time settlement of joint economic contributions made during the marital partnership. The Kenyan Court of Appeal correctly held that matrimonial property should be divided based on each spouse's contributions, both monetary and non-monetary. This approach respects equality by recognizing that marriage is an economic partnership where both spouses contribute value. However, alimony differs fundamentally because it creates new, ongoing obligations that extend beyond dissolution. The High Court held that maintenance must be distinguished from property rights, with the former aimed at meeting basic needs.

Even so, this distinction actually strengthens the constitutional argument against alimony: if maintenance is meant to address needs, why should one former spouse bear this burden rather than society generally

through social welfare systems? The Indian Supreme Court in *Rajnesh v. Neha* AIR 2021 SC 2828 attempted to balance maintenance with equality by establishing objective criteria, but the underlying constitutional problem remains. The New Zealand Court of Appeal in *M v. B* [2006] 3 NZLR 660 held that spousal maintenance should be exceptional and time-limited precisely because indefinite obligations conflict with the principle that divorced spouses should be independent equals.

Article 45(3)'s guarantee of equality at dissolution necessarily implies a principle of self-sufficiency: each spouse must be capable of supporting themselves as autonomous individuals after divorce. Dr. Omondi, in her doctoral thesis "Gender Equality and Matrimonial Law in Kenya," argues that the constitutional framework assumes adult spouses are equally capable of economic independence. Alimony undermines this assumption by treating one spouse (historically the wife) as perpetually dependent and incapable of self-support. The Kenyan High Court in specific case awarded permanent maintenance to a university-educated woman capable of employment, reasoning that she had "grown accustomed" to a particular lifestyle. This reasoning is fundamentally paternalistic and inconsistent with constitutional equality.

The German Federal Constitutional Court in *BVerfGE* 53, 257 (1980)

held that spousal maintenance must be limited in duration to allow both spouses to achieve economic independence, as indefinite dependence violates human dignity. Similarly, the French Cour de Cassation has increasingly limited alimony awards, recognizing that modern marriages are partnerships of equals who should leave the relationship as independent individuals. Professor Willy Mutunga, former Chief Justice of Kenya, has written that the Constitution demands a "transformative" approach to family law that eliminates hierarchies and dependencies. Alimony, which institutionalizes dependence, cannot survive this transformative vision.

Defenders of alimony often argue that it is now gender-neutral and can be awarded to either spouse based on need. However, this supposed neutrality does not cure the constitutional defect. The Court of Appeal noted that while the law permits maintenance awards to husbands, the overwhelming majority of recipients remain women. More fundamentally, even perfectly gender-neutral application cannot remedy the fact that alimony creates unequal rights at dissolution: one spouse leaves the

.....

Contd page 19

Alimony And The Constitutional Guarantee Of Equality In Marriage: A Critical Analysis Of Spousal Maintenance Under Article 45(3) Of The Constitution Of Kenya

Contd from page 18

marriage with ongoing financial obligations while the other leaves with ongoing financial entitlements. The U.S. Supreme Court in *Orr v. Orr* 440 U.S. 268 (1979) struck down gender-based alimony statutes as unconstitutional sex discrimination, but the Court did not address whether gender-neutral alimony itself violates equality principles.

The Israeli Supreme Court in CA 1000/92 *Bavli v. Bavli* [1994] held that spousal maintenance must be strictly limited and cannot create permanent dependencies, as this conflicts with constitutional values of equality and dignity. Professor Julie of Kenyatta University argues in "Rethinking Spousal Maintenance in Constitutional Kenya" that genuine equality requires eliminating alimony in favor of comprehensive property division and transitional support that promotes rather than inhibits independence. The constitutional guarantee is not merely that alimony will be available to either gender, but that both spouses will have equal rights which means neither should bear unique burdens or enjoy unique entitlements based solely on their former marital status.

The abolition of traditional alimony need not leave vulnerable spouses without recourse. Several alternative approaches align with constitutional equality while addressing legitimate concerns. First, comprehensive and generous division of matrimonial property ensures both spouses leave the marriage with sufficient assets to rebuild their lives independently. The courts have awarded partners who prove non-monetary contributions 50% of the matrimonial property. This approach respects equality by treating marriage as a genuine partnership. Second, time-limited rehabilitative maintenance can bridge the transition to economic independence without creating permanent dependency. The Singapore High Court in *ATE v. ATD* [2016] SGHCF 2 held that maintenance should be awarded only for a specific period to allow retraining or education. Third, pension-sharing orders can divide retirement benefits accumulated during marriage without imposing ongoing obligations.

The UK Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 provides a model

that has been cited favorably in Kenyan academic literature. Fourth, compensation for specific economic sacrifices made during marriage can be addressed through enhanced property awards rather than ongoing maintenance. Dr. Wachira, in her article "Economic Contributions in Kenyan Marriages," demonstrates that non-monetary contributions can be accurately valued and compensated through property division. Finally, the state, rather than former spouses, should bear responsibility for social welfare through unemployment benefits, housing assistance, and skills training programs. This approach, adopted in Scandinavian countries, respects individual autonomy while ensuring no one falls into destitution. Proponents of alimony frequently invoke a compensatory rationale: spouses who sacrificed career opportunities or education to support their partner's advancement or raise children deserve compensation. While superficially appealing, this argument fails under Article 45(3) scrutiny. First, if compensation is owed, it should be paid as a lump sum property settlement, not as indefinite periodic payments that perpetuate dependency. There is a case that the Court of Appeal suggested that career sacrifices could be addressed through adjustment of property shares. Second, the compensatory theory assumes that domestic work and childcare have no value in themselves but only become valuable through the other spouse's market success a problematic assumption that devalues homemaking.

The Australian Family Court in *Clauson v. Clauson* (1995) recognized that treating domestic contributions as merely instrumental to the other spouse's career denies their intrinsic worth. Third, many marriages involve mutual sacrifices: both spouses typically compromise career opportunities, relocate, or adjust plans for family needs. Creating ongoing obligations based on contested assessments of who sacrificed more perpetuates conflict rather than enabling clean breaks. Professor Morris Kiwinda Mbondenyi, in "The New Constitutional Law of Kenya," argues that constitutional interpretation must promote human dignity and autonomy. Treating an adult as perpetually entitled to another's earnings based on past relationship dynamics infantilizes the recipient and enslaves the payer, violating the dignity of both.



The global trajectory of family law increasingly favors limiting or eliminating traditional alimony in recognition of equality principles. The Norwegian Marriage Act was amended in 1991 to make spousal maintenance exceptional and time-limited, reflecting the constitutional principle that marriage is a partnership of equals who should emerge as independent individuals. Sweden abolished permanent alimony in 1990, providing only for brief transitional support. The European Court of Human Rights in *P.M. v. the United Kingdom App. No. 6638/03* (2005) held that while states have discretion in regulating maintenance, they must not create systems that perpetuate gender stereotypes or economic dependency. In South Africa, the Constitutional Court in *Volks v. Robinson* 2005 (5) BCLR 446 (CC) analyzed maintenance obligations through a constitutional equality lens, emphasizing that family law must evolve to reflect constitutional values.

The Japanese Supreme Court has increasingly limited spousal maintenance awards, recognizing that modern marriages are partnerships where both spouses are expected to be economically productive. Lawrence Mute of Strathmore University Law School, in his comparative analysis "Spousal Maintenance in Constitutional Democracies," demonstrates

that countries with robust constitutional equality guarantees have systematically moved away from traditional alimony models. While these foreign precedents are not binding on Kenyan courts, Article 259(1)(d) of the Constitution expressly permits courts to consider international law and comparative jurisprudence. The consistent international trend toward limiting maintenance to promote equality and autonomy provides persuasive support for interpreting Article 45(3) as incompatible with traditional alimony.

The institution of alimony, as currently conceived and practiced in Kenya, cannot withstand scrutiny under Article 45(3) of the Constitution. The guarantee of equal rights at dissolution demands that neither spouse emerges from marriage bearing unique ongoing obligations or enjoying unique ongoing entitlements based solely on former marital status. Equality at dissolution means a clean break: comprehensive division of matrimonial property reflecting both spouses' contributions, time-limited transitional support where necessary to achieve independence, and recognition that adult citizens are autonomous individuals responsible for their own welfare.

The courts must engage in transformative constitutional interpretation that eliminates the vestiges of colonial-era patriarchy embedded in

maintenance laws. Parliament should amend the Matrimonial Property Act and Marriage Act to align with constitutional values, replacing indefinite alimony with equitable property division, specific compensation for quantifiable economic sacrifices, and transitional support strictly limited in duration and amount. As the Kenyan High Court stated, "The Constitution is the supreme law and any law inconsistent with it is void to the extent of the inconsistency." Article 45(3) represents a constitutional commitment to genuine equality between spouses, a commitment that the perpetuation of alimony fundamentally betrays. The transformation of Kenyan society envisioned by the 2010 Constitution requires courage to abandon outdated legal structures that treat married persons as permanently unequal. True equality demands nothing less than the abolition of traditional alimony in favor of approaches that respect the dignity, autonomy, and equal status of both parties to a dissolved marriage.

The writer is a social commentator

Gaza City Initiates Cleanup Project To Clear Path For Economic Recovery

By: Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Husni Muhanna, spokesperson for the Gaza municipality, warned that thousands of tons of waste remain scattered in streets and temporary dumping sites throughout the city. “The proliferation of flies, mosquitoes and rodents increases the risk of disease outbreaks,” Muhanna told Xinhua, saying that restrictions on crossings by Israel have limited municipalities’ ability to import necessary equipment and machinery for waste management.

- Alaa al-Batta, deputy head of the Union of Municipalities in the Gaza Strip, said that approximately 700,000 tons of waste are currently accumulated across the territory. The buildup has led to the re-emergence of informal dumping sites and raised concerns about potential groundwater contamination, al-Batta said. Amjad al-Shawa, director of the NGO Network in Gaza, described the start of waste removal at Firas Market as a positive development.

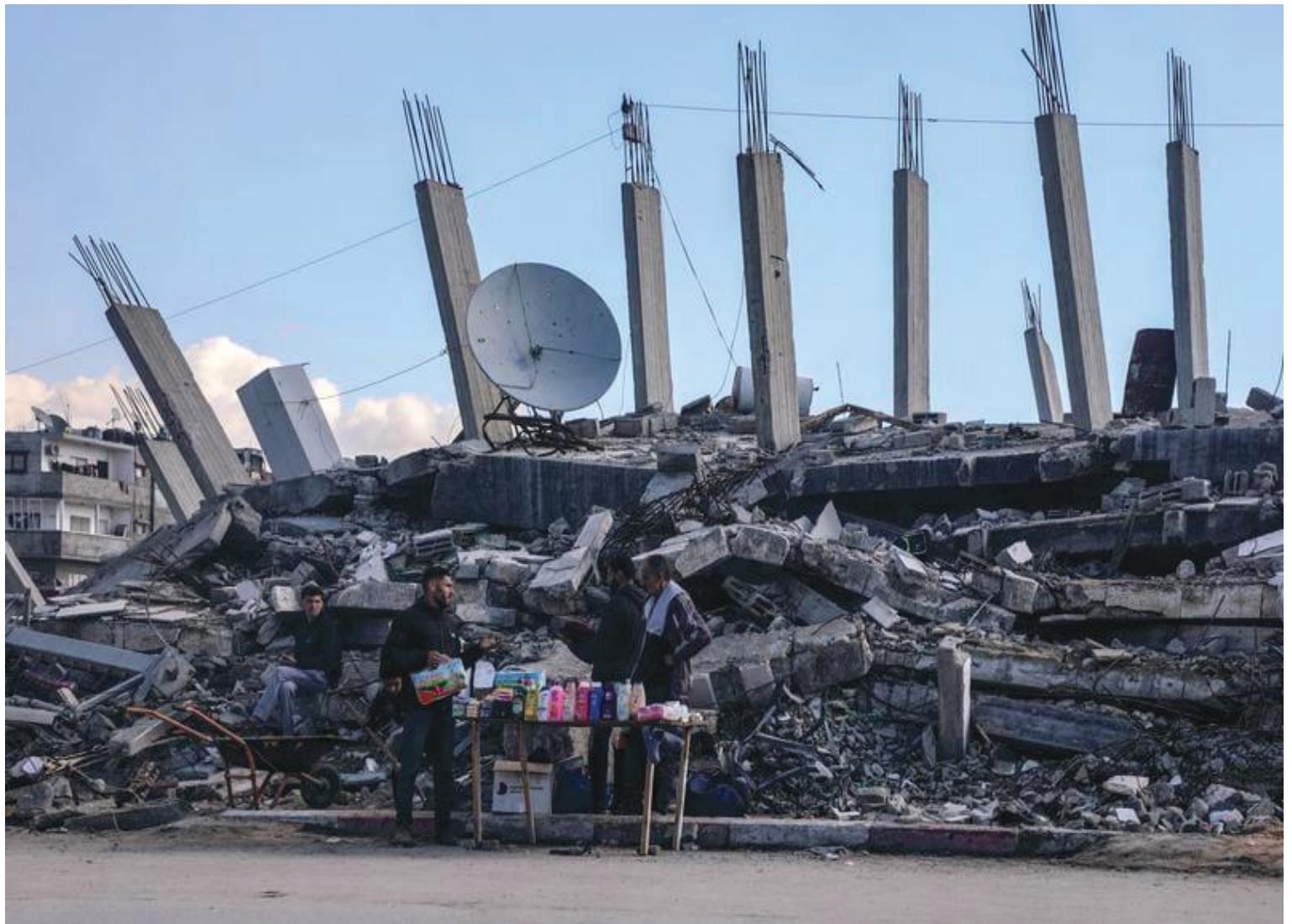


Photo taken on Jan. 15, 2026 shows traders near damaged buildings in Gaza City. Photo/ Rizek Abdeljawad.

Work has begun to remove hundreds of thousands of cubic meters of accumulated waste from the Firas Market area in central Gaza City, local authorities said on Wednesday, in a move aimed at easing environmental pressures and reviving business activities.

In a press statement, the Gaza municipality said the project involves transferring about 350,000 cubic meters of waste from a temporary landfill at Firas Market to an alternative designated site in the southern part of the city. The operation is being carried out in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, according to the municipality. It described the current operation as a temporary solution until work crews can access the main landfill in the Juhr al-Dik area of the central Gaza Strip, which is equipped to safely handle waste from Gaza City and surrounding communities. “This is the first step toward removing waste from all populated areas, as soon as access

is granted to the main landfills that existed before the war,” the municipality said in its statement. Yahya al-Sarraj, mayor of Gaza, told Xinhua that the current transfer process could take at least six months to complete, citing the large volume of accumulated waste. “The continued piling up of garbage has created serious environmental and health challenges for residents,” al-Sarraj said, adding that facilitating access to proper waste management facilities remains essential to preventing further deterioration.

Husni Muhanna, spokesperson for the Gaza municipality, warned that thousands of tons of waste remain scattered in streets and temporary dumping sites throughout the city. “The proliferation of flies, mosquitoes and rodents increases the risk of disease outbreaks,” Muhanna told Xinhua, saying that restrictions on crossings by Israel have limited municipalities’ ability to import necessary equipment and machinery for waste management. Alaa al-Batta,

deputy head of the Union of Municipalities in the Gaza Strip, said that approximately 700,000 tons of waste are currently accumulated across the territory. The buildup has led to the re-emergence of informal dumping sites and raised concerns about potential groundwater contamination, al-Batta said. Amjad al-Shawa, director of the NGO Network in Gaza, described the start of waste removal at Firas Market as a positive development. “The step offers an opportunity to improve the local environment after months of suffering from insects and diseases linked to garbage,” al-Shawa told Xinhua. He said that, although temporary, the measure provides residents with some relief amid broader challenges with basic services in the strip.

Local residents also voiced support for the initiative. Ibrahim Nejim, who lives in the al-Samar neighborhood near the market, told Xinhua the start of waste removal was a long-awaited move. “The air has be-

come noticeably cleaner compared with previous months, when foul odors and insects were widespread,” Nejim said. He recalled that before the latest round of conflict between Hamas and Israel, Firas Market was a major commercial hub and social gathering spot. However, it has since become an area plagued by health hazards due to the accumulation of waste. Hassan Khalil, a former shop owner in the market, expressed hope that clearing the waste would pave the way for a gradual revival of commercial activity. “Firas Market was once a destination for residents and visitors interested in daily life in Gaza,” Khalil told Xinhua. “We hope that restoring cleanliness will help bring back economic and cultural vitality to the area.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Is Education In Kenya Gaining Value Or Losing Credibility?

Education has long been regarded as the backbone of Kenya's development, a pathway through which hard work in school promised opportunity in life. Yet today, many Kenyans are asking whether education is gaining value or slowly losing credibility. The introduction of the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) has intensified this debate.

CBC was designed to replace the 8-4-4 system, which critics argued encouraged cramming and exam obsession. By focusing on skills, creativity, talent, and real-life application, CBC seeks to ensure learners demonstrate what they can do rather than simply what they can memorize. In principle, this is a powerful shift. It prepares students for a modern world where problem-solving, communication, and innovation matter more than rote learning.

The curriculum also recognizes that children are gifted differently. Some excel in sports, arts, technology, or leadership.



By nurturing these talents early, CBC aims to produce balanced citizens rather than certificate collectors. If implemented effectively, this could greatly enhance the value of education in Kenya. However, implementation remains the Achilles' heel. Many schools lack resources, trained teachers, and proper infrastructure. Parents complain about high costs of materials, while teachers feel rushed into a system they were not fully prepared for. In some cases, learning has become confusing instead of empowering, eroding confidence in the system.

Compounding this is the unem-

ployment crisis. Graduates often struggle to find work, raising doubts about whether education still guarantees opportunity. Certificates without jobs weaken trust in the system. Thus, education in Kenya is at a crossroads. CBC is a positive idea, but without adequate funding, training, and alignment with the job market, its promise risks fading. The question remains: will Kenya bridge these gaps and restore confidence, or will learners continue studying without seeing real returns?

By John Irungu Maina; Student Journalist

The Pollution Crisis In Kenya: A Growing Concern

Kenya, celebrated for its breathtaking landscapes and diverse wildlife, is now grappling with a pollution crisis that threatens its environment, public health, and economic stability. Air, water, and land pollution are rising at alarming levels, demanding urgent attention.

Nairobi's air quality has been ranked 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, while land pollution from discarded plastics continues to choke landscapes, harm wildlife, and overwhelm landfills. These realities paint a grim picture of a nation struggling to balance development with environmental stewardship.

The impacts are severe. Pollution contributes to respiratory diseases, cancers, and other illnesses, placing immense strain on healthcare systems. Aquatic life suffers from toxic waters, while plastic waste disrupts ecosystems. Economically, pol-



lution undermines tourism, one of Kenya's most vital industries, and increases healthcare costs, eroding national productivity.

Solutions exist but require collective will. The government must enforce bans on single-use plastics and strengthen recycling initiatives. Investment in modern waste management, including composting and proper disposal systems, is essential. A clean energy push—through solar and wind—can reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Public awareness campaigns should educate cit-

izens on eco-friendly habits, while policy action must enforce anti-pollution laws and support green initiatives.

Citizens also play a role: using reusable bags and bottles, participating in cleanup programs, conserving energy and water, and supporting eco-friendly policies. Kenya can turn the tide against pollution, but only through united effort.

By: Agnes Otieno, Laikipia University

Born To Hope, Forced To Survive: The Silent Cry Of Kenya's Street Children

Behind Kenya's fast-growing cities and polished development promises lies an uncomfortable truth: thousands of children are being pushed onto the streets, not by fate, but by failure. A walk through Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, or Nakuru reveals children as young as six sleeping in corridors, begging at traffic lights, or scavenging for food. Their presence exposes a chain of neglect that begins at home and is sustained by weak systems meant to protect them.

Investigations into their backgrounds reveal recurring patterns—parental abandonment, domestic violence, alcoholism, and extreme poverty. Some children are deliberately sent away when families can no longer feed them, while others flee homes where abuse is normalized. The question remains: will Kenya bridge these gaps and restore confidence, or will learners continue studying without seeing real returns?

Kenya has progressive child protection laws, yet rescue



centers are overstretched, underfunded, and poorly monitored. Street children are often rounded up during city cleanups, only to be held briefly and released back without rehabilitation or family tracing. This revolving-door approach treats them as a nuisance rather than a human rights emergency.

Education systems also fail these children. Despite free basic education policies, they remain excluded due to lack of documentation, school materials, and psychosocial support. County governments rarely

have structured reintegration programs, locking them out of the very system that could break the cycle.

Non-governmental and faith-based groups attempt to fill the gaps, but efforts remain fragmented. Until parental accountability is enforced, child protection strengthened, and reintegration prioritized, the streets will continue raising children who should be in classrooms and homes.

By: Juliet Dandu, Laikipia University

Sifuna Rejects ODM Ouster As Court Halts Gazettement Of Removal

A leadership dispute has erupted within the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) after Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna rejected a party decision seeking to remove him as Secretary-General, setting the stage for a legal and political showdown.

The ODM National Executive Committee (NEC) recently resolved to replace Sifuna, citing internal disagreements and disciplinary concerns. However, the move quickly sparked controversy, with Sifuna maintaining that the decision violated the party constitution and due process.

In a swift legal response, the Political Parties Disputes Tribunal (PPDT) temporarily stopped the gazettement of his removal, allowing Sifuna to remain in office pending the hearing and determination of the dispute.

The tribunal's ruling effectively froze the party's attempt to formalize leadership changes, intensifying the internal power



struggle.

Speaking to the media, Sifuna insisted that he remains the legally elected Secretary-General, arguing that any leadership change must follow proper constitutional procedures. He described the attempted removal as unlawful and politically motivated, adding that he would continue executing his duties until the matter is conclusively determined.

The standoff highlights growing divisions within ODM, with rival factions differing over party direction, succession, and alliances. Political observers warn that prolonged disputes could

weaken party cohesion ahead of the 2027 General Election. Senior party officials, however, defend the NEC's decision, insisting it was within mandate and aimed at strengthening discipline.

As the tribunal prepares to hear the case, both sides are mobilizing supporters, turning what began as an internal administrative decision into a high-profile contest. The outcome will significantly shape ODM's leadership stability and national positioning.

By: Pascal Okoth, Homabay – Kochia Dala

Sports >> *The Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) on Wednesday hosted a welcome dinner to participants, setting the stage for the highly anticipated HSBC World Sevens Series

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



Magical Kenya Hosts Welcome Dinner Ahead Of HSBC SVNS 2 Nairobi



The Springbok Women sevens team pose for a photo at the World Sevens Series Division 2 Nairobi Tournament Welcome Dinner at the Carnivore Hotel

The Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) on Wednesday hosted a welcome dinner to participants, setting the stage for the highly anticipated HSBC World Sevens Series Division 2 tournament.

The event brought together participating teams, World Rugby officials, and key stakeholders, celebrating Kenya's growing prominence as a premier destination for international sporting events.

Speaking at the event, the Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife, Rebecca Miano, EGH, extended a warm welcome to all the players and delegates.

"We are thrilled to host the HSBC World Sevens Series Division 2 tournament here in Nairobi, Kenya has long hoped to host a global leg of the World Sevens Series, now that dream is realized. The journey to this moment has demanded persistence,

investment and an unyielding belief in our capacity to deliver a world class experience."

"By consistently hosting international sporting events, we are not only boosting our tourism sector but also solidifying Kenya's profile as a capable and enthusiastic host on the world stage."

"Tourism and sports go hand in hand, while Rugby brings the visitor to our shores, hospitality deepens their stay, a rugby fan comes for the game but leaves having enjoyed the magic of Kenya. Our commitment is that every fan, player and official departs with Kenya etched into their affections." She added.

Speaking at the same ceremony, the Principal Secretary of Sports, Elijah Mwangi, underscored the government's commitment in hosting a world-class event.

"The hosting of this tournament

is a testament of the strong collaborations between various arms of the government including the Ministries of Sports, Tourism, Interior, Foreign Affairs, the Kenya Rugby Union, World Rugby and the Private sector. We remain committed to delivering a safe, secure, well organized and memorable tournament."

On her part, the Kenya Rugby Union Chairman, Harriet Okach spoke towards the immense pride the Union has in hosting the tournament. "For us at the Kenya Rugby Union, this weekend represents an important milestone, hosting this tournament speaks to the growth of rugby in Kenya and the confidence the global rugby community has placed in us."

Echoing her sentiments was World Rugby's Head of Sevens event planning and delivery,

Mark Honeybunn, "World Rugby were thrilled at the opportunity of hosting this tournament in Nairobi, as this evening has set the pace with a showcase of Kenyan hospitality, we look forward to a dynamic and special tournament."

The HSBC World Sevens Series Division 2 tournament is scheduled to take place on February 14-15, 2026, with twelve teams from around the world battling out for the opening leg of the division two series, promising two days of exhilarating rugby action.

The welcome dinner served as a perfect prelude, fostering camaraderie and excitement among the teams and officials.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Three players from the Under-20 team Rising Starlets have earned a first senior call up to the national women's provisional team Harambee Starlets

Three U20 Players Earn Harambee Starlets Call-Ups As Coach Odemba Names Provisional WAFCON Squad



Vidah Okeyo in action during the Kenya Academy of Sports Elite Camp training. Photo/RAYMOND MAKHAYA

Three players from the Under-20 team Rising Starlets have earned a first senior call up to the national women's provisional team Harambee Starlets that will do duty at the upcoming Africa Women's Cup of Nations (WAFCON). Diana Ochol, Vidah Okeyo and Lornah Faith were handed their debuts while Elizabeth Ochaka, Lorine Ilavonga, Fasila Adhiambo, Valerie Nekesa and Elizabeth Mideva retain their places as Harambee Starlets head coach Belidine Odemba unveiled a 34-player provisional squad.

The selected players are expected to report to camp on Sunday marking the start of intensive build-up to the continental show-piece scheduled for March 17 to

April 3.

A number of players who impressed during the recent local-based mini camp have earned places in the provisional list.

Kenya Police Bullets trio Anne-dy Kundu, Medina Abubakar and Lorna Nyabuto headline the selections, while Kibera Soccer Women's Vivian Shiyonzo and Mary Majeso also get recognition.

Trinity Starlets have strong representation through Juliet Adhiambo, Elizabeth Muteshi and Mer-cyline Mejor, with Ulinzi Starlets defender Diana Shakava and Kayole Starlets' Euphraiser Shilwatso completing the group of locally scouted inclusions.

The provisional list also marks the return of seasoned internation-

als Jentrix Shikangwa and Lorna Nyarinda, whose experience could prove crucial as the team sharpens up for WAFCON.

The coach emphasized that blending youth with experience is part of a long-term vision to ensure continuity and squad depth as Kenya seeks to remain competitive on the continental stage.

With the tournament drawing closer, the upcoming camp will help the technical bench assess combinations, fitness levels and tactical readiness before trimming the squad to the final selection.

The February–March FIFA international window is expected to provide opportunities for friendly matches as part of the final preparations.

Kenya is in Pool A alongside Senegal, Algeria and Morocco.

Kenya's return to WAFCON, ten years after their historic 2016 debut, carries renewed ambition. The focus now shifts to building cohesion, refining strategy and ensuring the Harambee Starlets are ready to compete strongly against Africa's elite.

Capital Sport

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS

Backpage



The Mt Kenya Times
375778 201602

A Life Of Faith, Creativity, And Empowerment The Inspiring Journey Of Dr. Evangelist Tamala Jenise



By: Anila Bukhari
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- In addition to her accomplishments as an author, Tamala has established herself as a Director and Producer of stage plays and film. Her creative work in this field has earned her several film-script credits, demonstrating her versatility and passion for storytelling across multiple platforms. Through stage and screen, she continues to share meaningful narratives that resonate with audiences and reflect her commitment to spreading positive and faith-centered messages. Her dedication to excellence in creative arts has positioned her as a respected figure in both literary and performance spaces.

- Tamala is also the Founder and Editor-in-Chief of NSpire Christian Magazine, a platform dedicated to empowering women and inspiring the masses through the power of faith.

Dr. Evangelist Tamala Jenise is a dynamic author, media personality, and faith-driven leader whose life's work centers on encouraging and inspiring others through the power of words and ministry. As a 17X International Amazon Best-Seller Author with 19 published books, Tamala has devoted more than 20 years to writing with intention and purpose. Her writing is not only a creative expression but a calling to uplift, empower, and strengthen people through messages rooted in faith. Over the years, she has developed a unique voice that blends spiritual encouragement with practical inspiration, helping her readers find hope and motivation in their daily lives.

In addition to her accomplishments as an author, Tamala has established herself as a Director and Producer of stage plays and film. Her creative work in this field has earned her several film-script credits, demonstrating her versatility and passion for storytelling across multiple platforms. Through stage and screen, she continues to share meaningful narratives that resonate with audiences and reflect her commitment to spreading positive and faith-centered messages. Her dedication to excellence in creative arts has positioned her as a respected figure in both literary and performance spaces.

Tamala is also the Founder and Editor-in-Chief of NSpire Christian Magazine, a platform dedicated to empowering women and inspiring the masses through the power of faith. Through this publication, she provides a space where voices can be heard, testimonies can be shared, and spiritual growth can be nurtured. Her vision for the magazine reflects her lifelong mission to encourage others and to highlight stories that strengthen communities. By leading NSpire Christian Magazine, Tamala continues to expand her influence as a communicator and advocate for faith-based empowerment.

For over eight years, Tamala has hosted a number of podcasts that reach diverse audiences with messages of hope and encouragement. Among her notable programs are "Spiritually Speaking" on AMFM247 Broadcasting Radio Show and the "Amazing Grace, Set Ablaze Podcast" on TalkZone Radio, where she serves as an advocate for domestic violence victims. Through these platforms, she interviews ministers, authors, business owners, and everyday individuals who have powerful testimonies to share. Her work ensures that voices of resilience and faith are amplified, and that listeners are reminded of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Currently, every Monday, she hosts *Inspirational Moments* on Kingdom Purpose TV and leads "The Outpouring Podcast Show," continuing her commitment to broadcasting uplifting and spiritually enriching content.

Tamala's exceptional contributions have been recognized through numerous awards and honors. She was named Radio Personality of the Year at the ACHI Magazine Awards in 2019 and received the "Women Rocking the Web Awards" in 2022. She has also been featured on the cover of Writer's Magazine and ATL Magazine. Her achievements include the 2022 Business Owner of the Year ACHI Award, the 2023 Playwright of the Year for the NSpire Image Awards, and the Presidential Achievement Awards for 2023 and 2025. On July 26, 2025, Tamala reached another milestone by graduating with an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Philosophy in Christian Humanities. She regards all her accomplishments and accolades as blessings and honors, consistently giving glory to God for her journey and success.

Faith remains the foundation of Tamala's life and work. She has worshiped devotedly with New Springfield Missionary Baptist Church for over 40 years, where she actively serves as a Sunday School Teacher, Associate Minister, and Chairwoman of the Women's Ministry. Her long-standing commitment to her church reflects her deep spiritual roots and dedication to service. Through her ministry roles, she mentors, teaches, and supports others in their faith journeys, embodying the values she promotes through her writing and media presence.

Beyond her professional and ministerial achievements, Tamala is a de-



Dr. Evangelist Tamala Jenise.

voted family woman. She has been a loving and committed wife to Brian Coleman for 20 years and a proud mother to their three wonderful adult children, Thaddeus, Tiffanie, and Brianna. Her family life complements her public mission, providing a strong personal foundation that supports her many endeavors.

Through her books, media platforms, ministry, and leadership, Dr. Evangelist Tamala Jenise continues to inspire countless individuals around the world. Her journey is a testament to perseverance, faith, and purposeful creativity. She remains accessible to her growing audience through her social media presence on Facebook as Evangelist Tamala Coleman, on Instagram as Iam_EvangelistTamalaColeman, through NSpire Christian Magazine at www.

nspire-christian-magazine.com, and via email at Nspiremag22@gmail.com. Every aspect of her work reflects her unwavering commitment to empowering others and sharing messages of hope, always with gratitude and the declaration: To God be the glory.