



The Indecency We Tolerate: A Case Against Poverty And The Slow Violence It Does To The Human Soul
 Poverty is not a statistic. It is not a line on a graph, a percentage point in an economist's model, or a bracket in a government report. It is a man waking before dawn in a township outside Johannesburg to walk six kilometres to a job that will pay him barely enough to feed two of his four children.

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News >> Forgotten Freedom Fighter Laid To Rest As Calls For Justice Grow Louder

P. 8. Residents of Nyandarua County last week gathered in solemn reflection to bid farewell to one of the last surviving commanders of Kenya's Mau Mau resistance, General Kiambati — his war name.



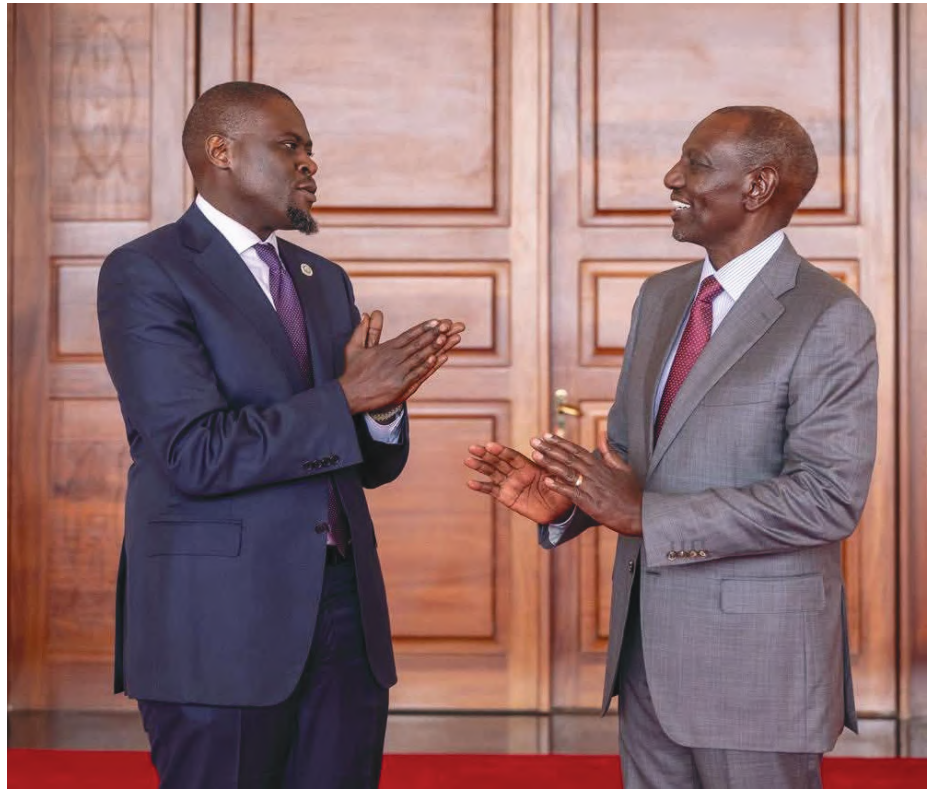
News >> Maai Mahiu Flood Victims Resettled As County Pledges Development Support

P. 12. The County Government of Nakuru will invest in infrastructure, agriculture and trade to support a new settlement for families displaced by the 2024 Maai Mahiu floods, Governor Susan Kihika has said.

Ruto Unveils Sh80B Nairobi Deal



President William Ruto has announced an ambitious KSh80 billion cooperation agreement between the National Government and the Nairobi City County Government aimed at transforming the capital into a more livable, secure and efficient city for its 4.4 million residents. The wide-ranging pact targets critical sectors including lighting, electricity connectivity, water supply, sanitation, roads and solid waste management.



President William Ruto with governor Johnson Sakaja at State House, Nairobi yesterday.

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National Government Unveils Plan To Upgrade Nairobi Infrastructure

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

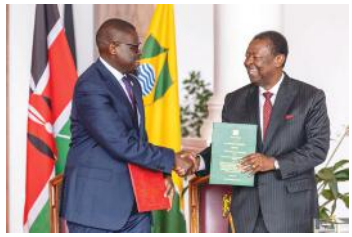
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In the water sector, KSh2.1 billion will upgrade the Ng'ethu Treatment Plant to curb daily losses of 50 million litres, while KSh3 billion will fund the Gigiri-Shauri Moyo evacuation corridor to stabilise and extend supply.

Sanitation projects include KSh9 billion for two 27km trunk sewer lines along the Nairobi River Corridor and KSh6 billion for a new treatment plant with a 60 million-litre daily capacity. An additional KSh18 billion will support sewer connectivity and long-term expansion.

Infrastructure improvements feature KSh8.7 billion for roads, bridges and drainage, KSh1.7 billion for 59km of roads under phase two, and KSh5 billion for ward-level road upgrades. Solid waste management will receive KSh6 billion to enhance disposal and recycling systems. Ruto said the investment will elevate Nairobi's status as a leading African metropolis.



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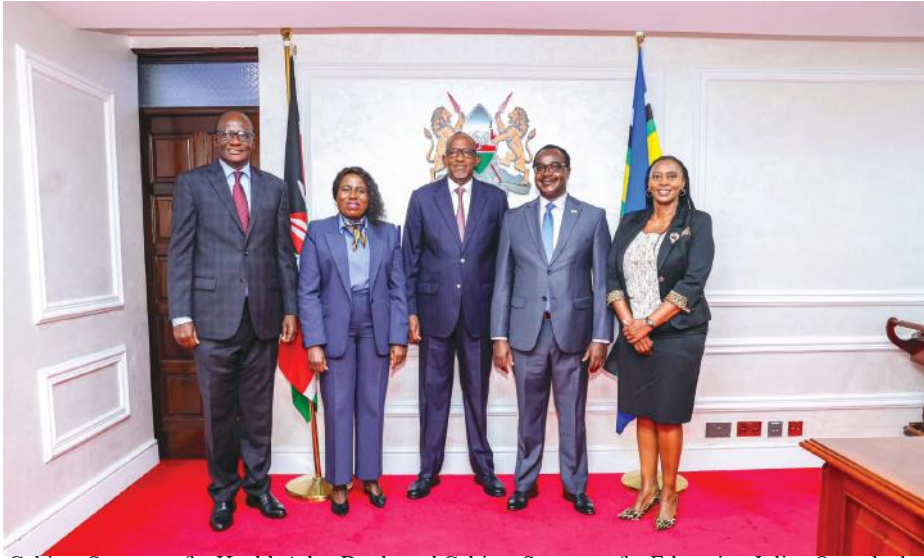


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NEWS IN BRIEF



Cabinet Secretary for Health Aden Duale and Cabinet Secretary for Education Julius Ogamba led a high-level strategic meeting at the Ministry of Health Headquarters in Nairobi aimed at aligning health training programmes with national priorities, joined by Director-General for Health Dr. Patrick Amoth, Principal Secretary for Higher Education and Research Beatrice Muganda, and Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni.



Nakuru County Government has partnered with other agencies to tackle rising insecurity in the city amid growing concern from residents and business owners. City Manager Gitau Thabanja said funds have been allocated for solar-powered street lighting after night mapping identified dark spots contributing to crime. Residents report increased robberies, with criminals targeting pedestrians, especially women and the elderly, forcing some businesses to close early. The city is also facing a surge in street families, including some from neighboring countries. Thabanja said a multi-agency approach is underway, focusing on returning children to school, enrolling others in TVET institutions and linking adults to jobs. A 2025 KNBS survey ranks Nakuru fourth nationally in crime prevalence.



The United Kingdom, in partnership with Kenya's Ministry of Interior, has unveiled the Geriley Community Borehole in Wajir County under the UK-funded Deris Wanaag peace and security programme. The community-identified project addresses drought, water shortages and insecurity in the Kenya-Somalia-Ethiopia borderlands. Officials said the borehole demonstrates flexible, community-driven programming and the UK's commitment to regional stability. Supported by Wajir County through technical assessments and installation of a generator, the borehole will serve about 3,500 households and 20,000 livestock. The Sh2.5 billion programme combines security, development and peacebuilding to reduce resource-based conflicts and vulnerability to extremist groups.



Traders at Kitengela Market benefit from a solar-powered cold storage facility donated by Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) in partnership with Food Banking Kenya, aimed at reducing post-harvest losses and strengthening livelihoods, as Kajiado Governor Joseph Ole Lenku and Subutay Yuksel officiate the launch in Kitengela.

Traders in Kabarnet town are set to benefit from a Sh182 million ultra-modern market launched by the National Government after decades of operating in poor conditions. The three-storey facility will feature wholesale and retail spaces, a day-care centre and an ICT hub. Speaking during the site handover, Baringo Central MP Joshua Kandie said the contractor has pledged to complete the project within 12 months. More than 1,000 traders will be temporarily relocated to allow construction to proceed. Governor Benjamin Cheboi promised support for affected traders and priority allocation once complete, terming the project a major boost to the county's economic growth and local employment opportunities.



The Government has condemned the alleged secret recording and circulation of intimate images of Kenyan women by a foreign national, terming it a grave violation of constitutional rights to dignity and privacy. Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura said security agencies are pursuing the suspect in collaboration with international authorities, urging victims to seek help through the GBV helpline 1195. He also announced that 131,800 youth have received Sh2.586 billion in grants under the NYOTA programme, alongside training and mentorship, with more opportunities through apprenticeships and certification of prior learning. On social protection, cash transfers have expanded for vulnerable groups, while drought-hit counties will benefit from Sh4.1 billion in relief. The Government highlighted ongoing fertilizer subsidies, major infrastructure projects, economic growth projections of five per cent, and efforts to boost liquidity and regional trade.



Parents and guardians of children born with cleft lip and palate have been urged to attend a four-day free surgical camp at Garissa Level 5 Hospital. The camp is sponsored by the NGO Love Without a Reason, which provides corrective surgeries at no cost. Founder Santhosh Mathews said the team will conduct 15 to 20 surgeries daily and emphasized that cleft conditions are medical issues, not curses or a result of parental fault. He called for an end to stigma and discrimination, noting that globally one in 700 children is born with cleft conditions and requires surgical intervention and support.



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Embu Suppliers Welcome e-Procurement To Curb Cartels

By: Samuel Waititu
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- They expressed optimism that the digital system will also aid in dismantling entrenched cartels in the public tendering process, thus creating a level playing field for all suppliers.
- Speaking during a training session organised by the State Department for Public Investment and Assets Management in partnership with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) that was held at the University of Embu, suppliers complained that under the manual procurement, government tenders have been a preserve of a “class of a few well-connected individuals.”



Suppliers in Embu County have welcomed the rollout of the Electronic Government Procurement System (e-GPS), terming it a long-awaited reform that is set to restore fairness, transparency and competitiveness in government tendering.

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“Tendering processes used to be compromised, as available opportunities were reserved for suppliers who have good connections with procurement officials, essentially locking out the majority of players in the trade,” said supplier and Chair of the KNCCI Embu Branch Mugo Mate.

He said under the manual system, many credible suppliers were sidelined for years despite meeting all legal and professional requirements, as a few “tenderpreneurs” leveraging on their political connections dominated public contracting.

He went on to allege that some individuals had registered multiple companies to increase their chances of winning tenders, effectively locking out other qualified bidders.

According to him, the e-GPS platform that has fully digitised the entire procurement process will aid in seal-

ing these loopholes and enhance transparency and fair play.

His sentiments were echoed by contractor Alex Murithi, who alleged that some contracts had previously been awarded without proper advertisement, denying many suppliers a fair opportunity to compete.

Murithi said the new system offers renewed hope, adding that transparent online advertisement and application processes will allow suppliers across the county to participate in government business without discrimination.

Ruth John, representing persons living with disabilities, complained that the constitutional requirement that 30 per cent of all government tenders be reserved for enterprises owned by youth, women, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) had not been fully adhered to.

She called on both the national and

county governments to ensure that the reserved quota is strictly observed under the new electronic procurement framework so that marginalised groups can meaningfully benefit.

Wilfred Siakama from the National Treasury assured suppliers that the government meant well with the introduction of the new system in order to enhance accountability, curb corruption, and promote openness in public spending.

He reported that over 35,000 suppliers had already registered on the platform nationwide, signalling growing confidence in the system.

Siakama encouraged suppliers in Embu to enrol in large numbers, saying the digital transition marks a new era of integrity and equal opportunity for all in government procurement.

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Forgotten Freedom Fighter Laid To Rest As Calls For Justice Grow Louder

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The funeral, funded largely by well-wishers, was marked by both reverence and quiet frustration. Many speakers decried what they described as decades of neglect by successive governments toward the men and women who fought for Kenya's independence.
- Muronyo reportedly died with three colonial-era bullets still lodged in his body — a stark reminder of the brutality endured by freedom fighters during the emergency period. Yet in both life and death, his family says he received little recognition from the state he helped liberate.
- Mobilization efforts for the funeral were led by James Njuguna Mahuria, Director General of a consortium advocating for compensation for Mau Mau veterans and their families. Mahuria, who also heads the Mau Mau War Veterans Association umbrella body, stepped in after realizing that official support would not be forthcoming.

Residents of Nyandarua County last week gathered in solemn reflection to bid farewell to one of the last surviving commanders of Kenya's Mau Mau resistance, General Kiambati — his war name. Born Christopher Njora Muronyo, the 106-year-old veteran was buried in a modest ceremony at Chamuka village in Ngorika, Kanjiri Ward.

The funeral, funded largely by well-wishers, was marked by both reverence and quiet frustration. Many speakers decried what they described as decades of neglect by successive governments toward the men and women who fought for Kenya's independence.

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Addressing mourners, Bishop Jane Kinyiriria urged the government and stakeholders to prioritize the welfare of aging freedom fighters, many of whom continue to struggle with poverty and illness.

Mahuria has consistently argued that numerous veterans have died in hardship, without land restitution or adequate acknowledgment from post-independence administrations. He called on both national and county governments to expedite policies that would shield the elderly fighters from destitution, noting that most are advanced in age and battling multiple health complications.

Among leaders present at the burial were Nyandarua Governor Kiarie Badilisha, former Governor Francis Kimemia, and gubernatorial aspirant Sicily Kariuki, who hails from the area. They echoed concerns about the continued marginalization of surviving veterans decades after independence.

Family members spoke candidly about their father's painful journey. Emily Kiambati expressed disappointment at what she termed government indifference.

"He was a hero, but today there is nothing to celebrate. The national government did nothing for him," she said.

Her brother, Wilson Maina Kiambati, described growing up with a father deeply traumatized by war and subsequent neglect.

"He lived in abject poverty. His home had been destroyed. He received no recognition for the role he and others played in liberating this country," he said.

Muronyo fought alongside the iconic Mau Mau leader Dedan Kimathi, who was executed by the British in 1957 and later accorded national recognition. However, many other commanders — often referred to as "forgotten generals" — faded into obscurity after independence.

Historians estimate that between 10,000 and 90,000 Kenyans were killed during the uprising, while the Kenya Human Rights Commission reports that about 160,000 people were detained in camps where torture and executions occurred.

In 2013, the British government formally acknowledged abuses committed during the emergency and agreed to compensate more than 5,000 Kenyan victims following a landmark case in London. Yet many veterans were excluded from the compensation scheme, according to advocacy groups.

Scholars note that after independence in 1963, President Jomo Kenyatta downplayed the Mau Mau's role, partly to maintain diplomatic ties with Western nations and consolidate political authority. The movement remained banned for decades and was classified as a "terrorist" organization



General Kiambati.

until the early 2000s. Some veterans were reportedly arrested or harassed during the early post-independence years.

Lawyer Kelvin Kubai, whose grandfather was imprisoned for five years under Kenyatta's administration despite fighting in the forest, described the sense of betrayal felt by many fighters.

"They were shocked, disappointed and confused that the government they had fought for was now hunting them down," he said. "This betrayal was more painful than the colonial

bullet."

As Kenya continues to reflect on its liberation history, Muronyo's burial has reignited debate over recognition, restitution, and dignity for those who sacrificed for independence. For surviving veterans like 99-year-old Njoroge Kinuthia, the struggle for justice did not end with the lowering of the colonial flag.

"The government is still ignoring our suffering," he said.



Some of the former freedom fighters at General Kiambati's burial ceremony. Photos/Courtesy.

Ruto Unveils KSh80 Billion National–County Deal To Transform Nairobi

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto has announced an ambitious KSh80 billion cooperation agreement between the National Government and the Nairobi City County Government aimed at transforming the capital into a more livable, secure and efficient city for its 4.4 million residents.

The wide-ranging pact targets critical sectors including lighting, electricity connectivity, water supply, sanitation, roads and solid waste management.

Under the agreement, KSh3.7 billion will be used to complete 10,000 stalled street lighting projects and install an additional 40,000 lights across Nairobi to enhance security and improve public spaces.

The National Government, through Kenya Power, will also invest KSh1.5 billion in transformers and last-mile electricity connections in informal settlements, a move expected to boost access to reliable power for thousands of households.

In the water sector, KSh2.1 billion has been allocated to upgrade the

Ng'ethu Treatment Plant to curb daily losses estimated at 50,000 cubic litres. A further KSh3 billion will fund the Gigiri–Shauri Moyo evacuation corridor to stabilise supply and extend water services to high-demand areas.

Sanitation projects will receive significant funding, with KSh9 billion earmarked for the construction of two parallel 27-kilometre trunk sewer lines along the Nairobi River Corridor.

An additional KSh6 billion will go towards building a new sewer treatment plant with the capacity to process 60,000 cubic litres of wastewater per day.

To improve connectivity, KSh3 billion has been set aside for last-mile sewer connections, while KSh15 billion will support long-term sewer expansion across the city.

Infrastructure upgrades also feature prominently in the plan. The government will spend KSh8.7 billion to complete the upgrading of roads, bridges and drainage systems.

A further KSh1.7 billion is being mobilised for 59 kilometres of roads under phase two of the programme, scheduled to begin in April 2026.

At the ward level, a KSh5 billion pro-



President William Ruto with governor Johnson Sakaja at State House, Nairobi yesterday

gramme will improve roads across all city wards, complemented by KSh3.7 billion from the county government. An additional KSh1 billion has been allocated for drainage improvements to address persistent flooding.

Solid waste management will receive KSh4 billion, including the provision of 100 acres of land for Material Recovery Facilities. The

National Government will contribute an additional KSh2 billion to support the initiative.

President Ruto said the comprehensive investment plan is designed to elevate Nairobi's status as a globally respected African metropolis aligned with Kenya's broader development ambitions.

The ceremony took place at State

House, Nairobi and was attended by dozens of national and county officials.

The implementation team will be chaired by Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi with the assistance of Sakaja.

Counties Push Back As Treasury Tightens Purse Strings

By: Agnes Wanja
 @themtkenyatimes

Kenya's perennial tug-of-war over revenue sharing has flared again after the National Treasury proposed Sh420 billion for counties in the 2026/2027 Budget Policy Statement. The figure, drawn from audited revenues of Sh1.9 trillion for the 2021/2022 financial year, was tabled before the Senate Finance Committee, immediately sparking resistance from governors and the Commission on Revenue Allocation.

The Council of Governors insists the allocation is inadequate to meet devolved obligations in healthcare, agriculture, and infrastructure. Their position is reinforced by the CRA, which recommended Sh458.94 billion as a fairer equitable share. The Treasury, however, argues that fiscal consolidation is paramount, with a

target deficit of 4.6 percent of GDP. This clash highlights the tension between national fiscal discipline and counties' demand for resources to deliver services under the Constitution.

Senators reviewing the BPS raised concerns about the government's broader fiscal framework, particularly its shift from a fixed debt ceiling to a debt-to-GDP ratio. Treasury defends the move as aligning with international best practice, but lawmakers warn it could obscure mounting fiscal pressures. Heavy domestic borrowing, they argue, risks crowding out private sector credit, undermining growth, and contradicting the government's stated aim of strengthening investment through the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.

Mandera Senator Ali Roba, chairing the committee, cautioned that legislative manoeuvring must reflect Kenya's economic realities. "By shifting to the debt-to-GDP ratio, the government risks crowding out local



borrowing for the private sector, despite its stated intention to strengthen private investment," he said.

The debate now moves to Parliament, where the final allocation will be determined. At stake is not just the

size of county budgets but the credibility of devolution itself. Counties argue that underfunding erodes service delivery and public trust, while Treasury insists unchecked spending threatens fiscal stability.

Kenya's future hinges on whether leaders can strike a balance between fiscal prudence and empowering counties—because starving devolution risks starving the nation itself.

Kenya To Host 2026 World Farmers' Organisation Annual Meeting In Major Boost for Agriculture

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyaintimes

Kenya will host the 2026 World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) Annual Meeting in Nairobi from June 8–11, marking a significant milestone for the country's agricultural sector.

The global event will be organized by the Kenya National Farmers' Federation (KENAFF) in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development.

The meeting, themed "Future Fields: Investing in Farmers' Organisations and Empowering Communities for Sustainable Agriculture," is expected to attract leaders of farmers' organizations from 65 countries, alongside policymakers, financial institutions, private sector representatives, scientists and multilateral agencies.

It will provide a global platform to deliberate on sustainable agriculture, financing, youth engagement and innovation in farming.

Agriculture and Livestock Development

ment Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe welcomed the announcement, describing it as a great honor and recognition of Kenya's farmers and their contribution to food security and economic transformation.

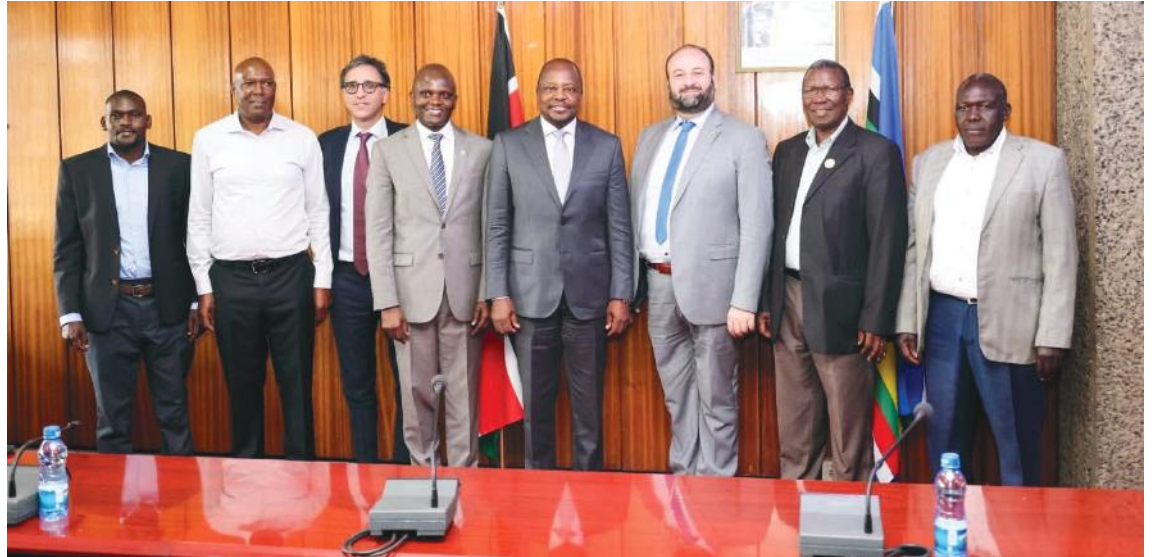
He emphasized the need to shift perceptions of farming from subsistence to a commercially viable enterprise driven by youth and technology.

Kagwe underscored the central role of farmers in the food chain, noting that food security and national independence depend entirely on their efforts.

He said prioritizing farmers in policy decisions would result in better outcomes for the country and the wider global community.

The Nairobi meeting is expected to focus on youth participation in agriculture, digital innovation, soil health, fair international trade and improving access to financing that directly benefits farmers. Delegates will also tour selected farms across Kenya to showcase the country's growing, technology-driven agricultural ecosystem.

WFO Secretary General Andrea Porro highlighted the importance of



Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mutahi Kagwe with other stakeholders. Photo/Courtesy.

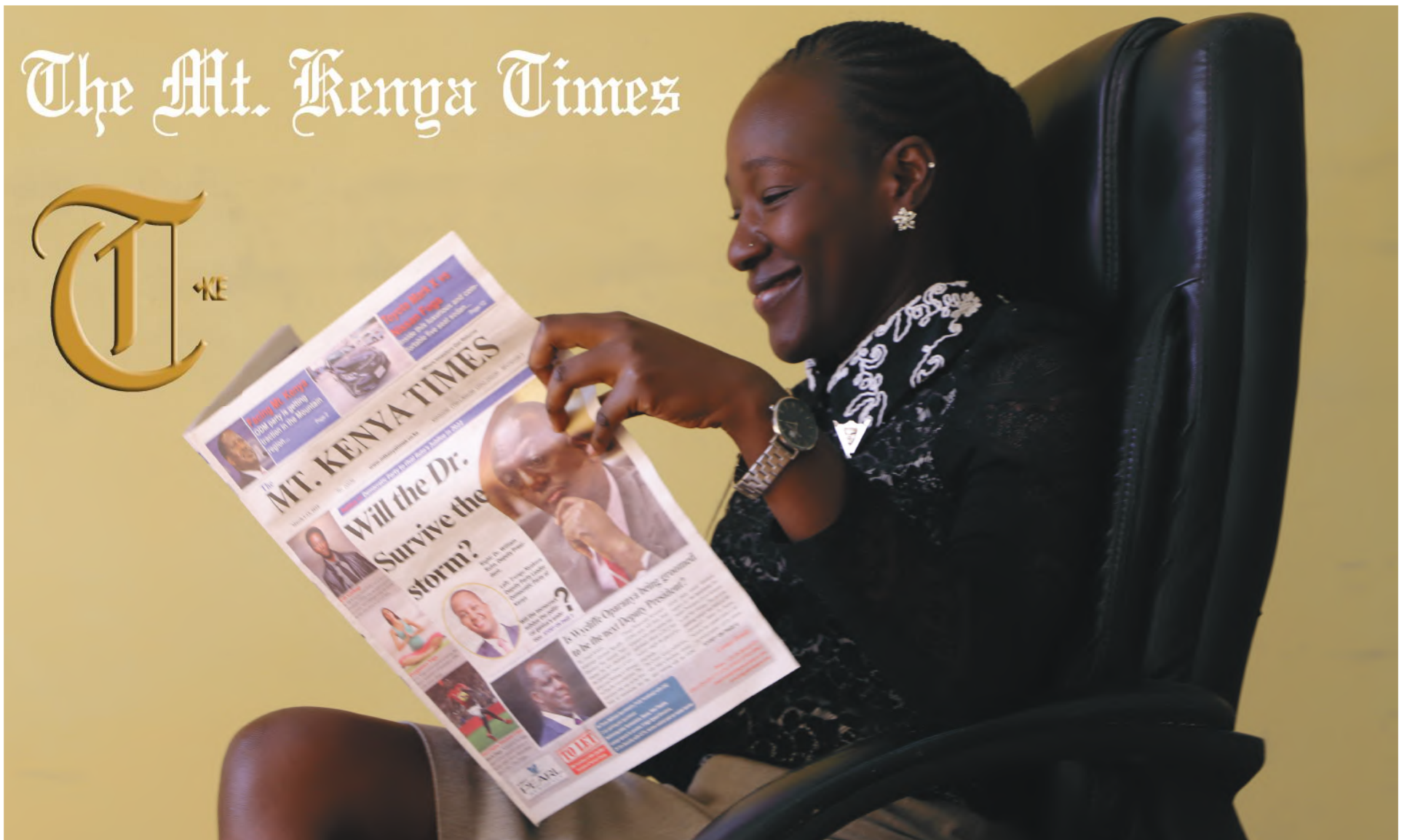
ensuring farmers receive adequate financing and earn dignified incomes. He noted that farming must be recognized as a profession capable of providing sustainable livelihoods. Porro also pointed to the global challenge of attracting young people into agriculture, describing food production as a

noble and essential career.

KENAFF, established in 1946 and popularly known as Sauti ya Mkulima, will anchor the event as Kenya's official representative to the WFO. The federation has been instrumental in strengthening farmer advocacy and influencing agricultural policy at local

and national levels.

Hosting the 2026 WFO Annual Meeting is expected to reinforce Kenya's position as a continental leader in farmer-driven, technology-powered commercial agriculture while elevating its profile in global agricultural policy discussions.



Mumias Sugar Blames Rivals, Weather As Cane Backlog Bites

By: Kasembeli Albert

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

Worth Noting:

- The company specifically named competitors West Kenya Sugar Company and Busia Sugar Industry, alleging that overlapping claims have led to complaints lodged with regulators and interruptions to harvesting operations, including the harassment of harvesting teams.
- The statement from Mumias Sugar reveals a chaotic situation in the sugarcane belt where multiple millers are operating in close proximity. With West Kenya and Busia Sugar both active in the region, disputes have erupted over cane that farmers developed themselves but which different factories claim as their own.
- “In some cases, cane registered with us has been claimed by others or subjected to complaints and disputes raised to regulators,” the company stated. “This has led to field conflicts and interruptions, including harassment of harvesting teams, which slows down operations and scheduling.”



Mumias Sugar Company has issued a detailed explanation to farmers over prolonged delays in cane harvesting, citing overlapping ownership disputes with rival millers, a three-month industry shutdown, and difficult terrain in Busia County as the primary obstacles to smooth operations.

In a public notice dated February 11, 2026, the miller acknowledged that harvesting activities have been severely disrupted by conflicts in the field over claims of self-developed cane.

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putes raised to regulators,” the company stated. “This has led to field conflicts and interruptions, including harassment of harvesting teams, which slows down operations and scheduling.”

The competition for cane comes against a backdrop of broader industry restructuring. The government has leased several state-owned factories to private investors, with West Kenya Sugar - owned by the Rai family - taking over Nzoia Sugar Factory in 2025 with plans to invest KSh5.6 billion in rehabilitation.

Beyond the inter-miller conflicts, Mumias Sugar pointed to geographical challenges that have complicated harvesting logistics. Approximately 75 per cent of cane in the Busia region is grown in lowland zones, which become difficult to access with changing weather and soil conditions.

The company said it continues to invest in additional tractors, trucks, loaders, and winches to reach more farms and improve turnaround time. This commitment to mechanisation, however, has sparked tension with local workers.

In early February, Kakamega Governor Fernandes Barasa opposed plans by Mumias Sugar to replace 500 cane loaders and harvesters with

loading machines, warning of a “socio-economic crisis.”

Mumias Sugar Operations Manager Stephen Kihumba defended the company’s position, stating that the factory actually needs more loaders following the purchase of additional tractors.

“With extra purchases and increased Out-growers supply, more loaders are needed,” Kihumba said, while accusing loaders of frustrating farmers by demanding more money for less work.

The company also cited the impact of a three-month closure of the sugar sector last year—a measure intended to allow cane to mature. According to the Kenya Sugar Board, the shutdown was ordered to address the harvesting of immature cane, which had been compromising sugar quality and yields.

However, the unintended consequence has been a bottleneck. With all farmers eager to harvest before the long rains begin, the resumption of operations coincided with a surge in mature cane ready for processing. Mumias Sugar noted that its daily crushing capacity is currently regulated at about 2,500 tons, creating pressure on harvesting teams.

For farmers in the Mumias region, the latest delays evoke painful

memories. More than 76,000 farmers abandoned sugarcane farming in Mumias in previous years, driven by the failure of the factory to pay KSh600 million in dues accrued over two years. Many uprooted cane to plant maize, groundnuts, and soya beans.

The government has made efforts to clear historical debts, announcing plans to pay KSh2.6 billion owed to sugarcane farmers from as far back as 2014. Mumias farmers alone were owed KSh889 million in that arrears clearance exercise.

Despite the challenges, Mumias Sugar reaffirmed its commitment to farmers, promising: Harvesting of all properly registered cane, Scaling up of equipment and capacity, Maintenance of weekly payment programs and continuous improvement in coordination and scheduling.

The company urged farmers to work closely with field officers and protect orderly harvesting arrangements to enable faster service delivery.

Maai Mahiu Flood Victims Resettled As County Pledges Development Support

By: Suleiman Mbatiah

[@themkenyatimes](#)

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during the resettlement exercise presided over by Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, Kihika said the county would complement national government efforts to ensure the community becomes economically stable.
- A total of 161 families whose homes were swept away by flash floods in 2024 have each been allocated 1.5 acres from a 200-acre parcel acquired through the national government's Settlement Fund.
- The government has resettled 105 families whose homes were swept away and 56 who lost rented houses, allocating each family land outside the flood zone and cash support for construction materials.
- The governor said the new settlement includes schools, health centres, market spaces and access roads, designed to support long-term growth, improve service delivery and create economic opportunities for resettled families.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki handing over a Title Deed to one of the beneficiaries as Nakuru governor Susan Kihika and Lands CS Alice Wahome looks on. Photo/Courtesy.

The County Government of Nakuru will invest in infrastructure, agriculture and trade to support a new settlement for families displaced by the 2024 Maai Mahiu floods, Governor Susan Kihika has said.

Speaking during the resettlement exercise presided over by Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, Kihika said the county would complement national government efforts to ensure the community becomes economically stable.

A total of 161 families whose homes were swept away by flash floods in 2024 have each been allocated 1.5 acres from a 200-acre parcel acquired through the national government's Settlement Fund.

The government has resettled 105 families whose homes were swept away and 56 who lost rented houses, allocating each family land outside the flood zone and cash support for construction materials.

The governor said the new settlement includes schools, health centres, market spaces and access roads, designed to support long-term growth, improve service delivery and create economic opportunities for resettled families.

"We are not just resettling people; we are building a thriving, dignified community," she said, adding that the project is designed to restore stability, rebuild livelihoods for long-term

growth.

The Maai Mahiu disaster in 2024 left dozens dead and displaced families after heavy rains triggered flash floods that destroyed homes and infrastructure. County and national agencies mounted search and rescue operations and set up temporary shelters.

Kihika said the county government activated emergency response teams, coordinated search and rescue operations, provided food, clean water and medical care, and offered trauma counselling and temporary shelter to affected families.

"Our health teams worked to prevent disease outbreaks, while social protection officers supported vulnerable families," she said, noting that special attention was given to children, the elderly and persons with disabilities during the recovery period.

In addition to land allocation, 50 groups will receive empowerment packages from the national government to help restore livelihoods, support small businesses, expand farming activities and create sustainable sources of income for affected families.

Deputy President Kindiki said the resettlement marks a shift from emergency relief to permanent restoration, adding that land ownership would give families security and opportunity.

"All families in each group supported with cash token for basic construction materials to hasten resettlement. The new settlement has land set aside for a school, a health centre and other amenities," he stated.

The governor said the county is finalising issuance of title deeds to plot owners in Maai Mahiu town, following completion of survey work, with documentation and verification processes now nearing conclusion.

In Naivasha Municipality, preparation of titles is ongoing in Lakeview, Viwandani, Kabati and North Karati Trading Centre. Processing of titles in Dundori and Bahati is also at an

advanced stage.

The county recently resettled the 2007 internally displaced persons at Kisima Farm in Njoro sub-County after years of protracted court battles.

The Governor noted that collaboration between the national and county governments demonstrates how coordinated action can accelerate recovery and restore stability for affected families.



Joint Task Force Aimed At Aligning Existing Health Training Programmes With National Priorities

By: Michael Omondi

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education have established a joint task force to align existing health training programmes with national priorities, following a high-level strategic meeting hosted by Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale and attended by Education CS Julius Ogamba.

From the meeting, the task force will map current training programmes against national health needs, recommend immediate reforms, and develop a clear implementation roadmap with defined milestones aimed at strengthening the country's health workforce.

Further, the engagement focused on ensuring that Kenya's health training systems produce skilled human resources capable of delivering the constitutional right to the highest

attainable standard of health under Article 43(1)(a), marking a significant step towards aligning training outputs with national healthcare demands.

Discussions also highlighted ongoing health sector reforms under the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) agenda, including the Digital Superhighway initiative, which is integrating health services nationwide to enhance service delivery and address the challenge of unqualified medical practitioners within the system.

Equally, the meeting underscored the central role of human resources for health as the backbone of sector expansion and a shared responsibility between the health and education sectors.

Participants explored sustainable strategies to support training institutions in designing and delivering programmes that reflect the country's disease burden and service delivery priorities.

Both ministries reaffirmed their commitment to competency-based,



harmonised and responsive health training, aimed at strengthening the linkage between education systems and population health needs as a key pillar in realising the constitutional right to health for every Kenyan.

The initiative is aligned with the

government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), which prioritises equitable healthcare delivery and the accelerated nationwide implementation of Universal Health Coverage.

Principal Secretaries Mary Mutho-

ni (Public Health and Professional Standards) and Beatrice Muganda (Higher Education and Research), Director-General for Health Dr Patrick Amoth, and technical heads from both ministries also attended the meeting.

Kenya Launches National Carbon Registry To Transform Carbon Markets

By: MKT Correspondent

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

Kenya has officially unveiled the Kenya National Carbon Registry (KNCR), a sovereign digital platform designed to register, track, authorize, and report carbon market activities. The launch, presided over in Nairobi by Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Deborah Barasa, marks a decisive step in strengthening Kenya's climate governance framework and positioning the country as a credible player in international carbon markets.

Dr. Barasa described the Registry as "the digital heartbeat of Kenya's green economy," noting that Kenya has moved from fragmented carbon activity to a unified, transparent, and accountable national system. "For years, innovation thrived, but we

lacked a single, trusted national ledger. Today, that changes: the National Carbon Registry is the title deed of Kenya's emissions reductions," she said.

Principal Secretary Dr. Festus Ng'eno emphasized that carbon credits are sovereign assets protected under Kenyan law, anchored in the Climate Change Act and Carbon Markets Regulations. He said the Registry will underpin an export-oriented carbon industry built on integrity, private sector empowerment, and tangible local benefits.

The KNCR builds on recent reforms, including amendments to the Climate Change Act (2016), gazette-ment of the Carbon Markets Regulations (2024), and establishment of the Designated National Authority for carbon markets. Together, these provide the legal certainty needed for a regulated ecosystem.

International partners played a key role in the Registry's development.

The European Union, through its Data Governance in Africa Initiative, and Germany's BMZ via GIZ Kenya, provided technical support. EU Ambassador Henriette Geiger urged Kenya to treat carbon credits as premium export products, while Germany's Maren Kneller reaffirmed Berlin's support for Kenya's climate ambition, citing the country's leadership in operationalizing carbon markets.

The technical implementation was led by Verst Carbon, whose CTO Ian Mutai stressed that the Registry represents a fundamental shift in Kenya's carbon market infrastructure. "Kenya's carbon market is ultimately about outcomes: cleaner energy, healthier communities, restored landscapes, and investment that reaches the places it is meant to reach. Those outcomes depend on trust—trust in the process, trust in the data, and trust in the decisions," he said.



With the KNCR now operational, Kenya strengthens oversight, enhances transparency, and sets a benchmark for building carbon markets on integrity and accountability. By anchoring carbon trading in trust

and digital governance, Kenya signals that its green economy will be built not on promises, but on proof.

Knowledge Is An Investment That Never Loses Value



Knowledge is Power and value
It is respected everywhere
A wise person is honoured
Wherever they visit, they succeed.

Invest your time while young for learning
Get opportunities across the world.
The early stage of learning is very difficult
If you overcome it, you will be happy.

Knowledge acts as a Google map
When you visit new places.
Early stage of learning

Make everyone fly in their old.

As gold, wherever the learner visits
He has the value.
Gold never loses its value
Likewise learners.

As gold, learners value always goes up
Learners have the values among their
relatives, friends and neighbours.
Learning earlier leads life happily.

Rajesh Kanna B N

RAJESH KANNA.B N
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BT Asst
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TIRUR,
TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT.
Tamil Nadu. India
Creative Writers.

Love Without Reason Is Powerful, Goodbye Without Reasons Is Painful



Love without reason is powerful and strong
There is no question at all
It flows like a never ending river
We love unconditionally, without knowing
past, or future
They bind hearts strong,
All stay only with one reason that is love

It's powerful, it binds, heart stronger
This relationship is true,
Ineffable memories linger,

in heart and soul
But goodbye without reason, is so painful it
fuels the disturbed mind
Leaves us wondering,
Breaks heart and mind. With no reason to
find

One who was with us, leaves without a word,
Creates a deep pain
This wound can't be healed
Goodbye without reason, hurts from the
depth of heart
This pain lingers, forever

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

Build Your Dreams



Dreams inspire us and give meaning to our
journey in life. Everyone carries hopes and
ambitions, but they become meaningful
only when we take effort to achieve them.
Building your dreams begins with small,
consistent actions each day.

The path to success is not always easy.
There may be failures and difficulties, but
they teach us important lessons. When we
stay strong and keep trying, we grow closer
to our goals.

Having faith in ourselves and staying
dedicated helps turn goals into
achievements. With steady effort,
patience, and a hopeful mind, we can create
the life we truly desire.

KUMARESWARI S
GRADUATE TEACHER -ENGLISH
VKGHSS AYYANKALIPALAYAM TIRUPPUR
TAMILNADU

I Actually Don't Want Anything From You But I Really Need You



I love my belongings
Relationships all with care
But my desire burnes in me.
It never restricts my love.
No Expectations for me.
To benefit my love.
Taking care thinking on you.
Not to find error no hesitation.
The best I want to give you
Sometimes I need break.

When you mistake me
But not to long
I surrender to you.
Not bearable that pain.
It expects nothing.
Only love care on you.
Ever I want you to be with me.
Not for my own benefits.
I need you because
Where there is love there is life.

N.SELVARANI.
B. T. ASST.
GHS-SAKKARAKKOTTAI.
RAMANATHAPURAM.
TAMILNADU.
INDIA.

Perfect Paths, Priceless Paring'



Trusting God is dipping deep in the pond.
Setting things to collect our wings is
beyond.

Need not worry about our wistful voices.
HE always surpasses our choices.

The right souls align with the right place,

Unfolds a changing tune with the right pace.
All HIS Great plan destined to us for the
safe landing.
Need not worry, when HE is safe guarding.

To bring peace, trust HIS heels.
To win the battle, trust HIS ways.
To keep balance, sing HIS hymn.
To conquer the world, trust ONLY HIM.
M DEVIKA
PGT ENGLISH,
CREATIVE WRITER,
FIITJEE GLOBAL SCHOOL, CHENNAI,
TAMILNADU, INDIA.

I Actually Don't Want Anything From You, But I Really Need You



I ask for nothing—no vows, no gain,
No gifts to measure joy or pain.
Yet in your silence, steady and true,
I find the strength to just be me with you.

I do not need the world you bring,

No crowned dreams, no promised spring.
Your presence is the answered prayer,
The calm that teaches my heart to dare.

When days grow thin and words run dry,
You stay—no reason, no “why.”
Like breath to lungs, like roots to land,
I don't want much—just your hand.

For love like ours makes this truth clear:
Want is fleeting, need is near.
I ask for nothing, still I see—
All that I am, begins with we.

R. SRIPRIYA
BT ENGLISH
GHSS KOLAPAKKAM KANCHIPURAM
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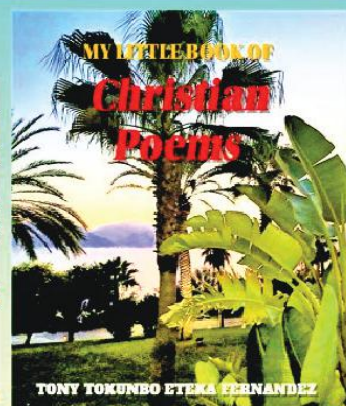
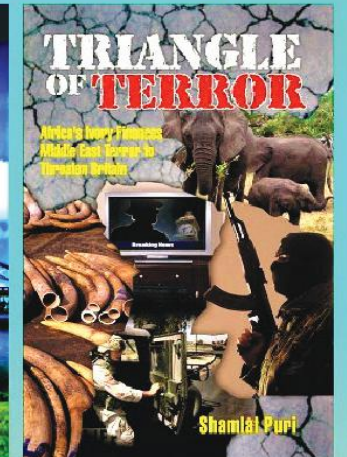
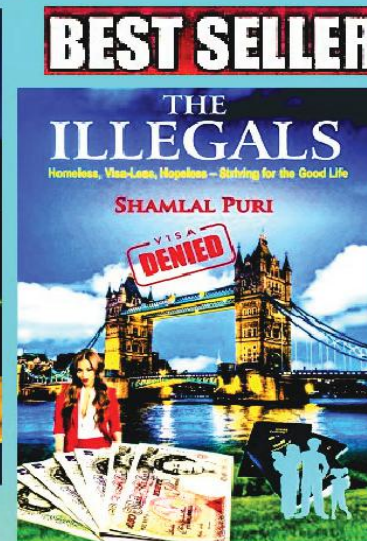
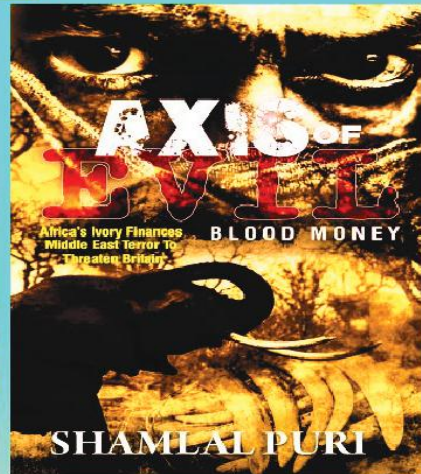
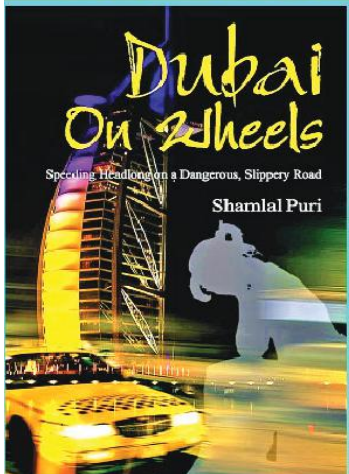
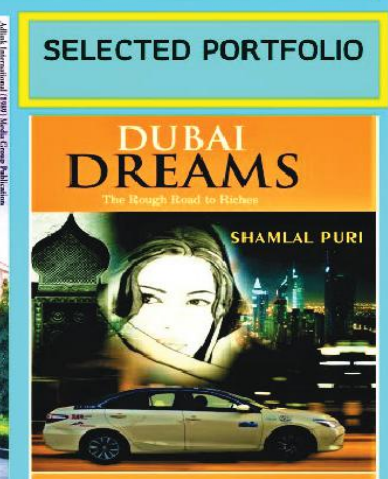
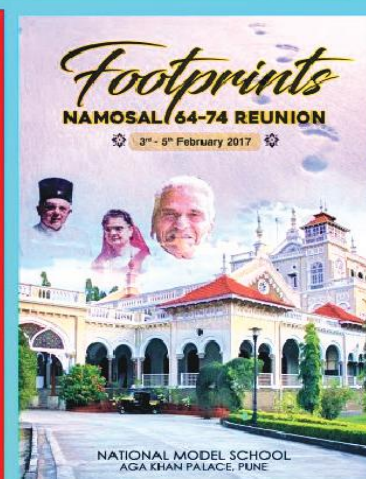
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EDUCATION

Graduates Of Security: Ruto's NIRU Milestone Signals Africa's New Intelligence Era

By: James Mwangi
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Ruto, serving as Chancellor, hailed the graduates as trailblazers who now carry the solemn responsibility of safeguarding nations against emerging threats. "Above all, let your service be anchored in integrity, professionalism, patriotism, and an unwavering commitment to advancing peace, stability, and cooperation across our continent," he said. His remarks underscored the urgency of building a cadre of professionals capable of navigating Africa's increasingly complex security environment, from cyber threats to geopolitical instability.
- National Intelligence Service Director-General Noordin Haji emphasized that NIRU's role extends beyond Kenya, contributing to a cooperative continental security framework. "Joint education and research on Africa policy matters can anticipate risk, manage competition, and act together."



Inaugural graduation ceremony of the National Intelligence and Research University (NIRU)

President William Ruto yesterday presided over the inaugural graduation ceremony of the National Intelligence and Research University (NIRU), a landmark moment not only for Kenya but for Africa's evolving security and intelligence education. The event, held in Nairobi, saw 31 master's degree graduates from Kenya and across the continent receive their certificates, positioning NIRU as a regional hub for advanced studies in intelligence, policy, technology, and communication.

Ruto, serving as Chancellor, hailed the graduates as trailblazers who now carry the solemn responsibility of safeguarding nations against emerging threats. "Above all, let your service be anchored in integrity, professionalism, patriotism, and an unwavering commitment to advancing peace, stability, and cooperation across our continent," he said. His remarks underscored the urgency of building a cadre of professionals capable of navigating Africa's increasingly complex security environment, from cyber threats to geopolitical instability.

National Intelligence Service Director-General Noordin Haji emphasized

that NIRU's role extends beyond Kenya, contributing to a cooperative continental security framework. "Joint education and research on Africa policy matters can anticipate risk, manage competition, and act together. By shaping the next generation of intelligence and national security leaders, the university is contributing to the emergence of an African shield and a resilient, cooperative security architecture," Haji noted.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. James Kibon highlighted the institution's rapid growth, recalling that NIRU received its charter in November 2024, barely a year before this graduation. He described the university's learner-centred approach, which blends simulations, case studies, and practicums to prepare students for real-world challenges. Innovation is central, with an Artificial Intelligence Academy already leveraging AI to address security and health challenges, and a Research and Innovation Park under development to translate academic research into practical solutions.

The graduates represent a diverse cohort from Kenya, Burundi, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda, forming a continental

network of intelligence professionals. Their training reflects a broader ambition: to ensure Africa takes full responsibility for its security, development, and institutional resilience. In a region often reliant on external actors for intelligence and security support, NIRU's emergence signals a shift toward homegrown expertise and continental cooperation.

Observers note that the timing is critical. Africa faces mounting challenges, from terrorism and organized crime to cyber warfare and climate-related instability. Institutions like NIRU are expected to provide the intellectual backbone for policies that anticipate and counter these threats. Analysts argue that the university's success will depend on its ability to remain independent, foster regional collaboration, and produce research that informs actionable policy.

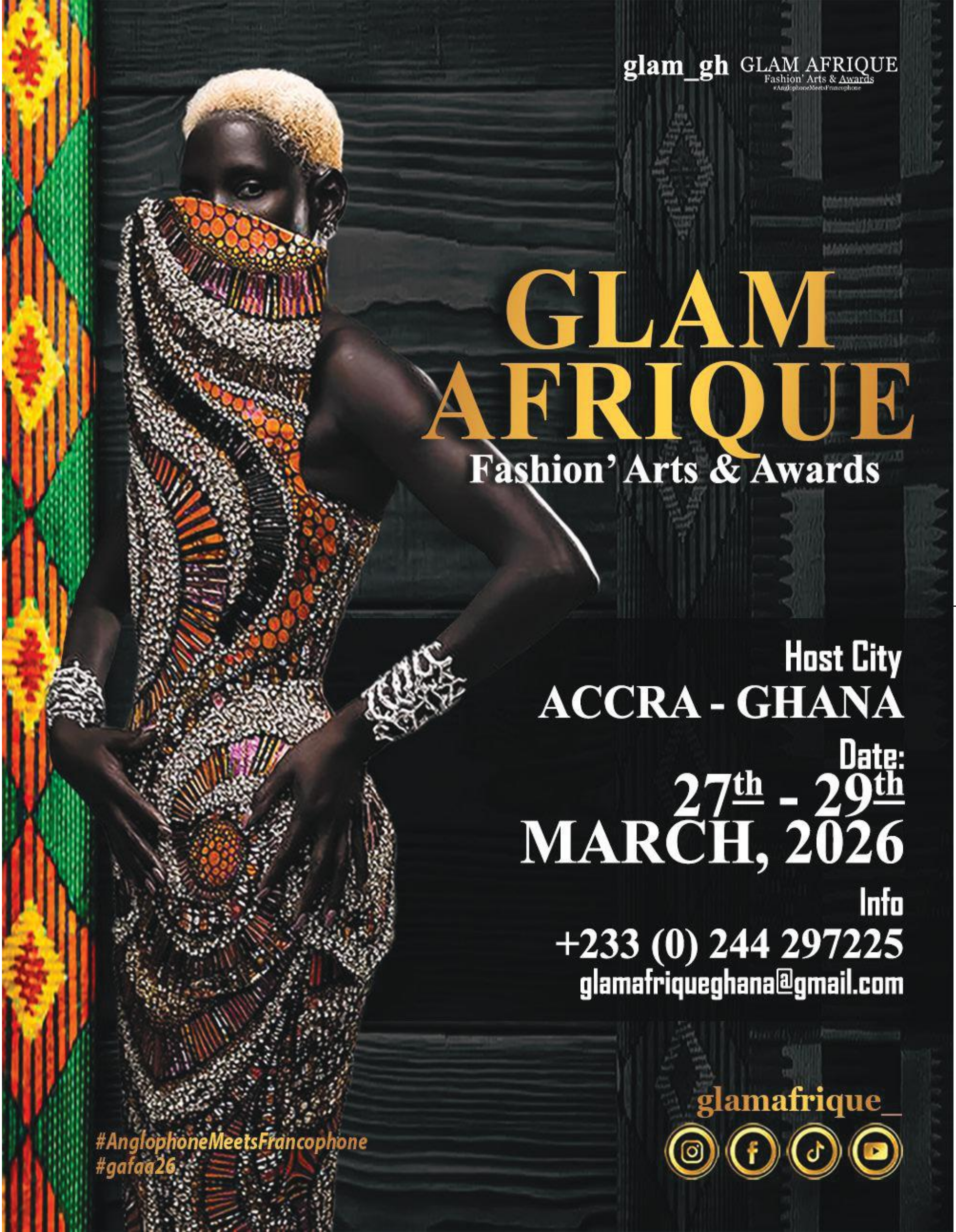
For Kenya, NIRU's rise also strengthens its position as a leader in continental security discourse. The country has long been a front-line state in counterterrorism efforts, particularly against Al-Shabaab, and has invested heavily in intelligence modernization. By hosting a university dedicated to intelligence and

research, Kenya signals its intent to anchor Africa's security future in education and innovation rather than reactionary measures.

The graduates themselves embody this vision. They leave NIRU not only with academic credentials but with a mandate to serve as guardians of peace and stability. Their success will be measured not in titles but in their ability to anticipate threats, generate strategic insights, and uphold the values of integrity and professionalism emphasized by the President.

The ceremony was more than a celebration of academic achievement; it was a declaration of intent. Africa's security challenges demand African solutions, and NIRU's inaugural graduation marks the beginning of a new era where knowledge, research, and innovation form the frontline of defense.

In a continent too often defined by external interventions, NIRU's first graduates stand as proof that Africa can—and must—educate its own guardians of security and chart its own path to resilience.



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The Indecency We Tolerate: A Case Against Poverty And The Slow Violence It Does To The Human Soul

According to the World Bank, approximately 700 million people — nearly one in ten human beings alive on this earth — survive on less than \$2.15 a day. They do not live on \$2.15 a day. They survive — and that distinction is the entire argument of this article.



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Statistics, for all their utility, have a dangerous tendency to launder suffering into abstraction. When we say that 700 million people live in extreme poverty, we process it the way we process large astronomical numbers with a kind of numbed incomprehension.
- The philosopher and novelist Iris Murdoch warned that one of the great moral failures of modern life is our inability to truly see other people, to pierce the veil of our own self-absorption and attend to the particular reality of another human being. Statistics make that failure easier.
- They permit us to acknowledge poverty in aggregate while remaining blind to it in specific.

Poverty is not a statistic. It is not a line on a graph, a percentage point in an economist’s model, or a bracket in a government report. It is a man waking before dawn in a township outside Johannesburg to walk six kilometres to a job that will pay him barely enough to feed two of his four children. It is a woman in rural Bangladesh choosing between her daughter’s school fees and a week’s groceries and lying awake at night knowing that either choice is a wound. To speak of poverty with any honesty, we must first insist on this: that it is a lived experience of accumulated deprivations, and that every number attached to it has a face, a history, and a grief that the number cannot hold. George Orwell, who lived deliberately among the destitute while researching *Down and Out in Paris and London* (1933), understood this intimately. He wrote of how poverty “annihilates the future” not merely materially, but psychologically, spiritually, structurally. When we fail to feel that, we fail the millions it describes.

We should begin with what poverty actually is, because the common definitions are, at best, incomplete and, at worst, an alibi. The poverty line that blunt instrument conjured by statisticians tells us whether a person earns above or below a numerical threshold. What it does not tell us is what it feels like to be just above that line, still unable to see a

doctor, still sending your children to a school without textbooks, still one unexpected bill away from ruin. Amartya Sen, in his landmark work *Development as Freedom* (1999), argued that poverty must be understood not merely as the absence of income but as the deprivation of fundamental human capabilities the ability to live long, to be educated, to participate in community life, to have self-respect. By this richer measure, poverty is a far wider catastrophe than the line suggests. It is the systematic denial of the conditions that make a fully human life possible.

Statistics, for all their utility, have a dangerous tendency to launder suffering into abstraction. When we say that 700 million people live in extreme poverty, we process it the way we process large astronomical numbers with a kind of numbed incomprehension. The philosopher and novelist Iris Murdoch warned that one of the great moral failures of modern life is our inability to truly see other people, to pierce the veil of our own self-absorption and attend to the particular reality of another human being. Statistics make that failure easier. They permit us to acknowledge poverty in aggregate while remaining blind to it in specific. A man reduced to a data point is a man who has been stripped of his particularity his name, his story, his hopes and this stripping is, itself, a kind of secondary violence that

the comfortable classes inflict on the poor without ever lifting a hand.

To understand a poor man truly understand him we must attempt something harder than sympathy. We must attempt imagination in the fullest sense: the deliberate suspension of our own circumstances in order to inhabit another’s. Consider James Baldwin’s searing clarity in *The Fire Next Time* (1963) when he describes the psychological weight borne by those society has designated as lesser: the constant awareness that one is being watched with suspicion, the exhausting performance of non-threat, the foreclosure of possibility so total that ambition itself begins to feel like a betrayal of reality. Replace race with class and in much of the world they are inseparable and you have a portrait of the poor man’s inner life. He does not simply lack money. He lacks the felt sense that the future belongs to him, that institutions were built with him in mind, that his voice, when raised, will land on ears that consider it worth hearing.

Poverty dehumanizes in ways both spectacular and so ordinary as to be invisible. The spectacular dehumanization’s make headlines: the child soldier, the famine victim, the refugee crossing in a rubber dinghy. But the quiet ones are perhaps more insidious because they are self-perpetuating. The poor man who cannot afford a suit for a job interview is not merely

practically disadvantaged, he is symbolically marked, judged before he speaks. The woman who cannot afford sanitary products misses school, and missing school becomes the story of her life. The child who grows up in a household of chronic stress and food insecurity suffers measurable neurological consequences the architecture of the brain itself shaped by deprivation. Paul Farmer, the physician and anthropologist who devoted his life to medicine among Haiti’s poorest, wrote in *Pathologies of Power* (2003) that poverty is not merely a risk factor for disease. Poverty is the disease, the underlying condition that makes all other pathologies more severe, more stubborn, and less likely to be treated.

And yet we speak of poverty as though the poor brought it upon themselves. This is the great moral evasion of our age the poverty of moral imagination that enables the poverty of the pocketbook to persist. In the same way that Dickens, a century and a half ago, used the figure of Scrooge to anatomise the cruelty of individualism that sees the struggling as merely idle or undeserving, we sustain today a cultural narrative that casts poverty as personal failure.

The Indecency We Tolerate: A Case Against Poverty And The Slow Violence It Does To The Human Soul

Contd from page 18

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The meritocracy myth the idea that the market, operating freely, distributes its rewards to the deserving is a story the wealthy tell to justify their wealth and the powerful tell to justify their power. John Steinbeck, in *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939), demolished this myth with furious precision. The Joad family did not fail: they were failed. Structural forces drought, bank foreclosure, labour exploitation ground them down with a systematic thoroughness that no degree of individual industriousness could have overcome. Poverty is, in most of its manifestations, not a character flaw. It is a political choice: the predictable outcome of systems designed to concentrate wealth rather than distribute it.

The question of agency is central to why poverty must be despised rather than merely pitied. To pity the poor is to see them as objects of charity passive recipients of benevolence extended from above. To be outraged by poverty is to recognise that the poor are agents whose agency has been systematically curtailed. There is a profound difference. Frantz Fanon, writing in *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961), described colonized and dispossessed people not as passive victims but as human beings whose energies and capacities had been violently redirected away from self-determination. The same logic applies to class. A person in poverty is not without desire, without plan, without the internal resources for a flourishing life. They are surrounded by a web of constraints of inaccessible credit, of underfunded schools, of healthcare that demands payment

before treatment, of housing markets that exclude, of justice systems that criminalize that makes the exercise of that agency enormously costly, often prohibitively so. We have built a world that shouts try harder at people whose arms are bound.

The manifestations of poverty compound one another in ways the single measure of income cannot capture. Poverty is homelessness, yes but homelessness is also the impossibility of adequate sleep, of hygiene, of a postal address required by employers, of the safety needed to study or to heal. Poverty is hunger but hunger is also the cognitive impairment documented in studies showing that the mental bandwidth consumed by financial scarcity leaves fewer resources for decision-making, planning, and impulse control; the poor are not bad at decisions because they are poor in character, but because they are poor in the cognitive slack that security provides. Poverty is lack of healthcare but that lack is also the cancer discovered too late, the mental illness untreated until it ends a life. Maya Angelou, who knew poverty from the inside and wrote about it with the unsentimental precision of someone who had walked through it and survived, put it plainly: "Poverty may be the greatest problem we can solve and it is very definitely possible to solve it." The conditional is the point: possible, but not inevitable. We choose it, every day we choose not to solve it.

We must also reckon with what poverty does to the soul of the society that contains it, not merely to the individuals it crushes. The Nobel laureate Toni Morrison wrote in *The Bluest*

Eye (1970) of communities ground to dust not only by material want but by the internalization of contempt; a contempt first applied by the powerful from outside and then, catastrophically, adopted from within. Poverty, when prolonged and unaddressed, does not merely degrade life quality. It degrades the vocabulary of aspiration. Children stop dreaming certain dreams not because those dreams are impossible but because no one in their world has ever managed them and the world has conspired to tell them they do not belong there. This intergenerational transmission of diminished expectation is one of poverty's most insidious violences, it does the oppressor's work for him across generations, requiring no further action on the part of those who benefit from the current arrangement.

We must, then, be clear about the hatred owed to poverty not a hatred toward the poor, who are its primary victims, but a hatred toward the conditions that produce and maintain it: toward the tax evasion that drains public coffers that might fund schools and clinics; toward the trade policies that enrich the already-rich at the expense of farmers in the Global South; toward the housing speculation that prices workers out of the cities their labour builds; toward the political systems that amplify the voices of those with money and muffle the voices of those without it. Gabriel García Márquez, in *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, wrote a civilisation's history as a history of repetition the same cycles of boom and decay, of hope and disillusionment, returning always. This is what pover-

ty feels like from the inside: a cyclical trap in which each generation begins the race from the same starting line pushed back further from the finish. To hate poverty is to commit to interrupting that cycle — structurally, not merely charitably.

There is a passage in Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* in which Alyosha is told that one cannot love a man one does not know. He replies that it is exactly the opposite: one must first decide to love, and then one comes to know. This is what is demanded of us by the existence of poverty. We cannot wait until we understand it fully, until every nuance of every case has been mapped and measured. We must begin from moral outrage from the insistence that it is not acceptable, not inevitable, not anybody's just desert and let that outrage drive us toward understanding. The poor man is not an abstraction. He is the sum of everything he might have been in a world arranged differently: a doctor, a scientist, a poet, a father who is present at the dinner table because he is not working his third job, a woman who knows, deeply and without doubt, that her life has worth and that the world affirms it. Poverty robs us of those people — robs them of themselves and robs us of their fullness. That is why we must hate it. Not with the limp disapproval of the comfortable, but with the full-throated, unrelenting fury of those who understand what is being wasted, and what is being done, and that it did not have to be this way.

The writer is a social commentator and legal researcher.

Spring Festival Gala Highlights China's Tech Ambitions Via Robotics Showcase

By: Xinhua News Agency
 @themtkenyatimes



A robot grabs and passes a bottle of drinks to a customer at a humanoid robots 7S shop in Wuhan East Lake High-tech Development Zone, also known as the optics valley of China, in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, Dec. 4, 2025. (Xinhua/Xiao Yijiu)

Worth Noting:

- The 2026 gala stunts, supported by AI algorithms and 3D LiDAR, included multiple world firsts: a continuous parkour-style table vaulting sequence, catapulted aerial flips reaching a maximum height exceeding 3 meters, single-leg consecutive aerial flips followed by a two-step wall-run into a backflip, airflare rotation at 7.5 revolutions, and clustered rapid repositioning achieving arbitrary movement speeds of up to 4 meters per second, according to Unitree Robotics. "Unitree should get a robot Olympics going.
- It would be entertaining, and draw a lot of good attention to how capable humanoid robots are getting," Owen Lewis, a science enthusiast, commented on social media platform X in response to the show.

The Year of the Horse's Spring Festival Gala, the world's most-watched television event, has delivered a powerful statement: China's technological spotlight has decisively shifted to robotics.

The 2026 gala's Monday night live broadcast augmented its traditional repertoire of song, dance and comedy skits with a high-stakes national showcase for cutting-edge humanoid robots, a vivid symbol of the country's rapid momentum toward a tech-driven future. Leading the charge was Unitree Robotics, located in Hangzhou in east China, a returning performer that commanded attention last night. Moving beyond the somewhat stiff dance routines of 2025, its new robots took center stage in a martial arts spectacle, wielding swords and nunchucks alongside human masters from a renowned kung-fu school. These robots executed complex maneuvers like drunken boxing, backward obstacle avoidance and backflips, underscoring a leap from demonstrating basic mobility to mastering intricate, culturally rich physical artistry.

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aerial flips followed by a two-step wall-run into a backflip, airflare rotation at 7.5 revolutions, and clustered rapid repositioning achieving arbitrary movement speeds of up to 4 meters per second, according to Unitree Robotics. "Unitree should get a robot Olympics going. It would be entertaining, and draw a lot of good attention to how capable humanoid robots are getting," Owen Lewis, a science enthusiast, commented on social media platform X in response to the show. Another Chinese robotics startup MagicLab, seizing the coveted opening act, set the tone with its human-like machines performing a groundbreaking "Thomas 360 degree." Later, six units synchronized seamlessly with pop stars for a musical number.

While others showcased physical prowess, Beijing-based Galbot demonstrated its aptitude for performing everyday tasks, from delicately cracking walnuts, picking up glass shards and retrieving items from shelves to folding clothes and skewering sausages for grilling. The Galbot robot handled each task with dexterous, natural human-like movements. This capacity for autonomous decision-making and hand-eye coordination signaled that Chinese-designed robotics is moving beyond mere showmanship, instead pointing and shifting toward vast practical applications. The

most poignant moment of the gala was delivered by Noetix Robotics. Its robots starred in a comedy skit, a throwback to one 30 years ago, when an actress played a whimsical, clumsy robot. This time, she performed alongside authentic humanoids, including a stunningly accurate bionic replica of herself, created in just 30 days.

The show's classic comedy-of-errors narrative probed a deeper question amid the AI technology wave: human-robot relations. It ultimately affirmed the irreplaceable value of human warmth and connection, suggesting that advanced robotics, rather than replacing humanity, should enhance and reflect our own qualities. Noetix's robot, notably, finished second in last year's robot half-marathon in China's capital, following Tien Kung from Beijing. This robotics invasion of the gala marks a pivotal cultural and commercial moment. For decades, the event's advertising chronicled China's economic shifts, from bicycles and liquor to home appliances and internet services. Now, robots and AI have made inroads into this prime symbolic space, representing the new engine of "new quality productive forces." The performances translated technical jargon like "embodied AI" into a visceral, national experience. More Chinese robotics firms also took to regional gala

stages this year, including the likes of AgiBot, UniX AI and EngineAI, making technology an inescapable part of Chinese New Year celebrations nationwide.

Last week, AgiBot also staged a global live gala, showcasing a diverse lineup ranging from synchronized dances and comedic skits to magic acts and traditional martial arts. A recent industry report revealed that Chinese robotics firms had emerged as the largest producers of humanoid robots worldwide in 2025. AgiBot achieved an annual shipment volume of over 5,100 units, securing a 39-percent share of the global humanoid robot market, followed by two more Chinese tech firms, namely Unitree and UBTECH. The year 2026 marks a critical turning point for the robotics industry, with it moving from simply "handling many tasks with limited proficiency" to truly "accomplishing tasks with high performance and achieving practical application," said Luo Jianlan, chief scientist at AgiBot. China has a clear national strategy in its quest to become a global robotics powerhouse, and the country has drawn attention and admiration from abroad thanks to its robust industrial ecosystems, fast iteration cycles and large-scale deployment capacity, said Dominic Gorecky, co-founder and director of Swiss Smart Factory.

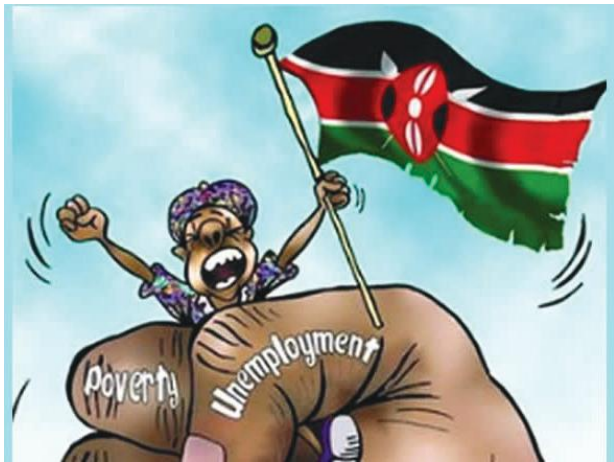


Tech Alone Won't Cure Kenya's Corruption

Kenya's embrace of digital platforms promised a revolution against graft. From eCitizen portals to online tax systems, the idea was simple: cut out human contact, cut out bribery. Yet corruption thrives, proving that technology cannot disinfect institutions already infected with impunity.

The problem is structural. Digital systems operate within compromised frameworks, and loopholes are quickly exploited by those determined to profit. Cyber manipulation, data tampering, and shadowy intermediaries have replaced the old brown envelope. Technology cannot rewrite values or instill integrity. When political interference shields offenders, even the clearest digital evidence dies in silence.

The trust deficit is glaring. Citizens in rural areas, often digitally excluded, remain vulnerable to brokers who demand bribes to "assist" them online. Meanwhile, powerful figures manipulate systems with impunity. The result: public funds vanish, services collapse, and unequal-



ity widens. Investors hesitate, knowing transparency is a mirage.

Kenya's Constitution guarantees the right to life, fairness, and justice. But corruption erodes these promises daily. Technology can only be effective when paired with strong institutions, independent watchdogs, ethical leadership, and civic education. Without accountability, digital platforms become new playgrounds for old tricks.

The fight against corruption requires more than apps and

portals—it demands courage, enforcement, and a cultural shift toward integrity. Technology is a tool, not a cure.

Until Kenya confronts the human rot behind the digital façade, corruption will remain the ghost in every machine.

By: Collins Kibet, Koitalel University

Digital Addiction Among Youth: A Silent Mental Health Crisis

Kenya's youth are drowning in digital immersion, and the crisis is unfolding quietly behind glowing screens. TikTok, Instagram, and online gaming promise connection and entertainment, yet the compulsive pull of endless scrolling and constant notifications is breeding a new form of addiction—one that erodes mental health while masquerading as normal life.

Research links heavy screen dependence to anxiety, depression, and disrupted sleep among adolescents and young adults. What makes this crisis insidious is its invisibility. Unlike substance abuse, digital addiction hides in plain sight, cloaked in the everyday necessity of smartphones for school, socializing, and even work. But when likes and followers replace real relationships, loneliness deepens, studies suffer, and emotional resilience weakens.

Globally, the alarm is ringing. Lawsuits in the United States accuse major platforms



of deliberately fostering addictive use among young people. Kenya cannot afford to ignore the warning signs. The cost of inaction is a generation hyperconnected yet psychologically fragile, trapped in cycles of digital affirmation and emotional withdrawal.

Solutions demand more than parental scolding. Policymakers, educators, and families must promote digital literacy, enforce healthy usage habits, and expand access to mental health support. Teaching bal-

ance between online engagement and real world interaction is vital. Without intervention, the silent crisis will grow louder in broken futures.

Kenya must act now—because if our youth remain chained to screens, the nation risks losing not just attention spans, but its next generation's mental strength.

By: Whytney Nasir, Laikipia University

Kenya's Youth: Taking Charge Of The Future

Kenya's next election in 2027 will not be decided by old political elites alone—it will be shaped by the country's youth. With their numbers, energy, and creativity, young Kenyans hold the power to redefine leadership and demand accountability. The question is whether they will seize the moment or let it slip away.

History has shown the cost of exclusion. When youth voices are ignored, frustration erupts into unrest, as seen in the protests of 2017 and 2022. This time, however, the landscape is shifting. Young people are more organized, more informed, and more determined to influence the nation's trajectory. They are not content with being spectators; they want to be decision makers.

To succeed, youth must rally behind leaders who genuinely represent their interests. That means scrutinizing policies on education, jobs, healthcare, and climate change, and demanding accountability at every level. It also means stepping into leadership themselves, bringing fresh ideas and innovation to a polit-



ical arena long dominated by recycled promises.

The stakes are immense. Kenya's future prosperity depends on whether its youth channel their frustration into constructive action. By uniting, engaging, and insisting on integrity, they can build a country that is inclusive, equitable, and just.

2027 must be the year Kenya's youth stop waiting for change and start driving it—because the future is theirs to claim.

By: Miriam Kamau, Laikipia University

Your Side Hustle Under The Microscope

Kenya's hustle culture—once celebrated as resilience in the face of unemployment and rising costs—is now staring down the taxman. The Kenya Revenue Authority's plan to tax side hustles and unexplained bank deposits has ignited fierce debate, exposing the tension between revenue collection and survival economics.

Under the new approach, unexplained deposits will be treated as taxable income unless proven otherwise. Freelancers, online sellers, and casual workers—many operating outside formal structures—could suddenly find themselves under scrutiny. Authorities argue this levels the playing field, ensuring fairness and reducing evasion. But critics warn it risks punishing ordinary Kenyans who depend on informal gigs to make ends meet.

The backlash is telling. Hustle culture is not a luxury; it is a lifeline. With inconsistent income and little record keeping, compliance will be difficult. Without clear guidelines and public education, the policy risks breeding fear and mistrust,



pushing more activity underground.

Supporters counter that formal employees already shoulder heavy taxes while others escape contribution. From their perspective, taxing side hustles is equity in action, broadening the base for national development.

The real test lies in execution. Transparency, clear thresholds, and taxpayer education will

determine whether this policy builds trust or fuels resentment. Kenya needs revenue, but it also needs innovation and inclusion.

If KRA turns hustlers into suspects instead of partners, the nation risks taxing ambition out of existence.

By: Juliet Dandu, Laikipia University

Sports >> *For the longest, golf used to be viewed as a lifestyle sport. But Kenya Vision 2030 is thinking out of the box to make a difference.

Kenya Vision 2030's Auction-Based Advertising Model On Player Apparel Pays Off Years Later



For the longest, golf used to be viewed as a lifestyle sport. But Kenya Vision 2030 is thinking out of the box to make a difference.

Highlighting the significance of investing in golf players, Kenneth Mwige, Director General of the Kenya Vision 2030 Delivery Secretariat, remarked: "Five years ago, sport sat more on the sidelines of policy. Today, it sits at the table."

He added, "We've come to understand that sport is not just a recreational activity— it's employment, it's industry, it's youth empowerment...it's a way of life. The Social Pillar has evolved to intentionally structure support systems around athletes, federations, and corporate partnerships. We're investing in people, not just events."

Mwige underscored what the Magical Kenya Open meant for tourism, hospitality, broadcasting, and branding — "it's clear golf is serious business. And when young Kenyans see professionals earning, travelling, and competing globally, the mindset shifts."

Asked why Vision 2030 decided to sponsor 15 Kenyan and regional golfers back in 2021, Mwige expounded: "We realised that talent without support remains potential. In 2021, we took a deliberate step to back 15 Kenyan and regional golfers because we wanted to build depth — not just showcase one or two stars. The key lesson has been simple: When you invest directly in athletes, you see confidence grow, performance improve, and belief spread across the ecosys-

tem."

One would argue that events deserve more funding than individual athletes. Commenting on why focus on stipends, caddie support, and bonuses are key, Mwige continued: "Events create moments. Athletes create a legacy. If a player is worried about travel costs or paying a caddie, his accommodation or other logistics, they can't focus on performance. By providing stipends and structured bonuses, we allow them to think long term. Hosting tournaments is important — but producing champions is transformative."

Kenya is hosting a major global sporting extravaganza in close succession, including the HSBC Sevens, Magical Kenya Open and WRC Safari Rally, and Mwige is overly excited with

what the investment presents, by and large.

"Sports is part of our national economic strategy. Whether it's golf, motorsport through the Safari Rally, or rugby, we are positioning Kenya as Africa's sporting capital. These events are connected by a long-term vision, not coincidence," added Mwige.

Commenting on Kenya Vision 2030's auction-based advertising model on player apparel and how it panned out, Mwige highlighted: "It has worked because it puts athletes at the centre. Companies bid for branding space, and the proceeds go directly to the players. It creates transpar-

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GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *For the longest, golf used to be viewed as a lifestyle sport. But Kenya Vision 2030 is thinking out of the box to make a difference.

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ency, ownership, and pride. More importantly, it shifts sponsorship from charity to partnership. This process also allows those who do not have huge marketing budgets to grab some prime space on the players merchandise. “

Mwige is calling on other corporates to adopt this athlete-first model, adding that investing in athletes directly, “you create accountability and measurable performance outcomes. It builds a healthier sports economy. We’re already seeing interest beyond golf.”

Commenting on how important golf partnerships with institutions like NCBA Group and IMG have been, Mwige: “They’ve been crit-

ical. The government cannot do this alone. NCBA has strengthened domestic competition through its golf series, and IMG brings international credibility and global networks. Our role has been to align everyone around one goal: sustainable growth.”

And asked what sustainability looks like for golf beyond the Magical Kenya Open, Mwige continued: “It looks like junior academies, structured regional tours, sports science integration, and predictable funding cycles. It means a 14-year-old today can see a clear pathway to becoming a professional in 10 years. That’s sustainability.”

Five years into this athlete-focused approach, Kenya Vision 20230 Secretariat has witnessed immense progress, and it goes without saying.

Mwige explains that Kenyan golfers compete with belief, see-

ing consistency in performance, and indeed seeing more young players entering the sport because they now see opportunity.

“That cultural shift is powerful,” he quipped.

Mwige is also excited to witness measurable improvements linked to this support.

“We have witnessed regional finishes, improved scoring averages, and more Kenyan representation in international tournaments. Stability breeds performance — and we are seeing that connection clearly.”

The country’s investment has worked out well to strengthen the Magical Kenya Open’s place on the DP World Tour, and Kenya is no longer just a host.

“We are contributors to the tour’s competitive depth. When local players can realistically contend, the tournament gains authenticity and continental pride,” Mwige ex-

plained.

Asked why it is paramount to include African professionals in the Vision 2030 programme, Mwige said in finality:

“Because leadership means lifting others. Strengthening African participation raises the competitive bar and builds continental unity. Kenya grows when Africa grows. The 2026 Magical Kenya Open will definitely leave a lasting legacy. A self-sustaining ecosystem — where Kenyan professionals are globally competitive, corporates see sport as an investment, and young players are securing structured pathways. The tournament should be a milestone, not a peak.”

Capital Sport

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The Harmony Of The Territorial Factor And National Interests



By: Mamajonova Gulsara
@themkenyatimes

World experience shows that Uzbekistan's future position in the global community and its share in the world economy largely depend on the current state of social stability in the Eurasian region.

As is well known, as emphasized by the President of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev, our country possesses almost limitless and extremely rich natural, geostrategic, and geopolitical opportunities, and its geographical location is exceptionally favorable. The President has repeatedly stressed that Uzbekistan is rich in natural resources, has fertile land, a climate suitable for human life and health, and possesses many raw materials of strategic importance for the global economy. From the standpoint of the post-industrial economy of the 21st century, this region is considered one of the most essential areas. Political scientists note that in today's economic conditions, the development of energy-rich regions, the delivery of energy resources to international markets, and logistics-related factors are gaining particular relevance. The Middle East, South and Central Asia, China, and Russia, along with the energy-rich Caspian and Central Asian regions, possess enormous geostrategic—or more precisely, “energy-strategic”—importance.

Today, based on regional resources, the practice of determining short- and long-term development prospects is widely applied in leading countries. It can be stated that in 10–15 years, by 2030–2040, the demand for oil, gas, coal, and energy resources in general will significantly increase in developed countries.

As can be seen, Uzbekistan's proximity to countries with rapidly growing energy demands, along with its extensive potential, has attracted the attention of the global community. Once again, this region has firmly taken its place on the agenda of world economics and politics. This is one side of the issue. The other side concerns the effective utilization of these opportunities. The importance of this issue is directly linked to the development of cotton growing, horticulture, livestock breeding, melon cultivation, and service sectors in Uzbekistan, and most importantly, to the future of exports and the resolution of key tasks in this field. These tasks represent serious challenges that must be addressed within the framework of national interests. If successfully implemented, Uzbekistan's territory will naturally become one of the leading regions, at least in two areas: world politics and economics, and secondly, export potential based on existing raw materials.

Territory represents a matter of life and death for the national interests of any state. Discussing national interests without territory, or territory without national interests, is nothing more than a “political game.” The concept of territorial integrity is interpreted as a fundamental principle in the constitutions of all states. One of the primary responsibilities of the state is to protect both its population and its territory. Today, territory is no longer merely the concern of one or two nations; it has become a factor of global peace, stability, prosperity, and ultimately continuity. Territory has turned into the foundation and support of the state pyramid, while territorial issues have become participants in all global processes.

Thus, the territorial factor is closely linked to the strength and power of the state. As Uzbekistan rises to the level of a country oriented toward export production, the role and significance of utilizing territorial potential in ensuring national interests and social stability become increasingly evident. At the same time, respecting the historical roots of the territory plays an important role in



maintaining interethnic harmony. Due to its deep historical foundation and long temporal scope, this factor may not always be visibly prominent, yet it remains crucial from the perspective of the relationship between population and territory. In short, territory must always remain under the attention and control of the subjects inhabiting it (ethnic groups, nations, peoples).

Protecting the territory inherited from our ancestors does not mean guarding it aggressively with force alone. Rather, it means internalizing the idea of territory as a major pillar of national interests and state stability, developing a conscious political attitude toward it, and mobilizing its limitless potential for enhancing the prestige and intellectual aspirations of the Uzbek people. This requires protecting the territory from negative and unfavorable trends, using it productively in positive directions, and continuously neutralizing harmful aspects from the standpoint of national interests. As experts emphasize, structuring and managing territory in this manner represents one of the most vivid manifestations of political function.

In the 21st century, especially in the era of globalization, territory

has acquired a new and different meaning. As the volume of data, information, and evidence related to territory expands, our understanding of it grows both vertically and horizontally. This, in turn, necessitates abandoning traditional approaches. From a purely geographical perspective, all territories—regardless of their location on the globe—possess varying scales. However, from a global viewpoint, each territory holds distinct significance, as every region exists in close interdependence with others, functioning as interconnected components of a unified system. If we view each territory as an essential structural element of a vast planetary construction, it becomes clear that its integrity and future depend on these individual components. Therefore, perceiving territory in a simplistic manner, neglecting its governance, or treating it irresponsibly constitutes a serious mistake. Viewing territory as a “living organism” and approaching it with responsibility is one of the most pressing demands of our time.

Consequently, recognizing that the meaning and content of territory have fundamentally changed under the influence of global processes,

and understanding it as a pillar of peace and stability in ensuring national interests, constitutes a significant political responsibility and civic duty for the people of Uzbekistan. This is not merely a historical process but a political culture and value system shaped over thousands of years in Uzbek society and statehood.

The global processes outlined above continue to attract serious attention from the Republic of Uzbekistan. The role of territorial factors within the system of national interests holds both theoretical and practical significance for our country. Preserving our territory and enhancing its potential is undeniably a top priority within the framework of national interests. Territorial interests represent an organic continuation and reflection of the interests of society, the state, and the citizen. From this perspective, analyzing territory based on national interests deserves particular attention.

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