



The Sovereign Paradox: Power, Markets, And The Ecology Of Inequality In The Twenty-First Century
 In 2023, the wealthiest one percent of the global population held approximately 43 percent of all financial assets worldwide, a figure documented by the Credit Suisse Global Wealth Report and corroborated by parallel findings from the World Inequality Database maintained by economists Lucas Chancel, Thomas Piketty, and their collaborators. Page 18

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News>> Jubilee, PNU Unite Behind Matiang'i In 2027 Presidential Bid

P. 8. The Jubilee Party and the PNU have formally announced a political alliance ahead of the 2027 General Election, unveiling a joint plan they say is aimed at "reclaiming Kenya's future" and restoring accountable leadership.



News>> Kenya Commissions KSh3 Billion De Heus Feed Plant To Boost Livestock Productivity And Exports

P. 12. Kenya has taken a major step toward modernizing its livestock sector with the commissioning of a KSh3 billion animal feed manufacturing plant by De Heus Kenya in Athi River.

Sifuna vs State House: Nairobi's Debt Reckoning

Nairobi's political theatre has once again shifted to the question of money, accountability, and the future of devolution. Senator Edwin Sifuna has sharpened his criticism of the cooperation deal between City Hall and the national government, insisting that before any new frameworks are signed, State House must first settle the Sh16 billion debt owed to contractors and suppliers under the defunct Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS). He further claims the national government owes Nairobi County an additional Sh100 billion in unpaid rates and obligations, a staggering figure that underscores the scale of mistrust between the two levels of government.



Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna.

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President Ruto Highlights Nairobi River Regeneration As Key To Modern City Vision

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto has reaffirmed his commitment to building a modern, functional, and environmentally responsible Nairobi in partnership with the County Government. He said the shared vision is to develop a capital that is secure, orderly, and livable, reflecting the standards of a forward-looking nation.

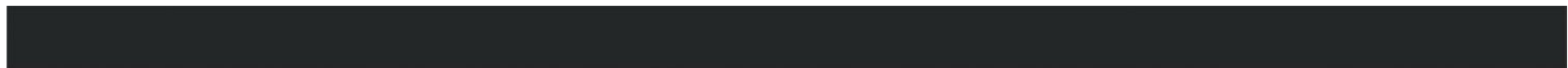
Speaking yesterday during a tour of the completed trunk sewer line project in Lucky Summer, Ruaraka, Nairobi County, President Ruto emphasized the project's role in restoring dignity, improving sanitation, and delivering essential infrastructure to residents.

The initiative is part of the broader Nairobi River Regeneration and Engineering Works Programme, which aims to enhance the city's resilience, boost competitiveness, and position Nairobi as a global capital of stature.

The President noted that these interventions are critical in reshaping Nairobi's future, strengthening its environmental sustainability, and ensuring the city works efficiently for its residents. By focusing on strategic infrastructure projects like sewer lines and river regeneration, the government aims to improve living standards, protect the environment, and support the city's long-term growth.

President Ruto reiterated that the regeneration projects are milestones in delivering a capital that meets both present needs and future aspirations, setting Nairobi on a path toward becoming a model African metropolis.

The President was accompanied by several officials from the National Government led by Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi while the county government was led by Governor Johnson Sakaja.



Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq, Mr. Khaled Al-Akeedi hosted a Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) delegation led by Vice Chairman James Om-basa Omweno and KNCCI Diaspora Committee Chairman Simon Kariuki Nyagah. Also present were Board Member Zone 2 James Githinji, KTDA MS Managing Director Collins Bett, and General Manager Sales and Marketing Vincent Mwingirwa. The courtesy call explored strategic trade and marketing opportunities aimed at facilitating direct access of KTDA teas into the Iraqi market, in line with KTDA's strategy to expand its global footprint as a leader in quality teas.



Traders under the Bars, Hotels and Liquor Traders Association of Kenya (BAHLITA) have urged the Senate to suspend further proceedings on the proposed tobacco control bill to allow for broader stakeholder consultations. Bahlita Secretary General Boniface Gachoka said traders across the country oppose several provisions in the bill, accusing the Senate of failing to conduct adequate public participation. He particularly criticised proposals to ban flavours in nicotine products, warning that such a move could fuel illicit trade as consumers seek alternative sources. Gachoka called for a temporary halt to the legislative process to address concerns raised by industry players.



A German delegation, including officials from the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and industry representatives, visited the Kenya Space Agency (KSA) yesterday to explore potential areas of collaboration. During the meeting, KSA Director General Brig. Hillary Kipkosgey briefed the delegation on the agency's mandate and ongoing projects. Discussions focused on cooperation in Earth observation, innovation and business incubation, capacity building, and the use of space technologies for socio-economic development. The engagement highlighted KSA's commitment to strengthening strategic partnerships that enhance Kenya's space capabilities and promote technological innovation. Both parties expressed optimism that the collaboration would support research, knowledge exchange, and practical applications of space technologies to benefit the country's development goals.

Kenya Patriots Party Leader Agnes Kagure (right) on Tuesday paid a courtesy call on Dr Ida Odinga at her Karen residence, where the two held discussions on leadership, mentorship and the role of women in society. Kagure described Dr Odinga as composed and principled despite recent personal and public challenges, noting that she remains a pillar of strength to many. She said their meeting focused on safeguarding progress made in advancing the welfare of women and families, and emphasised the need for steady leadership. Kagure expressed optimism about the future and wished Dr Odinga strength and guidance in the days ahead as she prepares to take over Ambassadorial assignment at United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).



Nyeri County Governor officially received the refurbished maternity wing at Naromoru Level 4 Hospital from State Department for Medical Services Principal Secretary Dr. Ouma Oluga. The handover marks a major milestone in improving maternal and child healthcare for over 170,000 residents, including the Nanyuki-Karatina catchment area. Governor Mutahi Kahiga led scores of his government officials during the ceremony. The ceremony featured a tree-planting event, facility tour led by Hospital Superintendent Dr. Pauline Kamau, and a tribute session with local leaders. The project, supported by a partnership between the Governments of Kenya and Finland, VAMED Engineering, and 14 Finnish private sector companies, involved constructing, equipping, and training staff to enhance service delivery and contribute to the national development agenda.

Roads New appointments: The Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) has announced the appointment of Eng. Luka Kipchumba Kimeli as its new Director General. The Kenya Roads Board has appointed Judith Otsyula as its new Director General. Jackson Magondi appointed the new Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) Director General. Nashon Odhiambo appointed as the new Director-General at NTSA, replacing George Njao, who has completed his two terms in office



Kilifi Governor Gideon Mung'aro has cancelled all stalled county project contracts, citing contractor delays, and announced that future implementation will be overseen by local residents' committees. Speaking in Kilifi town, Mung'aro said funds for small projects, including ECDE classrooms, dispensaries, wells, technical colleges, and county events, will be disbursed directly to project sites, allowing communities to supervise and reduce inefficiencies. He also appointed Alice Kinywa to chair a special committee tasked with verifying pending county debts, giving it 40 days to complete the review, during which no contractor payments will be made. The governor expressed confidence the move will boost local ownership, create jobs, curb public fund wastage, and enhance accountability.



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Kindiki: NYOTA To Be Expanded To Support 2 Million Youth

By: DPCS

@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

The DP said the first phase of the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) initiative has been successfully implemented with 1 million beneficiaries set to be supported through the project's multiple components.

"The way NYOTA was crafted was to reach 820,000 young people through its various components. But we are now set to reach one million direct beneficiaries," Prof. Kindiki noted.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki chairing yesterday's meeting. Photo/Courtesy

The government targets supporting 2 million youth through various components of the NYOTA programme, Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has revealed.

The DP said the first phase of the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) initiative has been successfully implemented with 1 million beneficiaries set to be supported through the project's multiple components.

"The way NYOTA was crafted was to reach 820,000 young people through its various components. But we are now set to reach one million direct beneficiaries," Prof. Kindiki noted.

The Deputy President spoke yesterday when he met respective Cabinet Secretaries, Principal Secretaries and

heads of agencies for a review of NYOTA and KJET programmes at the Official Residence in Karen.

The current programme is being implemented in partnership with the World Bank but upon its expiry, the government will continue financing it in a bid to support more young people. "Even after the expiry of the current project which we are partnering with the World Bank, the government will allocate additional resources to reach more young people. We are going to target another one million youth in phase two of the project," DP indicated.

The first phase saw beneficiaries from each of the Wards in the country receive 22,000 shillings to boost their micro and small businesses. They are

in line to receive another 22,000 shillings upon assessment of their progress. In total, they are allocated 50,000 shillings including 6,000 shillings set aside as savings.

The DP said the programme has been received well across the country after it was rejigged and streamlined to be in line with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.

"This is a serious intervention for the young people who ordinarily would not have been reached by the various government interventions. Many of them told us in the field that the initial disbursement of 22,000 shillings was the highest amount of money they have ever handled. You can imagine what the total sum of 50,000 shillings would mean to the hundreds of thou-

sands of the young people set to benefit," he noted.

The Deputy President also said the Kenya Jobs and Economic Transformation (KJET) empowerment programme is being fine-tuned in order to support more young entrepreneurs. The project has been allocated 20 billion shillings and target boosting established businesses to generate higher income and employ more Kenyans. "We are looking at ways to make it more beneficial to more entrepreneurs. We want to cut unnecessary expenditure and make sure as many businesses and young people are direct beneficiaries. In the next few weeks we will announce how KJET will be rolled out," DP said.

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Jubilee, PNU Unite Behind Matiang'i In 2027 Presidential Bid

By: WMW
@themtkenyatimes

The Jubilee Party and the Party of National Unity (PNU) have formally announced a political alliance ahead of the 2027 General Election, unveiling a joint plan they say is aimed at "reclaiming Kenya's future" and restoring accountable leadership.

At a joint meeting attended by several both parties officials led by Jubilee Deputy Party Leader Dr Fred Matiang'i and PNU Party Leader Peter Munya, the two parties declared a united front anchored on economic recovery, institutional reform, and what they termed competent governance.

In the agreement, PNU officially endorsed Dr Matiang'i as its presidential candidate for the 2027 race, positioning him as the coalition's flag bearer.

Leaders from both parties said the alliance was born out of concern over the country's economic challenges,

including high taxation, rising cost of living, youth unemployment, and what they described as weakened public institutions.

"Kenya cannot afford trial-and-error governance," the parties said in statements, arguing that the country requires experienced and disciplined leadership to steer it through mounting economic and social pressures.

The two parties described themselves as experienced formations with a record in government, citing past efforts in stabilizing the economy, strengthening institutions, expanding infrastructure, and safeguarding national unity.

They praised Dr Matiang'i's track record in public service, highlighting his tenure in the education sector, security coordination, and public administration. According to the statement, his leadership style reflects "discipline in public service, courage in decision-making, and a no-nonsense approach to delivering results."

The alliance framed its partnership as a reform-driven movement rather than a political convenience, pledg-



Jubilee Deputy Party Leader Dr Fred Matiang'i addressing the press yesterday as other officials from his party and that of PNU looks on. Photo/Courtesy.

ing to rebuild the economy, defend constitutionalism, protect devolution, empower youth, and restore dignity to public service.

"This partnership is not merely political arithmetic; it is a commitment to rescue our economy and return

honesty to government," the statement read.

The leaders said the coming months would focus on grassroots mobilization and policy development as they prepare for the 2027 contest.

With the endorsement now for-

malized, the Jubilee-PNU alliance signals the beginning of what they describe as a broader national movement aimed at offering Kenyans what they call a credible and tested alternative in the next general election.

DCP Leaders Demand Probe Into Alleged State-Sponsored Disruptions At Opposition Rallies

By: KNA
@themtkenyatimes

Democratic for Citizens Party leaders (DCP) in Kirinyaga County have called for urgent investigations into what they term as a worrying pattern of state-sponsored disruptions targeting opposition gatherings across the country.

Addressing the press in Gichugu, Area DCP Chairman Justus Munene accused senior security officials of allegedly sponsoring chaos and violence during opposition political meetings, saying the trend threatens the country's democratic space.

"It cannot be business as usual when innocent wananchi are teargassed in churches and peaceful political meetings are violently disrupted. We are demanding that independent investigative agencies move with speed to establish who is behind these acts. If rogue state agents are involved, they must be held accountable," said Munene.

Munene pointed to the recent teargassing of congregants at Witima

Church in Othaya, describing the incident as "shocking and unacceptable."

He also cited alleged attacks on opposition leaders in Nairobi and the disruption of a rally led by Edwin Sifuna in Kitengela as evidence of what he termed a coordinated scheme to silence dissent.

"The pattern is too clear to ignore, Women, children, and worshippers were caught in the crossfire inside a church. That is not just political intolerance; it is a direct attack on our moral fabric as a nation," he added.

Kirinyaga DCP Coordinator Kahiga Kiguru echoed the chairman's sentiments, insisting that Kenya's Constitution guarantees freedom of assembly and political expression to all citizens, regardless of affiliation.

"All political leaders must be given an equal opportunity to sell their ideas to the people without intimidation, teargas, or hired goons disrupting meetings. The President swore to protect and uphold the Constitution of Kenya. Freedom of assembly is not a favor granted by the state; it is a constitutional right." Kiragu said.

Kiguru questioned the logic behind using force against worshippers,



The DCP leaders described the comments as "blatant, intolerant, and defamatory," warning that such rhetoric undermines not only women in leadership but also the dignity of public discourse/DCP

termining the alleged teargassing of church congregants as an act of disrespect.

"What was the rationale of throwing teargas at innocent churchgoers?" he posed. "The church has always been a sacred space in this country. To subject women and children to such trauma is deeply disturbing and disrespectful to the same institution that has historically shaped our nation's conscience."

He urged President William Ruto to ensure that security agencies operate within the confines of the law and refrain from actions that could polarize the country further.

"We are calling on the President to practise what he preaches respect the church, respect innocent children, and above all, respect the Constitution," Kiguru said. "If this culture of intolerance continues, it risks pushing the country into unnecessary ten-

sion and instability."

The DCP leaders warned that failure to address the concerns could erode public trust in security institutions and undermine Kenya's democratic gains.

"Our country has come too far to slide back into political anarchy," Munene concluded. "We demand accountability, transparency, and the protection of every Kenyan's right to be heard."

Debt, Deals, And Devolution: Sifuna's Stand Against State House

By: James Mwangi
@themkenyatimes

Nairobi's political theatre has once again shifted to the question of money, accountability, and the future of devolution. Senator Edwin Sifuna has sharpened his criticism of the cooperation deal between City Hall and the national government, insisting that before any new frameworks are signed, State House must first settle the Sh16 billion debt owed to contractors and suppliers under the defunct Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS). He further claims the national government owes Nairobi County an additional Sh100 billion in unpaid rates and obligations, a staggering figure that underscores the scale of mistrust between the two levels of government.

Sifuna's argument is simple but piercing: how can the national government propose to take over city functions when it has failed to honor past commitments? He cites Governor Johnson Sakaja's own condemnation of the NMS era, noting the contradiction in criticizing the experiment while embracing what he calls a similar arrangement. Sakaja, in his address to the Nairobi County Assembly, described the NMS as a financial disaster that left a massive hole in the city's accounts. Yet, Sifuna insists the Governor missed an opportunity to remind President William Ruto that thousands of contractors and workers remain unpaid, their livelihoods hanging in the balance.

The Senator's remarks highlight a broader issue of governance and accountability. The NMS, created in 2020, was touted as a bold experiment to streamline Nairobi's chaotic service delivery. But its legacy is marred by ballooning debts, opaque procurement, and questions about legality. The Senate has already directed that pending bills from NMS fall under State House, since the NMS Accounting Officer functioned as the State House Comptroller. For Sifuna, this is not just a matter of financial housekeeping—it is about justice for businesses that delivered services in good faith and now face economic ruin.

The proposed cooperation deal between Nairobi County and the national government has sparked heated debate. Critics, led by Sifuna, describe it as a "power grab" that undermines devolution. They argue that instead of wholesale takeovers, the national government should provide sector-specific conditional grants to support counties in priority areas like healthcare, infrastructure, and waste management. This



Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna.

Worth Noting:

Sifuna's argument is simple but piercing: how can the national government propose to take over city functions when it has failed to honor past commitments? He cites Governor Johnson Sakaja's own condemnation of the NMS era, noting the contradiction in criticizing the experiment while embracing what he calls a similar arrangement.

Sakaja, in his address to the Nairobi County Assembly, described the NMS as a financial disaster that left a massive hole in the city's accounts. Yet, Sifuna insists the Governor missed an opportunity to remind President William Ruto that thousands of contractors and workers remain unpaid, their livelihoods hanging in the balance.

approach, they say, would preserve county autonomy while addressing funding gaps. Supporters of the deal, however, claim it is necessary to rescue Nairobi from chronic mismanagement and corruption.

At the heart of the dispute lies the question of trust. Can Nairobians trust the national government to manage city functions when billions remain unpaid from the NMS era? Can contractors trust that their work will be compensated, or will they once again be left chasing debts through endless bureaucratic corridors? These are not abstract questions—they cut to the core of livelihoods, business survival, and the credibility of governance.

The stakes are high. Nairobi is not just Kenya's capital; it is the economic engine of the country, contributing nearly 30 percent of GDP. Its dysfunction reverberates nationally, affecting investment, tourism, and the daily lives of millions. The city's governance cannot afford experiments that collapse under the weight of debt and mistrust. Sifuna's insistence on settling past bills before embarking on new deals is therefore more than political rhetoric—it is a demand for accountability in a system where promises too often dissolve into unpaid invoices.

Observers note that the confrontation between Sifuna and Sakaja reflects deeper tensions within Kenya's political landscape. Devolution,

enshrined in the 2010 Constitution, was meant to bring services closer to the people and reduce the dominance of the national government. Yet Nairobi, as the capital, has always been a contested space, with successive administrations seeking to centralize control. The NMS was one such attempt, and its financial wreckage now haunts the city.

For contractors and workers owed billions, the debate is not about constitutional theory but survival. Many borrowed heavily to deliver services, expecting timely payment. Years later, they remain trapped in debt, their businesses collapsing, their families suffering. Sifuna's call for immediate payment is therefore not just political—it is humanitarian. Failure to act risks compounding economic hardship and eroding public trust further.

The national government's silence on the matter has only fueled suspicion. While President Ruto champions the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, critics argue that ignoring pending bills contradicts the promise of empowering ordinary citizens. How can small businesses thrive when the government itself is their biggest debtor?

The controversy also raises questions about the future of Nairobi's governance. Should the city be managed as a county like any other, or does its unique status require special arrangements? While Sakaja insists

he will not repeat the NMS experiment, the proposed cooperation deal suggests otherwise. For Sifuna, the lesson is clear: Nairobi cannot afford another experiment that leaves behind unpaid debts and broken promises.

As the debate rages, one truth remains undeniable: development is meaningless if those who deliver it are left unpaid. The Sh16 billion owed to NMS contractors is not just a number—it represents livelihoods, trust, and the credibility of government. The Sh100 billion allegedly owed to Nairobi County further underscores the scale of neglect. Settling these debts is not optional; it is a moral and economic imperative.

Kenya's governance must be measured not by the grandeur of new deals but by the integrity of past commitments. Nairobi's future depends on leaders who prioritize accountability over political theatrics, service delivery over power grabs, and justice over expediency.

Sifuna's voice may be political, but his message resonates beyond party lines: pay what is owed, honor commitments, and only then talk of new frameworks. Anything less is a betrayal of the contractors, workers, and citizens who keep Nairobi running.

Waiguru Champions Safe Pest Control As Kirinyaga Tomato Farmers Cut Chemical Use

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyentimes

Tomato farmers in Kirinyaga County are shifting to safer and more sustainable pest control methods following an intensive county-led training programme aimed at reducing reliance on harmful agro-chemicals.

The initiative, rolled out across 11 tomato-growing wards, is equipping farmers with practical skills in Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

The programme seeks to safeguard farmer health, improve crop quality and protect the environment while maintaining high productivity in the county, which is Kenya's leading tomato producer.

The training, initiated by Governor Anne Waiguru in partnership with the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), focuses largely on controlling *Tuta absoluta*, a

destructive moth species responsible for significant tomato losses. The pest is estimated to account for more than 20 per cent of post-harvest yield losses in key tomato-growing zones such as Kirinyaga. Its rapid development of resistant strains has made chemical control increasingly ineffective over the years.

Under the new approach, farmers are being trained in non-chemical control methods including the use of pheromone traps, biopesticides, improved soil health management and strict farm sanitation. Pheromone traps use synthetic scents that mimic natural mating signals to attract and suppress pests, enabling early detection and reducing or eliminating the need for chemical spraying.

Governor Waiguru said the programme forms part of deliberate county investments to transform agriculture through science-driven and farmer-centred interventions. She noted that tomato production in Kirinyaga has risen from 46,000 tonnes

in 2017 to 116,000 tonnes currently, generating approximately Sh6.9 billion annually for farmers.

"As production grows, we are prioritising safe farming practices that protect farmers from chemical exposure and ensure consumers access clean, residue-free produce," Waiguru said.

County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture John Gachara said the training addresses the long-standing problem of excessive agrochemical use. He revealed that the county, in collaboration with ICIPE, is training 1,000 farmers in high-production wards on biopesticides and IPM as part of a broader agricultural transformation agenda that also targets coffee, rice and horticultural crops.

ICIPE Research Officer Peterson Wachira said the county government played a key role in identifying the pest challenge and facilitating farmer training through extension services. Two-season demonstrations comparing 35 IPM farmers with conventional chemical-based farmers showed that



Farmers in a tomato farm. Photo/Courtesy.

Tuta absoluta can be effectively controlled without harsh chemicals.

Farmers report immediate benefits. Lucy Wanjiku from Kanyekiine Ward said organic methods have reduced costs and losses, while Stephen Munene and Njuki Mara noted

improved yields, higher profits and reduced health risks.

The county now hopes the shift to safer pest management will strengthen market access while promoting sustainable tomato production.



Remembering A Fallen Hero: Mau Mau Veterans Mark Dedan Kimathi Anniversary With Tree-Planting Drive

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes



Kenyans preparing to plant trees to mark the 69th years since Field Marshall Dedan Kimathi was executed..

Worth Noting:

- It was on this day, 69 years ago, in 1957 that the brave and determined military and spiritual leader of the Kenya Land and Freedom Army was executed by the colonial government, bringing to an abrupt end the life of one of Kenya's most iconic freedom fighters. Nearly seven decades later, his comrades and supporters still recount his trial and hanging with deep bitterness, describing it as unjust and painful.

- This year, members of the Mau Mau fraternity from various counties gathered at the Njabini home of the late Mukami Kimathi to commemorate the anniversary and pay tribute to the fallen hero.

- The event, held in Nyandarua County, took on an environmental focus.

February 18 remains a solemn date for the family of Dedan Kimathi and members of the Mau Mau fraternity across the country.

It was on this day, 69 years ago, in 1957 that the brave and determined military and spiritual leader of the Kenya Land and Freedom Army was executed by the colonial government, bringing to an abrupt end the life of one of Kenya's most iconic freedom fighters. Nearly seven decades later, his comrades and supporters still recount his trial and hanging with deep bitterness, describing it as unjust and painful.

This year, members of the Mau Mau fraternity from various counties gathered at the Njabini home of the late Mukami Kimathi to commemorate the anniversary and pay tribute to the fallen hero.

The event, held in Nyandarua County, took on an environmental focus.

Armed with tree seedlings and a shared commitment to conservation, attendees planted trees at the homestead in honor of Kimathi's sacrifices as a forest fighter during the liberation struggle of the 1950s.

Beyond the symbolic tree planting, participants engaged in practical seedling production activities, including potting, pricking-in and seed-sowing; a move organizers said reflects the enduring spirit of self-reliance and resilience that defined the Mau Mau struggle.

In marking this year's anniversary, the Dedan Kimathi Foundation emphasized the urgent need to accelerate tree seedling production nationwide.

The foundation aligned its call with the government's ambitious Pres-

idential 15 Billion Tree Growing Programme, which seeks to achieve 30 per cent national tree cover by 2032.

Speakers at the commemoration underscored the symbolic link between the forests that sheltered freedom fighters and today's push to restore Kenya's degraded landscapes. "Kimathi fought from the forest for the freedom we enjoy today. Protecting and expanding our forests is one way of honoring that sacrifice," one of the organizers said.

As songs of remembrance filled the air and veterans reflected on the struggle for independence, the plant-

ing of each seedling served as both tribute and promise that the legacy of Dedan Kimathi will continue to take root in generations to come.

On the eve of his 69th commemoration, Dedan Kimathi Foundation hosted partners for a tree seedlings production acceleration program.

The program, conducted at DKF mega tree nursery at Njabini in Nyandarua County aimed to create awareness on the need for Kenyans to engage in heightened tree seedlings production to support the presidential 15 billion tree growing plan. DKF environment conservation team worked together with Kenya

Defence Forces Kenya Army Corps of Transport (KACT) based in Kahawa Garrison, National Police Service Officers from Njabini police station, Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority (TARDA) Nyandarua chapter, Kinangop Technical and Vocational College students, Miss Water Kenya and community members.

The great team of 1000 people engaged in various tree nursery activities such as soil preparation, potting, seed-sowing, pricking-in and weeding among other nursery routines.



Military and members preparing seedlings on the eve of Dedan Kimathi Anniversary. Photos/ Courtesy.

Kenya Commissions KSh3 Billion De Heus Feed Plant To Boost Livestock Productivity And Exports

By: MKT Correspondent

[@themkenyatimes](#)

Kenya has taken a major step toward modernizing its livestock sector with the commissioning of a KSh3 billion animal feed manufacturing plant by De Heus Kenya in Athi River.

The facility was officially opened by Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mutahi Kagwe, who described the investment as a shift from herd expansion to productivity-driven livestock farming.

“Today is not just about commissioning a factory. It is about transforming Kenya’s livestock economy. We will double milk production from 5.2 billion litres to 10 billion litres, not by increasing cow numbers, but by improving productivity per cow,” Kagwe said.

The commissioning ceremony brought together national and county leaders, diplomats, farmers, and industry stakeholders, including Henk Jan Bakker, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti; Principal Secretary for Livestock Jonathan Mueke; and Royal De Heus Chairman Co de Heus.

Royal De Heus is among the world’s top 10 animal feed producers, with over 80 production facilities in more than 20 countries.

Its Kenyan subsidiary, which began operations in 2023, has now completed the largest pellet-making feed mill in the region. The Athi River plant has an annual capacity of 240,000 metric tonnes and features two pellet lines producing 20 metric tonnes per hour each. The project will create 280 direct jobs and more than 1,000 indirect employment opportunities across logistics and raw material supply chains.

CS Kagwe emphasized that feed quality is central to Kenya’s goal of becoming a net exporter of live animals and meat.

He announced plans to introduce a feed quality index to curb over-diluted and substandard formulations that compromise productivity.

He also highlighted growing international demand for milk powder, citing markets like Algeria, and stressed the need for consistent, high-quality milk for processing and export.

Under the Land Commercialization Initiative, the government is unlocking public land for structured production of yellow maize and soya beans, essential feed inputs, while integrating small-scale farmers through contract farming models.

To cushion farmers against climate shocks, 50 dams are being constructed nationwide to expand irrigation, and structured feed reserves will help



CS Mutahi Kagwe with other stakeholders during the commissioning of the production facility.

Worth Noting:

- “Today is not just about commissioning a factory. It is about transforming Kenya’s livestock economy. We will double milk production from 5.2 billion litres to 10 billion litres, not by increasing cow numbers, but by improving productivity per cow,” Kagwe said.
- The commissioning ceremony brought together national and county leaders, diplomats, farmers, and industry stakeholders, including Henk Jan Bakker, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti; Principal Secretary for Livestock Jonathan Mueke; and Royal De Heus Chairman Co de Heus.
- Royal De Heus is among the world’s top 10 animal feed producers, with over 80 production facilities in more than 20 countries.

stabilize prices during droughts.

The new facility is equipped with a state-of-the-art laboratory capable of advanced mycotoxin analysis, forage testing, shelf-life determination, and real-time raw material screening using handheld Near-Infrared Reflectance technology. De Heus Kenya’s General Manager, Wiehan Visagie, said the plant will serve 60,000–80,000 farmers annually across Kenya and neighboring countries.

The company plans to expand distribution outlets nationwide and deepen farmer training and on-farm advisory

services, while rolling out phase feeding programs and breeder farm initiatives to improve genetics, feed conversion ratios, and livestock performance.

Industry leaders called for policy interventions to stabilize raw material supply, including tariff frameworks for yellow maize imports, harmonized inter-county levies, excise duty exemptions on feed inputs, and competitive industrial electricity tariffs.

Governor Wavinya Ndeti welcomed the investment as a boost to Machakos County’s agro-industrial profile,

while Ambassador Bakker reaffirmed Dutch support for agricultural innovation and trade partnerships with Kenya.

CS Kagwe declared Kenya open for responsible agricultural investment, stating that the feed plant represents confidence in a future built on quality, productivity, and export competitiveness, marking a key milestone in Kenya’s livestock sector modernization.



The CS and other leaders being taken round the facility. Photos/Courtesy.

Kenya Launches National Carbon Registry To Secure Climate Goals And Boost Revenue

By: Suleiman Mbatiah
@themkenyatimes

Kenya has launched a National Carbon Registry designed to bring all carbon credit transactions under direct government oversight, marking a major step in regulating the country's fast-growing carbon market.

The Kenya National Carbon Registry (KNCR) is a government-run digital platform that registers, tracks and authorises carbon market activities. Under the new system, carbon credits are treated as sovereign assets under Kenyan law, granting the State authority over how they are issued, transferred or exported.

The registry consolidates all carbon projects onto a single national platform, replacing fragmented and privately managed systems. Officials say the move strengthens transparency, prevents double counting and aligns carbon trading with Kenya's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement.

Speaking during the launch, Envi-

ronment Cabinet Secretary Dr Deborah Barasa described the registry as a turning point for the country's climate governance framework.

"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.

Dr Barasa noted that the platform provides the digital infrastructure required to ensure accountability and integrity in carbon transactions, positioning Kenya as a credible participant in voluntary carbon markets and cooperative mechanisms under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

Principal Secretary for Environment and Climate Change Eng Festus Ng'eno said the registry operationalises the Climate Change Act and the Carbon Markets Regulations, 2024. He added that Kenya is building an export-oriented carbon industry anchored on integrity, private sector participation and tangible local benefits.

"The Registry is the heartbeat that makes the Climate Change Act and Regulations come alive," Ng'eno said.



Participants during the launch.

The launch follows recent amendments to the Climate Change Act (2016), the gazette of the Carbon Markets Regulations, 2024, and the establishment of a Designated National Authority for carbon markets.

The platform was developed through a partnership involving the Ministry of Environment, the National Environment Management Authority and the Climate Change Directorate, with support from the European Union and the German government through GIZ Kenya.

EU Ambassador to Kenya Henriette Geiger said the registry enhances investor confidence and strengthens Kenya's competitiveness in global carbon markets.

"Kenya should develop carbon credits as a premium export product. This is the 21st century; we cannot rely only on tea, coffee and avocado for export income," she said.

Maren Kneller, Head of Cooperation at the German Embassy in Nairobi, said Germany would continue supporting Kenya's climate ambitions,

including development of the country's next NDC for 2031-2035.

The registry's technical implementation was led by Verst Carbon, a Kenyan climate technology firm. Chief Technology Officer Ian Mutai said the launch marks the transition from development to full national operationalisation, emphasising that trust and transparency will determine its success.

Kenya Receives Consignment Of 21,000 Starter Doses Of Lenacapavir (PrEP)

By: Michael Omondi
@themkenyatimes

Kenya has received an initial consignment of 21,000 starter doses of the long-acting injectable HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), Lenacapavir, marking the first phase of a national rollout and reinforcing the country's commitment to innovative, people-centred strategies to end the HIV epidemic.

Delivered in partnership with the Global Fund, the shipment represents a major milestone in expanding access to next-generation HIV prevention technologies, as several African countries prepare to introduce the intervention.

An additional 12,000 continuation doses are expected by April to support individuals initiated on the product, while a further 25,000 doses from the United States Government will bolster early implementation and scale-up efforts.

Through the National AIDS and STI Control Programme (NASCO), the Ministry of Health will oversee

a phased, evidence-driven rollout guided by epidemiological data and health system readiness.

Phase One, set to begin in March 2026, will target 15 high-burden counties. Two subsequent phases will progressively expand coverage nationwide, ensuring facility preparedness, adequate commodity supply and sustainable integration into routine HIV prevention services.

Director General for Health Patrick Amoth, who received the consignment at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, reaffirmed the product's safety and regulatory approval status. He noted that Lenacapavir was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in June 2025 and endorsed by the World Health Organization in July 2025 within global guidelines on long-acting HIV prevention.

"In January 2026, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board completed a comprehensive scientific review and registered both the oral and injectable formulations for national use," Dr Amoth said.

Administered twice a year, Lenaca-



Director General of Health Patrick Amoth checking on one of the consignment.

pavir offers a convenient alternative to daily oral PrEP. The annual cost is estimated at approximately Sh7,800 per patient, a substantial reduction from the previous price of about USD 42,000 (approximately Sh5.4 million), significantly improving affordability and access.

The initiative aligns with Kenya's Universal Health Coverage agenda by strengthening HIV prevention efforts, including prevention of mother-to-child transmission, and advancing the national goal of ensuring every child is born and remains HIV-free.

The consignment was received in the presence of US Embassy-Kenya representative Brian Rettman and Dr Ahmed Omar from Intergovernmental Relations, underscoring continued collaboration between Kenya and its development partners in combating HIV.

I May Not See You Every Day



Ours isn't worldly love,
It's a hundred percent heavenly, pure, and
holy, true

That's why physical attraction hardly
matters,
I see you in everything, in all matters.
In water drops, leaves, flowers, clouds, and
plants,
Every dust particle speaks your name, my
love

I May Not See You Every Day,
But I love you every day.

I may not see you every day,
But I love you every day
You're seated safely in my deep heart
I see you not externally, but I see you inside
me

When I close my eyes, you're there,
When I open my eyes, you're still there.

Though I don't see you every day,
I love you sincerely love you

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

My Constant Companion



You have carried yourself through storms
no one stopped to notice,
stitched courage into silent days
and learned how to stand alone.

People may walk with us for a while,
teach us warmth, then walk away,
but you are the one who remains
after every goodbye.

At the end of the day, beyond every issue,
when nothing else survives,
it is you who sits with you—
and that is the truest companion.

We look for healing in borrowed smiles,
in someone else's gentle voice,
believing peace arrives with company,
believing love must come from outside.

But when the lights are turned low,
and the world forgets our name,
it is our own hands that hold us together,
our own heart that stays.

Durgadevi V
Graduate Teacher
GHS Nesal
Tiruvannamalai District

Oh Teacher!



You are a graceful guide
Teach me with elegance .
Motivate me to be Ambitious---And
cheer up to walk with confidence.
Hold me when i fall with fear.

To bring in me the best
u dedicate the time without rest
Encourage me to
Touch the pinnacle of success
u are the light house of my knowledge..

Bhavana
X. A
Govt.Hr .sec.school
Alagankulam Ramnad
India

It Is Only A Short Trip Enjoy It



Thrills with crush. Often with your blush
Entering into a third decade....
Problems flow cascade stepping to marital
status ...

Desire for sixty days ...lust for thirty days ...
Outcomes as issues..
Coming across enormous struggles
In early Forties ..
Giving immense pains.
Crossing at times .
Great or the time of fun ..

Pleasure or the days to be one duty is
correct our time in late fifty and sixties
waiting for the days to.
End with the longing time behind trip of
destiny hens in harmony so enjoy this Short
trip leading us to
Your long voice voyage we are
Vijayalakshmi Vijaya Kanchi graduate teacher
Kanchipuram district Tamil Nadu.

Yes a Short trip of destiny.
Between birth and death.
So glad till being a lad.
Always happy and playful experiencing no sad.
Over thinking not going mad
The age of teen...
Very long I have been....
Creating more scene

Kwaresma Na Ramadhan Njema



1.
Atukuke Maabudu, muumba wetu Manani
Ni mwezi wa kusujudu, na kukesha ibadani
Wasaa wa kumwabudu, ndio huu waumini
Tulojaliwa uhai, mfungo tusiuhepe

2.
Dhambi zetu na maovu, kutubu tusichelee
Tuhimidi mwenye nguvu, kwake
tukanyenyekkee
Maghufira na utuvu, tuombe yasipotee
Tulojaliwa uhai, mfungo tusiuhepe

3.
Isilamu na nasara, sote tunaoamini
Tunayo nafasi bora, kumpendeza Dayani
M'ngu ndiye yetu dira, tuiindeni imani
Tulojaliwa uhai, mfungo tusiuhepe

4.
Tujihini viliwavyo, kiroho tuimarike
Tusinyong'onyee ovyo, kuvila tushawishike
Tufungeni apendavyo, nafsi zinurishike
Tulojaliwa uhai, mfungo tusiuhepe

5.
Vijulanga na wazee, tujumuikeni pamwe
Kwa upole tusogee, maabadini zisemwe
Dua njema zimwendee, Jaliya mwanga
'sizimwe
Tulojaliwa uhai, mfungo tusiuhepe
Mtunzi: Ndetei Mutava/Abu Magashi
Mshairi Msi Shari
Nairobi

Relationship Is Not About Who Come First



Always feel like the person's worthy.
Lovely parts are pleasurable.
Like the beds roses.
when the roses are in thorns
seniority is not important.
Though it is too late
The person with intention is cute .
The late comer is the latest.
To keep with us the sweetest.
After the trial and error
The sweetest is the topper.

N. Selvarani
B. T. ASST.
GHS SAKKARAKKOTTAI
RAMANATHAPURAM
TAMILNADU
INDIA

It's about "who waits for you and be your
last."

Travel along with us for some decade.
Hope them they are brigade.
Not finding fault with their journey.

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Farmers Urged To Verify Seeds As Anti-Counterfeit Campaign Gains Momentum

By: Elizabeth Angira

[@themkenyatimes](#)

As farmers prepares for the next planting season, a combined approach of farmer education, digital verification, and access to certified seed is expected to play a critical role in boosting yields and protecting livelihoods.

With counterfeit seeds continuing to pose a serious threat across Kenya, stakeholders are holding sensitization forums to ensure farmers understand how to identify genuine products and access safe, certified agricultural inputs.

As part of the campaign, farmers are being encouraged to scratch the Care Feed verification stickers placed on seed bags. The simple step helps them confirm authenticity, protect their investment, and secure their harvests from the risks associated with counterfeit seeds.

Speaking during the launch of the National Pick-Up Promotion Campaign in Kisii County, Bayer East Africa Managing Director John Kanyingi said the initiative is meant to protect farmers from fake seeds while also rewarding them for choosing genuine products.

“When farmers scratch the sticker, they not only confirm the seed is genuine but also get a chance to win prizes, including the pick-up truck displayed here and other farming equipment,” Kanyingi said. “This is our way of appreciating farmers for walking with us in the journey to strengthen food security in the country. At the same time, we want to ensure they use certified seeds and not counterfeit ones.”

Kanyingi noted that in the past, many farmers planted three or four seeds in one hole because they were unsure whether all of them would germinate.

“Farmers would plant four seeds just to increase the chances that at least one survives,” he explained. “We are now assuring them that when you plant one seed, you can be confident it will germinate and grow into a healthy crop. There is no longer a need to overcrowd the hole. One seed is enough.”

He emphasized that smallholder farmers play a central role in food production and that supporting them with quality inputs is key to improving yields.

However, unpredictable rainfall patterns in recent years have left many farmers uncertain about plant-

ing seasons.

“Rainfall has become unreliable. Farmers don’t know when the rains will come or whether they will be sufficient,” he said. “That is why we have developed seed hybrids suited to different weather conditions for low rainfall areas and for high rainfall areas.”

According to him, this adaptability allows farmers to harvest even in challenging conditions.

“Farmers in Lower Eastern regions, where rains are short, can still get a harvest using early-maturing varieties. Farmers in Kisii can plant hybrids suited for moderate rainfall. Moreover, if the rains are delayed or shorter than expected, they can shift to faster-maturing varieties. The goal is to ensure that wherever a farmer is, they can still produce a crop despite the changing climate,” he said.

Catherine Kemunto, a farmer and Field Service Coordinator from Itumbe in Bobasi, shared how improved seed varieties have changed her farming journey.

She recalled struggling during drought periods and harvesting very little from her land. “I used to get very low yields, sometimes barely ten bags,” she said. “It was discouraging.”

After trying DK varieties such as DK 7500, DK 7700, 833 and 831, she began to see a difference.

“When I planted the yellow DK 7500, I followed the recommended spacing and farming practices I had been taught. The crop performed well,” she said. “From one bag, I was able to harvest up to 40 sacks. That was a big change for me.”

Kemunto said the improved yields have transformed her household. “The income from the maize has helped me pay school fees for my children. I no longer struggle the way I used to. Farming has become reliable,” she added.

She now teaches other farmers in her area the importance of using certified seeds and following proper planting methods, including correct spacing and land preparation.

“We support each other as farmers. When you use the right seed and follow the right practices, you see the results,” she said.

Peter Nyabuto a maize farmer from Itumbe Bobasi, recounted how he once planted seeds purchased from an unverified dealer only to experience uneven germination.

“I prepared my land well and followed all instructions. Only a few plants germinated. I later learned the seeds were fake. That season was very difficult for my family,” he said.



Bayer East Africa Managing Director John Kanyingi addressing the press during the launch of the National Pick-Up Promotion Campaign in Kisii County has urged farmers to verify seeds photo /Elizabeth Angira



Catherine Kemunto, a farmer and Field Service Coordinator from Itumbe in Bobasi, sharing how improved seed varieties have changed her farming journey photo/Elizabeth Angira

Mosoti Nyaberi, the District Agency Manager for South Rift and Nyanza, said the company works closely with farmers across about 10 counties, from Nakuru to Siaya.

“As partners to farmers, our aim is to make their work easier, especially during this time of climate change,” Nyaberi said. “We are investing in technology to develop varieties that can withstand drought, resist diseases and remain stable in harsh weather.”

He added that the company is also focusing on producing high-yielding varieties that are strong, less prone to lodging, and suitable for different growing seasons.

To ensure the seeds reach farmers, the company works with a network of distributors. “We have several distributors in this region to make sure our technology is accessible. We supply them, and they in turn supply farmers,” he said.

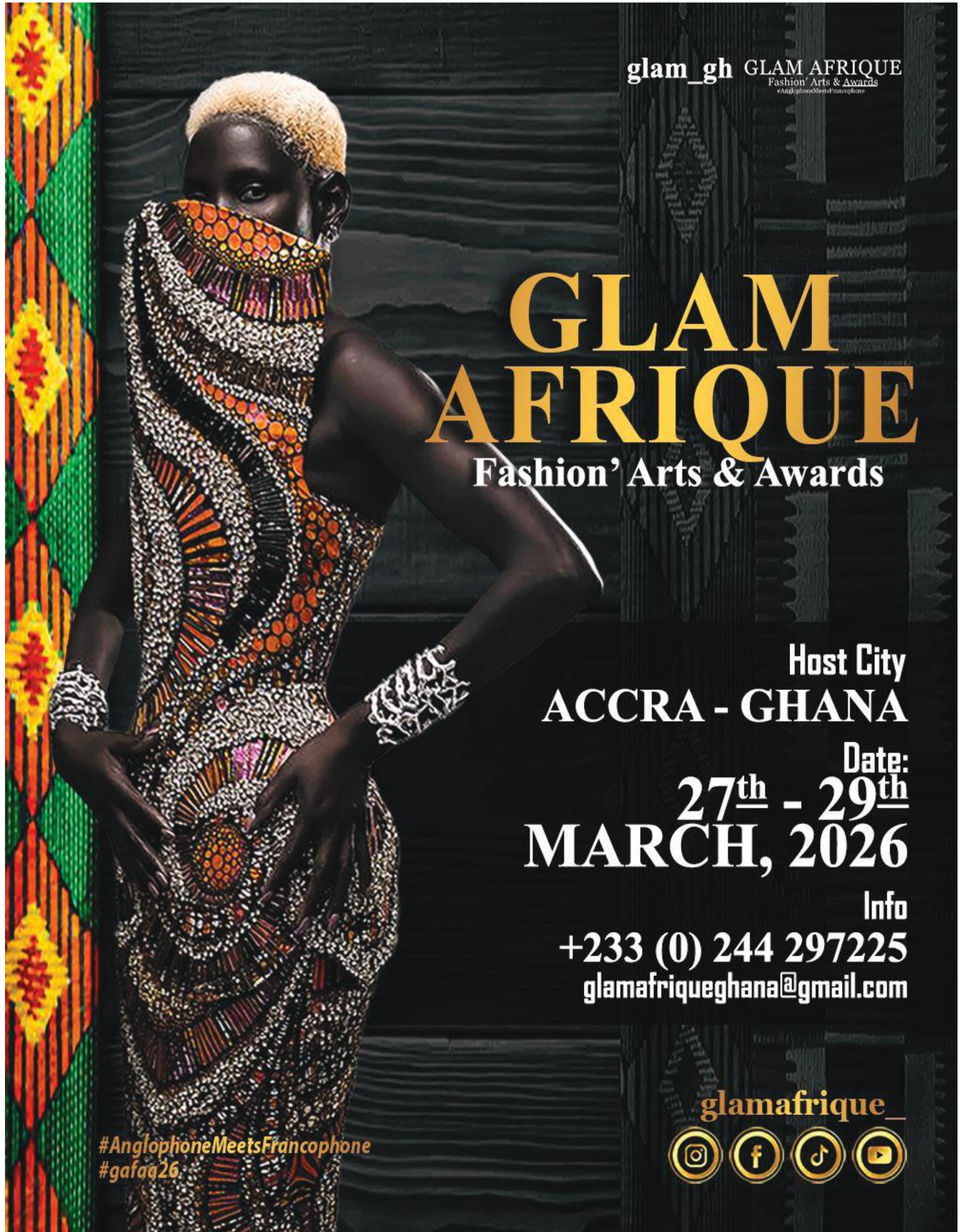
The campaign, officials say, is not



Peter Nyabuto a maize farmer from Itumbe Bobasi, recounts how he once planted seeds purchased from an unverified dealer only to experience uneven germination photo /Elizabeth Angira

only about winning prizes but also about restoring farmers’ confidence assuring them that when they invest

in genuine seed, they are investing in a dependable harvest.



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The Sovereign Paradox: Power, Markets, And The Ecology Of Inequality In The Twenty-First Century



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes

A Multidisciplinary Inquiry into Governance Failures, Capital Concentration, and the Structural Crisis of Democratic Legitimacy

In 2023, the wealthiest one percent of the global population held approximately 43 percent of all financial assets worldwide, a figure documented by the Credit Suisse Global Wealth Report and corroborated by parallel findings from the World Inequality Database maintained by economists Lucas Chancel, Thomas Piketty, and their collaborators. The same year, the United Nations Development Programme reported that approximately 1.1 billion people lived in acute multidimensional poverty, lacking simultaneous access to health, education, and basic living standards. These two data points extreme wealth concentration and entrenched structural poverty are not coincidental phenomena but rather co-constitutive products of a political and economic architecture that has been deliberately constructed over decades.

As the economic historian Karl Polanyi observed in *The Great Transformation*, markets are never truly “free” in any natural sense; they are always instituted, always embedded in social and political arrangements that favour particular interests. The architecture of global finance tax havens, offshore secrecy jurisdictions, investment arbitration tribunals, and intellectual property regimes represents the institutional crystallization of those interests. These arrangements do not emerge from neutral technocratic reasoning; they are the outcome of power struggles in which organized capital has consistently prevailed over organized labour. What we are witnessing in the early decades of the twenty-first century is not a malfunction of the system but its efficient operation in service of those who designed it.

The political philosophy of sovereignty, which emerged from the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, rested on the premise that the nation-state held supreme authority within its territorial borders. That premise has been systematically eroded not through conquest or collapse, but through the quiet negotiation of binding international trade agreements, bilateral investment treaties, and the growing authority of supranational bodies such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, and the European Central Bank. When the IMF

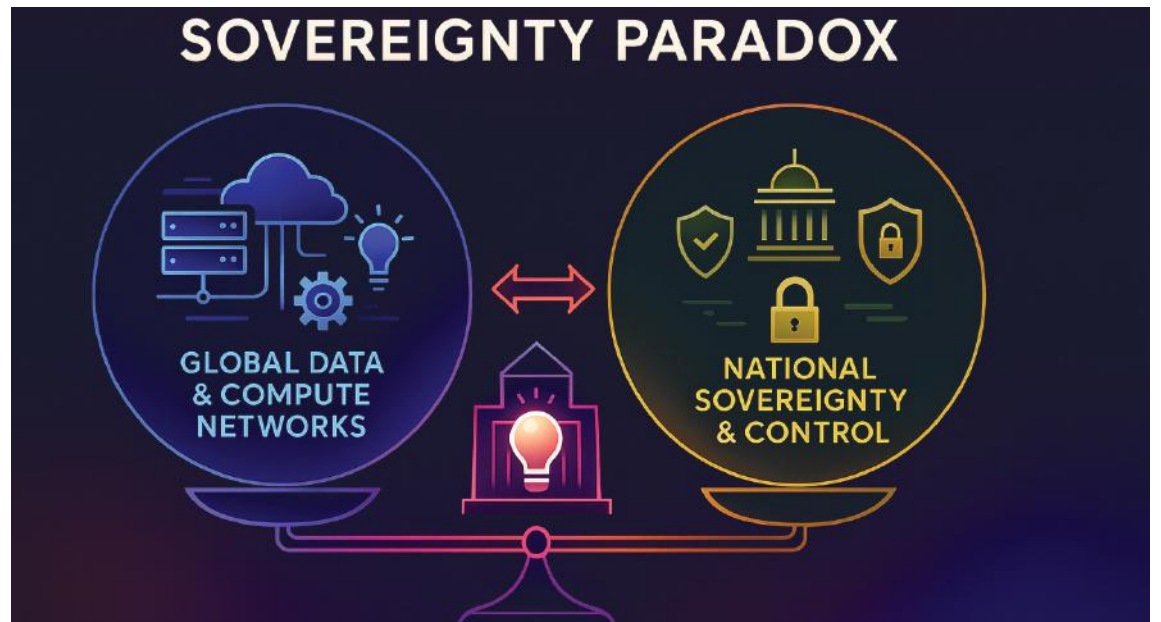
imposes structural adjustment conditions on indebted developing nations demanding privatisation of public utilities, reduction of social spending, and liberalization of capital accounts it is effectively exercising a form of extraterritorial governance that overrides democratically determined national policy.

The political scientist Dani Rodrik has theorized this tension as the “globalisation trilemma,” arguing that deep economic integration, national sovereignty, and democratic politics cannot all be simultaneously maximized. Empirical evidence across the Global South largely validates Rodrik’s formulation: country after country has sacrificed democratic policy space in exchange for access to international capital markets. The Zambian debt crisis of 2020–2023, in which external creditors including private bondholders and Chinese state-linked lenders effectively shaped the country’s fiscal trajectory, illustrates this dynamic with painful clarity. What emerges from these patterns is a form of governance in which formal sovereignty is preserved in name while substantive self-determination is surrendered in practice.

The ecological dimension of this political economy is equally severe and increasingly scientifically undeniable. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s Sixth Assessment Report, published in stages between 2021 and 2023, concluded with “unequivocal” certainty that human activities principally the combustion of fossil fuels are responsible for approximately 1.1 degrees Celsius of warming above pre-industrial levels. Even so the institutional response to this emergency has been shaped by the same power asymmetries that govern debt, trade, and finance. Carbon markets, championed by many policymakers as market-based solutions to atmospheric degradation, have largely failed to produce the emissions reductions they promised.

A 2023 investigation published in the *Guardian* and corroborated by independent researchers at the University of Cambridge found that a significant proportion of carbon credits certified by major voluntary market bodies did not correspond to verifiable emissions reductions. The fossil fuel industry, meanwhile, spent an estimated \$700 million per day in 2022 lobbying against climate regulation, according to data compiled by the International Monetary Fund and the Influence Map research organisation. Jason Hickel, the economic anthropologist, has argued in *Less Is More* that the structural drive toward infinite growth inscribed in capitalist logic is fundamentally incompatible with ecological limits, and that piecemeal reforms will fail unless the underlying growth imperative is addressed. The climate crisis is therefore not merely a technical problem of energy systems; it is a crisis of political economy, of who controls resources, who captures value, and who bears the costs.

The legal architecture sustaining



these arrangements deserves scrutiny that public discourse rarely affords it. Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanisms, embedded in thousands of bilateral investment treaties and multilateral agreements such as the Energy Charter Treaty, allow private corporations to sue sovereign governments in private arbitration tribunals when regulatory changes are deemed to reduce the value of their investments. Philip Morris International deployed this mechanism in 2011 to challenge Australia’s plain packaging legislation for tobacco products designed to protect public health invoking a bilateral investment treaty between Australia and Hong Kong. Though Australia ultimately prevailed after years of costly litigation, the chilling effect on other governments contemplating similar regulations was precisely the point.

Tienhaara of Canada, has termed this dynamic “regulatory chill,” arguing that even failed investment claims deter governments from enacting progressive environmental, labour, and health regulations. A 2022 report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development recorded 1,257 known ISDS cases to date, with awards to investors in the hundreds of billions of dollars. These tribunals composed of rotating panels of commercial arbitration lawyers rather than independent judges operate with limited transparency, no formal appeals process, and no obligation to consider human rights or environmental standards as binding constraints. The result is a legal system in which the rights of capital are protected by enforceable international law while the rights of communities to clean air, living wages, and equitable services remain aspirational.

The functioning of democratic institutions in this environment is a subject that demands honest and uncomfortable examination. Representative democracy, as theorised by figures from John Locke to John Stuart Mill to Hannah Arendt, rests on the premise that political power derives from and remains accountable to the governed. But the concentration of media ownership, the financialization of

political campaigns, and the revolving door between regulatory agencies and the industries they oversee have hollowed out that accountability in most advanced economies.

In the United States, the Supreme Court’s 2010 *Citizens United* decision effectively established the equivalence of money and political speech, opening the floodgates to virtually unlimited corporate spending in electoral politics. The political scientist Martin Gilens of Princeton, in his rigorous empirical study *Affluence and Influence* (2012), found that on policy questions where the preferences of economic elites diverged from those of the general public, legislation correlated almost exclusively with elite preferences. In the United Kingdom, successive post-Brexit trade negotiations were conducted with minimal parliamentary scrutiny, raising persistent questions about the democratic legitimacy of treaty commitments made in the people’s name.

Across the European Union, the technocratic insulation of monetary policy from electoral accountability embedded in the institutional design of the European Central Bank reflects a deliberate choice to prioritize price stability over democratic deliberation about economic trade-offs. These are not aberrations or temporary dysfunctions; they are structural features of liberal democratic capitalism in its contemporary form, features that serve to limit the range of politically achievable outcomes to those compatible with capital accumulation.

Race, coloniality, and structural dispossession form a constitutive dimension of global inequality that purely economic accounts routinely understate or omit altogether. The Martinican poet and political theorist Aimé Césaire, in *Discourse on Colonialism*, argued that colonialism not only impoverished the colonised but morally and intellectually corrupted the colonizer, installing habits of domination that outlasted formal empire. This insight has been developed and extended by the Barbadian economist Hilary Beckles, whose reparations scholarship demonstrates that the wealth accumulated through

the transatlantic slave trade estimated by economists at figures ranging from ten to fourteen trillion dollars in contemporary value formed the capital foundation for the industrial revolutions that drove European and North American prosperity.

The Global Financial Integrity think tank has estimated that developing nations collectively lose over one trillion dollars annually through illicit financial flows, a figure that dwarfs foreign aid receipts by a ratio of approximately ten to one. Colonial land alienation, whose legal instruments from the doctrine of terra nullius to the Enclosure Acts were exported across four continents, created the dispossession from which the present geography of global poverty is inseparable. The decolonial theorist Walter D. Mignolo has argued that “modernity” and “coloniality” are not sequential but simultaneous that the so-called benefits of modernity have always been produced alongside and through the systematic subordination of particular peoples and territories. Any honest political economy of global inequality must reckon with this genealogy, not as historical preamble but as structural explanation for present conditions.

The governance of digital technologies and artificial intelligence presents the twenty-first century’s most consequential regulatory frontier, and current trajectories suggest that historical patterns of power concentration are reproducing themselves at computational speed. By 2023, five corporations Apple, Microsoft, Alphabet, Amazon, and Meta held a combined market capitalization exceeding ten trillion dollars, a concentration of productive and informational power without precedent in capitalist history. The data that drives artificial intelligence systems is overwhelmingly generated by users who receive no compensation for its extraction, a dynamic that the legal scholar Shoshana Zuboff has termed “surveillance capitalism” a system in which human experience itself becomes raw material for behavioural prediction products sold to advertisers and state actors.

The European Union’s AI Act, ad-

The Sovereign Paradox: Power, Markets, And The Ecology Of Inequality In The Twenty-First Century

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opted in 2024, represents the most ambitious attempt to date to impose regulatory constraints on artificial intelligence systems, prohibiting certain high-risk applications such as real-time biometric surveillance in public spaces. But critics, including the Algorithm Justice League founded by researcher Joy Buolamwini, argue that existing frameworks still leave vast algorithmic harms unaddressed, particularly those that fall disproportionately on already marginalized communities the discriminatory credit scoring algorithm, the racially biased predictive policing system, the automated welfare adjudication that denies benefits without human review.

The geopolitical dimension compounds the complexity: the United States and China are engaged in a contest for dominance in semiconductor manufacturing, AI research, and digital infrastructure that increasingly shapes foreign policy decisions, export controls, and strategic alliances among smaller states. The political economy of artificial intelligence is thus simultaneously a story about corporate power, regulatory capacity, democratic accountability, and geopolitical competition a convergence of forces whose eventual resolution will profoundly shape the distribution of power and prosperity in the coming decades.

Health equity represents perhaps the most intimate and morally urgent register in which structural inequality expresses itself. The COVID-19 pandemic, which claimed an estimated excess mortality of approximately fifteen million lives globally between 2020 and 2021 according to World Health Organization estimates, exposed with brutal clarity the human costs of systematic underinvestment in public health infrastructure, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. The COVAX facility the multilateral initiative designed to ensure equitable global vaccine distribution was structurally outmaneuvered by wealthy nations that entered bilateral vaccine contracts with pharmaceutical manufacturers before the facility was operationally established, securing doses far beyond their own national needs while low-income countries waited.

The pharmaceutical intellectual property regime, governed by the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) under the WTO, prevented generic manufacturers in countries like India and South Africa from scaling up vaccine production rapidly, a restriction that multiple public health authorities and economists estimated cost hundreds of thousands of lives during the critical vaccine rollout period of 2021. The economist Mariana Mazzucato of University College London has documented extensively that the foundational re-

search enabling mRNA vaccine technology including the work of Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman was substantially funded by public money through the National Institutes of Health, raising profound questions about the justice of granting monopoly intellectual property rights over collectively produced knowledge. The structural determinants of health income, housing, nutrition, environmental exposure follow the contours of class, race, and geography with a consistency that no objective observer can attribute to chance. As the epidemiologist Sir Michael Marmot has argued across decades of research, the social gradient in health is neither natural nor inevitable; it is the consequence of choices made in the domains of economics, politics, and governance.

Labour and its discontents occupy a central place in any serious analysis of contemporary political economy, and the global trajectory of worker power over the past four decades offers little comfort to those committed to equitable distribution. The labour share of national income the proportion of GDP accruing to workers as wages rather than to capital as profits and rents has declined in the majority of advanced and emerging economies since the 1980s, a pattern documented across countries by the International Labour Organization and the OECD. This is not primarily a product of technological automation, though automation is a contributing factor; it is substantially the result of deliberate policy choices: the suppression of union rights, the liberalisation of labour markets, the use of unemployment as a disciplinary tool against wage demands, and the expansion of global supply chains that allow corporations to arbitrage labour standards across jurisdictions.

Thomas Piketty's landmark *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* marshalled historical data from across the globe to demonstrate that when the rate of return on capital exceeds the rate of economic growth a condition he denotes as $r > g$ inequality tends to increase across generations, concentrating wealth in fewer hands over time. The gig economy, celebrated by its proponents as flexible and innovative, has functioned in practice to displace employment relationships and the legal protections attached to them with commercial contracts, leaving workers in sectors from ride-hailing to food delivery without sick pay, pension contributions, or meaningful protection against arbitrary termination. International trade unions have consistently argued, citing ILO Conventions 87 and 98 on freedom of association and collective bargaining, that worker rights are human rights whose enforcement requires political will that most governments have been reluctant to exercise against corporate opposition. The question of who captures the value produced by labour remains, in the most precise sense, the central question of political economy and contemporary arrangements provide a deeply trou-

bling answer.

The global food system, which feeds eight billion people while simultaneously generating more than a third of global greenhouse gas emissions and employing approximately one billion agricultural workers in conditions of structural poverty, represents a site of convergent crises whose interconnections are insufficiently understood. The 2007–2008 global food price crisis in which commodity prices for wheat, rice, and maize increased by 80 to 130 percent within eighteen months was not primarily caused by supply shortfalls but by the deregulation of commodity futures markets, which allowed financial speculators to accumulate massive positions in agricultural derivatives, driving prices beyond the reach of the world's poorest food buyers. Olivier De Schutter, then the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, documented this dynamic in a 2010 report to the Human Rights Council, arguing that financial speculation in food commodities constituted a violation of the human right to food as enshrined in Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.

The concentration of the seed industry now dominated by a handful of corporations including Bayer-Monsanto, Corteva, and Syngenta following a wave of mergers raises profound questions about agricultural biodiversity, farmer autonomy, and the resilience of food systems in the face of climate disruption. Vandana Shiva, the Indian environmental activist and scholar, has argued that the industrialization and corporatization of agriculture constitutes a form of biopiracy the enclosure of biological commons that have been developed and stewarded by farming communities over millennia.

The paradox is stark and deeply political: we produce enough food globally to nourish every person on earth, yet approximately 733 million people experienced chronic hunger in 2023, according to the UN's State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report a figure that had been rising steadily since 2015. The explanation for this paradox is not technical but political: it concerns access, distribution, purchasing power, and the capture of food systems by profit-seeking enterprises whose institutional incentives are misaligned with nutritional equity.

The discourse of "development" and the institutional practices it legitimizes have been subjected to sustained critique from postcolonial theory, heterodox economics, and the communities upon which development interventions have been visited across seven decades. The Truman Doctrine of 1949, which inaugurated the modern development era with its vision of "underdeveloped" areas as problems to be solved through capital transfer and modernization, was from the outset a framework that positioned Western models as universal templates and non-Western societies as deficient approximations.

The Ghanaian economist Thand-



ika Mkandawire, in a series of influential papers, documented how structural adjustment programmes imposed on African states during the 1980s dismantled public institutions, decimated social services, and produced what he termed "choiceless democracies" political systems in which elections continued but the range of economically permissible policy choices had been pre-determined by international creditors. The emergence of the BRICS bloc, the growing assertiveness of the African Union in setting its own development agenda, and China's Belt and Road Initiative have collectively disrupted the Washington Consensus framework, offering alternative financing arrangements that carry their own conditions and controversies.

The Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015 with the aspiration of ending poverty, reducing inequality, and addressing climate change by 2030, represent the most ambitious statement of collective global intention in contemporary history; yet a 2023 midterm review by the Secretary-General's office found that only fifteen percent of SDG targets were on track, with many showing regression from baseline conditions. The gap between aspiration and achievement is not primarily a matter of technical knowledge or even of financial resources; it is a matter of political will in the face of organised opposition from those whose interests are served by the perpetuation of existing arrangements. As the Brazilian educator Paulo Freire argued in *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (1968), genuine liberation cannot be gifted from above; it must be co-created through critical consciousness and collective action by those who experience oppression a principle whose relevance to development practice remains as urgent as ever.

To observe the contradictions, failures, and injustices catalogued across the preceding analysis is not to counsel despair; it is to insist upon the rigour necessary for meaningful change. The history of the twentieth century offers proof that fundamental transformations in political economy are possible: the New Deal in the United States, the welfare states of

postwar Europe, the independence movements of Africa and Asia, the abolition of apartheid each represented a restructuring of power relations that contemporaries often described as impossible until the moment it became inevitable. The question confronting the present generation is not whether the existing order is unjust the evidence for that is overwhelming and well-documented but how its contradictions can be converted into the political energy necessary for transformation.

International law, if democratized rather than captured by corporate interests, provides potential instruments: the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the ILO Core Conventions, and emerging frameworks around the right to a healthy environment all represent normative commitments that could be made enforceable through political struggle. The movements that have demonstrated the greatest effectiveness from the Landless Workers' Movement in Brazil to the climate activism of the Pacific Islands Forum to the debt justice campaigns led by Jubilee organisations share a common understanding that rights are not granted but claimed, and that institutional change follows rather than precedes the building of collective power.

The scholar-activist Angela Davis has argued that genuine justice requires the abolition of the structural conditions that produce inequality, not merely the correction of its most egregious individual manifestations a vision that demands imagination, courage, and sustained political engagement. The twenty-first century, with its intersecting crises of ecology, democracy, inequality, and technology, presents humanity with a choice that is at once urgent and profound: to administer the decline of an unjust order, or to build, with all the difficulty and uncertainty that implies, a more equitable one. The data, the legal instruments, the intellectual frameworks, and the moral clarity required for that project are available; what remains, as always, is the political will to act.

From Drought To Hope: China-Zimbabwe Agricultural Cooperation Revitalizes Rural Village

By: Xinhua News Agency
 @themkenyatimes

Rows of solar panels glisten under the midday sun, while pumps hum quietly, with clear groundwater flowing through pipelines into surrounding fields, where maize is already tasseling and sweet potatoes are bearing fruit.

Zindi Village, located in northern Zimbabwe's Mashonaland Central Province, has witnessed a rapid transformation in agricultural development and the livelihoods of its residents in recent years as China-Zimbabwe agricultural cooperation prospers. Weveson Zindi, head of the village, told Xinhua that the majority of the villagers engaged in subsistence farming had long struggled with chronic water shortages and unstable electricity, and the situation had become even worse as the coun-

try was frequently hit by drought. "When the drought came, there were only a few things to harvest," he said. The change took place in 2024 when the China-aided agricultural demonstration village project was launched here, bringing a group of top-notch Chinese agricultural experts to the village. After learning about the water shortage, the experts moved to drill boreholes, install solar-powered pumps and pipelines, and set up an irrigation system capable of supplying 55,000 liters of water daily. "With the boreholes, we can fetch water within our houses, and with the irrigation system, we can water our gardens," said Zindi, adding that access to a stable water supply has made the once-barren land "alive."

In the meantime, Chinese experts introduced the scientific use of organic fertilizers to local farmers and assisted them in gradually converting sandy soil into productive farmland. They also trained locals in professional skills, including the manage-

ment and maintenance of mechanized farming equipment. "We focused on three key areas here, namely staple crops, vegetable production, and livestock farming. More importantly, we have been imparting skills and knowledge to them, enabling them to follow their own development path," said Zhao Ke, head of the fourth batch of Chinese agricultural experts in Zimbabwe. He noted that, drawing on Chinese experiences, rural revitalization requires not only infrastructure but also new approaches to management and community participation. "We have learned a lot from the Chinese. They taught us a lot about farming. Now we can plant different vegetables such as green pepper, chili, and sesame, and we get profits," said Handna Gwanzu, a villager. For Gwanzu, the change in the village not only enabled families to pay their children's school fees but also bolstered their confidence in the country's agricultural development. "We appreciated the experience from



Ma Dengrong (C), a member of the 4th batch of Chinese agricultural experts in Zimbabwe, introduces an agricultural drone to local residents at the China-aided agricultural demonstration village in Zindi, Shamva District of Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe, Jan. 26, 2026. Photo/Xinhua/Yang Guang

Chinese experts, and we believe more and more local farmers in the country will benefit from that," she added.

YouTube Service Restored After Global Disruption



By: Xinhua News Agency
 @themkenyatimes

YouTube resolved an issue that caused a widespread global outage affecting access to the platform.

YouTube experienced the outage earlier on Tuesday, disrupting access for users across multiple countries, including the United States, with hundreds of thousands reporting problems

loading videos and using related services. In a public statement, TeamYouTube acknowledged the outage: "We're aware some of you are having issues accessing YouTube right now." In an update, the team said: "An issue with our recommendations system prevented videos from appearing across surfaces on YouTube (including the homepage, the YouTube app, YouTube Music and YouTube Kids)." A couple of hours after the massive disruption, the

team said all of its platforms were back to normal. Social media platforms were flooded with posts from YouTube users across regions reporting simultaneous access failures.

Outage tracking website Downtetector showed a sharp surge in complaints worldwide. In the United States alone, more than 320,000 users flagged issues at the peak of the disruption.

UN Humanitarians Work To Aid Survivors Of Cyclones In Madagascar

By: Xinhua News Agency
 @themkenyatimes

The United Nations and its partners are providing aid to people affected by two deadly cyclones in Madagascar, UN humanitarian has said.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) cited government figures showing that at least 52 people were killed, over 800 others injured, and nine remain missing after Tropical Cyclone Gezani made landfall on Feb. 10 on Madagascar's eastern coast. Earlier, Tropical Cyclone Fytia made landfall on Jan. 31. Preliminary reports indicate that over 470,000 people have been affected by Cyclone Gezani and more than 35,000 have been displaced, including 3,200 people sheltering in 19 temporary sites, OCHA said. "The UN and its partners are providing lifesaving food, water and sanitation, health care, protection,



A flooded street is pictured in Antananarivo, Madagascar, Feb. 2, 2026. Photo/Sitraka Rajaonarison/Xinhua

nutrition and shelter, among other essential services," OCHA said, adding that humanitarian partners estimate that 49 million U.S. dollars is urgently required to support 382,000 people over the next two and a half months. The office said the target amount is part of the Malagasy government's Feb. 14 appeal for 142 million dollars to address urgent humanitarian, recovery and reconstruction needs. "In a positive

forecast, Cyclone Gezani is expected to gradually weaken over the coming days," the office added. The UN Children's Fund said at least 6,000 of the displaced by Gezani are children and nearly 29,000 are unable to attend school. The fund said it is working with the government to restore services as quickly as possible to reduce further risks for children in the weeks ahead.



Billions In Deals, Broken Desks In Bobasi

Kenya's leaders trumpet billion-shilling partnerships with pomp and ceremony, yet in Bobasi, children still sit in crumbling classrooms unfit for learning. The contrast is not just ironic—it is tragic. In a country where billions are borrowed and budgeted in the name of development, the most basic needs remain unmet, exposing a governance crisis of misplaced priorities.

Education is not a luxury; it is a constitutional right and the backbone of national progress. Yet in Bobasi and countless rural constituencies, learners endure leaking roofs, cracked floors, overcrowded rooms, and shared textbooks. These conditions are not isolated—they are symptoms of a system where flashy projects overshadow essential services.

When billions are looted or projects exist only "on paper," public trust erodes. Citizens begin to question whether development agendas are sincere or simply political theatre. Announcements of mega-deals sound impressive, but development must be felt in schools, hospitals, and villages—not just in budget statements.



The government must prioritize the basics. Roads, technology parks, and international partnerships matter, but they should never eclipse classrooms, clean water, and medicine. What message are we sending to children forced to study in filth while leaders celebrate billion-shilling agreements? What future are we building if education—the foundation of progress—is neglected?

Transparency and accountability must move beyond rhetoric. If billions are allocated for education, Kenyans deserve tangible results. Procurement must be

monitored, audits enforced, and culprits punished. Without consequences, corruption becomes normalized and development remains a mirage.

True progress is measured not by the size of budgets but by the dignity of citizens. A renovated classroom in Bobasi may not make headlines, but it changes lives. It restores hope. It proves that development is real.

By: Erick Otieno, Laikipia University

The Forgotten Half: Society's Neglect Of The Boy Child

Kenya's national conversation on children's welfare has rightly celebrated the empowerment of the girl child, but in the shadows of this progress, the boy child has been quietly abandoned. Across classrooms, homes, and communities, boys are increasingly left to fend for themselves, their struggles dismissed as resilience and their silence mistaken for strength.

Education statistics reveal the crisis clearly: boys now account for a disproportionate number of school dropouts, disciplinary cases, and academic underperformers. Teachers describe classrooms where boys disengage early, branded "problematic" rather than supported. At home, many boys are granted freedom without mentorship, emotional guidance, or clear expectations beyond the hollow phrase "be a man." What is framed as independence is often abandonment.

Beyond academics, the collapse of community programs that once nurtured discipline,



sportsmanship, and leadership has left boys vulnerable to gangs, drugs, and online extremism. Interviews with young men reveal a common thread—they were taught how to survive but never how to belong. Their emotional needs were ignored, their mental health struggles minimized, and their cries for help punished instead of heard.

The consequences are spilling into society: crime, substance abuse, suicide, and broken families overwhelmingly involve young men as both perpetrators and victims. Yet public discourse continues to treat these outcomes as isolated problems rather than symptoms of boy-

hood neglect.

This is not an argument against girl-child empowerment. It is a call for balance. A society cannot claim progress while abandoning half its children. The boy child does not need privilege; he needs presence, mentorship, and compassion.

If Kenya fails to act, resentment and instability will deepen. But if society remembers the boy child now, with policy reform and cultural change, there is still hope. Real progress demands that no child is forgotten.

By: Juliet Dandu, Laikipia University

Politics Shouldn't Halt Kenya's Workday

Kenya's capital is no stranger to disruption, but when politicians stage rallies during peak business hours, the damage goes beyond traffic jams. On Monday midmorning, a group of leaders chose the heart of the city for their political theatrics, ignoring the ripple effect on traders, commuters, and ordinary citizens. While police dispersal was violent and unjustifiable, the rallies themselves were equally insensitive, hijacking public space at the expense of livelihoods.

In any serious economy, Monday mornings are sacred to productivity. Yet in Nairobi, politics often trumps commerce. Many of these rallies are not organic expressions of public will but orchestrated spectacles, infiltrated by hired goons eager to create havoc. Business owners, fearing chaos, shutter their shops for hours, losing income and weakening the broader economy. The cost is borne not only by traders but by a nation struggling to grow.

Politicians thrive on large crowds, but the optics are damaging. To outsiders, it paints a



picture of a country where citizens abandon work to listen to rhetoric, reinforcing perceptions of instability and underemployment. Worse, it signals misplaced priorities: unemployment and economic hardship cannot be solved in rallies that paralyze the very businesses meant to generate jobs.

Kenya's dream of becoming a modern economy like Singapore will remain a hollow tale if politics continues to overshadow productivity. Freedom of assembly is enshrined in the Constitution, but it must be exercised

responsibly. Public grounds and stadiums exist for rallies; city streets during working hours should remain open for commerce.

Real leadership means knowing when and where to speak. Kenya cannot afford to sacrifice its workday to political showmanship.

By: Daniel Maina, Laikipia University

When Content Creation Crosses Borders

Kenya's digital laws are facing a stern test after uproar over a foreign content creator accused of secretly filming interactions with Kenyan women. What began as viral entertainment has spiraled into a national debate on privacy, consent, and accountability in an era where cameras are everywhere and audiences are global. As Kenya positions itself as a hub for innovation and tourism, the incident forces a reckoning: how prepared is the country to regulate foreign digital creators operating within its borders?

Kenya's Constitution protects the right to privacy, yet technology has outpaced enforcement. Social media platforms have turned ordinary encounters into monetised content, often without consent. Legal experts warn that while cybercrime laws exist, enforcement is complicated when content is produced locally but distributed internationally. This grey area leaves citizens vulnerable to exploitation, their images and personal interactions commodified without recourse.

The controversy also exposes a



deeper social concern—the lure of online fame among young people. Viral culture blurs the line between entertainment and exploitation, with individuals often participating in content without understanding the long-term emotional or reputational risks. Without stronger digital literacy, many remain unaware of their rights or the dangers of unchecked exposure.

Kenya must treat this moment as more than outrage. Strengthening digital literacy, clarifying consent requirements, and

ensuring accountability for all creators—local or foreign—are essential steps. As Kenya embraces the digital economy, safeguarding dignity and lawful conduct must remain central.

A nation cannot claim digital progress while leaving its citizens unprotected; Kenya must prove that its online frontier is governed by respect, not exploitation.

By: Whytney Nasir, Laikipia University

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Sports >> *Reigning national champion in the EAFC category, Harry Kappa, has secured a historic professional move to Morocco's eBotola League side, Renaissance Club Athletic Zemamra.

National eSports Champion Secures Life-Changing, Big Move To Morocco

Reigning national champion in the EAFC category, Harry Kappa, has secured a historic professional move to Morocco's eBotola League side, Renaissance Club Athletic Zemamra.

The move marks a major milestone not only in his career but also in the history of Kenyan esports, as he becomes the first Kenyan player to secure a professional esports contract abroad.

Even more significantly, the top two players in the league earn direct qualification to the Esports World Cup in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, scheduled for July 2026, placing Kappa within reach of the biggest global stage in esports.

The 20-year-old Thika-born star has risen steadily over the last two years, representing Kenya in three international tournaments across Saudi Arabia, Rwanda, and South Africa.

He formerly turned out for Kenyan esports teams such as eHub Gamers, Horizon Esports, and Plug N Play Esports.

Speaking after finalizing the deal, an elated Kappa said:

"I am so excited to get this opportunity. It is evidence that hard work and prayer can open doors. Now I am focused on giving my best at the biggest stage and announcing not only myself but my nation to the world. I thank my talent management agency, IndexG Esports, and the Esports Kenya Federation because they made this possible."

Esports Kenya President Ronny Lusigi praised the milestone and partners involved, saying:

"Kappa's progress is a clear demonstration that talent is in abundance in Kenya. It is also a product of our efforts as a federation to develop talent and support our players to reach their highest potential. I have all the



National eSports champion Harry Kappa.

confidence in him to do well. We appreciate our sponsors, 82 Sports, whose contribution to the game has enabled this milestone to be achieved."

The eBotola League is currently the only fully professional esports league in Africa and is expected to feature leading African stars, including top seed Youssef "xcharifx" Charif of Morocco, Senegal's Mamadou "Dexx"

Thiam, and defending champion Aymane "Fakhr" Ouardi.

Kappa will depart for Casablanca on February 20 (Friday) in time for the league, which shall run from February 26 to April 25, this year.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Preparations for the Women's Africa Cup of Nations 2026 continue to gather momentum as provisional squad members intensify training

Starlets Camp Boosts Confidence As Diana Eyes Final Squad Spot



Harambee Starlets players in training in Algeria. PHOTO/HARAMBEE STARLETS

Preparations for the Women's Africa Cup of Nations 2026 are intensifying as Kenya's provisional squad continues rigorous training, with defender Diana Shakava emerging as one of the most vocal symbols of optimism and determination. The Ulinzi Starlets captain, who earned a place in the provisional squad, has described the ongoing camp as a transformative experience where players and coaches are exchanging ideas, sharpening skills, and building the chemistry needed to compete at the highest level.

"I have been learning from the best coaches and the best players," Shakava said, reflecting on the exposure to high-level coaching and competition. She noted that the camp has already boosted her confidence and sharpened her tactical awareness, motivating her to push

harder in hopes of securing a spot in the final squad. Despite the opportunity, she remains grounded, emphasizing continuous improvement and gratitude for the chance to compete at such a high level.

With less than 30 days to the tournament, the camp has become a crucial phase for assessing players, strengthening tactical cohesion, and ensuring the team is ready to face continental giants. Shakava highlighted the importance of interacting closely with experienced teammates and technical staff, saying the mentorship has had a profound impact on her development. For her, making the final cut would not only be a personal milestone but also a moment of pride and gratitude.

Kenya's preparations reflect a broader ambition to elevate women's football across Africa. The

training camp is not just about physical readiness but also about instilling resilience, unity, and belief in a squad determined to leave a mark at WAFCON 2026. The players are working to balance individual growth with collective responsibility, knowing that success on the continental stage requires both.

As Shakava and her teammates sharpen their skills, Kenya's women are preparing not only for a tournament but for a defining moment in the nation's football journey. Their determination signals that Kenya's time on Africa's biggest stage has truly arrived.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



From Personal Struggle To National Advocacy: The Journey Of Isabella Emike O



By: Anila Bukhari
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Isabella earned a First Class Bachelor of Science degree in International Relations and Strategic Studies from Igbinedion University in 2012. She later continued her academic journey in Canada, completing a joint Master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg in 2018.
- Her academic excellence was recognized with a full scholarship from the Manitoba Ministry of Education and multiple honors, including the Manavathe Award for Peacebuilding, the Manitoba Graduate Scholarship, and the International Graduate Scholarship Award. She also holds certifications in Intercultural Competency Development, Leadership, Human Rights and Advocacy Skills, and a United Nations Disarmament Toolkit certification that informs her peace-building initiatives.

Isabella Emike O is a Peace and Justice scholar, entrepreneur, investor, and advocate currently serving as Mrs. Canada Globe 2025–2026. A resident of Fort Richmond, Manitoba, she rose to national recognition after winning the Mrs. Canada Globe Pageant in Montreal, Canada, where she was crowned on July 19, 2025, on a platform centered on menstrual equity. Her work is deeply shaped by her early experiences as an immigrant to Canada, where she once faced the difficult choice between affording transportation and purchasing menstrual hygiene products. That experience became the foundation of her lifelong mission to advance hygiene accessibility and human dignity.

Isabella earned a First Class Bachelor of Science degree in International Relations and Strategic Studies from Igbinedion University in 2012. She later continued her academic journey in Canada, completing a joint Master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg in 2018. Her academic excellence was recognized with a full scholarship from the Manitoba Ministry of Education and multiple honors, including the Manavathe Award for Peacebuilding, the Manitoba Graduate Scholarship, and the International Graduate Scholarship Award. She also holds certifications in Intercultural Competency Development, Leadership, Human Rights and Advocacy Skills, and a United Nations Disarmament Toolkit certification that informs her peace-building initiatives.

Her professional career spans public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Between 2019 and 2021, she worked as a Field Interviewer with Statistics Canada and served as a Human Rights Representative with the Public Service Alliance of Canada. She directed Excellence Childcare Centre from 2018 to 2022 and later co-founded Drive True Auto in 2019, where she serves as Director of Operations and as a licensed automotive saleswoman. In 2023, she expanded her entrepreneurial portfolio by launching Eleanor Apartments, a luxury vacation rental business. As a homeschooling mother of three, she balances her ventures with family life, creating a model of flexible and purpose-driven entrepreneurship.

Advocacy remains the heart of Isabella's work. After experiencing period poverty firsthand upon arriving in Canada in 2013, she founded Kingdom Minded Queens in 2017 to combat menstrual inequity. Through this organization, she has helped distribute hundreds of hygiene kits internationally and is actively advancing policy proposals to establish sustainable legislative frameworks for menstrual equity. To strengthen her advocacy, she conducted research in Scotland, studying the world's first nationwide model of free menstrual product access and adapting those insights to Canadian communities. Her work aligns with global goals for gender equality and reduced in-



Isabella Emike O

equalities, bridging grassroots action with policy reform.

Married with three children and supported by a close-knit family, Isabella continues to expand her global platform. She is set to represent Canada internationally at the Mrs. Globe pageant in California in June 2026, where she will further champion menstrual hygiene accessibility and equity. Through her scholarship, entrepreneurship, and advocacy, Isabella Emike O exemplifies how

personal adversity can be transformed into systemic change, advancing dignity and opportunity for communities across Canada and beyond.

Her work aligns with "UN Sustainable Development Goals" for gender equality and reduced inequalities, bridging grassroots action with policy reform.