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Page 18

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News>>Kindiki: Government On Course To Complete Over 6,000 KM Of Roads Across the Country

P. 8. The government will ensure completion of 6,000 kilometres of roads countrywide that have stalled since 2020 after clearing pending bills owed to contractors, Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has said.



News>>Charles Kanjama Elected LSK President In Decisive Win

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Right: Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja. (Inset) Rigathi Gachagua, Kalonzo Musyoka, Fred Matiang'i and Eugene Wamalwa

STORY ON PAGE 9

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Kindiki Tours Taita Taveta, Inspects Highway And School Projects

By: WMW
 @themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures


Deputy President Kithure Kindiki yesterday toured key development projects in Taita Taveta County, inspecting the ongoing Taveta-Chala-Njukini-Rombo-Ilasit-Loitoktok highway and the expansion of Chala Comprehensive School. He was accompanied by Taveta MP John Bwire, Taita Taveta Woman Representative Haika Mizighi, and other local leaders.

The 66-kilometer Sh5.6 billion highway, connecting Taita Taveta and Kajiado Counties along the Kenya-Tanzania border, is progressing rapidly, with 16.5 kilometers completed and earthworks extending beyond kilometer 22. Kindiki said the project, expected to finish by December 31, 2026, will improve trade, travel, and people-to-people ties in the region. He also highlighted government efforts to clear KSh177 billion in pending road bills, enabling the completion of over 6,000 kilometers of stalled roads.

At Chala Comprehensive School, the Deputy President inspected a tuition block under construction and pledged KSh10 million to support the expansion, aimed at accommodating more learners. He noted that the government has built 23,000 classrooms, 1,600 laboratories, and deployed 100,000 teachers nationwide, reaffirming Kenya Kwanza's commitment to quality, inclusive education.



Editor's Desk



The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mutahi Kagwe yesterday hosted the newly appointed Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Kenya Representative, Farayi Constance Zimudzi, at Kilimo House in Nairobi, reaffirming Kenya's strong partnership with the UN agency. Kagwe welcomed Zimudzi and commended FAO for its continued support in transforming Kenya's agrifood systems, strengthening nutrition security, advancing policy reforms and promoting sustainable value chains. He emphasized his open-door policy toward innovative ideas

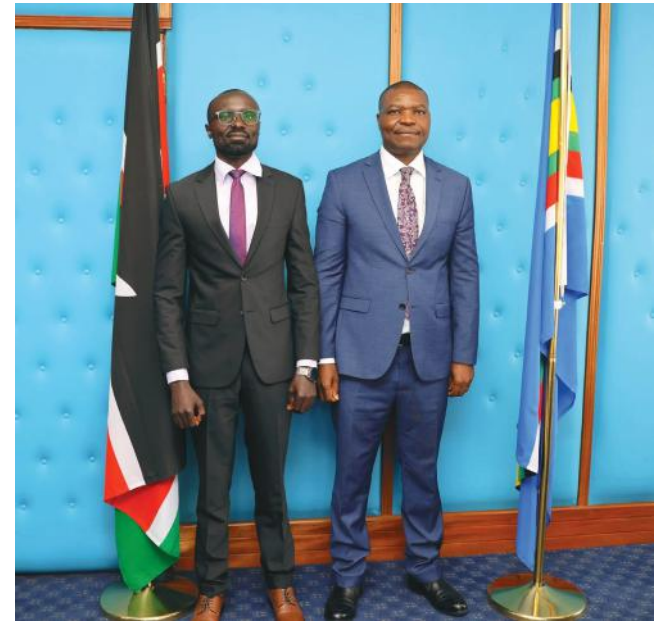
that can drive agricultural growth, highlighting technology adoption, value addition and youth agripreneur empowerment as critical to boosting productivity, competitiveness and employment. Zimudzi pledged to deepen collaboration through programmes aligned with Kenya's priorities. She affirmed FAO's readiness to support immediate drought response efforts while advancing long-term initiatives focused on digitisation, livestock resilience and sustainable food systems development.



Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) Director General CPA Justus Omae Nyarandi addressing journalists during a forum to Discuss Seafarers Recruitment and Placement at the KMA offices in Mombasa yesterday. Nyarandi announced that KMA expects to begin issuing Seafarer Identity Documents (SIDs) from April 2026, a move set to unlock global employment opportunities for over 16,000 registered Kenyan seafarers.



Nakuru County is strengthening lung health services through ongoing training for healthcare workers, aiming to improve early detection, diagnosis, and management of respiratory conditions. The County's Department of Health Services, with support from the Clinton Health Access Initiative, is conducting workshops on lung function screening, spirometry, and systematic approaches to care. Dr. Barasa Neimah, County Lung Health Coordinator, emphasized that early detection reduces complications, hospitalizations, and mortality from conditions like TB, asthma, COPD, pneumonia, and lung cancer. Over 150 practitioners across public and private facilities have been trained, reflecting Nakuru's commitment to resilient, people-centred, and integrated lung health services.



Eric Muga Murithi, Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation yesterday received a courtesy call from Gichimu Robert Githinji, MP for Gichugu Constituency, at Maji House in Nairobi. The meeting focused on key water and irrigation projects in the constituency, with particular emphasis on the Gichugu Water Supply Project. The initiative is designed to address persistent water shortages impacting households, schools, health facilities, and farmers. The CS highlighted that these efforts aim to provide reliable access to clean water, enhance agricultural irrigation, bolster food security, and improve livelihoods for residents across Gichugu Constituency, underscoring the government's commitment to sustainable water management and community development.



Mary Muthoni, Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, announced that Kenya has reduced national malaria incidence from 104 to 72 cases per 1,000 population between 2023 and 2025. She joined Health CS Aden Duale and the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), led by Executive Secretary Joy Phumaphi, to review progress and plan the next phase of action. Achievements are attributed to strengthened accountability, community-level interventions by over 107,000 Community Health Promoters, and sustained investment in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Guided by the Kenya Malaria Strategy 2023–2027, efforts aim for an 80% reduction in incidence, a 90% reduction in mortality, and interruption of indigenous transmission in selected counties by 2028.



Paul Otuoma, Governor of Busia County, has set a target of raising Sh707 million in own source revenue for the current financial year. Speaking during his fourth State of the County Address, he noted that the county collected Sh509 million last year and achieved Sh235 million in the first quarter, putting it on track to meet the goal. Otuoma attributed the growth to institutional reforms, including the creation of an Independent Revenue Department, an inter-departmental coordination framework, and full implementation of a cashless payment system to enhance transparency and curb revenue leakages, aiming to unlock the county's full Sh2 billion revenue potential.

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Violence Erupts In Tharaka Nithi As Protests Over Nithi Bridge Turn Destructive



Activist Bob Njagi at a section of Meru-Nairobi highway near Nithi bridge in Maara constituency. Photos/Courtesy.



Torched Muthambi Sub County offices in Maara constituency.

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Tension escalated in Tharaka Nithi County on Wednesday after demonstrations over infrastructure projects turned violent, resulting in the torching of the Muthambi Sub-County offices and the barricading of the Meru-Embu Highway.

The protests were reportedly organized around grievances concerning delays in the construction of the proposed Nithi Bridge, a project widely viewed by supporters as a transformative development expected to enhance connectivity, trade and economic

growth in the region. Demonstrators claimed the government had taken too long to commence construction and to tarmac other promised roads.

However, official records indicate that the design of the Nithi Bridge has already been finalized and that tractors have been mobilized to the site, signaling the start of implementation. Authorities also noted that the design for the dualling of the Makutano-Embu-Chuka-Meru-Maua road corridor has been completed, reflecting broader infrastructure upgrade plans across the region.

Among those present at the demonstrations were Councillor Njohi and Mr. Bob Micheni Njagi, leader of the Free Kenya Movement. Addressing

protesters, Njagi said residents were frustrated by what he described as prolonged delays in delivering key infrastructure projects.

“The people have waited long enough for meaningful infrastructure development,” he said, arguing that communities deserve timely fulfillment of government pledges.

Yet some local residents questioned both the timing and composition of the protests.

Daniel Kimathi observed that many demonstrators appeared unfamiliar to the area and noted that relatively few local youths were involved. He suggested the unrest may have involved external mobilization, particularly given that machinery had already

been deployed to the bridge site.

In a strongly worded statement, the county government condemned the destruction of public property, describing it as criminal and politically instigated. Officials alleged that the unrest formed part of a coordinated national political scheme aimed at undermining the administration of William Ruto and derailing flagship development initiatives such as the Nithi Bridge project.

“The destruction of public property, including the burning of the Muthambi Sub-County offices and the barricading of the Meru-Embu Highway, has absolutely nothing to do with the condition of roads,” the statement said.

Authorities emphasized that road upgrades are ongoing in several parts of the county, with others already advertised for improvement. Both county and national governments, they said, have made sustained investments in infrastructure across Tharaka Nithi.

Security was heightened in affected areas as investigations continued. The county government warned that those found responsible would face legal action and urged residents to remain calm and reject attempts to exploit development concerns for political ends.

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Kindiki: Government On Course To Complete Over 6,000 KM Of Roads Across the Country

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The DP stated that contractors have been instructed to hasten construction works and strictly adhere to completion dates without compromising the quality of the roads that are spread across the country.
- Speaking yesterday when he inspected the construction of the 66kms Taveta-Challa-Njukini-Rombo-Illasit Road, Prof. Kindiki said the economy is now stable because of fruitful interventions by the government since 2022 hence the focus on completion of stalled roads and commencement of others.
- “We are now focused on completing the 6,000kms that had stalled since 2020. All the contractors have been paid and they are back on site. The roads will be completed in the next few months,” he stated.
- The DP later addressed residents of Challa town along the critical road connecting Taita Taveta and Kajiado Counties.

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The DP later addressed residents of Challa town along the critical road connecting Taita Taveta and Kajiado Counties.

The government has settled KSh177 billion in pending bills, paving the way for the completion of the roads and commencement of other crucial projects.

“We expect the contractors to ensure timely completion of the road projects without compromising the quality of works,” DP noted.

The Second in Command said the Taveta-Challa-Njukini-Rombo-Illasit Road is progressing as promised by President Ruto when he earlier visited this area.

“The people here have been waiting for this road for over 50 years. Many governments have come and gone without delivering it despite promising to do so.

It has been a challenge for many farmers to get their produce to the market because of the poor state of this road but they will no longer suffer because their produce will be delivered on time,” he said.

While challenging the contractor not to compromise on the quality of the road, the DP assured that the project will be completed by December this year.

“The contractor indicated the completion date as May 2027 but we have told him that this road should be completed by December this year. We want the entire road to be completed by December 31. I will be here to ensure it is delivered on time and the President will come to officially open it,” DP noted.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki addressing the public in Taita Taveta yesterday. Photos/Courtesy.

The DP told off the opposition for specializing in cheap and divisive talk instead of providing alternative ideas to what the government is implementing.

“The opposition is focused on empty and divisive talk but we remain determined to improve the lives of the people through better roads and other key infrastructure projects touching on all Kenyans,” he stated.

Taveta MP John Bwire said the residents were grateful for the road after suffering for years from empty promises by those in the previous governments.

“The people of Taveta are grateful for this road. We have waited for it for a long time. The residents here have no doubt who they will vote for in the next elections because they have seen the development President

Ruto’s government has brought to this area,” he said.

Also present were Taita Taveta Woman Representative Lydia Haika, former Area Governor John Mruttu, former Woman Representative Joyce Lay, host of MCAs among other leaders.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki with other leaders inspecting the road.

UAG Declares War On State Impunity

The United Alternative Government (UAG) Vows Private Prosecution Over Witima Church Attack

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes



From left; Rigathi Gachagua, Fred Matiang'i, Eugene Wamalwa and Kalonzo Musyoka when they issued the statement yesterday. Photo/Courtesy.

Worth Noting:

- In a press statement issued, the opposition coalition declared it would no longer engage with Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja, accusing his office of presiding over what they described as a deliberate obstruction of justice.
- The leaders; Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, Gachagua, Eugene Wamalwa and Fred Matiang'i claimed investigations into the last month church attack had already been concluded and that a case file identifying 12 police officers and two Members of Parliament had been prepared for prosecution.
- However, they alleged that the file was intercepted by Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen, who reportedly directed that no prosecution should proceed; an allegation that, if substantiated, would raise serious constitutional questions.

Kenya's political landscape took a dramatic turn yesterday after leaders of the United Alternative Government (UAG) announced they would initiate private prosecutions over the violent attack at Witima ACK Church in Othaya and the alleged attempted assassination of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

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From Good Faith to Open Confrontation

The UAG leaders recounted that they met the Inspector General at Jogoo House a few days after the attack in what they described as "good faith," believing investigations would be independent.

A follow-up meeting scheduled for Monday did not materialize after they were informed the Inspector General was unavailable.

Since then, they said, they had received "reliable information" that the perpetrators; allegedly 12 officers using two Land Cruiser vehicles from Nairobi had been identified, along with two MPs from Murang'a and Nyeri counties said to have financed the operation.

The alleged attempted assassination of Gachagua at the church has heightened tensions in an already polarized political climate.

At the heart of the dispute is Article 157 of the Constitution, which guarantees the independence of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

The UAG argued that no authority, including a Cabinet Secretary, has the power to direct or interfere with prosecutorial decisions.

Invoking Article 157(6)(b) of the Constitution, Section 28 of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions Act, and Section 88 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the coalition announced it would commence

private prosecutions against

The 12 police officers allegedly involved in the Witima ACK Church attack and the two Members of Parliament accused of financing the operation.

Private prosecutions, while rare, are constitutionally permissible in Kenya when the State fails or refuses to act.

Legal experts note that courts typically require proof that public prosecutorial avenues have been exhausted or improperly stalled.

"This is precisely the kind of political inertia the framers of the Constitution sought to prevent," the statement read.

The coalition also took aim at the National Police Service motto "Utumishi kwa Wote" (Service to All); arguing that it has become hollow if justice is selectively applied.

"Service to all cannot mean protection for the powerful and repression for the opposition," the statement declared.

The leaders accused the police service of being used as a political tool and warned against interference in upcoming opposition gatherings.

Mass Rallies Announced

The UAG confirmed it will hold public assemblies beginning this Sunday in Nairobi, followed by ral-

lies in Kisii, Nyamira, and Nakuru next week.

They cited Article 37 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to peaceful assembly, and placed the Inspector General and police service "on formal notice" not to interfere.

"We are watching and we are recording," the statement warned, referencing what they described as past disruptions involving uniformed and plainclothes officers.

The announcement signals a significant escalation in Kenya's political standoff.

By choosing private prosecution over continued engagement with the police leadership, the opposition has shifted the battle from political negotiation to constitutional litigation.

Whether the courts will admit and sustain the private prosecutions remains to be seen.

But the move underscores a broader narrative emerging in Kenyan politics; a struggle over institutional independence, the rule of law, and the limits of executive power.

As the UAG leaders concluded: "The Constitution gives us a path and we will take it",

The coming weeks may determine whether that path leads to accountability or deeper political confrontation.

ISK Raises Concern Over Exclusion Of Core Land Professionals From National Land Commission

By: Anita Omwenga
 @themkenyatimes

The Institution of Surveyors of Kenya (ISK) has expressed serious concern over the apparent exclusion of core land professionals in the recent appointments to the National Land Commission (NLC). Speaking at a media briefing, ISK President Eric Nyadimo noted that professionals in fields such as land law, land surveying, spatial planning, and land economics are expressly recognized under the law as key competencies for appointment to the Commission, yet none appear to have been included.

Nyadimo highlighted that ISK respects the constitutional mandate of appointing authorities under Articles 67 and 250 of the Constitution of Kenya, and the procedures set out in the First Schedule of the National Land Commission Act (Cap. 281). However, he questioned whether a scoring system by the Selection Panel contributed to the exclusion, asking

if qualified land professionals scored too low to merit consideration.

He emphasized that the National Land Commission was established to implement constitutional and policy reforms, improve professionalism in land administration, address historical injustices, and ensure accountability in land governance. "These functions are inherently technical and spatial in nature," Nyadimo said, noting that commissioners are expected to manage public land, conduct research on land and natural resource use, monitor registration of rights, oversee land use planning, and investigate historical land injustices.

The ISK president pointed out that licensed land professionals are trained, regulated, and possess technical expertise in land surveying, valuation, physical planning, environmental management, and land governance—skills critical to executing the Commission's mandate. He stressed that such professionals are best placed to guide policy formulation, oversee prudent public land management, advise on national land policies, contribute to natural resource research,



ISK President Eric Nyadimo and his colleagues. Photo/Courtesy.

adjudicate historical land disputes, and recommend national land taxation frameworks.

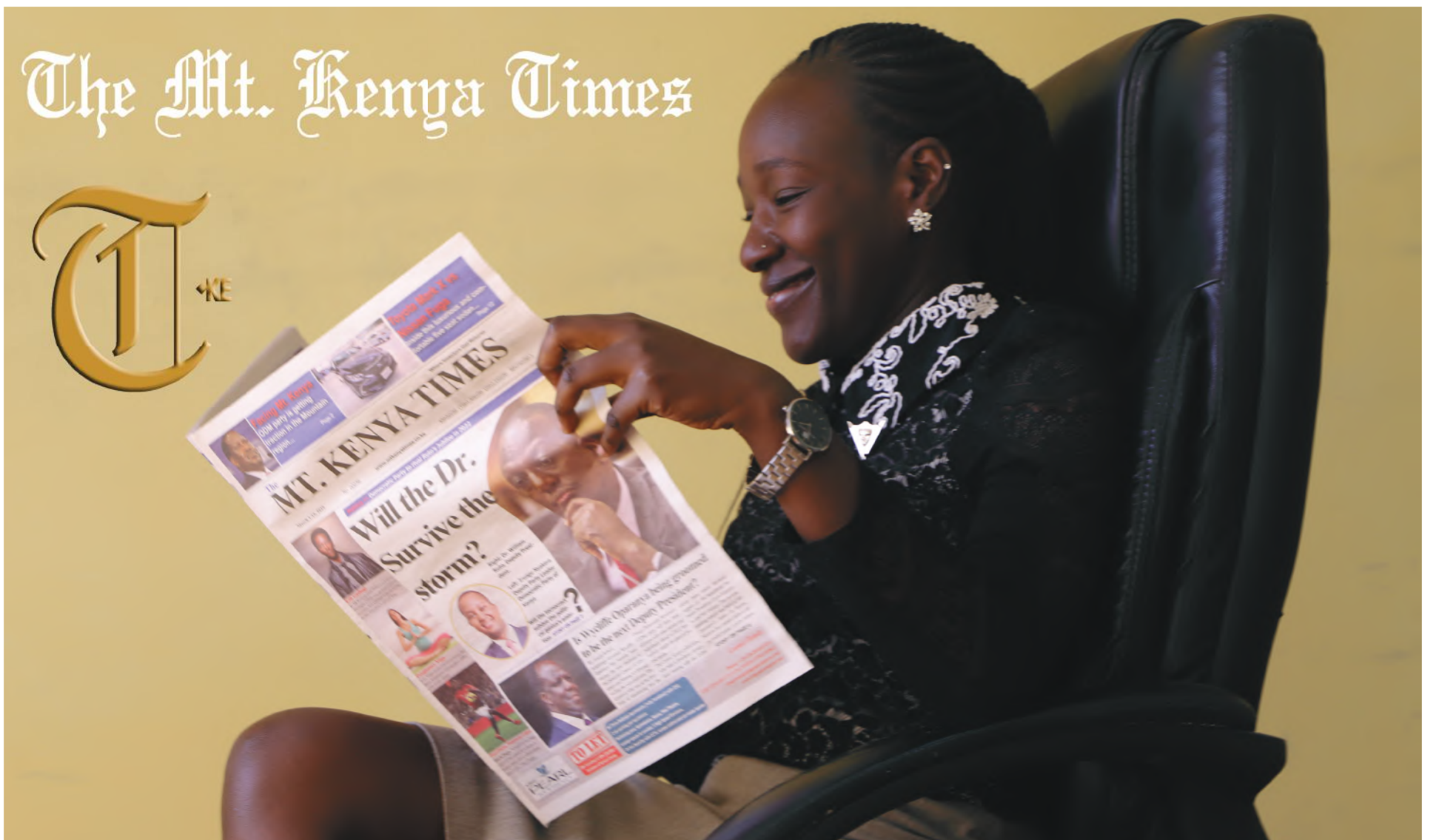
Nyadimo further cautioned that land governance remains one of Kenya's most sensitive and technically complex areas of public administration. Excluding professionals from key disciplines could compromise technical capacity in investigations, oversight, and execution of land-related man-

dates. He underscored the importance of multidisciplinary representation to maintain institutional balance within the Commission and ensure its effectiveness in managing public land and shaping national land policies.

He concluded that the exclusion of core land professionals is not merely a sectoral issue but a national governance concern, and called for recognition of the statutory and technical

qualifications of land professionals to strengthen the Commission's capacity to deliver on its constitutional obligations.

The ISK statement comes in response to Presidential Action No. V of 2026, dated February 17, 2026, on the nomination of the Chairperson and six members of the National Land Commission.



CMA Extends Kenya Pipeline IPO Deadline

The move followed failure to exhaust the shares on sale and appeal by some interested groups like Mau Mau Veterans Caucus

By: MTK Correspondent

@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- On Wednesday, the caucus sought extension of buying window through a letter to various government agencies involved in the process.
- Last evening, James Njuguna Mahuria, the caucus director said the extension was critical to allow the group, which has over 185,000 members nationwide, to mobilize participation. "This gives our members sufficient time to contribute KSh3,000 each so that we can collectively acquire shares valued at KSh555 million," he said, urging members to take full advantage of the opportunity.
- The IPO, which opened on January 19, seeks to sell a 65 per cent stake in KPC to the public, with the government expecting to raise KSh106.3 billion.



Investors in the Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) Initial Public Offering (IPO) have been granted an extension until Tuesday next week.

The move came as a relief for some interested groups who had indicated their interest to invest but were short of the required cash.

Such group is MMV Associates CLG, a caucus of former freedom fighters and their descendants that is seeking to purchase shares worth more than half a billion shillings.

The IPO had initially been set to close yesterday.

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The IPO, which opened on January 19, seeks to sell a 65 per cent stake in KPC to the public, with the government expecting to raise KSh106.3 billion.

The offer targets a wide spectrum of investors including retail and institutional buyers, KPC employees, East African Community citizens, oil marketing companies, and international investors.

Of the shares, 45 per cent are reserved for Kenyan investors, divided into 20 per cent for individuals, 20 per cent for institutions, and 5 per cent for KPC employees.

Regional and foreign allocations include 20 per cent for East African investors, 15 per cent for oil marketing companies, and 20 per cent for international buyers.

Investors can apply via stockbrokers, investment banks, authorised

selling agents such as banks, the KPC IPO portal, or by dialling *483*816#. Acting Privatisation Authority Managing Director, Janerose Omondi, said the extension followed public participation forums indicating that many retail investors needed more time to finalize their applications.

"The KPC IPO is about democratising ownership of one of Kenya's strategic national assets," Omondi said, adding that the process leverages digital platforms to make participation more inclusive.

Allocation results will be announced on March 4, followed by electronic crediting of shares to investors' CDS accounts and processing of refunds by March 6.

The shares are expected to begin trading on the Nairobi Securities Exchange on March 9.

KPC operates 1,342 kilometres of pipelines and storage facilities, offering investors exposure to a profitable enterprise central to Kenya's

energy security and regional economic growth.

The extension marks a significant moment for former freedom fighters, who have historically faced challenges in accessing financial and investment platforms. With this extra time, the Mau Mau Veterans Associates hope to fully participate in owning a stake in a strategic national asset, further securing financial empowerment for their members.

Charles Kanjama Elected LSK President In Decisive Win

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

Senior Counsel Charles Kanjama was yesterday elected President of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK), securing 3,728 votes in a tightly contested race that drew nationwide attention across the legal fraternity.

Kanjama, who will succeed outgoing President Faith Odhiambo, defeated his closest rival, Peter Wanyama, who garnered 2,616 votes, while current Vice President Mwaura Kabata finished third with 2,086 votes.

The results reflect strong support from advocates across Kenya, highlighting the significance of LSK leadership in shaping legal practice, policy, and professional standards.

The election was marked by robust debates on critical issues affecting advocates, including member welfare, protection of the independence of the Bar, the rule of law, and engagement with State institutions.

Campaigns were conducted both physically and through online plat-

forms, ensuring wide participation from the country's legal community.

With this mandate, Kanjama is set to lead one of Kenya's most influential professional bodies, which plays a pivotal role in defending constitutionalism, human rights, and access to justice.

The LSK is also a key player in judicial reforms and legislative processes, often providing expert guidance on matters of national importance.

Transition arrangements are expected to commence immediately, with the formal handover to take place in accordance with the society's regulations. Kanjama's term as LSK President will cover the 2026-2028 period, during which he is expected to steer the society toward advancing the interests of lawyers while upholding the integrity and independence of the profession.

This election reaffirms the active engagement of Kenya's legal fraternity in shaping the leadership and direction of their professional body, ensuring that advocates continue to have a strong voice in matters of law and governance.



SC Charles Kanjama

Quality-Based Payment To Boost Kenya's Dairy Sector, Livestock PS Mueke Says

By: Dennis Dibondo
 @themtkenyatimes

Kenya's dairy sector is set for a transformation through the introduction of quality-based payment for farmers, aimed at increasing production, improving milk quality, and boosting export potential, Principal Secretary for Livestock Development Jonathan Mueke has said.

Speaking during a training on quality-based payment and an ISO certification ceremony for Meru Dairy Cooperative Union, Mueke noted that the dairy industry contributes about 4% of Kenya's GDP and supports over two million livelihoods, with 1.8 million smallholder farmers producing 80% of the country's milk. He emphasized that focusing on quality, not just volume, is key to achieving the government's transformation targets, which include doubling milk production, expanding exports, creating jobs, and increasing value addition.

Under the new system, farmers will be rewarded based on butterfat content, protein levels, total solids,

hygiene standards, and low bacterial counts, rather than just the volume of milk delivered. Mueke explained that this approach encourages farmers to invest in proper feeding, breeding, animal husbandry, and hygiene.

The benefits extend across the value chain. For farmers, higher-quality milk translates to increased earnings. Cooperatives will experience reduced spoilage and operational losses, while processors can produce high-value products like yoghurt, butter, ghee, cheese, and ice cream, boosting competitiveness in local and export markets. Consumers will enjoy improved product quality and safety.

The government has already taken steps to support this initiative, including the purchase of 230 milk coolers for dairy cooperatives, which will enhance national milk cooling capacity by 475,000 litres daily and bring an additional 175 million litres into the formal market annually — a 21% increase. Meru County has received nine of the coolers, with the remainder to be delivered in March. These measures aim to reduce post-harvest losses,



Livestock PS Jonathan Mueke hands over and ISO certification certificate to Meru Dairy CEO Kennedy Gitonga. Photo/Dennis Dibondo.

preserve milk quality, stabilize farmer incomes, and make quality-based payment sustainable.

Mueke highlighted recent sectoral growth: milk production rose 15.2% from 4.6 billion litres in 2022 to 5.3 billion litres in 2024; the average milk price increased by 13%, while processed milk volume grew 25%, with its value rising from KSh 35.7 billion to KSh 44.7 billion. Registered dairy cooperatives and

business operators have expanded significantly, with nearly 5,000 operators in 2024, up from 1,274 in 2022.

Mueke also emphasized the importance of livestock vaccination to support exports, noting that Kenya has lost revenue due to unvaccinated animals. The government is covering 80% of vaccination costs to ensure livestock health. Meru Dairy CEO Kenneth Gitonga and Kenya

Dairy Board MD William Kimutai echoed the need for vaccination and high standards to meet international market requirements.

The quality-based payment system, alongside strategic interventions, is expected to drive Kenya's dairy sector toward increased productivity, higher incomes for farmers, and stronger presence in international markets.

Mudavadi Urges MCAs To Reassert Oversight Role, Floats 2027 Referendum To Strengthen Devolution

By: PCS and MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyentimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has called on Members of County Assemblies (MCAs) to reclaim their constitutional oversight and accountability mandate, warning that other institutions appear to be encroaching on their role within county governments.

Speaking yesterday at the Counties Assemblies Forum held at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi, Mudavadi said devolution has matured and county assemblies must now fully assert their authority in legislating, overseeing county executives, and representing ward-level interests.

“Do not allow your oversight and accountability role to be usurped by another institution. You are the ones who are supposed to oversee the County Governments,” Mudavadi cautioned, questioning whether the perceived erosion of their mandate was by design or neglect.

Mudavadi, who served as Local Government Minister during the transition period following the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution, recalled his involvement in spearheading the initial legislation that operationalised devolution. He emphasized that county assemblies are central to ensuring that devolved governance continues to benefit citizens across all 47 counties.

He described leadership within county assemblies as a “very significant assignment” and urged that institutions supporting devolution be strengthened and adequately supported.

The forum was attended by President William Ruto, and provided a platform for Mudavadi to revive discussion on holding a constitutional referendum alongside the August 2027 General Election.

He argued that some persistent governance challenges facing counties could be resolved through constitutional amendments.

Mudavadi reiterated his earlier proposal, first floated on December 26 last year, for a “constitutional moment” to address unresolved issues in Kenya’s devolved system.

Chief among them, he said, is anchoring the Ward Fund and the National Government Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in the Constitution to end recurring legal and political disputes over their legitimacy.

“One of the issues that needs to be resolved is to anchor the Ward Fund and the Constituency Development Fund properly in the Constitution. This will help end all these debates of whether it should be there or not,” he said.

He revealed that President Ruto had directed him to engage the County Assemblies Forum to gather their concerns.

Among the issues raised were the need to anchor the forum in law, enhance financial autonomy for county assemblies, and address welfare concerns affecting MCAs.

Mudavadi expressed optimism that, with presidential backing, the concerns raised would be addressed, enabling county assemblies to operate with greater institutional strength and independence as they execute their constitutional mandate.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi addressing the forum yesterday

Muturi Demands Probe Into Alleged Recruitment Of Kenyans To Russia-Ukraine War

By: MKT Reporter

@themtkenyentimes

The Democratic Party of Kenya (DP) has called for an urgent and independent investigation into reports that Kenyan citizens have been recruited and deployed to the Russia-Ukraine conflict zone, raising alarm over possible human trafficking and exploitation.

In a statement issued yesterday, the party leader and presidential candidate Justin Bedan Muturi said recent intelligence findings had corroborated earlier concerns about the alleged involvement of Kenyans in the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, though he termed the details available so far as insufficient.

Muturi referenced Kenya’s obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2331, which addresses human trafficking in con-

flikt situations, and warned that the matter could have far-reaching implications for Kenya’s domestic and international standing.

“The primary responsibility of any government is to safeguard its citizens, both at home and abroad,” Muturi said, adding, “If Kenyans have been misled, coerced, or trafficked into foreign conflicts, this must be urgently investigated.”

The Democratic Party is demanding that the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Labour provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances surrounding the alleged recruitment.

Specifically, the party wants clarity on whether due process was followed and what safeguards exist to protect vulnerable job seekers from exploitation.

Muturi further called for an independent probe to establish whether local or international networks could be involved in unlawful recruitment

or human trafficking.

He emphasized that accountability must extend to public officials if investigations uncover negligence, complicity or dereliction of duty.

“The truth must be told without delay,” he said, while urging the public to remain calm as authorities establish the facts.

The party also pressed the government to offer immediate consular assistance and support to affected Kenyans and their families, underscoring the need to protect the safety and dignity of citizens abroad.

The reports come amid heightened global scrutiny over the recruitment of foreign nationals into armed conflicts, with several countries investigating similar claims in recent months.

Muturi maintained that Kenya’s sovereignty and international reputation depend on swift and transparent action.

“Accountability is not optional in a



DP party leader Justin Muturi. Photo/Courtesy.

constitutional democracy,” he said. “Kenya’s sovereignty and the dignity of our people must never be promised.”

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



I don't want anything from you dear
but I need you very badly
No need anything, no costly things or
anything
Just your gentle touch i need
Be seated just near me
Need your shoulder to lean on
Need your tip finger to wipe my tears
Never ever saw anyone like you
Your love was so sweet as honey.
Never met anyone like you in my life
You are my god sent angel

I can't live without you
I need only you in this whole world
I'm ready to leave all my luxury and comfort
All i need is only you .
Please understand me
It is true and genuine love
Pure and holy , our connection is real
None can understand , no issues , but you
should understand
I don't want praise, glory, name , fame
I need your trust and support
All i need is only you near me
Your presence is more than enough

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

From Tamil Nadu To Malaysian Skies



From Tamil Nadu to Malaysian skies,
Our dreams took flight, our hopes did rise.
Every voice, every skill, every effort found its
way,
Hard work met opportunity, lighting up our
day.

Tamil Nadu gave us platforms to shine with
grace,
Trained us, guided us, put smiles on every
face.

From school to state, our talents were seen,
Efforts rewarded, futures bright and keen.

Yanavil Mandram, Quiz club, Literary Club
Competition's pride,
Kalaitiruvala, Movie Club Competitions,
talents far and wide.

Every government school child's potential
fully revealed,
Years of dedication were finally rewarded.

Top winners were chosen, standing here
strong and proud,
Together we shone with our voices clear and
loud.
Twin Towers, Putrajaya, Batu Caves, places
so grand,
Memories forever etched across this foreign
land.

Thank you, Tamil Nadu Government, for
believing in us,
Thank you, parents and teachers, for placing
trust.
With heart and soul, with gratitude true,
We stand here today, all beca government
governmentse of you.

-K. A. Santhoshi,
8th std.
Government
G

GovernmentGovernmentmodel

Unpublished Book



Each man's life
Is an unpublished book
Printed with myriad chapters
Framed with variety of characters
Carved with plots and subplots
Polished with twists and turns
And and unexpected climax
Either push him to greatness
Or kick him to wilderness;
Yet the book never fails
To convey a message
Or teach a lesson.

By
Shyni. S. S,
BT, English,
GHSS, Rameshwaram.

My Friend



My friends are good,
they're beautiful
I love my friends,
they're cute and sweet
They're nice and sharp,
They are lovely in every way,
We play at parks and beaches
We are happy every day.

They help me always,
We are always together
That's why I like them,
they're my best friends
Friends like mine, make my heart smile big,
I'm lucky to have them,
they make life happy

P. Hasini . 7 b
GHS Melpattampakkam
Tamilnadu
India

Many Are Educated But Not Mannered.



Education is academic
Educating others are dramatic.
Education brings intellectual ability.
Education is to behave good.
Let it be there on hood.
Mannerism is the character.
Mannerism is their saviour.
It is their own wish.
They know how to exhibit in bush.
Where education is only for critical thinking
It is considered as nurturing.

Where education is for Lightening
It is for a personal growth.
Where education is for incoming purpose
It is for a social growth.
There the mannerism of people
Greeted or not, considered
As etiquette in their profession.
Where humans are educated
Mannerism is in format.
Mannerism of others is still innate.
The first step to education
To teach mannerism

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

Sijamwona Adumuye



1.
Walikuwepo miamba,waja wa jadi kubeli
Walotajwa na kutamba,sifa zikafika mbali
Leo nyimbo tunaimba,hataunao wale nguli
Adumuye sijamwona,inna kuishi kuisha

2.
Aliyepanga Manani, kifo hakina majira
Hatujuzwi ikhiwani, upi muda wa kugura
Hatudumu duniani,tuelewe barabara
Adumuye sijamwona, inna kuishi kuisha

3.
Sharuti kila nafsi,ikayaonje mauti
Hayaanzi kwetu sisi,kufa tuitwe maiti

M'ngu ndiye muasisi,na jambole si katiti
Adumuye sijamwona, inna kuishi kuisha

4.
Mapisi ya tangu kale,yatufundisha vizuri
Utu tuwekeni mbele,ina puo takaburi
Taadhima na upole,tutunze ni tabasuri
Adumuye sijamwona, inna kuishi kuisha

5.
Wema wa mja hudumu,matendo yana athari
Tusisahau hakimu,si wa kuhongwa Kahari
Viumbewe tuheshimu,tuishi pasi na shari
Adumuye sijamwona, inna kuishi kuisha

6.
Mwerevu na baradhuli,kabwela na kabaila
Wote sawa kwa Jalali,kwake kigezo si hela
Atakuja hatuili,haabiri daladala
Adumuye sijamwona, inna kuishi kuisha

Mtunzi: Ndetei Mutava/Abu Magashi
Mshairi Msi Shari
Nairobi

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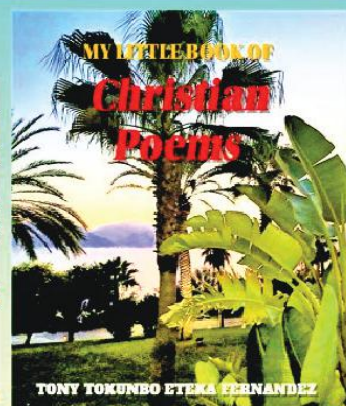
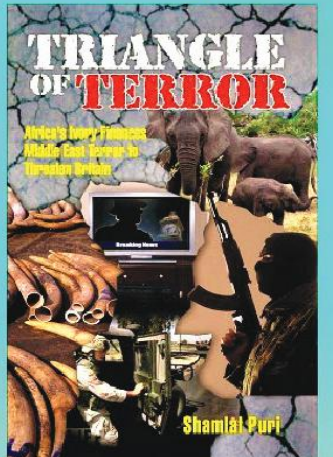
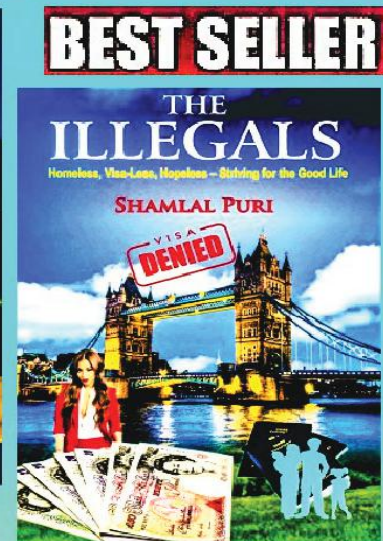
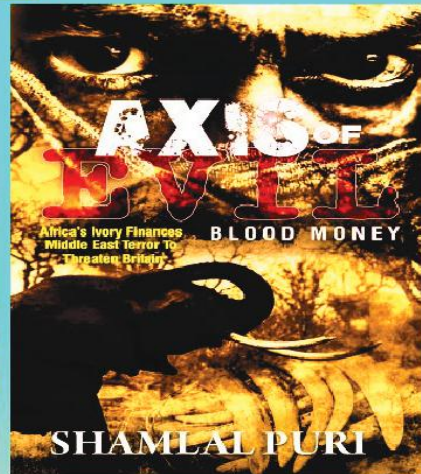
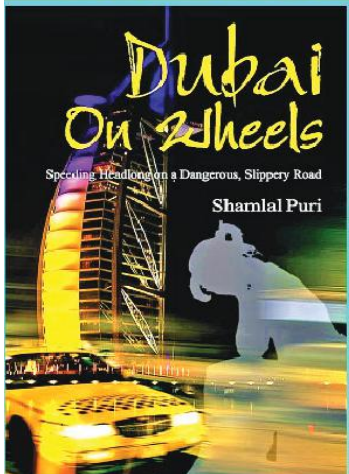
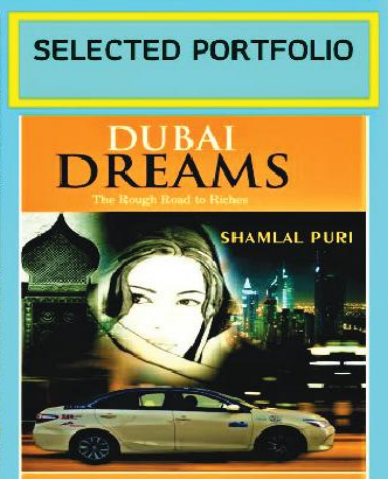
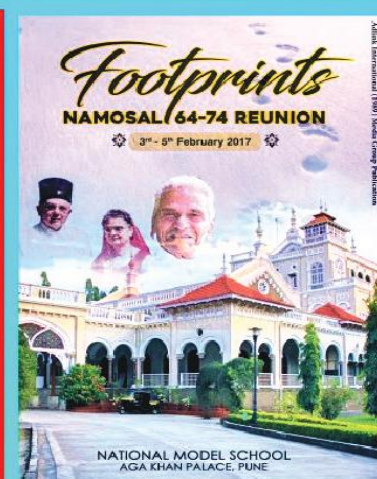
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Kagwe Urges Parliament To Boost Agriculture Budget To KSh140 Billion, Warns Of Food Security Risks

By: WMW

@themkenyatimes

Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mutahi Kagwe has called on Parliament to increase the Ministry's budget to at least 5% of the national budget; approximately Ksh140 billion, citing concerns that the current allocation under the 2026 Budget Policy Statement (BPS) is insufficient to safeguard Kenya's food future.

Appearing before the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, chaired by Dr. John Mutunga, Kagwe highlighted that the Ministry has been allocated KSh75.49 billion, representing only 2.7% of the KSh2.8 trillion national budget. He stressed that this falls far short for a sector contributing 22.5% to GDP and employing over 40% of Kenyans.

Kagwe pointed out that Kenya's allocation remains below the 10% target recommended under continental commitments such as the Maputo and Malabo Declarations.

With the population projected to rise from 53.5 million to 70.2 million by 2045, he warned that insufficient funding and lack of reforms could lead to increased food imports, undermining national food security.

The CS outlined key priorities under the Government Agenda (BETA), including enhancing food security, reducing dependency on imports, and expanding exports through strategic value chains such as maize, dairy, rice, wheat, coffee, tea, avocado, and horticulture.

He also called for accelerated adoption of digital agriculture, expanded irrigation infrastructure, climate-smart farming practices, improved livestock genetics, sustained fertilizer subsidies, and recruitment of 1,450 Ward Agricultural Liaison Officers to strengthen coordination

with county governments.

"Agriculture remains the backbone of Kenya's economy and a critical driver of inclusive growth," Kagwe said, appealing to MPs to support enhanced funding.

"Without adequate investment and reforms, the sector cannot meet the needs of a growing population nor fulfil its potential as a major contributor to national development."

The CS's push comes amid growing concern over rising food insecurity and the need to modernize the sector to improve productivity, resilience, and competitiveness in regional and global markets.

Parliament is now expected to consider the Ministry's budget request during the ongoing budget approval process, weighing the sector's contribution to the economy against competing national priorities.

With strategic funding and reforms, the Ministry aims to transform agriculture into a more productive, resilient, and export-oriented sector ca-



CS Mutahi Kagwe with Committee chairman John Mutunga after the session. Photo/Courtesy.

pable of meeting domestic demand and enhancing Kenya's global trade position.

He was accompanied by several

Ministry officials led by Principal Secretary for Agriculture Paul Rono.

Kiambu Coffee Commands Premium Prices As KSh1.7 Billion Changes Hands at Nairobi Auction

By: Henry Kinyua

@themkenyatimes

Coffee buyers flexed their muscles at this week's sale of the Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE), as premium beans from Kiambu County once again stole the spotlight.

The Tuesday auction offered a total of 44,091 bags, though 34,659 bags were ultimately confirmed for sale after withdrawals and price negotiations, representing a withdrawal rate of 21%; meaning nearly one in five bags did not meet reserve prices set by farmers and sellers.

The coffee that traded achieved a strong average price of USD 315 per 50kg bag, generating approximately USD 13.3 million (around KSh 1.7 billion) from 2.11 million kilograms of coffee. Broker performance highlighted contrasts across the market. Kirinyaga Slopes Coffee Brokerage posted the highest average at USD 339 per bag, followed by KCCE Marketing Agency at USD 337. High-volume broker Alliance Ber-

ries recorded an average of USD 305 with a 39% withdrawal rate.

Several other brokers, including Minnesota Coffee Marketers, Kinya Coffee, Meru County Coffee Marketing Agency, and United Eastern Kenya Coffee, had zero withdrawals, underscoring that price negotiations remain key to auction outcomes.

Buyer activity continued to concentrate among a small group of dominant exporters and international traders. Ibero Kenya Ltd led the pack, spending USD 4.33 million, accounting for 32.5% of the total auction value. C. Dormans SEZ Ltd followed with USD 2.74 million (20.6%), while Kenyacof Ltd (12.6%), Louis Dreyfus Company (10.8%), and Taylor Winch Coffee (9.2%) completed the top five buyers.

Together, these companies accounted for nearly 86% of the auction value, rising to 91% when including Sasini (K) Ltd, illustrating the concentrated influence of major players on price discovery.

Premium lots were dominated by Kiambu estates, with three lots sur-

passing USD 450 per bag. Lot 7098 from Muthithi Estates, grade NH (Natural Heavy), fetched USD 458 per bag for 12 bags, purchased by C. Dormans SEZ Ltd. Mandela Estate's Lots 5768 and 5769 (AA grade) traded at USD 450 each, acquired by Taylor Winch Coffee Limited.

Kiambu's consistent premium performance is attributed to better agronomic management, irrigation access, and processing standards, translating into superior cup quality and traceability.

Market watchers note that withdrawn lots often reappear in future sales after negotiations, demonstrating that in Kenya's coffee auction system, patience and dialogue between buyers and sellers remain critical to achieving fair value.

The sale underscores the resilience of Kenya's specialty coffee market and the continued global demand for high-quality estate beans.

KIAMBU TOPS PREMIUM PRICES

All three highest-priced coffee lots in Sale 18 at the Nairobi Coffee Exchange were from Kiambu County.

LOT 7098
MUTHITHI ESTATE
AA
\$458 PER 50KG BAG
C. Dormans SEZ Ltd

LOT 5768
MANDELA ESTATE
AA
\$450 PER 50KG BAG
Taylor Winch Limited

LOT 5769
MANDELA ESTATE
AA
\$450 PER 50KG BAG
Taylor Winch Limited

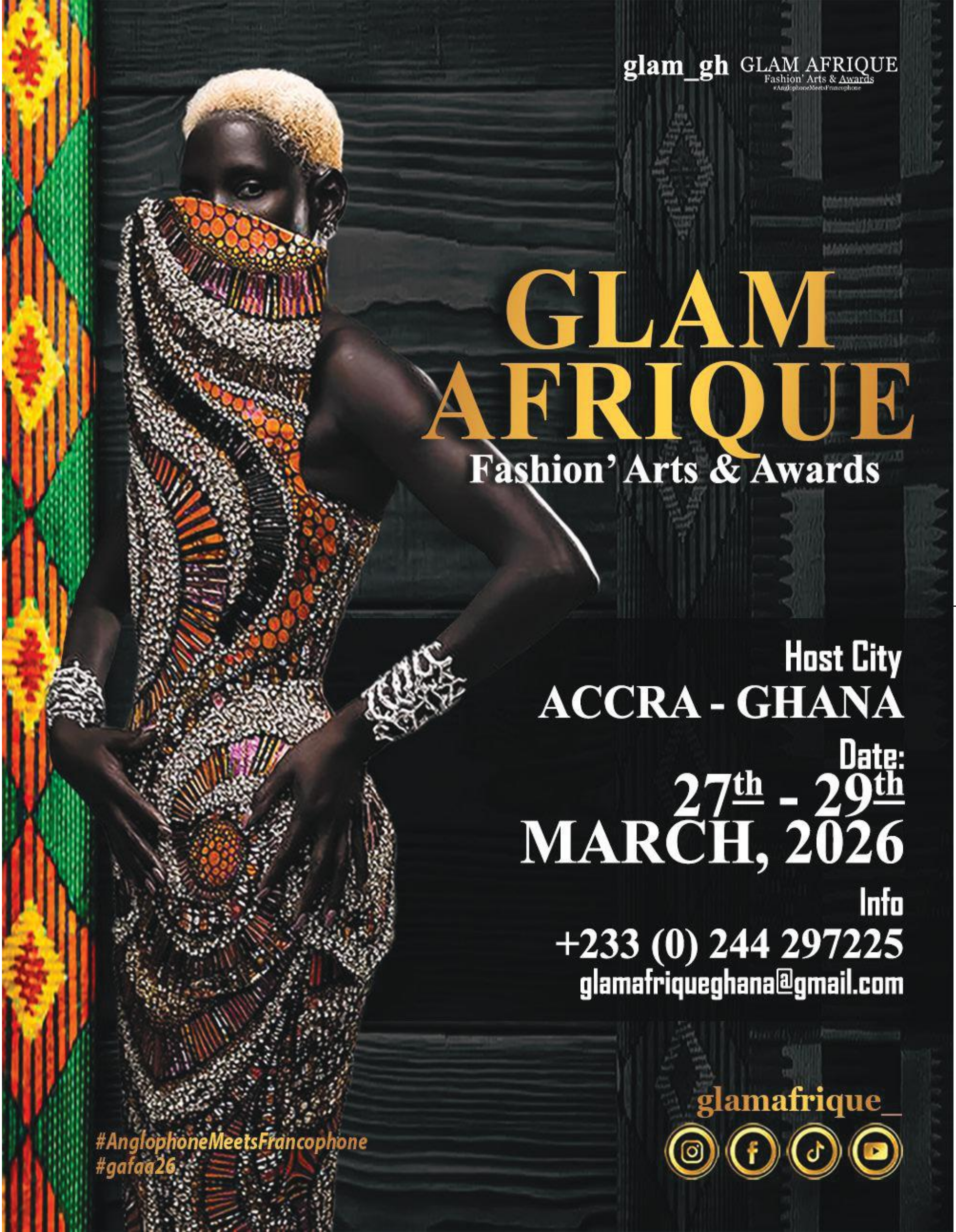
WHY THE PREMIUM PRICING?

Kiambu estates achieve top prices thanks to:

- Better agronomic management
- Irrigation access
- Consistent processing standards
- Superior cup quality
- Valued traceability

HK Henry Kinyua
Value Chain Expert & Coffee Enthusiast

HK Henry Kinyua
Value Chain Expert & Coffee Enthusiast



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Why Workers Must Adapt To The AI Revolution Or Risk Being Left Behind

By: Purity Warui
@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

- Across organizations worldwide, a noticeable shift is underway. Companies are introducing software tools that now handle tasks once performed manually. Roles are being restructured, and new job titles are emerging that did not exist just a few years ago. AI is no longer a distant prospect; it is already embedded in daily operations and reshaping the workplace in real time.
- While headlines often focus on disruption, the broader picture is more nuanced. Certain roles built around repetitive and routine tasks—such as data entry, basic quality control, and segments of customer service—are increasingly being automated. The World Economic Forum projects that by 2025, AI will displace around 75 million jobs globally. For many workers in manufacturing, logistics, and administrative fields, this represents a tangible and immediate shift.



From hospital wards to factory floors, from banks to retail stores, Artificial Intelligence is quietly rewriting the rules of work—transforming how tasks are performed, how decisions are made, and how value is created across industries. Millions of positions are changing, yet experts say the future may not be as bleak as it first appears.

Across organizations worldwide, a noticeable shift is underway. Companies are introducing software tools that now handle tasks once performed manually. Roles are being restructured, and new job titles are emerging that did not exist just a few years ago. AI is no longer a distant prospect; it is already embedded in daily operations and reshaping the workplace in real time.

While headlines often focus on disruption, the broader picture is more nuanced. Certain roles built around repetitive and routine tasks—such as data entry, basic quality control, and segments of customer service—are increasingly being automated. The World Economic Forum projects that by 2025, AI will displace around 75 million jobs globally. For many workers in manufacturing, logistics, and administrative fields, this represents a tangible and immediate shift.

However, the same report also indicates that AI could create 133 million new roles within the same timeframe, resulting in a net global gain of 58 million jobs. Similarly, McKinsey & Company forecasts that AI may generate between 20 and 50 million new jobs by 2030. The challenge lies in ensuring that workers affected by displacement are equipped to transition into these emerging opportunities.

Research from Deloitte highlights another critical dimension. In its 2025 Global Human Capital Trends report, which surveyed nearly 10,000 business and HR leaders across 93 countries, only 6% of workers believe their organizations are making significant progress in creating meaningful value from AI for employees. Technology is being deployed rapidly, but many employees feel uncertain about how it benefits their growth and career development.

The report also points to a growing “experience crisis.” As AI automates entry-level tasks, traditional entry points that once allowed employees to build foundational skills are shrinking. Two-thirds of hiring managers and executives report that entry-level hires are underprepared, largely due to limited hands-on experience. This trend presents a long-term workforce

development challenge that organizations must address deliberately.

At the same time, industries such as healthcare, finance, and advanced manufacturing are poised for growth. In hospitals, AI supports clinicians by analyzing scans, identifying potential diagnoses, and personalizing treatment plans—enhancing rather than replacing human expertise. In manufacturing, automation has increased demand for professionals who can program, maintain, and supervise advanced systems. Roles such as machine learning specialist, AI trainer, and data visualization analyst have moved from niche positions to some of the fastest-growing careers in today’s economy.

Importantly, success in an AI-driven environment depends on more than technical proficiency. Over 70% of managers and workers surveyed indicate they are more likely to join and remain with organizations that provide environments designed to help them thrive alongside AI. Employees are not simply seeking new tools; they are looking for support, trust, and clear investment in their development.

The broader societal implications are equally significant. Concerns about algorithmic bias, data privacy, and

ethical deployment remain valid and require proactive governance. Within organizations, managerial strain is also evident. Deloitte’s findings show that managers spend nearly 40% of their time on administrative tasks, leaving limited capacity for mentoring and people development. Thoughtful integration of AI could alleviate these burdens, enabling leaders to focus on supporting and growing their teams.

AI is neither a villain nor a savior. It is a powerful tool whose impact will depend largely on how it is implemented and governed. More than half of business leaders now view deeper collaboration between humans and machines as critically important. Organizations that approach AI as a partnership with their workforce, rather than a replacement strategy, are more likely to succeed.

The future of work is being shaped in real time. The central question is not whether AI will play a role in the economy, but whether institutions, leaders, and workers are prepared to navigate this transformation with foresight, adaptability, and a shared commitment to inclusive progress.

Purity Warui is a HR Specialist, AI Talent Strategist, and Author



Fear Of Dropout As Schools Demand Full School Fees After Mid-Term Break

The mid-term break is turning into a breaking point for many families. As schools demand full fees before learners are re-admitted, the fear of dropout is spreading across households already stretched thin by economic strain. Parents face the agonizing choice between debt and education, while children risk being locked out of classrooms.

Kenya's economic instability lies at the heart of the problem. Families relying on informal jobs, small businesses, or seasonal work rarely earn steady incomes. When schools insist on lump-sum payments, parents with irregular earnings are cornered. Many borrow at punishing interest rates, sinking deeper into debt while their children's education hangs in the balance.

Schools, too, are under pressure. Rising costs—salaries, utilities, learning materials—push administrators to enforce strict fee policies. Yet this survival strategy widens inequality: children from stable households continue



uninterrupted, while those from disadvantaged backgrounds face repeated exclusion.

The consequences are stark. Students sent home fall behind academically, some never return. Others suffer humiliation and anxiety, eroding self-esteem and motivation. Out-of-school youth are more vulnerable to child labor, early marriage, and delinquency. What begins as a financial hurdle quickly becomes a social crisis.

Solutions exist. Flexible installment plans, government subsi-

dies, scholarships, and community partnerships could ease the burden. Financial literacy and savings schemes would help families plan better. Above all, schools must balance sustainability with inclusivity.

Education should not be a privilege reserved for those who can pay in full at once. If policies remain rigid, dropout will cease to be a fear—it will become a fact.

By: Collins Kibet, Koitalel University

Building Kenya's Future: Affordable Housing Transforms Cities And Careers

Kenya's Affordable Housing Programme is no longer just about bricks and mortar—it is about building lives and futures. What began as a bold plan to bridge the housing deficit has evolved into a national engine of opportunity, reshaping cities while giving thousands of young professionals a chance to prove their worth.

Rapid urbanization has left Kenya short of more than 200,000 housing units annually. Early phases of the programme struggled with limited technical capacity. But the integration of graduate interns—engineers, architects, planners, ICT specialists, and communicators—has injected fresh energy into delivery. Deployed to sites across the country, these interns are not filing papers; they are inspecting projects, optimizing designs, digitizing systems, and engaging communities. Their presence has strengthened accountability, improved efficiency, and broadened the programme's social



footprint.

For many graduates, this initiative is a lifeline. Youth unemployment remains stubbornly high, and the internship programme offers structured, paid experience that bridges the gap between education and practice. It is cultivating a pipeline of future leaders in housing and infrastructure, while simultaneously accelerating project management and oversight.

The government's target of 500,000 housing units by

2026 is ambitious, but the programme's impact is already visible. Beyond homes, it is creating careers, instilling confidence, and embedding youth into the heart of national development.

Kenya's housing revolution is proving a simple truth: when you build cities with people at the center, you don't just construct homes—you construct hope.

By: David Nyaga

Rice Farmers Question E-Citizen Payments

By: MKT Correspondent

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

Rice farmers under the Mwea Irrigation Scheme have raised concerns over the payment of water levies through the government's eCitizen platform, claiming that the funds collected are not being reinvested to improve services within the scheme.

The farmers, who are required to pay Sh5,000 annually for operations and maintenance, argue that the levies have not translated into tangible improvements, particularly in the maintenance of on-farm access roads. According to them, most of the roads within the expansive Mwea Irrigation Scheme remain in a deplorable condition, making transportation of produce both difficult and costly.

They noted that despite consistently meeting their financial obligations, they continue to struggle with impassable roads, especially during the

rainy season. As a result, farmers are forced to incur additional expenses to transport their harvest from the farms to their homes and markets.

Led by Mr. John Karuigi, the farmers said they are compelled to pay transporters up to Sh300 per bag of rice due to the poor road network within the scheme. They argued that this significantly eats into their profits, further straining their livelihoods at a time when input costs are already high.

The farmers acknowledged that the only visible improvement within the scheme has been the regular clearing and desilting of water canals to facilitate smooth water flow to rice paddies. However, they insisted that broader infrastructure development, particularly road maintenance, should also be prioritized using the levies collected.

Speaking during the water users' elections to elect new leadership, the farmers also decried the shortage of irrigation water during the ongoing drought. They said that despite the



operationalisation of the Thiba Dam, water supply remains insufficient due to the expansion of rice acreage within the scheme.

The farmers expressed concern that increased cultivation without a corresponding expansion of water infrastructure has strained the available

resources, leaving some sections of the scheme without adequate irrigation.

They are now calling on the government to fast-track the construction of the planned Nyamindi Dam to enhance water storage capacity and guarantee consistent supply during

dry spells. According to the farmers, completion of the dam would cushion them against recurring droughts and secure rice production in the region.

South Korea's Ex-President Yoon Sentenced To Life In Prison On Insurrection

By: Xinhua News Agency

@themkenyatimes

South Korea's former President Yoon Suk-yeol was sentenced to life in prison on charges of insurrection stemming from his declaration of emergency martial law, live footage showed yesterday.

The Seoul Central District Court delivered its ruling, which was broadcast live to the public, saying the crux of Yoon's martial law case was the fact that troops were deployed to the National Assembly.

The court explained that the martial law declaration constitutes insurrection if it infringes upon the authority of the National Assembly, noting that Yoon attempted to prevent the parliament from functioning properly for a significant period.

It recognized that the impeached leader committed insurrectionary

acts with the intent to subvert the constitutional order, finding him guilty of ringleading the insurrection.

By law, the insurrection ringleader can only be sentenced to capital punishment or life imprisonment if found guilty.

The team of Cho Eun-suk, independent counsel in charge of Yoon's insurrection and other relevant crimes, requested a death sentence for Yoon on charges of orchestrating the insurrection by declaring an unconstitutional emergency martial law despite the absence of war, incident or equivalent national emergencies. Yoon was also charged with mobilizing martial law troops and police to obstruct the National Assembly's resolution to lift the martial law and attempting to detain key political figures such as the leaders of the main political parties and the parliamentary speaker.

Yoon became the country's third

former president to stand trial on insurrection charges, following former Presidents Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo, who were convicted for military coup and brutal crackdown under martial law.

The Seoul court merged three trials in December last year for eight suspects, including Yoon and seven other senior military and police officials, charged with performing critical duties in the insurrection.

The court handed former Defense Minister Kim Yong-hyun a 30-year prison sentence, convicting him of performing a significant role in the insurrection. The special counsel team sought life imprisonment for Kim, whom it called a mastermind who planned and led the insurrection alongside Yoon by mobilizing the military. Former Defense Intelligence Commander Noh Sang-won and former National Police Agency Commissioner Cho Ji-ho received prison terms of 18 and 12 years, re-



This file photo taken on Feb. 20, 2025 shows Yoon Suk-yeol (C) attending a hearing of his impeachment trial at the constitutional court in Seoul, South Korea (Xinhua/Yao Qilin).

spectively, for their key roles in the insurrection. The emergency martial law was declared by Yoon on the night of Dec. 3 in 2024, but it was revoked hours later by the National Assembly. The constitutional court

upheld a motion to impeach Yoon in April of 2025, officially removing him from office. Yoon was indicted under detention in January of 2025 as a suspected ringleader of insurrection.

Group Of Friends Of Global Governance Calls For Safeguarding UN Charter, International Rule Of Law

By: Xinhua News Agency

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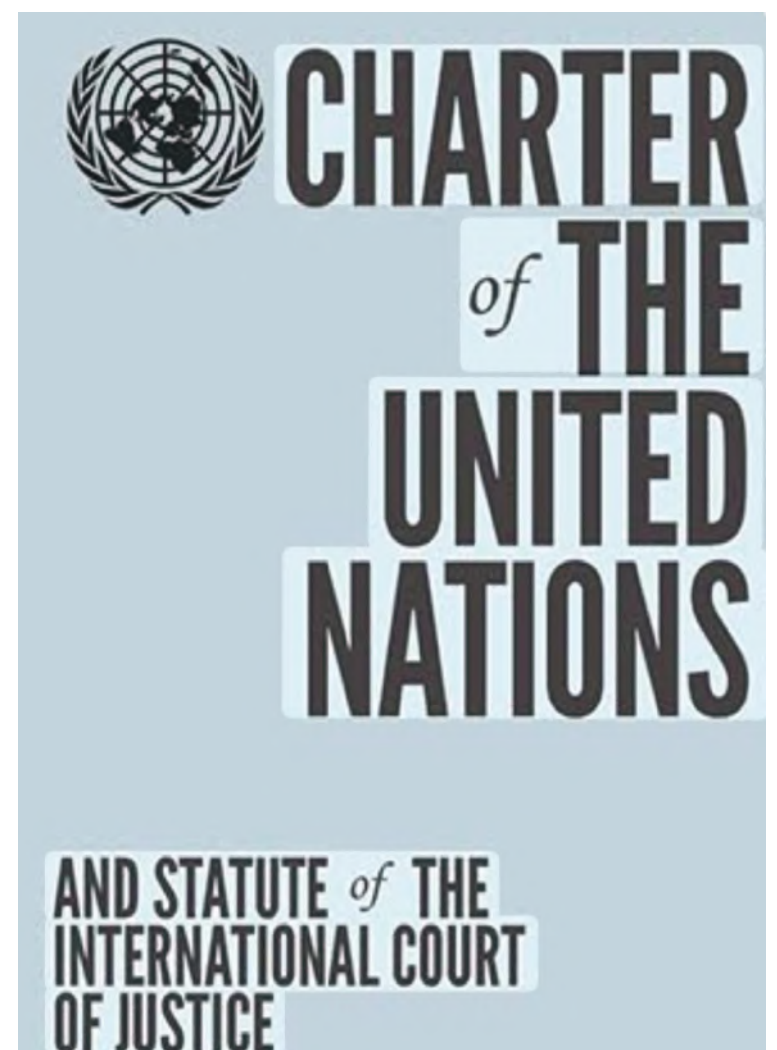
At a time when the world is filled with uncertainty and instability, coupled with mistrust and rising polarization, the international community must safeguard the UN Charter and uphold the international rule of law, the Group of Friends of Global Governance said on Wednesday.

At the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, the group said in a joint statement that faced with major choices between peace and conflict, progress and regression, order and chaos, the world once again stands at a new crossroads. Against this backdrop, the full implementation of the mandate of the special committee -- to strengthen the role of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security, the development of cooperation and the promotion of the norms of international law -- "is more urgent than ever," said the statement, delivered by China on behalf of the 49

members of the Group of Friends of Global Governance. "The Charter is the fundamental guideline for conducting international relations and the cornerstone of the international order. The basic norms of international law, including sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs, and the prohibition of the use of force, as enshrined in the Charter, must be respected and implemented," the group said. "All States, regardless of size, strength or wealth, are equal. Mutual respect and peaceful coexistence should prevail," it said, calling upon all parties to uphold the international order underpinned by international law, ensure an equal and consistent application of international norms, and reject double standards and selective application.

The group called for practicing genuine multilateralism and taking an action-oriented approach, emphasizing that multilateralism remains the core concept of the existing international system and order, and the United Nations serves as the central platform for global governance. It also called for upholding the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with Chapter-VI of

the UN Charter and opposing unilateral sanctions. Article 33 of the Charter sets out multiple means of dispute settlement, and the right to freely choose means of dispute settlement should be respected, the group pointed out. "Any attempt to impose one's will upon others by coercion, threat or use of force in international relations must be rejected," the group said. In the statement, the group noted the establishment of the International Organization for Mediation in October 2025 in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, which provides additional options for the peaceful settlement of international disputes, and the adoption of the Security Council's Resolution 2788 on the peaceful settlement of disputes. "The Group of Friends of Global Governance stands ready to work with all parties to jointly safeguard the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, support the central role and preserve the intergovernmental character of the United Nations, and promote a more just, inclusive and equitable global governance system," the statement said.



CS Migos Ogamba Urges Universities To Embrace Data-Driven Research For National Growth

By: Elizabeth Angira

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Education Cabinet Secretary Migos Ogamba has challenged universities to reawaken to their core mandate of research and innovation, urging institutions to embrace data-driven studies to strengthen policymaking and national development.

Speaking at Kisii University during the official launch of the Harnessing of Education Research for Impact initiative (HERI), Ogamba said that although Kenya has made notable progress in scaling up research, more investment and coordination are needed to improve the country's research output.

He emphasized that Africa must intentionally invest in research if it is to meaningfully participate in global knowledge production.

"Research is a very important and critical aspect of our education system," Ogamba said. "As a government, we want to ensure that the decisions we make in terms of policy are underpinned by data and evidence arising from research undertaken by our institutions."

The new initiative brings together a consortium of partners and institutions that have mobilized resources to advance education research across key disciplines. The programme will initially establish three research chairs, with plans to expand to five in the coming years.

Under the arrangement, Kisii University will host the Chair in Language Studies; Mount Kenya University will oversee the Chair in Mathematics, while Kenyatta University will lead research in Community and Social Services.

An initial Sh60 million has been allocated to the programme to support its rollout.

Ogamba noted that research output from African scholars currently accounts for only three per cent of global research production a figure he described as too low for a continent with vast intellectual potential.

"Our ambition is to raise that to 30 per cent in the next 20 to 25 years, up to 2050," he said.

To strengthen coordination, the CS pointed to the establishment of an independent research department domiciled at the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary. The department will serve as a central repository for research conducted across the country, helping institutions collaborate more effectively and avoid duplica-

tion.

"This department will harness all research in the country so that we have a one-stop shop and a depository of all research being undertaken. That way, we can collaborate better and fully benefit from the knowledge generated," Ogamba explained.

In a major boost to the sector, the government has increased funding for research and development from 0.8 per cent of GDP to two per cent a move the CS described as a clear indication of the priority attached to research.

"Without research, we cannot progress beyond the knowledge we currently have. This increase demonstrates how seriously the government is taking the sector," he said.

Beyond government funding, partners have already committed more than Sh100 million to the initiative. Projections indicate that the investment could grow to \$100 million by 2050.

Ogamba reiterated that evidence-based decision-making is central to ongoing education reforms. He cited the recent transition from Grade 9 to Grade 10 under the Competency-Based Curriculum as an example of how data informs policy adjustments.

Referring to the recent Grade 10 selection process, the CS observed that some schools were not chosen by students and may therefore not have learners.

"In the recent selection process, some schools were not chosen by students, meaning they may not have learners. We must make decisions based on such data on what to do with those schools," he said. "Every decision we make must be aligned with research findings and the realities on the ground."

He added that aligning research output with government policies and the national development agenda would enhance efficiency and ensure that resources are directed where they are most needed.

"This is about making our systems more effective and efficient. If we put resources where they are required, guided by research and evidence, we will achieve far greater impact," Ogamba said.

Kisii University Vice Chancellor Prof Nathan Ogechi noted that universities play a critical role in generating knowledge, developing solutions to societal challenges and shaping policy through evidence-based research. Revitalising research culture within universities, he said, will not only strengthen academic excellence but



Education Cabinet Secretary Migos Ogamba speaking at Kisii University during the official launch of the Harnessing of Education Research for Impact initiative (HERI) has urged universities to embrace data-driven research for national growth

also contribute to economic growth and social transformation.

The Heri Collaborative Research Initiative, also launched at the institution, seeks to foster partnerships among researchers, institutions and industry players. The programme aims to enhance innovation, promote interdisciplinary collaboration and

address pressing local and national challenges through joint research efforts.

University Chancellor Dr Sara Ruto urged stakeholders to work collectively to build a vibrant research ecosystem, stressing that the country's future depends on knowledge-driven solutions developed within its uni-

versities.

Professors, researchers, students and invited guests who attended the launch welcomed the government's renewed commitment to supporting research and innovation in higher education.



Sports >> *Over the past five years, the Kenya Vision 2030 Delivery Secretariat has driven a quiet but far reaching transformation in Kenyan professional golf, turning what was once an uncertain, event driven pursuit into a structured and sustainable career pathway for local players.

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



How Vision 2030 Turned Kenyan Golf Into A Sustainable Professional Career

By **John Kariuki**

Over the past five years, the Kenya Vision 2030 Delivery Secretariat has driven a quiet but far reaching transformation in Kenyan professional golf, turning what was once an uncertain, event driven pursuit into a structured and sustainable career pathway for local players.

Guided by Director General Kenneth Mwige, the Secretariat has demonstrated how strategic public sector intervention can unlock private investment, professionalise sport and align athletic excellence with national development goals.

At the heart of this shift lies Kenya Vision 2030, the country's long term development agenda anchored on economic, social and political transformation. While Vision 2030 is often associated with large scale infrastructure and industrial growth, its Social Pillar recognises sport as a powerful engine for youth empowerment, job creation, tourism promotion and national branding.

For years, Kenya's sporting success has been synonymous with athletics and rugby. Golf, despite its global television reach and strong corporate alignment, remained under developed and under funded. Professional golfers relied heavily on short term event sponsorships, shirt branding and player auctions to finance participation in major tournaments. Income was unpredictable, and access to professional coaching, sports medicine and performance analytics was limited.

The turning point came in 2021 during the Magical Kenya Open, when the Vision 2030 Delivery Secretariat sponsored 15 professional golfers, including 12 Kenyans and three regional players. Support covered branded apparel, logistics and participation fa-

cilitation. Though modest at the time, the intervention achieved two crucial outcomes. It increased Kenyan representation on a globally televised platform and signaled to corporate Kenya that professional golf was investment ready.

In 2022, the programme expanded to 16 players across professional, amateur, junior and regional categories, strengthening the development pipeline. A defining milestone was the KES 1 million sponsorship awarded to Njoroge Kibugu following his impressive performance at the Magical Kenya Open. The gesture marked a shift from symbolic branding to performance driven investment and reinforced a culture where merit is rewarded.

Between 2023 and 2025, the model matured significantly. Sponsorship shifted from single tournament facilitation to season long structured backing. Players gained access to professional coaching, travel facilitation, structured competition calendars and enhanced corporate engagement. Leading professionals including Dismus Indiza, David Wahu, Simon Njogu and Daniel Nduva benefited from this broadened framework.

The most historic breakthrough came when Njoroge Kibugu earned full playing rights on the Sunshine Tour, becoming the first Kenyan to secure such status. His qualification signaled Kenya's growing competitiveness on the continental circuit and validated the impact of sustained institutional support.

Perhaps the most significant transformation has been financial stability. Where golfers once depended on one off event sponsorships and fundraising auctions, they can now secure season long corporate partnerships that allow them to invest in coaching, swing analysis technology, phys-



Vision 2030 Director General Kenneth Mwige in action during the pro-am at the 2026 Magical Kenya Open at the Karen Country Club

iotherapy, sports medicine and structured annual planning.

The shift from survival to sustainability has elevated professional golf into a viable career path rather than a passion sustained by uncertainty.

Corporate Kenya has since embraced the momentum. Absa Bank Kenya strengthened its role as title sponsor of the Magical Kenya Open. Safaricom, through M PESA, backed the Magical Kenya Ladies Open and deepened digital engagement. Kenya Breweries Limited associated premium global brands such as Johnnie Walker with the tournament. Betika introduced direct player level sponsorships, while NCBA Bank partnered in player auctions and performance incentives.

What began as targeted government support has evolved into a layered public private partnership ecosystem that can serve as a blueprint for other disciplines including athletics, rugby, crick-

et and emerging sports.

There remains opportunity to deepen this progress by aligning sports sponsorship with tourism promotion through collaboration with the Kenya Tourism Board, positioning golfers as ambassadors of destination branding and strengthening foreign exchange earnings.

In just five years, the Kenya Vision 2030 Delivery Secretariat has reshaped the professional golf landscape in Kenya. The journey from shirt auctions to structured season sponsorships reflects institutional vision, strategic intervention and partnership driven growth.

Kenyan golfers are now building careers, accessing professional support systems and competing internationally with confidence. That evolution captures the true spirit of Vision 2030, transforming talent into sustainable national impact.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *From the snow-covered Alpine venues to the vibrant streets of Milan, the Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics have not only showcased elite athletic performance but also highlighted the growing presence

How Chinese Elements Shine At Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics

From the snow-covered Alpine venues to the vibrant streets of Milan, the Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics have not only showcased elite athletic performance but also highlighted the growing presence and influence of Chinese elements across sport, technology and culture.

China has sent a 286-member delegation to the Games, its largest ever for a Winter Olympics held abroad. The size of the team reflects both expanding winter sports ambitions and the confidence gained since hosting the Beijing 2022 Winter Games. On the field of play, Chinese athletes have delivered notable performances. Snowboarder Su Yiming secured bronze in the men's big air, completing his full set of Olympic medals. Freeski star Gu Ailing claimed silver in both the women's slopestyle and big air events, while speed skater Ning Zhongyan captured China's first-ever Olympic medal in the men's 1,000 meters.

Yet China's imprint at Milan-Cortina extends far beyond competition results. Technology, in particular, has become a defining feature of its presence. A visit to the official Games website reveals Olympic AI, described as the first official large language model deployed at an Olympics. Built on Qwen, a foundation model developed by Chinese technology company Alibaba, the system supports smart operations and deeper engagement.

The AI tool assists athletes and officials navigating complex procedures around accreditation, accommodation and logistics. With multilingual capabilities spanning 119 languages, it enables users to ask questions in their native tongues and receive immediate responses, easing preparation and daily operations.

Inside the Olympic Village, Alibaba Cloud has introduced an AI-powered pin-trading station that modernizes one of the Games' most cherished traditions. Athletes place their pins into capsules released into a ball pool, then use gesture or voice commands to guide a robotic arm in retrieving another pin. The interactive experience blends artificial intelligence with the excitement of chance, turning a simple exchange into a social and technological spectacle.

Chinese innovation has also reshaped the viewing experience. Snow sports, often difficult to broadcast due to speed and white



Gu Ailing (L) talks with International Olympic Committee (IOC) Honorary President for Life Thomas Bach after the freestyle skiing women's freeski big air final at the Milan-Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games in Livigno, Italy, Feb. 16, 2026. (Xinhua/Zhang Hongxiang).

terrain, have benefited from a "bullet-time" freeze-frame system developed by Chinese engineers. The technology allows footage to pause midair, rotate around athletes and replay sequences from multiple angles. Deployed across 10 venues and covering more than two-thirds of competitions, including alpine skiing, ski jumping and ice hockey, the system enhances clarity and storytelling for global audiences.

Commercially, Chinese brands are highly visible. In Milan's Piazza del Duomo, global Olympic partner TCL illuminated an Olympics-themed tree repurposed from northern Italy and created a winter park featuring ice houses representing five continents. Visitors explored displays of advanced LED televisions inspired by classical opera houses. TCL also supplied smart infrastructure throughout venues and the Olympic Village, including screens, sound systems and AR and VR devices.

Beyond official venues, "Made in China" products — from mascot tags and apparel to electric vehicles and smartphones — underscore the depth of economic ties between China and Italy.

Culture has complemented technology in shaping China's Olympic presence. At the Olympic Village, athletes have tried writing the Chinese character "Fu,"

symbolizing good fortune, while others rang bells to celebrate Chinese New Year. China House has emerged as a central hub for cultural exchange, drawing international visitors since opening on February 4.

Exhibitions there feature traditional Chinese arts such as paper cutting, knot-tying, sugar figurine crafting, calligraphy and seal carving, presented alongside Italian design elements. A sports culture exhibition showcases more than 60 artifacts from the Chinese Sports Museum, tracing China's long relationship with ice and snow as both competition and leisure. Traditional sports including martial arts, dragon boat racing and equestrianism are highlighted, with 2026 marking the Year of the Horse in the lunar calendar.

Fashion has also become a platform for cultural expression. Several national delegations wore down jackets by Chinese brands Anta, Li-Ning and Peak during the opening ceremony. Chinese-designed competition and podium outfits incorporating modern interpretations of traditional aesthetics attracted global attention.

Gu Ailing brought cultural symbolism directly to the slopes, competing in a self-designed outfit inspired by blue-and-white Chinese porcelain and embroidered with a golden dragon. She described the design as a tangible representa-

tion of Chinese identity, with the dragon symbolizing strength and courage.

Traditional Chinese practices have also entered athlete recovery routines. Swiss freestyle skier Mathilde Gremaud, who defended her Olympic slopestyle title, joined other elite athletes experimenting with cupping therapy, citing its benefits for muscle tension relief. Chinese classical music has echoed in figure skating programs, with pieces such as "Butterfly Lovers" selected by overseas competitors.

Cultural exchange reached a high point during the opening ceremony, when Chinese pianist Lang Lang performed alongside Italian mezzo-soprano Cecilia Bartoli as the Olympic flame awaited ignition. The collaboration symbolized the broader spirit of East-West connection, particularly during the Chinese New Year period.

Together, these sporting achievements, technological innovations and cultural expressions illustrate how Chinese elements have become woven into the fabric of the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics, shaping not only competition but also the broader Olympic experience.

SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Christina Joann “Turning Loss Into Leadership And Purpose



By: Anila Bukhari
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

At the center of Christina's journey is a deeply personal mission shaped by love and loss. After losing her sister to cystic fibrosis, she transformed her grief into a lifelong commitment to advocacy. Determined to honor her sister's memory, Christina became actively involved in fundraising, volunteer work, and awareness efforts with the . Through her work, she seeks to bring education, visibility, and hope to families navigating the challenges of this disease. She firmly believes that no family should feel isolated in their struggle, and she uses her platform to foster connection, compassion, and support.

Christina's advocacy is not limited to awareness campaigns; it is rooted in action. She organizes and participates in community events, collaborates with supporters, and speaks openly about the importance of research and early intervention.

Christina Joann is a compassionate leader, advocate, and pageant titleholder whose life is defined by purpose-driven service and heartfelt dedication to her community. As Ms. Oregon United Crown of America 2026 within the system, she represents the state of with integrity, grace, and a powerful commitment to making a meaningful impact. For Christina, wearing the crown is not simply a symbol of achievement; it is a responsibility to lead with authenticity and to uplift those around her.

At the center of Christina's journey is a deeply personal mission shaped by love and loss. After losing her sister to cystic fibrosis, she transformed her grief into a lifelong commitment to advocacy. Determined to honor her sister's memory, Christina became actively involved in fundraising, volunteer work, and awareness efforts with the . Through her work, she seeks to bring education, visibility, and hope to families navigating the challenges of this disease. She firmly believes that no family should feel isolated in their struggle, and she uses her platform to foster connection, compassion, and support.

Christina's advocacy is not limited to awareness campaigns; it is rooted in action. She organizes and participates in community events, collaborates with supporters, and speaks openly about the importance of research and early intervention. Her voice carries both empathy and determination, inspiring others to contribute to the fight against cystic fibrosis. By sharing her story, she creates spaces where families feel seen and understood, turning personal tragedy into a source of collective strength.

In addition to her advocacy work, Christina is the Founder and Director of the Oregon Rose Pageant, an organization designed to celebrate confidence, service, and sisterhood. Through this platform, she provides opportunities for women and girls of all ages to discover their inner strength and express their individuality. The Oregon Rose Pageant emphasizes personal growth, community involvement, and mutual encouragement, reflecting Christina's belief that pageantry can be a powerful vehicle for leadership and philanthropy.

Under her leadership, the pageant has become a supportive environment where participants are encouraged to pursue their goals and embrace authenticity. Christina mentors delegates with patience and care, helping them develop communication skills, self-confidence, and a strong sense of civic responsibility. She views pageantry as a means of building a lasting legacy—one that extends beyond the stage and into the communities her participants serve.

Academically, Christina is pursuing studies in Human Resources and organizational strategy, fields that align closely with her passion for leadership development. She is deeply interested in empowering individuals to reach their full poten-



tial and creating environments where collaboration and respect thrive. Her educational pursuits enhance her ability to mentor others and manage organizations effectively, blending practical knowledge with her natural empathy.

Whether volunteering in her community, guiding pageant participants, or fulfilling her duties as a titleholder, Christina consistently leads with compassion and grace. She approaches every responsibility with a strong sense of accountability and a desire to create positive change. Her leadership style is characterized by active listening, encouragement, and a genuine commitment to the well-being of others.

As Ms. Oregon United Crown of America 2026, Christina's mission is clear and focused. She

strives to uplift individuals, advocate with intention, and leave every environment better than she found it. Her work reflects a belief that leadership is measured not by titles or recognition, but by the ability to inspire hope and action in others.

Christina Joann's story is one of resilience, empathy, and vision. Through advocacy, mentorship, and education, she continues to transform personal experience into a force for good. Her dedication to service demonstrates that even in the face of loss, it is possible to build a future defined by purpose and compassion. As she advances in her journey, Christina remains committed to empowering others, strengthening her community, and honoring her sister's memory through meaningful and lasting impact.