

**Igniting Minds: The Urgent Imperative To Champion Literary Reading In Kenya**

There is a peculiar kind of poverty that does not announce itself with hunger pangs or tattered garments it announces itself with the hollow stare of a person who has never once lost themselves in a book, never wrestled with an idea that did not originate on a smartphone screen, and never felt the quiet electricity of a sentence that rearranges the furniture of one's entire worldview. Page 18

**THANK YOU FOR ADVERTISING WITH US**

For any news you would wish us to publish,

email us: [news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke](mailto:news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke)

**For Adverts & Sponsorship**

email us: [ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke](mailto:ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke)

Creative Rewards

# The MT. KENYA TIMES

Daily ePAPER

Monday, February 23, 2026

No. 01497 [www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke](http://www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke)

[f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [thentkenyatimes](#)



**News >> Jamii Imara Mashinani Caucus Takes Government Services To The People Across The Country**

P. 8. The recently transformed Jamii Imara Mashinani forum, previously known as the Mt. Kenya and its Diaspora caucus, has expanded into a national forum bringing together Cabinet Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, agency directors, CEOs, and other senior officials.



**News >> Agnes Kagure Decries Nairobi Water Crisis, Delivers Relief To Kibra Residents**

P. 12. Kenya Patriots Party leader and Nairobi gubernatorial aspirant Agnes Kagure has decried the worsening water crisis in the capital, saying thousands of residents continue to suffer due to unreliable supply and poor service delivery.

# Opposition Decries Church, Rally Disruptions

**Principals of the United Opposition have intensified criticism of what they describe as the growing use of goons to disrupt places of worship and political rallies, insisting that constitutional freedoms of worship and assembly must be respected and protected. Speaking during a church service at PCEA Utawala Parish in Embakasi East Constituency, Nairobi County, opposition leaders said the country was witnessing a worrying trend where fundamental rights were under threat.**



*Kalonzo Musyoka ushering in Rigathi Gachagua to address the faithful at Utawala PCEA church yesterday.*

**STORY ON PAGE 9**

## NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"



"ALL BUSINESSES ONE PLATFORM"

**Contact Us:**

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438

+254 706 237 040 / +254 724 613 401

[business@exponentialinternational.com](mailto:business@exponentialinternational.com)

SCAN TO REGISTER

# Njoroge Kibugu Shines At Magical Kenya Open, Receives Presidential Reward

By: WMW  
 @themtkenyatimes

## Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

The 2026 Magical Kenya Open, held at the prestigious Karen Country Club in Nairobi, concluded with an unforgettable finish as South Africa's Casey Jarvis claimed the coveted championship, joining the ranks of past winners.

The tournament showcased world-class talent and highlighted Kenya as a premier destination for international golf and tourism.

A historic moment for Kenyan golf came when Njoroge Kibugu became the only Kenyan to reach the weekend rounds against a highly competitive international field.

In recognition of his outstanding performance, President William Ruto awarded Kibugu KSh5 million, complemented by an additional KSh2 million from Absa, signaling strong support for homegrown talent and the growth of golf in Kenya.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, President Ruto emphasized the government's commitment to investing in sports as a key pillar of national development.

"We will continue nurturing talent, creating opportunities for our youth, and strengthening Kenya's standing on the global stage," he said, congratulating all winners and participants for their dedication, discipline, and sportsmanship, which contributed to the resounding success of the tournament.



The Magical Kenya Open continues to elevate Kenya's profile in the international sporting arena while inspiring local athletes to aim higher.

Kibugu's achievement, celebrated by both the golfing community and the President, marks a milestone for Kenyan golf and underscores the importance of sustained investment in nurturing the country's sports talent.

President Ruto was accompanied by among others, Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi.



Editor's Desk

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

**Group Executive Chairman**  
M. Danson

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

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



# NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"



"ALL BUSINESSES  
ONE PLATFORM"



**FREE**  
REGISTRATION



SCAN TO REGISTER

## Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438



+254 706 237 040 / +254 721 274 369

+254 724 613 401 / +254 100 423 971

+254 724 613 401



business@exponentialinternational.com



[www.businessavaibale.com](http://www.businessavaibale.com)

## NEWS IN BRIEF



Upgrading works are currently underway at Kiawara Informal Settlement in Rware Ward, Nyeri Municipality, delivering key infrastructure improvements designed to enhance safety, ease of movement, and environmental management for residents. Once complete, the residents will benefit from installation of modern waste collection dumpsters, construction of a 30-metre floodlight to strengthen security, and development of access stairways fitted with street lighting to improve mobility and accessibility within the settlement.



Principal Secretary for Medical Services Dr. Ouma Oluga and ICT Principal Secretary Eng. John Tanui visited the Bondo Digital Hub and Siaya Digital Hub Centre of Excellence in Siaya County to enhance digital service delivery. Dr. Oluga said the hubs allow residents to verify Social Health Authority (SHA) benefit packages, confirm accredited health facilities, and check balances in real time, improving transparency and reducing unauthorized charges. The centres also provide information on payable services, contracted hospitals, and facility readiness, supporting informed healthcare decisions. He urged youth to leverage ICT infrastructure for economic growth. The visit included CEOs from Konza Technopolis, ICT Authority, Eldohub, Siaya Community Digital Hub, and advisory council members.



Residents of Turi Ward in Molo Sub-County, Nakuru County, welcomed the opening of a new police station and the deployment of an Officer Commanding Station (OCS) to enhance local security. Molo Area Commander ACC Geoffrey Chetivia and Elburgon counterpart Maurine Ondigo urged residents to cooperate with officers to combat crime, including drug abuse and illicit brews affecting youth. Molo OCPD Justus Katana highlighted that the new station will improve response times for the sub-county's 400,000 residents. Locals said the closer presence of security will protect children, women, and support business growth. Residents also called on MP Kimani Kuria to ensure adequate infrastructure and resources for effective policing.



Public Service, Human Capital Development and Special Programmes CS Geoffrey Ruku (in white cap) has assured Kenyans that the government has sufficient relief food stocks to prevent loss of life during the ongoing drought. His remarks come as about 3.1 million people in 23 ASAL counties face acute food shortages. Speaking during a relief food distribution exercise at Morokani village in Tana North, Tana River County, Ruku announced plans to roll out porridge flour distribution in schools nationwide to keep learners in class. He warned public officers against diverting relief supplies, saying action would be taken against offenders. In Morokani, where about 10,000 residents are affected, he oversaw distribution of 900 bags of rice and 700 bags of beans.



Busia County has built 97 ECDE classrooms under the Rapid Results Initiative to improve early learning infrastructure. Governor Paul Otuoma commissioned a classroom at Butula Boys Primary, saying the project supports 47,224 learners enrolled in public centres. Despite progress, the county still needs nearly 1,000 classrooms, with only 460 currently available. Otuoma said 67 more classrooms are planned in the 2025/2026 financial year. He emphasized that early childhood investment boosts cognitive development and long-term social and economic outcomes. Deputy County Commissioner Joseph Ng'eny said strong foundations at ECDE level shape children's future success.



Oasis Healthcare Group acting Chief Operations Officer, Joash Mwanzi (right) and Shabana Football Club Secretary General Dr. Elizaphan Kerama speaking to the press after signing a KSh10 million medical partnership agreement that will provide quality, timely and professional healthcare services to the players and technical team. The event took place at Gusii Stadium in Kisii town on Saturday.

### MASS VOTER REGISTRATION

Patriots must register as voters in large numbers and get ready for the big change. Your vote your choice your future



**TO BECOME A PATRIOT,  
SIMPLY DIAL \*386# AND  
JOIN KPP**



# The Africa Largest eCOMMERCERCE



[www.gotyou.co.ke](http://www.gotyou.co.ke)

**NOW  
OPEN**

Call/Text/WhatsApp: +254 714 090 155

# NEWS PAPER



## IN BUSINESS

# The Mount Kenya Times

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

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

# Kenya National Police DT Sacco Celebrates 52 Years Of Financial Excellence

By: MKT Correspondent  
@themtkenyetimes

## Worth Noting:

- The PS praised the Sacco's journey, describing it as defined by solidarity, resilience, trust, service, and financial prudence.
- He highlighted the critical role of Saccos and MSMEs in promoting financial inclusion and economic growth, reaffirming the government's commitment to strengthening regulation through reforms to the Sacco Act, enhanced supervision by SASRA, and governance frameworks aligned with Mwangongo principles.



PS Patrick Kilemi during the meeting. Photos/Courtesy.



Top Sacco officials during the 52nd AGM.

The Kenya National Police DT Sacco marked its 52nd Annual Delegates Meeting, celebrating over five decades of disciplined financial management and service to police officers nationwide. Established in 1972, the Sacco has grown to become one of Kenya's best-managed cooperatives, providing a trusted financial platform for members of the National Police Service.

The event held at Serena Hotel, Nairobi was graced by Cooperatives Principal Secretary Patrick Kilemi who represented the Cabinet Secretary for Co-operatives and MSME Development Wycliffe Oparanya.

The PS praised the Sacco's journey, describing it as defined by solidarity, resilience, trust, service, and financial prudence.

He highlighted the critical role of Saccos and MSMEs in promoting financial inclusion and economic

growth, reaffirming the government's commitment to strengthening regulation through reforms to the Sacco Act, enhanced supervision by SASRA, and governance frameworks aligned with Mwangongo principles.

Kilemi emphasized the importance of compliance, integrity, and accountability in sustaining public confidence. He assured members of continued government support to establish a secure, competitive, and transparent Sacco environment, including deposit guarantee insurance and strengthened ICT systems.

Representing the Inspector General of the National Police Service, NPS Director of Corporate Communications Mr. Muchiri Nyaga commended the Sacco leadership and members for their steadfast commitment to growth.

He lauded the Sacco's recognition as the second best-managed Sacco

in Kenya and its impressive financial performance, noting its role in helping police officers maintain sound financial discipline while navigating the pressures of their demanding profession.

National Chairman Mr. David Mategwa presented the Sacco's financial achievements, revealing an 11.1% growth in total assets, an 8% increase in non-withdrawable deposits, 10.1% rise in loan advances, 8% growth in revenue, and a 12.3% increase in core capital.

These figures underscore the Sacco's prudent management and sustained member confidence.

The meeting also marked the launch of the Sacco's History Profile booklet, Ties That Build a Legacy, celebrating the institution's enduring journey and impact on the financial well-being of police officers.

The National Police Service praised the Sacco's leadership and members for their strong governance, consistent financial performance, and unwavering commitment to economic empowerment of officers.

With a combination of disciplined management, innovative strategies, and member-centered service, the Kenya National Police DT Sacco continues to set a benchmark for cooperative excellence in Kenya, demonstrating how strategic financial institutions can support both public service and personal prosperity.

The

# MT. KENYA TIMES

Where Investors Get Returns

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



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



**ARS**  
REHABILITATION  
MENTAL WELLNESS  
HOSPITAL

**OUR SERVICES**

LABORATORY SERVICES

PHARMACY

DETOXIFICATION

CONSULTATION

COUNSELLING SESSIONS

NURSE AID TRAINING

0750 222337/ 0712 201695

[info@ars.co.ke](mailto:info@ars.co.ke)

[www.ars.co.ke](http://www.ars.co.ke)

Nyeri County, Along Marua-Kiganjo Highway

The Mt Kenya Times



10th

*Anniversary  
Celebration*

# Jamii Imara Mashinani Caucus Takes Government Services To The People Across The Country

By: WMW  
 @themtkenyatimes

The recently transformed Jamii Imara Mashinani forum, previously known as the Mt. Kenya and its Diaspora caucus, has expanded into a national forum bringing together Cabinet Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, agency directors, CEOs, and other senior officials.

The forum's mandate is clear; to popularize the development agenda of President William Ruto and his deputy, Kithure Kindiki, while directly engaging citizens across the country.

Since its formation, last year, the caucus has held Citizen Engagement Forums in nine counties, creating platforms for direct interaction between government representatives and the public.

These forums aim to gather feedback, answer questions, and provide timely assistance, thereby fostering transparency, accountability, and responsive leadership. According to the caucus, each forum attracts approximately 1,000 participants with media coverage ensuring a multiplier effect, reaching millions of residents.

Counties visited, some in more than one engagement include Murang'a, Kirinyaga, Embu, Meru, Nyandarua, Kiambu, Nairobi, Nyamira, and Laikipia.

On Saturday, the team, led by Head of Public Service Felix Koskei was in Nyeri where they were hosted by local officials led by PS Gender Anne Wang'ombe in her Kwanderi village.

The next engagement is scheduled for Isiolo County on Saturday.

During last Saturday event, Principal Secretary for Energy Alex Wachira described the forums as a vital initiative for bringing government services closer to the people. "These engagements provide a platform for residents to directly raise concerns, seek clarifications on public programs, and receive timely assistance. They strengthen collaboration between the government and the people and reaffirm our commitment to people-centered service delivery," he noted as he introduced some members of the caucus.

The forum also included elements of thanksgiving and reflection on leadership where the team took part in a Holy Mass and thanksgiving ceremony at Kwa Nderi Primary School near Nyeri town, honoring Ms Wang'ombe for her leadership in the State Department for Gender. In

his homily, Koskei highlighted that leadership is a vocation anchored in humility, integrity, and service, emphasizing that public office is a sacred trust requiring discipline, accountability, and moral clarity.

The ceremony was attended by senior government officials, including Cabinet Secretary Hannah Wendot Cheptumo, Secretary to the Cabinet Mercy Wanjau, Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja, and other Principal Secretaries; Patrick Kilemi, Betsy Njagi, Mary Muthoni, John Mbugua, Dr. Salome Beacco, Elijah Mwangi, Gitonga Mugambi, Joseph Motari, and Dr. Aurelia Rono.

Also present were elected leaders such as Kilifi Woman Representative Gertrude Mbeyu and Nyeri MP Duncan Mathenge, alongside parastatal directors and other stakeholders.

Ms Muthoni who is the national coordinator of the caucus noted that the thanksgiving ceremonies underscore the strong partnership between national leadership and local communities.

"These events celebrate service and leadership, creating moments of gratitude, reflection, and unity, while highlighting our joint efforts to advance inclusive development," she said.

Through these engagements, she noted, the Jamii Imara Mashinani caucus has demonstrated a commitment to ensuring that government initiatives are not only communicated but also shaped by citizens' needs.

On the other hand, the caucus Convenor and Kenya Biovax Institute director Harrison Wangoro noted that by integrating public feedback into policy implementation and celebrating leadership milestones, the forum reinforces the government's vision of inclusive, participatory governance.

Ms Wang'ombe thanked the team for honouring the invite and assisting the locals through enlightening them on government's programmes and services.



Felix Koskei, Douglas Kanja and Ann Wang'ombe taking their offering during the Mass on Saturday. Photos/Courtesy..



PS Mary Muthoni (left) interacting with Nyeri political activist Sarah Warukemi at Kwanderi Primary School on Saturday.



From left; Felix Koskei, Alex Wachira and Harrison Wangoro in Nyeri on Saturday.

# Opposition Decries Church, Rally Disruptions

## United Opposition Condemns Disruptions At Churches And Rallies, Warns Kenya Is Drifting From Rule of Law

By: MKT Correspondents

@themtkenyatimes

Principals of the United Opposition have intensified criticism of what they describe as the growing use of goons to disrupt places of worship and political rallies, insisting that constitutional freedoms of worship and assembly must be respected and protected.

Speaking during a church service at PCEA Utawala Parish in Embakasi East Constituency, Nairobi County, opposition leaders said the country was witnessing a worrying trend where fundamental rights were under threat.

Led by DCP Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua, the leaders reiterated that every Kenyan has constitutional rights that cannot be infringed upon by the state or its agents.

Gachagua, the former Deputy President, accused the government of failing to arrest individuals responsible for violence and chaos witnessed at opposition gatherings and in places of worship.

He said the continued disruption of public events signalled a breakdown of law and order.

“We cannot have a country where citizens are afraid to assemble or worship freely. These freedoms are enshrined in the Constitution and must be protected,” he said.

DAP-K Party leader Eugene Wamalwa sharply condemned the disruption of opposition rallies, claiming that hired goons had until recently taken control of public events, leading to the deaths of two people.

“This country cannot normalize violence against citizens exercising their democratic rights,” Wamalwa said, adding that the authorities must act decisively against those responsible.

Jubilee Deputy party leader Dr. Fred Matiang’i criticized President William Ruto for what he termed a continued misreading of the national mood and accused the administration of deploying the police to disrupt legitimate political activities.

“The country is heading in the wrong direction,” Matiang’i said, adding, “Leadership requires listening to the people and acting in accordance with their concerns.”

People’s Liberation Party (PEP) leader Martha Karua emphasized the need to restore order and uphold the rule of law, warning that impunity and disregard for constitutional

principles would erode public trust in institutions.

“We must return to a country governed by law, not fear. Respect for institutions and due process is not optional,” Karua said.

Wiper Patriotic Front Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka called on the Church to speak out against what he termed government impunity. He accused the Inspector General of Police of abdicating his responsibilities to the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and questioned the independence of the National Police Service.

Kalonzo warned that growing frustration among young people could have serious consequences.

“Kenya’s youth are impatient. If their grievances are ignored, we risk pushing them toward a revolutionary path,” he cautioned.

Later in the day, the opposition leaders visited the Kware dumpsite in Embakasi South, where they addressed residents alongside a host of elected leaders.

The leaders engaged with residents who expressed anger and frustration over what they described as neglect by both the national and Nairobi county governments.

The residents said they are tired and simply annoyed by what they described a deaf regime which has neglected them.

The opposition assured residents of a cleaner city, responsive leadership, and a government that values human life and dignity.

The top opposition leaders were accompanied by several elected officials and aspirants, including host MP Julius Mawathe, Senators Kamau Murango, John Kinyua and Enoch Wambua, MPs James Gakuya, Onesmus Ngogoyo, Benjamin Gathiru alias MejjaDonk, Kamau Munyoro, Amos Mwago, Patrick Makau, Gacheri Maina and several MCAs as well as dozens of former leaders and aspiring ones.

Gachagua accused the current administration of neglecting the core principles of legitimate governance, saying its excesses had taken a toll on Kenyans across all sectors.

“Functionally, our nation is on autopilot,” he said. “Healthcare, education, the economy, infrastructure, the rule of law and even humanity have been ravaged by strokes of a careless pen and signature.”

The opposition leaders also addressed members of the public in the Utawala area, reiterating their call for accountability, respect for constitutional freedoms, and reforms to restore public confidence in gov-



Kalonzo Musyoka and Fred Matiang’i in Utawala yesterday. Photos/ Courtesy..

ernance.

Gachagua concluded by expressing confidence that political change would come through the ballot.

“On 10th August 2027, we shall get our nation back better,” he declared.

The United Opposition maintains that its campaign is centered on defending democratic space, safeguarding civil liberties, and ensuring that Kenyans can assemble, worship, and express themselves without in-

timidation.

From today, the team will be hosted by Dr Matiang’i for public engagements in his hometown.



Embakasi North MP James Gakuya addressing Nairobians as DCP leader Rigathi Gachagua looks on.

# DP Candidate Albert Kigoro Gains Key Support Ahead Of Evurore Ward By-Election

By: MKT Correspondent  
@themtkenyatimes

As the Evurore Ward by-election approaches on Thursday, Democratic Party of Kenya (DP) candidate Albert Muchira Kigoro has secured a major boost with the support of rival party members. DP Party Leader Justin Muturi brokered a strategic agreement where a People's Liberation Party (PLP) candidate stepped down to back Kigoro's MCA bid. The move follows the recent endorsement from Duncan Mbui, the former MCA of Evurore Ward, signaling a united front in support of Kigoro. In a statement, DP said this coalition reflects the community's desire

for stability, unity, and focused development. Kigoro's campaign emphasizes key local issues, including improving roads, access to clean water, health-care services, agricultural support for farmers, and youth and women empowerment programs. He also pledges effective oversight of county resources and legislation that enhances residents' livelihoods. The by-election, which has attracted significant attention across the county, is seen as a critical test for local political alliances ahead of broader electoral contests. DP is urging voters to turn out in large numbers to elect Kigoro for accountable and results-driven leadership.



DP Party leader Justin Muturi with party supporters.

# The Mt. Kenya Times



# Nairobi Coffee Exchange Unveils Bold Five-Year Plan To Transform Coffee Trade And Protect Farmers

By: MKT Reporter  
@themkenyatimes

The Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) has unveiled an ambitious five-year Strategic Plan (2026–2030) aimed at transforming Kenya's coffee trading system, with the government pledging full support to protect farmers from exploitation and ensure fair returns.

Speaking during the launch through a speech read on his behalf, Cooperatives Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya said the government will continue backing reforms that enhance price discovery, reduce inefficiencies, and safeguard farmers' interests.

"For too long, our farmers have carried the heaviest burden while earning the smallest share of the final value. This Strategic Plan recognizes that the sustainability of the coffee industry begins with fair and competitive returns at the farm level," he said, in a speech read by the Ministry's Administrative Secretary Amos Mariba.

Oparanya noted that the majority of coffee farmers operate through cooperative societies, making transparency and efficiency at the Exchange critical to strengthening the entire value chain. He welcomed NCE's commitment to improved governance, compliance, and reporting standards.

"Trust is the currency of markets, and transparency builds trust," he said, adding that a more digitized and accountable Exchange would reinforce confidence among farmers, buyers, and investors alike.

The CS emphasized the need to attract young people into the coffee sector through innovation and modernization. He said digital trading platforms, traceability systems, climate-smart agricultural practices, and enterprise financing are no longer optional but essential for the sector's survival and growth.

He added that the Ministry will work closely with stakeholders to ensure micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in processing, logistics, and value addition are fully integrated into the modernization agenda.

NCE Chairman Kenneth Gitonga described the Strategic Plan as transformational rather than incremental, saying it marks a systemic renewal of the institution's role in the coffee industry.

"For decades, NCE has been a marketplace. Now we are turning it into a movement that restores dignity to the farmer, commands respect in global markets, and ensures Kenyan coffee is not just traded, but treasured," said Gitonga.

He announced that the Exchange will introduce radical transparency through digitized trading systems, real-time market data, and enhanced traceability from farm to cup. According to him, stakeholders across coffee-growing regions; from Mt. Kenya and Kirinyaga to Nandi, Kisii, Bungoma, Machakos, Laikipia, and Taita Taveta will be able to see, understand, and trust the trading process.

Market expansion and global positioning form another pillar of the strategy. Gitonga said NCE plans to deepen its presence in established specialty coffee markets while exploring opportunities in emerging economies.

He stressed that value optimization for farmers will remain central to the Exchange's mission.

"The Exchange must work for the farmer first. We will champion pricing mechanisms that reward quality, sustainability, and consistency. The prosperity of the farmer is the prosperity of the Exchange," he said.

Gitonga also pledged to strengthen governance, compliance, and operational efficiency, positioning NCE as a benchmark commodity exchange in Africa; disciplined, accountable, and globally competitive.

NCE Chief Executive Officer Lisper Ndungu noted that the global coffee landscape is evolving rapidly. Markets are increasingly digitized, buyers are demanding greater traceability and sustainability, and competition among producing countries is intensifying. At the same time, climate change continues to test resilience across value chains.

"Producers are seeking fairer returns and more efficient systems, while buyers expect higher standards of transparency and accountability," she said.

Ndungu explained that the Strategic Plan is anchored on three core ambitions: Digital Transformation and Operational Excellence; Market Expansion and Global Positioning; and Stakeholder Value and Sustainability.

Under digital transformation, NCE will invest in secure and innovative systems designed to make participation in the marketplace seamless, data-driven, and globally competitive.

The goal is to create an efficient



Nairobi Coffee Exchange chairman Kenneth Gitonga holds the NCE 2026-2030 Strategic Plan after its launch on Friday night in Nairobi. He is flanked by CEO Lisper Ndungu and Cooperatives Ministry Administrative Secretary Amos Mariba. Photos/Courtesy.

trading ecosystem that reduces delays, enhances information flow, and strengthens accountability.

On market expansion, she reaffirmed that Kenyan coffee remains among the finest in the world. Through strategic partnerships, enhanced branding, and targeted marketing, NCE aims to elevate Kenya's international footprint and attract a more diversified pool of buyers.

The third pillar; stakeholder value and sustainability focuses on collab-

oration across the coffee ecosystem, including farmers, cooperatives, estates, millers, brokers, regulators, exporters, financial institutions, and development partners. The objective is to ensure equitable growth, shared prosperity, and long-term resilience.

Ndungu said the strategy represents a shared commitment to the farmer who carefully tends the crop, the cooperative leader striving for better member returns, and the buyer who relies on transparent and credible

systems.

Ultimately, she added, it is also a commitment to future generations who will inherit the industry.

With government backing and a clear reform agenda, NCE's five-year blueprint signals a decisive shift toward transparency, innovation, and farmer-centered growth a move stakeholders hope will secure Kenya's position in the increasingly competitive global coffee market.



Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) CEO Lisper Ndungu receives an award from MCSME Ministry Administrative Secretary Amos Marimba when NCE launched a five-year strategic plan.

# Agnes Kagure Decries Nairobi Water Crisis, Delivers Relief To Kibra Residents

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:**

- Nairobi has for years grappled with chronic water shortages driven by rapid population growth, aging infrastructure, illegal connections, rationing, and periodic drought.
- In many informal settlements, residents depend on water vendors who often charge exorbitant prices, forcing families to pay far more per litre than households connected to the main supply lines.
- In some areas, residents wake up as early as 3 a.m. to queue for water, while others are compelled to use unsafe sources, exposing them to waterborne diseases.
- Women and children bear the heaviest burden, spending hours each day searching for water instead of engaging in income-generating activities or attending school.

Kenya Patriots Party leader and Nairobi gubernatorial aspirant Agnes Kagure has decried the worsening water crisis in the capital, saying thousands of residents continue to suffer due to unreliable supply and poor service delivery.

Kagure spoke after her Mbogi na Mama team delivered clean water to residents of Silanga and surrounding areas in Kibra Constituency, following appeals from locals who said they had gone for days without running water.

Nairobi has for years grappled with chronic water shortages driven by rapid population growth, aging infrastructure, illegal connections, rationing, and periodic drought.

In many informal settlements, residents depend on water vendors who often charge exorbitant prices, forcing families to pay far more per litre than households connected to the main supply lines.

In some areas, residents wake up as early as 3 a.m. to queue for water, while others are compelled to use unsafe sources, exposing them to waterborne diseases.

Women and children bear the heaviest burden, spending hours each day searching for water instead of engaging in income-generating activities or attending school.

In estates affected by prolonged rationing, small businesses such as food vendors, laundries and car washes frequently shut down, compounding economic hardship.

“Access to safe water is not a favour but a basic right,” Kagure said, noting that clean water is central to public health, dignity and economic opportunity.

She promised to intervene in other areas, promising to address the issue, among other necessities in the capital city once she takes helm next year.

She criticized what she termed poor leadership and a lack of urgency in addressing basic service delivery challenges in the city.

Residents of Silanga told her team that erratic supply and high vendor prices had made life increasingly difficult, especially for low-income households already struggling with the high cost of living. Kagure said her intervention was meant to provide immediate relief even as long-term solutions are pursued.

“Kibra called and we responded, ensuring that clean water reaches families because action speaks louder than excuses,” she said.

Although she does not currently hold elective office, Kagure has in recent years spearheaded community-based initiatives across Nairobi through her

political and civic networks.

These have included food distribution drives during periods of economic strain, support for women and youth groups through empowerment forums, sanitation improvement campaigns, and periodic medical outreach programs in underserved neighborhoods.

Through the Kenya Patriots Party and her Mbogi na Mama platform, Kagure has positioned herself as a grassroots mobilizer, frequently engaging residents in informal settlements and densely populated estates.

Her team has also organized clean-up exercises in parts of the city and supported small traders with networking forums aimed at expanding economic opportunities.

Political analysts view such initiatives as part of early groundwork for the Nairobi gubernatorial contest expected next year, as aspirants seek to build visibility and connect directly with voters on everyday issues such as water, housing, healthcare and waste management.

Kagure said sustainable solutions to Nairobi’s water crisis will require investment in infrastructure expansion, reduction of non-revenue water through curbing leaks and illegal connections, better management of existing dams, and improved accountability in water agencies.

She maintained that leadership must be responsive and proactive rather than reactive.

“We will continue to step in where we can today,” she said, adding that Nairobi deserves leadership that pri-



Agnes Kagure addressing Nairobians in one of the forums to popularise her gubernatorial candidature.

oritizes efficient service delivery and treats access to essential services as a right, not a privilege.

As the city edges closer to the next electoral cycle, the water crisis re-

mains one of the most pressing concerns for residents and a defining issue likely to shape the political debate on who is best placed to manage Kenya’s capital.



Residents of Silanga in Kibra fetching free water, courtesy of Agnes Kagure. Photos/Courtesy.

# DCI Shooting Team Shines At 87th Kenya Open Full-Bore Championship

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes

The DCI Shooting Team delivered an impressive performance at the 87th Kenya Open Full-Bore Championship held at the Kenya Defence Forces Rifle Range in Nanyuki, with Michael Gitonga emerging as the overall champion.

The competition, which attracted elite marksmen from the National Police Service, Kenya Defence Forces, and Chalbi Shooting Club.

Competitors vied for individual full-bore honours and qualification spots for the upcoming UK Bisley Championships.

Gitonga, in a debut championship performance, amassed 274 points across distances ranging from 300m to 900m.

He led from the preliminary rounds and maintained his advantage in the final shoot, edging out Moses Wachira of Chalbi Shooting Club, who scored 272 points. Chief Inspector Sanford Otundo from the National Police Service claimed third place with 268



Some of the competitors during the exercise. Photos/Courtesy

points.

Under the leadership of Captain Francis Kinyua, the DCI team collected several trophies, highlighting their skill and dedication. Chief Inspector Julius Kimani won the Nation Media Cup for precision shooting, while Inspector Ken Maithima claimed both the A.O. Roberts and McCullum trophies. Corporal Dennis Kairu also took home the A.O. Roberts Cup after a competitive showdown.

Inspector Philip Kipchumba from

DCI's Banking Fraud Unit, who has represented Kenya at UK Bisley and South African Championships, added to the team's haul by winning the prestigious Bob Morgan Memorial Cup, demonstrating composure and exceptional marksmanship.

Team Leader Mr. Muriuki Raaria praised the squad's outstanding performance, encouraging them to maintain focus and aim higher in the new shooting season. "Their achievements are a testament to their grit, determi-



Some of the competitors during the exercise. Photos/Courtesy

nation, and relentless pursuit of excellence," he said.

The event also featured international guests, Benjamin Solzër and Aleksandra Solzër from the German shooting team, adding global prestige to the competition.

The 87th Kenya Open highlighted the growing standard of competitive shooting in the country and positioned the DCI team as a force to reckon with ahead of international competitions.

With their strong showing, the squad has set a high bar for the season and inspired confidence in Kenya's representation at future global shooting events.

The championship not only celebrated individual talent but also reinforced teamwork, discipline, and precision as core values, leaving an indelible mark on the sport's enthusiasts and participants alike.

# Murang'a Expands Dialysis Services To Boost Renal Care

By: Bernard Munyao  
 @themtkenyatimes

Murang'a County has significantly expanded dialysis services across several public health facilities, offering renewed hope and relief to patients battling kidney disease.

The county administration has rolled out an ambitious plan aimed at decentralizing dialysis services, reducing congestion at referral hospitals and lowering the cost and distance patients travel to access life-saving treatment.

At Murang'a Level 5 Hospital, the number of dialysis machines has been increased from four to 12, greatly enhancing the hospital's capacity to handle patients in need of renal care. The expansion is expected to benefit residents from Mathioya, Kiharu and Kangema sub-counties, who previously endured long waiting lists due to limited equipment.

In a press statement issued on Saturday, area Governor Irungu Kang'ata noted that the additional machines will enable more patients to receive

timely and regular dialysis sessions, a critical requirement in managing chronic kidney disease. He observed that in the past, the renal unit was overwhelmed by the growing number of patients, forcing some to be placed on waiting lists and others to travel long distances in search of services.

Beyond the Level 5 facility, Kigumo Sub-County has also witnessed the establishment of a new dialysis unit at Kigumo Level 3 Hospital. The unit has been equipped with four modern dialysis machines and is set to serve patients from Kigumo and neighboring Maragua Sub-County. The move is expected to ease pressure on Murang'a Level 5 Hospital while improving access to care for residents in the southern part of the county.

"For many families, the new unit translates to reduced transport costs and less time spent travelling several times a week for treatment," said Kang'ata.

The county has further introduced a mobile dialysis truck stationed at Kirwara Level 4 Hospital. The mobile unit, fitted with four dialysis machines, operates on a rotational schedule to reach patients in various parts



Patients undergoing dialysis in one of Murang'a hospitals.

of the county.

According to the governor, the mobile dialysis unit is stationed at Gatura Health Centre on Mondays and Thursdays, Kirwara Level 4 Hospital on Tuesdays and Fridays, and Maragua Level 4 Hospital on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The service is designed to benefit patients from Kandara, Gatanga and Lower Murang'a, areas that have historically experienced limited

access to specialized renal care.

Health officials indicate that the initiative has played a key role in decongesting existing dialysis centres while ensuring that patients do not miss critical treatment sessions due to distance or lack of transport.

The county administration maintains that the expansion of dialysis services forms part of a broader strategy to strengthen healthcare delivery and

ensure specialized services are accessible at the grassroots level.

"By bringing treatment closer to communities, we are committed to improving health outcomes, reducing financial strain on households and enhancing the overall quality of life for patients living with kidney disease," added the governor.

## Waiting



Whenever the word "patience" is spoken,  
Your image is the first to appear.  
I wait for your path, longing and broken,  
You are my life, my soul held so dear.

I walk this road, watching for your trace,  
Swallowing the silence deep within.  
Like those weary from a sickness's  
embrace,  
I drown in tears where my strength grows  
thin.  
At times, they see it in my eyes,  
They guess and wonder what I feel.  
"Share the pain that in your spirit lies,"  
They stay by me, hoping I might heal.  
But what can I do with this aching heart?  
I pour my sorrow into these rhymes.  
To keep your name from drifting apart,  
I've hidden it even from my lines.

Xudayberganova Diana Vladimirovna  
3rd-year student of Uzbek Language and  
Literature, Faculty of Philology, Urgench  
State Pedagogical Institute; Recipient of  
the Navoi State Scholarship.

## Beauty Is Nothing If Your Tongue Is Ugly



let voice shine bright,  
Ugly tone brings darkness,  
beautiful words bring light.

Sharp words cut deep,  
Even relations are cut off  
Beauty's just a mask,  
if heart's not clever.

Speak with kindness, let love overflow,  
Beauty in heart is better than beauty in skin  
Ugly tone will bring worst situation  
beauty words will bring heaven on earth

External beauty is purely nothing  
It is only skin deep  
There is nothing to boast about  
Remember ageing is near

But sweet, melodious words never die,  
Leaving a legacy, touching the sky.  
It's not face beauty people like  
But beauty in tongue, that's what all like

Give importance to words,

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

## Tajalla Qureshi



The unspoken—  
maybe hearken and heed nearly  
lengthy pinnacles cease merely  
twilight where veers around  
and sun sprinkles fairly  
Yes! spring rings, blossom sounds

The urging space—  
maybe stem straight in a blink,  
scheduled after a ton of yearnings  
and gifted to mesmerize the earnings  
See moonlight often sparkles in dark ink  
Crystal thou heart, soft thou tongue,  
sense thou upbringing

The Listener—  
maybe assigns attention to thee  
Figuring out the untold longings, set to be  
free

The heart soon comprehends the meanings  
and the reasons of delay and delusion; a fig  
tree  
be fruitful, thou fruits and roots are  
endearing

Thou vigilance, veracity and validity are  
soon relieving

Maybe the heights bring brightness  
Unexpectedly in thou hands to sense the  
emergence Innocence whispers thou name,  
chastity calls your magnificence  
So, yearn thou promenade, decor the door;  
blinkly forthcoming  
Swing and swing until the blessings uprises  
a new beginning.

Tajalla Qureshi

## Shoes And People If They Hurt You They Are Not Your Size



The relatives and shoes are same,  
It's a life game.

Shoes and people if they hurt you they are  
not our size,  
The shoes are nice,  
It's very graceful,  
The world was peaceful.

The people are hurt our,  
The time is in a hour,  
The shoes are soft,  
But the persons was hard.

The shoes was in different designs,  
It was in few lines,  
Please talk about good people for good  
things,  
The shoes was nothing.

Some peoples are hurt them.  
Parents and teachers are our steam,  
The shoes are can bear the pain,  
The persons also bear the pain is gain.

If they hurt me,  
If they not see,  
It was balanced everyone,  
It wasn't see anyone.

We went to many places,  
The shoes was in the palace,

S. Abarna, 9th std, Government High school  
Thoruvalur, Ramanathapuram

## Before You Ask God For Anything, First Thank Him For Everything



Receiving good things and helps means  
blessings shower from God.  
You should be grateful

You should be thankful to God.

Before every step of your life  
Say thank God for the step.  
He knows every moment  
And you should thank him.

The more you are grateful  
The more you are blessed.

Rajesh Kanna B N

RAJESH KANNA. B N  
M.Sc., M.A., M.A., B.Ed., PGD G&C, CELT.,  
BT Asst  
GMHSCHOOL,  
TIRUR.  
TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT.  
Tamil Nadu. India  
Creative Writers.

## From Tamil Nadu To Malaysian Skies



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 because of you.

-K. A. Santhoshi,  
8th std.  
Government Model Girls Higher Secondary  
School, Komarapalayam, Namakkal district,  
Tamilnadu, India.

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.

Vanavil Mandram, Quiz club, Literary Club  
Competition's pride,  
Kalaithiruvala, Movie Club Competitions,

# DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

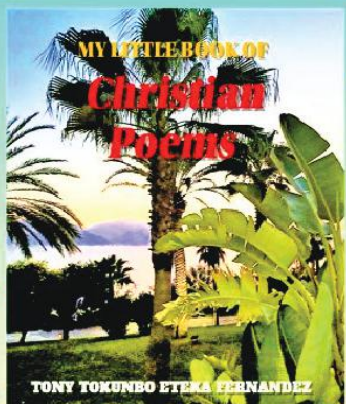
## ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

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

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

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

We offer one-stop top notch Editing, Expert Design, Proof Reading, Book Covers, Artwork, Digital, Litho Printing, E-Books, Corporate Brochures and UK ISBN number. Reasonable costs. We print and deliver books. Authors retain 100% sales profits.



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

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



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP  
Books Division  
16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF (UK)  
Tel: 44 330 606 1438  
Email: media@adlinkinternational.com  
www.adlinkinternational.com

# Senator Essy Vows Stronger Disability Protection Law, As Bethany Kids Donates 30 Wheelchairs

By: Elizabeth Angira  
@themtkenyetimes

Jane Moraa said she had used a broken wheelchair for years. The wheels were worn out and moving around meant waiting for someone to push her.

"Sometimes I would just stay indoors because I could not manage the rough roads," she said quietly, as relatives adjusted her new chair. "Today I feel independent again."

Beside her, 10-year-old Brian, who has cerebral palsy, could not hide his excitement. His mother explained that carrying him to school every day had become difficult, as he grew older. The new wheelchair, he said, would ease the burden and allow Brian to attend classes more comfortably.

Ruben Isaac, a person living with disability and a beneficiary of a wheelchair, could not hide his gratitude. Isaac, who works in Kisii Town, said the support had restored his hope and dignity.

"I am very grateful for this opportunity. This wheelchair will help me move around and continue working," he said. "We are asking the government to continue with this program. If possible, next time they can also consider providing tricycles. A tricycle can help someone travel longer distances, for example when going to school."

Zamalek Omondi, an officer from Bethany Kids, said the initiative is not just about distributing wheelchairs but about educating the community on the importance of quality mobility devices.

"The aim of this journey is to teach the community that not every wheelchair is suitable," Omondi said. "A wheelchair must meet proper standards. It has to be a good, well-fitting wheelchair that supports the child's health and mobility. The wheelchairs we provide are approved under World Health Organization standards."

Omondi noted that Bethany Kids is currently on a fundraising journey to Kakamega, seeking to raise KSh 20 million to finance more wheelchairs for children.

"Our children's wheelchairs are expensive. One costs upwards of KSh 70, 000," he explained. "Today, we are issuing about 30 wheelchairs here in Kisii. However, the need is very big. These wheelchairs transform not only the lives of children, but also the lives of women and entire families. When a child receives a proper wheelchair, it opens doors to

school and social life."

He cautioned that although many leaders mean well, sometimes-inappropriate wheelchairs are donated without understanding proper standards.

"Politicians often want to help, but without technical knowledge, they may provide wheelchairs that are not suitable. That is why we are raising funds to ensure children get the right mobility support," he said.

James Esopon, the County Disability Services Officer at the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), thanked Bethany Kids and volunteers for their support.

"Today we are very happy. We are grateful to Bethany Kids for partnering with us to provide free mobility support," Esopon said. "As the National Council, we also provide wheelchairs and work to ensure persons with disabilities can live independently."

He emphasized that every child in Kenya has a right to education.

"It is our duty to ensure that children with disabilities go to school," he said. "Before admission, a child must undergo assessment through Special Needs Education under the Ministry of Education. The National Council also offers scholarships every year."

Esopon added that students progressing to senior secondary school could access additional scholarships through partners such as Kenya Pipeline Company and KCB.

"We work together to support them depending on how far they go in school," he said.

Kisii Senator Essy Okenyuri also lauded the initiative and thanked Bethany Kids, the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, and the Nyaituga Foundation for supporting children in the region.

"There are many people with disabilities who face serious challenges," Okenyuri said. "As leaders, we must work together to solve their problems."

She raised concerns over the KSh 3,000 fee required to register as a person with disability, saying the amount is too high for many families.

"We must be considerate. Some people walk long distances to access services. Many cannot even walk on their own," she said. "The government should review these costs and make services more accessible."

Okenyuri said the stories she had heard were painful and could not be ignored.

She noted that while donations offer immediate relief, lasting change must come through stronger laws and proper government support.



Kisii Senator Essy Okenyuri addressing the press in Kisii Town during the wheelchair donation has pledged to table a bill in the Senate that will push for better recognition, protection and inclusion of people living with disabilities photo/Elizabeth Angira

"I have listened to these families. Their challenges are real from access to education and healthcare to employment opportunities," she said. "We must move beyond sympathy and act."

The senator pledged to table a bill in the Senate that will push for better recognition, protection and inclusion of people living with disabilities.

According to her, the proposed legislation will focus on improving access to public facilities, ensuring budget allocation for assistive devices, and strengthening enforcement of disability rights.

"Parliament passed the law, but regulations have not been fully complied with. That is why some persons with disabilities struggle to access services like land permits," she said.

She also noted that funding allocated to the National Council for Persons with Disabilities is insufficient, affecting service delivery, including cash transfer programs meant to support vulnerable individuals.

"Many deserving people do not receive the cash transfers. We must ensure that funds reach those who truly need them," she said, urging leaders and the community to show love and inclusion. "Persons with disabilities are our brothers, sisters and friends. They are not different from us."

Omondi further highlighted the magnitude of the need for wheelchairs in Kenya.

"The country requires about 200,000 wheelchairs every year for children born with disabilities and for those who acquire disabilities due to illness or accidents," he said. "Last year, the government was able to provide only 4,700. That leaves a huge gap of nearly 190,000."

To bridge this gap, Bethany Kids collaborates with the government,

the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, CBM and other organizations.

"This journey is a major undertaking. We even have six Paralympian athletes who are wheeling from Kijabe to Kakamega to raise awareness and funds. It is not easy finding accommodation and logistical support

is a challenge but the cause is bigger than us," Omondi said.

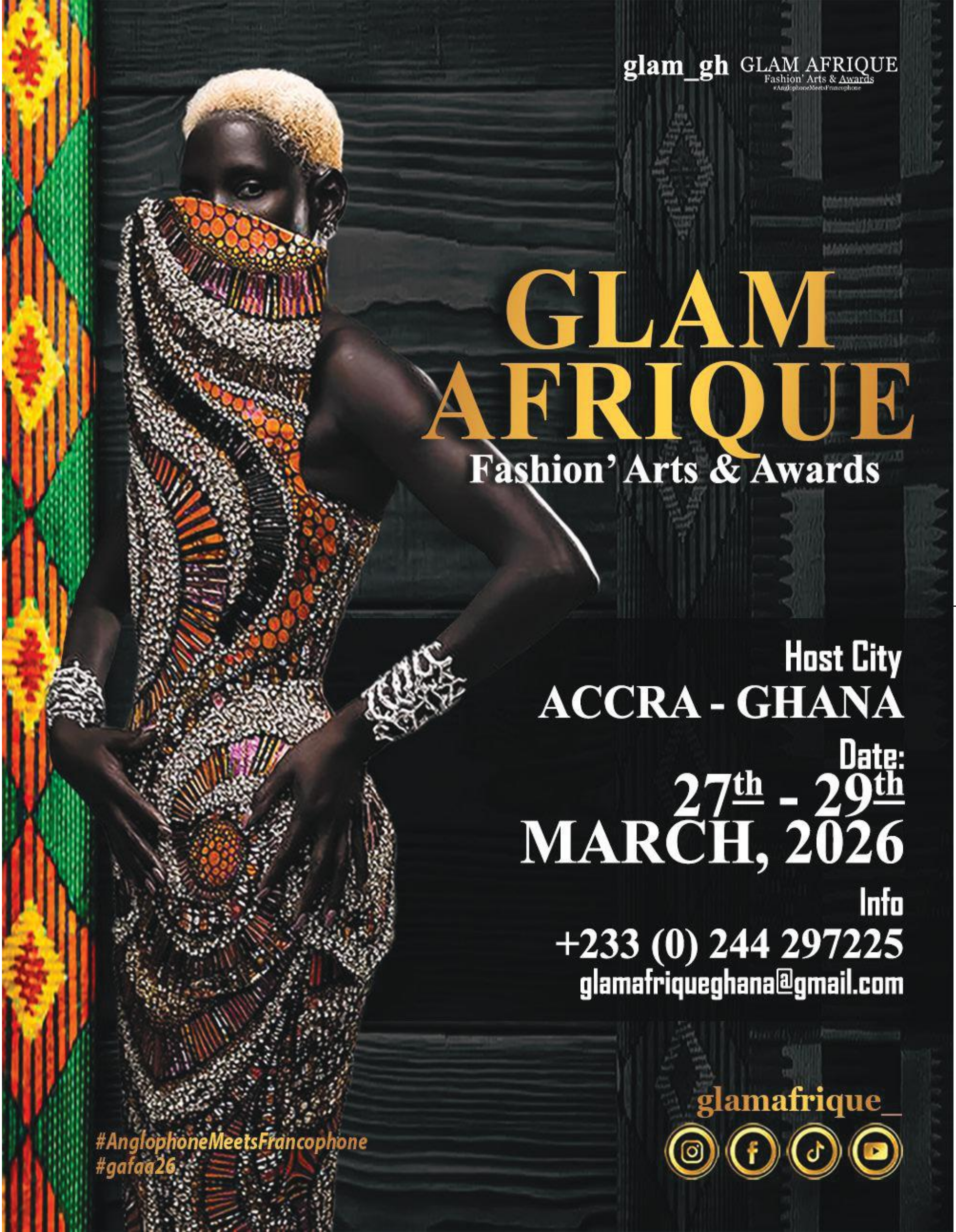
The initiative underscores a simple but powerful message: the right wheelchair can restore dignity, open doors to education and employment, and change the future of a child and their family.



Zamalek Omondi, an officer from Bethany Kids, addressing the press in Kisii Town during wheelchair donation said that, a wheelchair must meet proper standards photo/Elizabeth Angira



James Esopon, the County Disability Services Officer at the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), during the wheelchair donation in Kisii Town has emphasized that every child in Kenya has a right to education photo/Elizabeth Angira



glam\_gh GLAM AFRIQUE  
Fashion' Arts & Awards  
\*AnglophoneMeetsFrancophone

# GLAM AFRIQUE

Fashion' Arts & Awards

Host City  
**ACCRA - GHANA**

Date:  
**27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>  
MARCH, 2026**

Info  
**+233 (0) 244 297225**  
**glamafriqueghana@gmail.com**

#AnglophoneMeetsFrancophone  
#gafaq26

glamafrique\_

# Igniting Minds: The Urgent Imperative To Champion Literary Reading In Kenya



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor  
@themtkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- The distinction between a literate society and a reading society is one that legal scholars and sociologists alike have long appreciated, but which the ordinary policy conversation in Kenya continues to conflate to its own peril.
- Literacy, that bare and functional ability to decode written symbols, is a threshold condition the floor, not the ceiling. Reading literature, by contrast, is the act of ascending, of willingly subjecting the self to the authority of another mind's deepest experiences and most carefully arranged truths.
- To read Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *Petals of Blood* is not merely to comprehend sentences; it is to undergo a confrontation with colonialism, class, and conscience that no civics lesson can replicate.

There is a peculiar kind of poverty that does not announce itself with hunger pangs or tattered garments it announces itself with the hollow stare of a person who has never once lost themselves in a book, never wrestled with an idea that did not originate on a smartphone screen, and never felt the quiet electricity of a sentence that rearranges the furniture of one's entire worldview. Kenya, a nation of breathtaking intellectual potential, a nation that has produced Nobel laureates, celebrated novelists, and towering legal minds, stands at a dangerous crossroads in its relationship with literary culture. The reading of literature not textbooks, not WhatsApp forwards, not motivational captions on Instagram has been quietly hemorrhaging from our national life for years, and we have, with characteristic nonchalance, let it bleed. If a nation's character is ultimately reflected in the quality of its public thought, then Kenya's literary neglect is not merely a cultural inconvenience; it is a constitutional crisis of the mind, and it demands urgent, deliberate, and unapologetic remedy.

The distinction between a literate society and a reading society is one that legal scholars and sociologists alike have long appreciated, but which the ordinary policy conversation in Kenya continues to conflate to its own peril. Literacy, that bare and functional ability to decode written symbols, is a threshold condition the floor, not the ceiling. Reading literature, by contrast, is the act of ascending, of willingly subjecting the self to the authority of another mind's deepest experiences and most carefully arranged truths. To read Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *Petals of Blood* is not merely to comprehend sentences; it is to undergo a confrontation with colonialism, class, and conscience that no civics lesson can replicate. To read Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun* is to feel the sinew and agony of African history in one's own chest. Kenya's education system has long treated literature as an ornament a supplementary subject decorating the margins of science and commerce when in fact it is the very architecture of a thinking, feeling, and morally coherent citizenry.

The data, where it exists, is not flattering, and where it does not exist, the silence is equally damning. A 2016 Kenya National Library Services survey reported that the majority of Kenyans outside formal education read less than one book per year for leisure. Libraries in county towns across the country from Homa Bay



*A Literary Tribute to Ngugi wa Thiong'o*

to Mandera are chronically underfunded, understaffed, and underused, their shelves collecting the kind of dust that speaks not of age but of abandonment. School libraries, where they exist at all, are frequently locked behind bureaucratic keys and treated as storage facilities rather than sanctuaries of intellectual formation. Public reading programmes, once animated by the enthusiasm of post-independence nation-building, have largely dissolved into institutional memory. Private bookshops are closing at a rate that ought to embarrass the Ministry of Education, yet no ministerial statement of consequence has descended upon this crisis with the urgency it deserves. The result is a society that talks volubly, tweets prodigiously, and argues furiously yet reads, in any meaningful sense, barely at all.

One must be clear about what is at stake, because the stakes are not merely sentimental or academic they are profoundly constitutional and civic in nature. A democracy, in its most demanding form, requires citizens who can evaluate competing claims, distinguish evidence from assertion, hold contradictory ideas in mind simultaneously, and resist the seductive shortcuts of demagoguery. Literature is the most comprehensive training ground available for these exacting civic competencies. When

one reads a novel that presents a morally ambiguous protagonist say, the conflicted intellectual in Meja Mwangi's *Going Down River Road* one is not merely being entertained; one is being schooled in the irreducible complexity of human motivation, a complexity that the reading of legal texts, policy briefs, or financial reports alone cannot adequately supply. Kenya's democratic governance has suffered, visibly and recurrently, from a deficit of this kind of nuanced civic imagination, and the literacy crisis is not unrelated to the ethical crises that have plagued its public institutions.

The consequences for the individual mind are no less severe than the consequences for the body politic. Neuroscience has in recent decades confirmed what humanists have always intuited: the reading of literature activates regions of the brain associated with empathy, theory of mind, and imaginative projection in ways that passive media consumption does not. When you read a story, your brain does not simply receive information it simulates the experiences of the characters, constructing their emotional and physical reality from the inside, recruiting the same neural circuitry you would use if you were actually living through those moments. This is not a trivial cognitive event; it is the mechanism by which human beings learn to occupy perspectives not their

own, to extend moral consideration beyond the immediate circle of kinship and familiarity. In a country as ethnically and regionally diverse as Kenya, where political mobilization along ethnic lines has extracted a horrifying toll in lives and livelihoods, the cultivation of exactly this kind of empathic imagination is not a luxury it is a survival imperative.

The legal profession, from whose tradition this commentary draws its most urgent authority, has a particular stake in Kenya's literary rehabilitation. The finest advocates, judges, and legal scholars in history have, without exception, been voracious readers of literature in the broadest sense. Chief Justice Willy Mutunga was himself a deeply literary figure, and the intellectual rigour of his tenure on the Supreme Court bench bore the unmistakable marks of a mind shaped by wide and serious reading. The drafting of constitutions, the interpretation of statutes, the construction of persuasive legal argument all of these are, at their core, exercises in language, logic, and narrative, and all of them are degraded in quality when the practitioner has not been nourished by serious literary engage-

# Igniting Minds: The Urgent Imperative To Champion Literary Reading In Kenya

Contd from page 18

## Worth Noting:

The consequences for the individual mind are no less severe than the consequences for the body politic. Neuroscience has in recent decades confirmed what humanists have always intuited: the reading of literature activates regions of the brain associated with empathy, theory of mind, and imaginative projection in ways that passive media consumption does not.

When you read a story, your brain does not simply receive information it simulates the experiences of the characters, constructing their emotional and physical reality from the inside, recruiting the same neural circuitry you would use if you were actually living through those moments.

This is not a trivial cognitive event; it is the mechanism by which human beings learn to occupy perspectives not their own, to extend moral consideration beyond the immediate circle of kinship and familiarity.

Kenya's Bar is not short of bright men and women; it is, in too many cases, short of well-read ones, and the resulting impoverishment of legal reasoning, of the capacity to see human experience in its full textured complexity, quietly undermines the administration of justice.

The role of the state in reversing this trajectory is not merely appropriate it is constitutionally mandated. Article 11 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, recognises culture as a foundation of the nation and commits the state to promoting the intellectual property rights of the people. Article 43 guarantees the right to education. Taken together and read purposively as any serious constitutional interpreter must these provisions impose on the government an affirmative obligation to create the material and institutional conditions in which literary culture can flourish. This means adequately funding public libraries, mandating school libraries that are actually stocked and staffed, reforming the literature curriculum so that it sparks genuine passion rather than rote memorization of plot summaries, and establishing reading incentive programmes from primary school through university. The Kenyan government has spent considerable political capital on digital literacy, on laptops and tablets, and these investments are not without merit but a child who cannot sit with a book for thirty uninterrupted minutes is not digitally empowered; they are digitally distracted, and the distinction matters enormously.

Publishers, writers, booksellers, and cultural institutions must also be conscripted into this effort, and the state has the tools to conscript them intelligently. Tax incentives for book publishers who produce affordable editions of Kenyan literature, VAT exemptions on books a reform long advocated and long deferred and grants for independent bookshops in underserved counties are all instruments of literary policy that carry no great fiscal burden but potentially enormous cultural dividends. The Kenya Publishers Association and the Writers Guild of Kenya have both, at various moments, sounded similar alarms, only to find their advocacy absorbed into the comfortable silence of bureaucratic committees. There is a particular role for county governments here, too, which have under devolution acquired the mandate and the resources to fund local cultural infrastructure. A reading culture is not built from the top down alone; it is built block by block, shelf

by shelf, community by community, and devolved governance is, in theory, perfectly architected to support exactly this kind of granular cultural investment.

The schools are, inevitably, where the most consequential battle must be fought and won. A child who develops a love of reading before the age of ten carries that love, statistically, for the rest of their life; a child who does not is unlikely to find their way back to books through any amount of adult exhortation. Kenya's primary school curriculum has, over the past decade, undergone significant reform under the Competency-Based Curriculum, and there are elements of that reform its emphasis on creativity, critical thinking, and contextual learning that, if taken seriously and not merely performed for inspectors, could create the conditions for a genuine reading revival. What remains missing is a deliberate, well-resourced literary strand running through the curriculum from lower schools to senior secondary schools and beyond one that prioritizes the encounter with fiction, poetry, drama, and narrative non-fiction not as a means to pass examinations but as an end in itself, as the formation of a fully human person. Teachers must be trained not merely to teach texts but to love them, for enthusiasm, as every teacher knows, is the most contagious pedagogy there is.

African literature itself and Kenyan literature specifically offers resources of extraordinary richness that the reading culture debate must place at its centre. Grace Ogot's stories of the Luo experience, David Maillu's controversial but bracingly honest urban fiction, Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye's *Coming to Birth*, which charts a woman's coming of age against the backdrop of Kenya's independence these are not lesser works awaiting validation by metropolitan literary establishments. They are major works of art and moral imagination, rooted in the specific textures of East African life, and their relative obscurity within Kenya itself is a quiet scandal. A reading culture that does not first read its own literature is a reading culture that has not yet arrived at self-possession, that is still performing literacy for the approval of others rather than practicing it for its own nourishment. The promotion of Kenyan literature its writing, its publishing, its teaching, its celebration must be the centerpiece of any serious national reading agenda.

There are those who will argue, with the breezy confidence of the techno-

**DREAM of AFRICA**  
Chaos Before Order

**BOOK LAUNCH**

Muki Gachaga (Author)

**21** SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY, 2026 FROM 2PM

Kenya National Library Services  
Makoba Way Building,  
Upper Hill, Nairobi

0768177691

logically seduced, that the digital age has rendered the book obsolete that podcasts, YouTube lectures, and online articles provide all the intellectual nourishment one could require, and that insisting on the book is mere nostalgia dressed in academic robes. This argument is not without a grain of partial truth, but it fundamentally misunderstands what the sustained, immersive, linear encounter with a long-form literary text does to the mind that audio-visual media simply cannot replicate. It is in the resistance of the long book in the discipline of following a complex argument or narrative over hundreds of pages, in the solitude and sustained attention it demands that the mind develops what neuroscientists call its capacity for deep reading: the ability to make inferences, draw analogies, sustain critical analysis, and tolerate ambiguity. A society that loses this capacity does not merely read fewer books; it becomes, in the most fundamental sense, less capable of serious thought, and that incapacity will express itself in the quality of its political judgments, its professional outputs, and its moral reasoning.

Kenya is not yet lost to the page, and that is the note on which even the most severe diagnosis must end not

in despair, but in the fierce urgency of possibility. There is a young woman in Kisumu right now who has just discovered Ngugi, and whose world is shifting on its axis in the way that only literature can shift it. There is a teacher in Eldoret who reads poetry aloud to her class each Monday morning and watches, with quiet wonder, as something ignites in her students' eyes that no standardized test will ever measure. There is a publisher in Nairobi who is betting her savings on a first novel by a twenty-four-year-old from Meru because she believes, against the market's cold arithmetic, that stories matter. These individuals are not swimming against history they are carrying it. The question before Kenya's policymakers, educators, parents, and citizens is simple, urgent, and ultimately non-negotiable: will we build the libraries, fund the publishers, reform the curriculum, stock the shelves, and cultivate the silence necessary for the reading mind to flourish or will we stand idly by as a nation of extraordinary potential reads itself, one unturned page at a time, into irrelevance? The verdict of history, as any lawyer worth their wig well knows, will not wait forever.

*The writer is a legal researcher and scholar*

# Trump Approves Emergency Declaration For Washington, D.C. As Sewage Spill Lingers

By: Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes

U.S. President Donald Trump approved an emergency declaration for Washington, D.C. on Saturday, as a sewage line collapse and spill continued to tarnish the Potomac River.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced in a press release that federal disaster assistance is available to the District of Columbia to supplement response efforts due to emergency conditions resulting from the sewage line collapse since Jan. 19.

“The President’s action authorizes FEMA to coordinate all disaster relief efforts to alleviate the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population and to provide

appropriate assistance to save lives, to protect property, public health and safety and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe,” FEMA said, adding that this assistance is for the District of Columbia and the area where the district has responsibilities in the State of Maryland and Commonwealth of Virginia.

Washington D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser said again on Friday that drinking water is not impacted by the Potomac sewage spill. On Jan. 19, a section of Potomac Interceptor, a major sewage pipeline operated by DC Water, collapsed, releasing over 200 million gallons of wastewater into the Potomac River. Bowser declared on Feb. 18 the month-long Potomac River sewage spill a local public emergency to request federal support.

President Donald Trump



# Sudanese Refugees Return From Uganda, Weighing Hope Against Uncertainty

By: Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes

In a scene where tears mingled with smiles, Port Sudan International Airport welcomed on Friday the first group of Sudanese refugees voluntarily returning from Uganda, nearly three years after war forced them to flee.

The first flight carrying them, chartered by a non-governmental committee in Uganda, touched down with 150 returnees on board, most originally from the capital, Khartoum. Emotions ran high in the arrivals hall, where families reunited and some returnees knelt to kiss the ground. Hamouda Ibrahim, one of the returnees, told Xinhua that they left because of war and stayed in Uganda for three difficult years. “We struggled with limited access to education and a lack of job opportunities,” he recalled, carrying a small bag that held the few belongings he had left. “Daily life was filled with challenges, both big and small.” Fighting back tears, he added, “Exile is not easy. Every day we felt cut off from our roots, our families, and our memories. My children kept asking when we would return to our home, their school, their friends -- and I never had a clear an-

swer.” “But we never gave up hope of coming back. Today, as I set foot on my homeland, I feel as if I’ve been born again,” he said.

Since mid-April 2023, the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces have been engaged in a war that has killed tens of thousands of people and displaced millions both within Sudan and beyond. As government forces have regained control over large parts of central Sudan, the number of returnees has risen in recent months. Official figures indicate the largest influx has been into Khartoum State, home to the capital. Still, returning home does not mean returning to stability. “I know rebuilding our lives in Khartoum won’t be easy -- from finding a place to live to securing work and restoring some sense of normal family life,” Ibrahim said. Nafisa Hassan, another returnee, gently stroked her daughter’s head as the child clung to her dress. Coming home was their “only real choice,” she said.

In exile, the mother always promised her daughter that they would return home -- a place she now barely remembers -- and that she would play again in the neighborhood she was born in, Hassan said, her voice blending longing and hope. “But I worry that life there will be hard at first. Everything has changed, and schools



Sudanese refugees relocated from the eastern Chadian city of Tine, set up a makeshift tent in Iridimi, Chad, June 25, 2025. (Xinhua/Wang Guansen)

and services need to be rebuilt,” she said. “We’ll need patience. We’re starting from scratch -- finding work and securing a decent life for our children,” she added. On Jan. 29, the International Organization for Migration reported that more than three million people had returned to their areas of origin in Sudan, despite the extensive damage to housing, basic services and vital infrastructure. The

organization warned that the return could become “another chapter of hardship,” and called for sustained funding to meet growing needs in return areas. Ali Abdul-Rahman, another passenger on the flight, told Xinhua that arriving in Port Sudan felt wonderful, but returning to daily life would be another story. “Homes have been destroyed, services have stopped, and the markets are not

what they used to be,” Abdul-Rahman said. “I’m going back to Khartoum with no money, no job, and no steady income.” He said he would struggle to find housing and work, and to rebuild his life -- a task that demands immense patience and support. “Even so, we can’t stay away from our country forever,” he said. “The hope that we can help rebuild our city keeps us going.”



## Validation At A Cost: Social Media Pressure On Kenya's Youth

In buses, classrooms, and crowded hostels across Kenya, young people scroll endlessly, chasing a currency that cannot be held: validation. Likes, shares, and follower counts have become silent measures of worth, shaping how youth see themselves and how they believe the world sees them. While social media has opened doors for creativity and opportunity, experts warn that dependence on online approval is quietly harming a generation.



In Nairobi and beyond, students admit to waking up only to check notifications. A post that “performs” can lift confidence, while one ignored can trigger anxiety or self-doubt. Many delete photos that fail to attract attention, compare themselves to influencers, or feel invisible when peers appear more popular. Platforms reward curated perfection—filtered images, staged videos, illusions of constant success—leaving young Kenyans pressured to match standards far removed from reality.

Counsellors report rising cases of panic attacks, depression, and poor sleep linked to cyberbullying and body image comparisons. Anonymous accounts can humiliate victims within hours, isolating them from peers and damaging communities. Parents and teachers, often out of touch with digital culture, struggle to respond. Experts argue that open conversations and digital literacy are more effective than bans or dismissals.

Yet social media is not purely harmful. It has fueled entrepreneurship, activism, and commu-

nity support. The challenge lies in how it is used. Kenya must treat digital literacy as essential education, enforce protections against harmful content, and expand counselling services.

When a teenager's confidence depends on hearts and thumbs-up icons, disappointment is inevitable. Kenya must act now to ensure its youth measure worth in real achievements, not fleeting approval on a scrolling screen.

*By Hadassah Karangu, Student at Laikipia University*

## Leadership And Legitimacy Battles In ODM: Orengo At The Centre Of The Storm

The Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) is once again wrestling with its own shadow, and at the heart of the storm stands Siaya Governor James Orengo. His declaration of loyalty to Secretary General Edwin Sifuna has sharpened internal divisions, exposing fault lines that could shape the party's trajectory toward the 2027 General Elections.



ODM's dominance in Western Kenya and Nyanza has historically rested on unity and disciplined mobilisation. Yet today, factions aligned with Sifuna and senior figures like Oburu Oginga are pulling in different directions. Analysts argue that beneath the rhetoric of strategy lies a deeper struggle over succession, coalition-building, and grassroots influence. Orengo's stature makes his alignment consequential, lending legitimacy to one camp while unsettling another.

Critics warn that visible rivalry risks confusing supporters and

weakening ODM's bargaining power nationally. Grassroots members, long accustomed to cohesion, now voice unease at the wrangles. At stake is not just party discipline but the confidence of voters who expect clarity of vision.

The debate extends beyond internal power plays to ODM's national posture: should it remain a firm opposition force or explore cooperation with rivals like UDA? Such choices carry heavy implications for identi-

ty and voter trust. Meanwhile, murmurs of declining enthusiasm among sections of the electorate add urgency to the need for resolution.

ODM's future hinges on whether it can transform discord into dialogue. If unity falters, the storm around Orengo may well become the storm that defines the party's fate.

*By Alphonse Mambo, Laikipia University*

## Civil Society Concerned Over The Increasing Number Of Street Children

On Nairobi's bustling streets, the sight of children begging, hawking, or sleeping rough has become a sobering indictment of society's neglect. Civil society groups warn that the rising number of street children is not just a humanitarian crisis but a ticking time bomb for Kenya's future.



The causes are layered—poverty, family breakdown, domestic violence, and lack of access to affordable education. When parents cannot afford school fees or when homes collapse under abuse and neglect, children are pushed into the unforgiving streets. Rapid urbanization and unemployment only deepen the crisis, while conflict and displacement in some regions add to the numbers.

The consequences are stark. Street children are exposed to exploitation, trafficking, and abuse. They endure hunger, poor sanitation, and harsh weather, while their lack of education locks them into cycles of poverty. Communities too suffer,

as unsupervised youth become vulnerable to criminal networks, eroding social stability and undermining national development.

Solutions must be urgent and coordinated. Governments should strengthen welfare programs, enforce child protection laws, and make education free and accessible. Rehabilitation centers, feeding programs, and skills training can offer pathways out of despair. Civil society and communities must also step

up—raising awareness, promoting responsible parenting, and building support systems that prevent children from slipping through the cracks.

The measure of a nation is how it treats its most vulnerable. Kenya cannot afford to let its children grow up on pavements instead of playgrounds. The time to act is now—before the streets become classrooms of despair.

*By Collins Kibet, Koitalel University*

## Parenting In The Digital Age: Control vs Communication

Parenting has always been demanding, but in today's digital age it has become a battlefield of silence and screens. Smartphones, social media, and instant messaging have reshaped childhood, leaving parents torn between control and communication. The question is urgent: are parents ruling with fear instead of guiding with dialogue?

Many parents equate strictness with safety—monitoring, restricting, and punishing when boundaries are crossed. Yet control without conversation breeds secrecy, not obedience. Teenagers who feel unheard do not become compliant; they become hidden. And secrecy, in the digital world, is dangerous.

Social media now defines how young people view love, independence, and success. Pretending this reality does not exist only widens the gap. Parents must meet it head-on, replacing intimidation with dialogue, dictatorship with guidance. A child who fears will conceal



mistakes; a child who trusts will share confusion. Safe spaces at home—where difficult conversations about relationships, boundaries, and responsibility can unfold without shouting—are the true shield against harm.

Parenting today demands emotional intelligence as much as authority. Control may deliver short-term compliance, but communication builds character and resilience. When anger is the first reaction, tragedy lurks.

When listening is the first response, solutions emerge.

In the digital age, parenting is no longer about ruling with an iron fist. It is about guiding with wisdom, patience, and open dialogue. Because children do not only need rules—they need relationships. And in that balance lies the difference between silence and survival.

*By Beatrice Chepkemoi, Laikipia University*

# SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS



**Sports >>** \*South African Casey Jarvis endured a nerve wracking day to claim his first ever Magical Kenya Open title at the Karen Country Club yesterday evening.

## South Africa's Jarvis Claims Historic Maiden Magical Kenya Open Crown



President William Ruto with South African Casey Jarvis.

South African Casey Jarvis endured a nerve wracking day to claim his first ever Magical Kenya Open title at the Karen Country Club yesterday evening.

The 22-year-old carded an overall score of 255 points (25-under-par) to go home Ksh 62 million shillings richer.

American Davis Bryant took second place after carding 258 points (22-under-par) whereas another South African Hennie du Plessis came third courtesy of an overall score of 259 points (21-under-par).

Speaking after his epic victory, Jarvis said it felt like unloading a huge weight off his shoulders.

"It's a maiden DP World Tour title, and to do it here in Kenya, in

Africa, feels like home. I've put in so much hard work and had a few close calls, so finally lifting this trophy is a massive weight off my shoulders," Jarvis said.

It was a day with its fair share of drama as play was twice stopped due to intermittent painful, and the threat of lightning.

When action finally resumed for good, Jarvis held his nerves to claim a historic title, holding off the ever looming threat of Bryant and Davis.

An eagle on the 18th hole confirmed victory for the South African who vigorously punched the air in excitement.

The South African admitted that the delays occasioned by the weather tested his nerves.

"It was tough with the stops and starts. You get into a rhythm and then you have to sit in the clubhouse for two hours. I just tried to stay 'chilled'—I told myself to stick to the game plan and stay aggressive when we got back out there," he said.

Reflecting on a thrilling end to the tournament, Jarvis said he couldn't have asked for a more befitting close to the competition.

"I saw the leaderboard and knew I had a two-shot cushion, but I wanted to finish it in style. I hit a great 8-iron in there and when that putt dropped, the feeling was just incredible. This is what you dream about as a kid," he said.

This year's tournament attracted

144 golfers including 18 from Kenya.

*Capital Sport*

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>>** \*In a nation where sporting headlines are too often monopolized by football politics and athletics sagas, Njoroge Kibugu has swung his way into history

# Golden Swing: Kibugu's Shot Heard Around Kenya



President William Ruto with Kenyan pro golfer Njoroge Kibugu.

**By Mt Kenya Times Editorial Desk**

In a nation where sporting headlines are too often monopolized by football politics and athletics sagas, Njoroge Kibugu has swung his way into history with a drive that has rattled the country's sporting consciousness. At just 22, the young golfer from Kenya's highlands has not only made the cut at the prestigious DP World Tour's Magical Kenya Open—a feat no other Kenyan managed—but also forced the nation to pause and take notice of a sport long dismissed as elitist. His five-under-par 65 on a rain-soaked Sunday was more than a scorecard; it was a statement. And President William Ruto, sensing the symbolic weight of the moment, reached for the national wallet, directing Sports Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya to wire Kibugu Ksh 5 million as a reward for making Kenya proud.

This gesture, coupled with Absa Bank Kenya's additional Ksh 2 million, is more than a cash prize. It is a rare acknowledgment that talent, when nurtured, can transcend stereotypes and inspire a generation. Kibugu's rise is not just about birdies and pars—it is about breaking barriers. Golf in Kenya has long been seen as a gated pursuit, reserved for the privileged few. Yet here is a young man proving that with grit, discipline, and opportunity, the fairway can be as democratic as the running track. His story is a reminder that sports policy must expand beyond the usual suspects of athletics and football.

The President's reward is commendable, but it must not be a one-off headline. If Kenya is serious about diversifying its sporting success, then Kibugu's triumph should trigger systemic investment in facilities, coaching, and

grassroots programs. Otherwise, the millions wired into his account risk becoming symbolic rather than catalytic. The country has seen this movie before—momentary applause for trailblazers, followed by silence and neglect. What Kibugu needs is not just a pat on the back but a pipeline of support that ensures his success is not an isolated miracle.

The applause from Absa Bank's chair Mohammed Nyaoga, who hailed Kibugu's performance as an inspiration, underscores the role of corporate Kenya in nurturing talent. Sponsorships, mentorships, and scholarships must follow. If golf clubs remain closed to the majority, then Kibugu's story risks being romanticized rather than replicated. Kenya cannot afford to let this moment slip into nostalgia.

In the end, Kibugu's swing is more than sport—it is metaphor. It

is about a young Kenyan refusing to be boxed in by tradition, daring to compete on a global stage, and forcing the nation to reckon with its own sporting imagination. The President's millions are welcome, but the real prize will be if Kibugu's success opens doors for dozens more to walk the fairway. Kenya has always celebrated its runners; perhaps it is time to celebrate its golfers too.

The ball is now firmly in Kenya's court—or rather, on its tee. Will the country build on Kibugu's momentum, or will it let this golden swing fade into memory? The answer will define whether this was just a magical weekend or the dawn of a new sporting chapter.

# SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS



# SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The Mt Kenya Times



375778 201602

## Navruz in Uzbekistan



By: Yusupova Farangiz  
@themtkenyatimes

### Worth Noting:

The word Navruz comes from the Persian-Tajik language and means “new day.” This very name reveals the essence of the holiday. Navruz is a special time when nature awakens, the land becomes green, and new hopes arise in people’s hearts. Since ancient times, this day has been celebrated as the beginning of the year. Our ancestors, who were engaged in agriculture, considered Navruz the start of a new working season.

The Navruz holiday is closely connected with the laws of nature. It is on these days that day and night become equal. This equality is regarded as a symbol of balance, justice, and stability in life. As nature awakens, people also strive for inner spiritual purification.



Navruz is not just an ordinary holiday; it is a great festival with a history spanning thousands of years, expressing harmony between humans and nature and deeply rooted in the spiritual memory of the people. It symbolizes not only the arrival of spring, but also the renewal of the human soul, the victory of goodness over evil, and the supremacy of compassion and unity. For centuries, Navruz has been one of the most beloved holidays of our people, and even today it has not lost its significance.

The word Navruz comes from the Persian-Tajik language and means “new day.” This very name reveals the essence of the holiday. Navruz is a special time when nature awakens, the land becomes green, and new hopes arise in people’s hearts. Since ancient times, this day has been celebrated as the beginning of the year. Our ancestors, who were engaged in agriculture, considered Navruz the start of a new working season.

The Navruz holiday is closely connected with the laws of nature. It is on these days that day and night become equal. This equality is regarded as a symbol of balance, justice, and stability in life. As nature awakens, people also strive for inner spiritual purification. Therefore, on the eve of Navruz, homes are cleaned, old grudges are forgotten, and relatives and neighbors reconcile with one another. This process serves to strengthen social unity within society.

One of the most important aspects of Navruz is compassion and generosity. During the holiday, helping needy families and checking on the elderly and lonely people has become a long-standing tradition. This turns Navruz into not just a celebration, but a school of humanity. After all, a true holiday is sharing joy with others.

When Navruz is mentioned, national dishes, traditions, and folk games come to mind. In particular,

sumalak has become a symbol of Navruz. Its preparation requires patience, unity, and faith. Women gathered around the cauldron throughout the night, the wishes that are spoken, and the dreams that are made—all of these reflect the spiritual world of our people and their belief in goodness. Sumalak is not just a dish, but a symbol of patience and hope.

In today’s era of globalization, Navruz plays an important role in understanding national identity and preserving cultural heritage. Especially for the younger generation, Navruz is a school for learning history, values, and traditions. The display of national costumes, folklore songs, and ancient customs during holiday events strengthens young people’s sense of national pride.

Navruz is celebrated not only in Uzbekistan, but also in many Eastern countries. This shows its universal significance. Although different peoples celebrate Navruz according to their own traditions, there

is a common idea that unites them all—peace, harmony, and renewal. In this sense, Navruz is a holiday that strengthens bonds of friendship among nations.

During the years of independence, Navruz has become a nationwide holiday celebrated on a state level. Through festive events, public celebrations, and cultural programs, the national spirit and historical memory of our people are being revived even more. This increases positive moods in society and inspires confidence in the future.

In conclusion, Navruz is not merely a spring festival. It is a priceless heritage that calls people to goodness, unites society, and embodies national and universal values. Navruz reminds us that every new day is a new opportunity, and every spring is a new hope. Living with this spirit of hope and kindness is one of the most important factors in the progress of society.