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They told you money can't buy happiness. They were probably broke when they said it. Before you dismiss this as the philosophy of the greedy or the shallow, consider what the data actually says because science, psychology, and lived human experience keep arriving at the same awkward conclusion

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News>>Kenya Boosts Cancer Care And Maternal Health under UHC Agenda

P. 8. Kenya is taking significant steps to tackle its growing cancer burden and reduce preventable maternal and newborn deaths through strengthened health infrastructure and enhanced policy measures.



News>>MKU Marks 15 Years Of Charter Status With Grand Thanksgiving Service

P. 12. Mount Kenya University (MKU) on Sunday held a vibrant Thanksgiving Service at the Mwai Kibaki Convention Centre (MKCC) to celebrate 15 years since the institution was awarded its university Charter.

United Opposition Nears Single Candidate Deal



Leaders of the United Opposition yesterday said they are close to agreeing on a single presidential candidate to challenge William Ruto in the next General Election, vowing to face him with a united front. Speaking at Ekerenyu in Nyamira County during the coalition's first stop on a three-day tour of the Gusii region, former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua expressed confidence that consensus would soon be reached. "This time, we are putting Kenya first and rallying behind one strong candidate. We shall not disappoint you," he told supporters.



Leaders of the United Opposition yesterday in Nyamira

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"ALL BUSINESSES ONE PLATFORM"

United Opposition Tours Counties, Pledges Reform Amid Chaotic Scenes

By: MKT Correspondents
 @themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

The United Opposition, led by Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua alongside Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, Eugene Wamalwa, Dr. Fred Matiang’i, Cleophas Malalah, Peter Munya, and other leaders, embarked on several counties tour to engage residents and galvanize support for national reform.

The leaders visited held public engagements in Bomet, Kisii and Nyamira emphasizing the need for rule of law, democracy, and equal access to education and healthcare.

Addressing the residents, Gachagua condemned what he described as a “despotic regime” that disregards democracy and human dignity, promising that the United Opposition would restore accountability, transparency, and progressive governance. “Your voice as a people must be heard. Kenya belongs to all of us,” he said. The leaders underscored their commitment to universal free education, accessible healthcare, and policies that prioritize citizens over elite interests.

In Keroka, the team praised residents for their resilience and engagement, while in Nyamira, they welcomed Dr. Matiang’i’s endorsement, framing it as a unifying step toward national renewal.

The leaders urged citizens to remain steadfast in pursuit of a better Kenya, with inclusive growth and equal opportunities. The tour in Kisii’s Keroka constituency, however, was marred by chaos, with opposition leaders accusing the government of instigating violence to disrupt their public engagement.

Despite this, the United Opposition expressed gratitude for the warm reception and affirmed their resolve to continue engaging communities across the country.



Editor's Desk



The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), led by Vice Chairperson Thomas Koyier, Commissioner Caroline Lentupuru and CEO Dr. Purity Ngina, met Baringo Governor Benjamin Cheboi to strengthen collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on eliminating Gender Based Violence (GBV). JICA's GBV Elimination Project Chief Advisor, Maya Soma, was part of the delegation. Governor Cheboi welcomed

the partnership, stressing the need for public sensitization on human rights and support for establishing a GBV safe house. The team also met County Commissioner Stephen Kutwa, who called for intensified public education to address GBV root causes. NGEC pledged continued collaboration to enhance prevention and survivor protection mechanisms.



Energy PS Alex Wachira, together with National Treasury PS Dr. Chris Kiptoo, engaged with the Spanish Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Jaime Alejandro Moreno Bau, to strengthen bilateral relations and boost Spain's participation in Kenya's infrastructure sector. Spanish companies are actively involved in major energy projects, including the Loiyangalani-Suswa 440kV Transmission Line, the Rabai-New Bamburi-Kilifi 132kV Project, and the Lessos-Tororo 400kV Transmission Line. Implemented by the Kenya Electricity Transmission Company (KETRACO), these initiatives are vital for reinforcing Kenya's power transmission network,

improving grid stability, and promoting regional electricity integration. The engagement highlights the commitment of both countries to deepen cooperation in energy infrastructure, leveraging Spanish expertise to advance Kenya's sustainable development and regional energy objectives.



From left: Laikipia Woman Representative Jane Kagiri, Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri, Defence PS Patrick Mariru and Laikipia North MP Sarah Korere during an inspection of the rehabilitated Marura Narok Comprehensive School in Sosian Ward, Laikipia County.



Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission Director of Legal Services David Too addresses the media during a site visit to recovered public land along Shimanzi Road in Mombasa, accompanied by Kenya Railways General Manager for Business and Commercial Services Stanley Cheruiyot, following landmark court rulings that saw the recovery of parcels valued at over Sh296 million, including a road reserve along Tom Mboya Avenue ordered to revert to public ownership.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi yesterday emphasized the pivotal role of faith institutions in promoting national unity, ethical leadership, and community transformation. During a meeting with Friends Church leadership, led by Stephen Magwilu, at his office, he highlighted the need for faith-based organizations to actively champion integrity, peace, and social responsibility. As a member of the Friends Quaker community, Mudavadi acknowledged the church's long-standing contributions in education, social justice, and humanitarian service. He called for strengthened collaboration between the Government and the church to enhance social cohesion, expand community outreach, and promote values-driven leadership. He urged translating faith into action to build a united, accountable, and progressive Kenya.

The countdown has begun for a major international gathering set to place Kenya at the center of global innovation conversations. From June 2-5, 2026, Nairobi will host the Global Data Festival and the Kenya Space Expo & Conference 2026 under the theme: "Powering Resilience, Innovation and Partnership through Data and Technology." The joint event will bring together global leaders, policymakers, researchers, innovators and industry players to explore how space intelligence, data and emerging technologies can drive equitable development and strengthen resilience worldwide. Organizers say the four-day forum will serve as a shared platform for dialogue, collaboration and practical solutions. Participants can expect high-level discussions, networking opportunities and hands-on engagements designed to turn ideas into measurable impact. The event positions Kenya as a leader in shaping conversations around technology-driven development, while fostering partnerships that cut across borders and sectors. Registration is now open. Interested participants can learn more and secure their slots at www.gdfksec2026.org



National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula (in glasses) accompanied by Kakamega Governor Fernandes Barasa (2nd left) Matungu MP Oscar Nabalindo (extreme left), Bungoma Senator Wafula Wakoli (in cap) and other leaders enjoy a jig during a public function on Sunday at Bulimbo, in Matungu constituency of Kakamega County. The leaders are urged residents from the western Kenya region to rally behind President William Ruto, saying the opposition were only engaging in divisive politics without any developmental agenda.

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Murang'a Gets Boost As State Expands Affordable Housing Projects

By: Bernard Munyao
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The addition of the two sites brings the total number of affordable housing projects in the county to seven, in line with the government's agenda to reduce the housing deficit while generating employment opportunities at the grassroots.
- In Mathioya Constituency, the government plans to construct 371 housing units on a two-acre parcel of land. The project targets different income groups, with 76 units designated as social housing for vulnerable households, 175 categorised as affordable housing and 120 units set aside as market-rate housing for higher-income earners.

Murang'a County is set to benefit from an expanded affordable housing programme after the State Department of Housing handed over two new construction sites in Mathioya and Kangema constituencies.

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County Director of Housing Laureen Wasungu said the development will incorporate essential social amenities to create a self-sustaining neighbourhood. The project will include an Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) centre, a borehole to ensure reliable water supply, a waste receptacle, a waste treatment plant, a gatehouse, 13 shops, a parking area and an underground water tank.

She noted that the housing units will be built in four blocks rising to nine floors. Construction has already begun, with completion expected within 24 months. Once complete, the project is expected to ease housing pressure in the area and stimulate the local economy during the construction phase.

In neighbouring Kangema Constituency, another 212 housing units are planned. These will include 40 social



An affordable housing project

housing units, 82 affordable units and 30 market-rate units. The two sites were officially handed over to contractors last week, marking the start of full-scale implementation.

Construction is also ongoing in other parts of Murang'a County. In Kigumo Constituency, 152 units are under construction, with work having started in December last year. In Makenji, Kandara Constituency, a 220-unit project is 76 per cent complete, raising expectations that residents may soon begin occupying the houses.

Meanwhile, in Makuyu, Maragua Constituency, a 764-unit development stands at 15 per cent completion. Ga-

tanga Constituency hosts the county's largest affordable housing project, with 1,910 units currently under construction and progress at 7.3 per cent. In Kiharu Constituency, construction of 165 units has commenced and is at an early stage, with two per cent completion recorded.

Altogether, Murang'a County is expected to benefit from 3,794 housing units under the affordable housing programme.

Beyond addressing the housing shortage, the projects are already delivering socio-economic benefits. According to Wasungu, hundreds of young people have secured jobs at the construction

sites, earning income and acquiring skills that can be applied in future projects.

She encouraged Kenyans to register for the housing programme through the Boma Yangu portal, noting that demand for affordable homes remains high.

The government maintains that the programme is aimed at ensuring access to decent housing for all Kenyans, regardless of income level, while also boosting economic activity in local communities.

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A New Dawn For Turkana: Seizing Our Moment In The Sun



By: Dr. John Ariko Namoit

@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- This collective awakening springs from a single, transformative announcement: the recent completion of Tullow Oil's sale of its entire Kenyan interest to Gulf Energy E&P BV and the latter's confirmation that it intends to invest heavily in this project.

- In Turkana, this is not merely a corporate transaction; it is a profound corporate rescue mission and a second chance to reclaim a destiny that once glittered on the horizon before fading into the painful economic anguish of Tullow's operational pullback in 2020.

- We remember the brief, golden post-discovery era nearly a decade ago when livelihoods improved, and Lodwar's nightlife rivalled that of Nairobi and Mombasa. For once, Turkana felt integrally woven into the national fabric, and the withdrawal was a deep wound, a lesson in the volatility of hope deferred.

For the people of Turkana, the arid winds carry a new scent; not just of dust and resilience, but of tangible, burgeoning hope.

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Now, in 2026, we stand at a pivotal crossroads, wiser and more strategically aware. We understand the dual reality of our time: oil remains a valuable asset, but the global clock is ticking. The accelerating march of climate action is narrowing the window

for fossil fuel production. This context strips away the luxury of political dilly-dallying or bureaucratic gamesmanship. The moment demands not just action, but deliberate, inclusive, and fiercely protective action centred on the people of Turkana.

As the South Lokichar Field Development Plan (FDP) enters the critical phase of parliamentary approval, the political environment must rise above petty competition to embrace a singular, nationalistic goal: making this project work for Kenya, through Turkana. The acquisition by Gulf Energy presents a clean slate and a test of our collective political maturity.

The political conversation must now shift from who gets credit to how we secure lasting value. Gulf Energy's entry is an opportunity we must approach with the sharp acuity of a hunter and the structured vision of a CEO. While political hunters might be tempted to stalk personal gain, derauling progress, our collective focus must be locked on ensuring our people squeeze out every drop of benefit.

Assuredly, we have robust legal safeguards, including the Petroleum Act (2019) and the pioneering Turkana County Local Content Act (2024), alongside the Draft Petroleum (Local Content) Regulations (2025), which provide a formidable trinity of pro-

tection. Our task is to breathe life into these documents, making them adaptive, living frameworks that respond to our socio-economic and environmental realities. This is the cornerstone upon which trust will be built or broken.

Across Turkana, a quiet revolution of readiness is underway; the enduring Mungu amekumbuka Turkana phrase is echoing with a specific demand: inclusion in the value chain. From site preparation to pipeline maintenance, our people are ready to contribute honest labour and grow their skills.

Transport is in our DNA and is perhaps best illustrated by families owning a single Probox for hire to cooperatives managing truck fleets; over 200 registered SACCOs are poised to mobilise and provide solutions to Gulf Energy E&P BV.

From an oil and gas human capital perspective, dozens of Turkana's sons and daughters are now graduates in petroleum engineering, geology, and environmental science from universities in Kenya and abroad. Alongside them stand mid-sized construction firms capable of handling significant contracts. This stratum offers Gulf Energy a "quick win", a pool of local talent to accelerate development and ensure quality.

Let this be a legacy project defined

by unity of purpose, and oversight must be rigorous as it is constructive. Our debate in Parliament and in the public participation forums must be geared towards strengthening safeguards, streamlining implementation, and holding all parties (Gulf Energy and government agencies alike) to account. The Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, EPRA, and the National Treasury must work in visible lock-step to ensure promises made in Nairobi become realities in Nakukulas.

The story of Turkana's oil is entering its most decisive chapter. It can be a tale of missed opportunities and repeated grievances, or it can become a Kenyan benchmark for how natural resource wealth can catalyse broad-based, sustainable development in a marginalised region. The choice hinges on the decisions we make in the coming months, the unity we forge, and the relentless focus we maintain. Let us choose wisely. Let us choose action. Let us ensure that this new dawn in Turkana shines for all.

Dr Ariko is the Turkana South Member of Parliament at the National Assembly

Kenya Boosts Cancer Care And Maternal Health under UHC Agenda

By: MKT Correspondents
@themtkenyentimes

Kenya is taking significant steps to tackle its growing cancer burden and reduce preventable maternal and newborn deaths through strengthened health infrastructure and enhanced policy measures.

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale yesterday presided over the signing of Intergovernmental Participation Agreements (IPAs) and tripartite Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for regional cancer centres in Mombasa, Garissa, and Nakuru.

These agreements provide a clear framework for preventive maintenance, quality assurance, and rapid technical support for high-value radiotherapy equipment, including linear accelerators, to ensure uninterrupted and safe cancer treatment.

The initiative, aligned with the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) agenda, aims to transform regional facilities into reliable referral hubs, bringing advanced oncology services closer to communities and reducing delays.

The agreements also safeguard public investment in cancer infrastructure.

In addition, the government has increased the oncology benefits package under the Social Health Authority (SHA) to KSh800,000 per patient, covering more than 29 million registered Kenyans.

The CS urged county governments to complement these measures by ensuring sufficient trained personnel and a steady supply of essential consumables, including brachytherapy source wires, imaging reagents, and thermoplastic masks.

The signing ceremony was attended by Principal Secretaries Dr. Ouma Oluga and Ms. Mary Muthoni, alongside Governors Abdulsamad Sherrif (Mombasa), Susan Kihika (Nakuru), and Nathif Jama (Garissa).

In a separate development, CS Duale inaugurated the National Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) Steering Committee, reinforcing Kenya's commitment to ensuring that no woman loses her life during childbirth and no newborn dies from preventable causes. Anchored within the UHC framework, the MPDSR initiative will be operationalized at facility, sub-county, and county levels through structured review meetings, turning every maternal and perinatal death into actionable insights to improve health outcomes.

The committee's findings will guide national decision-making, focusing on gaps in emergency obstetric care, referral systems, blood and essential



From left; Governor Susan Kihika, PS Mary Muthoni and CS Aden Duale during the signing ceremony. Photos/Courtesy

commodity availability, and staffing. Transformative measures include maternity reimbursement for qualifying Level 2 and Level 3 facilities through SHA, strengthened ambulance referral systems, and reinforcement of the National Blood Transfusion Services to address critical shortages.

Counties have been urged to prioritize human resources for health

through recruitment, equitable deployment, training, and motivation of frontline workers.

The CS emphasized that healthcare providers must uphold professionalism, compassion, and clinical excellence in maternal and newborn care.

The MPDSR Steering Committee is tasked with ensuring recommendations translate into tangible improve-

ments in facilities, referral networks, commodity security, financing, and workforce support nationwide.

The MPDSR inauguration was attended by Principal Secretaries Ms. Muthoni and Dr. Oluga, Director General Dr. Patrick Amoth, Council of Governors CEO Ms. Mary Mwiti, and development partners from UNF-

PA, UNICEF, and WHO.



Participants during the inauguration of MPDSR steering committee.

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United Opposition Nears Deal On Single Candidate As Gachagua, Matiang'i Lead Charge Against Ruto In Gusii Tour



By: Elizabeth Angira

Leaders of the United Opposition yesterday said they are close to agreeing on a single presidential candidate to challenge William Ruto in the next General Election, vowing to face him with a united front.

Speaking at Ekerenyo in Nyamira County during the coalition's first stop on a three-day tour of the Gusii region, former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua expressed confidence that consensus would soon be reached.

"This time, we are putting Kenya first and rallying behind one strong candidate. We shall not disappoint you," he told supporters.

Gachagua said the coalition's primary objective is to unseat President Ruto, arguing that the current administration has failed Kenyans across multiple sectors.

The opposition team includes former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i, former Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka, former Meru Governor Peter Munya, and Trans Nzoia Governor George Nitembeya. Also present were Kenya Social Congress chair Atati Kengere and West Mugirango parliamentary aspirant Dr David Arasa.

Notably absent were Members of Parliament allied to the United Democratic Alliance (UDA), as well as Kisii Governor Simba Arati and Nyamira Governor Amos Nyaribo.

Matiang'i accused an unnamed politician from Kisii County of orchestrating acts of hooliganism aimed at disrupting his engagements in the region. He alleged that youths had been mobilised to interfere with United Opposition rallies.

"We shall not be intimidated by acts of cowardice," he said. "We cannot live like this as a people. Do not use young people to cause chaos, for heaven's sake."

Kalonzo claimed the political tide was shifting ahead of the next election cycle, asserting that President Ruto was facing rejection even in his Rift Valley stronghold.

"Even the President has been rejected by his own people in the Rift Valley," he said, linking the shift to mounting economic pressures and the rising cost of living.

He added that the opposition had received a warm reception in Bomet and Kaplong earlier in the day as they travelled to Nyamira, saying the coalition was ready to offer alternative leadership focused on economic recovery and inclusive governance.

Munya described Matiang'i as a firm and results-driven leader, crediting him with spearheading trans-

formative reforms in education, security and public administration.

"Matiang'i was not afraid to make tough calls. He was focused and determined to see reforms implemented to the letter," Munya said, adding that his hands-on approach ensured policies were effectively executed.

Nitembeya, on his part, criticised the Kenya Kwanza administration, accusing it of undermining the quality of education through what he termed hurried and poorly structured reforms.

"The future of our children cannot be subjected to experiments," he said. "We must protect the integrity of our education system instead of diluting it with policies that are not fully thought out."

Meanwhile, tension flared in Kisii town for the better part of Monday as youths and alleged hired goons attempted to take control of sections of the central business district ahead of the opposition leaders' planned visit.

Groups armed with sticks, arrows and other makeshift weapons were seen roaming major streets and harassing supporters awaiting the team's arrival from Nyamira, where they had earlier held a rally. The groups were later overwhelmed and pushed back from the county capital.

Matiang'i condemned the violence, reiterating that the coalition would not be intimidated.

Gachagua also criticised the Kisii governor, accusing him of appointing himself a community spokesperson.

"From today, the official spokesman is Dr Matiang'i," he declared at Ekerenyo.

In Nyamira, Matiang'i was ceremonially installed as a community elder and spokesperson, further consolidating his political influence in the Gusii region.



Leaders of the United Opposition yesterday in Nyamira



Fred Matiang'i installed as a leader



Rigathi Gachagua



Worth Noting:

- Speaking at Ekerenyo in Nyamira County during the coalition's first stop on a three-day tour of the Gusii region, former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua expressed confidence that consensus would soon be reached.
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National Police Service Engages SHA On Smooth Transition To Public Officers Medical Scheme

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The National Police Service (NPS) held a consultative meeting with officials from the Social Health Authority (SHA) at its Nairobi headquarters to discuss the transition of officers to the Public Officers Medical Scheme Fund (POMSF) under SHA.

The SHA team, led by Chief Executive Officer Dr. Mercy Mwangangi, also paid a courtesy call on Inspector General of Police Mr. Douglas Kanja to reinforce collaboration between the institutions.

Chairing the meeting, Secretary of Administration and Accounting Officer Ms. Bernice Lemedeket highlighted the unique operational demands of police work, noting that officers' nationwide deployment requires a tailored medical scheme.

She emphasised the importance of enhancing awareness of SHA benefits and ensuring a smooth integration for all NPS personnel.

The discussions focused on officers' concerns and practical measures to fa-

cilitate a seamless transition. Key decisions included conducting quarterly utilisation reviews, granting officers access to the SHA utilisation portal, and organising sensitisation forums across the Kenya Police Service (KPS), Administration Police Service (APS), and Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI).

Additionally, the parties agreed to establish a dedicated call centre, provide a comprehensive list of contracted medical facilities, and hold regular consultative meetings to address emerging issues.

The NPS reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding the health and welfare of officers by strengthening collaboration with SHA and ensuring access to quality medical care.

Also in attendance were senior NPS officials, including Director of Personnel Dr. Wanderi Mwangi, Principal Deputy to the Deputy Inspector General of the KPS Mr. Patrick Tito, Principal Deputy to the Deputy Inspector General of the APS Dr. Masoud Mwinyi, Deputy Director of the Internal Affairs Unit Mr. Barasa Saiya, and Director of Planning at the DCI Mr. Bernard Wamwoli.

Through the engagement, the NPS



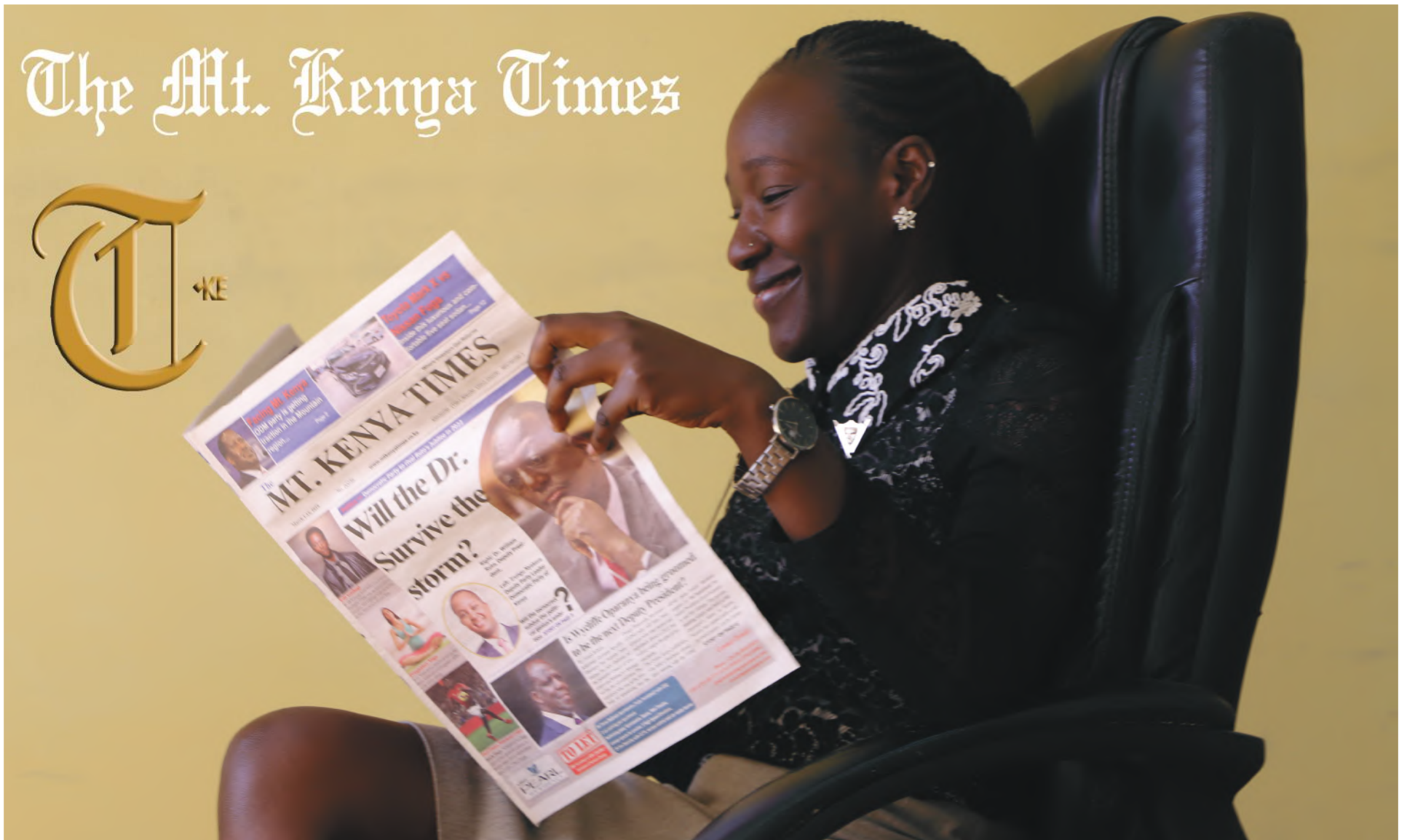
IG Douglas Kanja with SHA CEO Mercy Mwangangi.

and SHA aim to create a responsive, efficient medical support system that addresses the specific needs of officers while promoting transparency, accountability, and access to timely

healthcare services.

The meeting marks a major step in the ongoing effort to provide police officers with a robust healthcare framework that meets operational re-

quirements and enhances overall welfare across the Service.



Farmers Cautioned Against Early Planting

By: Samuel Waititu
@themkenyatimes

Agricultural experts in Embu County have cautioned farmers against planting during the ongoing rains that commenced to avoid crop failure.

They said the rains will be short-lived as per the forecast by the Kenya Meteorological Department and thus farmers should not rush to put their seeds to the ground.

County Director for Agriculture Patrick Njeru said these preliminary showers may easily lead to premature germination that may leave their crops to die once they subside in the few days to come as predicted by the weatherman.

“We are asking our farmers not to treat the ongoing rains as the onset of the long rains,” Njeru said, while

asking them to instead use the rains to continue preparing their farms.

Speaking from his office yesterday, Njeru reported that the weather forecast for Embu indicates that long rains will begin in mid-March in Manyatta and Runjenyes Constituencies that form the upper parts of the county.

He said the lower parts of Mbeere North and South Constituencies that are classified as arid will start receiving rains a week later.

Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) Extension Officer Catherine Muriithi echoed his sentiments asking farmers to avoid incurring losses that may be associated with premature sowing in terms of seeds and fertilizer.

“We do not want our farmers to incur double cost for the inputs and that is why we are asking them to heed to the advisory by the weatherman,” she said.

Meanwhile, Director Njeru said



their extension officers were on the ground training farmers on how to prepare their farmlands for planting using modern techniques including minimum tillage and conservation agriculture aimed at maximising

yields while conserving soil health. He said they want to take advantage of the upcoming long rains that have been predicted to be normal or above normal and well distributed in space and time to maximise yield, especial-

ly for maize and beans that are the main staple crops in the county.

IEBC Engages Youth In Machakos Ahead Of 2027 Polls

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

By MKT Reporter
The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), in partnership with the Centre for Multiparty Democracy yesterday held a Youth Dialogue Forum in Machakos County as part of its preparations for the 2027 General Election.

The forum provided a platform for the Commission to update young people on its state of readiness, including the ongoing Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise, and to gather views from county-based youth leaders and influencers on key electoral issues.

Opening the session, Commissioner Dr Alutalala Mukhwana, who chairs the Voter Education, Partnerships, Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Committee, said public participation remains the cornerstone of Kenya’s electoral process. He noted that the Commission has aligned its priorities toward enhanc-

ing credibility, inclusivity and voter experience, guided by feedback from stakeholders.

“As we prepare for 2027, we have made deliberate and strategic efforts to engage key stakeholders, especially the youth, by sharing a clear roadmap toward inclusive, transparent, free and fair elections,” he said.

Commissioner Ann Nderitu underscored the central role of young people in shaping the country’s political future. She said about 74 per cent of Kenya’s population is below 35 years, while nearly 57 per cent of registered voters are youth.

“This means the country largely belongs to the youth. You are not spectators but decision-makers,” she said, urging young people to register as voters and actively participate in elections and public consultations.

Nderitu called on participants to cascade the information shared at the forum to their peers across the county, saying the engagement was meant to benefit the wider youth population they represent.

Deputy Commission Secretary for Operations Ruth Kulundu, representing the Acting Commission Sec-



Some of the participants in a group photo.

retary and CEO, said young people are a key special interest group in the Commission’s outreach and inclusion programmes. She highlighted ongoing collaboration with youth-led and youth-serving organisations to counter misinformation and promote

youth-friendly electoral initiatives. The Commission expressed optimism that more young people who have attained the age of 18 will register during the CVR exercise and take part in future electoral processes. IEBC officials reaffirmed their com-

mitment to sustained dialogue with the youth as part of broader efforts to strengthen democratic governance ahead of the 2027 polls.

MKU Marks 15 Years Of Charter Status With Grand Thanksgiving Service

By: James Wakahiu
 @themtkenyatimes

Mount Kenya University (MKU) on Sunday held a vibrant Thanksgiving Service at the Mwai Kibaki Convention Centre (MKCC) to celebrate 15 years since the institution was awarded its university Charter.

The event, organized by the Office of Chaplaincy, drew together students, staff, and representatives from all religious groups within the university for a unified moment of gratitude and worship.

This year's celebration, held on the First Sunday of Lent, was marked by powerful performances from renowned gospel artists Evelyn Wanjiru and SIZE 8 Reborn. Their uplifting music set an atmosphere of spiritual reflection and jubilation, capturing the theme of the day: "Celebrating 15 Years of God's Faithfulness Since the Charter."

Prof. Simon Gicharu, MKU Founder and Chairperson of the Board of Directors, served as the Chief Guest.

In his address, he commended the university community for its continued growth and resilience over the years.

As part of the celebrations, Prof. Gicharu presented critical equipment to various religious groups within the institution, a gesture aimed at strengthening their missions and enhancing spiritual engagement across the campuses.

The service also featured a sermon by preacher Joseph Nzeketha, whose message centered on gratitude, unity, and the significance of the Lenten journey. The gathering reflected the university's commitment to nurturing an environment where spiritual, academic, and social development go hand in hand.

Among the distinguished attendees were MKU Vice Chancellor Prof. Deogratius Jaganyi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (APIA) Prof. Peter Kirira, and other senior university officials.

Their presence underscored the institution's collective appreciation for the milestones achieved since attaining charter status.

The 2026 Thanksgiving celebration will be remembered as a day when the MKU community came together to honor its journey, celebrate its achievements, and renew its commitment to faith and service.



MKU founder and board chairman, Prof Simon Gicharu (second right), presents music equipment, laptops and sound systems to various Christian groups within the university during MKU's Thanksgiving celebrations held last Sunday at the Mwai Kibaki Convention Centre, Thika town. With him (right) is MKU VC, Prof Deogratius Jaganyi. Photos/Courtesy.



Musician Size "8" (left) and her team performing during the MKU's Thanksgiving celebrations held on Sunday at the Mwai Kibaki Convention Centre. She was a guest artist at the church service.



Part of the congregation during MKU's thanksgiving celebrations held on Sunday at the Mwai Kibaki Convention Centre, Thika town.

StarTimes Brings Football's Fiercest Rivalry To Screens As Bayern Face Dortmund

By: Edwin Mwangi
@themkenyatimes

Africa's leading digital TV provider, StarTimes, is set to deliver one of football's most anticipated fixtures as FC Bayern Munich take on fierce rivals Borussia Dortmund in a decisive Bundesliga clash on Saturday at 8:30pm.

With Bayern currently holding an eight-point advantage over Dortmund and just 12 games remaining in the season, this encounter could define the destiny of the title. The previous meeting saw Bayern emerge victorious through goals from Harry Kane and Michael Olise, while Julian Brandt gave Dortmund hope with a late response. Now, with the stakes even high-

er, both teams will enter the pitch knowing that every moment could shape the championship race.

Historically, Bayern have dominated the fixture, but Dortmund's recent breakthrough victory in Munich proved that the balance of power can shift. Fans can expect a thrilling contest defined by Bayern's ruthless efficiency and Dortmund's determination to close the gap and reignite the title race.

Speaking ahead of the highly anticipated broadcast, Michael Mugo, Head of PR at StarTimes, emphasized the importance of bringing premium football moments to African audiences:

"This is more than just a match. It is a defining moment in the Bundesliga season and one of the biggest rivalries in world football. At StarTimes, we are committed to curating the

very best sporting experiences for our viewers"

StarTimes continues to solidify its position as the home of world-class football by delivering premium coverage, expert analysis, and unmatched access to top leagues. This blockbuster fixture reflects StarTimes' dedication to connecting African fans with the biggest stages in global sport.

As the title race intensifies and pride, history, and glory collide, this is the moment football fans have been waiting for. Expect intensity. Expect drama. Expect greatness.

Our audience understands quality football, and this fixture delivers elite talent, passion, and drama at the highest level. We are proud to ensure fans across Africa do not miss a single moment of this iconic showdown," he added



MCA, Former County Officials In Court Over KSh51.4 million Garissa Fraud Case

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) yesterday arraigned a Member of the County Assembly (MCA) and two former senior county officials over the alleged fraudulent loss of Sh51,495,253 from the Garissa County Government.

The accused, Bambala MCA Abdi Ibrahim Daar, former Garissa County Director of Accounting Services Mohamud Dubow Korane, and former Senior Principal Economist Yussuf Bethe Ali, were charged alongside Qorjarey Enterprise and General Supplies Limited before Principal Magistrate Jackson Omwange.

They faced 27 counts relating to conspiracy to commit an economic crime, fraudulent acquisition of public property, abuse of office and forgery. All pleaded not guilty.

Court heard that the offences were committed between September 14, 2021, and July 1, 2022, and include irregular payments for emergency food supplies, water trucking services

and office furniture allegedly supplied to the County Government of Garissa but never delivered.

Prosecution told court that between April 5 and June 30, 2022, the accused conspired to facilitate the transfer of KSh51,495,253 to the company. The fraudulent acquisition charge specifically relates to payments processed between April 7 and June 30, 2022.

Korane, who served as Director of Accounting Services at the time of this transaction, was charged with five counts of abuse of office for allegedly approving payments on various dates in April, May and June 2022.

Further, he is also charged with forgery of payment vouchers dated March 29, April 5, April 29, May 24 and June 15, 2022.

Ali, the former Senior Principal Economist, is charged with abusing his office by raising invoices in the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) on April 6, April 14, May 4 and June 28-29, 2022, thereby facilitating the disputed payments.

Daar was charged with conspiracy, fraudulent acquisition of public property, forgery and uttering false



The suspects in court yesterday. Photo/Courtesy.

documents. He is alleged to have presented forged payment documents to commercial banks between April and July 2022 in support of the impugned transactions.

Prosecution Counsel Evans Kazungu urged the court to impose strict bond terms, citing the gravity of the

offences and the substantial amount of public funds involved. The defence sought a review of bond terms, arguing they were excessive.

The court granted each accused a bond of KSh5 million with one surety or an alternative cash bail of KSh2 million, revising earlier terms of

KSh10 million bond or KSh5 million cash bail.

The case will be mentioned on March 24, 2026, for pre-trial directions, with hearing scheduled on a priority basis from May 4 to 7, 2026.

14 POEMS

Silence Of My Friend Brings



A Meaning in sounded words
A lots of meaning in unsounded words
Silence of my friend brings night,
Soft as stars that hide from sight.

Words once bloomed, and visioned
Reflects in heart for the reason.
Tell your friend about your wish
With commitment, not in words.

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.

Sit With Truth, Not Tales



A nose parker takes their time
To unveil other people's prime.
Through the grapevine, rumours climb.
Unknowingly, you jump into that divine.

If you set out, you will be in the next set.
East or West nothing is better than your
well-being.
When chit-chats turned into an idle blame,
Swiftly change your game.

Affix firm boundaries, let rumours depart.
Be calm and composed, proud to stand apart.
Don't dare to dish the dirt.
Rather speak heart to heart, without any
hurt.

M Devika

Pgt English, Creative Writer, Fiitjee Global
School, Chennai, Tamilnadu, India.

Shozoda Hojiyeva – A Mentor Of Young Chefs



Every profession has its devoted individuals. One of those who lovingly teaches the art of cooking to the younger generation is Shozoda Hojiyeva. As the head of a culinary club, she teaches many students not only the secrets of preparing dishes, but also instills cleanliness, patience, and diligence.

During her lessons, Shozoda opa takes into account the abilities of each girl. Together, they prepare various national and modern dishes and learn the culture of table setting and presentation. Throughout the club sessions, students take joy in the sweets and meals they cook with their own hands. This helps build their self-confidence and

sense of responsibility.
An atmosphere of warmth and inspiration always prevails in the culinary club room. The simmering pots, the aroma of the tandoor, and the cheerful laughter of children give this place a special spirit. Shozoda opa knows very well how to add love to every dish and how to value cooking as an art.

Today, her students actively participate in various events and competitions, earning honorable places. This is the result of the teacher's hard work and patience.

Shozoda Hojiyeva is not only the leader of a culinary club, but also a mentor who plants the seeds of kindness, taste, and skill in the hearts of the younger generation. Her work deserves high praise, and her dedication is an example for others to follow.

Nigina Rahimova
Methodologist, Department for Engaging pupils in Education
Romitan District "Kelajak Markazi"

Alin – The Best Giver of This World



Alin...
A tiny soul from Kerala,
Only ten months old.
She had not yet seen the colors of the world,
Yet she became its brightest light.
Born like a blessing,
Gone like an angel.
They called her brain dead,
But how can a heart that saves five
Ever truly stop beating?
If she had lived,
She would have lived just one life.

Now she lives in five —
Five smiles,
Five heartbeats,
Five second chances.
Her parents carried unbearable pain,
Yet they chose courage over grief.
Through their tears,
They gave life.

Alin,
You are the best giver of this world.
A little angel
Who made five alive.
Today we bow our heads
In tribute to you —
And to the brave parents
Who turned loss into hope.

By
ZAHETHA R
BT ASST
GHS PAPPANTHANGAL
TVM DIST

Love Reading Books



I love reading books. Every day, I pick up a book and enter a new world. Stories take me on exciting adventures, and I learn many

wonderful things from them.
I like to sit and read in a cozy corner, surrounded by the smell of old and new pages. The characters become my friends. Sometimes I see myself in them, and their journeys inspire me.

Reading helps me relax and imagine wonderful places. Whether it's a rainy day or a sunny afternoon, a good book is my perfect companion.

By,
V. Lakshitha
VIII Std
PUMS Chinna Obulapuram
Gummidipoondi
Thiruvallur Dt
Tamil Nadu
India

Anime Culture (Japan)



Anime means Japanese animation. It is a big part of Japanese culture and is loved by people around the world.

What makes anime special?

Colorful art styles and expressive characters
Stories about friendship, courage, family, and dreams

Many genres: action, comedy, fantasy, sports, school life, and more

Where anime appears
TV series and movies
Online streaming platforms
Manga (Japanese comics) often become anime
Fan culture
Cosplay: fans dress as their favorite characters
Anime conventions and events
Collecting posters, figures, and keychains

In Japan
Some places have anime-themed cafés and shops
Certain towns are famous for being settings of anime
Theme songs and voice actors are very popular

Positive sides
Encourages creativity and art
Teaches values like teamwork and kindness
Connects fans from different countries.

Dr.Meera.T

Pressure Mounts On Kenya To Scrap Death Penalty From The Statute

By: Suleiman Mbatiah
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Kenya last carried out an execution in 1987, during the tenure of former President Daniel arap Moi. Since then, courts have continued to hand down death sentences, but none have been implemented. Legal scholars describe this as a de facto moratorium.
- The death penalty remains in several statutes. Section 204 of the Penal Code prescribes death for murder. Sections 296(2) and 297(2) provide for death in cases of robbery with violence and attempted robbery with violence. Treason under Section 40 also attracts the same sentence.
- The Supreme Court addressed the issue in 2017 in *Francis Karioko Muruatetu and Another v Republic*. The judges ruled that the mandatory death sentence for murder was unconstitutional because it denied courts the discretion to consider mitigating factors and individual circumstances.



The Social Justice Centres Travelling Theatre stage a play on the legal inconsistencies. Photo/Suleiman Mbatiah

Rights groups are stepping up calls for Parliament to remove the death penalty from Kenyan law, saying it conflicts with constitutional protections and modern standards of justice. Kenya last carried out an execution in 1987, during the tenure of former President Daniel arap Moi. Since then, courts have continued to hand down death sentences, but none have been implemented. Legal scholars describe this as a de facto moratorium. The death penalty remains in several statutes. Section 204 of the Penal Code prescribes death for murder. Sections 296(2) and 297(2) provide for death in cases of robbery with violence and attempted robbery with violence. Treason under Section 40 also attracts the same sentence. The Supreme Court addressed the issue in 2017 in *Francis Karioko Muruatetu and Another v Republic*. The judges ruled that the mandatory death sentence for murder was unconstitutional because it denied courts the discretion to consider mitigating factors and individual circumstances. The court did not abolish the death penalty. It held that capital punishment remains lawful under Article 26(3) of the Constitution, which allows deprivation of life following

due process. In 2021, the Supreme Court clarified that the *Murutetu* decision applied only to murder cases. It directed that challenges to mandatory death sentences for other offences, such as robbery with violence, must be filed separately. That clarification has led to uneven application in lower courts. Some judges have applied the *Murutetu* reasoning to robbery cases. Others have declined, citing the Supreme Court's guidance. Presidential commutations have reinforced the practical halt to executions. In 2009, President Mwai Kibaki commuted the sentences of thousands of death row inmates to life imprisonment. In 2016, President Uhuru Kenyatta did the same for more than 2,700 prisoners. In 2023, lawmakers introduced several bills seeking to abolish capital punishment and replace it with life imprisonment. The Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2023 proposes removing the word "death" from key provisions and substituting it with "life imprisonment." The Prisons (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Preservation of Public Security (Amendment) Bill, 2023 would

remove references to execution procedures and capital punishment from related laws. The International Commission of Jurists, Kenya Chapter, says Parliament should act to align domestic law with constitutional protections of the right to life, fair trial and human dignity. Beatrice Monari, a programme consultant at ICJ Kenya, said retaining the death penalty in statute while not carrying it out leaves inmates in prolonged uncertainty. "If you are sentenced to death, there is always that what-if, when-will-it-happen? That uncertainty affects mental wellness," she said. She added that many inmates lack adequate legal representation to pursue appeals or sentence reviews. Monari spoke at a community outreach event in Nakuru City, where ICJ partnered with the Social Justice Centres Travelling Theatre. The group staged a play on wrongful conviction and the human cost of capital punishment. Creative director Anthony Mea said the performance told the story of an innocent man sentenced to death after being in the wrong place at the wrong time. "We are trying to use art to highlight

these critical issues and to have the community talk about them. Everyone has a right to life. Our Constitution guarantees the right to life and it should not be selective," he said. Sophia Hiuhi, chief executive of Women in Society Empowerment, said several young men from London Estate in Nakuru are serving death sentences at Nakuru GK Prison. She welcomed the outreach as a way to widen public debate. Recent appellate decisions have also questioned the proportionality of some mandatory sentences. Judges have observed that certain offences can attract harsher penalties than others, even where the harm caused differs. Lawyers and rights defenders argue that full abolition, through legislation or constitutional amendment, would resolve the contradiction of keeping a punishment on the books that has not been carried out for nearly four decades.

EDUCATION

Universities Urged To Prepare For 2029 CBC Cohort As Sector Faces Funding and Innovation Challenges

By: James Wakahiu
@themtkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

- The CBC system, introduced in 2017 to replace the 8-4-4 model, follows a 2-6-3-3-3 structure and emphasizes learner-centered education, practical skills, creativity and talent development rather than rote memorization. Currently at Grade 10, the cohort is expected to join universities in 2029 after completing senior school (Grades 10–12).
- Dr. Gaitho cautioned that these learners will arrive with different educational experiences, expectations and skill sets shaped by a curriculum that prioritizes competencies, problem-solving and real-world application of knowledge.
- He warned that traditional university teaching models centered on passive learning and examination-driven assessment may not align with the emerging learner profile.

Kenyan universities have been urged to urgently prepare for the admission of the first Competency-Based Education (CBE) cohort in 2029, with education leaders warning that failure to adapt could leave institutions misaligned with a new generation of learners.

Speaking during the annual general meeting and retreat of the Kenya Association of Private Universities (KAPU) in Mtwapa, Kilifi County, National Association of Private Universities in Kenya (NAPUK) Secretary General Dr. Vincent Gaitho said the transition of learners from the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) system into universities will mark a defining moment for higher education.

The CBC system, introduced in 2017 to replace the 8-4-4 model, follows a 2-6-3-3-3 structure and emphasizes learner-centered education, practical skills, creativity and talent development rather than rote memorization. Currently at Grade 10, the cohort is expected to join universities in 2029 after completing senior school (Grades 10–12).

Dr. Gaitho cautioned that these learners will arrive with different educational experiences, expectations and skill sets shaped by a curriculum that prioritizes competencies, problem-solving and real-world application of knowledge.

He warned that traditional university teaching models centered on passive learning and examination-driven assessment may not align with the emerging learner profile.

“The 2029 cohort represents a generational shift that could redefine university education in Kenya,” he said, adding that institutions that proactively adapt will position themselves as leaders in shaping the future of higher education.

He called for curriculum redesign, pedagogical innovation and greater investment in experiential learning environments to ensure a smooth transition. Universities, he said, must evaluate whether their admission systems, academic pathways and student support structures are flexible enough to accommodate diverse competencies rather than relying solely on academic scores.

Faculty development will also be critical to equip lecturers to engage students whose learning styles emphasize collaboration, innovation and practical application.

Dr. Gaitho, who is also Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Mount Kenya University (MKU) Council, emphasized that universities must evolve from centers of instruction into hubs of innovation, service and leadership. He said the true measure of success will not be campus size or enrollment numbers but the impact institutions make through transformed lives and empowered communities.

He traced the growth of higher education in Kenya since independence in 1963, noting that the sector has expanded from a single public university to a vast ecosystem of public and private institutions. While public universities still enroll larger student populations, private universities have gained visibility and influence, increasingly becoming preferred destinations for higher qualifications.

In today’s demand-driven environment, he said, academic excellence and innovation are essential for sustainability. The modern student seeks exposure, experience and preparation for employment, service and entrepreneurship—not just a degree.

Dr. Gaitho urged university managers to prioritize student experience and alumni relations, describing students and graduates as either ambassadors or detractors of an institution’s brand. Excellence in customer care and service delivery, he said, is crucial in building lasting loyalty and institutional reputation.

He further stressed that impactful universities must strengthen teaching, research, innovation and community service. Institutions that fail to convert research into commercialized innovations risk stifling their potential. The COVID-19 pandemic, he noted, exposed the consequences of limited homegrown research capacity in the Global South, particularly during the scramble for vaccines.

Collaboration among universities and with industry emerged as a key theme. Dr. Gaitho said no single institution can break barriers alone and called for intentional partnerships across disciplines. He noted that tuition fees dominate revenue streams in private universities, while research and grant income remain limited. Graduate studies often culminate in degrees without tangible innovations.

Private universities, he argued, are uniquely positioned to lead collaborative efforts due to their flexibility and efficient decision-making structures. Through bodies such as KAPU



National Association of Private Universities in Kenya (NAPUK) secretary general and Mount Kenya University (MKU) Pro-Chancellor, also Chairman of the MKU university Council, Dr Vincent Gaitho. Photo/ File

and NAPUK, vice-chancellors can form consortiums to promote student and faculty exchanges, joint research, sabbaticals, innovation incubation and commercialization of products.

He also advocated closer ties between universities and industry to ensure curricula remain relevant and to facilitate patent incubation and commercialization. Education programs, he said, should serve as platforms for solving real-world industry challenges.

On digital transformation, Dr. Gaitho highlighted the growing importance of data governance in higher education. With universities managing vast amounts of student and research data, compliance with Kenya’s data protection regulations is now central to institutional credibility. Institutions must invest in digital security infrastructure, staff training and strong data governance systems, while strategically leveraging data to enhance decision-making and student support services.

Meanwhile, KAPU has been engaged in negotiations—and potential litigation—with the government over unpaid fees for students placed in private universities through the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS). Private universities claim the government owes them up to Sh58.8 billion as of late 2025, a situation that has strained institutional finances.

In a related development, Rwanda’s High Commissioner to Kenya, Ernest Rwamucyo, praised MKU for strengthening cross-border education

partnerships and promoting regional integration. During a visit to MKU’s main campus in Thika, he described the university as a strong partner in advancing Kenya–Rwanda relations.

Rwamucyo encouraged Rwandan students studying at MKU to build networks with peers from across the region, noting that today’s students will become future business leaders and policymakers within the East African Community.

MKU Vice Chancellor Prof. Deogratius Jaganyi said such interactions broaden students’ worldviews and promote internationalization. MKU founder Prof. Simon Gicharu presented the envoy with a book documenting the journey of Mount Kigali University in Rwanda, highlighting the social and economic impact of cross-border education initiatives.

Dr. Gaitho concluded that the future of higher education in Kenya will be shaped by courage, collaboration and relevance. Universities must prioritize student-centered learning, impactful research, responsible data management and innovation to remain competitive and contribute meaningfully to national and regional development.

NEMA Champions Circular Economy To Tackle Waste And Spur Green Growth

By: Jane Ngugi and Dennis Rasto
 @themtkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- Speaking during a sensitization forum in Nakuru on effective Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems and implementation of sustainable laws to end plastic pollution, NEMA Director in charge of Enforcement Dr. Ayub Macharia said the authority is spearheading a strategic shift from the traditional “take-make-dispose” linear model to a circular economy approach.
- Dr. Macharia explained that the circular economy model is designed to minimize waste by reusing, recycling and repurposing materials, creating a closed-loop system where discarded materials become raw inputs for new products. The approach, he said, encourages environmentally conscious choices among individuals and institutions while fostering a culture of sustainability.



NEMA Director in charge of Enforcement Dr. Ayub Macharia addressing the forum

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has intensified efforts to promote a circular economy model as a sustainable solution to Kenya’s growing waste management challenges, positioning waste as a resource capable of driving economic growth and environmental conservation.

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Dr. Macharia explained that the circular economy model is designed to minimize waste by reusing, recycling and repurposing materials, creating a closed-loop system where discarded materials become raw inputs for new products. The approach, he said, encourages environmentally conscious choices among individuals and institutions while fostering a culture of sustainability.

“We want to create a country that generates income from waste,” he said, noting that the circular economy prioritizes reducing resource extraction, optimizing the use of materials and recovering waste to give it a second life.

According to past waste inventories cited by NEMA, between 60 and 70 percent of waste generated in Nakuru is organic, 20 percent plastic, 10

percent paper, one percent medical waste and two percent metal. However, much of this waste is mixed together and either dumped at disposal sites or left uncollected, clogging waterways, polluting the environment and creating breeding grounds for disease-causing vectors.

Dr. Macharia emphasized that waste is often littered because it is perceived as having little or no value. Through the Sustainable Waste Management Act (2022), NEMA is enforcing Extended Producer Responsibility, requiring manufacturers to take responsibility for the entire lifecycle of their products, including post-consumer waste management. The goal, he said, is to move the country toward a “Zero Waste” future.

He noted that rapid urbanization continues to intensify socio-economic, environmental and institutional challenges linked to waste management. As towns and cities expand, there is an urgent need to promote responsible public behaviour, including segregation of waste at source and proper use of designated bins.

“This is not just another cleanup campaign. It’s a strategic shift—an environmental and economic revolution,” Dr. Macharia said, adding that redefining waste as a resource can unlock significant opportunities, particularly for young people seeking employment in the green economy.

The forum was organized by the Electronic Waste Responsibility Organization of Kenya, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Center for

Environment, Justice and Development. It brought together stakeholders to discuss practical strategies for curbing plastic pollution and strengthening sustainable waste management systems.

Bernard Owino of Langa Home Waste Management lobby in Naivasha underscored the importance of adopting technology-driven solutions in waste management. He said effective waste segregation—separating organic, plastic and hazardous waste into clearly marked color-coded bins—is critical for environmental conservation, public health and sustainable development.

Owino highlighted the potential of waste-to-energy technologies, composting and material recovery initiatives to generate employment and business opportunities. Investing in modern solid waste disposal systems, wastewater treatment infrastructure and updated policies, he said, can transform waste management into a viable economic sector.

He further pointed out that emerging waste streams such as electronic waste and microplastics require updated legislation and innovative approaches. Reducing waste volumes and promoting recycling can also lower waste management costs for county governments.

Griffins Ochieng of the Center for Environment, Justice and Development emphasized the importance of partnerships between county governments and the private sector in advancing circular economy initiatives. He said proper waste and wastewater

management curbs pollution, conserves natural resources and protects aquatic ecosystems.

Ochieng noted that generating power from waste has the potential to reduce environmental degradation while increasing employment opportunities. He warned that rapid urbanization, industrialization and improved economic activity have made solid waste management one of the biggest challenges facing Kenya’s urban centres.

He called for urgent investment in waste-to-energy technologies and strategic action plans to harness the energy potential stored in waste. By embracing the 3Rs—Reduce, Reuse and Recycle—Kenya can create jobs, promote economic growth and improve public health and environmental outcomes.

Sustainable waste management, Ochieng added, can contribute significantly to climate change mitigation by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by up to 20 percent. Waste materials can also be transformed into valuable raw materials for manufacturing stationery, fabrics and other products.

Stakeholders at the forum agreed that shifting to a circular economy is essential for building a cleaner, healthier and more prosperous Kenya. By treating waste as a resource rather than a burden, the country stands to unlock new economic opportunities while safeguarding the environment for future generations.

The Uncomfortable Truth: Money Might Actually Be The Answer To Almost Everything



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

They told you money can't buy happiness. They were probably broke when they said it. Before you dismiss this as the philosophy of the greedy or the shallow, consider what the data actually says because science, psychology, and lived human experience keep arriving at the same awkward conclusion: financial security doesn't just make life more comfortable, it makes life fundamentally better in almost every dimension that matters. This is not a celebration of greed. This is an honest reckoning with reality.

Let's start with the facts. A landmark 2021 study by Nobel Prize-winning psychologist, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, found that wellbeing continues to rise with income well beyond the previously accepted ceiling of \$75,000 per year and that for many people, the relationship between money and happiness never truly plateaus. More money, more reported emotional wellbeing. The data didn't lie, didn't moralize, and didn't apologize. It just showed what it showed.

Consider health, perhaps the most sacred thing a person can possess. Wealthier individuals live longer in the United States alone, the richest 1% live roughly 10 to 15 years longer than the poorest 1%. They have access to better preventive care, superior specialists, cleaner neighborhoods, lower stress hormones, and higher-quality food. The chronic stress of financial scarcity, known medically as "poverty-related allostatic load," physically degrades the body over time shrinking telomeres, suppressing immunity, and elevating cortisol to levels that mimic living in a warzone. Money, quite literally, buys you more life.

Think about relationships the ones we are told matter more than wealth. Money problems are consistently ranked as the number one cause of divorce in America and across much of the world. Couples who fight about money early in their relationships are more likely to separate, regardless of how much they love each other. Financial stress poisons intimacy, corrodes trust, and turns small disagreements into existential battles. Remove financial strain from a relationship and you remove one of the single greatest threats to its survival. The love may have always been there; it was the debt that was killing it.

Mental health is perhaps where money's influence is most underappreciated. Anxiety and depression rates are dramatically higher among low-income populations not primar-



ily because poor people are psychologically weaker, but because they are dealing with objectively more stressful circumstances. The uncertainty of whether rent will be paid, whether the car will start, whether the children will eat these are not abstract worries. They are cognitive weights that never lift. Therapy, medication, nutritious food, rest, exercise, leisure every proven mental health intervention is either directly paid for with money or made possible by having enough of it to sustain a stable life.

Freedom is the thing people say they want more than anything. Freedom to choose their career, their city, their relationships, their daily schedule. But freedom, in the modern world, is largely a financial concept. The person with savings can quit the job that is killing them. The person without savings cannot. The person with wealth can walk away from a bad situation; the person in debt must endure it. Money does not merely enable freedom as a bonus it is the infrastructure upon which personal freedom is built. Without it, most choices are not really choices at all.

Education, that great equalizer we celebrate in theory, is in practice distributed along financial lines. The wealthiest children attend the best schools, receive the best tutoring, participate in enriching extracurricular, and arrive at adulthood with networks that compound their advantage. Poorer children, regardless of their intelligence or ambition, navigate a system that underfunds, underserves, and underestimates them. Money does not guarantee a great education, but the absence of it makes an excellent education extraordinarily difficult to access. The playing field is not level. Money is the slope.

Safety is another dimension we rare-

ly discuss honestly. Wealthier neighborhoods have lower crime rates, better-funded police and emergency services, safer roads, lower pollution levels, and better-maintained infrastructure. Poorer communities bear a disproportionate burden of environmental hazards, gun violence, and neglect. A child raised in financial security is statistically less likely to be a victim of crime, less likely to be exposed to environmental toxins, and more likely to feel and be physically safe. The castle walls of the wealthy are largely invisible, but they are very, very real.

Time is perhaps the most finite resource any human being has, and money buys it back in extraordinary ways. The person who can afford household help, reliable transportation, quality childcare, and food delivery reclaims hours every single week that the financially strained person must spend in labor, commuting, and logistical chaos. Over a lifetime, that difference in recovered time compounds into thousands of hours, hours that can be spent on creativity, connection, rest, or meaning. When people say the rich seem to "have it all," part of what they are noticing is that the rich simply have more hours in which to live.

Opportunity is not random. It clusters around money. The entrepreneur who can afford to fail and try again has a structurally different relationship to risk than the one who cannot afford a single misstep. The artist who has a financial cushion can pursue their craft without abandoning it at the first sign of difficulty. The traveler who can afford to move abroad, the student who can afford to take an unpaid internship, the professional who can afford to attend the conference each of these people is not simply

luckier than their counterpart. They have purchased access to a world of possibility that remains behind a paywall for everyone else.

None of this is to say that money solves every human problem. Grief, loss, existential loneliness, chronic illness, the pain of betrayal these do not evaporate in the presence of wealth. Billionaires have been destroyed by heartbreak. Wealthy families have produced profound suffering. Money cannot buy back a person you have lost or manufacture meaning where none exists. The caveat is real and it deserves respect. But notice how rarely poverty solves those problems either and how much more devastating they become when compounded by financial insecurity on top of everything else.

Here, then, is the uncomfortable conclusion: the idea that money is not the answer has often been a comforting story told to people who don't have it, and a convenient story told by systems that benefit from their not having it. The truth is more pragmatic and more urgent. Money is not everything. But it funds healthcare, safety, education, time, freedom, opportunity, and mental health. It underwrites the conditions in which love can survive and flourish. It purchases the margin that allows a human being to become who they were meant to be. Chasing it is not shallow. In a world built the way ours is, it might just be one of the most rational, most compassionate things you can do for yourself and for everyone who depends on you.

The writer is a social commentator

Worth Noting:

Let's start with the facts. A landmark 2021 study by Nobel Prize-winning psychologist, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, found that wellbeing continues to rise with income well beyond the previously accepted ceiling of \$75,000 per year and that for many people, the relationship between money and happiness never truly plateaus. More money, more reported emotional wellbeing. The data didn't lie, didn't moralize, and didn't apologize. It just showed what it showed.

Consider health, perhaps the most sacred thing a person can possess. Wealthier individuals live longer in the United States alone, the richest 1% live roughly 10 to 15 years longer than the poorest 1%.



When Words And Actions Don't Match: A Call For Authentic Christian Living

When the pulpit rings hollow, the pews cannot escape the echo. Recent controversies over church leadership and misconduct have exposed a troubling reality: hypocrisy is alive and well within Christian circles. It is the gap between what is preached and what is practiced, the dangerous dissonance between words and deeds.

Across Kenya and beyond, believers have watched leaders entangled in financial disputes, allegations of immorality, and bitter divisions. These are not isolated scandals but symptoms of a deeper malaise—an erosion of integrity. Hypocrisy thrives when faith becomes performance, when appearances matter more than transformation. Jesus himself condemned this duplicity in Matthew 23:25–26, rebuking leaders who polished the outside of the cup while leaving the inside full of greed and self-indulgence.

The challenge is not confined to pulpits. Many Christians



sing hymns with passion, quote Scripture with confidence, yet privately wrestle with envy, bitterness, or selfish ambition. Paul's warning in Galatians 5:19–21 reminds us that immorality, jealousy, and hatred are incompatible with a Spirit-led life. Hebrews 4:13 underscores the futility of hiding: everything is laid bare before God.

Authentic Christian living demands more than eloquent sermons or public displays of piety.

It requires integrity that bridges the gap between belief and behavior. The credibility of the church rests not on how loudly it speaks but on how faithfully it lives.

Kenya's church does not need louder sermons—it needs lives that preach without words.

By Charity Mwangi, Laikipia University

The Impact Of School Funding Shifts On Co-Curricular Programs

When budgets tighten, the first casualties are often the programs that give schools their soul. Across Kenya and beyond, co-curricular activities—sports, music, drama, clubs, and enrichment programs—are being trimmed or scrapped as funding shifts force administrators to prioritize core academics. The result is a quieter, narrower school experience, one that risks producing graduates who are book-smart but socially and emotionally underdeveloped.

The reasons are familiar: government budget cuts, economic downturns, fluctuating enrollment, and uneven resource distribution between districts. When financial pressure mounts, schools retreat to the basics, leaving co-curricular programs vulnerable. Yet these activities are not luxuries; they are essential. They build teamwork, leadership, creativity, and confidence—qualities that textbooks alone cannot instill.

The consequences of neglect



are stark. Clubs disappear, sports teams shrink, and participation fees rise, shutting out students from low-income families. Over time, school culture erodes, engagement declines, and even academic performance suffers. A classroom without co-curricular balance is a sterile environment, one that fails to prepare students for the complexities of life beyond exams.

Solutions exist, but they require willpower. Governments must craft equitable funding policies that safeguard these programs. Schools should pursue partnerships with local businesses, community organizations,

and alumni networks to secure sponsorships and grants. Fundraising and volunteer initiatives can also bridge gaps. Above all, stakeholders must recognize that co-curricular activities are investments in well-rounded citizens, not expendable extras.

Education stripped of co-curricular life is education stripped of humanity. Protecting these programs is not optional—it is the difference between raising test-takers and raising leaders.

By Collins Kibet, Koitalel University

Man Seriously Injured In Evening Accident Near Laikipia University

When recklessness meets the road, tragedy is never far behind. On Monday evening, a man was left fighting for his life after a crash along Laikipia University Road in Nyahururu, Laikipia County. The accident, which occurred at around 7:30 p.m. at the busy Tairi Mbili Junction near Amazing Hostel, involved a matatu and has sparked fresh concerns about safety on one of the area's most congested stretches.

Eyewitnesses reported that both the matatu driver and the victim appeared intoxicated at the time of the collision, though police have yet to confirm these claims. What is clear is that the impact was severe. The injured man sustained critical injuries and was rushed to hospital for emergency treatment, while the driver was also admitted for medical attention and further assessment.

The junction where the crash occurred is a familiar hub for students and residents, a place where traffic and pedestrian ac-



tivity collide daily. Residents say the accident was waiting to happen, citing reckless driving, poor pedestrian discipline, and the growing culture of alcohol use among motorists. Police have since launched investigations, focusing on allegations of drunk driving and negligence.

This incident is more than a statistic. It is a stark reminder that roads are unforgiving when

caution is abandoned. For Nyahururu, and for Kenya at large, the lesson is urgent: safety must trump speed, and responsibility must replace recklessness.

The road does not forgive excuses—it demands discipline, or it delivers disaster.

By Pascal Okoth, Laikipia University

How The Issue Of Missing Marks Hurts University Students In Kenya

When marks vanish, futures stall. Across Kenyan universities, the persistent problem of missing marks has become more than an administrative hiccup—it is a crisis that derails careers, drains finances, and shatters dreams. Students who should be celebrating graduation find themselves trapped in endless loops of re-sits, delayed transcripts, and lost opportunities.

The consequences are devastating. Delayed graduations force students to extend their stay, paying extra fees for courses they have already completed. Job offers and scholarships slip away when transcripts remain incomplete. For many, the financial burden of prolonged study is crushing, while the psychological toll—stress, anxiety, even depression—leaves scars that last beyond campus life.

The causes are as troubling as the effects. Poor record-keeping, technical glitches, and outright negligence by lecturers have all



been cited. In some cases, malpractice and corruption deepen the problem, leaving students powerless against systems meant to protect their academic progress. Universities, entrusted with shaping the nation's future workforce, cannot afford to treat this issue lightly.

Solutions demand urgency. Institutions must overhaul their record management systems, embrace digital platforms that minimize human error, and enforce accountability among staff. The Ministry of Education

should step in to ensure uniform standards across universities, while student unions must amplify voices demanding reform.

Education is meant to open doors, not lock them. Missing marks are not just numbers lost in bureaucracy—they are stolen opportunities. Kenya's universities must act decisively, because every missing mark is a missing future.

By Alex Nyongesa, Laikipia University

From Trash To Cash: Tech-Driven Recycling Boosts Circular Economy In China

By: Xinhua News Agency
 @themtkenyatimes

Scanning a code, opening a hatch, and tossing in bottles, Yuan Meirong completes the recycling process in less than 10 seconds. With a ding, 0.8 yuan (11.6 U.S. cents) is credited to her account.

“It’s so convenient,” said the resident from Hangzhou, capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, gesturing at a smart recycling bin. “Now I can easily recycle delivery boxes and bottles for a little reward. It’s fun.” Operated by the internet recycling firm Lovere, the smart bin is one of 870 units deployed across nearly 400 residential communities in Hangzhou’s Xihu District since its July 2024 pilot launch. Residents can enter a phone number or scan a QR code to recycle items such as plastic bottles, cardboard, old clothes, and takeout containers. The bin automatically weighs the items and pays about 0.6 yuan per kg directly to the user’s account. More than a mere convenience, the bins demonstrate how technology is monetizing waste streams across Chinese cities, transforming passive disposal into people’s active participation in the circular economy.

Since deploying the smart bins, recyclable-sorting accuracy has reached 98.5 percent, with monthly recycling volume averaging 1,000 tonnes, said Zhang Yixiang, Lovere’s Hangzhou chief. The company has placed over 50,000 bins in 38 cities and has recycled 2 million tonnes for 30 mil-

lion users. In Xihu District alone, residents have used the bins 2.58 million times, receiving 4.2 million yuan in total. The top user recycled 9 tonnes, earning 5,400 yuan, according to the company. Zng Kang, Lovere’s Hangzhou operations head, said the sensors trigger pickups only when bins are full, and an automated sorting center categorizes materials into more than 80 types for sale. “With scale, the business is expected to become profitable,” he said. The Communist Party of China Central Committee’s recommendations for formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) for the country’s economic and social development propose promoting a circular economy.

At Xianyu, a leading second-hand trading platform of China’s internet giant Alibaba, 7 million used items were listed on average every day in 2025, with daily trading volume up 30 percent year on year. “Every transaction is users’ participation in a green lifestyle,” said Ding Jian, the platform’s CEO. From April 2024 to March 2025, Xianyu users reduced carbon emissions by 11.8 million tonnes through trading and recycling -- equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of 7.4 million households, Ding said. According to the China Association of Circular Economy, the circular economy accounted for about 30 percent of the country’s carbon reduction from 2021 to 2025, and this share is expected to rise to 35 percent by 2030. In Hangzhou’s Yuhang District, resident Chai Yuyong praised “Huge,” a door-to-door recycling service, which collected his old



sofa and table for free in 20 minutes. Residents place orders via an app, and a worker arrives within an hour to collect, weigh and pay for items such as old appliances. “Living on a high floor, I found it a hassle to dispose of the bulky old furniture by myself. Now, with just a tap on my phone, they come to collect and carry them for free. It’s a real relief,” Chai said. Hu Shaoping, vice president of the company Huge Recycle, said that over the past 10 years, the company

has built an end-to-end chain from household collection to sorting, dismantling and resource reuse. The service offers transparent pricing for used appliances of different sizes. Residents are paid in “green coins,” which can be redeemed for cash or spent at Huge’s online mall, further driving green consumption. To date, the company has issued nearly 500 million yuan in green coins. Xu Lin, a professor at Zhejiang University, noted that smart technology has made

recycling and green consumption as simple as a phone scan. These small actions, he said, show how the public has moved from being told what to do to taking the lead in the circular economy. “If the full potential of public participation is unleashed, carbon reduction will become a social consensus and daily habit for everyone,” Xu said.

Chad Closes Border With Sudan

By: Xinhua News Agency
 @themtkenyatimes

Chad yesterday announced the closure of its border with Sudan, citing “repeated incursions and violations committed by the warring parties in Sudan on Chadian territory.”

The closure “aims to prevent the risk of extending the conflict to Chad, protect citizens and refugees, and maintain the stability and territorial integri-

ty of our country,” Minister of Communication and Government Spokesman Gassim Cherif Mahamat said in a statement. He said movement of persons and goods along the border has been suspended, but special exemptions strictly justified by humanitarian reasons may be granted. Chad shares a long and porous border with Sudan, which has been engulfed in a deadly conflict since 2023, when fighting broke out between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, leaving tens of thousands dead and millions

displaced both inside the country and across its borders.

DR Congo-Burundi Border Reopens After Two-Month Closure Amid Conflict

By: Xinhua News Agency
 @themtkenyatimes

The border post between Uvira in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Gatumba in neighboring Burundi officially reopened yesterday after more than two months of

closure.

The crossing was shut down by Burundian authorities on Dec. 10 when Uvira fell under the control of the March 23 Movement (M23) rebel group, cutting off a key transit point for traders and residents on both sides of the border. In January 2026, the DRC government took back control of Uvira, the second-largest city of South Kivu province. Uvira had served as

the provisional administrative center after the provincial capital, Bukavu, fell to the M23 in February 2025. Authorities from both countries agreed to resume cross-border movement under regular procedures, according to local media. “Those currently in Burundi can cross today in complete tranquility,” said a statement from migration authorities cited by local media.

More Police Officers Ordained As Chaplains, To Boost Address On Mental Health Issues

By: Muoki Charles
@themtkenyetimes

Efforts to address rising mental health crisis among staff in the law enforcement agencies got a boost after seven more police officers were ordained as Pentecostal pastors to offer psychological and spiritual guidance to affected colleagues.

The officers were commissioned as chaplains in a ceremony at the Thika Police Chapel in what leaders described as both symbolic and urgent.

The seven officers will now set aside their operational duties to assume roles centred on counselling, spiritual guidance, and emotional support for colleagues grappling with stress, trauma, and psychological strain.

Drawn from the Administration Police (AP), General Service Unit (GSU), National Youth Service (NYS), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), and the regular police, the newly ordained chaplains will join 32 others already serving across the Central Region.

Police commanders acknowledged that a shortage of chaplains has left many officers without adequate support, despite increasingly demanding and high-risk working environments.

Speaking during the ceremony, Samuel Kobina, representing Central Region Police Commander Samuel Ndanyi, said the strengthened chaplaincy programme is expected to provide much-needed spiritual and psychological care while contributing to internal transformation within the service.

“As these chaplains report to their respective sub-counties, we believe their presence will help officers cope with workplace pressures and promote moral renewal within the force,” Kobina said.

Earlier this month, more than 300 police chaplains drawn from across the country underwent specialised training in Kiambu County on addressing mental health challenges within the force. The programme equipped them with skills to mentor, counsel, and support officers facing rising psychological and family-related pressures.



The ordination ceremony.

GSU Assistant Superintendent Hosea Tunayo said officers routinely confront trauma, violence, and intense pressure but often lack mechanisms to process the emotional toll of the job.

“Our officers are trained to confront crime and carry firearms, but they are rarely equipped to manage the psy-

chological strain that comes with the uniform. The badge does not make us immune to pain. Behind every uniform is a human being who requires care, prayer, and counselling,” Tunayo said.

Police leadership noted that areas with active chaplaincy programmes have reported a decline in suicide

cases and severe mental health distress, underscoring the need to expand the initiative.

Plans are underway to establish chapels in every subcounty across the Central Region, with leaders emphasising collaboration between the police service, communities, and theological institutions.

NADCO Committee Calls For Political Tolerance

By: Sadik Hassan
@themtkenyetimes

The Committee Overseeing the Implementation of the 10-point agenda under the NADCO report (COIN-10) has condemned the resurgence of political thuggery and violence in public rallies.

The committees’ members expressed fears that the wave of intolerance displayed in recent times could claw back the gains envisaged by the Head of State and the late Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

The five-member COIN-10 oversight committee was constituted following an agreement between UDA and ODM to oversee the implementation of the 10-point agenda and key proposals of the NADCO report.

It is chaired by Dr Agnes Zani, with Javas Bigambo as vice-chairman; other members are Fatuma Ibrahim,

Kevin Kiarie and Gabriel Oguda.

Speaking during a courtesy call at the Mombasa County Secretary’s office ahead of a public forum, COIN-10 Vice Chairman, Javas Bigambo, urged politicians to ensure their public meetings are devoid of violence, as it goes against the spirit of inclusivity as envisioned in the 10-point agenda.

“Inclusivity entails inclusion, harmony, and cooperation. H.E the President, together with the late Raila Odinga, ensured that inclusion is prioritized and that there shouldn’t be violence, chaos, hatred, tribal and political divisions that breed violence in the country or political gatherings,” stated Bigambo.

The County Government of Mombasa was commended for ensuring that there is inclusivity in its ranks and files

“The County Secretary has given us a list of policies and measures that can be implemented by the county government and the people of Mom-

basa. This means that our report of the 10-point agenda can be implemented in a way that the people of Mombasa and the rest of Kenya will benefit even more,” said Bigambo.

COIN-10 Chairperson Agnes Zani also lauded Mombasa for innovative ways of increasing the own-source revenue, ensuring self-reliance and sustainability of devolution.

“We have had these discussions, good ideas that we can also even share with other counties,” she said, adding that the committee has lined up several public forums ahead of submission of a final report on March 7.

Fatuma Ibrahim, member of the committee, also commended Mombasa for ensuring there is gender, youth and disability inclusivity in its workforce. 49 per cent of the workforce are women and 51 men.

“I hope that will be a true reflection because the County Government is supposed to give us a report to that effect,” said Ibrahim, adding that the



COIN-10 Vice Chairman, Javas Bigambo addressing the press in Mombasa.

committee was informed that the Port City had minimal destruction during the Gen-Z and opposition protests.

She welcomed a proposal by the County Secretary to designate the Mama Ngina Waterfront as a demonstration area, as it’s out of town and demonstrators can adequately air their concerns.

Mombasa County Secretary and

Head of Public Service Jeizan Faruk said they are keen to exploit opportunities that come with the committee. He also extolled the committee for making significant strides and for holding public forums for Kenyans to give their views.

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Sports >> *Thethy is gearing up for his second Safari Rally with a clear goal: secure a podium finish in the Kenya National Rally Championship (KNRC) category.

Kenyan Driver Outlines Ambitious Target For WRC Safari Rally

Thethy is gearing up for his second Safari Rally with a clear goal: secure a podium finish in the Kenya National Rally Championship (KNRC) category.

Thethy says last year's close 4th place finish has fueled his determination.

"My main goal in 2026 is to compete in the Safari Rally and secure a podium finish. Last year, I came very close to finishing 4th overall, and I was one of the few competitors to complete every stage without a single mechanical breakdown. That gave me a lot of confidence in both my pace and consistency," he says.

Thethy adds that he is back this year, stronger and wiser.

"I'm coming back stronger, wiser, and more determined. I learned a lot from my first Safari, and I'm ready to push my limits to fight for a top result." He's also looking to challenge himself in new disciplines like rally raid and enduro. "After Safari, I'm also looking to challenge myself in new disciplines like rally raid and enduro. I want to grow as a complete driver and test myself in different environments," he says.

He will be partnering with Laban Cliff for the first time.

"For the 2026 Safari Rally, I will be partnering with Laban Cliff. It will be our first rally sitting together, but we are working hard to build strong chemistry and communication. In rallying, trust between driver and navigator is everything, and we're focused on being fully synchronized before the start," Thethy explains.

The Subaru N12, built by Pro Motor Works, is battle-tested and ready.

"Last year, I competed in a Subaru N12 built by Pro Motor Works, and I will be using the same car again this year. It's a strong and reliable machine, and last year's performance proved its durability, especially being one of the few cars to complete every stage without



issues. We've done testing and Thethy adds. sion-making," he explains.

Rajveer Thethy. .

shakedown sessions to fine tune the setup and get me back into rhythm. Since my last competitive event was last year's Safari, I've been training consistently to make sure I'm race ready," he says.

Growing up around rallying has its advantages.

"The advantage of being a second-generation driver is that I've grown up around rallying. I understand the sport deeply, and I've had guidance and mentorship from my dad from a very young age. That experience and knowledge are priceless,"

Rajveer's dad, an F2 champion, has played a major role in his development.

"My dad, who was an F2 champion in his era, has played a major role in my development as a driver. His knowledge and experience in the sport have definitely given me a strong foundation. He has taught me important lessons about race craft, discipline, preparation, and how to stay mentally strong under pressure. For the Safari Rally, especially, he will be acting as my mentor, guiding me through strategy, stage management, and deci-

With 12 years of motorsport experience, over 100 races, and 80 podiums under his belt, Rajveer is ready for the challenge.

"I've been involved in Kenyan motorsport for 12 years, starting at the age of 12. Over that time, I've competed in more than 100 races across different disciplines, earning over 80 podium finishes and more than 6 career championships."

Bringing home a podium finish is the plan

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Sports >>> *The Harambee Stars are once again staring down the barrel of destiny, and this time the stage is Kigali. Kenya's national men's football team, under the stewardship of Benni McCarthy, will lock horns with Estonia on March 27

Stars At The Crossroads: Harambee's Test Of Grit In Kigali



Harambee Stars players share a light moment in training in Turkey. PHOTO/HARAMBEE STAR

By MKT Sport

The Harambee Stars are once again staring down the barrel of destiny, and this time the stage is Kigali. Kenya's national men's football team, under the stewardship of Benni McCarthy, will lock horns with Estonia on March 27 at the Amahoro Stadium before a possible clash against either Rwanda or Grenada three days later. These fixtures are not just friendlies; they are part of FIFA's newly minted Series 2026, a global experiment designed to accelerate the growth of national teams by pitting them against unfamiliar opposition across confederations. For Kenya, it is a chance to shake off the ghosts of November's humiliating 8-0 drubbing by Senegal and prove that the Stars can still shine when the lights are brightest.

The FIFA Series, approved in

2022 and piloted in 2024, is a bold attempt to break football's echo chambers. Forty-eight teams from eleven federations will be pooled into twelve groups, nine of them featuring men's squads. For Kenya, this is more than a tournament—it is a litmus test of resilience, tactical maturity, and psychological recovery. The Football Kenya Federation has rightly called it “a unique opportunity” to sharpen competitive edge and build cohesion. Exposure to European opposition like Estonia, followed by either regional rivals Rwanda or Caribbean challengers Grenada, offers a cocktail of styles that could harden McCarthy's men ahead of next year's Africa Cup of Nations, which Kenya will co-host with Uganda and Tanzania.

But let us be blunt: the Harambee Stars cannot afford another collapse. The Senegal debacle was not just a defeat; it was a nation-

al embarrassment that stripped bare the team's defensive frailties and tactical naivety. McCarthy's task is not merely to win—it is to restore pride, instill belief, and prove that Kenya belongs on the continental stage. Estonia may not be a footballing giant, but European discipline and structure will test Kenya's adaptability. Rwanda, with its home advantage, or Grenada, with its flair, will demand grit and composure. These matches are not about silverware; they are about identity.

Kenya's football story has too often been one of promise betrayed by inconsistency. The FIFA Series offers a reset button. It is a chance to show that the Stars are not perennial underdogs but contenders capable of dictating play. McCarthy's pedigree as a former striker of global repute must now translate into tactical steel. The players must treat Kigali not as a

rehearsal but as a proving ground. Every tackle, every pass, every goal will be a statement: that Kenya is ready to co-host Afcon not as a ceremonial participant but as a competitor with teeth.

The Harambee Stars stand at a crossroads. One path leads to redemption, resilience, and respect; the other to repetition of failure and ridicule. Kigali will not forgive mediocrity. Kenya must seize this moment, not just for the scoreboard but for the soul of its football.

The whistle will blow in Kigali, but the real question is whether Harambee Stars will finally blow away the doubts that have long haunted them.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Awa Cisse Leading A Generation With Confidence, Purpose, And Light



By: Anila Bukhari
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Awa's leadership style is built on empathy and connection. She creates platforms and environments where young individuals feel safe to express their thoughts, talents, and dreams without fear of criticism. Whether through mentorship programs, workshops, or community initiatives, her focus remains the same: empowerment through belonging. She recognizes that when young people feel safe, they are more willing to take risks, speak up, and step into leadership roles.

- One of Awa's most powerful beliefs is that confidence is contagious. She often expresses that when one person stands tall in their truth, it silently gives permission for others to do the same. This ripple effect — a quiet revolution of self-belief — is what she strives to spark every single day.

Awa Cisse is a dynamic young leader dedicated to creating safe spaces where young people can build confidence, develop leadership skills, and celebrate their uniqueness. Her work is rooted in empowerment, inclusion, and the belief that every individual deserves to feel seen, heard, and valued. Through her advocacy and leadership, she has emerged as a powerful voice for youth across communities, representing a generation that is culturally aware, emotionally intelligent, and purpose-driven.

At the heart of Awa Cisse's mission is one clear intention: to ensure that no young person feels invisible. She understands the silent struggles that many youth face — self-doubt, comparison, social pressure, and the fear of not being enough. Rather than ignoring these challenges, she confronts them openly. She believes that confidence is not something people are simply born with; it is something that can be nurtured in supportive environments where authenticity is celebrated rather than judged.

Awa's leadership style is built on empathy and connection. She creates platforms and environments where young individuals feel safe to express their thoughts, talents, and dreams without fear of criticism. Whether through mentorship programs, workshops, or community initiatives, her focus remains the same: empowerment through belonging. She recognizes that when young people feel safe, they are more willing to take risks, speak up, and step into leadership roles.

One of Awa's most powerful beliefs is that confidence is contagious. She often expresses that when one person stands tall in their truth, it silently gives permission for others to do the same. This ripple effect — a quiet revolution of self-belief — is what she strives to spark every single day. For her, true leadership is not about commanding attention; it is about inspiring transformation. It is about lighting a spark in others and watching it grow into a flame of self-assurance and courage.

Awa Cisse represents a new model of leadership that resonates deeply with today's generation. She em-

bodies cultural awareness, understanding the importance of identity and heritage in shaping confidence. She respects diversity and promotes inclusivity, encouraging young people to embrace their backgrounds as strengths rather than limitations. Her approach reflects emotional intelligence — the ability to listen, understand, and respond with compassion. In a world often divided by misunderstanding, Awa builds bridges rooted in respect and shared humanity.

Purpose drives everything she does. For Awa, leadership is not about titles or recognition; it is about responsibility. She understands that influence carries weight, and she uses her platform intentionally to uplift others. She sees youth not as a limitation but as a force — a powerful engine for innovation, change, and progress. Her message challenges outdated narratives that dismiss young voices. Instead, she affirms that youth perspectives are essential to shaping a better future.

In many ways, Awa redefines what it means to wear a crown. To her, a crown is not an endpoint or a final achievement. It is a beginning — a call to service, a symbol of accountability, and a reminder of the impact one can make. She believes that true beauty radiates from within, born from self-acceptance, courage, and authenticity. The most powerful glow, she often emphasizes, is the one that begins inside the heart and mind.

Her presence in any room carries more than prestige. Awa Cisse carries legacy — honoring those who came before her while paving the way for those who will follow. She carries possibility — showing young people that their dreams are valid and achievable. And above all, she carries light — a quiet but undeniable energy that inspires others to see their own potential more clearly.

Awa's influence extends beyond motivational words. She actively works to equip young people with practical tools for growth. Leadership development, public speaking, confidence-building exercises, and community engagement initiatives are central to her efforts. She understands that inspiration must be



Awa Cisse

paired with action. By giving youth tangible skills, she ensures that their confidence translates into meaningful impact.

What distinguishes Awa Cisse is her authenticity. She does not present herself as flawless or unreachable. Instead, she shares her journey openly, acknowledging her own growth and learning experiences. This vulnerability strengthens her connection with others, reminding them that leadership is not about perfection but about perseverance. Her transparency encourages young people to embrace their imperfections and view challenges as opportunities for growth.

Awa's vision for the future is both hopeful and practical. She envisions communities where young people support rather than compete with one another, where diversity is celebrated, and where leadership is defined by service. She believes that when youth are empowered, entire societies benefit. Confidence cultivated in one generation creates resilience in the next.

Through her unwavering dedication, Awa Cisse continues to shape spaces that foster courage and be-

longing. She stands as proof that leadership rooted in empathy can transform lives. Her journey demonstrates that when one individual chooses to shine authentically, it illuminates the path for others.

In every space she enters, Awa Cisse brings more than a title. She brings intention. She brings vision. She brings a commitment to ensuring that no young person feels unseen. And in doing so, she reminds the world that the most meaningful revolutions are often quiet — beginning in the hearts of those brave enough to believe in themselves.

Awa Cisse is not simply a leader of today; she is a symbol of what tomorrow can look like when youth are empowered, confident, and united in purpose. Her legacy continues to grow, carried forward by every young person who dares to stand tall in their truth because she first showed them that they could.