



President Calls On Nairobi Residents To Back KSh80 Billion Government-County Initiative

The KSh80 billion cooperation agreement between the National Government and the Nairobi City County Government is a bold step to fix the city's most urgent challenges, President William Ruto has said. The President said the country's capital city is facing challenges ranging from piling garbage and solid waste to inadequate water supply, power connectivity and poor roads. Page 18

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News>>MPs Slam Bomas, TBK And KEPHIS Over Debt, Pension Defaults And Land Grabs

P. 8. The National Assembly's Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration and Agriculture (PIC-SSAA) has intensified scrutiny of financial mismanagement, governance lapses, and land encroachment at the Bomas of Kenya, the Tea Board of Kenya (TBK), and the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS).



News>>Counties Told To Embrace Private Sector And Digitisation To Boost Agriculture

P. 12. Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has urged national and county governments to actively embrace private sector participation as a catalyst for agricultural transformation and enterprise growth in Kenya.

KSh7B Released For Nithi Bridge Reconstruction

 The reconstruction of Nithi Bridge is set to commence in the next few weeks and its completion will be speeded up to avert more deaths along the stretch, Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has said. The DP said the government has already allocated funds for the construction of a new bridge that will be safer for motorists passing through the deadly spot on the main road connecting Tharaka Nithi and Meru Counties. "We needed Sh7 billion for the bridge and we now have the funds. The contractor will be here soon. The public was engaged for their input on Monday and I will be bringing the contractor to start construction soon," DP said.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki

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Ruto Highlights Affordable Housing And Education Gains, Vows Continued Transformation

By: WMW
 @themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto has praised the Affordable Housing Programme as one of the most consequential initiatives in Kenya's history, with over 262,000 housing units currently under construction nationwide.

The programme has created employment for more than 500,000 young people and over 5,500 graduate interns, boosting the construction sector and strengthening local supply chains.

At the Kabete Affordable Housing Project in Westlands Constituency, Nairobi, Ruto inspected 1,746 units scheduled for completion in March 2027. He also handed over 16 new classrooms at Kangemi Primary and Junior School, benefiting 4,200 learners, and 20 classrooms at Westlands Primary School. Nationally, 23,000 classrooms have been completed to address shortages and improve learning outcomes.

Ruto highlighted education reforms, including the hiring of over 100,000 teachers, increasing education funding from KSh500 billion to KSh700 billion, and streamlining the transition to the Curriculum-Based Education and Training system.

In Nairobi, the government plans to build 5,000 classrooms in partnership with Members of Parliament, with 500 already completed.

The President also emphasized the KSh80 billion cooperation agreement between the National Government and Nairobi City County, aimed at tackling the city's urgent challenges, including garbage, inadequate water supply, power connectivity, and poor roads.

He said the partnership will restore order, improve living standards, and make Nairobi a clean, functional, and investment-ready capital.

Ruto concluded by reaffirming the government's commitment to bottom-up transformation, ensuring youth are equipped with skills for productivity, and promising that results will continue to speak for themselves.

The Head of State was accompanied by various leaders.



Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Cabinet Secretary William Kabogo has announced significant progress in the establishment of the Kenya Advanced Institute of Science and Technology following a briefing to President William Samoei Ruto at State House. Kabogo said the institution, a flagship project under Vision 2030 and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, is designed as a specialised post-graduate university to drive industrialisation through advanced science and technology. The campus at Konza Technopolis is complete and equipped, with governance structures in place and the Charter process nearing conclusion. Kenya-AIST will offer 14 Masters and PhD programmes in fields such as semiconductor development, biotechnology and advanced manufacturing. The first student intake is projected for January 2027.



Uganda's Chief of Defence Forces General Muhoozi Kainerugaba hosts Charlene Ruto at the Special Forces Command (SFC) Headquarters in Entebbe. General Muhoozi is a son to President Yoweri Museveni.



Principal Secretary for the State Department for Tourism John Oloituaa yesterday joined Wildlife PS Silvia Museiya and Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano in a joint meeting with the Council of Governors and its Tourism and Wildlife Committee to strengthen intergovernmental collaboration. The engagement focused on enhancing coordination between national and county governments in the management and promotion of tourism and wildlife resources. Leaders reviewed progress in mapping county tourism products and experiences, and discussed the operationalisation of national reserves managed by county governments. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to structured cooperation to boost sustainable tourism, improve destination competitiveness and unlock economic opportunities across all counties.



The government, in partnership with AMPATH Kenya, has launched the Integrated Model for Access, Retention and Advanced Breast Cancer Care to improve quality cancer services nationwide. Speaking at Afya House in Nairobi, Principal Secretary for Medical Services Ouma Oluga said the three-year initiative aims to reduce the burden of breast cancer by strengthening care across the entire treatment continuum. The programme will promote community awareness and prevention, train healthcare workers, and improve service delivery systems. It will also expand access to timely diagnosis and treatment through structured patient navigation and referral coordination, while leveraging digital tools to enhance retention, monitoring and overall survival outcomes.



Residents of Wajir County can now file High Court cases locally following the operationalisation of the Wajir High Court Sub-Registry. Speaking during the launch, John Onyiego said the move aligns with the Judiciary's blueprint for social transformation and the constitutional goal of expanding access to justice. He noted that the court is already operational, with more than 20 cases registered and acted upon. The sub-registry eliminates the need for residents to travel

to Garissa, reducing transport costs for litigants, police officers and witnesses while improving convenience and access to judicial services.



Property owners in Uasin Gishu County have been urged to stop diverting excess rainwater from buildings onto roads, as it weakens the soil beneath surfaces and causes cracking and hazardous potholes. County Executive for Roads, Abraham Serem, explained that runoff water particularly damages roads during the rainy season. On Tuesday, Serem led county engineers in repairing sections of Farmers Street in Eldoret, filling and compacting potholes caused by water seepage. He also highlighted ongoing efforts, including the recently completed Barngetuny-Bandaptai road, to improve road infrastructure through partnerships and tarmacking of key city roads.



Kenyatta National Hospital, in collaboration with the Global Foundation for Children with Hearing Loss, Voice of the Children Foundation, and Faraja Cancer Support, hosted a Cochlear Implant Family Day to mark International Cochlear Implant Day. The event brought together beneficiary children, caregivers, hearing health professionals, and rehabilitation specialists to share experiences and foster a supportive community. Ms. Paige Stringer, GFCHL Founder and Executive Director, met with Ag. CEO KNH Richard Lesiyampe,

who thanked partners for their support. KNH reaffirmed its commitment to guide children and families through every step of the cochlear implant journey, from surgery to speech, ensuring lasting transformation and hope.

The National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) is set to spend KSh42 billion under a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) to roll out second-generation smart driving licences, including digital wallets, instant fines and enforcement cameras. The partnership brings together NTSA, KCB Bank Kenya & Pesa Print Consortium, with a contract duration of 21 years.



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Selling Assets Or Selling Out? Kenya's Political War Of Records

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Rigathi Gachagua, leading the charge, accused the President of presiding over extra-judicial killings and reckless privatization. "You are the only President since Independence who has given orders for young people to be shot in the leg.
- That is your record. Selling public assets, that is your record," he declared, framing the government's actions as a betrayal of the people. Kalonzo Musyoka echoed the sentiment, warning against careless sales of Kenyan companies and questioning the wisdom of tying national interests to global brands without accountability



Opposition leaders touring Kisii County.

Kenya's political battlefield has once again erupted into a war of words, this time over the country's development record and the controversial sale of public assets. President William Ruto has repeatedly dismissed the opposition as lacking a track record, insisting they have no tangible achievements to show Kenyans. But the United Opposition has hit back with equal force, branding Ruto's record as troubling and accusing his administration of undoing hard-won gains.

Rigathi Gachagua, leading the charge, accused the President of presiding over extra-judicial killings and reckless privatization. "You are the only President since Independence who has given orders for young people to be shot in the leg. That is your record.

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The opposition's rhetoric is not just about policy—it is about identity. By painting Ruto's administration as one that sells off national heritage, they are attempting to position themselves as defenders of sovereignty and public interest. Eugene Wamalwa and Fred Matiang'i added fuel to the fire, urging Kisii Governor Simba Arati to abandon his ties to the government and align with their camp, signaling a

broader strategy to consolidate regional support.

The Gusii tour, wrapped up after three days, was more than a charm offensive; it was a calculated move to rally support around Matiang'i in his home turf while simultaneously undermining Ruto's grip on the narrative of development. Gachagua's criticism of Kipsigis leaders for failing to stand up to the President further illustrates the opposition's attempt to fracture Ruto's base by highlighting neglected regions and unmet promises.

At its core, this confrontation is about who defines Kenya's future. Is development measured by privatization and asset sales, or by safeguarding public institutions and ensuring equitable growth? The opposition insists Ruto's

record is one of dispossession, while the President maintains his critics are empty of ideas and achievements.

Kenya's citizens are left to weigh the competing narratives. On one side, promises of modernization through privatization; on the other, warnings of reckless asset stripping and authoritarian tendencies. The stakes are high, and the rhetoric is sharper than ever.

In the end, the battle over Kenya's record is not just about past achievements—it is about who will own the future. And if selling public assets becomes the defining legacy, then the question remains: is Kenya building prosperity or auctioning its soul?

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MPs Slam Bomas, TBK And KEPHIS Over Debt, Pension Defaults And Land Grabs

By: WMW
@themkenyatimes

The National Assembly's Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration and Agriculture (PIC-SSAA) has intensified scrutiny of financial mismanagement, governance lapses, and land encroachment at the Bomas of Kenya, the Tea Board of Kenya (TBK), and the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS).

Chairing the committee, Navakholo Constituency MP Emmanuel Wangwe expressed concern over mounting debts, pension breaches, and the loss of public land, warning that the situation threatens institutional stability and public trust.

At the Bomas of Kenya, MPs were told the institution is technically insolvent, with negative working capital of KSh50.1 million as of June 2024.

The debt stems largely from a 2015 feasibility study for a proposed convention centre, which led to a court



Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina (centre) who is a member of the committee making his contribution. Photos/Courtesy.

ruling awarding Standard Investment Bank KSh81.3 million. Interest and legal costs have since ballooned the liability to over KSh108 million. Partial payments have reduced the debt to KSh62 million, but strict government funding rules have constrained operations, including salaries and capital projects.

The committee also flagged governance irregularities, noting oversized board committees exceeding legal limits. Management defended its position, insisting that only three members had voting rights while others were advisory.

At TBK, lawmakers questioned the

failure to remit KSh28.5 million in pension contributions, citing violations of the Employment Act. Officials blamed transitional challenges after moving from the Agriculture and Food Authority, as well as delays from the Treasury and the Retirement Benefits Authority.

MPs also raised concerns over a KSh150 million fixed deposit held in a commercial bank instead of mandated Treasury bills, and delays in implementing the Tea Act, 2020, including regulations for manufacturer licensing and broker registration.

KEPHIS came under fire for losing public land, including a 400-acre par-



Committee chairman Emmanuel Wangwe during yesterday's session.

cel in Kitale valued at KSh1.24 billion, of which only 100 acres remain under government control. Squatters and private entities have occupied the remainder amid historical land grabs.

Another five-acre title in Kabete remains contested with the Directorate of Veterinary Services since 2007, with recovery efforts reportedly met with resistance and even gunfire.

The agency also breached the government's 35 per cent wage ceiling, with salaries consuming 40 per cent

of revenue. Development expenditure remains far below the required 30 per cent.

However, a revised fee structure has helped KEPHIS turn a KSh61.7 million deficit into a KSh164.7 million surplus.

PIC-SSAA has called for urgent reforms, demanding accountability, compliance with financial laws, and protection of public assets to restore confidence in these key institutions.

Five Trillion-Shilling Fund or Trillion-Shilling Gamble? Kenya's Infrastructure Bill Under Fire

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Kenya's ambitious plan to establish a Ksh.5 trillion National Infrastructure Fund has been pitched as a bold step toward modernizing the country's roads, ports, and public assets. Yet beneath the grand promise lies a storm of skepticism. The Controller of Budget, Margaret Nyakang'o, alongside the Auditor General and leading financial institutions, has sounded the alarm over loopholes that could turn the fund into a playground for abuse rather than a pillar of progress.

In submissions to the National Assembly Finance Committee, Nyakang'o's office questioned why the fund is structured as a corporate entity rather than a public fund, effectively shielding it from the oversight mechanisms enshrined in the Public

Finance Management Act. More troubling is the exclusion of her office from authorizing withdrawals and expenditures, a move that strips away a critical safeguard against misuse. The ambiguity, she warned, risks creating a parallel financial system where billions could flow unchecked.

The Institute of Public Finance echoed these concerns, pointing out that proceeds from asset sales—such as the hypothetical disposal of the Kenyatta International Convention Centre—must first be deposited into the Consolidated Fund before being transferred to the infrastructure fund. Without clear legal provisions, the risk of diversion looms large. The Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya added its voice, insisting that credibility can only be achieved if the fund is managed by an independent entity rather than the National Treasury, whose track record on transparency remains contested.

The recommendations are clear: integrate the fund fully into the budget cycle, mandate quarterly and annual reporting to the Controller of Budget, and clarify governance structures to prevent political interference. Yet as the bill moves into its second reading, the government appears determined to push forward, touting the fund as a transformative vehicle for development.

Kenya's infrastructure needs are undeniable. Roads crumble, ports strain under capacity, and energy projects stall for lack of financing. But ambition without accountability is a recipe for disaster. A Ksh.5 trillion fund, if mismanaged, could saddle generations with debt while enriching a few. The warnings from oversight bodies are not bureaucratic nitpicking—they are a national wake-up call.

The stakes are immense. This fund could either be the engine that propels Kenya into a new era of development or the scandal that defines a



Controller of Budget, Margaret Nyakang'o.

decade of mismanagement. Parliament must decide whether to heed the voices of caution or gamble with the nation's future.

Kenya cannot afford to build its future on shaky foundations. A tril-

lion-shilling dream without accountability is nothing more than a trillion-shilling gamble.

Kindiki: KSh7 Billion For New Nithi Bridge Released, Reconstruction To Commence

By: DPCS

@themkenyatimes



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki with Meru County leaders led by Governor Isaac Mutuma. Photos/Courtesy.

Worth Noting:

- The DP said the government has already allocated funds for the construction of a new bridge that will be safer for motorists passing through the deadly spot on the main road connecting Tharaka Nithi and Meru Counties.
- “We needed Sh7 billion for the bridge and we now have the funds. The contractor will be here soon. The public was engaged for their input on Monday and I will be bringing the contractor to start construction soon,” DP said.
- The Deputy President spoke yesterday when he inspected the ongoing construction of Mikinduri-Kunati-Gatithini Road in Tigania East, Meru County.
- Prof. Kindiki said the new bridge will be one of the longest in the region and will be properly designed to enhance safe travelling along the road.

The reconstruction of Nithi Bridge is set to commence in the next few weeks and its completion will be speeded up to avert more deaths along the stretch, Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has said.

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Prof. Kindiki said the new bridge will be one of the longest in the region and will be properly designed to enhance safe travelling along the road.

“We will have the longest bridge in this region. It will be 880m and will link Marima and Mitheru sections,” DP added.

Further, the DP said the expansion of Makutano-Embu-Chuka-Meru-Maua Highway is underway, promising to ensure it begins before the end of the year.

“We are going to ensure this road is a dual carriageway and the construction will commence this year,” he said.

He said the government is keen on establishment of the National Infrastructure Fund to support construction of more roads and other infrastructure projects across the country.

The DP said the government has allocated funds for completion of over 6000kms of roads nationally including over 350kms in Meru County.

“We now have adequate funds. We have paid all the contractors 177 billion shilling and they are back to complete the projects.

By the next Christmas, we will have completed all the 6000kms of roads that had stalled for many years. On top of these roads, we have more

money for new roads,” he declared.

The DP said the Mikinduri-Kunati-Gatithini Road will be completed on time having stalled for many years.

“We have 10 roads that stalled in Meru County which have been revived and are ongoing. We have funds and they are going to be completed on time,” DP assured.

The DP dismissed political opponents claiming that the government has done nothing in the region saying many development projects are progressing in the area.

“Those saying the Ruto government has done nothing for the people of

Meru will be ashamed because there is a lot of work going on.

Those claiming to be friends of Meru people should tell them what they did when they were in power,” he added.

On Miraa export, the DP said the government has finalized plans to capitalize on the reopening of the Kenya-Somalia border to ease transportation of the crop to the neighbouring country.

“We will provide security for the miraa exportation through the Mandera, Liboi and Kiunga border points,” DP revealed.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki addressing Tigania East residents yesterday.

Freedom Fighters Caucus to Join National Development Roundtable Conference

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Former freedom fighters under their umbrella body, MMV Associates CLG, will participate in the upcoming The Development Roundtable, a high-level national conference focused on the future of development financing and NGO sustainability in Kenya.

The two-day forum, set for today and tomorrow at the Trademark Hotel in Nairobi, will convene thought leaders, donors, civil society actors, private sector players, academia and government agencies to chart a new course for Kenya's development agenda amid declining traditional donor funding.

Organised by Nation Media Group in partnership with Public Benefits Organizations Regulatory Authority (PBORA) and SDGs Kenya Forum, the conference is themed "Reimagining the Future of Development Financing in Kenya."

Kenya's development landscape has undergone significant transformation in recent years as global funding pri-

orities shift and the country consolidates its status as a middle-income economy.

Stakeholders say the changes have necessitated a unified and strategic approach to sustain gains in key sectors such as quality education, water and sanitation, and health.

MMV Associates CLG, through its caucus of former freedom fighters, brings to the table a membership base of more than 185,000, making it one of the largest grassroots organisations set to participate in the forum.

The caucus director, James Njuguna Mahuria, said the organisation is keen to tap into crucial information, insights and practical skills that will help guide its future programmes and advocacy work.

"We expect to gain valuable knowledge on sustainable financing models and partnership frameworks that will strengthen our structures and enable us to better serve our members and communities," said Mr Mahuria.

He noted that as funding dynamics evolve, community-based organisations must adapt by embracing innovation, accountability and diversified resource mobilisation strategies.

The Development Roundtable aims



MMV Associates CLG members led by Director General James Njuguna Mahuria (2nd right) going through documents in the past.

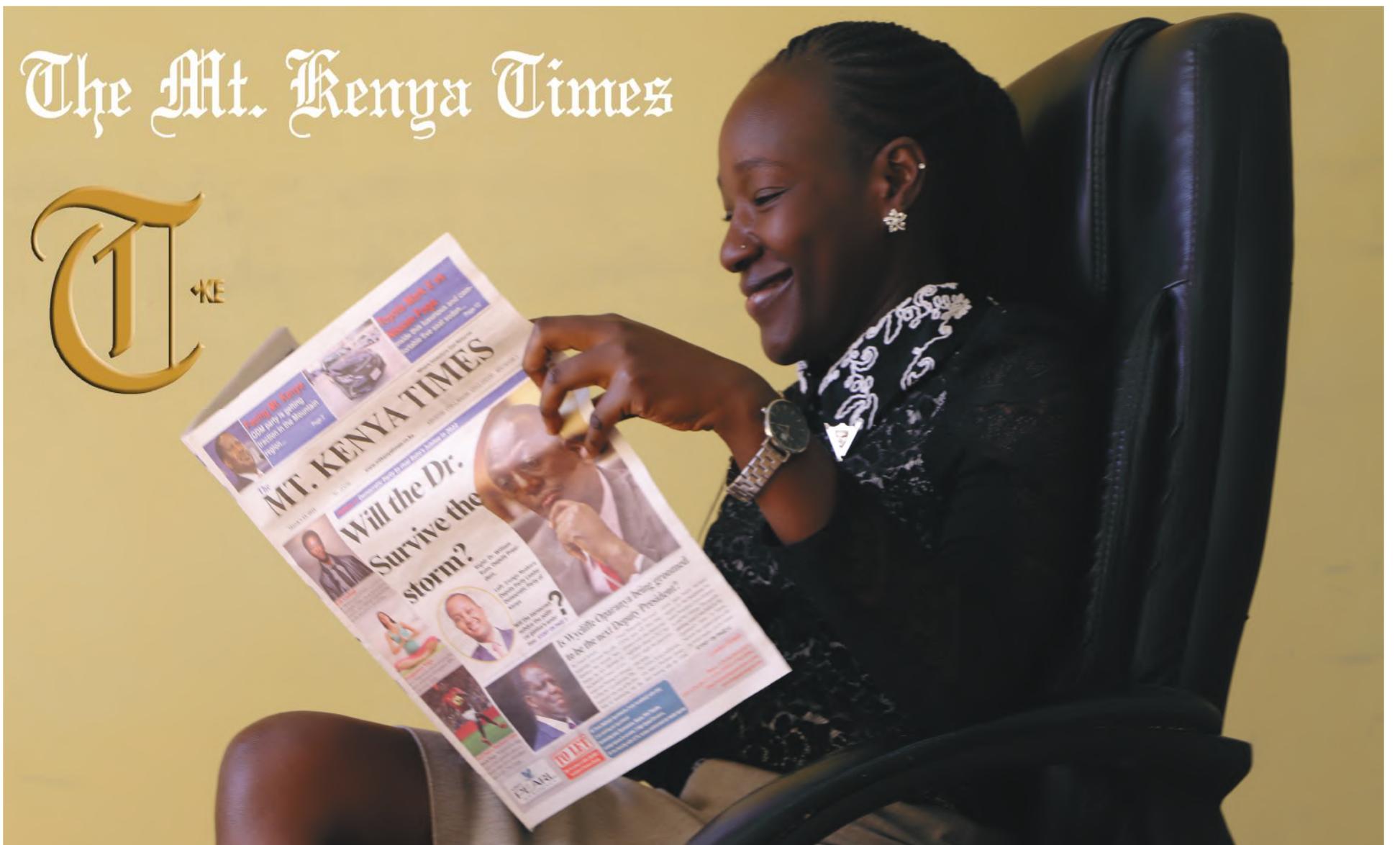
to foster dialogue on locally driven and inclusive development solutions, encouraging collaboration between civil society, private sector actors and public institutions.

Organisers say the forum will focus on building sustainable financing mechanisms, strengthening governance within NGOs, and enhancing

alignment with Kenya's national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Participation in the conference is open to stakeholders across sectors, with organisers urging interested parties to engage in the dialogue that could redefine the country's development trajectory.

As Kenya navigates the realities of reduced donor inflows, the presence of large grassroots movements such as the former freedom fighters' caucus signals growing recognition that homegrown solutions and collective action will be central to shaping the next chapter of the nation's development story.



Waiguru Launches Digital Land Mapping Drive To Tackle Disputes And Protect Public Land in Kirinyaga

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Governor Waiguru said safeguarding public land is central to sustainable development, emphasizing that land reserved for public use must serve the collective good rather than private interests. She noted that proper land management is critical for infrastructure development, housing expansion, industrial growth and environmental conservation. The digital mapping initiative, she added, will ensure every parcel of land is accurately identified, properly owned and documented.
- County Executive Member (CECM) for Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development, Rev. Samuel Kanjobe, said the exercise is anchored in legal and planning frameworks to guarantee compliance and transparency. He explained that the process is guided by key planning instruments, including the County Spatial Plan and zonal plans. For the Kerugoya-Kutus municipality, the Urban Economic Plan is being used to direct the mapping process.

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru has launched a comprehensive digital land mapping and geo-referencing exercise aimed at restoring order in the county's urban centres, resolving historical land disputes and strengthening planning and revenue systems. The initiative, now in its second week in Kutus and Kagio towns, is being implemented in phases and will extend to Wang'uru, Kianyaga, Kerugoya, Baricho and Sagana.

Governor Waiguru said safeguarding public land is central to sustainable development, emphasizing that land reserved for public use must serve the collective good rather than private interests. She noted that proper land management is critical for infrastructure development, housing expansion, industrial growth and environmental conservation. The digital mapping initiative, she added, will ensure every parcel of land is accurately identified, properly owned and documented.

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According to Kanjobe, the ongoing pre-mapping stage involves capturing precise geographical coordinates for every plot. This will allow any parcel of land to be identified from anywhere in the world, including details of its ownership. He said the enhanced accuracy will improve transparency, accountability, development control and revenue collection.

The mapping exercise is also expected to establish the true number of plots in the county's towns. While official records indicate that Kirinyaga has over 23,000 plots, physical verification suggests discrepancies. Through actual ground mapping, the county government aims to reconcile records with reality.

Additionally, the programme seeks to resolve long-standing ownership anomalies inherited from defunct local authorities. In towns such as Kutus, Wang'uru, Kianyaga, Kerugoya, Baricho, Kagio and Sagana, land was previously acquired for town expansion, with original own-



CECM for lands Rev. Samuel Kanjobe (left) and County Director of Physical Planning Muragae Muraguri going through one of Kutus town planning maps.

ers compensated through alternative land allocations in Mwea areas including Gathigiriri, Marurumo, Dindiruku and Ngushu. However, in many cases, proper surrender of title deeds was not completed, leaving some parcels under outdated registration regimes. Some individuals currently hold only minutes from former local authorities instead of formal title documents.

As the successor to the defunct authorities, the county government has assumed responsibility for both assets and liabilities, including reg-

ularizing such parcels to protect legitimate landowners and safeguard public interest. The initiative is also addressing cases of double allocation, particularly in Wang'uru and Kutus, where single plots have multiple allottees, some of whom pay land rates while others do not.

The mapping drive complements broader county efforts to reclaim public land. In recent years, the county repossessed more than 800 acres of grabbed public land valued at approximately Ksh.1 billion, originally set aside for public utilities

such as hospitals, markets, schools, dams and police stations.

Community leaders in Kutus have welcomed the exercise, describing it as transparent and long overdue. Local elders say residents were sensitized in advance and have been assured that legitimate landowners will not lose their property. They added that the exercise has already generated vital data for infrastructure planning, including the development of an improved sewerage system.



Aerial photos of Kagio town.

Counties Told To Embrace Private Sector And Digitisation To Boost Agriculture

By: MKT Correspondent

[@themkenyatimes](#)

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has urged national and county governments to actively embrace private sector participation as a catalyst for agricultural transformation and enterprise growth in Kenya.

Speaking during the Jumuiya ya Kaunti za Pwani Agricultural Revitalisation Summit in Malindi, Kagwe said overreliance on government funding has delivered limited success in commercial agriculture.

He argued that enterprise thrives where private capital, efficiency and innovation are allowed to drive production and value addition.

Kagwe cited the cashew nut sub-sector as a clear example.

While a government-owned cashew nut factory in Kilifi remains non-operational, two privately run factories in Vipingo are thriving. He also referenced the Galana-Kulalu Food Security Project, which initially struggled as a state-driven maize production scheme but has shown impressive results after private firms invested their own capital.

Similarly, Kagwe noted progress in the sugar industry following the leasing of state-owned sugar factories to private operators, a move that has restored stability and enabled farmers to receive timely payments after years of delays.

He encouraged counties to create a conducive environment for investors by offering land and clear commercialization opportunities. Government-owned assets such as ADC farms, prison lands and KALRO facilities, he said, present viable platforms for structured public-private collaboration.

According to Kagwe, government's role should focus on research, policy and regulation, while private investors lead enterprise and commercialization.

The Cabinet Secretary also raised concerns over uncontrolled land subdivision, warning that fragmentation threatens the future of commercial agriculture. He stressed the need for a national dialogue on strategic land use to safeguard food security and ensure viable farm sizes for mechanization and investment.

Dividing small parcels of land among multiple heirs, he said, undermines productivity and long-term sustainability.

The Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) Acting Director General Calistus Kundu reaffirmed the regulator's commitment to revitalizing agriculture in the coastal region. He said renewed efforts are targeting coconut, cashew nut, rice, cassava, cotton and



CS Mutahi Kagwe addressing the forum on Tuesday. Photos/Courtesy.

sunflower farming.

Kundu observed that although the Coast has historically been known for nut production, output has declined due to aging crops and limited investment.

In response, AFA has distributed thousands of improved coconut seedlings over the past three years in counties such as Lamu, Kilifi and Kwale. The agency has also promoted sunflower farming to reduce reliance on edible oil imports.

Rice production has improved in Kwale and Tana River through collaboration with research institutions,

while new disease-resistant cassava varieties have been introduced to boost yields and protect farmers from past crop losses.

Incoming Chairman of the Jumuiya ya Kaunti za Pwani economic bloc, Dhadho Gaddae Godhana, called for accelerated adoption of digital technologies in agriculture, describing digitisation as a game changer for the region. He advocated for digital farmer registration systems to enable accurate data collection and targeted support programmes.

Godhana further highlighted the importance of mobile-based extension

services to deliver timely agronomic advice and pest alerts, as well as digital trading platforms to enhance price transparency and reduce exploitation by middlemen. He also emphasized integrating climate data and satellite monitoring into county systems to strengthen early warning mechanisms and build resilience against climate-related shocks.

Together, leaders at the summit underscored that private investment, land consolidation and digital innovation will be central to revitalising agriculture and unlocking the Coast region's economic potential.



CS Mutahi Kagwe and other stakeholders in one of the exhibition stand.

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during the Jumuiya ya Kaunti za Pwani Agricultural Revitalisation Summit in Malindi, Kagwe said overreliance on government funding has delivered limited success in commercial agriculture.
- He argued that enterprise thrives where private capital, efficiency and innovation are allowed to drive production and value addition.
- Kagwe cited the cashew nut sub-sector as a clear example.
- While a government-owned cashew nut factory in Kilifi remains non-operational, two privately run factories in Vipingo are thriving. He also referenced the Galana-Kulalu Food Security Project, which initially struggled as a state-driven maize production scheme but has shown impressive results after private firms invested their own capital.

Over 2 Million Youth Jobs Created Since 2022 As Government Sets Bold 2026 Targets

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has revealed that government youth employment programmes have created over 2 million jobs since September 2022, marking the most ambitious effort in Kenya's history to boost income and career opportunities for young people.

Speaking yesterday during a review meeting with Cabinet Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, and heads of government agencies, Kindiki said the five-pronged initiative is designed to deliver measurable results and actively engage youth in both formal and informal sectors.

He reported that about 300,000 formal jobs have been created in the public sector.

The Kazi Kwa Ground programme, which targets affordable housing, markets, student accommodation, and institutional housing, has generated

500,000 jobs.

The Climate Worx initiative, including the Nairobi Rivers Regeneration programme, has employed 40,000 youths.

The Kazi Mtandaoni programme, leveraging online platforms, ICT hubs, Jitume Labs, and business process outsourcing services, has created 316,000 jobs, while the Kazi Majuu labour mobility programme has provided 541,000 opportunities. Investment in the blue economy through Kazi Baharini has generated 110,000 jobs.

Support for micro-businesses under the ongoing NYOTA programme has benefitted 820,000 young people, with another 200,000 expected to gain from the soon-to-be-launched Kenya Jobs and Economic Transformation (KJET) programme.

During the review, government officials set ambitious targets for 2026: Kazi Kwa Ground aims for 1 million jobs, Climate Worx 300,000, Kazi Mtandaoni and Kazi Majuu 1 million each, and Kazi Baharini 500,000.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki (left) during yesterday's meeting. Photo/Courtesy.

Kindiki emphasised that the programmes focus on sustainable, measurable impact, from formal employment to start-up support, digital innovation, environmental projects, and the blue economy.

He added that inter-agency collab-

oration, monitoring, and evaluation will ensure these targets are met, significantly reducing youth unemployment and enhancing economic empowerment nationwide.

By the end of 2026, the government expects more than 4 million young

Kenyans to have benefited, strengthening the country's commitment to inclusive growth and creating a skilled, productive youth workforce.

KWS Issues Public Health Alert After Zebra Meat Seized In Kiambu

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has issued a public warning over the dangers of bushmeat consumption following the seizure of an estimated 2,000 kilograms of suspected zebra meat in Gikambura, Kiambu County.

In a statement released yesterday, KWS said the illegal bushmeat trade poses serious public health, safety and legal risks, warning Kenyans against purchasing or consuming uninspected meat.

The seizure followed an intelligence-led multi-agency operation conducted in Gikambura, with follow-up enforcement at Dagoretti Market in Nairobi County.

Officers recovered six sacks of suspected de-boned zebra meat, one fully skinned zebra carcass and 15 fro-

zen meat packages weighing about 250 grams each. The frozen packages alone weighed approximately 7.5 kilograms.

Four suspects were arrested during the operation and investigations are ongoing.

KWS noted that the killing, possession, transportation and trade in wildlife without lawful authority is prohibited under the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (Cap 376).

In addition, Section 131(2) of the Public Health Act (Cap 242) outlaws the sale or distribution of uninspected meat intended for human consumption.

Beyond the legal implications, KWS cautioned that bushmeat handled outside regulated veterinary systems exposes consumers to zoonotic diseases due to unsafe slaughter, poor hygiene and lack of proper cold-chain storage. Unlike licensed meat processed through approved abattoirs, bushmeat is not subject to



Some of the suspects and the recovered game meat. Photo/Courtesy..

inspection or health standards.

The agency urged members of the public to remain vigilant and report

suspected wildlife poaching or illegal bushmeat trade through official reporting channels, emphasizing that

protecting wildlife and safeguarding public health is a shared responsibility.

A Little Angel" A Lifelong Legacy"



Toddler-Moves the life forward
Little one soft and sweet.
You are the icon of human

Proud of your parents
Ready to donate you
To survive others in needy
No measure for your strength
It proved dedications are boundless
Their ward through many of lives
Ever you the little one
Made an impact of donation
You are the Legacy in organ Donor
Alin- you are only 10 month older
But become lifelong speaker
By birth you are Mortal
As a Donor you are immortal

N. SELVARANI
B. T. ASST
GHS-SAKKARAKKOTTAI
RAMANATHAPURAM
TAMIL NADU

The Diet Of The Brain Is The Company Of Good People



The brain does not grow on bread alone,
Nor bloom where careless seeds are sown.
Its finest food, its daily gain,

Is noble hearts and thoughtful men.
Good people feed it hope and light,
Teach it courage, train it right.
They guard our thoughts from harsh alarms,
And keep our spirit safe from harms.
In gentle words and actions wise,
The mind becomes both strong and wise.
For as we choose the souls we keep,
So shall our inner harvest reap.
So feed your brain with minds that care,
With truth that's pure and love that's fair—
For company kind and hearts sincere
Make thoughts grow bright, and vision clear.

R.KRISHNAVENI
GRADUATE TEACHER
CUDDALORE
TAMIL NADU
INDIA.

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



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

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

We went to many places,
The shoes was in the palace,
The relatives and shoes are same,
It's a life game.

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

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

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

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

Raman Effect



The Raman Effect is one of the most important discoveries in the field of physics. It explains how light behaves when it passes through a transparent material. This discovery was made by the great Indian scientist Sir C. V. Raman on February 28, 1928. In recognition of this remarkable achievement, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930, becoming the first Asian to receive a Nobel Prize in science. February 28 is celebrated every year in India as National Science Day to honor this discovery.

What is the Raman Effect?
The Raman Effect refers to the change in the wavelength (or frequency) of light when it is scattered by molecules of a substance. When a beam of light passes through a transparent material such as water, glass, or air, most of the light passes through unchanged. However, a very small portion of the light interacts with the molecules of the substance and gets scattered in different directions.

During this scattering process, some of the light waves lose or gain energy. As a result, the wavelength of the scattered light changes. This change in wavelength is known as the Raman Effect, and the scattered light is called Raman scattering.

Principle of the Raman Effect
When light strikes a molecule, it causes the molecule to vibrate. Depending on the type of

vibration, the scattered light may have:
The same energy as the incident light (Rayleigh scattering), or
Higher or lower energy than the incident light (Raman scattering).
The shift in energy provides valuable information about the molecular structure of the material.

Importance of the Raman Effect
The Raman Effect is very important because it helps scientists understand the internal structure of molecules. It is widely used in a technique called Raman Spectroscopy, which is a powerful analytical tool.

Applications of the Raman Effect
Chemistry – To identify chemical compounds and study molecular structures.
Medicine – To detect diseases and analyze biological samples.
Pharmaceutical Industry – To test the purity of drugs.

Material Science – To study crystals, polymers, and nanomaterials.
Forensic Science – To analyze unknown substances in crime investigations.
Contribution of Sir C. V. Raman
Sir C. V. Raman's discovery brought great pride to India. His work proved that world-class scientific research could be done in India. His dedication and curiosity continue to inspire students and scientists across the world.

Conclusion
The Raman Effect is a milestone in the history of science. It not only expanded our understanding of light and matter but also opened new paths in scientific research. Celebrating the Raman Effect reminds us of the importance of scientific thinking and innovation. By following the example of Sir C. V. Raman, we can contribute to the progress of science and society.

Dr.Meera.T
Erode

Cat Is My Pet



Cat is my pet.
It is very fat.

It eats rice.

It's voice is nice.

It drinks milk.
And also buttermilk.

The cat catches fish.
It eats many a dish.

It has a colourful fur.
When happy it purrs.

It's name is Pittu.
It is very cute.

By
S.Pranika
V Std
PUMS Chinna Obulapuram
Gummidipoondi
Tiruvallur Dt
Tamilnadu, India.

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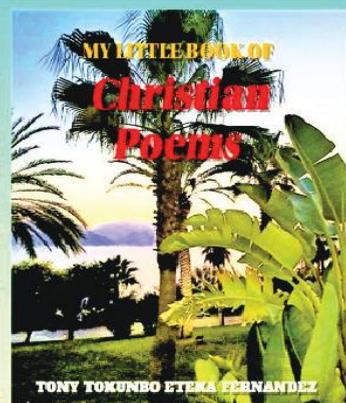
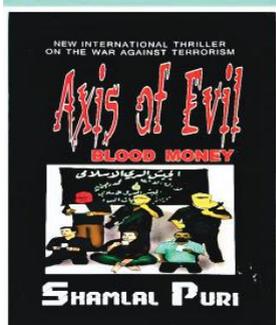
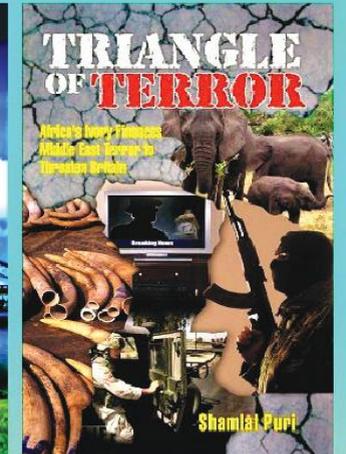
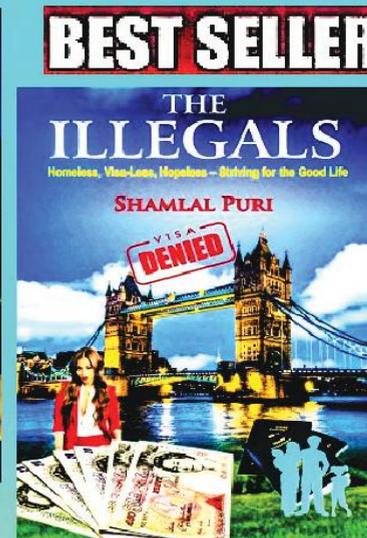
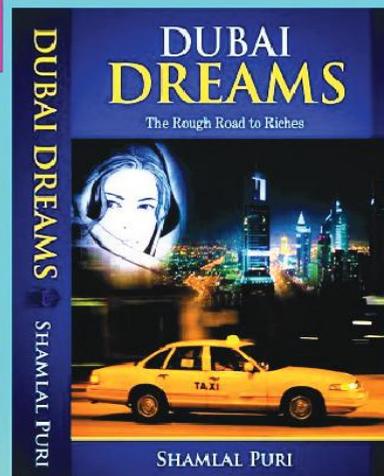
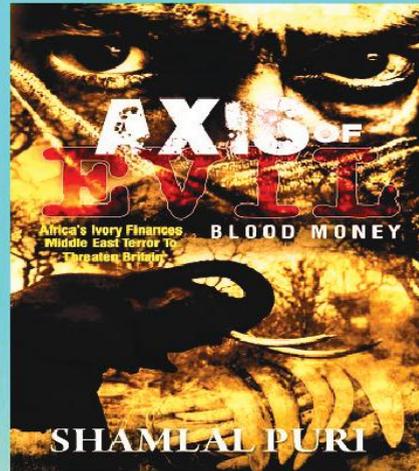
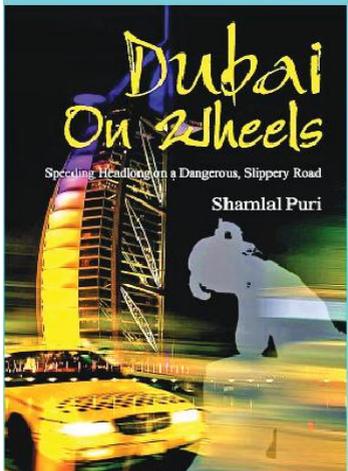
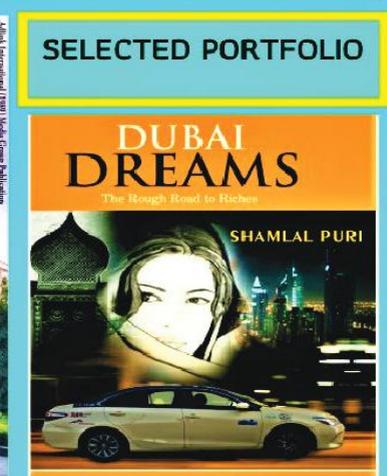
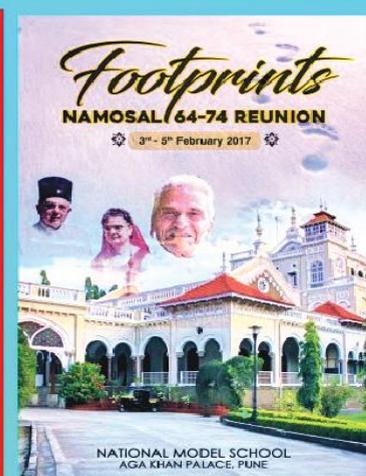
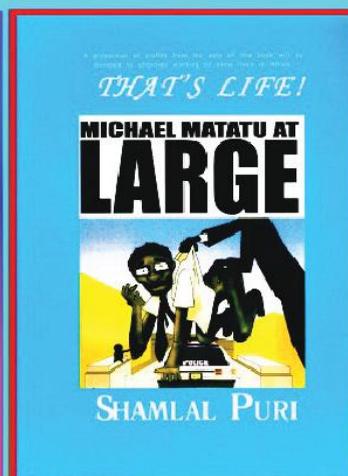
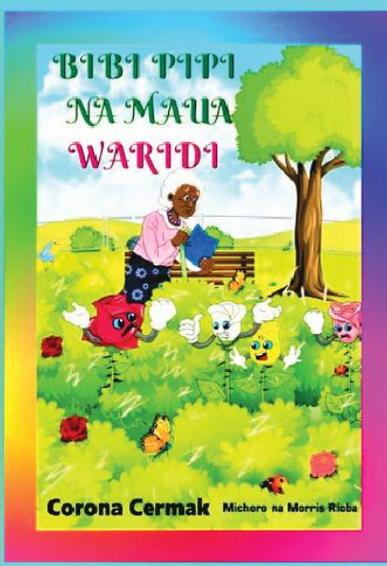
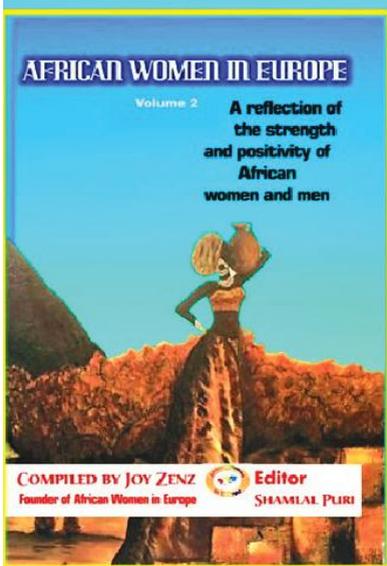
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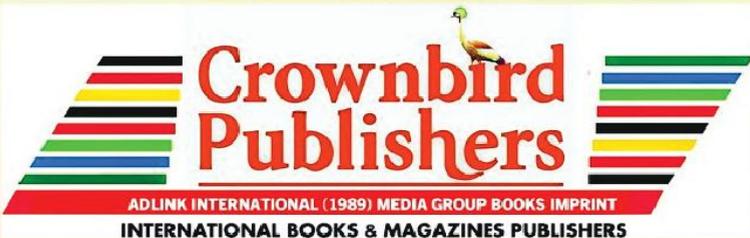
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SCANDAL

Passports And Paramilitaries: Kenya's Integrity Crisis In Sudan's Shadow

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- At the center of the controversy is Algoney Hamdan Dagalo Musa, the youngest brother of RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan "Hemedti" Dagalo. Reports suggest he has been using a Kenyan passport and an Emirati ID while procuring weapons for the RSF. This revelation is particularly damning given that the United Nations recently sanctioned RSF leaders, including Abdul Rahim Hamdan Dagalo and Brigadier General Al-Fateh Abdullah Idris, for atrocities in El-Fasher that bore the hallmarks of genocide. That one of their close associates could allegedly secure Kenyan documentation is not just a bureaucratic failure—it is a national scandal with global consequences.

- Opposition leader Kalonzo Musyoka has accused the government of jeopardizing foreign relations by allowing militia figures to access Kenyan travel documents.



Kenya's passport scandal has erupted into a full-blown crisis, colliding with Sudan's fractured civil war and exposing a dangerous intersection of corruption, regional instability, and international diplomacy. Allegations that members of Sudan's splintered Rapid Support Forces (RSF)—a paramilitary group accused of atrocities in El-Fasher—have been traveling on Kenyan passports have ignited outrage. The scandal has raised questions about how deeply compromised Kenya's immigration system has become, and whether the country is inadvertently enabling sanctioned warlords to move freely across borders.

At the center of the controversy is Algoney Hamdan Dagalo Musa, the youngest brother of RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan "Hemedti" Dagalo. Reports suggest he has been using a Kenyan passport and an Emirati ID while procuring weapons for the RSF. This revelation is particularly damning given that the United Nations recently sanctioned RSF leaders, including Abdul Rahim Hamdan Dagalo and Brigadier General Al-Fateh Abdullah Idris, for atrocities in El-Fasher that bore the hallmarks of genocide. That one of their close associates could allegedly secure Kenyan documentation is not just a bureaucratic failure—it is a national

scandal with global consequences.

Opposition leader Kalonzo Musyoka has accused the government of jeopardizing foreign relations by allowing militia figures to access Kenyan travel documents. His warning underscores the gravity of the issue: passports are not mere documents, they are instruments of trust, granting access to international travel and symbolizing national legitimacy. When such documents fall into the hands of sanctioned warlords, Kenya risks being seen as complicit in global instability.

The scandal is not isolated. For years, Nyayo House—the nerve center of Kenya's immigration services—has been dogged by allegations of corruption. Brokers and officials have been accused of colluding to issue passports illegally, with multiple arrests made in connection to fraudulent issuance. Ordinary Kenyans, meanwhile, endure endless delays, inflated fees, and bureaucratic hurdles. The government's recent revocation of the 50-page booklet option, forcing applicants to pay higher fees for the 66-page version, has only deepened public frustration. The contrast is stark: while citizens struggle with costs and inefficiency, powerful figures allegedly bypass the system altogether.

This dual reality erodes public trust and paints Kenya as a state unable—or unwilling—to safeguard its own identity systems. The scandal also exposes vulnerabilities in Kenya's digital platforms, particularly the eCitizen system, which has been criticized for opaque processes and weak oversight. Citizens are left wondering whether the government prioritizes revenue collection over service delivery, and whether promised reforms in immigration services are genuine or cosmetic.

The broader implications are chilling. If passports can be acquired through corruption, what does that say about Kenya's ability to safeguard its borders, protect its citizens, and uphold international obligations? The scandal undermines Kenya's diplomatic standing, compromises security, and erodes confidence in government institutions. It also risks weakening Kenya's moral authority in regional peace negotiations, especially given its role as a mediator in Sudan's conflict.

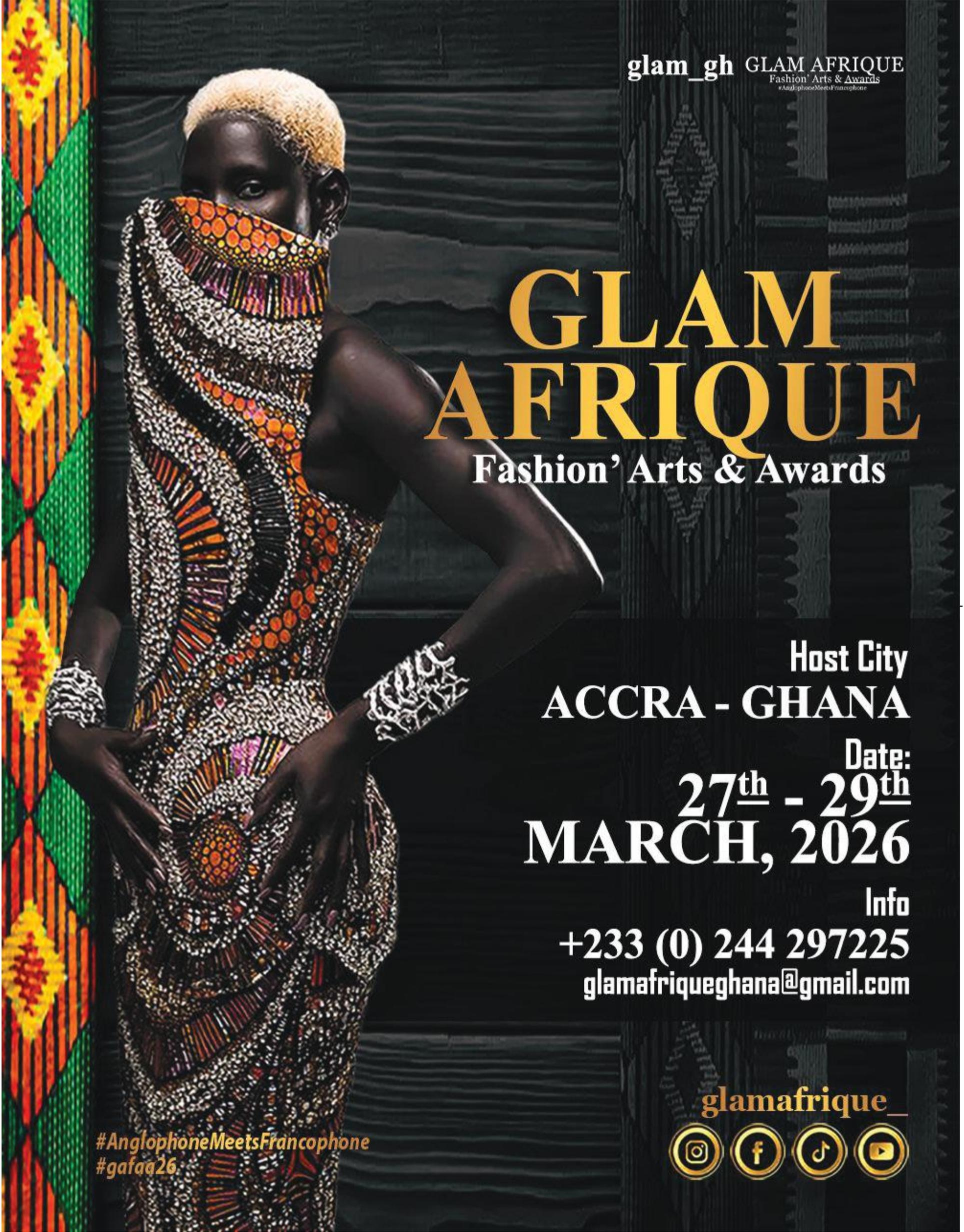
Kenya's leadership must confront this crisis head-on. Transparency in passport issuance, accountability for officials implicated in fraud, and stronger oversight mechanisms are non-negotiable. The Interior Ministry must move beyond rhetoric and

demonstrate that no one—whether a rebel leader or a well-connected broker—is above the law. Parliament, civil society, and the media must sustain pressure to ensure reforms are not buried under political expediency.

The scandal also demands a broader reflection on governance. Corruption in immigration services is not an isolated failure; it is symptomatic of a system where public offices are treated as avenues for rent-seeking rather than service. Unless Kenya decisively tackles this culture, scandals will recur, each one eroding the nation's credibility further.

Kenya stands at a crossroads. It can either dismiss the passport scandal as another passing controversy or treat it as a wake-up call to restore integrity in public service. The choice will determine not only the country's global reputation but also the trust of its citizens.

The passport scandal is more than a bureaucratic embarrassment—it is a test of Kenya's soul. If integrity cannot be safeguarded in something as fundamental as national identity, then the very foundation of governance is at risk. Kenya must choose: remain a pawn in regional chaos or reclaim its credibility by protecting the sanctity of its identity.



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President Calls On Nairobi Residents To Back KSh80 Billion Government-County Initiative

By: PCS
 @themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The President said the country's capital city is facing challenges ranging from piling garbage and solid waste to inadequate water supply, power connectivity and poor roads.
- He asked Nairobi residents to support the initiative, explaining that the country's transformation has to begin in Nairobi.
- "I have come to ask for your permission to allow the National Government that I lead and the County government led by Governor Johnson Sakaja to work together to transform Nairobi City," he said.
- Adding, "The journey to Singapore begins in Nairobi," he said.
- The President spoke yesterday during his development tour of Westlands Constituency in the company of Governor Sakaja and Members of Parliament led by area MP Tim Wanyonyi.
- He inspected the 1,746 units Kabete Affordable Housing Project, whose construction began last year and is on course to be completed in March 2027.
- At Kangemi Primary and Junior School, he handed over 16 new classrooms that have provided more opportunities for the 4,200 learners at the institution.
- He also handed over 20 classrooms at Westlands Primary School.
- He said the government is building 314 classrooms in Nairobi County and a further 500 in partnership with Members of Parliament. This, he said, addresses the shortage of learning space.
- "We are doing this because education is the greatest equaliser," he said.
- He said the government is also addressing classroom shortage across the country, having constructed 23,000 classrooms.
- He said the government is closing the student teacher gap by employing 100,000 teachers and plans to hire an additional 20,000 teachers.
- Through deliberate programmes, the President said the government has created new opportunities for over 1.8 million Kenyans in the affordable housing programme, digital jobs, labour mobility and climate work programmes.
- The President said programmes like the affordable housing programme will continue creating jobs as its roll out continues.

The KSh80 billion cooperation agreement between the National Government and the Nairobi City County Government is a bold step to fix the city's most urgent challenges, President William Ruto has said.

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President William Ruto addressing Kangemi residents yesterday. Photos/PCS

He faulted those opposing the programme, saying without the programme over 550,000 youth will be unemployed.

In Nairobi alone, President Ruto said the government has invested over Ksh220 billion for the construction of over 160,000 units.

He said the government is constructing 16 modern markets, including a KSh500 million market in Kangemi.

President Ruto asked his competitors to shun tribal politics, divisive

and retrogressive politics and instead present their agenda.

The President told the opposition that he cannot be their only agenda at the expense of those of the people.

"The leadership of Kenya is not about an individual but about 55 million Kenyans," he said.

On his part, he said the government is forging forward with the country's development agenda and will let the results speak for themselves.

He said he will not be distracted by those who have no agenda for the

country.

The President said he supports proposals to have corrupt people face capital punishment to take the vice.

Governor Sakaja lauded the President for delivering on his promises, citing the construction of classrooms in Nairobi County.

He said the county will continue working with the national government to expand access to education in the city.



President William Ruto with other officials, teachers and students in Westlands Constituency yesterday.



A Hidden Gem In Western Kenya: Discovering The Magic Of Rarieda

Kenya's tourism spotlight often shines on Maasai Mara safaris or coastal beaches, but tucked in Siaya County lies Rarieda—a destination quietly rewriting the narrative. Here, authenticity trumps spectacle, offering travelers a rare blend of tranquility, culture, and natural beauty.

The journey to Rarieda is itself a revelation. Rolling hills, homesteads, and lush farmlands set the stage before Lake Victoria's vast waters steal the show. At dawn, fishermen glide across the lake in wooden boats, casting nets with quiet resilience. Visitors can join them or savor freshly prepared tilapia—crisp, flavorful, and steeped in local stories.

Beyond the lake, Rarieda's cultural heartbeat is unmistakable. Traditional music, storytelling, and communal gatherings remain central to daily life. Hospitality here is not curated for tourists—it is genuine, personal, and deeply rooted in community. For travelers weary of crowd-



ed destinations, Rarieda offers something rare: immersion. It is not about luxury lodges or curated itineraries, but about slowing down, breathing fresh countryside air, and connecting with people whose warmth is as memorable as the sunsets over Lake Victoria.

Kenya's tourism industry has long leaned on its big names, but

Rarieda proves that the country's true wealth lies in its hidden corners.

Rarieda is not just a place to visit—it is a reminder that the soul of travel lives where culture, nature, and humanity meet.

By Erick Otieno, Laikipia University

The Digital Generation: How Social Media Is Reshaping Human Connection

Social media has stormed into our lives with breathtaking speed, transforming from novelty to necessity in less than two decades. What began as simple communication tools now dictates identity, business, politics, and even the way we measure self-worth. The digital generation is living through a revolution that is both empowering and unsettling.

The promise is undeniable. Families separated by migration share daily moments instantly. Students collaborate across continents. Small businesses and young entrepreneurs reach global audiences without traditional barriers. In developing nations, social platforms have become economic lifelines, democratizing visibility and opportunity.

Yet the illusion of closeness is equally stark. Hundreds of online "friends" rarely translate into meaningful intimacy. Likes and emojis replace conversations. Psychologists warn of anxiety, low self-esteem, and



comparison culture fueled by curated images of success and beauty. Increasingly, self-worth is measured in followers, not achievements.

The attention economy compounds the problem. Algorithms thrive on outrage and excitement, amplifying misinformation and polarizing societies. Balanced debate is drowned out by extremes, blurring the line between fact and opinion.

The solution is not abandonment but balance. Digital literacy must be taught early, equipping users to question content

critically. Boundaries on screen time, healthier feeds, and prioritizing real-world relationships are essential.

Social media is a tool—its impact depends on how we wield it. Harnessed wisely, it can empower voices and foster global understanding. Used recklessly, it risks isolating and distorting reality.

The challenge is clear: let technology enhance humanity, not diminish it.

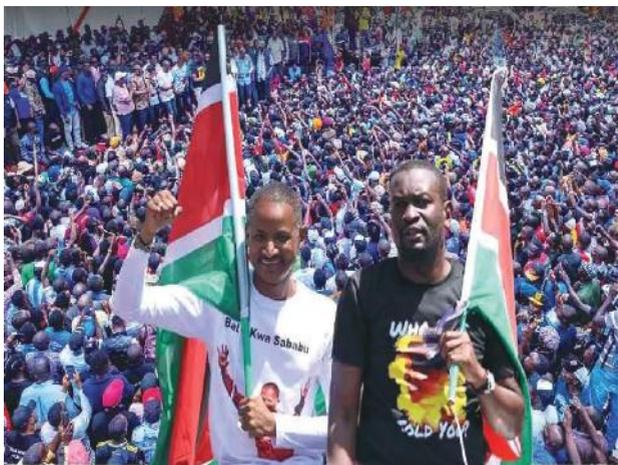
By Geoffry Mutuku, Laikipia University

ODM In Turmoil: Sifuna And Owino's Revolt Sparks Power Struggle

Kenya's political stage is rarely calm, and the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) is now the epicenter of fresh upheaval. Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna and Embakasi East MP Babu Owino have ignited a storm after being ousted from their positions by the party's National Executive Committee. Sifuna, formerly ODM's Secretary General, insists the move was illegal and unprocedural, while Owino brands it a "declaration of war."

At the heart of the dispute is ODM's stance on President William Ruto's re-election bid. Sifuna and Owino have openly opposed aligning with the government, accusing it of punishing Kenyans with heavy taxes and neglecting urban youth. They demand the government honor its 10-point agenda agreement with Raila Odinga.

The fallout has birthed rival rallies. Sifuna and Owino's faction, Linda Mwananchi, is mobilizing supporters to defend ODM's founding ideals and reject any



deal with Ruto. They accuse Oburu Oginga's camp of betraying Raila's vision, deepening fractures within the party.

With 2027 elections looming, ODM's internal strife raises serious questions about its ability to secure strategic seats, especially in Nairobi. Sifuna and Owino's popularity among young voters could reshape the party's trajectory, turning this revolt into a defining moment.

ODM's turmoil is more than a leadership spat—it is a battle over identity, loyalty, and the future of opposition politics.

If ODM cannot resolve its fractures, the party risks losing not just positions, but its soul.

By Agnes Otieno, Laikipia University

Unpredictable Weather Is A National Wake-Up Call

Kenya's skies are sending a message, and it is impossible to ignore. Seasons once predictable now arrive with erratic timing, rains fall with destructive force, and drought grips other regions simultaneously. The recent floods are not just another seasonal inconvenience—they are a warning that climate change is no longer a distant threat but a present reality.

For generations, weather guided farming, travel, and daily life. Today, farmers plant in uncertainty, urban residents wade through flooded streets, and pastoralists battle prolonged drought. The real crisis is not the rain itself but our chronic lack of preparedness. Blocked drainage, unplanned settlements, and sluggish emergency responses turn natural events into national disasters.

Kenya's rapid urban growth has outpaced infrastructure. Rivers are encroached upon, waste disposal is neglected, and conservation is sidelined for short-term gains. Each flood brings predictable consequences: disrupted transport, dam-



aged homes, and economic losses borne by ordinary citizens.

Yet rainfall, properly managed, is a blessing. It sustains agriculture, replenishes water sources, and powers hydroelectric energy. The challenge is to transform rain from recurring crisis into national resource. That requires investment in resilient infrastructure, stronger environmental policies, and public awareness campaigns that treat climate warnings as urgent calls to action.

Kenya stands at a crossroads: continue reacting to disasters or build a nation capable of anticipating them. The rain falling today should not only soak our soil—it should awaken our collective responsibility.

The time to prepare is now, because tomorrow's weather will not wait.

By Edina Otaa, Laikipia University

Africa Emerges As Trendy Destination For Young Chinese Travelers

By: Xinhua News Agency
 @themtkenyatimes

For Li Qiaoyang, a young travel enthusiast from east China's Shandong Province, a dream vacation isn't museum hopping in Europe or a beach break in Southeast Asia. Instead, he's dreaming of the wild African savannah.

"I have been to Egypt and Morocco in North Africa, and I want to travel to Tanzania this year to photograph animals," said Li, who was born in the 1990s. Having explored the pyramids and the Luxor Temple in Egypt in 2016, and taken a road trip through Casablanca and the Sahara Desert in Morocco in 2020, Li is captivated by the African continent. "Africa's unique natural landscapes and cultures are highly attractive. Many young Chinese are curious and drawn to it," he explained. Li is among a growing wave of young Chinese globetrotters turning their gaze toward the African continent,

which boasts spectacular savannahs, sprawling deserts, abundant wildlife, and rich natural and cultural heritage. This trend is further fueled by favorable entry policies, such as visa-free and visa-on-arrival access in several African nations.

Unlike older generations who often prefer rigidly scheduled tour groups, this new demographic, averaging in their 30s, craves independent exploration and unconventional itineraries. Africa, which is often deemed distant and mysterious, holds immense appeal for those seeking adventures off the beaten path. This shift in travel philosophy is clearly visible online. On lifestyle app Rednote, searches for "Africa travel" yield posts that have easily drawn more than 100 comments. Netizens actively discuss pricing and routes, often demanding highly personalized experiences in Africa. The tourism market has quickly felt the heat of this enthusiasm. Xie Ran, manager at a travel agency based in the coastal city of Qingdao in Shandong, noted a consistent rise in Africa-bound travelers over the past few years. The agency's



Chinese tourists visit the Pyramids of Giza during the Spring Festival holiday in Giza, Egypt, Feb. 23, 2026. As the Chinese people welcomed the Year of the Horse during this year's Spring Festival, many travelers chose to spend the holiday among the temples, pyramids and museums of Egypt, drawn by its cultural depth and growing travel convenience. PhotoXinhua/Ahmed Gomaa.

clientele for African tours climbed from about 100 in 2023 to 180 in 2024, and reached around 240 in 2025.

GZL International Travel Service, a travel agency in Guangzhou in south China's Guangdong Province, said overall inquiries for African destinations rose by 50 to 60 percent in recent months, while bookings for

routes involving South Africa and the "Vanilla Islands" jumped by nearly 40 percent. Wu Liyun, a professor with the China Academy of Culture and Tourism at Beijing International Studies University, said that Africa's natural and cultural beauty possesses a unique charm that captivates Chinese visitors. Witnessing the spectacular Great Migration, in particular,

has become a major draw for many. "China's outbound tourism has been developing rapidly," Wu said. "For frequent travelers who have already explored neighboring countries, venturing to more distant destinations like Africa is a natural choice as they gain more travel experience."

Japanese PM Under Fire Over Gifts To Ruling LDP Lawmakers

By: Xinhua News Agency
 @themtkenyatimes

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi drew criticism from opposition parties yesterday after admitting to distributing congratulatory gifts worth tens of thousands of yen to ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) lawmakers who won seats in the recent House of Representatives election.

In a parliamentary session, Takaichi said her local chapter of the LDP used its political funds to send to each of her party's 315 lawmakers catalogs listing gifts that they could order, with a budget of around 30,000 yen (192 U.S. dollars) per person. Takaichi made the admission while responding to a question from an opposition lawmaker after media reports had revealed the matter on Tuesday. Opposition parties criticized Takaichi over the issue. "The mindset of handing out gifts and the sense for how to use money reflect the old culture of the LDP, which we cannot overlook," Kyodo News reported, citing Junya Ogawa, leader of the Centrist Reform Alliance. Japan's Political Funds Control Law



PM Sanae Takaichi.

imposes strict regulations on donations related to the political activities of public office candidates. Whether Takaichi's actions may constitute a violation of the law has become a focal point of debate. The latest revelation surfaced amid lingering public distrust over money and politics, particularly toward the LDP, after many of its lawmakers were

implicated in a slush fund scandal that came to light in late 2023. After taking office in October 2025, Takaichi appointed several scandal-tainted figures to key government posts. Takaichi herself was also accused in December last year of accepting a political donation that exceeded the legal maximum, fueling public anger.

Zimbabwe To Host Major UN Tourism Events, Boosting Global Profile



By: Xinhua News Agency
 @themtkenyatimes

Zimbabwe's profile in global tourism governance is set to rise as the country is expected to host major United Nations (UN) tourism events this year, the country's Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services Minister Zhemu Soda has said.

Speaking at a post-cabinet media briefing on Tuesday in Harare, Soda said the events will include the 23rd Meeting of the UN Tourism Committee on Tourism and Sustainability, the second UN Tourism Regional Congress on Women Empowerment in Tourism in

Africa, and a UN workshop on tourism capacity-building. "Hosting these meetings represents a strategic milestone for Zimbabwe in the journey toward hosting UN Tourism's International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism in 2027, an honour that underscores the country's political and diplomatic profile within the global tourism governance space," said the minister. The participation of global tourism leaders, policymakers, development partners, sustainability experts and academia will reinforce Zimbabwe's commitment to sustainable and resilient tourism development practices, he added. Zimbabwe is home to world-renowned attractions, including the iconic Victoria Falls and the ancient ruins of Great Zimbabwe. The tourism industry serves as a key pillar of the country's economy.

Over 29,000 Kenyans Die Annually As Government Races To Complete Kisii Cancer Centre



By: Elizabeth Angira

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during an inspection tour of the ongoing construction of a cancer centre in Kisii, Dr Oluga described cancer as a leading cause of premature deaths and a major source of financial hardship for many Kenyan families.
- “Every year, more than 29,000 Kenyans die from cancer, 45,000 new cases are diagnosed, and over 110,000 patients are currently undergoing treatment,” he said. “Cancer is not only claiming lives prematurely, but it is also pushing many families into poverty because of the high cost of treatment.”
- Dr. Oluga noted that Kenya currently has only six government-led cancer centres, a number he described as insufficient given the growing disease burden.

More than 29,000 Kenyans die from cancer each year, with 45,000 new cases diagnosed annually and over 110,000 patients currently undergoing treatment, the Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Dr Ouma Oluga, has said.

Speaking during an inspection tour of the ongoing construction of a cancer centre in Kisii, Dr Oluga described cancer as a leading cause of premature deaths and a major source of financial hardship for many Kenyan families.

“Every year, more than 29,000 Kenyans die from cancer, 45,000 new cases are diagnosed, and over 110,000 patients are currently undergoing treatment,” he said. “Cancer is not only claiming lives prematurely, but it is also pushing many families into poverty because of the high cost of treatment.”

Dr. Oluga noted that Kenya currently has only six government-led cancer centres, a number he described as insufficient given the growing disease burden.

He said the national government has recently stepped in to support county governments in Nakuru, Garissa, and Mombasa to improve the management of their cancer facilities.

The Kisii cancer centre, he explained, is part of a broader national response aimed at decentralizing cancer services and reducing congestion at major referral hospitals such as Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital and Kenyatta National Hospital, where many patients from western Kenya currently seek treatment.

“Many patients are forced to travel long distances, sometimes overnight by bus, to access care. This facility will ease that burden and ensure people receive treatment closer to home,” he said.

The project, which had stalled in the past, resumed late last year and is expected to be completed by the end of this year, in line with a directive from President William Ruto.

Dr. Oluga added that the government is also working to reduce the cost of cancer treatment through the Social Health Authority (SHA), which recently enhanced its cancer care package to ease financial strain on patients.

He revealed that the government has signed Memoranda of Understanding with pharmaceutical companies, including Roche, to lower the cost of essential cancer drugs. Discussions are also ongoing with Pfizer to further reduce prices.

“We are targeting more than 140 cancer treatment molecules, including



The Principal Secretary for Medical Services Dr Ouma Oluga addressing the press during the inspection of the ongoing construction of a cancer Center in Kisii Count. Photo/Elizabeth Angira

those for prostate cancer, and aim to cut costs by over 60 percent,” he said. “It is not enough to build facilities and provide insurance cover; we must also make medicines affordable.”

Beyond infrastructure and financing, Dr. Oluga emphasised the need for skilled healthcare workers.

He highlighted a partnership with King’s College London under the Kenya-UK Health Alliance to support training, research, and capacity building.

He reaffirmed the government’s commitment to strengthening cancer care in Kenya, citing the disease as one of the country’s most pressing health challenges.

Also present was the Principal Secretary for Broadcasting and Telecommunications, Stephen Isaboke, who

said the cancer centre aligns with the government’s universal health coverage agenda under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

“This project is a key component of the President’s commitment to universal health care,” he said. “It is a major milestone for Kisii County and the wider western Kenya region.”

Representing King’s College London and the Kenya-UK Health Alliance, Professor Graham Lord said the partnership aims to deliver excellent cancer care and research closer to communities.

“This is about ensuring that if you live in Kisii County, you can access the best cancer treatment available anywhere in the world without having to travel far,” he said. “We are here to

support the government in ensuring that this center becomes a model of excellence not just for Kenya, but for Africa.”

County leaders welcomed the project, describing it as a transformative investment that will significantly reduce the cancer burden in the region. They urged the national government and the contractor to fast-track completion so that residents can begin accessing services as soon as possible.

Once operational, the Kisii cancer centre is expected to address the high prevalence of cervical, breast, colorectal and oesophageal cancers in the region, while reducing treatment costs and improving survival outcomes for thousands of patients.



The Principal Secretary for Broadcasting and Telecommunication, Stephen Isaboke addressing the press during the inspection tour of the ongoing construction of a cancer Center in Kisii. Photo/Elizabeth Angira

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Sports >> *Kenya will make its maiden appearance at the third edition of the Fifa eFootball World Cup, this year.

History Awaits As Kenya Confirm Participation At World Cup Tourney



Competitors at the Kisumu leg of the Esports Series.

Kenya will make its maiden appearance at the third edition of the Fifa eFootball World Cup, this year.

In a statement, the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) said they will work closely with the Kenya Esports Federation to conduct nationwide selection to select the country's representatives.

"The FIFAE World Cup is the pinnacle of international virtual football bringing together elite players from around the world to compete under their national flags for global honours. A national selection tournament shall be held soon to select Kenyan representatives," the federation said.

The eFootball World Cup is

an annual competition, organised and run by Fifa, where top players from around the globe battle each other in 2v2 matches.

Apart from Kenya, other African countries that have confirmed participation include South Africa, Botswana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Senegal, Seychelles, Chad, Morocco, Mauritius, South Sudan, Tunisia, Zimbabwe, Somalia, Ivory Coast and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), among others.

As per the rules and regulations of the competition, participating countries can select their national teams via direct nominations, bootcamps or domestic trials.

Spurred by Internet connectivity and smartphone ownership,

esports – including eFootball – have become popular in Kenya, particularly young people, who mostly play as a pastime.

However, the emergence of eSports tournaments – such as the National Esports Series – have provided many with a pathway into the paid and professional ranks.

Wednesday's announcement comes less than two weeks after national eSports champion Harry Kappa signed a professional deal with Moroccan eBotola League side Renaissance Athletic Club Zemamra.

In January this year, the sport witnessed another breakthrough with the participation of Hanningtone Kiplagat at the inaugu-

ral Africa eFootball Championships in Casablanca, Morocco.

The youngster finished in the top 8 after losing 2-1 to a Moroccan opponent in a hotly contested quarterfinal fixture.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Kenyan fencer Alexandra Ndolo has once again decried the lack of funding from the Kenya Fencing Federation to enable her to participate in international competitions.

‘Why Always Me?’ Kenyan Fencer Alexandra Ndolo In Heartfelt Cry Ahead Of Busy Calendar Year

Kenyan fencer Alexandra Ndolo has once again decried the lack of funding from the Kenya Fencing Federation to enable her to participate in international competitions.

The German-born fencer questioned whether the lack of funding is due to her being a half Kenyan and half white.

“Am I not being financed maybe because I’m only half Kenyan or maybe because I’m half Mzungu (white) or maybe because I don’t live and train in Kenya?” Ndolo said.

The 39-year-old further said she would love to live and train in Kenya but for lack of world class facilities in the country, necessitating her stay in Europe and Asia.

She also said it would allow her to compete regularly against the best-of-the-best in the world.

“Believe me, I would love to live in Kenya but unfortunately the best in the world don’t train in Kenya at the moment and in order to keep my high level I need to train amongst them. So, I need to live in Europe, the US or Asia. Hopefully I can get some answers soon because I want to compete for Kenya,” she said.

Daughter of a Kenyan father and a Polish mother, Ndolo switched allegiance to her fatherland in 2022, having previously represented Germany.

She then won the individual epee title at the 2023 Africa Fencing Championships in Cairo, Egypt before successfully defending her crown at the next edition in Casablanca, Morocco, a year later.

Ndolo made history as the first Kenyan fencer at the Olympics, competing in Paris in 2024, where she exited in the first round.

Pain of a Kenyan sportsperson
For all the glory and reputation brought to Kenya, she has been engaged in back-and-forth with KFF who she has accused of lack of transparency and not supporting her to compete at international



Kenyan Fencer Alexandra Ndolo posing for a photo after competition at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Photo/ALEX ISABOKE.

events.

In September last year, she filed a case at the High Court to compel the federation to produce their audited financial statements from 2021 to 2025.

She also sought to have KFF reimburse her for the expenses incurred in representing the country at international events.

That case came a year after Ndolo had lodged a complaint with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) over KFF’s failure to reimburse her Ksh 270,000 she had spent to represent the country.

She also filed another complaint with the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI).

Ndolo says she has always played her part by handing in her budget beforehand.

“I still love flying our flag high but unfortunately in those almost four seasons now not a single competition has been financed by the Kenyan Fencing Federation.

So, I’m wondering why is there no budget for me? Because I’ve handed in budget plans beforehand and I’ve handed in receipts afterwards and the answer was always there is no budget,” she said.

Ndolo added: “That’s kind of hard to believe because as I said I’ve been doing this for almost four seasons and I’ve seen other athletes being financed to go to competitions. It is difficult for me to believe that there are absolutely no budgets or there were no budgets to support at least one competition that I could go to and fence internationally.”

Still in love with Kenya

Her tribulations notwithstanding, Ndolo says she is still determined to put Kenya on the fencing map. “I want to keep competing for Kenya on the highest level. I want to represent us at the LA 2028 Olympics and I want to win more African championship medals, gold medals if I can. I want to win

other international medals but for this I need to train and I need to travel and I need to compete and all of this I cannot do on my own,” she said.

This year, she has eight international competitions lined up, for which she is hoping to prepare adequately and play in.

“I want to win other international medals but for this I need to train and I need to travel and I need to compete and all of this I cannot do on my own. I have eight international competitions plus African Championships plus World Championships every season and I need to attend them,” Ndolo said.

She added: “Hopefully I can get some answers soon because I want to compete for Kenya. I want to keep competing for Kenya on the highest level.”

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Crowned In Courage The Inspiring Journey Of Brittany Whitt



By: Anila Bukhari
@themtkenyatimes

At 39 years old, Brittany Whitt stands as a powerful example of resilience, faith, and determination. She is a Christian, a devoted mother, a loving wife, a firefighter, an EMT, a pageant queen, and a community leader. Rather than choosing one identity over another, Brittany embodies them all. Her life reflects her personal motto: inspiring women to change their “or” into “and,” proving they never have to choose between strength and softness, service and success, motherhood and ambition.

Brittany’s greatest pride is being the mother of two teenage sons, whom she raised completely on her own. As a single mother for many years, she carried the full responsibility of providing, guiding, and nurturing her boys into strong young men. The journey was not always easy. There were long days, sleepless nights, and moments of uncertainty. Yet through every challenge, Brittany leaned on her faith and refused to give up. She worked tirelessly to ensure her sons felt supported, loved, and inspired to pursue their dreams.

Her Christian faith has always been the foundation of her life. Brittany serves the Lord with her whole heart and believes that every step of her journey has been divinely orchestrated. In times of struggle, she found strength in prayer. In moments of success, she gave glory to God. She believes her calling is not only to serve others physically but also to be a light in their darkest moments. Her faith guides her decisions, fuels her compassion, and reminds her that her purpose is bigger than herself.

Nearly ten years ago, Brittany answered a calling to serve her com-

munity by becoming a firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Today, she is nationally certified as an NREMT. Her career is not just a job; it is a mission. She steps into emergencies when others are stepping away. She provides care in moments of fear and chaos. Whether responding to fires, medical crises, or accidents, Brittany brings calmness, skill, and empathy to every scene.

Working in emergency services requires courage, physical strength, and emotional resilience. Brittany embodies all three. She understands the weight of responsibility that comes with wearing the uniform. Yet she also knows the privilege it is to help save lives and serve her community. For her, being a firefighter and EMT is a reflection of her servant’s heart. She believes that true leadership is found in service.

In addition to her demanding career, Brittany surprised many by stepping into the world of pageantry just over a year ago. What began as a new challenge quickly became another platform for purpose. After competing for only six months, she placed second runner-up on a national stage — an incredible accomplishment for someone so new to the industry. Her confidence, authenticity, and passion set her apart.

She currently holds the title of American Royal Beauties Ms. Wild and Wonderful. Through this title, Brittany uses her voice to promote empowerment, faith, and community service. She shows that beauty is not defined by appearance alone but by character, compassion, and courage. On stage, she carries herself with grace; off stage, she carries groceries, supplies, and hope to those in need.

One of Brittany’s most meaningful accomplishments is founding Warm Hearts: Caring Hands (WHCH). This nonprofit initiative was born from her deep compassion for the homeless community. She recognized a need and chose to act. Warm Hearts: Caring Hands provides essential supplies and food to indi-

viduals experiencing homelessness. What began as a simple outreach effort soon grew into something larger.

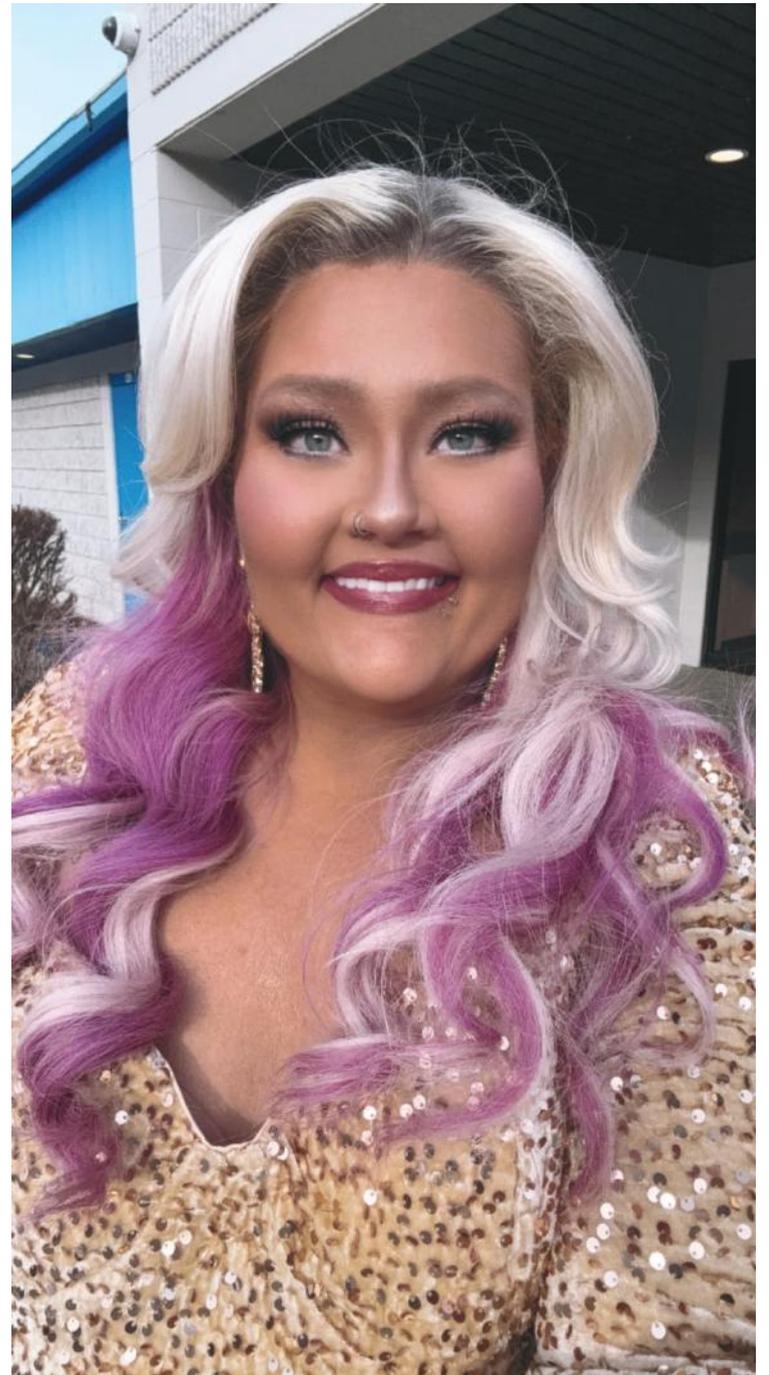
The organization later branched out to include a mobile soup kitchen, which currently serves warm meals once a month to those in need. For Brittany, these outreach days are more than acts of charity. They are moments of connection. She believes that every person deserves dignity, kindness, and a reminder that they are seen. She credits God for guiding every step of WHCH’s journey and believes He placed this mission on her heart for a reason.

Despite her many responsibilities, Brittany treasures her time at home. After years of believing she might never find love again, she recently married the love of her life. Her marriage is a testament to hope and restoration. Where there was once uncertainty, there is now partnership. Where there was once solitude, there is companionship. Together with her husband and sons, she has built a home filled with laughter, faith, and adventure.

Outside of work and service, Brittany embraces life fully. She enjoys riding side-by-sides, fishing, dancing, singing, and crafting. These hobbies reflect her vibrant spirit. She understands the importance of balance — of working hard and also celebrating life’s simple joys. Whether she is in uniform, wearing a crown, or relaxing outdoors with her family, she remains authentically herself.

Brittany’s story resonates with women who feel pressured to choose one role over another. Society often suggests that women must decide between career or family, strength or femininity, faith or ambition. Brittany challenges that narrative. She lives as proof that women can be mothers and leaders, first responders and queens, believers and achievers.

Her message is clear: never be afraid to have it all. Change the “or” into “and.” Be brave enough to pursue every calling placed on



Brittany Whitt

your heart. She inspires women to step into their power, embrace their uniqueness, and refuse to shrink themselves to fit expectations.

Through faith, service, motherhood, marriage, and leadership, Brittany Whitt continues to walk boldly in her purpose. She is not defined by one title but by the impact she makes in every role she holds. From the fire station to the pageant stage, from her home to the streets

where she serves the homeless, she carries courage in her heart and compassion in her hands.

Her life is a testament to resilience, redemption, and unwavering faith — a crown earned not only through achievement, but through character.