



**Democracy's Enduring Paradox: Why The Worst System Remains The Best Choice**  
 Kenya has held three general elections since the promulgation of its 2010 Constitution, with voter turnout declining from 85.9% in 2013 to 65.4% in 2022, reflecting a broader crisis of democratic confidence across the African continent. According to Afrobarometer's 2021/2023 survey data, only 44% of Kenyans are satisfied with how democracy works in their country

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**ODM Leaders Draw Battle Lines Against UDA Coalition Talks**  
 The air in Busia was thick with defiance as a section of Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) leaders mounted a spirited rejection of any political marriage with the ruling United Democratic Alliance (UDA). Their message was sharp, uncompromising, and delivered with the urgency of a party unwilling to be tethered to policies it deems hostile to ordinary Kenyans.

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# The MT. KENYA TIMES

## Daily ePAPER

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**News > Ruto Unveils Major Nairobi Development Plan To Drive National Transformation**

P. 8. The government is rolling out major development programmes in the capital Nairobi to set pace for national transformation, President William Ruto has said.



**News > Kenya At A Crossroads: Mt. Kenya Chief Seer Munyori Muhuri Signals New Political Era Ahead Of 2027**

P. 12. Kenya is standing at a critical crossroads, and the time has come for a complete break from recycled leadership, according to Mt. Kenya Chief Seer Dr. Munyori K. Muhuri.

## Opposition Demands Recall Of Youth In Russia



United Opposition leaders have sharply criticized the government over alleged efforts to lure young Kenyans into overseas jobs that have reportedly placed some of them in Russia's military zones. Speaking during a church service at Njabini Parish, Catholic Diocese of Nyahururu, in Kinangop Constituency, Nyandarua County, the leaders called for the immediate recall of all Kenyan youth sent to Russia, citing growing concerns over their safety.



From left; Fred Matiang'i, Justin Muturi and Rigathi Gachagua

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# Jamii Imara Mashinani Caucus Deepens Grassroots Engagement In Laikipia County

By: WMW  
 @themtkenyatimes

*Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures*

The Jamii Imara Mashinani (JIM) caucus has reaffirmed the government's commitment to citizen-centred governance under the Bottom-Up Transformation Agenda (BETA) following a major grassroots engagement in Laikipia County.

Led by Moderator and Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Ms Mary Muthoni, the caucus held its 11th edition of community engagement forums at the Laikipia East NG-CDF Hall, drawing hundreds of local residents.

The meeting provided a platform for wananchi to directly raise concerns on key issues including the Social Health Authority (SHA), illicit brews, road infrastructure, education, electricity and water supply. Government officials responded to dozens of questions, underscoring the administration's emphasis on dialogue and accountability.

The forum was attended by Laikipia Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri, Kenya Revenue Authority Chairperson Ndiritu Muiriithi, senior national and county officials, and leaders from various sectors.

Earlier in the day, the JIM fraternity joined worshippers at Nanyuki Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, where the team, led by Ms Muthoni highlighted the church's vital role in promoting public health, positive behaviour change and community well-being.

She called on religious institutions to support government immunisation and vaccination programmes, noting that faith-based organisations are key partners in social development.

Jamii Imara Mashinani is a multi-sectoral caucus bringing together public servants, professionals and community leaders to promote inclusive governance through regular citizen engagement forums. Anchored on the philosophy of "Tukutane, Tujadiliane na Tushirikiane" (Let us meet, discuss and work together), the initiative aims to ensure government programmes reflect real community needs while improving service delivery. In a message to members, Ms Muthoni thanked the team for making the Laikipia meeting a success and urged continued engagement to sustain momentum.

The caucus is expected to continue its nationwide outreach, with upcoming engagements planned in other counties.

Yes the team joined the thanksgiving and celebration service of the 8th Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church in Kenya, Reverend Dr. John Maromba at the KICC Amphitheater in Nairobi.



**The Mt. Kenya Times**



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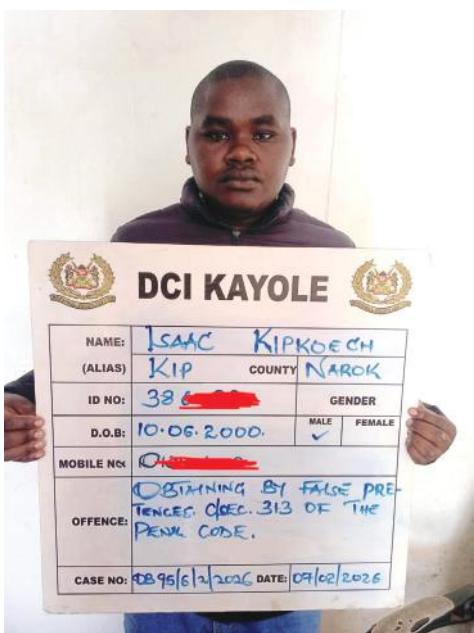


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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Detectives from Kayole Police Station have arrested a Police Recruit Constable accused of running a slick con that fleeced a member of the public of KSh687,000, all under the guise of securing an employment letter from the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF). On November 12, 2025, the suspect, Kipkoech Isaac, spun a tantalising tale for his victim, promising an official KDF employment letter in exchange for Sh700,000. Like a gambler convinced this was the winning bet, the complainant took the bait, parting with KSh687,000. But no sooner had the money changed hands than Kipkoech vanished into thin air, his phone going silent and hopes evaporating, leaving behind a trail of shock, betrayal, and empty promises. Following this, detectives launched a manhunt for the suspect, trailing him to the National Police College, Embakasi A campus, and subsequently arresting him.



At least one person has died and another sustained serious injuries after suspected illegal artisanal miners clashed while prospecting for gold in the outlawed Dabel mining belt in Moyale sub-county, Marsabit County. The incident occurred on Saturday evening at Hilo, Tanzania, one of the 13 mining blocks previously declared dangerous and disturbed by the government. Marsabit County Police Commander Leonard Kimaiyo said investigations are ongoing, noting the miners allegedly sneaked into the area despite security surveillance. The two men, both aged 25, reportedly fought over a misunderstanding related to illegal mining. The deceased's body is at Moyale Level 4 Hospital mortuary, while the injured man is receiving treatment.



Shining Hope for Communities (Shofco) has empowered residents in Migori by rehabilitating Mahena dam in South Sakwa Ward, Awendo Sub-County. The 70-year-old dam, long silted, has been desilted to restore water levels, enabling domestic use, irrigation, and fish farming, while supporting livelihoods for the local community.

Through Shofco grants, community-based organisations (CBOs) have implemented programmes in entrepreneurship, girls' education, vocational training, and campaigns against gender-based violence. Youth and women have benefited directly, including initiatives like Pamela Awuor's cosmetics and salon shop in Awendo.

Shofco has also rehabilitated 20 water pans across Migori, providing reliable access to clean water, promoting small-scale irrigation and fish farming, and enhancing food security. The organisation continues to partner with local authorities, stocking dams with fish fingerlings and encouraging communities to use these water resources for agricultural and commercial purposes, fostering sustainable livelihoods and long-term poverty reduction.



The government is setting up multi-value chain cooperatives in every ward to serve as delivery centres for subsidized farm inputs. Unlike traditional cooperatives that handle just one commodity, these new cooperatives will deal with at least two commodities, making it easier for farmers to access multiple services in one place. Each ward cooperative will also be empowered to operate a SACCO, boosting financial inclusion for members.

Prosperity Alliance Party (PALL) party leader Patrick Mutahi Muthoni has hailed the role of faith and youth leadership in shaping the country's future. Speaking during a Thanksgiving Service held after the party's successful provisional registration, Mr Muthoni said the gathering was meant to give thanks to God and seek guidance for the journey ahead. The service was held at the Born Again Evangelism Cathedral and hosted by Rev Maina Wa OTC. He said PALL is founded on values of faith, integrity and service, noting that the passion and commitment displayed by young leaders gives confidence that Kenya's future is in safe hands.

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# The Mount Kenya Times

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# ODM Leaders Draw Battle Lines Against UDA Coalition Talks

By: David Kimani  
[@themtkenytimes](https://twitter.com/themtkenytimes)



## Worth Noting:

- Siaya Governor James Orengo, speaking with the authority of a seasoned political strategist, declared that ODM's compass remains firmly fixed on the welfare of citizens rather than the pursuit of power for its own sake.
- "Baba Raila Odinga said we do not want seats, we want justice for the people," Orengo thundered, before repeating with deliberate emphasis: "We cannot join UDA—never, never, never." His words carried the weight of a movement determined to remain politically independent, with Orengo insisting that ODM must field its own presidential candidate in the next election.

The air in Busia was thick with defiance as a section of Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) leaders mounted a spirited rejection of any political marriage with the ruling United Democratic Alliance (UDA). Their message was sharp, uncompromising, and delivered with the urgency of a party unwilling to be tethered to policies it deems hostile to ordinary Kenyans.

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ODM Secretary-General Edwin Sifuna echoed the sentiment, brushing aside mounting pressure to conform. He dismissed calls for silence or expulsion as misplaced, clarifying that the existing agreement between ODM and UDA was narrowly defined and never intended to evolve into a coalition. "That agreement bears only two signatures—President William Ruto and Raila Odinga," Sifuna said, stressing that no extension was provided for. He added that the committee formed under the pact is expected to deliver its final report by March 7, 2026, a deadline that now looms large over the political landscape.

Kisii Senator Richard Onyoka in-



ODM Secretary-General Edwin Sifuna.

jected a note of challenge into the debate, questioning claims that ODM lacks credible presidential contenders. "Are you saying we cannot produce a president? Look around—Sifuna is here, Babu is here. We have depth," Onyoka argued. He also raised the plight of western Kenya's sugar sector, demanding accountability for the collapse of Mumias and Nzoia factories before any serious engagement with ODM could be entertained. "A government that cannot take care of its vulnerable citizens has no business being in office," he warned, tying economic grievances to political legitimacy.

Embakasi East MP Babu Owino, never one to shy away from confrontation, declared that ODM leaders who speak out should not be intimidated. "We have no fear. Even if they expel us, we are ready for by-elections," he said, vowing that ODM must remain true to its founding ideals. "The party must continue from where Baba left it."

The rally in Busia thus crystallized a growing rift within Kenya's political theatre. While some voices have urged pragmatism and coalition-building, the ODM leaders who spoke made clear that independence, accountability, and fidelity to the party's grassroots remain their guiding principles. Their rejection of UDA talks was not framed as mere political posturing but as a moral stand against what they perceive as a government failing to deliver on promises of economic revival and social justice.

As the March deadline approaches, the political temperature is set to rise. ODM's insistence on charting its own course signals a turbulent season ahead, one in which coalition arithmetic may prove less decisive than the raw power of conviction.

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# Ruto Unveils Major Nairobi Development Plan To Drive National Transformation

By: PCS  
 @themkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

- President Ruto spoke yesterday during a Sunday service at Africa Inland Church (AIC) Pipeline in Embakasi, Nairobi County, led by AIC Presiding Bishop Abraham Mulwa.
- He also officially opened the church in Pipeline, whose construction began on 30 August, 2020, when President Ruto laid the foundation stone.
- The President said he has tasked Nairobi County Assembly members (MCAs) to identify a priority road in every ward that the National Government will build, with the aim of making Nairobi motorable and ease movement within the city.
- "We want to ensure that Nairobi gives a good impression of Kenya," he said.

The government is rolling out major development programmes in the capital Nairobi to set pace for national transformation, President William Ruto has said.

The President said the Nairobi County development plan will address key challenges, including waste and garbage management, slums, water shortage, poor roads and poor electricity connectivity.

He pointed out that Kenya cannot lay claim to transformation if the capital city lacks such basic services.

"If we are going to move Kenya to first-world status, Nairobi must lead the way. That is why we are determined to change this city. We will transform Nairobi City," he said.

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"We want to ensure that Nairobi gives a good impression of Kenya," he said.

On tackling the water shortage in Nairobi, President Ruto said the Northern Water Collector Tunnel in Murang'a has been completed and is supplying the city with an additional 140 million litres of water.

To further increase water supply in the city, the government will later this year begin building the proposed Maragua 4 Dam in Murang'a. The dam is one of the 50 mega dams earmarked for construction nationally to provide water for irrigation and domestic use.

"Maragua 4 is among the priority dams we are going to work on this year," he said.

He pointed out that it was unfair that water was more expensive in the Eastlands part of Nairobi than Karen.

Additionally, the President said the National and the Nairobi County governments will light up the city, noting that this move would help reduce crime.

He also explained that the National Government, in partnership with the county government, will from April 1, 2026, roll out comprehensive garbage collection and management services in the city.

At the dumpsite in Dandora, the

President said, a treatment plant is being built to manage waste, make fertiliser and generate energy from next year.

On affordable housing, President Ruto announced that the government is investing KSh220 billion in Nairobi County for the construction of 169,000 housing units, 16 modern markets and hostels to accommodate 14,000 students.

He said the government is committed to eradicating slums in the city within the next 15 years.

"We cannot say Nairobi is a city while some residents live in slums," he said.

In the provision of universal health-care, he pointed out that more than 2.5 million residents of Nairobi are registered with the Social Health Authority.

"This means that 57 per cent of Nairobi residents are on a health insurance programme, five times the number that was registered under the defunct National Hospital Insurance Fund," he said.

Meanwhile, the National Government is building an additional 700 classrooms in the city's public schools, providing opportunities for at least 21,000 learners.

Nationally, the government has built 23,000.

The President commended the

Church for complementing government efforts to enhance access to education.

Saying transformation is not a walk in the park and calls for sacrifice, commitment and courage, the President urged elected leaders to remain focused on what matters to the citizens.

"I am working with many leaders so that we can transform the country," he said.

Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja commended the National Government's development plan, citing the Climate Worx initiative that has created tens of thousands of jobs for young people in the city and for improving water supply.

He said he is looking forward to the development of the Maragua 4 Dam to further enhance water supply.

Trade Cabinet Secretary Lee Kinyanjui urged Kenyans and leaders to support the President in implementing the country's transformation agenda.

He cautioned against engaging in politics all the time, saying it is now time to work.

Later, the President addressed residents of Pipeline in the company of Governor Sakaja, MPs and MCAs.

# Mau Mau Freedom Fighter From Ngorika Dies, Association Appeals For Support To Give Hero A Befitting Send-Off

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

The Mau Mau War Veterans Association has announced the death of Mr. Njora Muronyo of Ngorika, Nyandarua County, one of the few remaining Mau Mau freedom fighters, whose life symbolised sacrifice, resilience, and Kenya's long struggle for independence.

In a formal appeal, the association called upon MMV Associates CLG, under the leadership of Mr. James Njuguna Mahuria, to assist with burial preparations and logistics to ensure that the late veteran is laid to rest with dignity befitting a national hero.

Mr. Muronyo was among the generation of Kenyans who took up arms and endured detention, displacement, and hardship during the Mau Mau uprising against British colonial rule in the 1950s.

Like many of his peers, his contribution to the liberation of the country went largely unrecognised for decades, even as the freedoms enjoyed today were built on the sacrifices of fighters like him.

According to the association, senior officials are expected to visit the deceased's home ahead of the burial.

These include the National Coordinator Mr. Githiga Gikonyo, National General Secretary Mr. Pius Njogu Ngumo, clergy representative Prophet Paul Mwangi Gatundu, and the association's National Patron, Bishop Dr. Jane Mumbi Ngethe Kinyiriria.

The visit will be part of preparations to honour the fallen freedom fighter and to engage local leaders and family members.

The Mau Mau War Veterans Association, headquartered in Nairobi, is a national body that brings together surviving Mau Mau fighters and their families. Formed to advocate for recognition, welfare, and compensation of veterans, the association has played a central role in preserving the history of the liberation struggle, pushing for government acknowledgment, and supporting aging fighters who often live in poverty and ill health.

Over the years, the association has worked closely with government offices, county administrations, and civil society to ensure that Mau Mau veterans receive pensions, medical support, and public recognition. It has also been instrumental in documenting oral histories and educating younger generations about the true cost of Kenya's independence.

The death of Mr. Muronyo high-

## Worth Noting:

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• Mr. Muronyo was among the generation of Kenyans who took up arms and endured detention, displacement, and hardship during the Mau Mau uprising against British colonial rule in the 1950s.

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The late Njora Muronyo

lights a painful reality: the number of surviving Mau Mau veterans is rapidly diminishing. Each passing veteran represents a living chapter of history closing forever. Leaders within the association have repeatedly warned that without urgent action, many freedom fighters will die without ever seeing full justice or appreciation for their role in shaping the nation.

Copies of the burial appeal have been shared with national and regional security and administrative offices, including the Central Regional Commissioner, county commissioners, police commanders, and local administrators in Nyandarua, underscoring the importance of the burial as both a family and public affair.

As Kenya reflects on its past and the price paid for freedom, the association is urging institutions, leaders, and well-wishers to step forward; not only to honour Mr. Njora Muronyo in death, but also to reaffirm a collective commitment to

the men and women who fought for the country's independence.

For the Mau Mau War Veterans Association, a dignified burial is more than a ceremony; it is an act of na-

tional remembrance and gratitude to a generation that gave everything so that Kenya could be free.



MMV Associates CLG director James Njuguna Mahuria addressing the press in the past. Photos/Courtesy.

# Opposition Leaders Demand Recall Of Kenyan Youth Sent To Russia

By: MKT Reporter  
[@themtkenyatimes](https://twitter.com/themtkenyatimes)

United Opposition leaders have sharply criticized the government over alleged efforts to lure young Kenyans into overseas jobs that have reportedly placed some of them in Russia's military zones.

Speaking during a church service at Njabini Parish, Catholic Diocese of Nyahururu, in Kinangop Constituency, Nyandarua County, the leaders called for the immediate recall of all Kenyan youth sent to Russia, citing growing concerns over their safety.

DCP Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua urged President William Ruto to intervene, saying reports of Kenyan youths losing their lives in foreign battlefields were alarming and unacceptable.

"It is the responsibility of the government to protect its young people, not expose them to danger under the guise of employment opportunities,"

Mr Gachagua said.

DP Party Leader Justin Muturi echoed the sentiments, accusing the government of mishandling labour migration programmes and failing to safeguard the welfare of Kenyan workers abroad.

The opposition leaders also turned their attention to the education sector, with Jubilee Deputy Party Leader Fred Matiang'i questioning the government's preparedness for the transition to Grade 10 under the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC).

Dr Matiang'i criticised what he termed as vague and politicised announcements regarding Grade 10 enrollment, noting that many students were yet to resume secondary school.

"Education should never be used as a political tool. The future of our children is at stake," he said.

Mr Muturi supported the call for urgent reforms in the education sector, urging the government to provide clarity and consistency in policy implementation.

The opposition leaders reaffirmed



United Opposition leaders in Njabini

their commitment to what they described as a reform agenda aimed at restoring good governance and improving the welfare of Kenyans. They dismissed claims by the government that the opposition lacks a clear development plan, insisting they have a comprehensive strategy to address the country's challenges.

Among their key pledges is the re-introduction of free primary and secondary education.

On employment, Dr Matiang'i criticised the President over the transfer of teacher employment responsibilities from the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) to the State House, terming the move discriminatory and

unfair to teachers perceived not to support the current administration.

Later, the leaders held public engagements in Nyandarua and Nakuru counties, where they reiterated their calls for accountability, policy reforms and protection of Kenyan youth.

## THIWASCO Addresses Water Shortages, Assures Fair Distribution Amid Dry Spell

By: James Wakahuu  
[@themtkenyatimes](https://twitter.com/themtkenyatimes)

Thika Water and Sewerage Company Limited (THIWASCO) has issued a public notice addressing the ongoing water supply challenges affecting its customers due to the prevailing dry spell experienced across the county.

In a statement dated last Thursday, the company acknowledged the difficulties residents are facing and assured customers that measures are being taken to manage the situation.

According to THIWASCO, the prolonged dry conditions have led to an unprecedented demand for water, resulting in reduced supply in some areas. The company also dismissed claims that private water bowsers are being used to deny customers access to clean water.

THIWASCO clarified that the bowsers draw water from a single standpipe located near the production plant strictly for reliability pur-

poses. This arrangement is meant to support areas experiencing low pressure or no water at all. Company records show that water supplied to private bowsers accounts for only 0.17 per cent of total production, a figure the utility described as insignificant.

The water company said it is working to keep up with the increased demand and that distribution is being managed equitably to ensure fairness across all areas. It has also engaged the Water Resources Authority (WRA) to help regulate upstream water users as river levels continue to decline.

THIWASCO apologised for the inconvenience caused and assured customers that its teams are continuously reviewing and adjusting the distribution programme to improve fairness in supply. Residents have been urged to use water sparingly during this period, with the company emphasizing that every drop counts. Customers will continue to receive updates as the situation develops.



# Maritime Academy Commissions KSh30M Ship Simulator In Malindi

By: James Wakahiu

@themtkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- Speaking during the commissioning, Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) Chief Executive Officer Dr Charles Ong'ondo said the simulator aligns with the country's shift towards practical, skills-based learning. "Facilities like this bridge simulator are critical in ensuring learners acquire hands-on competencies that meet industry demands. We encourage institutions to invest in such infrastructure to support quality training under the competency-based framework," said Dr Ong'ondo.

- Mr Muhia said the university is pushing for the KSh30 million simulator to be formally recognised by relevant regulatory and accreditation bodies to allow it to be fully integrated into certified maritime training programmes. "Our goal is to have this simulator recognised as a standard training facility so that our cadets can train locally and be competitive globally. This investment demonstrates MKU's commitment to the blue economy and to producing highly skilled maritime professionals," he said.

Mount Kenya University (MKU)'s Malindi Maritime Academy has boosted Kenya's maritime training capacity with the installation of a modern bridge simulator facility valued at KSh30 million, as the institution intensifies efforts to tap into the largely underdeveloped maritime sector.

The high-tech simulator is designed to replicate real-life ship bridge operations, offering trainees practical exposure in navigation, vessel handling, safety management and emergency response under varying sea and weather conditions. "The facility will significantly enhance competency-based training and produce graduates who are ready for both local and international maritime jobs," says Mr John Njenga Muhia, Centre Director, Malindi Maritime Academy.

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In an exciting leap towards revolutionizing maritime training in Kenya, the Academy in Malindi is now equipped with state-of-the-art Wärtsilä navigational simulators. These simulators represent the pinnacle of maritime simulation technology, designed to meet the evolving needs of a rapidly digitizing industry and preparing the next generation of seafarers for the complexities of modern maritime operations.

Malindi Maritime Academy is strategically positioned to support national priorities in shipping, port services and marine logistics, while



From left: Prof. Charles Ochieng Ong'ondo, CEO KICD; MKU Founder and Board Chairman Prof. Simon Gicharu; Captain Edwin Kamau and Mr. Makau wa Mutua, Deputy Director Maritime Academy during commissioning of Sh30m ship bridge simulator at MKU's Malindi Maritime Academy, Kilifi county. Photo/Courtesy

reducing the cost of training Kenyan seafarers abroad. The university has reaffirmed that its programmes are aligned with KICD standards and national education policies, as it continues to invest in modern training facilities to strengthen skills development across all levels of education.

Wärtsilä's navigational simulators are market-leading solutions, engineered to offer high-quality, highly realistic training experiences. These advanced simulators cover a broad spectrum of maritime scenarios, ensuring that trainees receive hands-on, practical experience with authentic equipment replicas. From traditional classroom environments to immersive virtual reality experiences, these simulators offer unmatched flexibility for instructors and students alike.

"At MKU Maritime Academy, the installation of these simulators aligns perfectly with the institution's commitment to providing world-class education, producing graduates who are fully prepared for international maritime standards," Mr Muhia said.

In November last year, MKU signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Abu Dhabi Maritime Academy, marking a significant step toward strengthening maritime education and training in Kenya. This partnership will

enhance the capacity of MKU's Maritime Academy in Malindi to meet the growing global demand for skilled maritime professionals. The MOU was signed by MKU Founder, Prof. Simon Gicharu, and Dr. Yasser Al Wahedi, President of Abu Dhabi Maritime Academy.

"This partnership underscores MKU's commitment to providing world-class maritime education and positioning Kenya as a leader in the Blue Economy," said Prof. Simon Gicharu, Chairman and Founder Mount Kenya University. "By working with Abu Dhabi Maritime Academy, we will equip our students with the skills and expertise required to thrive in the international maritime industry," he added.

Through this collaboration, MKU aims to play a pivotal role in supporting Kenya's broader vision to harness the full potential of the Blue Economy. "The MoU will facilitate knowledge exchange, curriculum development, internships and advanced training programs for seafarers, engineers and maritime experts—professions that are critically needed to address the global shortage of maritime personnel," said Mr Muhia.

Kenya's strategic location along the Indian Ocean positions the country as a natural hub for maritime activity. The MKU Maritime Academy in Malindi is strategically located

# Kenya At A Crossroads: Mt. Kenya Chief Seer Munyori Muhuri Signals New Political Era Ahead Of 2027

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

- Dr. Muhuri accused the political class of arrogance, deception, hate speech, and perpetuating ethnic divisions. He said Kenyans have endured decades of broken promises and manipulation by leaders who refuse to leave the political stage despite failing to deliver.

• Using a sharp metaphor, he remarked: "Like in every General Election, the same monkeys in different forests have presented themselves again; sweet words, empty promises, and lies."

• He asserted that Kenyans have reached a breaking point and are no longer willing to be deceived by what he termed "liars, deceivers, and incapacitated leaders."

• He said that for 62 years and through 12 elections, Kenyans have voted without divine direction, leading to painful national experiences.



Mt Kenya Chief Seer Dr Munyori K Muhuri (seated center) with other officials. Photo/Courtesy

Kenya is standing at a critical crossroads, and the time has come for a complete break from recycled leadership, according to Mt. Kenya Chief Seer Dr. Munyori K. Muhuri.

Speaking at OHO Gardens in Nairobi, Dr. Muhuri issued his insights on the plight of Kenyans and the forthcoming General Elections of August 2027, painting a grim picture of a nation burdened by economic hardship, insecurity, corruption, and leadership failure.

He said millions of Kenyans continue to suffer as parents struggle to afford basic necessities and school fees for their children, while economic opportunities shrink and hope fades.

"Current leadership and those seeking to lead have offered no meaningful benefits to Kenyans. We shall not allow any more recycling of leaders," he declared in his statement on Saturday.

### Rising Insecurity and Human Rights Concerns

Dr. Muhuri expressed deep concern over rising insecurity across the country, citing cases of abductions, enforced disappearances, and extra-judicial killings.

He lamented that innocent citizens are living in fear, helplessly harassed by armed men, while justice remains elusive.

He further condemned rampant land grabbing and night evictions allegedly carried out by powerful

individuals, leaving vulnerable families; including breastfeeding mothers homeless and exposed to harsh conditions.

### Economy, Health, and Education in Crisis

The Chief Seer noted that Kenya's economic situation has deteriorated sharply, with many citizens unable to feed themselves.

He claimed that over the last eight years, more than half of Kenyan-owned businesses have shut down, while international companies and organizations continue to relocate to other countries.

Health care and education, he said, have become luxuries for the elite.

"Poor patients are starving in hospitals. Some are detained in health facilities simply because they cannot pay their medical bills," he said.

### Condemnation of Corruption and Political Deceit

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He said that for 62 years and through 12 elections, Kenyans have voted without divine direction, leading to painful national experiences.

Quoting what he described as a prophetic message, he stated that God has anointed a servant from among Kenyans who will be exalted before the nation and the world.

"Like Samuel anointed David among his brothers, so shall it be in Kenya. I shall rule the world through him, and from the land of Kenya," he quoted. He added that "the star of the wise men from the East has stopped in Kenya," signaling an imminent and historic transformation.

### Mt. Kenya Political Mobilization

Dr. Muhuri emphasized the political significance of the Mt. Kenya region, noting that it commands over seven million voters. He announced that the region is prepared to front its own presidential candidate in 2027 if necessary; one who is not among the current political figures seeking power.

"We shall no longer allow a few Kenyans to choose leaders for millions. Our leader is the anointed one," he said.

He revealed that a major national an-

nouncement is scheduled for March 14, 2026, which he said would "shake the whole country."

In the meantime, he urged Kenyans, particularly the youth to apply for national identity cards and register as voters in preparation for the coming political realignment.

Support from Steering Committee and Women Leaders

The Chief Seer was accompanied by members of his Steering Committee, including his deputy, Mr. Kinyua Emillio, Mt. Kenya Economic Forum founder Karuma Karumba, Group secretary Rev. Fr. Waiguru, Women representatives Loise Nyambura and Margaret Njeri, youth representative Anthony Ngugi, and elder Micheni Musa.

Addressing the gathering, Ms. Nyambura called on women to rise up and take their role seriously in shaping Kenya's future. She announced that plans were underway to launch a GEMA Women Forum, which will provide a platform for women to articulate their issues without fear.

She urged women to register with the caucus and actively participate in addressing challenges affecting their social and economic well-being.

The officials echoed Dr. Muhuri's sentiments and called on Kenyans to remain patient as they await the forthcoming major announcement.

# Molo MP Kimani Kuria Condemns Political Hostility At Kigumo Funeral

By: Suleiman Mbatiah

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

Member of Parliament for Molo Kimani Kuria has sharply condemned political hostility displayed at the burial of the mother of former Kigumo MP Jamleck Kamau.

The burial of the late Jane Wanjiku in Murang'a County last Friday turned tense and chaotic as crowds heckled Trade and Investment Cabinet Secretary, Lee Kinyanjui while he spoke. Kinyanjui was addressing mourners about planned government projects, including an industrial park for Murang'a County when a section of attendees interrupted him with chants. Kuria said Kenyans had seen "true colours" of leaders claiming unity while silencing dissent, at funerals attended by former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Martha Karua and Fred Matiang'i.

He said the conduct showed unity and tolerance were extended only to those aligned to a particular political camp or closely associated with specific political leaders.

"If indeed the opposition wants re-

gional unity, they should not be the first to shout down those who only want to mourn," Kuria stated in a statement to newsrooms.

Kuria said political tolerance was essential for communities to unite, arguing that divergent views, including support for one-term or two-term presidencies, must be respected.

The MP condemned the conduct at the funeral as inappropriate for a condolence setting, saying it had exposed the direction the region was taking and the intentions of some leaders.

The second term MP and an ally of President William Ruto particularly singled out former DP Gachagua and his allies, saying their actions have the effect of dividing the region.

He compared the incident with other communities where people hold differing political views yet manage to coexist peacefully without turning public or cultural gatherings into scenes of disruption.

"A political stance is a democratic right," Kuria said, stressing that differing views should be respected and that funerals and other solemn occasions must not be turned into political battlegrounds.

At the burial, CS Lee said it was con-



Kimani Kuria

tradictory to speak about uniting the community while turning a funeral meant for mourning into a platform for political ridicule.

The former Nakuru Governor warned that unchecked political intolerance

had turned villages into battle zones, eroding social harmony and threatening peaceful coexistence across the region.

The CS, who represented President Ruto, was forced to leave the burial

ceremony before its conclusion after sustained heckling from sections of the crowd made it impossible for him to continue participating.

# Huruma Shooting: Police Face Scrutiny After Student Killed During Suspect Chase

By: MKT Correspondent

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

Police in Nairobi are under mounting pressure after a pursuit of a criminal suspect allegedly ended with the fatal shooting of a 21-year-old Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) student in Huruma.

Sheryl Adhiambo, a first-year student who had reportedly just completed her examinations, was shot on Saturday night in Huruma Ngei under circumstances that remain unclear. Initial reports indicate officers were pursuing a suspect at the time of the shooting.

Human rights lobby VOCAL Africa claimed police initially resisted formally documenting the incident in the Occurrence Book (OB) before yielding following public pressure.

"Despite initial resistance from the police to document the incident,

public pressure ultimately forced authorities to issue an OB number and officially record the case," said VOCAL Africa CEO Hussein Khalid.

The shooting sparked protests in Huruma, with residents engaging police in running battles that continued into Sunday.

Adhiambo's body has been taken to the City Mortuary, where it awaits a post-mortem examination.

Police had not issued a detailed public statement clarifying the exact circumstances of the shooting by Sunday evening.

The incident has renewed scrutiny over police use of force during operations, with human rights groups calling for an independent and transparent investigation.



## Some People Come Into Our Lives



To teach us how to live alone.

To live alone is a skill.  
It makes you stand on a hill.  
Someone comes into your loom.  
To teach you how to groom.  
They will not stand with you ever.  
They come for you as a Goer.

For a reason, a season  
To teach you a lesson.  
It's not a matter to feel.  
Let it be ever with cool.  
Spend your time with learning.  
To know the art of living.  
Be free but stay accountable.  
No panic when you are isolated.  
It's a platform for raising.  
Finding your own identity.

N. Selvarani.  
B. T. ASST.  
GHS. SAKKARAKKOTTAI  
RAMANATHAPURAM  
TAMIL NADU.  
INDIA.

## Waiting Period



This time, I won't let it slip from my side.  
I am ready—  
ready to face it,  
ready to fight.

By

R ZAHETHA  
BT ASST  
GHS PAPPANTHANGAL  
TVM DIST

Not every life walks the same road as mine.  
Each day, I wait for a moment that feels  
endless.  
Deep thoughts, sleepless nights,  
pillows damp with silent tears—  
yet I rise again, wrapped in hope.  
Days wait... and slowly fade away,  
but hope keeps rising, again and again.

## Some Peoples Come Into Our Lives, To Teach Us How To Live Alone.



Some peoples come into our lives,  
Not to stay forever,  
But show us,  
How strong our own silence can be.

They hold our hand,  
Just long enough,  
For us to remember,  
We have hands of our own.

They fill the rooms with laughter,  
Then leave the doors open,  
So we learn how to breathe,  
In empty spaces.

Their loves is a lesson,  
Not a promise,  
A reminder us,  
We were whole all along.

Some peoples come into our lives,  
To teach us, softly and painfully,  
How to live alone,  
Without being lonely.

There decisions is they will say,  
They teach we in a solitude,  
They was speak with play,  
They bought our latitude.

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

## No Second Coat



disguise,  
And when the face beneath finally stands  
bare,  
Remember: this was the stranger you knew  
all along.

Grief may arrive, quiet and heavy with  
knowing,  
But wisdom follows close behind its steps.  
Do not argue with revelation or negotiate  
with truth—  
Simply bow, step back, and choose distance.

Repainting a person is a losing art.  
No colour survives against a fixed nature.  
So walk away with unclenched hands and  
clear eyes,  
Carrying peace, not the burden of repair.

Durgadevi V  
Graduate Teacher  
GHS Nesal  
Tiruvannamalai District

When someone shows their true colours,  
pause—  
Do not reach for borrowed brushes of hope.  
What is revealed was always waiting beneath,  
Truth does not ask permission to appear.  
Acceptance is not surrender, only sight.  
We are not appointed keepers of another  
soul,  
Nor sculptors meant to reshape their nature  
Into the comfort of our private dreams.  
Masks, however polished, learn to loosen.  
Time tugs patiently at every string of

## Sometimes The Best Medicine For All Pains Is To Spend Some Time With Special Person



me when broken.  
In times of distress, I may be surrounded by  
many  
Yet my eyes search for her who truly  
understands me,  
As soon as I realise that she's with me  
My worries fade and my heart feels free.

She's my strength and my wholesome  
In her presence everything looks awesome,  
What not she has sacrificed  
Are countless but unnoticed.

The source of my peace, my guide and my  
cover  
Is none but my mother, my greatest power  
and lover,  
She'll be my medicine and my booster forever  
My constant cure in

Manimozhi

Sometimes The Best Medicine For All Pains  
Is To Spend Some Time With Special Person,  
Many Times We Don't Realise That That  
Person Is The Best Person

Some people be the painkillers  
By being the medicine or trouble shooters,  
Relaxation of mind is obtained  
While spending time with them, stress is  
relieved and drained.

Bringing peace is the core aim of that special  
person  
She's the gentle soul who calms the mind in  
every version,  
Though I spend more time with her  
I failed to realise that she's the medicine for

## Adamant Dew Drops



Seized my sight.  
What a pleasant feast  
For my aesthetic sense!  
It kindled my finger tips  
To retrieve it from the shackles  
Of adamant dewdrops  
Resting comfortably  
Swinging to and from.  
But my mind barricaded me.  
So I seeked the favour  
Of rising Sun who showered  
His benevolence over the grass  
Burning the obstinate drops away.

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

A mild whisper from somewhere  
Muddled that unruffled dawn;  
I paused and stopped down  
To lend my ears.  
A whining grass stuck  
In the blanket of dewdrop

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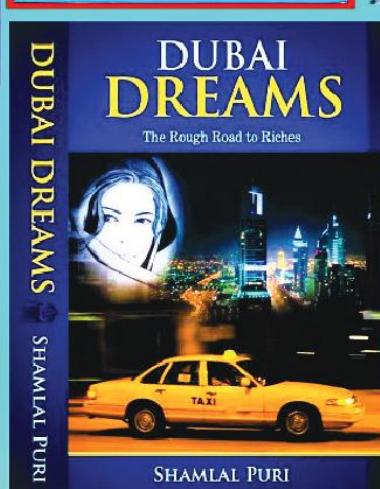
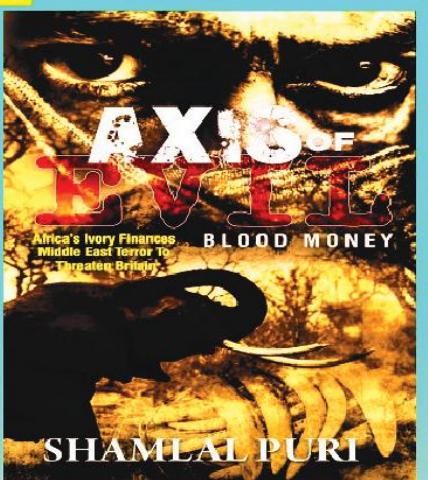
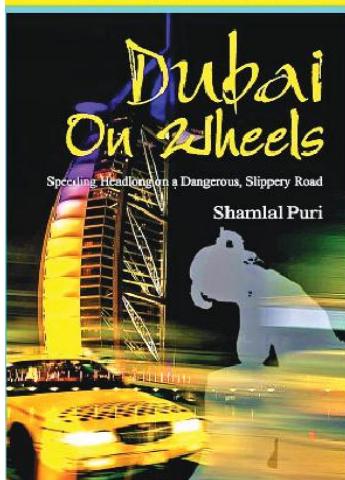
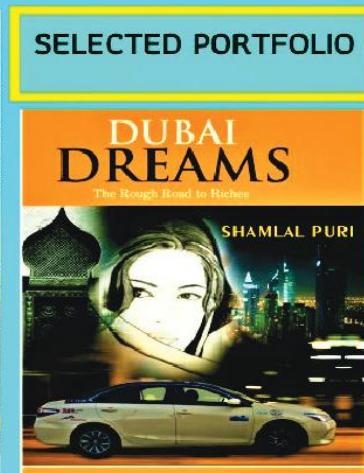
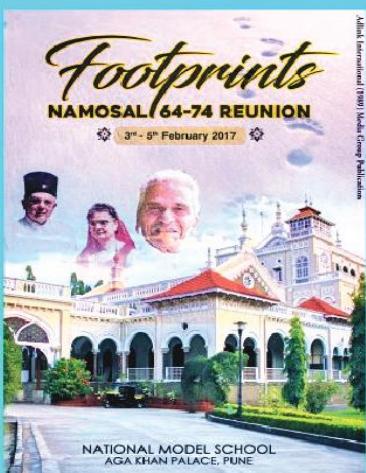
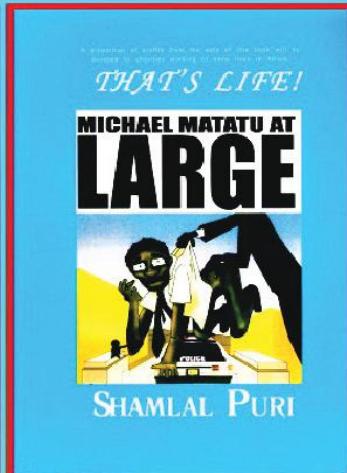
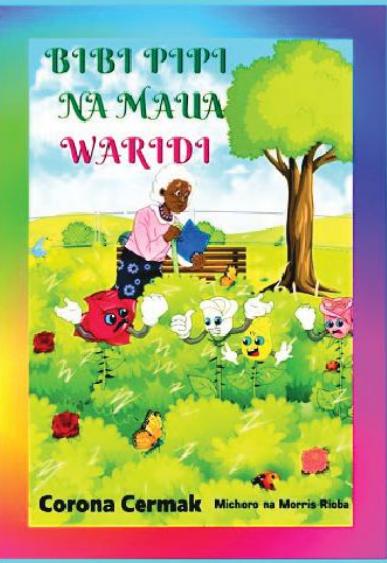
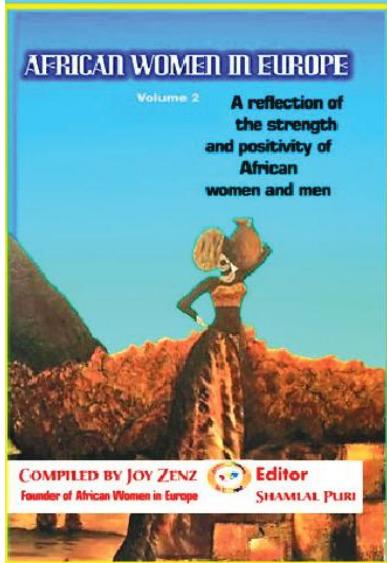
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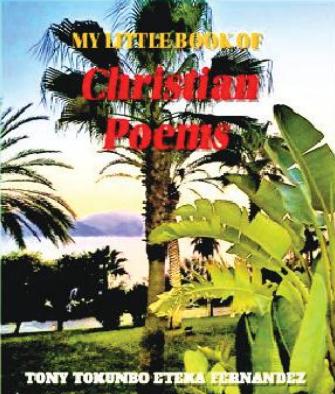
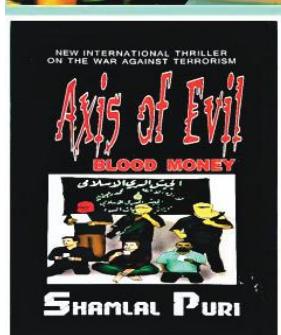
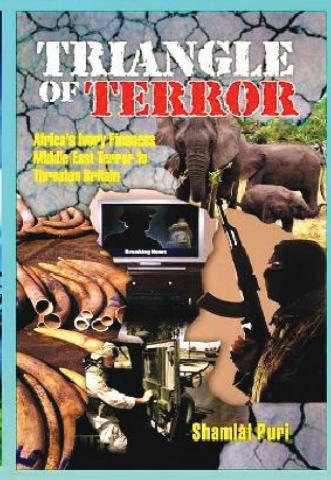
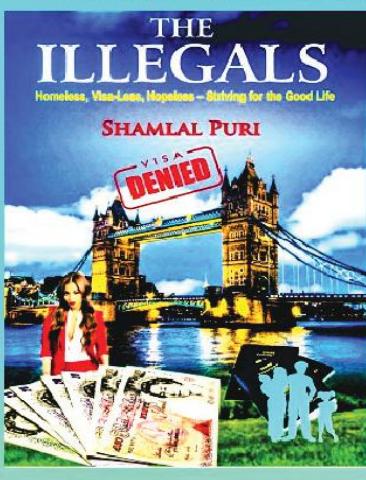
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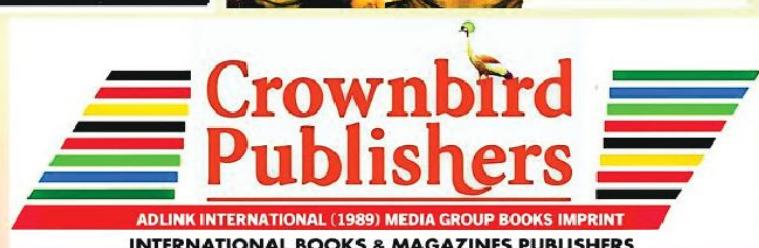


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# Is AU Willing To Become The Institution Africa Needs



By: Mike Omuodo  
 @themtkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

- These questions interrogate AU's relevance in the ensuing geopolitics. No doubt, the AU is still relevant as it still speaks on behalf of Africa on global platforms as a symbol of the continent's unity. But the unease surrounding it is justified because symbolism is no longer enough.
- In a continent grappling with persistent conflict, economic fragmentation, and democratic reversals, institutions are judged not by their presence, but by their impact.
- From the chat, and several other discussion groups on social media, most Africans are unhappy with the performance of the African Union so far. To many, the organization is out of touch with reality and they are now calling for an immediate reset.
- To them, AU is a club of cabals, whose main achievements have been safeguarding fellow felons.

From an online post, a commentator asked an intriguing question: "If the African Union (AU) cannot create a single currency, a unified military, or a common passport, then what exactly is this union about?"

The comment section went wild, with some commentators saying that AU no longer serves the interest of the African people, but rather the interests of the West and individual nations with greedy interests in Africa's resources. Some even said jokingly that it should be renamed "Western Union".

But seriously, how has a country like France managed to maintain an economic leverage over 14 African states through its CFA Franc system, yet the continent is unable to create its own single currency regime? Why does the continent seem to be comfortable with global powers establishing their military bases throughout its territories yet doesn't seem interested in establishing its own unified military? Why does the idea of an open borders freak out our leaders, driving them to hide under sovereignty?

These questions interrogate AU's relevance in the ensuing geopolitics. No doubt, the AU is still relevant as it still speaks on behalf of Africa on

global platforms as a symbol of the continent's unity. But the unease surrounding it is justified because symbolism is no longer enough.

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To them, AU is a club of cabals, whose main achievements have been safeguarding fellow felons.

One commentator said, "AU's main job is to congratulate dictators who kill their citizens to retain power through rigged elections." Another said, "AU is a bunch of atrophied rulers dancing on the graves of their citizens, looting resources from their people to stash in foreign countries."

These views may sound harsh, but are a good measure of how people perceive the organization across the continent.

## Blurring vision

The African Union, which was established in July 2002 to succeed the OAU, was born out of an ambitious vision of uniting the continent toward self-reliance by driving economic Integration, enhancing peace and security, prompting good governance and, representing the continent on the global stage - following the end of colonialism.

Over time, however, the gap between this vision and the reality on the ground has widened. AU appears helpless to address the growing conflicts across the continent - from unrelenting coups to shambolic elections to external aggressions.

This chronic weakness has slowly eroded public confidence in the organization and as such, AU is being seen as a forum for speeches rather than solutions - just as one commentator puts it, "AU has turned into a farce talk shop that cannot back or bite."

## Call for a new body

The general feeling on the ground is that AU is stagnant and has nothing much to show for the 60+ years of its existence (from the times of OAU).

It's also viewed as toothless and subservient to the whims of its 'masters'. Some commentators even called for its dissolution and the formation of a new body that would serve the interests of the continent and its people.

This sounds like a no-confidence vote. To regain favour and remain a force for continental good, AU must undertake critical reforms, enhance accountability, and show political courage as a matter of urgency. Without these, it may endure in form while fading in substance.

The question is not whether Africa needs the AU, but whether the AU is willing and ready to become the institution Africa needs – one that is bold enough to initiate a daring move towards a common market, a single currency, a unified military, and a common passport regime. It is possible!

*Mr. Omuodo is a pan-African Public Relations and Communications expert based in Nairobi, Kenya. He can be reached on mike.omuodo@mediastart.co.ke*

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# Democracy's Enduring Paradox: Why The Worst System Remains The Best Choice



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevin Owuor  
 @themtkenyatimes

Kenya has held three general elections since the promulgation of its 2010 Constitution, with voter turnout declining from 85.9% in 2013 to 65.4% in 2022, reflecting a broader crisis of democratic confidence across the African continent. According to Afrobarometer's 2021/2023 survey data, only 44% of Kenyans are satisfied with how

democracy works in their country, while paradoxically, 67% still believe democracy is preferable to any other form of government. This statistical contradiction captures Winston Churchill's famous parliamentary observation that democracy is the worst form of government except for all the others that have been tried a statement that resonates with particular urgency in Kenya's tumultuous democratic journey.

The Kenyan experience provides compelling evidence for democracy's inherent messiness. The 2007-2008 post-election violence, which claimed over 1,300 lives and displaced 600,000 people, exposed the fragility of democratic institutions when faced with ethnic mobilization and disputed electoral outcomes. Nonetheless as political scientist Nic Cheeseman argues in his seminal work "Democracy in Africa: Successes, Failures, and the Struggle for Political Reform," these very crises often catalyze constitutional reforms that strengthen democratic frameworks. Kenya's response the 2010 Constitution with its devolved governance structure, enhanced Bill of Rights, and independent electoral commission exemplifies how democracies possess self-correcting mechanisms absent in authoritarian systems. The Constitution's transformative agenda, as scholar Yash Ghai notes, represents "an attempt to restructure the state and reconstitute the nation," addressing historical injustices through democratic means rather than revolutionary upheaval.

Constitutional courts worldwide have grappled with democracy's internal tensions, producing jurisprudence that illuminates both its vulnerabilities and its resilience. In

the landmark Kenyan case of Raila Odinga v. Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission & 2 Others (2017), the Supreme Court nullified a presidential election for the first time in African history, with Chief Justice David Maraga declaring that "the process of the election was neither transparent nor verifiable" and that the electoral commission "committed illegalities and irregularities." This unprecedented decision, while creating short-term political instability, demonstrated that democratic institutions could check executive power and uphold constitutional supremacy even under intense political pressure. As Justice Isaac Lenaola observed in his concurring opinion, "A democratic process must not only be fair and free, but must be seen to be fair and free."

The South African Constitutional Court's decision in Economic Freedom Fighters v. Speaker of the National Assembly (2016) reinforced the principle that democracy requires accountability even or especially for the most powerful. The Court held that President Jacob Zuma had violated his constitutional obligations by failing to comply with the Public Protector's remedial action regarding state expenditure on his private residence. Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng's judgment emphasized that "the Constitution is the supreme law, and its provisions are binding on all persons, natural and juristic, including the State and all organs of State at all levels of government." This ruling underscores political scientist Larry Diamond's observation that democracy's greatest strength lies not in preventing the abuse of power but in creating institutional mechanisms to expose and remedy such abuses.

India's Supreme Court, presiding over the world's largest democracy with over 900 million eligible voters, has repeatedly defended democratic processes against both executive overreach and majoritarian impulses. In Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973), the Court established the "basic structure doctrine," holding that Parliament cannot amend the Constitution in ways that destroy its essential features, including democracy itself. This doctrine, applied across multiple subsequent cases, reflects what constitutional scholar Granville Austin called "the seamless web" of constitutional governance. More recently, in K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017), the Court recognized privacy as a fundamental right essential to democratic participation, noting that



Rigathi Gachagua and William Ruto

"privacy is the constitutional core of human dignity" and that "privacy ensures that a human being can lead a life of dignity." These decisions illustrate how democracies, despite their inefficiencies, develop sophisticated legal frameworks to protect individual rights against state power.

The United States Supreme Court's decision in Bush v. Gore (2000), though controversial, demonstrates democracy's capacity to resolve existential crises through legal rather than violent means. The Court's intervention in the Florida recount effectively decided a presidential election, yet the losing candidate conceded, the transition proceeded peacefully, and the democratic system endured. As political theorist Robert Dahl observed in "On Democracy," this peaceful transfer of power even in disputed circumstances distinguishes democratic systems from authoritarian alternatives where succession often involves violence or instability. The case also revealed democracy's imperfections: Justice John Paul Stevens' dissent warned that "the endorsement of that position by the majority of this Court can only lend credence to the most cynical appraisal of the work of judges throughout the land."

The German Federal Constitutional Court's approach to "militant democracy" offers another perspective on democracy's paradoxical need to defend itself. In the NPD Party Ban Case (2017), the Court held that while the far-right National Democratic Party of Germany pursued unconstitutional goals, it could not be banned because it lacked the potential to achieve them. This nu-

anced decision reflects what political scientist Jan-Werner Müller calls "defensive democracy" systems that protect themselves without abandoning core commitments to freedom and pluralism. The Court balanced the lessons of Weimar's collapse against the dangers of restricting political participation, concluding that "the freedom to form political parties is a fundamental element of the free democratic basic order." This jurisprudence recognizes that democracy's tolerance of dissent, even antidemocratic dissent, distinguishes it from systems that suppress opposition.

Kenya's Apex Court again made history in addressing the constitutionality of proposed electoral reforms. The Court emphasized that "the Constitution is not a mere political charter; it is the supreme law that establishes the framework for governance and the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms."

This language echoes Kenyan constitutional scholar PLO Lumumba's argument that democracy in Africa must be "homegrown and authentic," rooted in constitutional fidelity rather than imported models. The Court's insistence on constitutional processes over expedient political solutions demonstrates what makes democracy frustratingly slow yet ultimately sustainable its requirement that power be exercised within legally prescribed limits.

The Canadian Supreme Court's Reference re Secession of Quebec (1998) illustrates democracy's ability to address even existential challenges through constitutional dialogue. The Court held that while

Quebec had no unilateral right to secede, a clear majority voting for secession on a clear question would create a constitutional obligation to negotiate. Justice Antonio Lamer's judgment identified four "fundamental and organizing principles of the Constitution" "federalism, democracy, constitutionalism and the rule of law, and respect for minorities which must be reconciled through negotiation. This decision reflects political philosopher John Rawls' concept of "public reason," whereby democratic disagreements are resolved through reasoned argument within shared constitutional frameworks.

As constitutional scholar Peter Hogg observed, the decision showed that "the Constitution is not a straitjacket" but a framework for managing conflicts peacefully.

The Colombian Constitutional Court's decision in Case C-579/13 (2013) on the peace process with FARC guerrillas demonstrates democracy's unique capacity to transform conflict through inclusive political processes. The Court upheld the legal framework for peace negotiations, recognizing that "the Constitution mandates the pursuit of peace as a right and a duty of obligatory compliance." This decision, as scholar Rodrigo Uprimny Yenes argues, illustrates "transformative constitutionalism" using democratic and legal processes to address deep-seated violence and inequality. Colom-

# The Modern Uzbek Girl: A Symbol Of Knowledge, Willpower, And Responsibility



By: Dildora Khojyozova  
 @themkenyatimes

In contemporary Uzbekistan, girls have become the embodiment of knowledge, determination, and social responsibility. They play an increasingly important role not only within the family but also in the broader societal framework. Traditionally, Uzbek girls have been regarded as guardians of family honor and culture, yet today they are evolving into well-educated, ambitious, and socially active individuals. This transformation reflects both the progress of society and the personal efforts of these young

women to contribute meaningfully to the nation's development. Uzbek girls today are no longer confined to conventional roles. They pursue higher education, participate in scientific and cultural activities, and take leadership positions in various spheres. Their active engagement in society demonstrates a combination of cultural rootedness and modern thinking, showing that tradition and progress can coexist harmoniously. Education remains the foundation of the modern Uzbek girl's success. Increasing opportunities for learning, from schools to universities and specialized programs, have empowered girls to develop their intellectual potential. Many Uzbek girls excel in fields such as science, technology, literature, and social studies, proving that gender is not a barrier to achievement.

Beyond academic knowledge, Uzbek girls cultivate critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills. These competencies allow them to address both personal chal-

lenges and social issues. For instance, many young women are actively involved in research projects, social initiatives, and community development programs, which enhance their capacity to make meaningful contributions.

By valuing education, Uzbek girls not only strengthen themselves but also set an example for future generations. Their pursuit of knowledge illustrates the principle that learning is a lifelong endeavor and a key to personal and societal growth. The modern Uzbek girl is characterized by remarkable willpower and ambition. She sets clear goals, strives to overcome obstacles, and works diligently to achieve her dreams. Whether it is excelling in sports, winning academic competitions, or launching entrepreneurial initiatives, her determination is evident in every area of life.

Ambition is complemented by resilience. Uzbek girls learn to balance personal aspirations with family expectations and societal

responsibilities. This balance allows them to maintain their cultural identity while embracing modern opportunities. It also prepares them to take on leadership roles in a changing world, demonstrating that ambition is not selfish but a means to contribute positively to society. A distinguishing feature of the modern Uzbek girl is her sense of responsibility. She is aware of her role in the family, the community, and the nation. This awareness drives her to engage in volunteer work, environmental initiatives, and cultural preservation projects. By participating actively, she not only improves her surroundings but also inspires others to act responsibly. Leadership among Uzbek girls is increasingly visible. They organize events, lead clubs, participate in conferences, and advocate for social causes. Their leadership is marked by empathy, collaboration, and ethical decision-making. This demonstrates that the modern Uzbek girl is prepared not just to succeed individ-

ually but to guide and uplift others. Balancing Tradition and Modernity Perhaps the most remarkable quality of the modern Uzbek girl is her ability to harmonize tradition with modernity. She respects cultural values, family ties, and historical customs, yet she is confident in exploring new horizons. From wearing traditional attire during festivals to excelling in contemporary professions, she embodies a bridge between the past and the future.

*Dildora Khojyozova is a passionate Geography student from Uzbekistan with a keen interest in environmental studies, ecotourism, and cultural research. Active in academic projects and competitions, she combines knowledge with creativity and leadership. Dildora aspires to study abroad, contribute to sustainable development, and inspire young people in her community.*

## Democracy's Enduring Paradox: Why The Worst System Remains The Best Choice

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bia's subsequent peace referendum, though initially rejected by voters, led to revised accords through democratic deliberation. This messy, iterative process far more uncertain than authoritarian imposition ultimately proved more legitimate and durable. As Nobel laureate Juan Manuel Santos observed, democracy allowed Colombia to choose peace through persuasion rather than force.

In Kenya, the practical deficiencies of democracy are painfully evident. Corruption remains endemic, with Transparency International's 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index ranking Kenya 126th out of 180 countries. Ethnic patronage networks persist despite constitutional reforms designed to promote national unity. Electoral cycles bring economic uncertainty and occasional violence. Yet as political economist Nic van de Walle argues in "Overcoming Stagnation in Aid-Dependent Countries,"

these very failures generate political contestation that can drive reform. Kenya's vibrant civil society, independent media, and active judiciary all products of democratic space provide mechanisms for exposing corruption and demanding accountability. The 2024 youth-led protests against proposed tax increases, which forced the government to withdraw the Finance Bill, demonstrated that democracy empowers citizens to resist unpopular policies without resorting to violence. This messiness is not democracy's failure but its essence a system where power flows from popular will, however imperfectly expressed.

Churchill's paradox endures because democracy's alternatives invariably prove worse. Authoritarian efficiency is a mirage that dissolves upon scrutiny. China's rapid development came at the cost of political repression, environmental devastation, and the elimination of dissent costs that may ultimately prove unsustainable. Rwanda's vaunted stability under Paul Kagame rests on the systematic suppression of opposition and manipulation of constitu-



tional term limits. As Kenyan scholar Makau Mutua argues in "Kenya's Quest for Democracy," the "promise of a strong man" inevitably leads to the "pathology of personal rule" that has devastated African development. Democracy, with all its inefficiencies, corruption, and dysfunction, maintains what philosopher Karl Popper called the crucial ability to

remove bad governments without bloodshed. It allows course corrections, protects minority rights, and preserves human dignity in ways that authoritarian alternatives cannot. For Kenya and democracies worldwide, the challenge is not to abandon democratic governance but to deepen it strengthening institutions, expanding participation, and renewing the

social contract between citizens and the state. Democracy may be the worst system of government, but as both constitutional jurisprudence and lived experience demonstrate, it remains humanity's best hope for combining freedom with order, diversity with unity, and change with stability.

*The writer is a social commentator*

# Flower Festival Brings Colour Back To Sudan's Capital After Years Of War

By: Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes

Khartoum this week hosted its first Flower Festival in nearly three years, a rare sign of recovery in a city scarred by war. The weeklong event is the largest horticulture and landscaping exhibition held in the capital since fighting erupted in April 2023.

More than 150 companies and producers from across Sudan are taking part, showcasing ornamental flowers, seedlings, fruit trees and landscape designs. Some plants are being displayed publicly for the first time, organizers said. The exhibition space is lined with red, yellow and purple blooms along green walkways and neatly planted beds. Flowering plants hang from baskets or sit in traditional clay pots reflecting local culture. Despite limited resources, organizers focused on presenting natural beauty as a statement of resilience. "This event carries deep symbolic meaning," said Abu Bakr Al-Tayeb, director general of natural resources and forests at Khartoum State's Ministry of Agriculture. He said the festival shows

the city reclaiming its civil and cultural life after destruction and fear. "This is the first exhibition since Khartoum State was retaken," Al-Tayeb said. "Many of the flowers are being shown for the first time. Khartoum is beginning to regain its green cover."

Crowds of families, young people, and older residents wandered through the displays, taking photos and exchanging tips on plant care. "We went through very difficult years, when talking about flowers felt like a luxury," said Riham Mustafa, a flower enthusiast visiting a booth with local and imported roses. "Today it feels like Khartoum is breathing again." Ahmed Abdullah, who attended with friends, said the contrast was striking. "This garden was a frightening place just months ago," he said. "Now we're walking among flowers. That alone gives people hope." The festival is organized by Marina Gardens near Nile Street, one of the capital's main thoroughfares. Organizers said the goal is to support local producers and promote a green economy, alongside restoring public life. "The return of exhibitions like this helps revive production chains disrupted for years," said Mohamed Al-Saudi, director of Marina Gardens and



head of the organizing committee.

The festival comes as Khartoum slowly resumes economic and social activity after the war devastated infrastructure and daily life. While damage remains widespread, the colors, scents, and crowds offer a brief sense of normalcy. "Amid the noise, the flowers and the smiles, Khartoum felt -- even for a mo-

ment -- like a city celebrating life," said visitor Ali Omer. According to the International Organization for Migration, nearly 1.4 million people have returned to Khartoum. The Sudanese government moved its headquarters back to the capital in January. The army said in May 2025 it had secured full control of Khartoum State after more than two

years of fighting. Sudan has been in conflict since April 2023, with battles between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces killing tens of thousands and displacing millions.

# Ex-French Culture Minister To Quit Arab World Institute Amid Epstein-Linked Controversy

By: Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes

Former French culture minister Jack Lang has offered to step down as president of the Arab World Institute (IMA) amid controversy linked to newly released documents related to the Epstein case, French media reported on Saturday.

According to France Info, Lang sent a letter on Saturday to French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot, proposing to tender his resignation at an upcoming extraordinary meeting of the institute's board of directors. He said the move was intended to

"preserve" the institution in a climate marked by what he described as "personal attacks." Citing sources at the foreign ministry, France Info said Barrot had "taken note" of Lang's decision and would initiate procedures to appoint an interim president. The controversy follows the publication on Jan. 30 by the U.S. Department of Justice of more than 3 million additional pages of documents related to the late financier Jeffrey Epstein. The materials indicate that Epstein had correspondence and financial links with Lang and his daughter, Caroline Lang, prompting criticism in French political circles.

Lang said on social media on Saturday that the accusations against him

were "unfounded." France's national financial prosecutor's office opened a preliminary investigation on Friday into Lang and his daughter on suspicion of aggravated tax fraud and money laundering. Inaugurated in 1987, the Arab World Institute is an international cultural institution aimed at promoting cultural and academic exchanges between France and the Arab world. According to the French daily *Le Monde*, the institute maintains close ties with the French foreign ministry, which provides an annual subsidy accounting for about half of its budget. Lang has served as its president since 2013.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## We Are Tired Of Being Told “It Will Be Fine”

Every generation is promised a brighter dawn, yet ours has been handed slogans instead of substance. We were told to expect innovation, empowerment, and opportunity. What we received were unpaid internships, recycled motivational speeches, and advice from those who built their lives in simpler times when doors opened with fewer knocks. The refrain is familiar: be patient, trust the process, network harder, volunteer more. Many of us do all this, diligently. Yet the rewards remain elusive, parceled out to the same circles while the rest are urged to keep grinding, as though sheer effort alone can dismantle entrenched systems.

The economy boasts of resilience and recovery, but on the ground the vocabulary is survival. Hustle is glorified, as if perpetual struggle is a badge of honor rather than evidence of systemic failure. Poverty is trivialized into personality, and suffering packaged as entertainment. Meanwhile, bills pile up, indifferent to motivational mantras.

This fatigue is not weakness.

it'll be fine.

It is the exhaustion of strength stretched too thin, of ambition colliding with locked gates. Applications vanish unanswered, potential echoes unheard. People grow weary not because they lack drive, but because they have carried hope without reward for far too long.

Hope matters, yes. It fuels endurance. But hope without access becomes a trap, teaching people to tolerate inequity instead of demanding change.

If tomorrow is to be better, it cannot rest on speeches alone. It must be built on policies that deliver, opportunities that are genuine, and systems where effort finally meets reward.

By Levis Wangamati, Laikipia County

## Green Tech Innovations: Sustainable Solutions For Tomorrow

### Green TECH INNOVATIONS

As the climate crisis intensifies, the promise of green technology has shifted from idealism to necessity. It is no longer a distant dream but a practical path toward balancing economic growth with environmental responsibility. The urgency is clear: societies must innovate or risk being overwhelmed by the consequences of unchecked degradation.

Renewable energy stands at the forefront of this transformation. Solar, wind, and hydroelectric power are no longer fringe experiments but mainstream solutions. Solar panels have become more efficient and affordable, democratizing access to clean energy for households and businesses. Wind farms, once symbols of novelty, now anchor national grids, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and cutting emissions at scale.

Transportation, too, is undergoing a revolution. Electric vehicles are steadily replacing gas-powered cars, supported by

advances in battery technology and expanding charging networks. Public transit systems are embracing electric buses and smart-sharing programs, reshaping urban mobility while curbing pollution. These shifts demonstrate that sustainability can coexist with convenience.

Agriculture has not been left behind. Vertical farming and precision agriculture are redefining food production, maximizing yields while conserving water and reducing pesticide use. With data analytics and IoT tools, farmers can make informed decisions that safeguard both harvests and ecosystems.

Equally vital are innovations in waste management. Recycling and composting initiatives are building circular economies where resources are reused rather than discarded. This approach not only reduces landfill pressure but also recovers value from what was once considered waste.

Green technology is not a luxury—it is the scaffolding of a sustainable future. To embrace it fully is to acknowledge that survival and prosperity must walk hand in hand.

By Angela Mwanga, Laikipia University



## Zero Sympathy Politics And Voting To Achieve Singapore-Like Future

Kenya's oft-repeated ambition to become Africa's Singapore is inspiring, but inspiration alone will not build a nation. Singapore's transformation was not anchored in emotion, tribal loyalty, or sympathy voting. It was driven by disciplined leadership, meritocracy, and a citizenry that demanded competence over charisma. If Kenya truly seeks such a future, its voters must fundamentally rethink how they engage with politics.

For decades, elections here have been framed as emotional contests. Leaders are chosen because of shared ethnicity, hardship narratives, or claims of persecution. This culture has rewarded mediocrity, shielded corruption, and entrenched a political elite that thrives on division rather than development. Sympathy voting has become a costly indulgence, one that ordinary citizens pay for through collapsing healthcare, underfunded schools, ballooning debt, and rising inequality.

Singapore's rise under Lee Kuan Yew offers a sharp con-



trast. Leaders were judged by results: clean streets, efficient transport, reliable healthcare, and strong institutions. Citizens supported policies that were tough but necessary, understanding that nation-building requires sacrifice and discipline.

Kenya's challenge is not a lack of talent or resources, but a crisis of political judgment.

Rejecting sympathy politics does not mean abandoning compassion. It means separating personal hardship from public responsibility. Leadership is not therapy; it is management. Vot-

ers must ask harder questions: What policies are proposed? What results have been delivered? How will corruption be fought?

Kenya stands at a crossroads. The dream of becoming Africa's Singapore will remain rhetoric unless citizens embrace issue-based voting and demand competence over sentiment. The future will not be gifted by politicians; it will be chosen by voters.

By Erick Otieno, Laikipia University

## Money For War



The unsettling reports of Kenyan men being recruited to fight in the Russia-Ukraine war reveal a grim intersection of global conflict and local desperation. Promised lucrative pay, many left home believing the battlefield offered an escape from unemployment and rising living costs. Yet this phenomenon is not about individual choices alone; it reflects deeper structural failures within Kenyan society, where limited opportunities push young men toward extreme and perilous alternatives. In this context, war becomes commodified—not seen as humanitarian tragedy, but as a source of income.

The reality, however, has been far harsher than the promises. Those who reached the front lines faced death, injury, trauma, and abandonment. Some fled in fear, while others returned with stories of exploitation and regret. Their experiences expose how vulnerable individuals can

be manipulated by transnational recruitment networks that thrive on misinformation. With no clear legal protections for foreign fighters, these men remain exposed both abroad and upon their return.

The issue of “money for war” raises urgent ethical and policy questions. Should economic hardship ever justify participation in foreign conflict? What responsibility does the Kenyan state bear in shielding its citizens from such recruitment and

reintegrating those who return? Beyond condemnation, this moment demands action: strengthening employment opportunities, raising civic awareness, and addressing the root causes that make war appear profitable. Until these underlying issues are confronted, the tragic trade-off between life and livelihood will continue to haunt vulnerable populations.

By Collins Kibor, Writer & Journalist

**Sports >>** \*The unveiling of Samuel Temidayo Feargod at KCB FC's headquarters on Saturday evening was more than just another signing ceremony.

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## Bankers Bet Big: Feargod's Arrival Sparks KCB's Premier League Ambition

By Simon Njoroge

The unveiling of Samuel Temidayo Feargod at KCB FC's headquarters on Saturday evening was more than just another signing ceremony. It was a statement of intent, a declaration that the bankers are tired of being perennial nearly-men in the Kenya Premier League. With the Nigerian-born striker now in their ranks, the club is signaling a bold push for silverware in the 2025/26 season.

Feargod, 26, arrives with a résumé that reads like a continental odyssey. From the bustling pitches of Nigeria's Shooting Stars and Bayelsa United to the financial-backed First Bank FC, his journey has been one of persistence and reinvention. His most notable spell came at Djibouti's Arta Solar, where he shared the dressing room with former Arsenal and Barcelona midfielder Alex Song—a reminder of the caliber of company he has kept. More recently, he spearheaded El Merreikh Bentiu's attack in South Sudan, a stint that showcased his adaptability in diverse footballing cultures.

For KCB, the signing is both tactical and symbolic. The club's frontline has long been criticized for lacking bite, often laboring without the cutting edge needed to turn possession into points. Feargod's record—10 goals in 20 appearances for Djibouti—suggests a striker with both consistency and hunger. His physical presence, coupled with an instinctive eye for goal, could be the missing piece in a side that has flirted with contention but fallen short when it mattered most.

The bankers' recruitment drive this season has been deliberate. Alongside Feargod, they have secured the services of former Gor Mahia midfielder Francis Kahata, whose creativity and experience promise to unlock de-



New KCB striker Samuel Temidayo Feargod Akinbinu. PHOTO/KCB FOOTBALL

fenses, and Omar Chirchir, a versatile addition to bolster squad depth. Together, these signings reflect a club intent on balancing flair with steel, artistry with pragmatism.

Yet the arrival of Feargod raises questions as much as it answers them. Will his integration into Kenyan football be seamless, or will the physicality of the league test his resolve? Can KCB's midfield supply him with the service he thrives on, or will he be left isolated, chasing shadows? And perhaps most intriguingly, will

his presence galvanize a squad that has too often lacked belief in its own potential?

The broader context is equally compelling. Kenyan football is in a period of transition, with clubs increasingly looking beyond borders to strengthen their squads. Feargod's signing underscores this trend, highlighting both the allure of the Kenyan Premier League and the ambition of clubs like KCB to compete not just domestically but regionally. In a league where Gor Mahia and Tusker have long dominated

headlines, the bankers are positioning themselves as disruptors, ready to challenge the established order.

For now, the spotlight rests firmly on Feargod. His name alone carries a sense of drama, and his performances will determine whether KCB's gamble pays off. As the season unfolds, fans and pundits alike will watch closely to see if the bankers' bold investment translates into goals, victories, and perhaps, long-awaited glory.

# GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*Kenya's rugby 7s legend Humphrey Kayange is hopeful that this year's Youth Olympics in Dakar will open doors for the careers of many athletes.

## Why Rugby Legend Humphrey Kayange Is Excited About Dakar Youth Olympics



Humphrey Kayange carries the Olympic flame ahead of the Winter Olympics. PHOTO/HUMPHREY KAYANGE

Kenya's rugby 7s legend Humphrey Kayange is hopeful that this year's Youth Olympics in Dakar will open doors for the careers of many athletes.

Drawing from his rugby career, Kayange described the global competition as a lifetime opportunity for young athletes.

"Rugby opened so many doors, not only for me but for young people. It's (Youth Olympics) a lifetime opportunity...Senegal is holding the torch and showcasing Africa. We are welcoming everyone from the Olympic movement to experience the Games on the continent for the first time," the former Shujaa skipper said.

The Dakar Youth Olympics are set for October 31-November 13 in the Senegalese capital, marking a historic milestone for Africa because it is the first time an International Olympic Committee (IOC)

will be held on the continent.

Over 2000 athletes will battle for glory in 25 sports disciplines including boxing, 3x3 basketball, beach volleyball, beach handball, wrestling, road cycling, swimming, table tennis, skateboarding and rugby 7s, among others.

Kayange is the chair of IOC's Coordination Commission for Dakar 2026 and revealed that preparations for the event are on schedule. He added that the excitement across the continent is palpable as they prepare to welcome thousands of competitors to Diamniadio Olympic Stadium.

"The excitement is there for the continent. I think it's monumental that the Games are coming to Africa for the first time. We've moved on to delivery of these Games and everyone is working together with the Dakar 2026 Organising Committee and the Coordination Commission," Kayange, who enjoyed

a 12-year playing career with Shujaa, said.

He added: "One of the things that changed at the end of last year was a lot of government support. The ministry and different ministries just coming together to ensure that the work is done, and the work is monitored on a weekly basis towards completion."

Speaking at the same time, the General Coordinator of Dakar 2026, Ibrahima Wade, said all the stakeholders are working in synergy to ensure a memorable event.

"We are really confident and we are comfortable on the deadlines we have fixed. By March, we'll have the Olympic Village ready, the stadium for track and field and the one for the swimming," Wade said.

The Senegalese said his countrymen and women are excited about writing history as the first ever venue for an IOC competition.

"There is a huge excitement in the country. People could not imagine having Olympic Games in Africa. The Games are not here yet, but something is changing in the mindset," he said.

Kayange was in Milan, Italy where he delivered a progress report to the IOC Session on the progress of the preparations for the Youth Olympics.

He was also one of the bearers of the Olympic flame ahead of the opening ceremony of the Winter Games.

*Capital Sport*

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# Backpage



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## Amanda Tron: A Versatile Force In The Fashion Industry



By: Anila Bukhari  
@themtkenyatimes



### Worth Noting:

- From a young age, Amanda was drawn to the world of fashion and modeling, inspired by her love for style, self-expression, and visual storytelling. She embarked on her modeling journey with determination and ambition, traveling to London and other major cities to participate in photoshoots that would form the foundation of her professional portfolio. Her early experiences not only allowed her to develop a diverse range of skills but also helped her build invaluable connections within the industry, establishing relationships with photographers, makeup artists, and models that have endured throughout her career.

- Amanda's versatility as a model is one of her defining qualities. She specializes in a wide range of genres, including fashion, beauty, street/urban, boudoir, and cosplay.

Amanda Tron is a highly accomplished and versatile fashion model hailing from Newcastle Upon Tyne, United Kingdom. With a career spanning over 18 years, Amanda has established herself as a respected name within the modeling industry, known for her professionalism, creativity, and ability to bring any concept to life in front of the camera. Standing at 5'4", with striking blonde hair, captivating blue eyes, and a plus-size 4 figure, Amanda embodies confidence, charisma, and a unique presence that has made her a sought-after collaborator for photographers, makeup artists, and fellow models alike.

From a young age, Amanda was drawn to the world of fashion and modeling, inspired by her love for style, self-expression, and visual storytelling. She embarked on her modeling journey with determination and ambition, traveling to London and other major cities to participate in photoshoots that would form the foundation of her professional portfolio. Her early experiences not only allowed her to develop a diverse range of skills but also helped her build invaluable connections within the industry, establishing relationships with photographers, makeup artists, and models that have endured throughout her career. Amanda's versatility as a model is one of her defining qualities. She specializes in a wide range of genres, including fashion, beauty, street/urban, boudoir, and cosplay. This adaptability allows her to seamlessly transition between different styles and themes, capturing the essence of each concept while maintaining a distinctive personal flair. Her expressive eyes, dynamic posing, and ability to follow direction with precision have become hallmarks of her work, earning her recognition and admiration among her peers and clients.

Throughout her career, Amanda has graced the pages of numerous magazine publications, appearing in editorials and even securing cover features. Her participation in various modeling competitions has also brought her accolades, including winning "Model of the Month" for several magazines. These accomplishments reflect not only her skill and dedication but also her

unwavering commitment to growth and excellence within the modeling profession. Beyond the awards and publications, Amanda values the relationships she has built along the way. She takes pride in working collaboratively with her colleagues, respecting the creative process, and fostering positive, professional environments on every set.

A committed professional, Amanda is known for her reliability, punctuality, and strong communication skills. She approaches each project with high energy and a collaborative mindset, ensuring that every photoshoot or campaign is executed to the highest standard. Her colleagues often highlight her versatility and exceptional work ethic, noting that she consistently brings her best self to every opportunity. Amanda's dedication extends beyond her work ethic; she is deeply passionate about modeling as a career and continuously seeks ways to evolve, improve, and expand her skill set. Her long-term goal is to further her success in the fashion industry, leveraging her experience and reputation to take on increasingly ambitious and creative projects.

Outside of modeling, Amanda is a devoted mother to three daughters, balancing the demands of her career with her family life with grace and commitment. Her love for her children is a central aspect of her identity, and she often draws inspiration from her experiences as a parent. In addition to her family, Amanda has a deep affection for animals, sharing her home with her beloved cat and advocating for animal care and welfare whenever possible.

Amanda's interests extend beyond modeling and family life. She enjoys fashion as a lifestyle, staying updated with the latest trends, styling techniques, and creative concepts that inform her work. She also has a passion for sports, which helps her maintain a healthy and active lifestyle, as well as TV, films, music, gaming, and socializing, all of which contribute to her well-rounded personality. Her curiosity and enthusiasm for diverse activities enrich her creativity, allowing her to bring fresh ideas and perspectives to every modeling project.

One of Amanda's most notable qualities is her dedication to



Amanda Tron

self-promotion and professional growth. She consistently seeks new opportunities, collaborations, and platforms to showcase her talent, believing in the importance of visibility and networking within the competitive modeling landscape. Her proactive approach, coupled with her professionalism and natural charisma, has enabled her to sustain a thriving career over nearly two decades, adapting to industry trends and evolving standards while maintaining her distinctive presence.

Colleagues and collaborators often praise Amanda not only for her technical skill and versatility but also for her warmth, positive energy, and collaborative spirit. She is recognized as someone who enhances the creative process, bringing ideas to life with authenticity and enthusiasm. Amanda's ability to connect with people, combined with her commitment to excellence, has solidified her reputation as a trusted and respected professional in the fashion modeling community.

Looking to the future, Amanda remains focused on growth, creativity, and success within the modeling industry. She aspires to take on more high-profile campaigns, editorial features, and collaborative projects that challenge her skills and expand her artistic expression. Her unwavering passion for modeling, coupled with her extensive experience and dedication, positions her as a formidable presence in the fashion world.

Amanda Tron's journey as a model is a testament to perseverance, talent, and an enduring love for the art of fashion. Her career reflects not only her personal achievements but also her contributions to the modeling community, inspiring others with her professionalism, creativity, and passion. As she continues to navigate her path in the industry, Amanda remains committed to excellence, growth, and the pursuit of new opportunities, embodying the qualities of a model whose influence and impact extend far beyond the lens.