

AU To Take Over DRC Peace Process



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The meeting of the Co-Chairs of the Joint EAC-SADC Summit with the Panel of Facilitators was held State House, Nairobi



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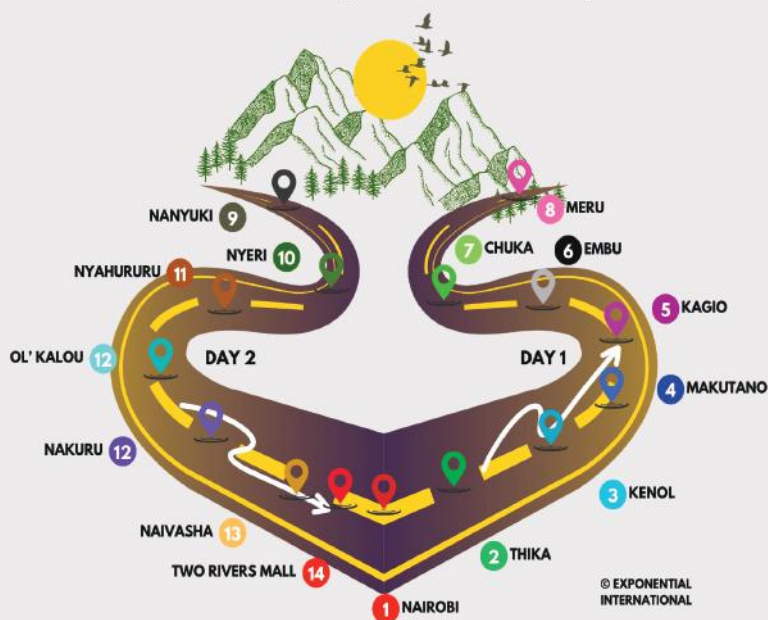


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President William Ruto Hosts Panel Of Facilitators On The Restoration Of Peace And Stability In The Eastern DRC

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyetimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

An African-led, inclusive and well-coordinated peace process is the most effective path to silencing the guns and restoring lasting stability in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The African Union, the Southern African Development Community and the East African Community are united in the determination to secure and restore sustainable peace in Eastern DRC.

However, this process is not in conflict with other efforts such as the Doha and Washington initiatives. In fact, the progress made through this African-led initiative now offers a solid framework for aligning the Washington Accord and the Qatar Agreement within a unified continental approach.

At State House Nairobi, President Ruto co-chaired with President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe the EAC-SADC Co-Chairs' Meeting with the Panel of Facilitators on the restoration of peace and stability in the Eastern DRC.

The meeting agreed on the terms of reference of the five facilitators, the merger of secretariats of the AU Commission, EAC and SADC under the African Union, the AUC informs all Member States on the resolutions of the meeting and an EAC-SADC summit be convened in a week.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



KTDA is driving sustainable change across the Mount Kenya tea area. Under the Mount Kenya Sustainable Landscape and Livelihoods Program (MSuLLi), tea factories including Kangaite, Ndima, Mununga, Kimunye, Thumaita, Kathangariri, Mungania, and Rukuriri are implementing diversification initiatives to promote climate-smart agriculture, ecosystem restoration, and resilient livelihoods. With the support of the KTDA Foundation, IKEA Foundation and Rainforest Alliance, these factories are advancing practices such as agroforestry, inter-cropping, kitchen gardening, water conservation, and soil management; helping smallholder tea farmers adapt to climate change while unlocking alternative income opportunities.



The construction of the Kaimosi Friends University library has stalled since 2022, despite the government disbursing over Sh25 million this year to revive the project. Initially allocated Sh645 million, the facility remains only 63% complete. Originally scheduled for completion in February 2023, the deadline was pushed to August 2025 following multiple delays. Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Thomas Kipkurgat revealed that the contractor has failed to submit a payment certificate or attend scheduled meetings. Acting Vihiga County Commissioner Florence Sitawa has cautioned against further funding without visible progress on-site. The contractor, reportedly in Saudi Arabia, has not communicated any plans to resume work. Local leaders and university stakeholders are now calling for urgent intervention to ensure the project is completed and the vital learning facility made operational.



Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company (NYEWASCO) has signed a financing agreement with the Water Sector Trust Fund - WSTF (WaterFund) under the AOD (Aid on Delivery) Program. This marks a significant milestone that sets the stage for the commencement of the much-anticipated sewer extension project. The project will benefit the communities of Kiamwathi, Ruring'u, Skuta, Misha, Wambugu Farm, and Thunguma by expanding access to improved sanitation services. Once completed, it will serve a population of over 10,000 people, enhancing public health and quality of life. This initiative also aims to promote environmental consciousness through improved pollution control measures. By addressing sanitation challenges, it contributes to a cleaner and safer environment for all. Beyond health and environmental benefits, the project is expected to stimulate socio-economic development and growth in the targeted areas.



Principal Secretaries Dr. Ouma Oluga (Medical Services) and Dr. Patrick Mariru (Defence) on Friday visited Siaya County ahead of the official groundbreaking of two transformative infrastructure projects: the proposed Siaya County Referral Hospital and the Phase Two upgrade of the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Stadium. The referral hospital is a joint initiative between the National Government, through the Ministry of Defence, and the County Government of Siaya. The multi-phase project is estimated at KES 1.7 billion, with Phase One expected to cost KES 500 million. Construction will be overseen by the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF). The four-storey facility will feature an integrated accident and emergency centre, outpatient complex, doctors' plaza, and a 500-bed inpatient wing with oncology and general medical wards. A maternal and child health unit and other specialized service areas will also be included. The delegation conducted a site tour of the current Siaya County Referral Hospital and Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Stadium—both earmarked for redevelopment under the same national-county partnership spearheaded by the Nyalore administration.



A 39-year-old man died on Thursday after being attacked by a swarm of bees in Lukuget village, Elgeyo Marakwet County. The deceased, identified as Alex Kosgei, was reportedly riding his motorcycle past Kilangata Primary School when the bees descended on him. Witnesses said he lost control of the motorcycle while attempting to flee, sustaining multiple stings across his body. Kosgei was taken to a nearby health facility, where he was pronounced dead on arrival. Area Assistant Chief Amos Chebai confirmed the incident and urged residents to be cautious, especially in areas with known bee colonies.



The Nakuru County Government has introduced a Draft Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Policy aimed at addressing food insecurity, malnutrition, and poor health outcomes. Chief Officer for Public Health Joyce Ncece said the policy promotes a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach that integrates nutrition goals into county planning and budgeting frameworks. The policy outlines strategies including healthy food production, improved healthcare access, and tackling undernutrition and non-communicable diseases. It aligns with national priorities like Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health), and SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Ncece highlighted stakeholder collaboration, climate resilience, financial sustainability, and robust monitoring as key pillars of the strategy.

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Teachers Embrace New Law On The Rights Of People With Disabilities

By: OPCS Press Service

@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Led by the head of Mukhuyu comprehensive school in Malava constituency, Lucy Mulombi who doubles as Kakamega County Disability Committee chairperson, the teachers have described the new law as progressive and which provides a comprehensive legal framework for the promotion, protection, and advancement of disability rights.
- "That act came with a lot of benefits to the persons with disabilities, Malava and Kakamega teachers and communities included. For this we thank the President and his administration. It is this act that has ensured persons with disabilities are exempted from taxes," noted Mulombi.

Teachers from Kakamega have lauded the enactment of the new law that guarantees the rights of persons with disabilities.

President William Ruto assented to the Persons with Disabilities Bill 2025 in May, 2025, a law that seeks to give and strengthen PWDs fundamental rights to education, healthcare, political participation as well as access to buildings and public spaces.

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"That act came with a lot of benefits to the persons with disabilities, Malava and Kakamega teachers and communities included. For this we thank the President and his administration. It is this act that has ensured persons with disabilities are exempted from taxes," noted Mulombi.

"It is this act that has also ensured that the retirement age of teachers with disabilities is extended from 60 years to 65 years. We have welcomed this move with a lot of humility and excitement," she added.

The teachers spoke when they met with the Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi in Nairobi, a delegation of over 70 teachers' representatives who handed in a memorandum to the office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary for key considerations.

They noted that persons with disabilities among them teachers and school going children, face many challenges



deeply rooted in structural, social, political, and cultural systems.

According to them this is new start to a journey that promotes and safeguards the rights of people with disabilities.

"I am happy to listen to sentiments from representatives of the people with disabilities noting the strides we are making in ensuring that we move together as an inclusive and united society," noted Mudavadi.

Mudavadi echoed President Ruto's sentiments when he assented to the bill emphasising that the law establishes stronger enforcement mechanisms, clearer accountability, and enhanced representation of persons with disabilities at the National and County governance structures.

"We are calling for a collective action from all stakeholders, including National and County governments, legislators, civil society, the private sector, and all Kenyans of goodwill to help us champion a good course for our brothers and sisters with disabilities," noted the Prime CS.

"Persons with disabilities in some areas are under-represented in the policy making tables. It is a kind request that through the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, your excellency Musalia Mudavadi you consider presenting our plea to the higher authorities to actualize the nomination of people with disability at the national boards," urged Mulombi.

"For us persons with disability we don't fear disability but we fear pov-

erty. We are requesting the government to unlock more opportunities to strengthen and elevate the stakes of persons with disabilities using AGBO- "Access to Government Business and Opportunities", she pleaded.

The new law establishes a restructured National Council for Persons with Disability, devolution of functions relating to persons with disabilities, and formal recognition and support for caregivers.

It also ensures greater access to justice, improved legal frameworks concerning PWDs, and robust economic safeguards.

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Tharaka Nithi Shines In NYOTA Programme With Record Youth Enrollment

By: Alex Njeru
@themkenyentimes

Tharaka Nithi County has emerged as a national leader in the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) programme by registering the highest number of applicants among the 47 counties.

This outstanding performance was announced during the recent official launch of the initiative at Weston Hotel in Nairobi, in an event presided over by Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs Salim Mvurya.

NYOTA is a flagship government initiative aimed at empowering vulnerable youth through on-the-job training, entrepreneurship support, and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) certification.

The project targets young people aged 18–29 and up to 35 for persons with disabilities who are unemployed, underemployed, or engaged in low-income jobs, especially those with a Form 4 level education or below.

Tharaka Nithi's success in mobilizing youth participation in the NYOTA programme has been widely attributed to the effective collaboration between the county and national governments.

Governor Muthomi Njuki and County Commissioner David Gitonga were particularly praised for fostering a seamless partnership that has created a conducive environment for youth empowerment.

"The paramount reason for the success of Tharaka Nithi County leading in the country is the good working relationship between national and county governments in the devolved unit," said Eric Mwenda, the Youth President of Tharaka Nithi County, during his remarks at the launch.

"The two levels of government provide a good link for youths to acquire opportunities in all sectors. This contributes positively to the economy of the county. I urge other counties to emulate Tharaka Nithi and, if possible, visit the benchmark."

In addition to topping the NYOTA registration, Tharaka Nithi County was also ranked fourth nationally in the broader scope of youth affairs, innovation, and invention, a notable milestone that underscores the county's commitment to advancing youth development.

Mr. Mwenda further lauded the NYOTA initiative as a "new dawn" for youth in Kenya, emphasizing that the project's holistic design which includes business skills training, start-up capital, mentorship, and monthly stipends for on-the-job placements offers life-changing opportunities to



Mr Eric Mwenda, Youth President Tharaka Nithi County.

thousands of young people across the nation.

The NYOTA launch brought together senior government officials including Principal Secretary for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy Hon. Fikirini Jacob, along with youth ambassadors from all counties.

These ambassadors, appointed to lead outreach and implementation efforts at the grassroots level, are expected to play a pivotal role in ensuring inclusivity and effective roll-out of the programme.

Applications are currently open for the on-the-job experience component, which is targeting 90,000 youth for 3–6 month paid placements with employers. Each participant will receive a monthly stipend of Ksh 6,000, with no fees or service charges required to join.

As Tharaka Nithi County celebrates this national recognition, stakeholders continue to express hope that the momentum will be sustained and that more counties will rise to the challenge of equipping Kenya's youth with the tools they need to thrive in a competitive job market.

As Tharaka Nithi County celebrates

Worth Noting:

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AU To Take Over DRC Peace Process As Nairobi, Luanda Talks Merged

By: Seth Olale
@themtkenyaticimes

The pursuit of lasting peace and unity in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) will henceforth be undertaken by the African Union (AU). Speaking during a meeting of the East Africa Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) co-chairs at State House Nairobi, President William Ruto—who was joined by former President Uhuru Kenyatta—announced that the Nairobi and Luanda-led peace processes have now been collapsed and will be undertaken by the AUC, which has been tasked to cooperate with the Washington and Doha peace accords. “To this end, we call for the merger of the Nairobi and Luanda peace processes to address the instability in the DRC,” said Ruto. “We appreciate the commitment

made by both EACRF and SADC peacekeeping missions,” President Emmerson Mnangagwa added. This comes a day after the U.N. Joint Human Rights Office, which monitors the conflict in Eastern DRC, reported that an M23 rebel attack on farmers and other civilians killed 169 people on July 9, 2025. The meeting resolved to formally end the Uhuru-led Nairobi peace processes as well as the Luanda peace initiative that was undertaken by Angolan President and AU Chair Joao Lourenço. The African Union has been tasked with finding a lasting peace solution in the war-torn Eastern DRC. “We will strive towards achieving lasting peace in Eastern DRC,” AU Chairperson Mohammed Youssef Ali stated. The meeting also resolved to have all immediate mobilisation, including for humanitarian support, centralised and coordinated by the AUC. The AUC has also been tasked to convene a virtual extraordinary joint



The meeting of the Co-Chairs of the Joint EAC-SADC Summit with the Panel of Facilitators was held State House, Nairobi, on August 1, 2025 to deliberate on the security situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). PHOTO | PCS

EAC and SADC summit within seven days to communicate the outcomes of the Nairobi meeting held at State House, Nairobi.

Nearly 3,000 people have been killed in the fighting between M23 militants and the DRC national army over control of the mineral-rich North Kivu province.

DP Kindiki: Security Restored In North Rift, Focus On Development

By: DPCS
@themtkenyaticimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has said efforts to restore peace in the North Rift have borne fruit as the government looks to capitalize on it to roll out development in the region. The DP said the security operation he spearheaded when he was Interior Cabinet Secretary has been a success pointing at reduced banditry and insecurity in the area. “As Interior CS, my duty was to restore order and make the country safe. President Ruto instructed me to work round the clock to eradicate banditry in the six North Rift counties and counter terror attacks in Mandera and Lamu; and I did well,” he said. He spoke on Friday during Baringo Central Constituency Economic Empowerment held in Kabarnet town. “Insecurity has gone down and I am

happy to have played a role that I was assigned by the President. That is why we are saying two terms for the President to continue ensuring long-lasting peace in the region,” he added. The DP assured Baringo residents that the county would not be left behind in national development, particularly in infrastructure, electrification, and education. He acknowledged the historical challenges the region has faced but affirmed that President Ruto’s administration is committed to transforming the area. “Projects worth 783 million of Last Mile Electricity connectivity are ongoing in Baringo County. By the time Ruto goes home after serving his two terms, every home should have electricity so we can have a modern country,” Kindiki stated. On education matters, the Deputy President reaffirmed the government’s commitment to strengthening Kenya’s education system and mak-



He spoke on Friday during Baringo Central Constituency Economic Empowerment held in Kabarnet town. .

ing it more accessible to all. He emphasized that the government will not cut funding to the sector. “I want to make it clear that the gov-

ernment cannot roll back funding for our Primary and Secondary schools. We must make sure we continue funding our free primary and sec-

ondary education because this Nation will depend on these children in future,” Prof. Kindiki stated firmly.

Joab Manyasi Unveiled As DNA Candidate For Malava By-Election

By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

The Democratic National Alliance (DNA) has unveiled Joab Manyasi as its official candidate for the Malava Constituency by-election, setting the stage for what the party describes as a “transformative, grassroots-driven campaign” in one of Western Kenya’s most closely watched electoral contests.

The announcement was made on Friday at the DNA headquarters in Karen, Nairobi, during a colourful ceremony attended by party officials and supporters.

Manyasi, a seasoned civil engineer and youth advocate, was presented to the public as a “leader born of the soil, shaped by service, and anchored in community.”

Manyasi, who previously vied for the Malava seat under Ford Kenya in 2017 and ODM in 2022, brings a wealth of experience in infrastructure, public service, and civic engagement across Kenya and Uganda. His return to the ballot under DNA

signals both a personal comeback and the party’s broader strategic move to expand its political footprint in Kakamega County and beyond.

Speaking during the event, DNA Party Leader Godfrey Kanoti praised Manyasi as a visionary with the integrity and empathy needed to address the real struggles of ordinary citizens.

“We are not just presenting a candidate, we are presenting a cause,” said Kanoti. “Hon. Manyasi represents what the Democratic National Alliance stands for: homegrown leadership, accountability, and public service rooted in community values. Malava deserves a new dawn, and Joab is the right person to lead that charge.”

In his acceptance speech, Manyasi struck a deeply personal tone, highlighting his upbringing in Malava and promising to serve with humility and dedication. He expressed concern over persistent challenges in the constituency, including neglected farmers, unemployed youth, and under-supported women.

“I come from the soil of Malava,” he said. “I have walked the same roads



Democratic National Alliance members in picture

and waited in the same queues. I know what it means to be promised change and see nothing come of it. This campaign is not about empty slogans. It is about voice, dignity, and real development.”

Manyasi emphasized that the campaign would prioritize inclusive

representation, civic education, and grassroots dialogue. He also called on voters to look beyond party politics and focus on integrity, track record, and commitment to service.

The Malava by-election was occasioned by a vacancy announced by the Independent Electoral and

Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and is expected to be held later this year. As parties prepare for the contest, DNA has promised to maintain an issue-based approach that steers away from political mudslinging.



Mudavadi: Government To Improve Welfare Of Teachers

By: OPCS Press Service

@themkenyentimes

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Worth Noting:

- Mudavadi emphasized the government's commitment to partnering with educators in transforming learning environments and improving the welfare of communities, not only in Malava but throughout Western Kenya, as part of building a stronger, more inclusive national future.
- He reaffirmed the vital role teachers play as guardians of knowledge, ethics, and societal progress saying the candid and insightful exchange of ideas should remain progressive.
- "This should be reflected at the grassroots level when you go back home. You are setting an agenda for the rest of the teachers in Western region and for Kenya," said Mudavadi.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has assured teachers of the government's continuous assessment of the status of education standards in the country.

Mudavadi made the remarks when he met with the leadership of the Kenya National Union of Teachers, KNUT and Kenya Secondary School Heads Association, KESSHA from Kakamega North, Malava constituency.

The delegation of over 70 teachers' representatives met the Prime Cabinet Secretary at his offices in Nairobi.

This he said is an inaugural meeting aimed at assessing and improving the welfare of teachers and uplifting the education standards in Western Kenya.

"We will be holding routine dialogue and exchange of views sessions with education stakeholders moving forward. It is going to be strategic, focused, symbolic and significant," said Mudavadi.

"We are aiming at improving the welfare of teachers and quality of learning for our children," he added.

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He reaffirmed the vital role teachers play as guardians of knowledge, ethics, and societal progress saying the candid and insightful exchange of ideas should remain progressive.

"This should be reflected at the grassroots level when you go back home. You are setting an agenda for the rest of the teachers in Western region and for Kenya," said Mudavadi.

Led by Kakamega North KNUT Chairperson Simon Sindani, KESSHA Vice Chairperson Dan Masitsa, and KNUT Treasurer Emily Mito, the delegation presented a comprehensive memorandum highlighting key areas where national government support is needed to strengthen the education sector in Malava.

Among the priority issues raised were infrastructural upgrades for several institutions, including the newly elevated Shamberere National Polytechnic which requires a new tuition block, Manyonje Secondary School where a laboratory is needed, Matioli Secondary School needs an administration block, Tande Secondary School is in need of more modern classrooms, and a complete facelift for Matsakha Secondary School.

Additional needs included more classrooms at Chevoso, Ingavira, Lurale, and Shivikwa Comprehensive Schools, an ICT Centre at Lunyu Comprehensive School, and an administration block at Muriola Comprehensive School among other requests that the team put forward.

"Our retired teachers who have exited service on retirement need to live with dignity. It is our considered request for their pension to be paid on time. We



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi with teachers.

are also presenting a request for establishment of more institutions of higher learning in Malava," read part of the Memorandum.

"We teachers are opinion shapers within communities. Societies largely rely on us for moral direction. We also largely contribute on the agenda for development. This is a starting point for our collaboration with the national government through your office," said Sindani while presenting the Memorandum.

"We are ready to rally behind you as our Joseph in the bible. He saw his brothers and knew them. You have seen us and you know us. We want to build a strong bond of collaboration as teachers with your office and the government, because we know what we are benefiting from President Ruto's leadership," added Masitsa the KESSHA Vice Chairperson.

Mudavadi said teachers as custodians of consciousness, morality and aspirations within societies play a crucial role in shaping destinies among them a leadership that is forthright, trustworthy and respected.

The Prime CS challenged the team to take time and reflect on the forth coming by election in Malava, saying it is an opportunity for them as opinion shapers to give direction to the people of Malava on which leader the constituency deserves.

He said the late MP, Malulu Injendi had set high standards as a unifying leader who continuously supported initiatives that were geared towards improving the lives of his constituents and further bringing Kenyans together.

"Malulu was a man of honour. He has set standards and his leadership was solid. When he meant yes, that remained his stand; if he said I will support a certain course, he never changed. The people of Malava you now need to ask yourselves, whom do you want to fit in the shoes of the late Malulu?" posed

Mudavadi.

"As the Vice Chairman of the Education Committee in the National Assembly where he served last Malulu helped in the formulation of some of the policies the education sector is enjoying now. Malulu's efforts and proactiveness largely helped in shaping the education sector. Now, as teachers, since Malulu was also a teacher, it is your duty to give direction because the people believe in you," Mudavadi explained.

With the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) likely to tap Prime Cabinet Secretary and former ANC Party leader, to spearhead its campaign in the Malava by-election, the Prime CS told the teachers to help in preaching the message of peace during the campaign period.

"We want a leadership that will deliver solid results to the people of Malava and have a far-reaching impact to every child, son and daughter of Malava. Ultimately the leader you will chose is a son or daughter of Malava. You will own your leader since nobody will have imposed the leader on you," noted Mudavadi.

"It is no longer a joke when it comes to choosing leaders. The question should remain to be, what leadership does Malava deserve?" posed the Prime CS.

Mudavadi challenged the teachers' representatives and the people of Malava and Western region that the longer they stay on the wrong train, the more expensive it will be to get home.

He has urged them to rally behind the Kenyan Kwanza government and support President Ruto's agenda now and in the future emphasizing on the greater significance of the voice of teachers.

"We need to engage intellectually and with sobriety for us to have a good leader. The leader you elect will not only be a leader for Malava but a leader for the larger Western Kenya region, the community of Kakamega County and

a legislator for Kenyans. So, let us go beyond the traditions of clannism and put in place a visionary leader whose qualities and character goes beyond reproach," said Mudavadi.

"Until you elect a new Member of Parliament, I stand as your Patron in Malava. We must move forward together, build on the strong foundation," he reminded the people of Malava through the teachers' representatives.

Last week, Mudavadi while meeting elders from Malava, he announced plans to convene broader stakeholder engagements, including youth, women, scholars, farmers, business leaders, and religious groups, affirming his belief that inclusive dialogue is key to building a shared vision for Malava's future.

Mudavadi was joined by Higher Education Principal Secretary Beatrice Inyangala, MPs Fred Ikana (Shinyalu) and Hon. Beatrice Adagala (Vihiga), Director of the Insurance Regulatory Authority Immaculate Shamala, Chief of Staff in his Office Joseph Busiega, Principal Administrative Secretary Juliana Yapan (OPCS), Secretary Administration Tom Anjere (OPCS), along with other senior government officials and grassroots leaders from Malava Constituency.

Placing Smartphone Handsets In The Hands Of All Kenyans Will Contribute To Positive Economic Growth

..... And National Efforts Must Be Applied To Bridge This Digital Divide



By: Kevin Michuki
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- While you and I can afford multiple smartphone devices and therefore count among the current 42.3 million Kenyans who own this device, the reality is that nearly 33-million of our compatriots operate in an internet-dark world.
- Try picturing a scenario where you have no access to E-government solutions, such as E-Citizen, and cannot enjoy the benefits of social media platforms, quickly search the internet for that nagging question, or find your way using simple internet navigation tools. A world where it takes an intermediary to register for the Social Health Authority (SHA), and where you cannot easily share family moments from Birthdays to graduations, as a feature phone cannot host WhatsApp.



The numbers are in, and once again, they appear to paint a sorry picture of the state of the growing digital divide in Kenya.

Wondering about the numbers I'm talking about? The Communications Authority of Kenya's Third Quarter Sector Statistics Report for the Financial Year 2024/2025 (January 1st–March 31st, 2025) is now available, presenting a bleak picture of slow growth in smartphone acquisitions.

According to the numbers, 32.5 million Kenyans are still accessing mobile telephony services on feature phones, thereby denying them access to a wide range of essential services that smartphones can offer via internet connectivity.

A few years ago, access to a smartphone may not have counted for much beyond basic telephony, particularly as an essential development parameter. Today, we must, however, face the reality and work towards clearing barriers that limit access to smartphones, including credit access.

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our compatriots operate in an internet-dark world.

Try picturing a scenario where you have no access to E-government solutions, such as E-Citizen, and cannot enjoy the benefits of social media platforms, quickly search the internet for that nagging question, or find your way using simple internet navigation tools. A world where it takes an intermediary to register for the Social Health Authority (SHA), and where you cannot easily share family moments from Birthdays to graduations, as a feature phone cannot host WhatsApp.

A world that revolves around accessing financial services via the nearly obsolete USSD options, thus limiting your financial inclusivity options, and where information reaches you only via SMS.

Sadly, that's the life that nearly 33 million Kenyans are currently leading, even as the rest of us rush towards a 5G world with immediate access to information, education, and entertainment at our fingertips.

According to the recently released CA report, feature phones increased to 32,573,748, up from 30,579,714 in the quarter under review, represent-

ing a 6.5% growth. On the other hand, Smartphones grew to 42,349,405, up from 41,477,527, representing a 2.1% increase.

In a growing country like Kenya, the number of feature phones should be slowing down to nearly zero, with a faster acceleration towards Smartphones. However, this hasn't been possible primarily due to economic factors, with an average entry-level smartphone priced at more than Kshs 15,000, thus, way out of the affordability bracket for many.

To handle such barriers, Kenya is, however, actively taking the trailblazer position among many other developing countries through the provision of alternative financing solutions to aid smartphone acquisition.

Financing solutions, such as the Buy Now, Pay Later products offered by Watu Simu, are today powering more than 2 million customers, primarily involved in the gig economy. Many of these clients are the typical ride-hailing, delivery, online, and related workers who rely 100% on quality smartphones to earn a living.

Players in the gig economy cannot afford to deliver their daily bread or even meet their signed-up corporate

obligations, such as with Uber, WeGo, Bolt, Glovo, among others, without a functional smartphone. According to publicly available data sources, the Kenya Revenue Authority collected Kshs 16 billion in revenue from digital taxi-hailing and digital delivery services firms, suggesting that this is a trillion-plus formal market.

Without access to smartphones, these enterprises would, however, not be in a position to power our economy and make such significant revenue contributions to our exchequer.

Time is therefore ripe for a multi-stakeholder conversation and affirmative action to ensure that we reverse the growing trend of feature phones and instead accelerate the growth of smartphones.

While firms like Watu Simu provide credit access options, firms such as Samsung Mobile are providing quality devices that fuel economic growth. Each smartphone handset in the hands of a Kenyan contributes to positive economic development, and national efforts must be applied to bridge this digital divide.

Kevin Michuki is the Head of Growth, Watu Simu Kenya

Integrating Refugees Into The Local Host Communities; Demystifying The Shirika Plan



By: David Ndirangu
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The thus created integrated settlements, will facilitate refugees' access to National systems and services which will greatly contribute to strengthening economic development for the refugees, hosting communities and the nation as a whole. It is worth noting that integration does not mean that the refugees become Kenyan citizens. They will however have access to education, healthcare, social protection services and others including environmental management.
- The current system of managing refugees is donor driven and often excludes the host communities. There have been long-standing complaints by local communities who feel that refugees are treated better than them. The Shirika Plan's idea of shared benefits between the refugees and host communities is expected to enhance cohesion and bring about economic growth thus minimising such intercommunity conflicts.



My attention was drawn to an article appearing in the Daily Nation of 22nd July 2025, 'Residents in the dark on refugee integration plan'. This coincidentally happened on the same day that several stakeholders from across Africa were gathered in Nairobi for a conference dubbed Stakeholders' Dialogue on Workplace inclusivity in Kenya. The roundtable dialogue was organized by the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE), The Refugee Consortium Kenya and The Centre for Mediation in Africa with the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO) to explore ways, together of how they can facilitate the integration of refugees into the workplace. This was the first in a series of discussions seeking to understand the implications of the Shirika Plan for employees, business enterprises, workforce planning and regulatory compliance. In the dialogue they intend to methodically unpack the potentially contentious issues and identify ways in which key employers and refugee organisations can work together to ensure a smooth transition of refugees into the workplace in order to create a more inclusive and integrated work environment thus avoiding unnecessary conflict.

On March 28th 2025, Government of Kenya (GOK) launched a Nation-

al Strategy for Refugee Inclusion named 'The Shirika Plan'. The Shirika Plan is a GOK initiative designed to facilitate the process of integrating refugees and asylum seekers into the Kenyan society by transforming refugee camps into integrated settlements. It envisions eventual phasing out of traditional refugee camps like Dadaab and Kakuma by integrating the refugees into existing or newly created urban areas. The Shirika Plan aims at promoting socio-economic inclusion of refugees to enhance self-reliance in the wake of dwindling donor funding which will as a result accrue benefits for the refugees and the host communities.

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by local communities who feel that refugees are treated better than them. The Shirika Plan's idea of shared benefits between the refugees and host communities is expected to enhance cohesion and bring about economic growth thus minimising such intercommunity conflicts.

This GOK initiative is a complex undertaking with potential benefits but with challenges that need to be anticipated and carefully managed. Many countries in the world that have successfully integrated refugees into their economies have attained immense benefits in terms of bridging skill gaps, improving workforce diversity and expanding local demand. However, without proper planning and implementation, such integration can strain local resources which would consequently lead to tensions and conflict, violence and even xenophobia.

Some semblance of public participation had been done for the Shirika Plan prior to its launch. However, it is evident that a lot more needs to be done. The implementation plan runs over eleven years. Phase 1 – 2025 to 2028 is the Transition phase. The public participation will be continuous during this phase and input by the public and stakeholders will be incorporated into the plan. Phase 2 – 2029

to 2032 is the Stabilization phase. Phase 3 – 2032 to 2036 is the Resilience phase.

I want to believe that refugee integration has been happening for some time in Kenya albeit in an informal and uncontrolled fashion. For the last couple of years, the few tufts of hair remaining on my head have been shaven by refugee barbers from DRC and Rwanda who are employed in most barber shops around Nairobi. And of course without forgetting the refugee girls from the same places who normally give my freshly shaven dome a soothing head massage. They actually do quite a good job of it. Therefore the GOK attempt to formalise the management of such integration is in my view not such a bad idea.

Or what do you think?

David Ndirangu is a Certified Professional Mediator based in Nairobi. Email: ndirangudavid2023@gmail.com

Wamuyu Wewe Ni Taa



U mwanamke wa mvuto, Wambui unaitika
Kwani kwako mwito, nisikatae nikapendeka
Kwenyu zangu mloto, utajiona wasifika
Wamuyu wewe ni taa, inanipatia mwanga

Darini la moyo wangu, umekalia kwa upendo
Nikupeni nini changu, utakipenda kitendo
Furaha waeka kwangu, umenujaza upendo
Wamuyu wewe ni taa, inanipatia mwanga

Nguvu ya upendo wako, wanipeleka undani
Kicheko tamu chako, cha tulizia mayoni
Cha kuangaza macho yako, kwangu hunipa
tosheleni
Wamuyu wewe ni taa, inanipatia mwanga

Leo twaikumbuka, siku yako kuzaliwa
Mshindi ulimbuka, kutoka kijusi ukiwa
Sasa raha na baraka, zikufuate majaliwa
Wamuyu wewe ni taa, inanipatia mwanga

Ungali wewe mwanana, mengi hujaipata
Mala hamuachi mwana, atakulinda kwata
Cheza mchezo kwa kina, ushindi ukaipata
Wamuyu wewe ni taa, inanipatia mwanga

Rukuno John 🍷

The Best Revenge



God's justice is fair, and ever stands
If you hurt them back, it won't be right
God's justice will shine with all His might
When God calls them out, they have to
face

No hiding, no escape from His place
Trust in God's justice, and leave
revenge to Him
He finds peace in His perfect plan.

When someone hurts you, don't try to
pay back

Leave justice to God, it's a perfect way
He'll take care of it, in His own way
Don't take matters into your own
hands

T. Vasugi,
B.T Assr,
Kamaraj Matriculation Higher
Secondary School,
Kovilpatti.

How We Handle Emotions Determines Our Life



How we handle emotions determines our life,
Emotions and reactions play a significant role in
our life
One must learn to control all sorts of emotions
with care,
Be it happiness or sadness, handle both with care

Don't jump in joy, nor shatter in pieces during
sorrow,
Handle both with care, for emotions can be hard
to digest
This too shall pass away, nothing is permanent,
Change will come,

No use crying over spilt milk, or jumping in joy for
small glory,
The way we handle emotions determines our

Fate,
Balancing both is an intricate art,
that requires skill and care,
Handle emotions with caution, for they can be like
an epicenter which moves like waves

The waves of emotions will pass on and on,
Affecting many, until they're gone,
It takes time to balance both emotions,
like a toddler learning to ride a bicycle
But with practice and patience, we can learn to
handle emotions with pride.

Cultivate this habit in young age, to overcome all
For many have struggled, and some couldn't
balance, and lost their life
Let's learn to handle emotions with care, and find
our inner peace,
And live a life that's balanced,

BRINDA D
CREATIVE WRITERS
GRADUATE TEACHER,
GOVT HIGH SCHOOL,
MELPATTAMPAKKAM
CUDDALORE,
Tamilnadu India

How We Handle Our Emotions Determine The Lines We Live



Thoughts like a tsunami of feelings,
Wavering with anger and frustration.
When unexpected things happen,
Our reactions reach the peak.

Feelings get controlled with tears and
years;
They get refined by maturing.
The sensations that once made us feel
bad
Make us laugh later.

Handling our inner storms in life is like a
knife –
Holding on the safer side will end in
peace;

Holding on the sharp side will wound us.

Suppressing anger is the foremost self-
control.

Calm the inner state,
Free the mind from anxiety,
Let the soul be cool and composed.

Never take anything too deeply and get
hurt.

Handling feelings is an art,
And not everyone is an artist, as said.
But mastering this art determines the
lines we live.

KUMARESWARI S
Creative writers
GRADUATE TEACHER- ENGLISH
VKGHSS AYYANKALIPALAYAM
TIRUPPUR
Tamil Nadu, India

LITTLE POEMS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN. 37

DO YOUR BEST.

DO your best, your very best,
And do it every day,
Little boy and little girl, —
That is the wisest way.

Whatever work comes to your hand,
At home or at your school,
Do your best with right good will, —
It is a golden rule.

What if your lesson should be hard,
You need not yield to sorrow;
For him who bravely works to-day,
His task grows light to-morrow.

BOYS WANTED.

BOYS of spirit, boys of will,
Boys of muscle, brain, and power,
Fit to cope with anything,
These are wanted every hour.

Not the weak and whining drones,
Who all troubles magnify;
Not the watchword of "I can't,"
But the nobler one, "I'll try."

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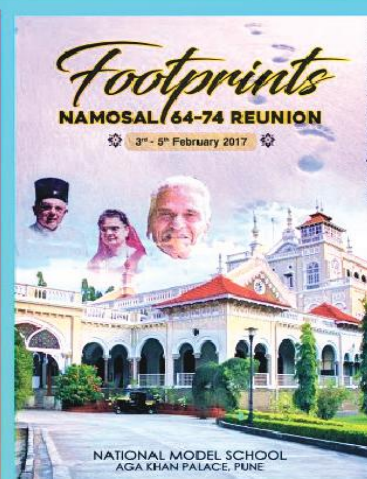
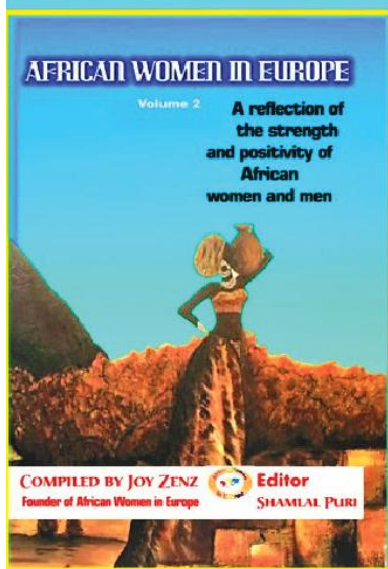
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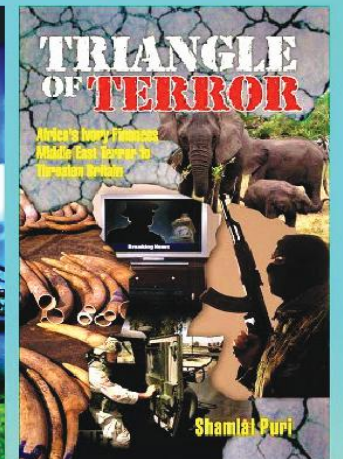
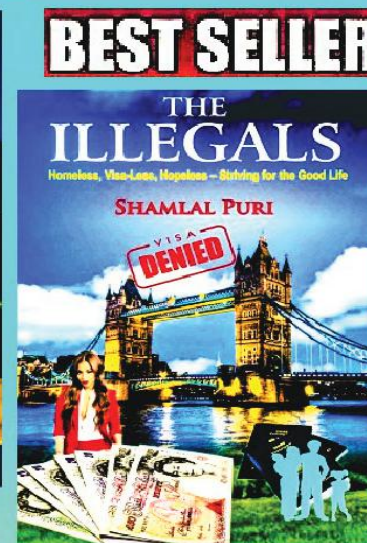
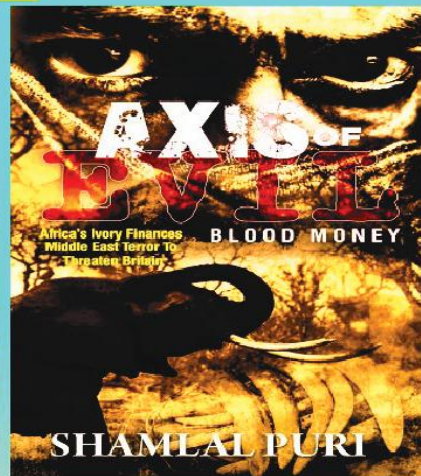
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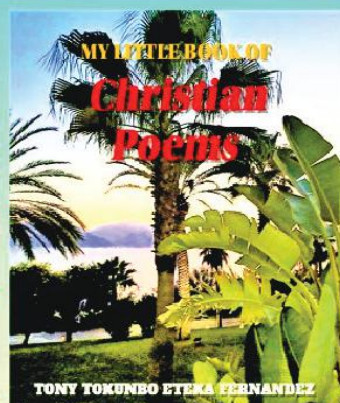
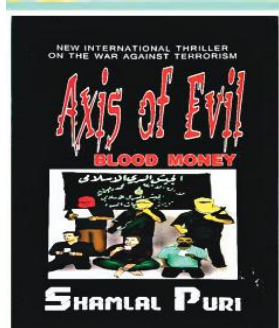
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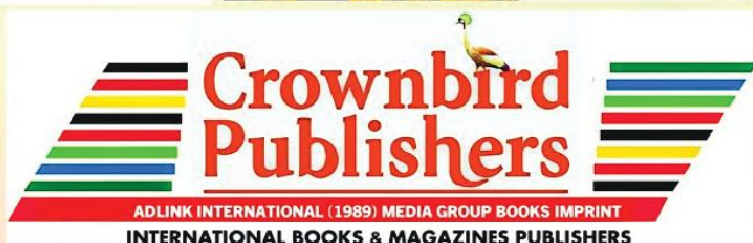


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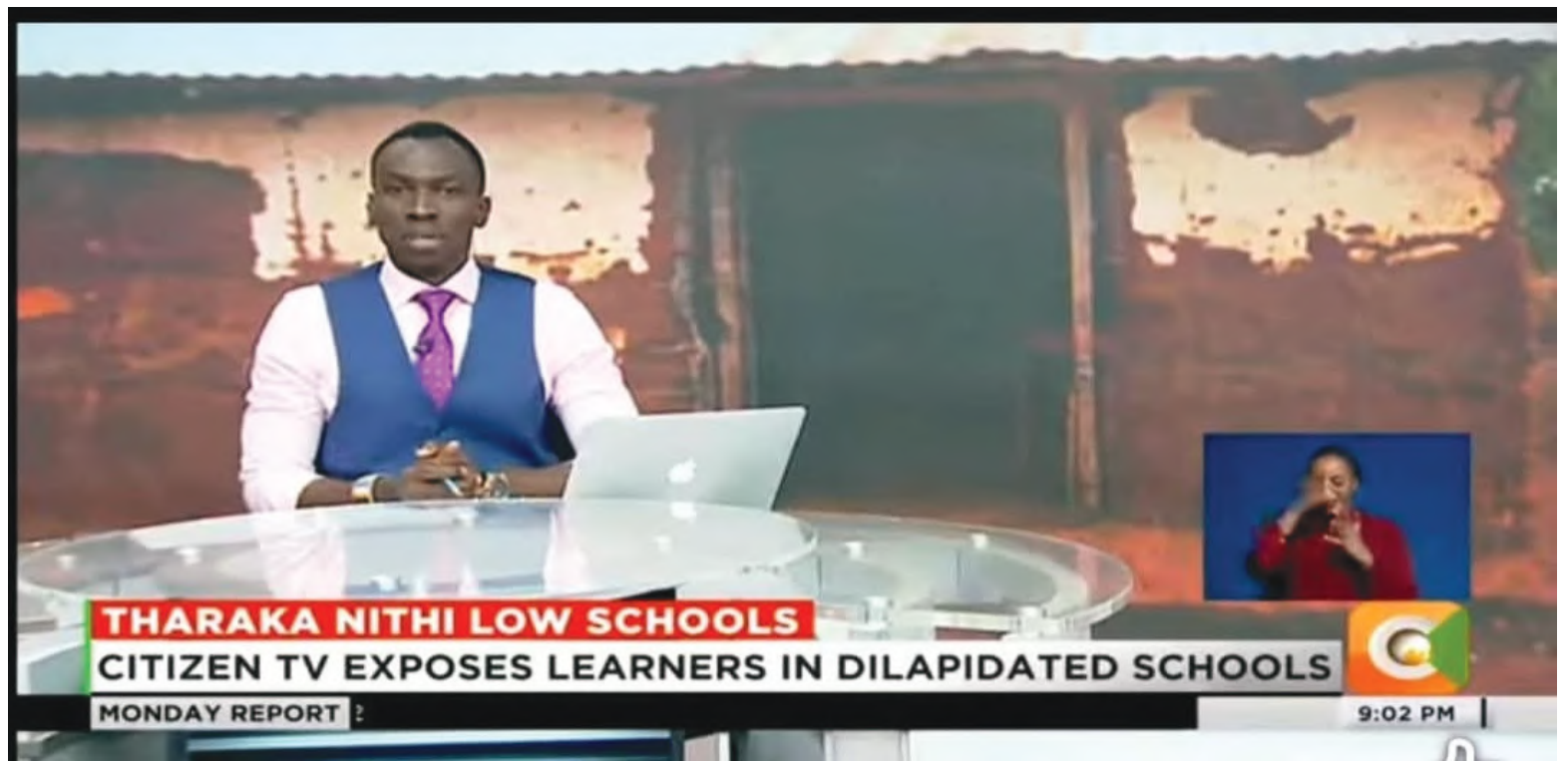
POLITICS

MP Murugara Should Stop Hiding Behind DP Kindiki And Face His Constituents

By: Alex Njeru
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Every time legitimate concerns are raised about his track record, the MP conveniently shifts the narrative to suggest that critics are not targeting him, but instead aiming to “malign” the image of Prof. Kindiki. This is political cowardice disguised as loyalty.
- Take the recent Citizen TV exposé, for example, which laid bare the sorry state of learning in parts of Tharaka Constituency, pupils studying in dilapidated mud-walled classrooms and teachers working under makeshift structures built from maize stalks.
- Rather than address the issue with urgency and humility, the MP’s handlers deflected, alleging that the story was “sponsored” by Senator Gataya Mwenda and Women Rep Susan Ngugi to attack DP Kindiki. This attempt to politicize suffering and shift blame is not only dishonest but it is shameful.



In a cunning and calculated political manoeuvre, Tharaka MP Gitonga Murugara appears to be using Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki as a human shield to deflect rising criticism over his dismal performance as a legislator. This is not only dishonest politics, it is a betrayal of the trust Tharaka constituents placed in him.

The two leaders hail from Mukothima Ward in Tharaka Constituency, a fact the MP is exploiting for political cover. The DP enjoys strong grassroots support in the constituency and Murugara is clearly leaning on that goodwill to escape accountability.

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Take the recent Citizen TV exposé, for example, which laid bare the sorry state of learning in parts of Tharaka Constituency, pupils studying in dilapidated mud-walled classrooms and teachers working under makeshift structures built from maize stalks.

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MP Murugara is fully aware that dragging DP Kindiki’s name into the

mess diverts attention from his own failures. He knows that many constituents respect the Deputy President, and that any perceived attack on Kindiki will provoke emotional reactions and blind support even when it’s misplaced. This is a clear attempt to weaponize loyalty to the DP for selfish political survival.

Ironically, when media houses report critically on other Tharaka Nithi leaders such as Chuka/Igambang’ombe MP Patrick Munene, Maara MP Kareke Mbiuki, Women Rep Susan Ngugi, or even Governor Muthomi Njuki, no one jumps in to claim that Kindiki is the one being targeted.

But when it’s Murugara under fire, suddenly the DP is the “victim.” This double standard is baffling: has Prof.

Kindiki been reduced to a Tharaka Deputy President, rather than the nation’s second-in-command?

Even more absurd is the MP’s public claim that he “lobbied” for the tarmacking of the road leading to DP Kindiki’s rural home in Irunduni. Since when did the Deputy President require lobbying from an MP to get a road to his own home? The answer is obvious: the MP wants to bask in reflected glory and plant the seeds of his 2027 gubernatorial bid, hoping the shine from the DP’s national stature will mask his local shortcomings.

Let’s be honest. The people of Tharaka Constituency are not fools. They understand the clear separation of roles between a Deputy President and a Member of Parliament. And

they are increasingly seeing through the MP’s theatrics and propaganda.

As the race to succeed Governor Njuki in 2027 begins to take shape with names like Women Rep Susan Ngugi, MP Kareke Mbiuki, and former Chuka University VC Prof. Erastus Njoka in the mix it’s time for MP Murugara to stop clinging to Prof. Kindiki’s coattails and start earning his own political capital. Leadership is about delivery, not deflection.

In the end, trying to elevate yourself by dragging others down even subtly is not just bad politics. It’s poor character. And the people of Tharaka deserve better.

Mr Alex Njeru is a journalist



Tharaka MP Gitonga Murugara

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Dangers Of Uganda's Population Explosion

By: Richard Byamukama

@themkenyentimes

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Worth Noting:

- Thomas Robert Malthus, one of the most famous demography scholars, has always argued against population explosion. Malthus suggests that population growth will inevitably outpace the growth of the food supply, leading to poverty, famine, and other crises.
- According to Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), Uganda has a total area of 241,555 square kilometers, open water bodies covered 37,013 square kilometers, Wetlands cover 8,773 square kilometers, and land area is 204,540 square kilometers. The population explosion raises acute concerns about its future management and the availability of land for human settlements and agriculture. Is it the end of the beginning or the beginning of the end?



According to the 2024 National Population and Housing Census, Uganda's population stands at 45,905,417 people (nearly 46 million). The census was conducted in May 2024. The population represents a growth of 11.3 million since the 2014 census, a period of 10 years which is a 2.9% population growth rate.

A high population has several merits as many scholars and economists have argued over time, including increased human resource, contributions to GDP to mention but a few. However, many scholars have argued against population explosion as very detrimental and costly in its management and planning.

Thomas Robert Malthus, one of the most famous demography scholars, has always argued against population explosion. Malthus suggests that population growth will inevitably outpace the growth of the food supply, leading to poverty, famine, and other crises.

According to Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), Uganda has a total

area of 241,555 square kilometers, open water bodies covered 37,013 square kilometers, Wetlands cover 8,773 square kilometers, and land area is 204,540 square kilometers. The population explosion raises acute concerns about its future management and the availability of land for human settlements and agriculture. Is it the end of the beginning or the beginning of the end?

According to UBOS, in 2019, Agricultural land increased from 106,656 sq. kms in the year 2017 to 107,728 sq. kms in 2019, Built up land area covered 2,595 square kilometers, Forest cover reduced significantly by 44.7 percent between 1990 and 2019, Woodlands cover declined to 17,399 sq km in the year 2019 from 28,347 sq km in 2000, Total forest cover declined by 6.4 percent between the years 2010 and 2019. Is Uganda heading to Malthus' population trap?

This poses a serious threat to the environment and biodiversity raising worries about future climate catastrophes, human settlement and general

human happiness in the country. Is something being done to manage Uganda's population explosion?

Moving from region to region, there are land conflicts everywhere and all day throughout the news and social media. Land is always inherited and sub-divided into small pieces among family members, leaving their descendants with options of further sub-divisions of the small pieces inherited from their ancestors.

The government has kept adamant about the land use and settlement pattern which has made fragmentation inevitable which hinders mechanized and large scale agricultural activities. Does the government have any plans to manage settlements and land use patterns in the country?

In comparison, China has a population of 1.411 billion people (2023) with a total land area of 9.597 million Square Kilo-meters which is 39 times compared to the total land area of Uganda, with regulated settlements and land use patterns. Could Uganda copy the Chinese module?

African countries like Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania among others have a much larger land area compared to Uganda but with similar or even less population figures with Uganda. How does Uganda plan to manage its population?

Land wrangles and conflicts, murders, fraud, indecent and primitive land use patterns, environmental destruction for example wetlands, forests, rivers, game parks among others are the order of the day in the country. All these can be attributed to population explosion and unregulated land use patterns in the country.

Richard Byamukama is Lawyer and a Security Studies Expert

A Sacred Message From The Elders And Seers Of Mt. Kenya To The Leaders Of Africa



To Presidents, Prime Ministers, Parliamentarians, Senators, Judges And All Custodians Of Law And Governance Across Our Beloved Continent

We, the Elders and Seers of Mt. Kenya, speak not of our own voice, but as vessels of Almighty, the spirit of those who came before us the great ancestors, the freedom fighters, the visionaries who bled and sacrificed so that Africa would be free to govern herself.

Their dream was not merely political independence, but true liberation that we may educate our children with wisdom, create our own medicines to heal our sick, build industries with our hands, manufacture our goods, and feed our people with dignity. They dreamed that our economies would flourish, our youth would find purpose through meaningful work, and our cultures would shine proudly before the world.

But today, we speak with heavy hearts. For when we look deep into the state of our nations, we find that

this vision remains betrayed.

We are importing even the simplest things toothpicks while our lands overflow with timber and talent. Our factories are silent, our youth are desperate, and our people remain beggars in a land of abundance.

Instead of unity, our leaders multiply political parties not for the people, but as tools of division to deceive, to manipulate, and to secure power. They make promises with no intention to fulfill. They loot the wealth of our nations and hide it in foreign banks while our hospitals collapse, our schools decay, and our roads turn to dust.

And when the people the children of the Almighty begin to rise, asking for truth, transparency, and justice, what do they receive?

They are abducted. Tortured. Killed. Made to disappear without a trace.

This is a warning.

This is a spiritual decree.

This is a final call.

The Almighty has spoken: those who cling to power with impure hearts must resign and make way for

new leadership for sons and daughters of the soil whose only loyalty is to Africa and her people.

Judgment is at your door. You cannot continue to imprison the soul of Africa for your own gain. You cannot continue to trade with her enemies, to ignite wars and chaos, just to profit from the suffering of your people. The systems of greed, deception, and oppression they will all be dismantled. The Almighty is no longer silent.

Africa is rich. We do not need foreign loans. We need only to change the hearts of our leaders to cast out the spirit of greed, and embrace stewardship, unity, and love for the people.

We must return to the ways of truth.

Let Africa rise as one. Let us move toward a single currency, toward economic integration, and the unity of all African nations not in word alone, but in real, tangible action. This is the path to true independence.

This is the way to shared prosperity.

Our time is now.

Let every leader who hears this message reflect deeply not in pride, but in humility. Step aside, if your heart is not aligned with the will of the people and the spirit of Africa.

This is a message carried by the wind from the sacred mountain Mt. Kenya to every corner of this continent.

Let Africa awaken. Let Africa be free.

You can write Letter to the Editor on any subject through:

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DAP-K Receives Petitions To Remove Wamalwa, Natembeya Amid Party Divisions

By: Cynthia Masibo
@themkenyaytimes



Worth Noting:

- Sources within the party indicate that the internal wrangles stem from ideological differences between two factions led by Wamalwa and Natembeya. Wamalwa, a former Defence Cabinet Secretary and founding leader of DAP-K, is said to be steering a more conservative approach focused on consolidating the party's influence in its traditional strongholds, particularly in Western Kenya.
- In contrast, Natembeya, who was appointed Deputy Party Leader after the 2022 general elections, is reportedly championing a liberal faction that seeks to rebrand DAP-K into a nationally appealing party with a broader and more inclusive agenda. The governor's recent public statements calling for "fresh blood and ideas" in the party have been interpreted by some insiders as veiled criticism of Wamalwa's leadership.

The Democratic Action Party of Kenya (DAP-K) is facing internal turmoil following the emergence of two opposing factions within its leadership, prompting calls for the removal of key party figures, including party leader Eugene Wamalwa and his deputy, Trans Nzoia Governor George Natembeya.

In a press briefing held on Friday at the party's headquarters, DAP-K Secretary General Dr. Eseli Simiyu confirmed that the party had formally received multiple petitions calling for the ouster of Wamalwa and Natembeya. He stated that the grievances raised in the petitions would be addressed through the party's Internal Disputes Resolution Committee (IDRC), as mandated by the party's constitution.

"We have received various petitions from members expressing concerns about the direction and leadership of the party. In line with our constitution, these issues will be handled by the Internal Disputes Resolution Committee," said Dr. Simiyu. "We urge members to remain calm and allow the committee to conduct its work independently and professionally."

Sources within the party indicate that the internal wrangles stem from ideological differences between two factions led by Wamalwa and Natembeya. Wamalwa, a former Defence Cabinet Secretary and founding leader of DAP-K, is said to be steering a more conservative approach focused on consolidating the party's influence in its traditional strongholds, particularly in Western Kenya.

In contrast, Natembeya, who was appointed Deputy Party Leader after the 2022 general elections, is reportedly championing a liberal faction that seeks to rebrand DAP-K into a nationally appealing party with a broader and more inclusive agenda. The governor's recent public statements calling for "fresh blood and ideas" in the party have been interpreted by some insiders as veiled criticism of Wamalwa's leadership.

Despite the brewing tensions, Wamalwa downplayed the divisions, urging unity and patience as the party follows due process to address the issues.

"This is a democratic party, and we have structures in place to resolve disputes. I urge our members to respect those structures and allow the committee to do its work. We must remain united in our vision for a stronger, more inclusive DAP-K," Wamalwa said.



DAP Kenya leaders spearheaded by Eugene wamalwa in picture.

The rift has triggered concern among the party's rank and file, with some members expressing fears that continued wrangling could weaken DAP-K's position ahead of the 2027 general elections. Political analysts warn that if not resolved amicably, the internal conflicts could split the party and diminish its influence within the Azimio la Umoja coalition, where it currently plays a key role.

DAP-K was formed in the lead-up to the 2022 polls and positioned itself as a progressive alternative in Western Kenya, garnering support particularly in Trans Nzoia, Bungoma, and Kakamega counties.

As the Internal Disputes Resolution Committee begins its work, the political future of Wamalwa and Natembeya within DAP-K hangs in the balance. All eyes are now on the party's next moves, with hopes that a negotiated solution can prevent an all-out fallout within its leadership.



Trans Nzoia Governor George Natembeya

Margaret Nduta Spared From Death Penalty In Vietnam, Handed Life Sentence

By: Brian Kimani
@themtkenyetimes

Margaret Nduta, the Kenyan woman condemned to death in Vietnam for drug trafficking, can now heave a sigh of relief after a Vietnamese court commuted her death penalty to a life sentence.

Nduta was arrested in July 2023 upon arrival in Hoh Chi Minh for allegedly trafficking two kilos of narcotics. In Vietnam, the laws dictate that those caught trafficking at least 100 grams of narcotics face the death penalty.

This was also the case for Nduta, who was found guilty of the offense. However, the recent amendments of Vietnam's Penal Code provided Nduta a lifeline as the nation exempted drug trafficking from facing the death sentence.

During a Supreme Court sitting in Hoh Chi Minh City, Nduta pleaded her case and cited that she was a trans-

sit passenger set to travel to Laos, a neighbouring Asian Country.

She indicated that she was arrested after a connecting flight was delayed while in possession of the drugs that she claimed were loaded without her knowledge.

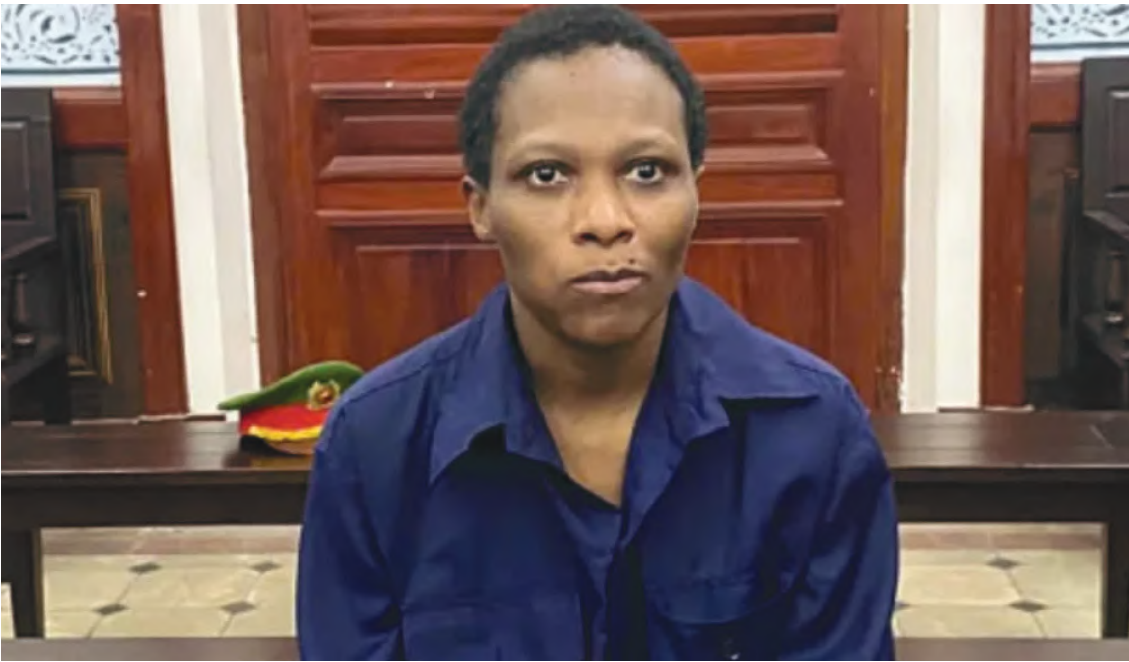
She pleaded with the Court for a reduced sentence in line with the recent changes in law. Upon review, the Supreme Court judges deemed that she was guilty but commuted the sentence from death penalty to life imprisonment.

Nduta will, however, still have an opportunity to seek clemency, whose powers are vested in the Vietnamese President.

Following her initial death sentence, the Kenyan government intervened by formally requesting a stay of execution.

Prime CS Musalia Mudavadi and co. followed up with more diplomatic channels to secure her acquittal.

In his latest statement, Mudavadi stated that his office is currently working to repatriate more than 1,000 Kenyans incarcerated abroad.



37-year-old Margaret Nduta.

The CS pleaded with Kenyans traveling abroad to be vigilant of a country's laws to avoid such incidents.

“Please, young Kenyans that are going out, remember that the moment you board a plane and the wheels have lifted, when you land in whatever country you’re going into, the laws that apply are not Kenyan laws,” Mudavadi said in March 2025.

EACC Recovers Sh50mn Railways Land In Mombasa Following Mediation

By: Ivan Ochieng
@themtkenyetimes

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) has recovered a 0.0873-hectare plot of land in Mombasa County valued at Sh50 million, grabbed from the Kenya Railways Corporation.

EACC announced the recovery of the land referenced as Mombasa/Block XXVI/1137 on Friday.

“The land, situated along Pwani Road near the junction of David Kayanda Road, was illegally allocated to Kizingo Apartments Limited before being transferred to Kizingo Condominium Limited in 2011,” the agency stated.

The property, originally owned by the East African Railways and Harbors Corporation, includes structures from the 1950s, such as a four-bed-

room house and a garage.

Despite the irregular allocation to a private entity, the property remained under the control of the Kenya Railways Corporation.

The EACC's investigation culminated in a recovery suit filed in 2020 at the Environment and Land Court in Mombasa.

The case was resolved through an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process, which led to a consent agreement adopted by Justice Stephen Kibunja.

“Kizingo Condominium Limited agreed to surrender the property to the Government of Kenya for registration in favour of the Kenya Railways Corporation,” the EACC confirmed.

The company is also required to hand over the original Certificate of Lease for cancellation and for the land registry to be rectified in favor of the Kenya Railways Corporation.



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Sports >> *The government has reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding the integrity of Kenyan sports through an enhanced anti-doping strategy, signalling intensified efforts in the fight against cheating in athletics.

Kenya Strengthen Anti-Doping Efforts Ahead Of World Championships



The government has reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding the integrity of Kenyan sports through an enhanced anti-doping strategy, signalling intensified efforts in the fight against cheating in athletics.

Speaking at a strategic meeting with the Enhanced Anti-Doping Steering Committee, Cabinet Secretary for Sports, Salim Mvurya, announced that the government would continue allocating annual funding to the Enhanced Anti-Doping Programme.

He emphasized the critical role the initiative plays in preventing Kenya from facing international suspension.

“The President remains firm in his dedication to a doping-free Kenya. This budget isn’t just about numbers, it’s about preserving our legacy in athletics,” said CS Mvurya.

Since its rollout, the programme has reached over 16,000 stakeholders and directly impacted more than 4,000 athletes through rigorous testing both during and outside competitions.

Mvurya praised the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya (ADAK) for advancing in key areas such as education, intelligence-led investigations, expanded testing, and sanction enforcement.

ADAK has already flagged 31 doping cases, with 23 successful-

ly prosecuted through collaboration with international partners.

Principal Secretary Elijah Mwangi pledged continued ministry support to ensure ADAK meets its local and global obligations.

The agency has set up a specialized intelligence unit to dismantle doping networks, including rogue coaches and medical personnel.

Athletics Kenya President Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Jackson Tuwei also introduced a new digital portal that links ADAK and the Athletics Integrity Unit.

The platform enhances monitoring of athlete performance, age verification, and real-time com-

pliance.

As Kenya prepares to host major continental competitions, the government has vowed to maintain clean sport and uphold global standards of fairness and excellence.

Ruth Chepngetich, the women’s marathon world record holder is one of the big names in the country who has been provisionally suspended by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) after testing positive for a banned substance.

Citizen Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Kinale Girls High School from the Central region stormed into the history books on Friday after clinching their first-ever Kenya Secondary Schools Sports Association (KSSSA) National Rugby 7s title emphatically

Kinale Girls Crowned New National 7s Champions In Historic Run



Kinale Girls High School from the Central region stormed into the history books on Friday after clinching their first-ever Kenya Secondary Schools Sports Association (KSSSA) National Rugby 7s title emphatically at the Bullring grounds in Kakamega County.

The Central region giants, under the guidance of head coach Allan Bush, defeated defending champions St. Joseph's Girls Kitale 19-5 in a hard-fought final to complete an unbeaten run and lift the coveted crown.

"We came here with one goal: to prove we belong at the top. These girls have worked tirelessly, sacrificed a lot, and today they've reaped the reward. This win is

for every little-known school that dares to dream big," said coach Bush after the final whistle.

Kinale were in a league of their own throughout the tournament, racking up a record 239 points across six matches and conceding just 10 points.

Their road to the title included a 47-0 victory over Igoji, a 52-0 win over Kimobo, and a 57-0 win over Shimba Hills in the group stages before easing past Eregi 38-00 and 28-5 against St Theresa in the semi-final.

In the final, St Joseph's took an early lead with an unconverted try, Kinale responded through Elizabeth Nafula, and Diana Wanjiku converted for a 7-5 lead at the

break.

Hellen Wanjiku and Elizabeth scored in the second half to seal Kinale's victory at 19-05.

"We knew St. Joseph's were experienced, but we believed in our system and stuck to the plan. This is just the beginning," added Bush.

With the win, Kinale, alongside St. Joseph's Kitale, Paul Harris, and St. Theresa, have booked their tickets to represent Kenya at the upcoming East Africa Secondary School Games, which begin on August 13 in Kakamega.

In the boys' category, St. Peter's Mumias edged Koyonzo High School 14-12 in a pulsating final to claim the title on home soil.

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Ambassador Dr. Venesia Williams A Global Voice For Prophetic Empowerment



By: Anila Bukhari

@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

Recognized for her humanitarian impact and dedication to global leadership, Dr. Williams has received numerous prestigious awards, including the 2024 Global Recognition Award, the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, the Global Iconic Changemaker of the 21st Century Award, and the Global Humanitarian Award in honor of International Nelson Mandela Day.

Through her widely followed platforms, including the Venesia Williams Empowers radio show, she shares prophetic insights and practical tools for success, inspiring audiences worldwide to embrace their God-given potential. As a founder of The Power of Love Ministry and the Empowering Women to Win Network, she has created spaces for women to rise in leadership, entrepreneurship, and faith-based impact.

Ambassador Dr. Venesia Williams is a visionary leader, prophetic empowerment catalyst, and global advocate for education and women's advancement. As the founder of Empowering Kingdom University, she is equipping faith-driven leaders worldwide through innovative graduate programs and leadership training that merge academic excellence with kingdom principles.

Dr. Williams serves as the International Executive Director of Graduate Programs and International Affairs at a leading Christian university in the United Kingdom, where she works closely with theological seminaries around the world to create pathways for accessible, high-quality education. Her passion for leadership development and mentoring has made her a sought-after empowerment coach, keynote speaker, and #1 international best-selling author.

Recognized for her humanitarian impact and dedication to global leadership, Dr. Williams has received numerous prestigious awards, including the 2024 Global Recognition Award, the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, the Global Iconic Changemaker of the 21st Century Award, and the Global Humanitarian Award in honor of International Nelson Mandela Day.

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Dr. Williams holds an MBA in Leadership and Business, a Doctor of Ministry in Christian Leadership and Philosophy, and multiple certifications in Christian Counseling, Educational Psychology, Female Leadership, and Youth Development. She has been recognized as a Distinguished Professor in Leadership, Psychology, and Christian Counseling, and is a Licensed International Chaplain.



Her commitment to empowering others through education, faith, and mentorship continues to transform lives globally. She can be reached through Empowering Kingdom Uni-

versity at empoweringkingdomglobal@gmail.com or via www.empoweringkingdom.com.

Connect with her on social media under Venesia Williams Empowers

or visit www.drvenesiawilliams.com to learn more about her work and upcoming initiatives.