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NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL CONFERENCE, 10TH ANNIVERSARY ROADSHOW
Gala Dinner
 WHERE: TWO RIVERS MALL - NAIROBI
 WHEN: 17-21ST SEPTEMBER 2025

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News>>Nyeri Town MP Maina Mathenge Elected Vice Chairperson Of The National Cohesion And Equal Opportunities Committee

P. 8. Nyeri Town Member of Parliament, Duncan Maina Mathenge has been elected unopposed as the Vice-Chairperson of the National Assembly Committee on Cohesion and Equal Opportunities.



News>>KWS Hosts Public Participation Forum In Nyeri on Proposed Park Fee Changes

P. 12. The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) continued to conduct public participation exercise in various parts of the country, seeking views on the proposed hike in entry fees.

EACC: Police, KRA Officers And Chiefs Most Corrupt

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) has released a new survey that has listed police officers as the most corrupt and unethical professionals.

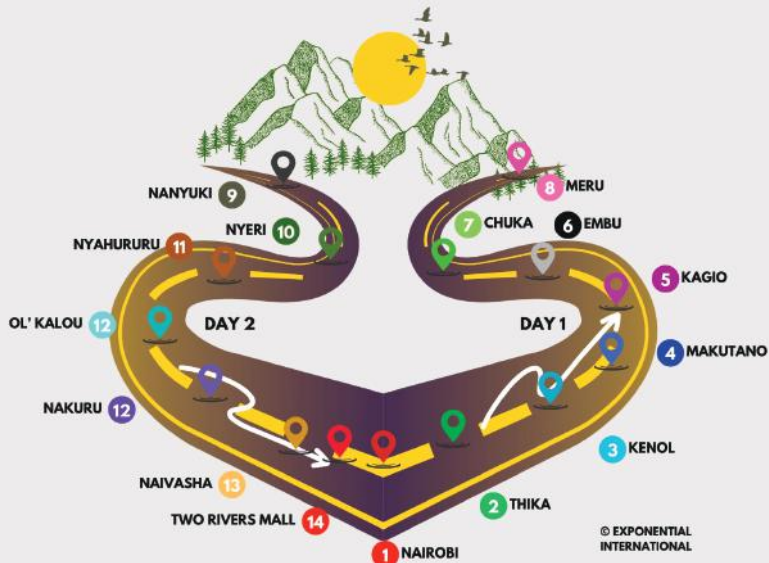
The survey released yesterday has established that corruption is one of the leading vices dogging the Kenyan employment sector. Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) officers were ranked second at 17.3%, Chiefs came third at 16.2%, county inspectorate officers (14.6%) and Lawyers (14.1%). EACC also noticed that bribes are most likely given in public service offices, as Kenyans are asked to pay bribes to access government services.



EACC CEO Abdi Mohamud during a past address. PHOTO|EACC

STORY ON PAGE 9

NAIROBI - MT KENYA CIRCUIT ROADSHOW ROADMAP (17-18 SEPT 2025)



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Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki Hosts MPs From Meru, Tharaka-Nithi And Embu Counties

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures


Members of Parliament from Meru, Embu and Tharaka-Nithi counties yesterday held a consultative meeting with Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki.

The working meeting, held at Irunduni in the DP's home county was attended by 19 Members of Parliament representing constituencies in the three counties.

During the meeting, the leaders reviewed progress of ongoing road, power, water, fresh produce markets, County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs), health and other key national government projects and programs in the three counties and agreed to work together to expedite completion of the works.



Editor's Desk



The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Ms. Mary Muthoni, has called for stronger, long-term breastfeeding support systems across all sectors, stressing that breastfeeding is a shared responsibility that cannot rest solely on mothers. Speaking at the national launch of World Breastfeeding Week 2025 at Rongo University, Migori County, Ms. Muthoni emphasized the vital roles of government institutions, employers, health workers, academic institutions, and communities in creating an enabling environment for breastfeeding. Held under the theme “Prioritize Breastfeeding – Create Sustainable Support Systems”, this year’s observance underscores the need for multisectoral partnerships that make it easier for mothers to breastfeed successfully. The event was hosted by Rongo University and attended by Migori Governor Dr. Ochillo Ayacko, alongside representatives from development partners, county governments, and civil society.



The Principal Secretary, State Department for Correctional Services, Dr. Salome Beacco yesterday paid a courtesy call on the Forestry Principal Secretary, Mr. Gitonga Mugambi. The engagement focused on identifying areas of strategic collaboration, particularly in seedling production, to support the implementation of the 15 Billion Tree Growing Programme. The two State Departments underscored the critical role that correctional facilities can play in expanding national capacity for seedling propagation. The Principal Secretaries reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to a whole-of-government

approach in advancing landscape and ecosystem restoration efforts across the country.



Principal Secretary for Science, Research and Innovation, Shaukat Abdulrazak has reaffirmed the Government’s readiness to support innovation and facilitate the scaling and commercialisation of new ideas. Speaking during a meeting with Vice Chancellors from over 30 universities in Nairobi, Shaukat urged all stakeholders to proactively engage in science, research, innovation, and commercialisation to deliver tangible benefits to Kenyan citizens. He announced the inclusion of 11 new universities in the Institutional Commercialisation (IS) Programme, noting that the expansion would strengthen Kenya’s innovation network and promote inclusivity. The PS also revealed plans to establish a Think-tank of leading intellectuals to guide and contribute to the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, citing innovation as key to solving national challenges, creating economic opportunities, and generating employment for the youth.



Taiwan’s Coco Fresh Tea and Fruit team, led by Founder and CEO Mr. Tommy Hung and Purchasing Manager Mr. Albert Yang visited Majani Plaza to explore business and partnership opportunities between the two companies. Hosted by the KTDA Marketing Department, the session focused on boosting global tea innovation, customer satisfaction and opening more market for KTDA teas.



Principal Secretary for Water and Sanitation Julius Korir yesterday joined by Heads of Departments chaired a meeting with external auditors from the Office of the Auditor General. The session focused on reviewing audit findings, strengthening internal controls, and aligning financial and project reporting with best practices and statutory requirements. The PS reaffirmed the State Department’s commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in public financial management. Through regular engagement with oversight institutions, the Ministry continues to ensure that public resources are used effectively in delivering water and sanitation services to all Kenyans.



A section of women Members of Parliament have commended President William Ruto for boosting the morale of the Harambee Stars during the ongoing 2024 African Nations Championship (CHAN). Addressing residents at Mukhuyu Primary School in Nambale Sub-county, the lawmakers; led by Vihiga MP Beatrice Adangala, Busia MP Catherine Omanyoo, and Nairobi MP Esther Passaris, hailed the President for recognizing and rewarding sporting talent, which they said contributed to Kenya’s historic win over two-time champions DR Congo. They noted that sports not only unite the country but also offer significant economic opportunities for talented youth across the nation.



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Judiciary Opens A Mobile Court In Lari Constituency

By: George Mugo
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The judiciary says the mobile court will be operated by judicial officials from Limuru law court, until the mobile court is converted into a court of law and officially opened by the chief justice.
- However, during the launch of the mobile court on Monday afternoon, locals applauded the Limuru Court Users Committee (CUC) and Lari MP Mburu Kahangara for pushing for the opening of the court in the area.



Judicial officials, national government officials, and the members of the public who had attended the launching of Lari mobile court in Kirenga area.



Magistrates courts registrar Caroline Kabucho speaking to participants who had attended the launching of Lari mobile court in Kirenga area..

The journey to have a court of law in Lari constituency in Kiambu county is nearly coming to an end.

This is occasioned by the judiciary to accept to open a mobile court at Kirenga play field in the area.

The judiciary says the mobile court will be operated by judicial officials from Limuru law court, until the mobile court is converted into a court of law and officially opened by the chief justice.

However, during the launch of the mobile court on Monday afternoon, locals applauded the Limuru Court Users Committee (CUC) and Lari MP Mburu Kahangara for pushing for the opening of the court in the area.

Locals say they have been traveling for long distances to attend cases they are involved in for a long time.

“We have been traveling for long distances to attend court cases in either Limuru, Githunguri or even Kiambu. We wake up at 3am or 4am when we

have cases in different courts so that one can prepare and leave” said Judith Wanjia, a Gachoire resident in Nyan-duma ward.

“This means that we use a lot of fare to attend to a case. At times we feel bad when you travel only for a case to last only seconds before a magistrate. When it’s mentioned and given a date of hearing” Wanjia added.

The event was attended by senior judiciary officials led by magistrates court registrar Caroline Kabucho.

Others were Kahangara, Limuru law court Principal magistrate Mirriam Mugure, senior resident magistrate Brenda Ofisi, Lari OCPD Emily Ngaruiya, CUC vice chairman Paul Ngugi, Kikuyu council of elders King Thiong’o wa Gitau among others.

Kahangara said locals have been asking for a court of law near them.

He said when he took over, locals proposed for construction of a court during a public participation, and re-

sulted in refurbishing a youth empowerment center that was built over 15 years and had never been used.

The legislator says the offices had been vandalised with doors, windows and other parts being stolen.

He says even though they have plans to build a court of law at Lari sub county headquarters in Kimende town, the mobile court will serve the purpose.

“When we held the public participation, I wrote to the judiciary several times until they responded. Today is a milestone. Having an operational mobile. I thank everyone who has participated to have this occasion today” Kahangara said.

Kahangara said they refurbished the court and built structures such as the accused dock, witness stand, cells, registry, magistrate offices and other facilities using the CDF kitty.

After handing over the project to the judiciary officials, Limuru principal

magistrate heard three new cases and issued dates when they will be heard in the mobile court.

Kabucho thanked the MP, locals, and the national government administration for attending the event, saying the big event will happen when a law court will be opened by the CJ.

Kabucho also urged the locals to support the judicial officials, as they serve them.

The CUC vice chairman who is also the sub county traders chairman has urged the lawyers to open advocate firms in the area, since locals look for lawyers in towns where the courts hearing their cases are.

“As a trader, the opening of a court, no matter its strength, calls for business opportunities. We are urging our traders to start opening food kiosks, cybers and even shops near the court since litigants will be their customers” Ngugi says.

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Nyeri Town MP Maina Mathenge Elected Vice Chairperson Of The National Cohesion And Equal Opportunities Committee

By: PSCU
@themkenyatimes

Nyeri Town Member of Parliament, Duncan Maina Mathenge has been elected unopposed as the Vice-Chairperson of the National Assembly Committee on Cohesion and Equal Opportunities.

The election, held at Parliament Buildings and presided over by Ms Lucy Kimathi, Head of the General Purposes Department, saw Mathenge become the sole nominee for the position.

He replaces the late Charles Ong'ondo Were, the former Kasipul MP, who was tragically killed in April this year in a shooting incident near the City Mortuary roundabout.

Announcing the results, Ms. Kimathi confirmed that Mathenge was the only candidate who submitted nomination papers in accordance with Parliamentary procedure.

"Hon. Mathenge is the only candidate who returned his papers for the position of Vice-Chairperson. I there-



Committee Chairperson, Adan Yussuf Haji congratulating his new Vice-Chairperson Duncan Maina Mathenge yesterday. Photos/Courtesy.

fore declare him duly elected," said Ms. Kimathi.

In his acceptance speech, Mathenge expressed gratitude to the Committee Members for their trust and pledged to serve with dedication.

"I thank Members for the confidence they have shown in me. I take this responsibility seriously and will rely on your continued support as I discharge my duties," he stated.

Committee Chairperson, Adan Yus-

suf Haji from Mandera West, led other Members in congratulating Mathenge, affirming that he was well suited for the role.

"Hon. Mathenge is not new to this Committee. He has served diligently and we are confident that he will meet, if not exceed, our expectations," said Haji.

Nakuru County MP Liza Chelule hailed the unity within the Committee, noting that the unanimous deci-



Nyeri Town MP Duncan Maina Mathenge

sion to support Mathenge reflected their commitment to cohesion.

"For the sake of unity, Members agreed there was no need for a contest. Settling on Hon. Mathenge was a collective decision," she said.

Baringo South MP Charles Kamuren also congratulated Mathenge, while paying tribute to the late Were.

"Today's election brings back fresh

memories of Hon. Were's untimely death. As a gesture of respect, it would be fitting for the Committee to visit his family during future field activities in Nyanza," he proposed.

Other Members who extended their congratulation messages included Dr. Joshua Oron, Dick Maungu, Agnes Pareyio and Oku Kaunya.

Former Garissa University College Principal Charged With Abuse Of Office

By: The DCI
@themkenyatimes

Following comprehensive investigations, former Garissa University College Principal Prof. Francis Jackim Mulaa was yesterday arraigned at the Milimani Law Courts on charges of Abuse of Office.

In the 2013-2014 financial year, Prof. Mulaa, who served as the Principal of Garissa University College, a constituent college of Moi University, conceived a project for the construction of a 750-student hostel block.

He presented this proposal to the University College Council, complete with architectural drawings. However, the plan sparked mixed reactions among various section heads due to the fact that the drawings had not received the necessary scrutiny

or approval from Government Architects at the Ministry of Public Works. Despite these concerns, Prof. Mulaa moved forward, appointing Archi-point Consulting Architects as the project managers and entering into a contract with them on April 24, 2014, bypassing the competitive procurement processes mandated by law and established guidelines.

Further, a representative of Archi-point Consulting Architects participated in the tender evaluation committee without an appropriate appointment letter, thereby holding two roles in the process, which contravenes the Public Procurement and Disposal Act.

Appearing before Isabellah Barasa at the Milimani Anti-Corruption Court, Prof. Mulaa faced charges of abuse of office contrary to section 46 as read with section 48(1) of the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act. He pleaded not guilty to the

charges and was released on a bond of Sh500,000, with an alternative option for cash bail set at Sh50,000.

The case is scheduled for a virtual pre-trial mention on August 19, 2025.

Former Garissa University College Principal Prof. Francis Jackim Mula



Police, KRA Officers And Chiefs Top Corrupt Professionals In Kenya - EACC

By: Nelson Ledama and Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) has released a new survey that has listed police officers as the most corrupt and unethical professionals.

The survey released yesterday has established that corruption is one of the leading vices dogging the Kenyan employment sector.

Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) officers were ranked second at 17.3%, Chiefs came third at 16.2%, county inspectorate officers (14.6%) and Lawyers (14.1%).

EACC also noticed that bribes are most likely given in public service offices, as Kenyans are asked to pay bribes to access government services.

Accessing a placement in the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) was found to have the highest likelihood of being asked for a bribe.

Other bribery-prone services include making applications for CDF bursaries, university admission, NSSF cards, SHIF cards, county inspectorate services and county and land survey services.

EACC also said that bribes are most likely encountered in government ministries led by Interior (47.8%), Health (19.7%), Treasury (5.8%), Lands and Housing (4.7%) and Education (4.1%).

The least corrupt offices include ICT & Digital Economy, Tourism, Cooperatives & MSMEs and Trade.

EACC chairperson Dkt. David Oginde said that Kenyans are paying for services that should be free of charge, revealing that the levels of employment in Kenya is at a dire state.

Corruption was ranked the second most pressing problem in Kenya behind unemployment.

Poverty, high cost of living, inadequate health care, poor infrastructure and poor leadership were also listed as the nation's leading problems.

Makueni County has emerged as the least bribery-prone county in Kenya with the 2024 National Ethics and Corruption Survey (NECS) reporting the likelihood of county officials asking for a bribe at 0.61 times.

Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) listed Kwale and Kilifi at the top of the chart among counties where officials were more than likely to demand bribes with an incidence index of 1.09 and 1.03 times respectively.

EACC noted there was a chance, at least once, officials in Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit, Tharaka Nithi, Kitui, Murang'a and Samburu would de-

Police, KRA Officers, and Chiefs Top List of Most Corrupt Professions in Kenya According to EACC Survey



mand a bribe.

In the report released EACC said the findings are based on a nationwide household survey that assessed bribery and corruption experiences across all 47 counties.

Taita Taveta and Kirinyaga counties recorded a bribery incidence index of 0.99, followed by Tana River with an index of 0.97.

Bomet and Mombasa both registered 0.95. Busia and Garissa each posted an index of 0.94, with Machakos, Meru, Uasin Gishu, and Baringo all coming in at 0.93.

Migori had an incidence of 0.91, while West Pokot and Laikipia registered 0.89. Kakamega, Nairobi, and Turkana were tied at 0.87, followed by Nyandarua at 0.86.

Kericho recorded a 0.84 incidence index, Kisii stood at 0.83, and Isiolo registered 0.81. Embu followed at 0.80, with Lamu at 0.79. Kiambu, Bungoma, and Nyeri recorded 0.78, 0.77, and 0.77, respectively.

Trans-Nzoia, Nandi, and Narok each had an index of 0.74, followed by Kisumu at 0.73. Nakuru and Siaya tied at 0.72, while Kajiado registered 0.69.

Elgeyo Marakwet top bribe payments

On the likelihood of paying bribes across Kenya's counties, the report ranked Elgeyo-Marakwet, Marsabit,

and Wajir at the top with a 100 percent prevalence rate, indicating that every respondent who encountered a bribery situation reported making a payment.

Murang'a followed closely at 94.9 percent, while Mandera, Turkana, and Kilifi registered 86.9 percent, 86.5 percent, and 85.3 percent respectively.

Laikipia (83.7 percent), West Pokot (82.1 percent), and Isiolo (81.3 percent) were also among the counties with high reported payment rates. Other counties with notably high prevalence included Homabay (80.7 percent), Garissa (80.4 percent), Kwale (80.4 percent), and Embu (80.3 percent).

Counties with mid-range prevalence included Lamu (79.0 percent), Machakos (77.6 percent), Meru (76.9 percent), Kirinyaga (76.7 percent), and Tana River (74.7 percent). Nyeri stood at 73.0 percent, Mombasa at 71.8 percent, and Nyamira at 70.9 percent.

Kitui (70.4 percent), Trans-Nzoia (69.9 percent), Kericho (69.5 percent), Nairobi (68.9 percent), and Taita Taveta (68.6 percent) formed part of the mid-lower bracket. Busia (68.1 percent), Nakuru (65.5 percent), Kakamega (64.8 percent), Samburu (64.7 percent), and Migori (63.4 percent) followed.

Sh4,878 bribe average

Uasin Gishu (62.9 percent), Baringo (61.8 percent), Bungoma (60.4 percent), and Kisii (57.6 percent) recorded lower prevalence rates, with Nandi (56.1 percent), Tharaka Nithi (51.3 percent), Siaya (50.7 percent), and Vihiga (49.9 percent) falling below the halfway mark.

Kiambu (48.8 percent), Kisumu (46.5 percent), Narok (44.6 percent), Bomet (42.8 percent), Kajiado (41.2 percent), and Nyandarua (40.7 percent) showed relatively low rates.

Makueni had the lowest reported bribe payment prevalence at 34.9 percent, making it the least likely county for residents to pay bribes when solicited.

The report highlights that despite a national decline in the average bribe — dropping to Sh4,878 from Sh11,625 in 2023 — corruption hotspots persist in key sectors, particularly in law enforcement, health services, and revenue collection. The police, KRA officers, and chiefs were listed as the top three groups most frequently implicated in bribery.

The EACC called for enhanced collaboration between national and county governments to sustain gains in the fight against corruption.

The NECS 2024 surveyed 5,960 households across all 47 counties analyzed across 600 clusters.

Worth Noting:

- Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) officers were ranked second at 17.3%, Chiefs came third at 16.2%, county inspectorate officers (14.6%) and Lawyers (14.1%).
- EACC also noticed that bribes are most likely given in public service offices, as Kenyans are asked to pay bribes to access government services.
- Accessing a placement in the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) was found to have the highest likelihood of being asked for a bribe.
- Other bribery-prone services include making applications for CDF bursaries, university admission, NSSF cards, SHIF cards, county inspectorate services and county and land survey services.
- EACC also said that bribes are most likely encountered in government ministries led by Interior (47.8%), Health (19.7%), Treasury (5.8%), Lands and Housing (4.7%) and Education (4.1%).

Kenya Participating In The Final Round Of The Global Plastic Treaty Negotiations In Geneva

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

Environment and Climate Change Principal Secretary Festus Ng'eno is leading the Kenyan delegation to the resumed fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5.2) on plastic pollution, taking place from yesterday to Thursday next week at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

The session, expected to be the final round of negotiations, seeks to finalize a legally binding international treaty to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment following UNEA Resolution 5/14 adopted in March 2022.

Kenya has been an active participant in the treaty negotiation process, adopting a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach. Through this inclusive model, Kenya has developed its national priorities for each INC session.

At INC-5.2, Kenya is advancing



key proposals including: the hosting of the treaty's Secretariat at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi; regulation of chemical additives and problematic plastics; elimination of legacy plastic waste; and the adoption of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

The country is also championing a just transition, access to adequate financing for developing countries, and the protection of human health biodiversity and environment from the impacts of plastic pollution.

Ahead of the Geneva meeting, Kenya participated in the Heads of Delegation (HoD) sessions and Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN) consultations held in Nairobi in July 2025. Despite progress, several contentious articles remain unresolved, including those on product scope, supply controls, health, and financial mechanisms. Kenya has proposed alternative texts on supply and health, emphasizing a One Health approach and the need for plastic products to meet all qualifying



criteria for regulation.

With the Ministerial Segment scheduled for Tuesday to Thursday next week, Kenya has reiterated its bid to host the treaty Secretariat; an initiative endorsed by President William Ruto during INC-3 in Nairobi.

However, other contenders, notably Switzerland, have also expressed interest.

As negotiations enter their final phase, Kenya remains firm in its commitment to securing a robust treaty

that delivers environmental protection, social equity, and sustainable development for all.

The PS is accompanied by Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations Office in Geneva, James Waweru; Director for Multilateral Environmental Agreements Ms. Linda Kosgei, NEMA Director General Mamo B. Mamo, Head of Legal Unit in the Ministry Ms. Linah Meeme, among others.



Take Your Electorate Responsibility Seriously, Mudavadi Tells Malava Residents

By: OPCS Press Service

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Mudavadi told the voters as they prepare to elect a new MP following the death of their legislator early this year, they should reflect on which kind of leader Malava deserves.
- “Reflect as on the qualities of the leader you are looking for. Think critically on who is this person who will manage your affairs well and guard your CDF among other things that will help develop your area. Who is this person who will be the custodian of the education of your children? Think of an honest leader who will work with integrity while in office.” he said.
- Speaking during a meeting with over 4,000 teachers at Tande Secondary School, Mudavadi challenged the residents to vote wisely.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has urged the residents of Malava to treat the forthcoming by-election with the seriousness it deserves.

He has warned them against taking the electoral decision lightly, reminding them that they are the custodians of their future.

Mudavadi told the voters as they prepare to elect a new MP following the death of their legislator early this year, they should reflect on which kind of leader Malava deserves.

“Reflect as on the qualities of the leader you are looking for. Think critically on who is this person who will manage your affairs well and guard your CDF among other things that will help develop your area. Who is this person who will be the custodian of the education of your children? Think of an honest leader who will work with integrity while in office.” he said.

Speaking during a meeting with over 4,000 teachers at Tande Secondary School, Mudavadi challenged the residents to vote wisely.

He said neither him in person or any other person has a plan to endorse any candidate ahead of the by-election and challenged the residents to pick a leader of their choice.

“I have come to engage you because it is a moment of critical importance to the people of Malava, the people of Kakamega, the people of Western Kenya and Kenya as a nation. The leader you elect will not only be tasked to serve the people of Malava but also the leader will be tasked to legislate for Kenya.” Mudavadi posed.

“I am very consistent about the leader-

ship of Malava. I want to tell you I am not here to support anybody. You will wait for a very long time for me to pronounce myself on any candidate. Elect your own leader,” noted the Prime CS.

Mudavadi reflected on the track record of the late MP Malulu Injendi who was a member of the ANC party then led by him, and urged the electorate to remain discerning and deliberate as they prepare to choose a new representative.

At the same time, he called on the residents to discard clan politics saying it was an outdated way of doing politics.

“Over the past few days, I have en-

gaged chairmen of all the clans from Malava, the elders of the society, MCAs both elected and nominated, administrators, and today I am with you the teachers who are opinion shapers armed with knowledge since you are intellectuals. All is in the interest of Malava and the people of Malava.” said Mudavadi.

“This is not the time to evaluate a leader on the prism of clans. Let us rise above our traditional way of thinking about heritage when determining who become our leaders.” he added.

Mudavadi called on the people of Western Kenya to resist divisive rheto-

ric, noting that unity of purpose is essential for development.

“We need to integrate and move away from pettiness that has been dividing us especially through lies that are being peddled everyday making us to lose focus on the ultimate goal.” he warned.

“We should stop selling ourselves short and realize that we are guilty amongst ourselves since we don’t take time to analyze our political trends seriously. We should stop being entrenched in our narrow local scope and begin seeing the bigger picture as a region.” Mudavadi posed.

The Prime CS said it was challenging in Africa to defeat an African president seeking reelection, and therefore, people must be aware of the reality.

He asserted that it will be “very difficult” to defeat President William Ruto in the 2027 general elections, citing the president’s growing political influence and broad-based alliances.

“A good example is here at home, where former presidents have won reelection, from the late Mzee Daniel Arap Moi, who weathered a formidable opposition to win two terms after serving for 14 years in a single term,” said Mudavadi.

He noted that the reelection of the late Mwai Kibaki in 2007 and later that of the former President Uhuru Kenyatta were a testament that defeating an incumbent was not easily possible.

“I campaigned with the opposition leader, Raila Odinga, in 2017, and I formed the National Super Alliance (NASA) political formation. We campaigned across the country saying Nasa hao, but eventually, we were the ones trounced,” said Mudavadi.

Mudavadi asked the people of Malava and the Western region to join hands with the government so that they enjoy the development of roads, schools, and water projects in the region.



KWS Hosts Public Participation Forum In Nyeri On Proposed Park Fee Changes

By: Rodgers Wagura
 @themtkenyatimes

The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) continued to conduct public participation exercise in various parts of the country, seeking views on the proposed hike in entry fees.

This was the first such engagement in nearly two decades, marking a renewed effort by KWS to involve citizens in the management and future of Kenya's national parks and reserves. The last increase review was done in 2007.

In Nyeri County, the exercise was held at the Nyeri Cultural Centre, in Nyeri town and brought together stakeholders from across the region, including youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), conservationists, investors, and community leaders. The inclusive event aimed to balance the need for sustainable revenue for park maintenance with accessibility and affordability for Kenyan citizens.

One of the most applauded proposals was the exemption of persons with disabilities from park entry fees. "It's free for them. We want inclusivity, not just in access, but in dignity," a senior KWS official said. The initiative also includes the provision of sign language interpreters at park facilities to better serve the deaf community. Among those present was Rahab Wairima, Chairperson of the Nyeri County Deaf Association, who lauded KWS for taking concrete steps to accommodate PWDs.

Ms Lucy Muita, the Senior Assistant Director of KWS in charge of the Mountain Conservation Area, praised the process for its openness and relevance. "We are happy that proposals are being tabled and stakeholders are being heard. This kind of participation strengthens our conservation mission and ensures everyone has a say in how our natural heritage is managed," she said.

The proposals discussed included the categorization of parks and reserves into different tiers, with a view to introducing flexible and realistic entry fees. This approach would allow both domestic and international tourists to enjoy wildlife experiences tailored to different budgets.

Children under five and Kenyans aged seventy and above will continue to access parks for free.

Participants also voiced concerns about infrastructure within the parks. Key suggestions included increasing the number of patrol vehicles, improving road networks, and upgrading visitor facilities to improve safety and the overall tourism experience.

Henry, a long-time conservation investor from Mweiga and the oldest private stakeholder in the Aberdare ecosystem, emphasized the need for



Senior Assistant Director of KWS in charge of the Mountain Conservation Area, Ms Lucy Muita addressing journalists yesterday at Cultural Center in Nyeri town during public participation forum on Wildlife conservation and management (fees) regulations, 2025. Photo/Joseph King'ori.

Worth Noting:

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quality services. "Tourists come to see quality wildlife. We must charge appropriately, but ensure that services match what we promise," he noted.

There were strong calls for youth inclusion beyond casual labour, with speakers urging KWS to provide training and leadership opportunities

in conservation for young people. While the fee review was a key agenda, the forum also highlighted broader environmental goals, including restoration and sustainability efforts. Many attendees agreed that current park fees no longer match the realities of conservation demands or the true value of Kenya's natural re-

sources. In the nationwide forums, KWS is committing to keep the process transparent, inclusive, and aligned with the long-term sustainability of Kenya's parks.



Mr Karuga, a Nyeri town based entrepreneur giving his views on Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) fee increase during yesterday's Public Participation exercise at Nyeri Cultural Centre that was attended by dozens of stakeholders. Photo/Joseph King'ori.

Party Politics Taking Shape In Nakuru Ahead Of 2027 Elections

By: Wanjiru Macharia

@themtkenyatimes

Party politics in Nakuru is taking shape way ahead of the 2027 general elections with politicians allied to Kenya Kwanza's United Democratic Alliance (UDA) forging a joint force against perceived opponents.

This became evident during 3-day visit by Deputy President Kithure Kindiki when a high-powered brigade de-campaigned party members pledging allegiance to the opposition.

While urging residents to give President William Ruto and Governor Susan Kihika two terms in office, the politicians spoke ill of Nakuru Senator, Tabitha Karanja who fell out with the current administration.

Most of the speakers who included National Assembly Speaker, Kimani Ichung'wah, MPS Sabina Chege, nominated, Liza Chelule, Nakuru Woman Representative and her Kericho counterpart Beatrice Kemei among others openly urged constituents to vote in Nakuru Town East

MP, David Gikaria as the next Nakuru senator.

This is contrary to the rallying call by the brigade including the DP to give UDA politicians more terms as Njoro MP, Charity Kathambi and Chelule are going for a third term.

Most of the speakers also warned residents against electing a 2027 gubernatorial candidate for Nakuru, calling him all manner of things and accusing him of embezzling public funds.

"I want to first of all apologize to Nakuru residents for bringing them Senatorial candidate who has not performed as per my expectation or to the required standards," said Governor Susan Kihika during an economic empowerment Initiative event presided over by DP Kindiki.

The governor listed her development projects while at the same time promising to implement stalled ones such as the Rift Valley Regional Trauma Center and urged residents to re-elect her to accomplish her 10-year goal.

During the tour, the politicians dished out goodies including especially for boda boda riders who received helmets, reflectors and motorbikes.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki

Each of the MPs present dished out between Sh100,000 and Sh200,000 at each of the three functions with National Assembly majority leader, Ichung'wah topping the list with Sh500,000 for each sub-county visited.

President Ruto sent his contribution

of Sh3 million for each event while DP Kindiki dished gave his share of Sh1.2 million for each sub-county.

During the three days, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Kindiki presided over three economic empowerment initiative events in Nakuru, two in Baringo and one in Laikipia and Meru

respectively.

He maintained that the government would continue supporting development at the grassroots through financial support despite the distractions from the opposition.

IMCTC Launches A Specialized Training Course On Countering Terrorism Financing And Money Laundering In Nairobi

By: Aoma Keziah

@themtkenyatimes

In the presence of Major General John Nkoimo, General Officer Commanding Central Command (GOC) representing His Excellency the Chief of Defence Forces of the Republic of Kenya, Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC) has launched a five-day specialized training course titled "Countering Terrorism Financing and Money Laundering Foundational Level," as part of the strategic initiative "Capacity" aimed at enhancing the efficiency of security and regulatory agencies in member states and strengthening their institutional capacities to counter financial crimes related to terrorism in Nairobi.

In his remarks during the open-

ing ceremony, the GOC of Kenya's Central Command emphasized the importance of collective action in countering the growing threats of terrorism financing.

"The course organized and supervised by IMCTC represents a practical step towards strengthening the capabilities of Kenyan institutions in this field. Countering terrorism financing is a collective commitment that can only be achieved through integrated institutional coordination and effective international cooperation," he stated.

He further stressed that this training course organized by IMCTC is a strategic investment in building skills, strengthening networks, and empowering institutions against illicit financial flows that fuel terrorist groups.

The course also aims to enable participants to understand the national and international legal frameworks

related to countering terrorism financing and money laundering, further improve their skills in using modern techniques to analyze financial data and detect suspicious activities, and develop mechanisms for cooperation and information sharing among local and international entities.

This course's participants include representatives from legislative and executive bodies, financial and regulatory institutions, and civil society organizations, as it will address seven main themes, including: the legal framework; sources and means of terrorism financing; financial analysis and detection mechanisms; international and regional cooperation; prevention strategies, awareness and training programs, and promoting a culture of reporting suspicious activities.

The course comes as part of a series of training programs conducted



In picture, Major General John Nkoimo, General Officer Commanding Central Command (GOC) representing the Chief of Defence Forces of the Republic of Kenya, during the launch in Nairobi.

by IMCTC in member states to support their efforts to counter terrorism threats and cross-border crime, in line with international best practices

and standards, and to enhance the integration of roles between different sectors to address those challenges.

14 POEMS

Winners Never Quit; And Quitters Never Win



introspection.

Be optimistic always, up the escalator to go,
Never be pessimistic to, Proceed in the
success row.

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

Problems and hurdles, you can find everywhere,
They help to achieve, name and fame to wear.
Do keep the problems, far and far away.
And concentrate, on your routine any way.

Take a step at a time, for utmost perfection,
With confidence, Positive attitude with

Guards Of Glory – The Pride OF The Motherland



Through trials faced, in eight years' span,
They've seen the dawn of victory's plan.

The youth's own voices in verse proclaim,
A love for the homeland, an endless flame.
United with the Guard, the nation's dream,
New Uzbekistan – the forward stream.

In every step, in every breath they bear,
Service to homeland – a laurel rare.
Eight glorious years, O Guard, stand tall,
May peace and safety bless us all!

Otanazarov Kamronbek
student of the Faculty of Social-Economic
sciences, direction of Jurisprudence,
Urgench State University named after Abu
Rayhon Beruni

Eight proud years the Guard has made its stand,
The Motherland's shield, the strength of the
land.

With hearts aflame in loyal embrace,
The National Guard holds honor and grace.

Through mountain heights and meadows wide,
Their light of safety shines far and wide.
With youth they march, step firm and true,
To serve the homeland – the highest due.

With courage bright and watchful eyes,
The Guards keep guard beneath our skies.

Varshith



Then we see our dreams come real

We celebrate all festivals, with unity
Respecting each other
We value everyone's ideas, feelings, and
emotions too,
Because unity is the key, to success for me
and you.

Let's work for unity, and work as one,
Together we'll achieve success,
With unity and love, we'll shine so bright,
And our bond will grow well

Varshith
7 B
Govt High school
Melpattampakkam
Cuddalore district
tamil nadu , India

Unity is important for all
any group or team,
It's essential for all,
It creates a bond
It brings happiness,
It gives peace of mind,
It gives satisfaction and joy,
We can't find anywhere else

We should always remember,
unity is strength,
This bond is unbreakable,
Unity means togetherness,
We stand as one,

Happiness starts with H . Why does mine start with U?



air, water, food and shelter.

But I can't survive without you
You are the essence of my life.

I feel comfortable and happy
When you are with me.

You are my favourite and happiness
You maximize my energy level.

I am Rajesh Kanna B N
B T Asst,
From Government Model High School, Tirur.
Tiruvallur District.
Tamil Nadu, India.

You are very special to me
You made me shine and achieve.

Without you I am zero
With you I am you(E)uro.

You nurture and guide me
To look forward as a part of us .

I can survive even the absence of

Flowers



day.

My garden is full, of colourful flowers
A rainbow of flowers, that dance in the
light,
They bring happiness, to a sad mind,
Flowers fill my heart with joy,

I love all flowers, in every way
Their beauty and fragrance, bring love and
peace

S. Rakshitha
Class 7B
GOVT High school
Melpattampakkam
Cuddalore district
Tamil Nadu ,India

Flowers are good and beautiful to see,
Their smell is sweet, and fills the air
My favorite flowers are rose and jasmine
Their scent and beauty, bring joy to me

Honey bees visit flowers, to collect nectar
And make honey that's sweet,
All flowers are lovely, and pretty in their
own way,
Each one unique, and beautiful, every single

Trees And Men



Man is killing the trees, that give them life and
everything.

Men are selfish and greedy,
Their mind is so small,
Cutting down trees, for their own selfish gain
But trees are important, for the earth and
human
It controls soil erosion,
and helping bring rainfall

Men take all the benefits, from trees
And yet they are ungrateful,
cutting them down with a cruel hand,
Their actions speak loud, but the trees give
them life,

Sivamani
7B
GOVT High school
Melpattampakkam
Cuddalore district
Tamil Nadu, India

Trees give fruits, flowers, and medicine too,
Shade and shelter, and even help bring rain
But what do men give to trees,
in return for all they share?
Nothing, absolutely nothing
But he harms and destroys nature

Men cut down trees, without any sympathy or
care,
Using axes made from trees, with no care and
concern
They cut them down, though trees do all good

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BUSINESS

Mairura Foundation Eases Orthopedic Burden In Gusii



By: Elizabeth Angira

The burden of orthopedic conditions in the Gusii region is significant, yet access to care remains limited. Some procedures, when done privately, can cost over a million shillings, making them unaffordable for many residents.

A wave of hope has swept through Nyanchwa Adventist Mission Hospital, as hundreds of patients, many grappling with years of untreated orthopedic conditions, gathered for a transformative medical camp.

Dr. Edward Mairura, a Dallas-based orthopedic surgeon, under the umbrella of the Mairura Foundation, spearheads the camp, now in its second year.

Accompanied by 22 volunteers from the United States, Dr. Mairura and his team arrived with one mission: to improve lives by offering quality orthopedic care to underserved communities in Kisii County.

The team—a diverse mix of orthopedic specialists, hand surgeons, nurses, physician assistants, and medical sales professionals—began their clinical duties immediately, attending to patients with bone fractures, joint pain, deformities, and trauma-related injuries often sustained through motorcycle accidents, locally referred to as picky-pickies.

“Our goal is simple—to make the world a better place by increasing access to healthcare and reducing health disparities,” said Dr. Mairura.

He said that the camp allows us to offer services like non-surgical orthopedic treatments, fracture management, and even elective joint replacements for hips and knees.

Overwhelming Response

Last year’s camp at Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital saw more than 1,000 patients treated and around 40 surgeries conducted. This year, expectations are higher. With over 1,500 patients already booked, and a bigger team on the ground, the foundation anticipates performing between 40 to 50 surgeries.

While orthopedic ailments are often associated with aging, Dr. Mairura noted that the burden spans all ages. “We just finished our ward rounds and saw patients as young as 19 with chronic joint issues. It’s not just the elderly who suffer,” he added.

A Community in Need

Duncan Mosioma, the Chief Executive Officer of Nyamchwa Adventist Mission Hospital, emphasized the



importance of the camp to the local population.

“The burden of orthopedic conditions in our region is huge, yet access to care is limited. Some procedures cost over a million shillings when done privately. That’s out of reach for most of our people,” said Mosioma.

He attributed the increasing number of cases to poor health-seeking behavior, lifestyle diseases, and financial constraints.

“Most people delay seeking care due to cost. Today it’s one patient, tomorrow it’s three, and before long, the numbers surge,” he explained.

Through this partnership, patients are spared the high costs typically associated with consultations, x-rays, and surgeries. “Thanks to our international friends, much of that cost is absorbed. Their time, skills, and goodwill make this possible,” Mosioma said.

oma said.

Beyond the Camp: A Vision for Lasting Change

While the medical camp brings immediate relief, both the Mairura Foundation and the hospital have a broader vision. Kisii lacks a specialized orthopedic and spine care facility, forcing patients to travel long distances for treatment.

“Our dream is to set up a permanent orthopedic and spine care center right here. This partnership has given us the push we need,” Mosioma revealed. “The hospital is here to serve people, and we are committed to continuing care even after the camp ends.”

Despite the overwhelming patient numbers, the CEO assured that everyone would be attended to in due course. “We want our people to know the hospital is not going anywhere.

This is our calling from God.”

A Global Challenge, A Local Solution

Dr. Mairura reflected on the broader healthcare landscape, noting that even in the U.S., access to care remains a challenge.

“Every country is trying to improve how they deliver healthcare to their citizens. This is our way of giving back by bringing some of what works in the U.S. to communities like Kisii.”

Mosioma said that the medical camp is not just about treatment—it is a model of compassion, service, and global solidarity.

“As lines continue to grow outside the mission hospital, what stands clear is this: healing is not just in the medicine, but also in the hands that offer it freely,” he said.

Worth Noting:

- Dr. Edward Mairura, a Dallas-based orthopedic surgeon, under the umbrella of the Mairura Foundation, spearheads the camp, now in its second year.

- Accompanied by 22 volunteers from the United States, Dr. Mairura and his team arrived with one mission: to improve lives by offering quality orthopedic care to underserved communities in Kisii County.

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Teaching Foreign Language Skills In Inclusive Education: Approaches, Challenges, And Opportunities



By: **Nuriddinov Muhammad Yasin Nuriddinovich**

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

Abstract

Inclusive education aims to provide equal learning opportunities for all students, including those with special educational needs (SEN). Teaching foreign languages in inclusive classrooms requires specific pedagogical skills and adaptive methods to ensure effective learning for diverse learners. This paper explores the core competencies required for teaching foreign languages inclusively, presents findings from recent studies and practical observations, and discusses the implications for teachers and policymakers.

Keywords: Inclusive education, foreign language teaching, special educational needs, teaching skills, inclusive pedagogy.

Introduction

In recent years, inclusive education has gained global recognition as a fundamental approach to achieving equity in education. The concept involves integrating students with diverse abilities, including those with physical, sensory, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, into mainstream classrooms. While inclusive education has been widely studied in the context of general subjects, teaching foreign languages in inclusive settings remains underexplored.

Foreign language acquisition involves complex skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing, which can present unique challenges for students with SEN. Therefore, foreign language teachers need to develop specific skills to address the diverse needs of learners in inclusive classrooms. This paper aims to examine the essential teaching competencies, highlight practical strategies, and analyze challenges and outcomes associated with teaching foreign languages in inclusive contexts.

Methods

This study employed a mixed-methods research design integrating qualitative, quantitative, and action research elements to comprehensively investigate effective strategies and

skills for teaching foreign languages in inclusive classrooms.

1. Research Design

The research combined:

Qualitative approach (interviews, observations, document analysis)

Quantitative approach (student surveys and basic descriptive statistics)

Case study method to analyze real-life classroom practices

Action research elements, where teachers experimented with adaptive techniques and reflected on their effectiveness.

2. Participants

The participants included:

15 foreign language teachers from inclusive schools (urban and rural)

5 inclusive education experts

3 school administrators

50 students, both with and without special educational needs (SEN)

Purposive sampling was used to select teachers with at least 2 years of experience working in inclusive classrooms.

3. Data Collection Tools

To ensure triangulation, multiple instruments were used:

Semi-structured interviews with teachers, experts, and administrators explored daily teaching practices, perceived challenges, and training needs.

Classroom observations (10 lessons) were carried out using an observation checklist focusing on differentiation strategies, assistive technology use, teacher-student interactions, and student engagement.

Questionnaire surveys were given to students to collect quantitative data on their attitudes toward foreign language learning in inclusive settings, difficulties faced, and suggestions.

Document analysis of lesson plans, teaching materials, and school inclusion policies was conducted to examine how inclusivity is planned and practiced.

Teacher reflective journals were analyzed to capture ongoing self-assessments during the action research cycles.

4. Action Research Cycle

A small-scale action research component was integrated. Teachers implemented new inclusive teaching strategies (e.g., more visuals, peer tutoring, ICT tools) for four weeks and kept journals about what worked well and what needed improvement. Follow-up interviews were conducted to discuss the results.

5. Data Analysis

Qualitative data (interviews, journals, observations) were analyzed thematically using open coding and thematic categorization.

Quantitative data from student surveys were analyzed descriptively using frequency and percentage analysis to identify trends.

Triangulation was employed to compare findings from multiple data sources for validity and reliability.

6. Ethical Considerations

Informed consent was obtained from all participants, with parental consent for students under 18.

Anonymity and confidentiality were ensured by using pseudonyms.

Participants were informed of their right to withdraw at any stage without penalty.

The study adhered to international ethical standards for educational research.

7. Limitations

The study was limited by:

The relatively small sample size.

Short action research duration.

Geographic focus on one region. However, the mixed methods and diverse data sources strengthened the reliability and relevance of the results.

Results

The results reveal that effective foreign language teaching in inclusive settings depends on several core competencies and strategies:

Differentiated Instruction: Teachers frequently employ differentiated tasks and materials to cater to varying language proficiency levels and learning needs. For example, visual aids, simplified texts, and multi-sensory activities help students with learning difficulties.

Collaborative Teaching: Many teachers emphasized the importance of teamwork with special education teachers or teaching assistants to design and deliver adaptive lessons.

Use of Assistive Technology: Tools such as speech-to-text applications, audio books, and language learning apps proved beneficial for students with hearing or visual impairments.

Positive Classroom Environment: Establishing an inclusive and supportive atmosphere was seen as vital for encouraging students' active participation and reducing anxiety related to language learning.

Professional Development Needs: Teachers highlighted a lack of specialized training in inclusive foreign



language teaching. Most participants expressed a desire for more workshops, practical resources, and guidelines.

Student Engagement and Progress: Despite initial challenges, many teachers reported noticeable improvements in students' communication skills and self-confidence when inclusive practices were effectively implemented.

Discussion

The findings of this study highlight several important implications for teaching foreign languages in inclusive settings. Firstly, differentiated instruction remains a cornerstone of inclusive pedagogy, yet it demands considerable time and creativity from teachers. Designing tasks that simultaneously challenge advanced learners and support students with SEN can be complex.

Secondly, collaboration between mainstream and special education teachers is crucial but often constrained by limited staff and resources. Schools need to establish clear frameworks that promote co-teaching and shared responsibility for inclusive language lessons.

The integration of assistive technologies is a promising area that enhances access to foreign language learning for students with physical and sensory disabilities. However, teachers require proper training and technical support to effectively integrate such tools into daily lessons.

A welcoming and respectful classroom climate motivates all students to engage with the foreign language actively. Positive peer interactions also play a significant role in supporting students with SEN.

Nevertheless, the study also uncovers systemic challenges. Many teachers feel underprepared due to insufficient pre-service and in-service training on inclusive practices specific to foreign language education. This indicates a need for teacher education programs to integrate modules focus-

ing on inclusive language pedagogy.

Lastly, the observed positive outcomes, such as improved communication skills and self-esteem among students, demonstrate that inclusive foreign language teaching can be both feasible and rewarding when appropriate methods and supports are in place.

Conclusion

Teaching foreign languages in inclusive settings requires a unique blend of pedagogical skills, flexibility, and collaboration. While teachers face notable challenges, the benefits for students with and without SEN are significant. To realize the full potential of inclusive foreign language education, ongoing teacher training, institutional support, and investment in assistive technologies are essential. Future research could further explore effective models of inclusive language teaching and evaluate long-term student outcomes.

My name is Nuriddinov Muhammad Yasin Nuriddinovich, born on March 2, 2003. I am currently a teacher of English Language and Literature and a first-year Master's degree student.

I have authored more than 10 scientific articles in the field of English studies and education. I was a participant in the national scientific-practical conference titled "The Eastern Renaissance: Theoretical and Practical Significance of History, Education and Upbringing."

In addition to my academic activities, I took part in the second season of the "Young Politicians" league organized by the UzLiDeP party, which fostered my interest in leadership and civic engagement.

I am also the founder and president of the "Renaissance Leaders Academy", a leadership school dedicated to empowering youth and nurturing future leaders.

Planned Poverty And The Death Of Democracy: Kenya's Ballot Box Illusion

By: Maina Wahome
 @themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- What ideology makes one build a multi-billion-shilling expressway that bypasses starving slums? What belief system justifies paying MPs millions while students in most parts of Kenya share tattered textbooks in overcrowded classes? Their true manifesto is power for power's sake.
- Democracy here is not a tool for nation-building; it is a trick. A five-year illusion. A recurring theatre of ballot boxes, broken promises, and borrowed hope.
- They chant "bottom-up" while practicing the "up-up model" where the rich appoint the rich, and the poor remain spectators. They shout about "mama mboga" and "boda boda empowerment," but how many of those mothers and riders are truly empowered? Most still survive on spoiled beans and watery rice, hoping for a better tomorrow that never comes.

Democracy In Kenya Is A Failed Illusion.

It no longer represents people's power but has devolved into a tool of political manipulation and survivalist theatrics. Every five years, the public is summoned to participate in the sacred ritual of voting. However, the outcome is almost always the same: broken promises, misappropriated public funds, and stagnant national progress. Democracy here serves the political class, not the people. It is not a mechanism for transformation, but a game of ethnic calculations, financial muscle, and populist deceit. Institutions are weaponized, opposition voices are crushed or co-opted, and the masses are kept in cyclical poverty to remain exploitable.

Integrity is the software of leadership, just as ideology is the Software of politics.

Without either, what remains is the hardware of power, brute control without direction, hollow governance without values. Democracy, in its ideal form, is meant to be the operating system that runs on those two foundations. However, in Kenya, what we call "democracy" is little more than a beautifully packaged malware, seductive in appearance, dangerous in effect. It infects every institution, corrupts every promise, and paralyzes any chance of meaningful progress.

Kenyan leaders lack the code of integrity and do not ascribe to any Guiding ideology.

What ideology makes one build a multi-billion-shilling expressway that bypasses starving slums? What belief system justifies paying MPs millions while students in most parts of Kenya share tattered textbooks in overcrowded classes? Their true manifesto is power for power's sake.

Democracy here is not a tool for nation-building; it is a trick. A five-year illusion. A recurring theatre of ballot boxes, broken promises, and borrowed hope.

They come armed with slogans: "kazi ni kazi." However, their children work in white-collar offices and only see dust in movies.

They chant "bottom-up" while practicing the "up-up model" where the rich appoint the rich, and the poor remain spectators. They shout about "mama mboga" and "boda boda empowerment," but how many of those mothers and riders are truly empowered? Most still survive on spoiled beans and watery rice, hoping for a better tomorrow that never comes.

However, these misleaders consistently leave behind scandals, ghost workers, ghost projects, and a population starving for dignity and direction.

The voters they deceive are too hungry to protest and too exhausted to organize until another fraudulent manifesto is dangled before them like a bone before a starving dog. When they say "No more borrowing," they mean "Until the next loan matures." When they say "Freedom is here,"

they mean "Until the next protest is gassed, banned, and silenced."

The most calculated tool of control is poverty. Poverty is a planned entity.

The less you give them, the more grateful they become when you toss them crumbs. It is not merely the accidental result of bad policy or unfortunate economics; no, it is deliberately sustained, strategically deployed, and meticulously managed.

The hungry are easier to control and rule. The poor do not ask too many questions. Their struggle to survive from sunrise to sunset leaves them no time to interrogate power. It is not thought that drives their choices; it is emptiness, the gnawing void in their stomachs that overrides all ideology, logic, or long-term vision.

During campaigns, the crowds in Kenya are jubilant, chaotic, stampeding for a single kilo of unga, petty cash, or a half-litre of cooking oil, handed out in the name of "political generosity." Observe them cheer for motorcades and smile at empty promises during campaigns. These are not citizens making democratic decisions. These are starving bodies, responding not to ideas but to instinct. Their minds have been hijacked by hunger. Their dignity eroded by deliberate deprivation.

It Is Easier To Rule A Nation Of Need Than A Nation Of Thinkers.

This truth is not lost on the political elite. As Robert Greene wittingly

observes in *The 48 Laws of Power*, "Keep others dependent on you." That is not just a tactical suggestion; it is the unspoken blueprint for governance across much of Africa. Our leaders have read it, digested it, and applied it to perfection. They understand that the more citizens suffer, the more they cling.

That is why our systems are not designed to lift people out of poverty. They are designed to trap them within it, permanently dependent, loyally submissive, hopelessly distracted. Poverty becomes a leash, hunger the collar, and a handout the only pat on the head they'll ever receive.

Keep them needy, and they will never fight back.

It is not by coincidence that every five years, the promises resurface: roads, jobs, health care, education. However, five years later, it is the same song, only now sung to hungrier ears. Kenya's leaders have mastered the art of ruling the poor by pretending to rescue them. However, they never rescue them because the moment the masses are full and free, they will begin to see. If they see, they will begin to question, and if they question, they will begin to resist. So they must be kept busy not with progress but with survival. That is why poverty is not a failure of leadership.

IT IS THE SUCCESS OF A STRATEGY.

DNA Party Partners With KIKAO Youth Movement For Empowerment Ahead Of Elections

By: Cynthia Masibo
 @themkenyatimes

In a bold move to amplify youth voices in Kenya's political arena, the Democratic National Alliance (DNA) has officially partnered with the KIKAO Youth Movement, marking the beginning of a countrywide grassroots campaign aimed at political education, mobilization, and leadership building ahead of the 2027 General Election.

Speaking during the launch at the party's headquarters, DNA Secretary General Dr. Barrack Muluka declared the birth of the DNA KIKAO Movement, a joint platform designed to mobilize young people across the nation. He said the initiative would travel "the length and breadth of this country" as a rallying call to reclaim political power through democratic means.

"This is the party of young people," said Dr. Muluka. "Others like myself are here to mentor and prepare a new generation to lead this country into a great future."

Bright Shitemi, Chairperson of KIKAO, noted that their journey began in 2004 during the anti-finance protests and has since grown to represent youth across 40 counties. He described DNA as a true political home for young people one that listens, nurtures, and empowers.

"We no longer want to protest from the sidelines while decisions are made for us. We must organize, vote, and lead," said Shitemi. "We do this for every child learning in a collapsing classroom, for Rex Masai who was killed for speaking up, and for the many Kenyans without food, healthcare, or dignity. The time for power is now."

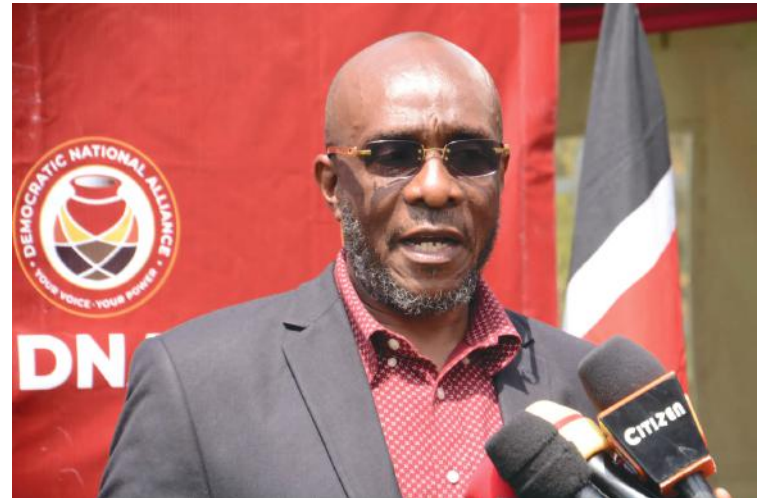
Shitemi emphasized that young people make up over 70% of Kenya's population and must seize the moment to bring change through the

ballot.

DNA Party Leader Godfrey Kanoti echoed the call for youth to rise, saying that politics is not a spectator sport. "You are not just voters you are players, coaches, and owners of this game. DNA is not only welcoming you, we are investing in you," he said. Kanoti announced the formation of a new platform under DNA that will focus on political education, mentorship, and grassroots empowerment a structured roadmap for young leaders to rise from the bottom up.

He also criticized the government's so-called empowerment programs, accusing officials of misusing funds and prioritizing optics over substance.

"You cannot claim to empower youth while carrying money in sacks to photo ops. That's not empowerment that's theft in broad daylight. We want accountability and a government with a real plan," Kanoti stated.



DNA Secretary General Dr. Barrack Muluka speaking during the partnership with the KIKAO Youth Movement at their Party Headquarters yesterday

The launch ended with a powerful chant echoing across the gathering: "DNA! Your voice, your power!" With the KIKAO movement now formally under DNA's wing, the party is gearing up for a nationwide tour across all 47 counties, urging young

Kenyans to register, run, and rise and promising to be the vehicle that takes them from frustration to transformation

Deputy Governor William Oduol Reaffirms Loyalty, Calls for Unity Amid Leadership Disputes in Siaya County

By: Cynthia Masibo
 @themkenyatimes

Siaya Deputy Governor Dr. William Oduol has reaffirmed his loyalty to Governor James Orengo while calling for reconciliation, constitutional order, and unity in the county's leadership amid rising tensions and ongoing institutional wrangles.

In a strongly worded press statement issued at a hotel in Nairobi, Dr. Oduol addressed recent political and administrative developments following the temporary absence of Governor Orengo, underlining his unwavering allegiance to the Governor and his commitment to constitutionalism and public service.

"As Deputy Governor, my role is clearly defined under Article 179 of the Constitution of Kenya," Oduol stated. "I remain fully loyal to His Excellency the Governor. I stand ready, as always, to receive and faithfully execute his instructions." Oduol acknowledged that differ-

ences had emerged between him and the Governor but emphasized that the disputes should not distract the county from its development agenda. "While these disagreements are regrettable, they do not diminish my deep respect for his office," he said. "Leadership is not about personal ambition or rivalry; it is, and must always be, about selfless service."

He extended an olive branch to the Governor, calling for a consultative meeting upon Orengo's return to address their differences and realign their working relationship in the interest of Siaya residents.

The Deputy Governor also used the statement to clarify the constitutional roles of the County Assembly and the Executive, following what he termed as confusion over the functions of the two arms of county government.

"The County Assembly, led by the Honourable Speaker George Okode, is a distinct and independent arm of government," Oduol said. "Its role is legislative. It is not an extension of the Executive, nor is it mandated to

perform administrative functions."

He cautioned against any attempts by leaders to assume authority beyond their constitutional limits, citing Article 3(2) of the Constitution, which prohibits the unlawful exercise of power.

Dr. Oduol further outlined a three-pronged path forward, focusing on consultative engagement with the Governor, alignment of operations within the Executive, and structured dialogue with the County Assembly to reinforce institutional integrity.

"In all this, I remain steadfast in my dedication to serving the people of Siaya County with diligence, humility, and fidelity to the law," he affirmed.

The statement comes at a time when tensions between the county's top leadership have reportedly affected the delivery of services and caused unease among members of the public.

Dr. Oduol's conciliatory tone and emphasis on constitutionalism appear aimed at de-escalating the impasse and refocusing attention on



Siaya Deputy Governor Dr. William Oduol issuing a statement to the media at a hotel in Nairobi

governance and service delivery. He concluded his address with a rallying call for unity and shared purpose: "Let us rise above division and recommit ourselves to the promise of devolution a system built on good governance, accountability, and inclusivity."

The statement is expected to shape

the political discourse in Siaya in the coming days, as residents and leaders await the Governor's return and the possibility of a renewed working relationship at the helm of the county government.

The Unraveling Web Of Global Trade: Deconstructing Sanctions, Barriers, And The Path To A More Equitable World



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themkenyentimes

Introduction

The promise of a globalized world, once heralded as the dawn of unprecedented prosperity, has been met with the harsh realities of a fragmented and unequal trading system. While technology and interconnectedness have shrunk the world, a complex and often insidious web of trade barriers continues to hinder progress, particularly for nations in the Global South. From the strategic tariffs of developed nations to the crippling effects of sanctions and the logistical challenges of intra-regional commerce, these impediments are not mere economic frictions; they are instruments of power that perpetuate historical inequalities and stifle genuine development. This article will deconstruct this intricate narrative, analyzing the nature of these barriers, the devastating impact of sanctions, the critical need for regional integration, and the imperative for a new, more equitable global trading paradigm.

The Historical and Contemporary Landscape of Trade Barriers: A Legacy of Inequality

The current structure of global trade is not an accidental outcome but the product of a long and deliberate historical process. The very foundations of modern trade were laid during the era of mercantilism, where colonial powers built their wealth by extracting raw materials from their colonies and imposing barriers to protect their nascent industries. This legacy, though evolved, is deeply embedded in the modern system. While the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and its successor, the World Trade Organization (WTO), were created to dismantle protectionism, they have often failed to create a truly level playing field.

The trade barriers that disproportionately impact the Global South are multifaceted and sophisticated. Tariffs, though generally lower than in the past, still exhibit a phenomenon known as “tariff escalation.” This refers to the practice of developed nations imposing low tariffs on raw materials imported from the Global South, but significantly higher tariffs on processed or manufactured goods. The effect is clear: it discourages industrialization and value addition in developing countries, forcing them to remain mere suppliers of raw materials. A country exporting cocoa beans faces minimal tariffs, but if it attempts to export chocolate, it is met with prohibitive duties, effectively locking



it out of the market. This structural disadvantage ensures that the Global North retains control over the higher-value stages of production, where the majority of profits are generated. Beyond tariffs, a new generation of non-tariff barriers (NTBs) has become a primary tool of modern protectionism. These include complex sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, technical regulations, and stringent intellectual property rights. While often justified as measures for consumer safety or environmental protection, these regulations are frequently so costly and complex that they become insurmountable for producers in the Global South who lack the necessary technology, infrastructure, and capital to comply. A small-scale African farmer might grow a world-class crop, but if their country lacks the certification agencies or cold chain logistics required by a European market, their product cannot compete. The intellectual property rights regime, particularly in pharmaceuticals and technology, also serves as a barrier, preventing developing nations from accessing essential knowledge and producing affordable versions of critical goods. Furthermore, the agricultural sub-

sidies in the Global North are a staggering example of a barrier that distorts global markets. Governments in the United States and the European Union pour billions of dollars into supporting their farmers, leading to a surplus of cheap food that is then dumped onto international markets. This practice makes it impossible for farmers in the Global South, who receive little to no government support, to compete on price, undermining their livelihoods and food security. These policies, while ostensibly designed to protect domestic producers, act as a powerful form of economic warfare against the agricultural sectors of developing nations.

Sanctions as a Strategic Trade Barrier: A Weapon of Coercion

In this landscape of conventional trade barriers, a more aggressive and politically charged instrument has emerged: economic sanctions. Sanctions are not just economic penalties; they are a form of strategic trade barrier deliberately deployed to achieve specific geopolitical or diplomatic goals. While the stated objectives may range from changing a regime’s behavior to preventing

nuclear proliferation, their economic and humanitarian consequences are often far-reaching and indiscriminate.

A defining characteristic of modern sanctions is their extra-territorial reach. A powerful nation, such as the United States, can impose sanctions on a country and then penalize any third-party company or bank that trades with or finances the sanctioned entity. This creates a chilling effect on the entire global trading system. Financial institutions and corporations in non-sanctioning countries, fearing the loss of access to the sanctioning country’s market or financial system, will simply refuse to do business with a sanctioned nation, even if they have no legal obligation to do so. This effectively isolates the target country from the global economy, directly addressing the user’s point that countries are unable to trade with nations under sanctions.

The humanitarian impact of sanctions is often devastating and trag-



Worth Noting:

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The Unraveling Web Of Global Trade: Deconstructing Sanctions, Barriers, And The Path To A More Equitable World

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ically ironic. While targeted sanctions are designed to hurt a nation's leadership, they often have the greatest impact on the most vulnerable populations. By restricting access to essential goods, including food, medicine, and medical equipment, sanctions can lead to widespread shortages, disease, and starvation. The rationale behind such measures often overlooks the fact that the average citizen, who has no power to change their government's policy, is the one who suffers the most. Moreover, sanctions can inadvertently empower authoritarian regimes by allowing them to blame all their economic woes on external forces, consolidating their power and diverting attention from their own failures.

The ultimate effectiveness of sanctions in achieving their stated goals is highly debatable. History is replete with examples of sanctions that failed to topple a regime or change a nation's policy, but instead led to a prolonged humanitarian crisis. In many cases, sanctions simply force a country to seek out alternative trading partners, often leading to the formation of new, parallel economic blocs that are outside the traditional Western-dominated system. This fragmentation of the global economy, fueled by the use of sanctions as a foreign policy tool, ultimately undermines the very principles of free and open trade.

Internal Barriers in the Global South: The Case for Intra-African Trade

While the Global North has constructed a formidable external wall of trade barriers, the Global South is also hobbled by significant internal obstacles. The narrative of global trade cannot be complete without addressing the barriers that exist within and between the nations of the Global South, which often have their own colonial origins. For this discussion, Africa serves as a powerful and pertinent case study.

Despite possessing vast resources and a rapidly growing population, intra-African trade remains remarkably low, hovering around 15-18% of total trade, far below the levels seen in Europe (over 60%) or Asia (over 50%). This is not a failure of will but a consequence of deep-seated, systemic barriers that must be dismantled.

The most significant of these is the woefully inadequate state of infrastructure. The continent is plagued by a lack of well-maintained roads, railways, and ports that connect countries to each other. Instead, the infrastructure networks that do exist are often relics of the colonial era, designed to facilitate the export of raw materials from the interior to coastal ports for shipping to Europe, rather than to foster trade between African nations. This logistical deficit makes the movement of goods across African borders incredibly expensive and time-consuming, often making it cheaper to import goods from Europe or Asia than to source them from a neighboring country.

Adding to this are the crippling non-physical barriers of bureaucracy and corruption. Border crossings are frequently bottlenecks of red tape, with complex and redundant customs procedures, multiple checkpoints, and arbitrary fees. The lack of standardized regulations and product standards across different countries further complicates matters, creating uncertainty and risk for businesses. These barriers not only increase the cost of trade but also provide fertile ground for corruption, with officials often demanding bribes to expedite the process, further burdening traders and small businesses.

The introduction of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a monumental effort to address these challenges. The AfCFTA, which aims to create a single continental market for goods and services, represents a powerful vision for Africa's economic future. By progressively eliminating tariffs and non-tariff barriers, it seeks to unlock the immense potential of intra-African trade. The benefits are projected to be transformative:

Economic Diversification: The AfCFTA can help African economies shift away from a reliance on raw materials. **Economies of Scale:** A unified continental market of over 1.3 billion people will create economies of scale, allowing African businesses to grow, innovate, and become more competitive on a global stage.

Poverty Reduction: The agreement is projected to lift millions of people out of extreme poverty by creating jobs and increasing real incomes.

However, the success of the AfCFTA is not guaranteed. It faces significant challenges, including political distrust among member states, the need for massive investment in



cross-border infrastructure, and the harmonization of a myriad of conflicting regulations. Its successful implementation will require sustained political will and a concerted effort from all African states to prioritize regional integration over national protectionism.

The Path Forward: Towards a More Equitable and Open Trading System

The analysis of these trade barriers reveals a clear and urgent need for reform. To build a more prosperous and equitable global economy, a multi-pronged approach is necessary, focusing on the dismantling of both external and internal obstacles.

First, the international community must rethink the use of sanctions as a primary tool of foreign policy. The evidence suggests that they are often ineffective in achieving their political goals and have a disproportionately negative impact on civilian populations and third-party countries. A move towards a new multilateralism that emphasizes diplomacy, dialogue, and targeted development assistance as alternatives to economic coercion is essential.

The global financial system and international institutions must resist extra-territorial pressure and ensure that nations can trade freely without the fear of secondary penalties.

Second, the Global North must take responsibility for its role in perpetuating an unequal system. This means not only lowering tariff and non-tariff barriers that hinder the Global South's ability to trade and industrialize, but also reforming the harmful agricultural subsidy programs that undermine developing economies. Genuine preferential trade agreements that provide real and meaningful market access, coupled with technical assistance to help nations comply with international standards, would be a more constructive approach.

Third, the nations of the Global South must take decisive action to remove their own internal barriers. The AfCFTA is a perfect example of such an initiative, and its full implementation must be a top priority. This will require significant domestic investment in infrastructure, a simplification of customs procedures, and a concerted effort to combat corruption. The focus must

be on building regional value chains and fostering trade that is beneficial to all members of a bloc, not just a select few.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the current global trading system is a patchwork of historical inequalities, strategic power plays, and self-imposed limitations. The trade barriers between the Global North and South, the crippling effect of sanctions, and the internal obstacles within regions like Africa all serve to stifle development and prevent the realization of a truly globalized and prosperous world. The path forward is not a simple one, but it is clear. It requires a collective commitment from all nations to dismantle the remnants of a protectionist and coercive past. It demands a shift towards a system where trade is a catalyst for shared growth, a bridge between cultures, and a tool for creating a more stable and just world for all.

Sports >> *National Super League side Compel FC head coach George Mutimba has expressed joy at having been the first coach of Harambee Stars ace Manzur Suleiman Okwaro

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CHAN 2024: Compel Gaffe Mutimba Thrilled By Manzur's Heroics



National Super League side Compel FC head coach George Mutimba has expressed joy at having been the first coach of Harambee Stars ace Manzur Suleiman Okwaro, who is currently representing Kenya in the 2024 African Nations Championship (CHAN).

↑ Mutimba signed Manzur when he was 13 years old while he was a student at St. Paul Lubinu and St. Mukasa secondary schools, before later joining St. Anthony

Kitale.

↑ I'm a proud coach because one of my own is scaling the heights of football in this country.

"Manzur started with us when he was just 13; he was part of Compel FC in 2019 and now representing the country," said an elated Mutimba.

↑ The tactician prides himself for advising Suleiman to hold on during a period when the player was on the verge of quitting

football.

↑ "There was a time he wanted to quit football after adding weight moments after leaving Kariobangi Youth.

"I advised against the decision and he listened, that's why he is currently at the top of his game," Mutimba noted.

↑ Mutimba has urged parents to support and encourage their talented children, emphasizing that in today's world, talent can be a

great source of income.

↑ Manzur Suleiman Okwaro, who now plays for KCB in the Premier League, played a starring role in Kenya's famous 1-0 win over DR Congo at Kasarani Stadium on Sunday in their CHAN opener.

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Sports >> *Football stakeholders are raising questions on the state of Harambee Stars match day tickets, with fans struggling to buy the match entry tickets- now a prized commodity.

CHAN 2024 Ticket Conundrum: 'Sold Out' But Empty Seats – Who Is Fooling Whom?



Football stakeholders are raising questions on the state of Harambee Stars match day tickets, with fans struggling to buy the match entry tickets- now a prized commodity.

In the run-up to Harambee Stars versus DR Congo game, fans lamented their inability to access the tickets with online site chan.mookh.com., where the tickets are on sale, reporting that the match had been sold out.

However, on match day, TV cameras picked out hundreds of empty

seats, raising the question, who could have bought the tickets? Why didn't they turn up for the match, or better still, who could be following whom?

The regular tickets were selling at Sh200, VIP at Ksh500.

Meanwhile, the Local Organising Committee [LOC] chairman Nicholas Musonye admitted that the stadium was not entirely full but stated that it is standard practice for 'safety reasons'.

Musonye denied speculations of ticket hoarding, stating that the

ticket purchasing process is regulated by CAF and not LOC.

Some had claimed that the move was aimed at neutralising potential anti-government chants during the match.

This claim had gained traction after videos surfaced online of politicians affiliated with the regime flaunting tickets.

Many fans resorted to re-purchasing tickets that had already been bought, but at premium prices.

Hundreds of DRC fans are among those who were locked out after

failing to obtain tickets.

Musonye claimed that by Saturday evening 46,000 tickets had been sold but the debate as to whether the tickets were truly sold out continues to rage on, ahead of Kenya versus Angola game on Thursday and a mouth-watering Sunday clash against Morocco

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The Mt Kenya Times



National Corruption Crisis Demanding Moral Action



By: David Ndung'u Kimani
@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

“What is even more alarming is not just the existence of corruption, but the silence of those it wounds the most. Fear, fatigue, and faithlessness in institutions have caged the voices of millions who witness injustice daily.

Kenya does not just need another policy or commission; it needs a generation that will rise and say, “Enough.” A generation that fears silence more than threats, and that chooses sacrifice over compromise. This is a call not to the government alone, but to every Kenyan: the war against corruption will not be won in offices, but in hearts.”



Corruption in Kenya is no longer just a crime—it has silently evolved into a culture, a norm so deeply rooted that many citizens no longer flinch at the sight of injustice. From bribing for basic services to manipulating employment and legal systems, the rot runs from the lowest public office to the highest corridors of power. What is even more alarming is not just the existence of corruption, but the silence of those it wounds the most. Fear, fatigue, and faithlessness in institutions have caged the voices of millions who witness injustice daily. When the average Kenyan believes that paying a bribe is faster than following due process, it reveals a nation bleeding internally. Our mor-

al compass is broken, and unless a radical shift happens—starting with the conscience of the individual—laws and reforms will remain paper tigers. Kenya does not just need another policy or commission; it needs a generation that will rise and say, “Enough.” A generation that fears silence more than threats, and that chooses sacrifice over compromise. This is a call not to the government alone, but to every Kenyan: the war against corruption will not be won in offices, but in hearts.

A recent report by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) has exposed the persistent and troubling levels of corruption in Kenya, particularly in county governments. According to the find-

ings, many Kenyans continue to pay bribes to speed up service delivery, access employment, or influence legal and administrative outcomes. Shockingly, the report notes that victims of corruption often choose silence—either due to fear of intimidation or because they lack confidence in the institutions meant to address such cases. Nairobi County emerged as the most corruption-prone devolved unit, followed by Kiambu, Machakos, Kisumu, and Nakuru. The EACC has recommended urgent enforcement of anti-corruption laws, protection for whistleblowers, and structural reforms within key ministries. “Citizens must be empowered to demand accountability from duty bearers,” the report em-

phasized, adding that public officers must uphold integrity, transparency, and service to the people. The call for action comes at a time when public trust in governance continues to waver. The EACC insists that the war on corruption cannot be won unless all Kenyans—leaders and citizens alike—take a firm stand against it.

Student Murang'a university of technology.