



**Ruto's 2027 Fate Hangs On Upcoming By-Elections**  
 President William Ruto is facing a tough political moment, and the upcoming by-elections could either strengthen his hold on power or mark the start of his downfall ahead of the 2027 elections. There are 22 vacant seats: five in the National Assembly, one in the Senate, and sixteen in county assemblies and the IEBC is getting ready to take Kenyans back to the ballot. Page 18

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

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**News >> Kenya Meat Expo: Powering Livestock For National Transformation**

P. 8. Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe yesterday officially opened the 4th Edition of the Kenya Meat Expo 2025 in Nairobi.



**News >> Lawmakers Tour Kibra Informal Schools, Back Bill To Recognise APBET Learners**

P. 12. Members of the National Assembly Committee on Education have assured stakeholders of their commitment to fast-track the Basic Education (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which seeks to bring Alternative Provision of Basic Education and Training (APBET) schools under the legal framework of basic education in Kenya.

# Gachagua: Ditch 'Wantam' At Your Own Peril

**Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has warned his opposition co-principals against ditching the political outfit, saying that they will suffer dire isolation.**

Speaking during his United States tour in Kansas, Gachagua claimed that President William Ruto's administration has been attempting to compromise the opposition team in an attempt to destabilize its rigidity.

The Democracy for the Citizens (DCP) party leader, therefore cautioned those who will bend to President Ruto's alleged tactics, noting that they will face severe political neglect.



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

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

DAY 1: 1 NAIROBI, 2 THIKA, 3 KENOL, 4 MAKUTANO, 5 KAGIO, 6 EMBU, 7 CHUKA, 8 MERU, 9 NANYUKI, 10 NYERI, 11 NYAHURURU, 12 NAKURU, 13 NAIVASHA, 14 TWO RIVERS MALL.

DAY 2: 12 OL' KALOU, 11 NYAHURURU, 10 NYERI, 9 NANYUKI.

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**NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL CONFERENCE, 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ROADSHOW**  
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# Presidential Private Sector Roundtable Forum

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyentimes


## Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto yesterday convened a Private Sector Roundtable session at State House, Nairobi. Addressing delegates, the President noted that billions of shillings have been disbursed by his administration through the Hustler Fund. “We take pride in the success of the Hustler Fund that has in under three years disbursed more than Sh72 billion to over 26 million Kenyans,” he said. He added, “In the same period, this transformative initiative, with a repayment rate at 83.6 per cent, has mobilised over Sh5 billion in savings and offered capital to millions of our small businesses.”

The Head of State told the meeting that his government remains committed to presenting the right tools and a fair chance to ordinary Kenyans like the mama mboga, boda boda operators, among others, to grow and thrive. He further noted, “We will keep innovating and building Kenya, fueled by the public-private partnership, powered by enterprise, anchored in equity and driven by a shared purpose, to uplift everyone”.



Editor's Desk



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**Group Executive Chairman**  
M. Danson

**Our Contacts**  
 P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262  
 Editorial Desk: editorial@mountkenyentimes.co.ke, Adverts: ads@mountkenyentimes.co.ke,  
 News Desk: news@mountkenyentimes.co.ke, Web: [www.mountkenyentimes.co.ke](http://www.mountkenyentimes.co.ke)

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MT KENYA BUSINESS CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Garissa Governor Nathif Jama is currently hosted the Norwegian Ambassador to Kenya, Gunnar Andreas Holm on a working visit to inspect various development projects funded by the Norwegian government. Norway is supporting several initiatives in the county, including the construction of health facilities, boreholes, early childhood development (ECD) centres, and community-driven programs focused on building resilience and improving service delivery.



The newly appointed Information Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Mr. Temesi Mukani yesterday held discussions with Senior Staff members of the Directorate of Information during his familiarisation visit to the Directorate's head office at Uchumi House that was led by Directors Joseph Kipkoech and Cyrilla Barasa. Mr. Temesi pledged to work closely with Kenya News Agency staff to re-engineer government communication and uplift the profile of the government among citizens.



The Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) has nominated Shimanzi Ward MCA Priscilla Mumba as the new Majority Leader, replacing Likoni Ward MCA Athman Mwamwiri. The announcement was made by County Assembly Speaker Aharub Khatri, who confirmed Mwamwiri's removal following a resolution adopted by ODM members on July 3. The resolution endorsed Priscilla Mumba as the newly nominated Majority Leader. Mumba criticised her predecessor for opposing the Mombasa County Ward Equitable Development Bill, 2024, saying his stance deprived MCAs of funds to implement development projects in their wards.



Vihiga County has taken a significant step toward industrial transformation following a visit by a delegation from the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC). The delegation, received at the County Headquarters by Governor Wilber Khasilwa Ottichilo, was in the region to explore the feasibility of establishing Kenya's first factory dedicated to engineered bamboo products. Their visit included engagements with local bamboo farmers and site assessments for the proposed facility—highlighting growing international interest in Vihiga's untapped bamboo potential. The initiative aligns with the county's broader green economy agenda. Ottichilo commended bamboo farming advocate Victor Mwanga for his instrumental role in attracting the potential investment, praising his innovation and dedication to advancing the bamboo value chain.



The Nanyuki High Court has convicted Faith Kanoria Mwebia for the murder of her boyfriend, Daniel Mwaniki Miano, in a case prosecuted by Counsel Jackson Motende and Esther Kimani. Evidence presented in court established that the offence occurred on the night of 5th July 2020 in Likii area, Nanyuki where the couple engaged in a violent confrontation following an earlier dispute. During the quarrel, Mwebia physically attacked the deceased and threatened to kill him. Hours later, Miano was found lying by the roadside with a fatal stab wound to the abdomen. Justice A.K. Ndung'u ruled that the prosecution had proved the charge of murder beyond reasonable doubt. Sentencing has been scheduled for 2nd September.

# CENTRAL KENYA NATIONAL SHOW

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# Ongata Rongai Tuktuk And Motorbike Operators Prove Chama Power, Buy Bus From Savings

By: Michael Omondi  
@themkenyatimes

A self-help group composed of tuktuk and motorbike operators from Ongata Rongai town in Kajiado County has successfully acquired a 33-seater minibus to boost their transport business and improve their household incomes.

The milestone was made possible through an Asset Finance facility from Equity Bank Kenya, Rongai Branch, offering much-needed relief to the chama during a critical phase of its growth.

Making his remarks, the Chairman of the Nyorosha Self-Help Group Alex Muthama lauded Equity Bank for being a true partner who listens and cares.

Muthama highlighted how the group found meaningful support at Equity, which welcomed them, offered free financial literacy training, and guided them through the process of saving, borrowing, and accessing asset financing under the Pamoja Banking model. "Our self-help group has 50 members. When we decided to venture into the transport business, many banks rejected our request for financing. It was Equity that embraced us and began training us in financial literacy while we saved," he narrated, stating that so far, the bank has financed their bus, and the group plans to continue saving with Equity Bank for more.

Speaking at the handover ceremony held outside Equity Rongai Branch, Benson Githae, Nairobi East Regional Relationship Manager for Asset Finance, reiterated the bank's commitment to simplifying the asset acquisition journey for customers, particularly for vans, school buses and business vehicles.



During the bus handover ceremony in Rongai.

"We always endeavor to transform the lives of individuals and help businesses and groups grow as well as realize their investment dreams and visions," affirmed Githae.

He described the firm as the go-to partner for asset financing, especially for schools purchasing buses, as well as business owners seeking to purchase pickups and trucks to ease their operations.

"Our teams at branches make the process short and seamless and provide comprehensive financing solutions," said Githae, encouraging youth and women's groups to embrace Equity's Asset Finance products.

Meanwhile, Mercy Ogendo, Nairobi East Regional Manager for the Pamoja Banking product, explained that the group-based banking model empow-

ers self-formed groups through training, flexible loans, and personalized support.

She explained that the unique loan model relies on social capital, focusing on group character and repayment ability rather than physical collateral.

"We are proud of this group for their saving discipline that has seen them realize their investment goal of buying a bus. We hope it opens new doors for other groups we are training on financial literacy. We encourage chamas to come and we walk the investment journey together," said Ogendo, adding that each group is assigned a Relationship Manager for daily monitoring, training, and support.

In his remarks, Moses Munene, the Rongai Branch Manager, congratulated the group and welcomed more

customers to explore Equity's tailored financing solutions for both asset acquisition and working capital.

"We are proud to celebrate this milestone with the group, having walked the journey alongside them, and we look forward to achieving even greater things together. We also welcome others to take advantage of our asset finance offerings," urged Munene.

Equity Bank is calling on public, private, and international schools, as well as entrepreneurs, to take advantage of their shortened and flexible asset financing options including financing for trucks, pickups, agricultural, industrial, medical, IT, construction and mining equipment, among other specialized assets.



## Worth Noting:

- Muthama highlighted how the group found meaningful support at Equity, which welcomed them, offered free financial literacy training, and guided them through the process of saving, borrowing, and accessing asset financing under the Pamoja Banking model.
- "Our self-help group has 50 members. When we decided to venture into the transport business, many banks rejected our request for financing. It was Equity that embraced us and began training us in financial literacy while we saved," he narrated, stating that so far, the bank has financed their bus, and the group plans to continue saving with Equity Bank for more.

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# Kenya Meat Expo: Powering Livestock For National Transformation

By: MKT Correspondent  
 @themkenyatomes

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe yesterday officially opened the 4th Edition of the Kenya Meat Expo 2025 in Nairobi.

The three-day event, co-organized by the government and the Nation Media Group has brought together key players across the livestock value chain to champion innovation, sustainability, and economic growth in the livestock sector.

The Expo, taking place at Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) is showcasing bold government led initiatives, including the rollout of the Animal Identification and Traceability System and a national vaccination campaign to eliminate PPR and FMD within three years, critical steps toward expanding Kenya's access to global meat markets.

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CS Mutahi Kagwe and other officials during the official opening of the Meat Expo yesterday. Photos/Courtesy.

in input distribution, while providing bundled services like insurance, AI, feedlots, and abattoir access which boost productivity and farmer earnings.

During the ceremony, the CS who was accompanied by among others, Livestock Principal Secretary Jonathan Mueke also emphasized the strategic partnership with media as a powerful tool to reshape public perception of agriculture, position-

ing it as modern, marketable, and youth-friendly.

The CS noted that with the Kinanie Leather Industrial Park now 90 per cent complete, the government was inviting the private sector players to invest in value addition and industrial growth.

Also present was Kajiado County Governor Joseph Ole Lenku who represented the Council of Governors.



Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mutahi Kagwe sampling some meat at the Expo.

# KRA Records Significant Growth In Excise Tax On Betting Services

By: MKT Correspondent  
 @themkenyatomes

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has surpassed the set performance in Excise duty collections.

The Authority has achieved a 117.2 per cent on betting services during the last Financial Year 2024/2025, exceeding the set target of KSh11.288 billion.

The taxman report shows that Excise Duty from betting services reached KSh13.233 billion in the last Financial Year, pretty above the KSh10.598 billion collected in the previous financial year.

“During the period under review, Betting Tax surpassed the set target after collecting Sh.5.70 billion against a target of Sh5.495 billion,

which translates to a performance rate of 103.7 per cent and a growth of 22.0 percent,” explained Rispah Simiyu, Commissioner, Large and Medium Taxpayers, in a press statement.

She noted that the performance is attributed to KRA's Taxation at Source initiatives, specifically the integration of betting firms' systems with KRA's systems, enabling real-time monitoring of transactions.

This, according to the Commissioner, has enhanced compliance and transparency and facilitated effective collection.

Further, Simiyu noted that the growth in revenue comes at a time when the nation continues to face economic pressure, as she cited the 2025 Economic Survey, which saw Kenya's economy grow by 4.7 per cent in 2024, down from 5.7 per cent in 2023, reflecting broader global



slowdowns and local pressures on consumption and credit.

“Despite the pressures, KRA's total revenue collection for the FY

2024/2025 stood at Sh. 2.571 trillion, reflecting a 6.8 per cent growth, demonstrating resilience and the importance of strategic targeting in

mobilising revenue from emerging sectors,” stated Simiyu.

# 'You Will Be Abandoned,' Gachagua Tells Leaders Planning To Ditch 'Wantam' Movement

By: Moses Kinyanjui  
 @themtkenyatimes

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has warned his opposition co-principals against ditching the political outfit, saying that they will suffer dire isolation.

Speaking during his United States tour in Kansas, Gachagua claimed that President William Ruto's administration has been attempting to compromise the opposition team in an attempt to destabilize its rigidity.

The Democracy for the Citizens (DCP) party leader, therefore cautioned those who will bend to President Ruto's alleged tactics, noting that they will face severe political neglect.

"Let me caution my colleagues or those of us who want William Ruto to be one-term. Anyone who will abandon the one-term movement at the behest of President William Ruto for purposes of financial gain or promises of positions will go alone and will

be isolated," he noted.

"William Ruto has written out a very elaborate plan to divide the opposition and he is using every trick in the book, applied massive resources to create problems within the opposition. He has started with the mountain because of its sheer size."

He however, added that his colleagues have vowed to remain committed to the opposition front as they share the same goals of ousting President Ruto in the 2027 General Election.

"But I am happy, talking to my colleagues, they are steadfast and have committed to sticking to the cause and will not let the people of Kenya down," he added.

"I am persuaded that the leaders I work with are strong and are committed to a united opposition so that we have one candidate to face William Ruto in the next election."

The ousted DP, who is on a tour to promote his agenda for the diaspora community, also maintained that he will willingly welcome whoever will be picked to be the opposition's flag bearer.



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

Top political leaders who have merged forces with Gachagua include party leaders Martha Karua (People's Liberation Party), Eugene Wamalwa

(DAP-K), Kalonzo Musyoka (Wiper) and former Interior Cabinet Secretary (CS) Fred Matiang'i. The political outfit has promised to

unveil its flag bearer in due course as the nation gears towards the 2027 polls.

# Gachagua Backs US Move To Review Kenya's Non-NATO Ally Status

By: Seth Olale  
 @themtkenyatimes

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has declared his support of the proposal for the United States to review Kenya's designation as a major non-North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ally.

Speaking during a media roundtable engagement in Kansas as part of his tour of the United States, the Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) leader said there is a legitimate need for the U.S. to investigate cases of police brutality, abductions, torture, and murder under President William Ruto's Kenya Kwanza regime.

"I am very excited that yesterday a motion was tabled for the American legislative arm to review the status of Kenya as a non-NATO ally because of the violation of human rights. I want to urge Kenyans here in the

U.S. to get evidence from home and submit to the Senators here to use that in Congress as evidence," said Gachagua.

On Tuesday, US Senator James Risch proposed an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, which seeks to review Kenya's designation within 90 days.

The review is set to assess Kenya's foreign and diplomatic policies such as its alignment with the United States and its engagements with China, Russia and Iran.

It will also probe whether President Ruto's government utilised U.S. security and intelligence support to engage in human rights violations such as abductions, torture, renditions, and violence against civilians.

If the amendment is approved in Congress, Secretary of State Marco Rubio will be required to conduct the review and submit the findings to the relevant Committees within 180



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

days. Despite the US proposal, President Ruto continued to heap praise on his government's economic relationship with China after the nation agreed to

lift all tariffs on key Kenyan agricultural exports such as tea, coffee and avocados. "It's partly why I have a bit of a problem with some of our friends,"

Ruto stated during a presidential private sector roundtable in Nairobi on Wednesday. "But it is what I must do for Kenya... It's in the best interest of Kenya that we get into this market."

# County Government And K-WASH Project Implementation Unit Strategize To Increase Water Access

By: Peter Gitonga  
@themkenyaintimes

The Kenya Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Programme (K-WASH) Project Implementation Unit has laid a strategy on the development of the County Water and Sanitation Strategy and Investment Plan intended to serve as a roadmap for increasing water access in hard-to-reach areas across the county.

K-WASH is a six-year initiative (2024–2030), funded by the World Bank and the National Government, aimed at improving access to clean water and sanitation in 19 counties, including Turkana.

The program also seeks to enhance sanitation and support rural villages in achieving open defecation-free certification.

The unit has submitted eight projects for consideration in this financial

year, targeting 2,417 households. The proposed projects will focus on improving water infrastructure.

“Let’s make K-WASH a great program as it serves the vulnerable persons in the society,” said Willyjustus Lopeyok, County Executive Committee member for Water Services.

He noted that Turkana Rural Water and Sanitation Company stood to benefit significantly from the rural-focused K-WASH programme.

Chief Officer for Water Services, Mark Achila, highlighted the twelve K-WASH disbursement-linked indicators, such as water services, operational efficiencies, and school sanitation, as key areas the unit would need to conceptualize moving forward.

“The program depends on performance in water provision, sanitation, coordination with the national government, and a strong monitoring and evaluation framework,” he said.

Chief Officer for Preventive and Promotive Health, Janerose Tioko,



assured the unit members that the preventive department would coordinate closely on program implementation. She also emphasized sanitation, as Turkana is among the 15 high-burden counties still grappling with open defecation.

According to County K-WASH Co-

ordinator Tito Ochieng, a series of workshops had been scheduled in the coming weeks to develop the strategy document so as to begin implementing the proposed projects.

The meeting also had representatives from the Department of Refugee Services, the National Ministry of Ed-

ucation, the Department of Health, Turkana Rural Water and Sanitation Company, and Turkana Urban Water and Sewerage Company.



# Mpox Sensitization Exercise For CHP's Kicks Off In Limuru

By: Hellen Lunalo  
 @themkenyatimes

Fifty Community Health Promoters (CHPs) from Limuru Central Ward have received Mpox sensitization training from the Kiambu County Department of Health Services.

The training specifically targeted the group in regards to their work in an area that covers the busy Mutarakwa-Mai Mahiu highway.

Addressing the area's high-risk profile as a truck stopover, the team also provided Mpox awareness training to employees at local bars, restaurants, and lodges near the Mutarakwa junction.

The training focused on recognizing Mpox symptoms, understanding how it spreads, and learning prevention methods.

The workshop focused on several key areas of Mpox management, including epidemiology and awareness, which covered identifying transmission pathways and clinical features.

It also addressed rapid response protocols for implementing isolation, containment, and clinical management strategies.

Other topics included strengthening

surveillance systems and improving communication channels for detection and reporting, as well as emphasizing strict hygiene, correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and respiratory etiquette for prevention and control.

Finally, the session covered the importance of community engagement and educating the public on behavioural changes to reduce transmission.

During the session, Chief Officer of Health Dr. Patrick Nyaga explained that the goal was to improve readiness, surveillance, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and community engagement through integrated training.

"We are building capacity not just for immediate response but also for cascading this knowledge to other health workers," he stated.

He added that by empowering the health workforce and engaging communities, they stood a better chance of interrupting transmission chains and preventing further loss of life.

This follows a recent statement from the Ministry of Health on the Mpox outbreak in Kenya where Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale confirmed four new cases in the last 72 hours.

Three of the new cases were located in Mombasa County, with the fourth case confirmed in Nairobi County. He also



confirmed a total of 314 cases since the outbreak began in July 2024.

Mpox is a viral disease that spreads through close contact with an infected person. Key symptoms include fever, headache, muscle pain, extreme fatigue, and a rash that progresses from bumps to sores. The virus can be transmitted through direct contact with infected skin or scabs, bodily fluids, respiratory droplets, and contaminated items like clothing or bedding. It can also be passed

from a mother to her child. Additionally, handling infected animals or their meat could also lead to transmission.

People are advised to prevent Mpox by avoiding skin-to-skin contact with anyone who has a rash, washing their hands frequently, and seeking medical attention if they develop any symptoms.

The Ministry of Health is collaborating with county governments and other partners to increase surveillance across all counties by deploying Rapid Re-

sponse Teams to strengthen the capacity of healthcare workers.

The teams are also actively searching for new cases, tracing contacts, investigating, and managing confirmed cases, including provision of mental health and psychosocial support to those infected or affected by the disease.

# 'I Considered Quitting As ODM SG'- Sifuna

By: Laban Wanambisi  
 @themkenyatimes

Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) Secretary General Edwin Sifuna says he almost resigned after party leaders criticised his opposition to the Ruto-Raila Broad-Based government deal.

Sifuna spoke during a tribute to former MP and gender icon Phoebe Asiyu.

"I will come out of here very incited, because I am so happy to hear that Mama Asiyu threatened to resign, because things were not going the way she thought they should go. When things are taking a turn for the worst, you have a responsibility to put your foot down and say this is not who we are. This is not what we stand for, these are not our values," he said.

The Nairobi Senator also took a swipe at his critics who have questioned his loyalty to ODM.

He stressed, "I believe that my future is now and I am doing what I

would have done in any lifetime".

Homa Bay Senator Moses Kajwang, who was the Master of Ceremonies at the service, jokingly said that he had to rush beside Sifuna to stop him from throwing in the towel.

"You may have noticed that I stood immediately. You do not resign at that point when you really wanted to go that direction. He is a friend of mine, but if he were a sports ball, he would be a rugby ball because you do not know which direction it will bounce next," Kajwang told the attendees,

ODM stalwarts George Aladwa (Madaraka MP and ODM Nairobi Branch Chairman), Peter Kaluma (Homa Bay Town MP), and Robert Alai (Kileleshwa MCA) have called for Sifuna's resignation, accusing him of causing party confusion.

Sifuna declared over the weekend that he would not hesitate to resign from his position if the party formally agrees to work with the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) in the 2027 General Election.

"I will read all the updates and releases by the party, except one. The day they say ODM has agreed to join



Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) Secretary General Edwin Sifuna.

hands and support UDA in the 2027 elections – that I will not read," the ODM SG said.

The first-term city Senator has fiercely warned that an alliance with President Ruto will damage ODM's

standing as a people-centred movement and compromise its prospects beyond the 2027 election.

# Lawmakers Tour Kibra Informal Schools, Back Bill To Recognise APBET Learners

By: PSCU  
 @themtkenyatimes

Members of the National Assembly Committee on Education have assured stakeholders of their commitment to fast-track the Basic Education (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which seeks to bring Alternative Provision of Basic Education and Training (APBET) schools under the legal framework of basic education in Kenya.

Led by Clive Gesiaro, Phylis Bartoo, Mary Emaase, and Peter Orero, the MPs visited several APBET schools in Kibra Constituency including Ushirika Children’s Center, Mission Outreach Center, Chema Vision Children Center, and Stara Rescue Center Academy.

The visit formed part of the Committee’s public participation drive on the proposed law, sponsored by Mathare MP Antony Oluoch.

The Bill seeks to amend the Basic Education Act, Cap. 211, to align it with the APBET Policy of 2009 and the Basic Education Regulations of 2015. If enacted, it will ensure that APBET institutions are legally recognised, mapped, registered, and provided with government support equivalent to that of public schools.

Addressing teachers and parents, Emaase said, “As a Committee, we are committed to pushing this Bill. Once passed, you will have the legal standing to receive capitation, textbooks, and funding for school infrastructure.”

Orero, who represents Kibra, noted that APBET schools play a vital role in bridging the education gap in informal settlements.

“I have been fighting for the recognition of APBET schools. They fill a critical gap where public schools are few or non-existent. As a Committee, we fully support the Bill and will ensure it is passed.”

Educators and parents pointed out their struggles to meet the needs of vulnerable learners in densely populated informal settlements.

Mr. Daniel Ochieng, Chair of Kibra’s APBET Union of Schools Association (UASA), said, “There is no allocation for our schools. Our learners come from poor families, and we lack basic learning materials. Getting registered is difficult due to land requirements like playgrounds, which are impossible in informal areas.”

“We are in informal settlements where land is scarce. Getting registered is impossible. We don’t have space for playgrounds or infrastructure that the Ministry requires,” added Mr. Ochieng.

The APBET schools, many operating in congested spaces, also called for inclusion in the school feeding programme and the recruitment of



MPs and stakeholders in Kibra yesterday.

teachers through the Teachers Service Commission (TSC).

“Our teachers are nearing retirement without ever being recognized by TSC,” said a representative from Chema Vision Children Center.

“Meanwhile, our children lack food, textbooks, and even pens. Many of our parents have no steady income.”

Gesiaro emphasized that the goal of the amendment is equity. “We don’t have a public child or a private child. We have a Kenyan child. Once this Bill is passed, and APBET schools are included in the definition of basic education, the resources will follow the child.”

The lawmakers also expressed concern that the Competency-Based

Curriculum (CBC) requires play as a learning tool, yet most APBET schools lack playgrounds. “Resources should not follow a building—they should follow the learner,” Gesiaro added.

At Chema Vision Children Center, teachers revealed they have worked for years without recognition from the Teachers Service Commission (TSC), with many now approaching retirement. “Our teachers have dedicated their lives here, but they’ve never been formally employed by TSC despite having TSC employment numbers,” said one of the senior teachers.

Parents also spoke of their daily struggles.

“Our children don’t have textbooks or school supplies, and some sleep hungry. We need the government to support the school feeding programme,” said a parent representative.

The Committee is expected to visit other APBET schools in Mathare Constituency to consolidate views from the public participation forums ahead of the Bill’s second reading in the National Assembly.

If passed, the Basic Education (Amendment) Bill, 2025, will be a significant step towards achieving inclusive and equitable quality education for all children, especially those in underserved communities.



MPs and other stakeholders

**Worth Noting:**

- The visit formed part of the Committee’s public participation drive on the proposed law, sponsored by Mathare MP Antony Oluoch.
- The Bill seeks to amend the Basic Education Act, Cap. 211, to align it with the APBET Policy of 2009 and the Basic Education Regulations of 2015. If enacted, it will ensure that APBET institutions are legally recognised, mapped, registered, and provided with government support equivalent to that of public schools.
- Addressing teachers and parents, Emaase said, “As a Committee, we are committed to pushing this Bill. Once passed, you will have the legal standing to receive capitation, textbooks, and funding for school infrastructure.”

# Budget Committee Approves KSh415 Billion County Allocation

By: PSCU  
 @themtkenyatimes

The Budget and Appropriations Committee officially adopted the County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2025.

This sets the equitable share of revenue to be disbursed to County Governments at KSh415 billion for the Financial Year 2025/26.

This figure was agreed upon following the conclusion of the mediation process on the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025, between the National Assembly and the Senate.

The County Allocation of Revenue Bill contains two key schedules: Schedule I outlines the equitable share allocated to each of the 47 County Governments while Schedule II provides ceilings on recurrent expenditures for County Assemblies and County Executives.

The horizontal sharing of the Ksh415 billion is based on the Fourth Revenue



Committee Members during yesterday's session.

Sharing Basis, which Parliament approved on June 24, 2025, as provided under Article 217 of the Constitution.

This formula will guide allocations for five years from the current Financial Year to the year 2029/30.

Key Components of the Fourth Basis: Baseline Allocation: KSh387.425 billion for the current year, Affirmative Allocation of KSh4.46 billion equally shared among 12 marginalised counties and

Additional Equitable Share of KSh23.115 billion, distributed based on the new formula.

The formula uses the following weighted parameters; Population Index – 45%, Basic Share Index – 35%, Poverty Index – 12% and Geographical Size Index – 8%.

Counties with the Highest Percentage Increase in Allocation; Lamu – 18.53%, Tharaka-Nithi – 14.97%, Isiolo – 14.38%, Elgeyo-Marakwet



Committee Chairperson Samuel Atandi

– 14.26%, Taita-Taveta – 13.70%, Vihiga – 13.52%, Laikipia – 13.31%, Nyamira – 13.31%, Embu – 13.18%, Kirinyaga – 12.89%, Samburu – 12.69% and Nyandarua – 12.23%.

A total of KSh8.35 billion which is about 30% of the KSh27.6 billion in

new revenue has been allocated to these 12 counties in the current financial year, reflecting efforts to address disparities and enhance equitable development across regions.

# Embu Ex-MCA Aspirant, Murder Suspect Shot Dead

By: Samuel Waititu  
 @themtkenyatimes

A former ODM MCA aspirant in Embu County was on Tuesday afternoon gunned down by the police while attempting to escape from a prison van after attending a court session at Siakago Law Courts.

Swaleh Abdalla, popularly known as Oswando, who once sought the Kirimari Ward MCA seat in the 2022 General Elections, was shot dead at Gatondo area during the daring escape bid.

The suspect has been in remand at Embu GK Prison since last year following his arrest over murder charges.

According to Embu West Sub-county Police Commander Vincent Kitili, the suspect, alongside other inmates were on the way back to prison from court when the incident took place.

He reported that the suspect sprayed pepper to the unsuspecting officers' eyes inside the van and during that moment of panic and confusing dashed out.

Speaking to the press, the police boss said one officer managed to jump out and gave chase while the others swiftly secured the remaining prisoners.

He said Oswando sprinted through Gatondo village finally ending up at a construction site with the officer hot on his heels.

He managed to secure a panga from the site and started threatening the officer shouting at him not to dare come closer, but the officer stood his ground and continued advancing towards him," Kitili said.

He said the suspect ignored repeated calls to surrender and instead charged at the officer forcing him to open fire on him.

He was neutralised as he advanced towards the officer armed with the weapon," Kitili stated.

His body has been taken to Embu Level 5 Hospital mortuary as investigations get underway into the matter.



## The Talking Tree



In a beautiful village, a tree stood tall,  
A Banyan tree, with a story to recall,  
Humans and birds, and animals too,  
Lived in harmony, with the tree

The tree was big and huge, with branches so wide,  
It provided shade, and a place to reside,  
Birds sang sweet melodies, and animals roamed free,  
In the center of it all, the Banyan tree.

But one day, a human came, with an axe in his hand,

The tree sensed danger, and began to speak,  
It spoke to the human, with a voice so clear,  
"Please don't cut me down, I beg of you, dear."

The human was shocked, to hear the tree speak,  
"How can a tree talk?" he wondered, and began to think  
The tree replied, "You came to cut me down,  
With an axe made of wood, from a tree like this town."

The human was amazed, and felt a guilt,  
He promised not to cut trees, and his heart was built,  
The tree was happy, and its branches swayed,  
The human and the tree, a new bond became..

S. Arivazhagan  
7A  
GOVT High school Melpattampakkam Cuddalore district  
Tamil nadu, India

## If You Tell A Single Lie, All Your Truths Will Become Questionable



If you tell a single lie, your honesty will vanish  
A dark spot on a white page, will be displayed clearly,  
Once your name is spoiled, it's hard to regain,  
The reputation is lost, like a trust that is broken and shaken

If you're known as a liar, that name will stick for ever  
Like a seed sown, or a permanent paint that won't disappear

Trust once broken, is hard to mend and restore,  
All truth will fade away, while lies leave a great scar throughout the life

The damage is done for ever, relationships will also suffer  
Your good name is spoiled, and it's hard to overcome  
So always be true, and be honest in every way,  
For integrity is the key,  
To live a brighter way

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

## My Father



My father is a good person  
He is kind and true,  
He cares for me deeply  
He works day and night,  
with dedication and sincerity  
For the welfare of our family,

He's a role model,  
His heart is gold,

Everyone likes him,  
young and old,  
His advice is valuable,  
He guides me well  
I'm grateful for his love,

I like him very much,  
I admire his ways,  
He's a wonderful father,  
I'm lucky to have him, as my father

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

## Tufanye Nini?



Ingawa yetu mashua, vishindo vyasikikana,  
Tusichoke omba dua, shuwari tupate ona,  
Mawimbi yapate tua, tupige kafi tena,  
Tufanye nini jamani, tuokoe nchi yetu?

Yatokeapo mabaya, tuwe tayari kusema,  
Wala tusione haya, ikatufika nakama,  
Tupunguze njia mabaya, kuharibu na kuchoma,  
Tufanye nini jamani, tuokoe nchi yetu?

Dunia yenda upogo, kwani nyinyi hamuoni?  
Kwetu litakuwa pigo, ituzidi tafurani,  
Tushushe huu mzigo, tutembe kwa amani,  
Tufanye nini jamani, tuokoe nchi yetu?

Tukiandamana sote, kisa na sababu gani,  
Ni wajibu tujikite, jibu liwe maanani,  
Tusilie tu kwa kite, kuivuruga amani,  
Tufanye nini jamani, tuokoe nchi yetu?

Tujengao nchi yetu, kwa mawe na matofali,  
Sisi kwa vifaa vyetu, jengo madhubuti kweli,  
Tusiruhusu wenzetu, kuliangusha si dili,  
Tufanye nini jamani, tuokoe nchi yetu?

Amani ikiondoka, wapi tutakimbilia  
Tukapate muafaka, viongozi na raia  
Sote tutataabika, hapapo pa kutulia  
Tufanye nini jamani, tuokoe nchi yetu?

Kwako ewe kiongozi, uwaye wetu nahodha,  
Usijitie ajizi, ukatupatisha adha,  
Wewe ndiwe muokozi, kwa zile zote ghamidha,  
Tufanye nini jamani, tuokoe nchi yetu?

Twahitaji mataifa, Amerika na Yemeni?  
Waje na yao kafa, Russia hata Ukreni,  
Turejeshe yetu sifa, tumekengeuka ya'ni,  
Tufanye nini jamani, tuokoe nchi yetu?

Mtunzi: Alfred Lobawoi  
Ruiru

## Why Do We Need Friends



Having Friendship with good people  
Will Grow as a crescent.

Having Friendship with a cultured person  
As equal to reading a book.

A good Friend monitors us and  
keeping us to move in the correct path.

They support us in our hardships  
And help us to overcome the hurdles.

Those who have a lot of Friends  
They are the healer of challenges.

Friendship, can contribute to better physical  
and mental health.

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

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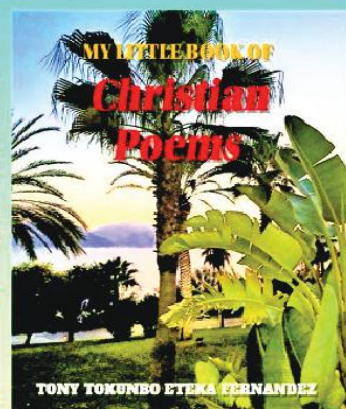
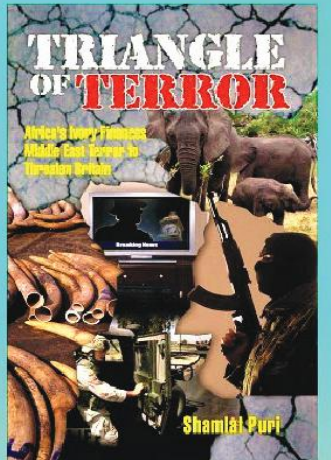
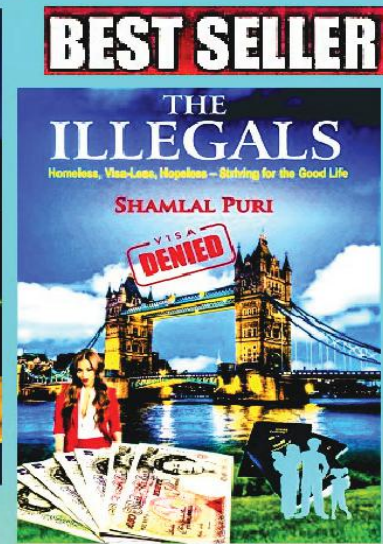
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# ELECTIONS

## Early Talks Between IEBC And Media Aim To Strengthen 2027 Poll Preparedness



By: Aoma Keziah  
@themtkenyatimes

### Worth Noting:

- Erastus Ethekeon, the Chairperson of IEBC, highlighted that they commit to engaging political parties and actors on these matters.

- “We have already scheduled a meeting with political parties to deliberate on how to manage rhetoric and safeguard national unity. On matters of budget and election costs, these are conversations we’ll continue having with Kenyans. We are already reviewing areas for optimization and will be proposing practical recommendations to reduce unnecessary expenditure while ensuring credibility,” he highlighted.

- In her remarks, KEG President Zubeidah Kananu, noted that reflecting on 2022, meeting two years ahead of the polls aligns with one of the key lessons we learned then that early collaboration is critical for success.



In picture, IEBC commissioners, members of the Secretariat and representatives from several key media bodies pose for a picture, during a consultative meeting with leaders from Kenya’s media sector in Nairobi

In a move to foster stronger ties and improve transparency ahead of future elections, senior officials from the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) held a consultative meeting with leaders from Kenya’s media sector.

The roundtable brought together IEBC commissioners, members of the Secretariat, and representatives from several key media bodies. In attendance were leaders from the Kenya Editors’ Guild, the Kenya Union of Journalists, and the Kenya Media Think Tank, a group that includes some of the country’s most seasoned media professionals.

Erastus Ethekeon, the Chairperson of IEBC, highlighted that they commit to engaging political parties and actors on these matters.

“We have already scheduled a meeting with political parties to deliberate on how to manage rhetoric and safeguard national unity. On matters of budget and election costs, these are conversations we’ll continue having with Kenyans. We are already re-

viewing areas for optimization and will be proposing practical recommendations to reduce unnecessary expenditure while ensuring credibility,” he highlighted.

In her remarks, KEG President Zubeidah Kananu, noted that reflecting on 2022, meeting two years ahead of the polls aligns with one of the key lessons we learned then that early collaboration is critical for success.

“We urge that cost-cutting should never come at the expense of credibility or operational readiness,” she explained.

The meeting focused on reviewing how the Commission and the media worked together during the 2022 general elections. Participants also explored how to improve coordination and communication between the two parties as Kenya prepares for its next national vote.

“Among these stakeholders, the media plays an especially critical role, not just in providing balanced and conflict-sensitive reporting, but also in pushing back against disin-

formation, hate speech, and potential threats to democracy,” said Felix Odhiambo, Executive Director Electoral Law and Governance Institute for Africa (ELGIA).

One of the main goals was to establish a more structured and lasting framework for cooperation. Those present agreed that better dialogue and a clearer understanding of roles could help avoid misinformation and confusion during critical moments in the electoral cycle.

“We fully recognize the immense role of the media in a functioning democracy. You inform, you question, you hold institutions accountable. You are not just observers of the electoral process, you are active participants and that’s why this engagement matters so much,” remarked Marjan Hussein Marjan, IEBC CEO.

As part of the Commission’s induction programme for new commissioners, the meeting also served to bring them up to speed on how the media landscape interacts with electoral processes. This included discussions

on how journalists gather and report information, the pressures they face during election periods, and how the IEBC can support efforts to maintain public trust.

Participants described the conversation as candid and constructive. There was consensus that regular engagement between the Commission and media organizations should not be limited to election seasons, both sides agreeing to keep communication channels open and to hold more joint sessions in the lead-up to the next elections.



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# Ruto's 2027 Fate Hangs On Upcoming By-Elections

By: Davis Ayega  
 @themkenyatimes

President William Ruto is facing a tough political moment, and the upcoming by-elections could either strengthen his hold on power or mark the start of his downfall ahead of the 2027 elections.

There are 22 vacant seats: five in the National Assembly, one in the Senate, and sixteen in county assemblies and the IEBC is getting ready to take Kenyans back to the ballot.

But this is no ordinary vote. It is a litmus test of President Ruto's rule, a mini referendum disguised as routine democracy.

Already, political temperatures are boiling.

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, now a fierce critic of the regime, is leading the charge against President Ruto through his Democracy for Citizens (DCP) Party.

He claims the ruling UDA party is arm-twisting the IEBC to delay the by-elections a sign, he argues, that Ruto is afraid of facing the people.

"They are not ready. They know the ground has shifted. That's why they are buying time," the party's Deputy Party Leader Cleophas Malala alleged on Tuesday.

The IEBC has denied any interference, insisting it remains an independent body guided by the law.

The by-elections on paper are meant to fill seats left empty because of deaths, resignations, or court decisions, but politically, they are turning into a clash between a wounded regime and a resurgent opposition.

President Ruto's popularity has taken a hit.

From skyrocketing fuel prices, controversial tax policies to abetted corruption, many Kenyans, especially the youth are openly vowing to vote him out in 2027.

"We voted for him in 2022 with hope. But now, look at the economy. The cost of living is unbearable," says Mary Atieno, a mama mboga in Nairobi.

A poor showing in the by-elections could deepen that resentment, embolden the opposition, and fracture President Ruto's Kenya Kwanza coalition just two years into office.

Once President Ruto's right-hand man, Gachagua is now his loudest critic, rallying discontented leaders from the Mt. Kenya region and beyond.

His party sees the by-elections as their launching pad to challenge President Ruto head-on in 2027.

Some leaders close to President Ruto have hinted that they might rig the 2027 elections in his favor if he struggles to get enough support, claims



President William Ruto

that, though unofficial, have sparked serious concern.

The IEBC has warned against such rhetoric, calling it "dangerous and irresponsible."

"We deal with actual numbers, not political noise. The Commission will not be used to manipulate any outcome," said IEBC Chair Ethekon Edung, during a recent media engagement.

As pressure mounts, top government officials are showing signs of nervous

bravado.

"It's not easy to remove a sitting African president," said Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, in what many saw as a defiant shot at President Ruto's opponents.

But critics say such statements reek of arrogance and only prove that the ruling class is rattled by a shifting political landscape.

As Kenyans await the IEBC's official by-election calendar, all eyes are on the numbers.

Will the voters use this chance to punish Ruto's government, or will the President manage to hold his ground and show that he still has the people's trust?

The by-elections may not change the balance of power in Parliament overnight but they could redraw the political map heading into 2027.

And in the world of Kenyan politics, momentum is everything.



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

**Worth Noting:**

- Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, now a fierce critic of the regime, is leading the charge against President Ruto through his Democracy for Citizens (DCP) Party.
- He claims the ruling UDA party is arm-twisting the IEBC to delay the by-elections a sign, he argues, that Ruto is afraid of facing the people.
- "They are not ready. They know the ground has shifted. That's why they are buying time," the party's Deputy Party Leader Cleophas Malala alleged on Tuesday.
- The IEBC has denied any interference, insisting it remains an independent body guided by the law.
- The by-elections on paper are meant to fill seats left empty because of deaths, resignations, or court decisions, but politically, they are turning into a clash between a wounded regime and a resurgent opposition.

# CHAN Glory or National Priority? A Hard Look At The Ksh 600M Promise To Harambee Stars

By **Bonface Kitonyi**

If Harambee Stars win the CHAN championship currently being hosted across the three East African countries, they stand to receive a staggering Ksh 600 million. This would be a remarkable financial reward and a tremendous moment of national pride.

Of that amount, Ksh 200 million would come from the tournament itself. The remaining Ksh 400 million is a promised bonus from the Head of State—meant to inspire performance and celebrate achievement. Without a doubt, such a victory would put Kenyan football on the continental map, and our players deserve recognition and compensation for making the nation proud.

As a patriotic Kenyan and lover of sport, I wholeheartedly support the team and remain hopeful they will bring the trophy home. However, the promise of Ksh 400 million from the government raises some hard questions: Where is this money coming from? Was it allocated in the national budget? Was it approved through

any legislative or public financial planning process?

This leads us to a broader and more painful issue—our national priorities, particularly in the health sector.

Recently, I visited a public hospital seeking medical attention. I walked in sick and left sicker. From 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., I was passed from desk to desk. Each step required system authorizations that continuously failed. The rhythm of delay persisted until, finally, a lone doctor—after lunch—attended to me. After all that waiting, I was prescribed cetirizine, amoxicillin, and Panadol. That's what I waited eight hours for, largely because I rely on a SHA (Social Health Authority) insurance card.

This is not an isolated experience. It reflects a collapsed health system in dire need of revitalization. Hospitals lack basic equipment—many costing less than Ksh 5 million each. Patients queue endlessly, only to be sent home without meaningful care. The irony is stark: there's no money to fix essential health services, yet a Ksh 400 million bonus can be pledged toward a football victory?



Again, I support our national team with all my heart. But leadership must reflect balanced national priorities. When Kenyans are dying for lack of oxygen, beds, or basic medicine, it's time we rethink how we allocate public funds.

Why not reward the team and fix the system? Why not invest part of that money in youth football development, while channeling the rest into equipping hospitals? In truth, real national victory is not only found in trophies—it's in the health, dignity,

and everyday lives of citizens.

So yes, I join millions in cheering for Harambee Stars. May they shine. But I also urge that we invest as much urgency, passion, and funding into fixing what truly ails our nation.

#### About the Author

*Bonface Kitonyi is an educator, socio-political activist, and upcoming author passionate about public policy, social justice, and youth empowerment.*

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

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## Siaya County's Leadership Crisis: Choosing Dialogue for a Stronger Future

Siaya County is once again in the spotlight, facing a crescendo of public concern and political tension that underscores the fragility and hopes of devolution in Kenya. As Deputy Governor William Oduol proposes a conciliatory dialogue with Governor James Orengo, the situation is layered with complexities that demand careful navigation.

The county's leadership crisis has been amplified by the prolonged and unexplained absence of Governor Orengo, which has, according to formal petitions from residents, led to delays in crucial governance operations such as the approval of the 2025/2026 budget. Rumors of the Governor's resignation—deemed false by local officials and the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM)—have only heightened anxiety, as petitions to bodies like the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and the Indepen-

dent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) attest. The Deputy Governor's own visibility has also raised questions, with some speculation that the County Assembly Speaker has been managing executive functions in their absence, casting a sharper light on the separation of powers.

Oduol's push for dialogue is not without motive. He has accused the Governor's camp of marginalizing him, with reports suggesting he has faced administrative hurdles such as restricted access to his office and open contempt from junior officers. Oduol's refusal to resign—arguing that “resigning is for the cowards”—reflects both personal conviction and the broader dysfunction of an executive divided against itself.

The tension is further complicated by allegations of mismanagement and the County Assembly's alleged overreach, with petitions demand-

ing clarity and the restoration of accountability in county leadership. Meanwhile, the public and civil society are calling for more transparent and responsive governance, focusing specifically on issues like corruption, stalled development, and poor service delivery.

Behind the current standoff is a deeper issue: the persistent challenge of effective public participation and inclusive governance in Siaya County. Citizens have expressed deep dissatisfaction with the dividends of devolution, highlighting ongoing problems with transparency, resource allocation, and the responsiveness of leaders to public complaints. The county's frameworks—according to both government reports and independent assessments—are still evolving to truly reflect participatory democracy and constitutional ideals.

James Orengo, the incumbent Gov-

ernor and seasoned political activist, has a storied record as a defender of democracy and multiparty politics in Kenya, but his apparent silence and international absences have left many in Siaya feeling leaderless. On the other side, William Oduol is a dynamic technocrat with an impressive record in both the corporate world and public administration, yet he has also long been a maverick—sometimes a thorn to ODM and other power brokers. Their soured relationship mirrors broader national debates about party loyalty, devolution, and the perils of personality-led governance.

The moment, then, is critical. Oduol's call for dialogue and reconciliation represents perhaps the only viable path out of this impasse—yet the success of such talks depends not only on personalities, but also on the willingness of all branches of county government, political actors,

and civil society to prioritize the public good over personal or factional interests.

If this crisis leads to meaningful reform and renewed public trust, Siaya could offer Kenya a roadmap for revitalizing devolution. But if it devolves into more political theatre, the risk is lasting reputational and operational damage—and another lost opportunity for the ordinary citizens who depend on local government the most.

At a time when Kenya's constitutional promise is being tested, Siaya stands as both a warning and a hope. Only honest engagement, accountability, and the spirit of dialogue can turn crisis into progress.

*James' Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and communication practitioner.*

# CRII Club: A Student-Led Effort To Turn Interfaith Understanding Into Action

Most students learn about religion from textbooks or brief assemblies. They rarely get the chance to experience it face-to-face: walking into a place of worship, hearing directly from believers, or seeing how faith shapes daily life.

That gap between classroom learning and real-world understanding is exactly what a group of Nairobi students set out to close. A group of high school students have been leading an effort to build towards interfaith awareness, called the Cultural & Religious Inclusion Initiative (CRII).

Founded and led by high school students Liam Sanders and Ben Gremley, the club seeks to bridge divides through real-world interaction. Initially starting as a passion project of learning different faiths across Nairobi, the initiative has grown to a group of youth committed to promoting understanding across religious lines through dialogue, and acts of service.

### Learning by Immersion

Unlike conventional classroom discussions on religion and culture, CRII's approach is direct and hands-on. The club organizes regular visits to a wide variety of religious institutions around Nairobi. These excursions offer students the opportunity to meet faith leaders, ask questions, and witness spiritual traditions firsthand.

In early 2024, members visited the Hare Krishna Temple in Ngara, where they learned about the temple's teachings on selfless service. To support the temple's mission, students donated food to its community kitchen, which feeds thousands weekly.

In November of 2024, they visited ACK Christ Church in Westlands. The club engaged with the reverend of the church and its administration, learning about their service foundations and contributed school supplies to the "Kids to Kids" program, which helps underprivileged students in the city.

### A Spirit of Service

Each CRII visit pairs cultural exchange with charitable action. Whether it's providing food donations, volunteering, or supporting education programs, service is at the heart of everything the club does.

In early 2025, the club explored Jainism during a visit to the Jain Shwetamber Munisuvratswami Temple in Parklands. They were guided through the temple's archi-



tecture and teachings on non-violence and respect for life. As a gesture of support, the club contributed to the temple's general fund, which helps sustain both religious and charitable programs.

Afterwards, CRII students attended an open house at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Temple on Wayaki Way. Given a guided tour and introduced to faith in which many members were unfamiliar

with in their school community.

### Expanding the Vision

As interest in CRII grows, the club hopes to expand its reach to other schools and religious institutions in Kenya. Plans are underway to host youth forums, launch video reflections of their visits, and build interschool networks focused on dialogue and community service.

### A Call to Collaborate

To support or collaborate with the CRII Club Kenya: schools, organizations, and faith institutions can contact the club through these various emails.

Contact Email: [criclubkenya@gmail.com](mailto:criclubkenya@gmail.com), [info@criclubkenya.org](mailto:info@criclubkenya.org)



### Worth Noting:

- Each CRII visit pairs cultural exchange with charitable action. Whether it's providing food donations, volunteering, or supporting education programs, service is at the heart of everything the club does.
- In early 2025, the club explored Jainism during a visit to the Jain Shwetamber Munisuvratswami Temple in Parklands. They were guided through the temple's architecture and teachings on non-violence and respect for life. As a gesture of support, the club contributed to the temple's general fund, which helps sustain both religious and charitable programs.
- Afterwards, CRII students attended an open house at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Temple on Wayaki Way. Given a guided tour and introduced to faith in which many members were unfamiliar with in their school community.



# Why Educating Girls In Tech Isn't Optional It's The Future!



By: Jana Hossam  
@themtkenyatimes

In a world shaped by rapid technological advancement, it's easy to get caught up in the excitement of what's being built from AI to smart cities, renewable energy systems to space tech. But as the world rushes forward, many girls are still left behind, not because they lack the intelligence or creativity, but because they lack access, approval, and visibility. That's why educating girls in technology isn't optional.

It's a necessity for the future we all want to live in.

I'm a high school student from Minya, Egypt, entering my final year of Thanaweya Amma. Over the past few years, I've worked on multiple tech and sustainability-focused projects. One of them is GreenVolt, an early-stage prototype that digs how plants can be used to generate electricity through electrochemical reactions, with the help of IoT technology. While it doesn't yet produce actual electricity, the research and development process has helped me explore the relationship between nature and technology.

Alongside GreenVolt, I also designed the HEH System, a concept for a Smart Pavement that can convert movement, sunlight, heat, and pressure into energy helping reduce reliance on traditional electricity sources. Both projects are still studies I am working on, but they represent something much bigger than just tech experiments to me. They are examples of what young girls can do when given the tools, encouragement, and space to innovate.

## -The Reality of Girls in STEM

Despite global conversations about gender equality, girls remain under-represented in STEM fields especially in countries like mine. The case isn't ability. It's access. It's cultural expectations. It's a lack of approval. And it's the quiet message society often sends girls: "This isn't for you."

In many places, girls are still expected to prioritize household duties or "softer" fields over science or engineering. Even when they are in-

terested in tech, they might not have the right support at home, enough resources at school, or even one female figure they can look up to in the field.

I was lucky. I had access to a supportive environment where I could dream, test, fail, and try again. But not all girls get that chance. And that's what pushes me to keep going and to reach back and bring others with me.

## My Role as a Student and a Teacher

I don't just work on projects. I teach. I'm currently a facilitator working with more than 30 students, many of them girls who are just beginning to explore science, innovation, and leadership. I've also interviewed over 100 individuals from international programs, learning about their stories and sharing knowledge across cultures.

Teaching and helping others has changed me more than any textbook or experiment ever could. When you see a girl who's shy and unsure begin to light up at the idea that she can build something, solve something, or even invent something, you realize what's at stake. That moment when someone believes in their own potential is exactly where transformation begins.

Many of the girls I teach had never touched a wire or built a circuit before. They thought technology was only for lads, or that science was too hard. But once they got involved, they realized how powerful they could be. They started asking questions. They started imagining their own ideas. And most importantly they started believing they belong.

## Global Impact, Local Action

Even though I come from a small city in Egypt, I've always seen my work as part of something much larger. I've participated in youth programs, mentoring sessions, and international communities.

Through these experiences, I've learned that no matter where you come from, your ideas matter. Innovation isn't limited to labs or Silicon Valley startups it can start in a classroom, a bedroom, or even a garden. What matters most is that young people, especially young women, are given the freedom and resources to explore what's possible.

Girls in STEM are not just future engineers or scientists.

They are future leaders, activists, designers, and educators. They are the



ones who will build more sustainable systems, more inclusive technologies, and more just societies.

## -Barriers That Still Exist

But before we reach that future, we need to confront the barriers that still stand in the way:

- **Stereotypes and bias:** Many girls are still told directly or indirectly that STEM is not for them. This messaging starts early and sticks.
- **Lack of role models:** If you don't see women leading in tech, it's hard to imagine yourself doing it and you'll feel less confident.
- **Limited access to resources:** In some communities, girls don't even have access to quality education, let alone science labs or tech equipment.
- **Cultural expectations:** Girls are often expected to follow traditional paths, prioritize marriage, or avoid "difficult" fields.

These barriers are real, but they are not unbreakable. I've seen how quickly things change when a girl is given encouragement, a platform, and a little push.

## -What We Need to Do

We don't need to convince lasses to love science many already do. We need to convince the world to stop standing in their way.

Here's what we can do:

- Invest in early STEM education that is inclusive and practical not just theoretical.
- Train educators to recognize gender bias and support girls in STEM classrooms.
- Fund community-led projects and local innovation hubs, especially in rural or underserved areas.
- Highlight success stories of girls and women in science to build more relatable role models.
- Encourage mentorship between women in tech and young girls exploring the field.

It doesn't take a huge asset to start. Sometimes, all it takes is just one person's encourage by saying, "Yes, you can."

When people hear about GreenVolt, they often ask me, "Does it work yet?" I tell them, "Not fully but the idea is working." Because the point of these projects isn't just to light up a city (yet). It's to light up minds. It's to show what's possible.

Every wire I connect, every diagram I draw, every student I teach it's all part of something bigger. I'm not just building tech. I'm building belief in myself, in my students, and in the future we all share.

Educating individuals in everything is not charity. It's not a side project. It's not about "giving them a chance." It's about realizing that we all need them for innovation, for improving,

and for progress.

So let's stop asking whether girls can succeed in tech or education in general. They already are. The real question is: are we doing enough to support them?

Because the future isn't written yet but if girls are leading the way, I know for sure it's going to be a brighter one.

My name is Jana Hossam, a passionate and driven student from Minya, Egypt, currently entering my final year of high school.

I'm the creator of GreenVolt — a plant-based electricity generator with IoT integration that provides clean, real-time monitored energy. I also developed the HEH System, a Smart Pavement project that converts heat, light, and motion into power.

As a facilitator, I teach more than 30 students and have interviewed over 100 participants from international programs. I'm also a freelancer in translation, writing, and minimalist logo design on Fiverr.

I actively participate in mentoring sessions, youth programs, and global initiatives like IRENA. With deep interests in tech, leadership, and education, I continue building a future that empowers young people — especially women — through innovation and impact.

# SPORTS NEWS

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**Sports >>** \*Harambee Stars Head Coach Benni McCarthy has paid a glowing tribute to his former FC Porto teammate Jorge Costa, who on Tuesday died aged 53 following a cardiac arrest at the club's training centre.

## McCarthy Mourns Departed ex-Porto Teammate Costa

Harambee Stars Head Coach Benni McCarthy has paid a glowing tribute to his former FC Porto teammate Jorge Costa, who on Tuesday died aged 53 following a cardiac arrest at the club's training centre.

Midway a press conference at the Moi International Sports Centre Kasarani ahead of Kenya's African Nations Championship (CHAN) match against Angola, the South African broke down after a journalist asked his reflection on the fallen ex-Porto star.

An emotional McCarthy paused for about a minute before gathering himself as he wiped tears, before passionately narrating his fond memories for Costa, who scored 20 goals for Porto.

"Yesterday was difficult since receiving the sad news. It is difficult to believe considering he was still young and ordinarily a lot was lying ahead of him," he said.

"It was a privilege to have touched him and played with him, one of the most admired captains at Porto. It is when you get such news and you wish you had called him at least last week or you could have done something," the coach added.

He remembered Costa as a leader who always meant business, whose influence on the players was evident on and off the pitch. "He is gone, but the memories will live forever with us. I convey my condolences to his wife and children. It is really sad, but it is what it is," he noted, adding that the current situation requires him to keep calm for the CHAN duty with Kenya.

McCarthy had to be excused for some minutes to refocus about Thursday's game against Angola, journalists turning focus to Gor Mahia's Alphonse Omija, who jointly held the press conference with the coach.

Visibly, Omija was also sympathetic with his coach.

Costa, a defender, led the Por-



Harambee Stars Head Coach Benni McCarthy holds off tears during a press conference ahead of Kenya's CHAN match against Angola, yesterday. Photo by Sportpicha.

tuguese club to Champions League glory under manager Jose Mourinho in 2004 and won 50 caps for Portugal.

He spent a season on loan at Charlton in the Premier League in 2001-02 and retired from playing in 2006.

The centre-back moved into management and held positions at 16 clubs before taking up the role of Porto's director of professional football last season.

"Throughout his life, both on and off the pitch, Jorge Costa embodied the values that define FC Porto: dedication, leadership, passion and an unshakeable spirit of conquest," the club said, adding that "he left his mark on generations of fans."

It is the third unexpected death of a former Porto player this summer following the tragic passing of former loanee Diogo Jota and his brother Andre Silva in July, who spent six years at the club.

BBC Sport reported that Fenerbahce boss Mourinho, who managed Costa at Porto between

2002 and 2004, also fought back tears and paid tribute to his former captain at a news conference before Wednesday's Champions League third-round tie against Feyenoord.

"If he could speak with me now he would say 'do your press conference, tomorrow play the game mister and win the game - forget about me'," Mourinho said.

"I'm going to try and do my job today and tomorrow, and then I'll cry after."

Costa graduated from Porto's academy and went on to make 324 appearances for the club.

He won 24 trophies before leaving in 2005, including the Champions League, Uefa Cup and eight Primeira Liga titles.

In 2000, Costa won the Portuguese Golden Ball - an award given to the league's best player.

After falling out with Porto coach Octavio Machado, Costa joined Charlton on loan in 2001 and made 26 appearances for the Addicks.

Costa began his managerial career with Braga and the club

said his "passing has shaken the entire national sporting community".

"Braga cannot help but share in the enormous grief felt by his family, his friends and the entire FC Porto organisation," the club added on X.

After stints in the dugout in Portugal with Braga, Olhanense and Academica, Costa managed teams in Romania, Cyprus, Tunisia and India.

*Citizen Sport*

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>>** \*The Football Kenya Federation (FKF) yesterday received a timely boost after the Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) under the Magical Kenya brand signed a six-month partnership worth Ksh15 million.

# FKF Signs Ksh15million Deal With Kenya Tourism Board



The Football Kenya Federation (FKF) yesterday received a timely boost after the Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) under the Magical Kenya brand signed a six-month partnership worth Ksh15 million. The deal, unveiled at the Ministry of Tourism offices and presided over by Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano, seeks to leverage the growing popularity of Kenyan football to promote both domestic and international tourism. "This hosting of CHAN and this partnership puts Kenya on the global map where we belong and revival of football in this country as this only goes to support and promote our tourism," said CS Miano. The partnership comes at a cru-

cial time as Kenya continues its campaign in the 2024 African Nations Championship (CHAN), which it is co-hosting alongside Tanzania and Uganda. The national team is set to face Angola on Thursday in their second group match at Kasarani Stadium, and officials hope the spotlight on the tournament will drive tourist interest and economic activity. KTB CEO June Chepkemei echoed the strategic value of the agreement, stating, "It is projected by 2027 the World football economy will be valued at 1.7 trillion USD and therefore as a country we would not like to be left behind in benefiting from the value that comes with football."

FKF boss Hussein Mohammed on the other hand hailed the deal as a milestone for both the federation and the broader vision of African football development. He also rallied Africa at large to tap into the venture of Sports tourism for the betterment of African football. "It is quite unfortunate that our country and Africa at large has yet tapped into the potential that sports tourism holds. This partnership will not only ensure that our Football is developed but also gives us a chance to showcase what we have through tourism." It is expected that the six-month agreement, with an option to extend, will leverage Kenya's national football teams to showcase

the country's rich cultural and natural attractions to both domestic and international audiences. The branding deal will see Magical Kenya featured prominently during FKF events and CHAN matches, linking football fandom with travel inspiration.

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# SPORTS NEWS

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# Uzbek Women; From History To The Present



By: Olimova Sevara  
Kashkadarya

@themkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- Uzbek women, throughout history, have not only anchored the family but also actively shaped society, science, literature, spirituality, and culture. Their spiritual purity, courage, and invaluable legacy have become inseparable from the national narrative over the centuries. This article presents a comprehensive account—from ancient times to the present day—of Uzbek women's roles in society, their spiritual values, and historical contributions, based on scholarly sources.
- From ancient times, women in regions like Sogdiana, Bactria, and Khorezm were engaged not only in household duties but also in intellectual and communal life. Archaeological findings—including inscriptions and ritual artifacts—demonstrate that women participated in religious ceremonies and held respected roles in society. They contributed to spiritual education, embroidery, textile arts, and guided future generations.

Annotation; This article explores the spiritual, social, and cultural legacy of Uzbek women throughout history, from ancient times to the present day. It highlights the moral strength, wisdom, and courage of women who made significant contributions to the formation of society, state governance, science, and literature. The article especially focuses on historical female figures such as Saray Mulk Khanum, Nodira, Uvaysiy, and Zulfiya, demonstrating how their inner world, intellect, and devotion became an inspiration for the nation. Their roles in public life, statehood, and cultural development reveal that Uzbek women have long been active participants in shaping history, rather than passive observers. Based on historical facts and literary sources, the article aims to offer a deeper understanding of the spiritual strength and enduring legacy of Uzbek

Keywords; Uzbek women, spirituality, courage, cultural heritage, nation-era, independence, Saray Mulk Khanim, poetesses, Jadidism, enlightenment, history of Uzbekistan, women's role in society, gender equality, education.

Uzbek women, throughout history, have not only anchored the family but also actively shaped society, science, literature, spirituality, and culture. Their spiritual purity, courage, and invaluable legacy have become inseparable from the national narrative over the centuries. This article presents a comprehensive account—from ancient times to the present day—of Uzbek women's roles in society, their spiritual values, and historical contributions, based on scholarly sources.

From ancient times, women in regions like Sogdiana, Bactria, and Khorezm were engaged not only in household duties but also in intellectual and communal life. Archaeological findings—including inscriptions and ritual artifacts—demonstrate that women participated in religious ceremonies and held respected roles in society. They contributed to spiritual education, embroidery, textile



Uzbek Women.

arts, and guided future generations.

The Timurid era elevated women's status in socio-political and cultural spheres. Figures like Saray Mulk Khanum and Gawhar Shad were key patrons of knowledge and architecture. Saray Mulk Khanum, the principal wife of Amir Timur, advised in state affairs and sponsored madrasas, libraries, and welfare institutions<sup>3</sup>. Gawhar Shad transformed Herat into a hub of arts and scholarship, commissioning madrasa and mausoleum constructions that remain celebrated today<sup>3</sup>. These women demonstrated that royal figures could serve as political leaders, patrons of learning, and cultural visionaries.

The subsequent period saw influential women such as Nodira (Uvai Dilbar), Mohlaroyim, and Zebunniso leaving deep marks on literature and society. Nodira's poetry and philanthropic initiatives embody her era's feminine ideals of nobility, patience, and inner strength. Her work remains a testament to literary bravery.

During the colonial and khanate periods, Uzbek women like Tursunoy Akhunova and Mukarrama Tur-

gunbayeva emerged amidst social constraints, supported by the Jadid movement's emphasis on education and women's rights. Early 20th-century intellectuals like Mahmudhoja Behbudi and Abdulla Avloni advocated for women's enlightenment, leading to the rise of educated Muslim women who defied conventions and became public voices.

The Soviet modernization phase (1920–1980) brought significant transformations. Women gained access to education, professional careers, and public roles in healthcare, education, and politics<sup>7</sup>. Prominent artists and educators—including Zulfiya and Tursunoy Saidazimova—used literature and performance to celebrate women's strength and honour. Still, the era also imposed ideological conformity, sometimes suppressing national identity in favour of a homogenized “Soviet woman” ideal.

Following independence, Uzbekistan renewed its commitment to gender equality. The Constitution guarantees equal rights, and institutions like the Women's Committee, the “Family” Center, and the “Women's

Register” reinforce social, legal, and economic protection. Modern Uzbek women contribute across domains—politics, academia, business, arts, and sports—with role models like Malika Sobirova, Ozodakhon Ibrohimova, and Saida Mirziyoyeva inspiring future generations.

Integration of Uzbek women's intellectual achievements, spiritual contributions, and national identity into educational curricula is essential. Such inclusion reinforces the message that a nation's strength rests equally on its women's resilience and wisdom as on its historical heroes.

In essence, Uzbek women have been far more than symbols of family fidelity—they have stood as beacons of courage, spirituality, and cultural stewardship. Their enduring legacy continues to underpin the nation's progress and inspire future generations.

Olimova Sevara Kashkadarya region Born in Mirishkor district 4th year student at the Faculty of History of Karshi State University