



**Nyoro Urges Government To Keep Fuel Prices Stable Amid Middle East Tensions**  
Kiharu Member of Parliament Ndindi Nyoro has urged the government and the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) to ensure fuel prices remain stable despite rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. **Page 12**



**Azimio Coalition Ousts Senior Leaders Amid Political Realignment**  
In a dramatic shake-up, the Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition Party yesterday announced the removal of several high-profile leaders from its Coalition Council and National Coalition Executive Council, signaling a significant realignment within the coalition. **Page 18**

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**Development** The new financing mechanism will help the country mobilise up to KSh5 trillion over the next decade

# Ruto Signs National Infrastructure Fund Law

**5T**  
He said the fund will play a critical role in addressing Kenya's infrastructure financing gap, which the World Bank estimates at about KSh516 billion annually.



President William Ruto signed the National Infrastructure Fund Bill into law, a move the government says will transform how Kenya finances large-scale infrastructure projects and reduce reliance on public debt. Speaking at State House Nairobi yesterday during the signing ceremony, President Ruto described the establishment of the National Infrastructure Fund as one of the most consequential initiatives in the country's development history. **Page 9**

President William Ruto. Photo | PCS

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# Kenya Enacts National Infrastructure Fund And Judges' Retirement Benefits Law

BY WMW

@themtkenyatimes

*Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures*

In a historic move, President William Ruto unveiled the National Infrastructure Fund, calling it “the most consequential initiative in the development history of our nation.”

Designed to bridge the country’s infrastructure financing gap, the fund aims to raise over KSh5 trillion to support transformative projects.

Among the ambitious plans are generating 10,000 megawatts of clean energy, constructing 50 mega-dams, 200 micro-dams, and more than 1,000 small dams, as well as developing 2,500 km of dual carriageways and 28,000 km of roads. The fund will also finance the extension of the Standard Gauge Railway to Malaba and Kisumu, and the expansion of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

President Ruto emphasized that the fund is not an experiment but a proven model from other nations, offering structured, investable projects while de-risking the economy to attract investors.

In a complementary move to reinforce judicial independence, he also assented to the Judges’ Retirement Benefits Act. The law guarantees retirement benefits for judges, including medical cover, diplomatic passports, and airport lounge access, with contributions shared between judges and the government.

Together, these landmark bills signal Kenya’s commitment to economic transformation and strengthening institutional governance.



**Editor's Desk**

The Mt. Kenya Times

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Chief Justice Martha Koome addressed 99 newly appointed Resident Magistrates, also serving as Small Claims Court Adjudicators, during their swearing-in ceremony. She emphasized that their role demands a lifelong dedication to justice, integrity, professionalism, and public service. CJ Koome urged them to uphold civility, collegiality, intellectual curiosity, impartiality, and independence, while strictly adhering to the Judiciary's Code of Conduct and Ethics. Highlighting the importance of judicial independence, she reminded them to base decisions solely on law and evidence. Reaffirming a zero-tolerance stance on corruption, she stressed that both the Judiciary and the Judicial Service Commission expect officers to maintain the highest ethical standards and integrity throughout their judicial careers.



The Government, through the State Department for Environment and Climate Change, is reviewing the 2013 National Environmental Policy to address emerging climate and environmental challenges. A three-day workshop in Machakos focused on identifying policy gaps, stakeholder mapping, and updating methodologies. Environment Secretary Dr. Selly Kimosop noted the review will align the policy with global climate trends, technological advancements, and socio-economic changes. Updates will address climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and promote a circular economy, potentially creating 46,000 jobs by 2030. The revised policy will include carbon markets, green investments, flood hazard mapping, gender-responsive support, and strengthen coordination between national and county governments for effective environmental management.



The Kenyan government, with the UNDP and Africatalyst, is hosting a three-day inter-agency sovereign credit rating retreat in Mombasa to discuss Kenya's credit rating and investment appeal regionally and globally. Raymond Gilpin, UNDP Chief Economist and Head of Strategy for the Regional Bureau, highlighted that Kenya is on an upward trajectory compared to countries like Zambia and Ghana, whose GDP per capita are similar. He credited Kenya's progress to currency and political stability, which have strengthened investor confidence among foreign and multinational investors. The retreat aims to guide policy and enhance Kenya's attractiveness for sustainable investment and economic growth.



The Murang'a County government has distributed certified maize seeds and fertiliser to approximately 140,000 households using a digital system, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and accountability. Registered farmers received two kilograms of maize seeds suited to their ecological zones, 10 kilograms of fertiliser, and pesticides to control fall armyworm. The digital platform allows farmers to redeem inputs from contracted agro-dealers, reducing long queues, confusion, and crowding at distribution points. County Chief Officer for Agriculture, Dr. Apollo Maina, noted that the system prevents duplication, ensures proper record-keeping, and improves service delivery. Timely planting, quality inputs, and pest control are expected to boost maize production, strengthen food security, and improve household livelihoods. Farmers have welcomed the initiative for its convenience and efficiency.



Kenya has launched a sovereign LoRaWAN network server (LNS) to enable "smart biospheres" for wildlife conservation, ensuring all data remains within the country under the Kenya Data Protection Act 2019. Developed by the Kenya Wildlife Service with support from the Connected Conservation Foundation, Netmore, and Konza Technopolis Development Authority, the system connects wildlife tags, ranger trackers, and environmental sensors via 62 gateways and 23 partners, covering ecosystems from Maasai Mara to Lewa. Hosted at Konza Technopolis, it allows secure, real-time monitoring and data sharing across conservancies. Experts view it as a major step from isolated projects to integrated, cooperative digital infrastructure, enhancing biodiversity protection and supporting evidence-based policy, ethical governance, and regional environmental diplomacy.

The Kenya Wildlife Service, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Athi Kapiti, has stepped up efforts to address escalating human-wildlife conflicts in Kyasila, Mua Ward, Machakos County. Deputy Director Joseph Dadacha noted that hyenas and leopards have increasingly entered villages, threatening children, livestock, and residents, worsened by the 2022–2023 drought. At Kyasila Primary School, KWS outlined safety measures, including children walking in groups, parental escorts, and basic self-defence skills, while warning against hunting that drives predators closer to homes. Residents, affected for over four years with injuries and livestock losses, are urging urgent government support to protect human life and property.



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# NEWS PAPER



## IN BUSINESS

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**TikTok** With over 17M users in Kenya, TikTok is a key pillar of our Creative Economy

# CS Kabogo Pushes For Stronger Tiktok Regulation Ahead Of Next Elections

BY Irene Mwangi

@themkenyatimes

The Country is pushing for stronger regulation and oversight of TikTok as the government moves to safeguard the digital space ahead of the next electoral cycle, Information, Communications and the Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary William Kabogo has said.

Kabogo said the government is engaging the global social media platform to strengthen content moderation, improve age-verification mechanisms and enhance tools to detect misinformation that could undermine election integrity. The Cabinet Secretary spoke after holding talks with TikTok executives ahead of the TikTok Safer Internet Summit 2026 scheduled to take place in Nairobi.

During the meeting, Kabogo emphasised that while Kenya welcomes innovation and the growth of digital platforms, technology companies must take greater responsibility for the safety of their users.

“With over 17M users in Kenya, TikTok is a key pillar of our Creative Economy. I emphasized that while we welcome innovation, digital safety is a shared responsibility. We are strengthening content moderation and age-verification to protect our children and vulnerable



William Kabogo

groups,”he said.

However, the CS warned that the rapid growth of social media also presents risks, particularly during politically sensitive periods such as elections.

Kabogo said the government had sought assurances from TikTok on the effectiveness of its systems to detect and curb coordinated disinformation campaigns, warning that unchecked misinformation could threaten democratic processes.

“I sought clear assurances on TikTok’s tools to detect misinformation and prevent coordinated disinformation campaigns. It is vital that global platforms align with Kenya’s Data Protection Act and our evolving regulatory frameworks,”CS Kabogo noted.

He stressed that global platforms operating in Kenya must comply with the country’s legal and regulatory framework, including the Data Protection Act, as authorities continue to refine digital governance policies.

The government is also pushing the company to expand its operational footprint in the country to better support its activities across Africa.

Kabogo challenged the platform to invest more resources in moderating content in local languages, noting that many harmful or misleading posts often evade detection because automated systems are primarily designed for major international languages.

The CS said deeper collaboration between the government and technology compa-

nies will be key to building a digital ecosystem that balances innovation, economic opportunity and public safety.

The ICT Cabinet Secretary emphasized that the country is positioning itself as a regional leader in digital transformation and is keen to ensure that the growth of its online platforms is anchored in trust, accountability and responsible use of technology.

“I’ve challenged TikTok to establish a stronger operational presence in Kenya to support African operations and invest in moderation for local languages. Together, we are building a digital future anchored in innovation, trust, and safety,”CS Kabogo expressed.

## Suspect In Sh11mn SHA Fraud Charged



BY MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

A suspect linked to an alleged Sh11 million fraud involving the Social Health Authority (SHA) has been charged with multiple offences related to fraudulent medical claims.

The accused, Mishael Otieno Okumu, however pleaded not guilty to all the counts.

Investigations by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) connected him to irregular practices at Salama Yard Medical Center Laboratory and Maternity Services, a medical facility located in Pipeline area.

Investigators say the facility was involved in suspicious activities that enabled the submission of fraudulent claims to SHA.

According to the Investigations Bureau at DCI Headquarters, the irregularities included suspicious admission patterns, the use of expired or unauthorized practitioner cre-

dentials, false patient admissions, and fraudulent billing.

The suspect and the facility were charged with seven counts, including obtaining registration by false pretence contrary to Section 320 of the Penal Code, making false statements and falsification of documents under Section 48(1)(c) of the SHA Act.

He also faces charges related to the acquisition and use of proceeds of crime under the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act (POCAMLA).

Okumu was remanded at Capitol Hill Police Station pending the issuance of bail and bond terms on March 16, after the court receives a probation report.

The DCI said investigations into fraud involving the Social Health Authority are ongoing and vowed to pursue all individuals involved in the scheme to ensure accountability and safeguard public resources.

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**Judiciary** The new law seeks to secure judicial independence through guaranteed retirement benefits by creating a structured system to govern judges' retirement

# Ruto Assents To Judges' Retirement Benefits Law, Establishes Pension Scheme



President William Ruto with national, Judiciary and parliamentary officials after signing the new law.



President William Ruto

preme Court, Court of Appeal, High Court, Environment and Land Court and the Employment and Labour Relations Court — stands at 388 judges. Currently, 202 judges are in

office, while recruitment is underway for one Supreme Court judge, 20 High Court judges and 10 Environment and Land Court judges. The enhanced retirement

benefits are expected to help attract and retain experienced and independent legal professionals willing to serve on the Bench despite the professional and personal constraints associated with judicial service.

The Act also aligns judges' retirement benefits with best practices in pension management by providing a gradual transition toward a fully contributory pension scheme while maintaining fiscal prudence and consistency.

“Now we have a legal framework that will give the opportunity for our judges to serve in an environment where they know their future and retirement is guaranteed,” Ruto said.

BY PCS

@themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto yesterday assented to the Judges' Retirement Benefits Bill, establishing a comprehensive legal framework for the retirement benefits of judges of the superior courts.

Speaking at State House, Nairobi, President Ruto said the new law would allow judges to enjoy pension benefits similar to those available to other Kenyans while guaranteeing their financial security after leaving office.

“Now we have a legal framework that will give the opportunity for our judges to serve in an environment where they know their future and retirement is guaranteed,” he said.

The Bill, sponsored by National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wah, marks the culmination of more than 30 years of efforts to establish a clear framework for the retirement benefits of judges.

The new law seeks to secure judicial independence through guaranteed retirement benefits by creating a structured system to govern the retirement of judges serving in the

superior courts. Its principal objective is to operationalise constitutional guarantees of judicial independence and security of tenure by providing predictable, secure and fiscally sustainable retirement benefits.

Under the law, pension rights already accrued by serving judges will be protected, ensuring their benefits cannot be altered to their disadvantage. Judges currently in office will therefore remain under the existing defined benefits pension regime administered under the Pensions Act.

However, the Act introduces a contributory retirement scheme for judges appointed after the law comes into effect through the creation of a Judges' Retirement Benefits Fund.

Under the scheme, newly appointed judges will contribute 7.5 per cent of their basic salary, while the Government will contribute 15 per cent. The fund will be administered by a Board of Trustees and will provide retirement benefits through a structured contributory system designed to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability.

The law also provides several non-pension benefits for

judges, including medical cover, diplomatic passports and access to government VIP airport lounges.

Retired Supreme Court judges will receive additional benefits reflecting the responsibilities associated with service at the apex court and their continued administrative roles within the Judiciary.

The Act further recognises the service of judges who have already retired by extending certain post-retirement benefits to those who left office after the promulgation of the Constitution but before the commencement of the Act.

While their pension entitlements will continue to be governed by the Pensions Act, they will be eligible for enhanced benefits such as medical cover and diplomatic privileges. This measure is aimed at ensuring equitable treatment for judges who served under the new constitutional dispensation.

The law applies to a relatively small and specialised group of State officers whose numbers are fixed by statute and policy of the Judicial Service Commission. The approved establishment for the superior courts — comprising the Su-




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SCAN FOR MAJISAFI

**Development** The fund will play a critical role in addressing Kenya's infrastructure financing gap, which the World Bank estimates at about KSh516 billion annually.

# Ruto Signs National Infrastructure Fund Law To Boost Financing Of Mega Projects

BY PCS

@themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto signed the National Infrastructure Fund Bill into law, a move the government says will transform how Kenya finances large-scale infrastructure projects and reduce reliance on public debt.

Speaking at State House Nairobi yesterday during the signing ceremony, President Ruto described the establishment of the National Infrastructure Fund as one of the most consequential initiatives in the country's development history.

He said the fund will play a critical role in addressing Kenya's infrastructure financing gap, which the World Bank estimates at about KSh516 billion annually.

According to the President, the new financing mechanism will help the country mobilise up to KSh5 trillion over the next decade to support key development projects across multiple sectors.

"The National Infrastructure Fund gives us the opportunity to build the future rather than wait for it," Ruto said.

The President explained that the fund will support transformative investments in agriculture, energy, transport and logistics. Through the initiative, the government plans to expand irrigation systems and water storage facilities to strengthen agricultural production.

He also noted that the fund will support the development of modern infrastructure such as roads, railways, ports, airports and logistics corridors aimed at linking farms, factories and markets more efficiently.

In addition, the government intends to use the fund to scale up reliable and affordable energy to power industries, innovation and value-added production, which the President said are essential for economic transformation.

The signing ceremony was attended by senior government officials and representatives from the private sector and international financial institutions.

Among those present were National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi, International Finance Corporation Regional Vice-President Mary Porter, Africa Finance Corporation President and Chief Executive Officer Samaila Zubairu, Britam Holdings Chief Executive Officer Tom Gitogo, Kenya Commercial Bank Group CEO Paul Russo, County Pension Fund CEO Hosea Kili and NCBA Managing Director John

Gachora.

President Ruto said the new fund will also help Kenya structure its infrastructure priorities and package them in a way that attracts both domestic and international investors.

He noted that while the government has made progress in revitalising agriculture, expanding healthcare, stabilising the education sector and implementing the affordable housing programme over the past three years, the next phase of development will require significantly larger investments.

"But the next stage of our journey demands more. More scale. More investment. And, above all, a new way to finance our development," the President said.

Ruto emphasised that the National Infrastructure Fund is not an experimental idea but a model that has already been successfully implemented in several countries.

He cited examples including the Nigeria Infrastructure Fund established in 2011, the Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund launched in 2014, India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund created in 2015 and the Canada Infrastructure Bank established in 2017.

Other comparable institutions include the United Kingdom's National Wealth Fund and South Africa's Infrastructure Fund.

"We have drawn lessons from all these experiences," he said.

The President added that the establishment of the fund fulfils a key pledge made by the Kenya Kwanza administration in its manifesto.

"Today, we fulfill that promise," he said.

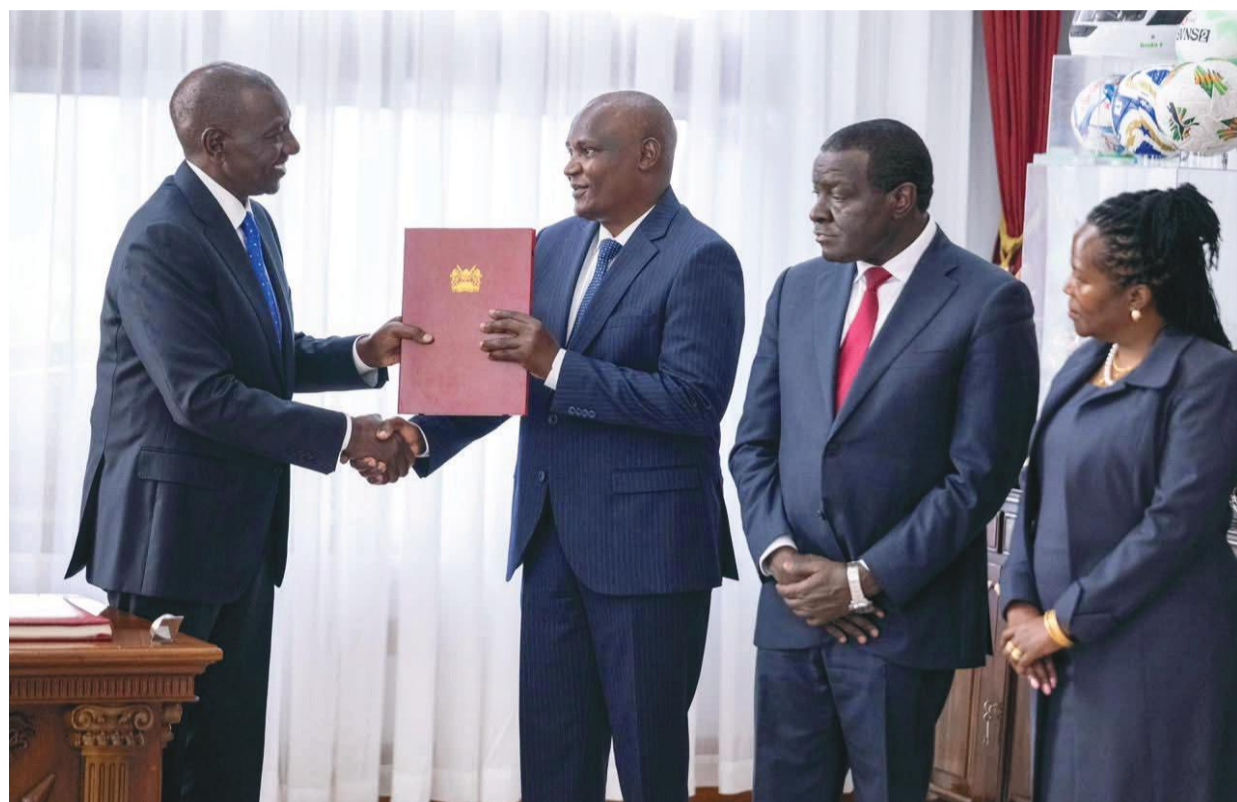
Ruto also pointed out the risks associated with relying heavily on sovereign borrowing to finance development projects, noting that such an approach has previously limited the country's ability to invest in major infrastructure while maintaining economic stability.

As part of the implementation of the new financing framework, the President announced that he will visit the Nairobi Securities Exchange on Tuesday to ring the bell marking the start of trading for Kenya Pipeline Company shares following a successful Initial Public Offering (IPO).

The IPO raised about KSh106 billion (approximately \$820 million), which will serve as seed capital for the National Infrastructure Fund.

"Our goal is to leverage this capital at least 12 times, mobilising close to KSh1.2 trillion for infrastructure investment," he said.

Over time, the government hopes the model will enable Kenya to mobilise nearly KSh5 trillion for infra-



President William Ruto handing over the signed document to Treasury CS John Mbadi. | Photo: Courtesy.

structure development within the next decade.

President Ruto also revealed that the expansion of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport will be the first major project financed under the new infrastructure funding model.

He explained that the project will be structured using KSh20 billion in government equity from the National Infrastructure Fund together with investments from domestic institutional investors.

The President encouraged private sector players to participate in financing commercially viable infrastructure projects, noting that the new model creates significant investment opportunities.

"The opportunities you have been looking for in commercially viable public infrastructure projects are right here," he told investors.

He also called for reforms that would allow pension funds to invest in a wider range of asset classes so they can participate more actively in infrastructure financing while earning competitive returns.

On governance, the President said Parliament recently enacted the Government-Owned Enterprises Act, which provides a modern legal framework for the management and commercialisation of state-owned enterprises.

Under this framework, several key agencies including the Kenya Airports Authority, Kenya Ports Authority, Kenya Railways, Kenya Electricity Transmission Company,

Geothermal Development Company and the National Cereals and Produce Board will operate under stricter corporate governance standards.

Ruto said the government intends to gradually enable such institutions to access capital markets to raise additional funding for infrastructure development.

He also emphasised that commercially viable state corporations will be managed professionally and according to private-sector principles.

"They will not be run by people with political connections or politicians who have not succeeded in their quest for office," he said.

National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi said the establishment of the National Infrastructure Fund will accelerate the development of major infrastructure projects without increasing the country's debt burden.

Mbadi noted that the design of the fund was informed by lessons from countries that have successfully transitioned from traditional debt-based infrastructure financing to blended investment models involving both public and private capital.

He said the government studied examples from countries including India, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Nigeria, Germany and Canada before developing the framework.

"It is worth noting that the signing of the National Infrastructure Fund Act into law is the wider delivery of the Kenya Kwanza Manifesto as approved by Kenyans in the last election," Mbadi said.

Private sector leaders who attended the event welcomed the establishment of the fund and expressed readiness to participate in the financing of national infrastructure.

Britam Holdings CEO Tom Gitogo said the fund focuses on investing in key factors of production that enhance productivity and competitiveness in the economy.

Kenya Commercial Bank Group CEO Paul Russo said the banking sector stands ready to support the initiative and participate in financing infrastructure projects.

International Finance Corporation Regional Vice-President Mary Porter also expressed support for the programme, saying the organisation is ready to partner with Kenya in mobilising capital for projects that support communities and long-term economic growth.

Africa Finance Corporation President Samaila Zubairu noted that the success of infrastructure development in Africa will depend on the ability of African countries to mobilise domestic capital.

"The Kenyan infrastructure fund embodies this philosophy. It mobilises domestic capital, channels that capital into strategic infrastructure and creates conditions for industry and value creation here in Kenya," he said.

**Politics** Maara emphasized women's indispensable role as the backbone of society, calling for greater political recognition and respect.

# Kiambu Jubilee Leaders Push For Transformative Leadership Ahead Of 2027 Elections

BY Felix Njenga  
@themkenyatimes

The Jubilee Party in Kiambu County has signaled a major political resurgence, with senior officials and aspirants advocating a shift from “transactional” to “transformative” leadership as the 2027 General Election approaches. The message came during International Women’s Day celebrations at PCEA Komothai Church in Githunguri Constituency, where George Maara, Kiambu County Jubilee Party Chairman and Senatorial aspirant, led a high-profile delegation.

The event celebrated women’s contributions while outlining the party’s strategic roadmap. Maara emphasized women’s indispensable role as the backbone of society, calling for greater political recognition and respect.

“Women are our mothers, our wives, our sisters, and our daughters. It is time we give them the recognition they deserve,” he said, stressing that effective leadership must reflect the realities on the ground. Reflecting on the 2022 elections, Maara admitted that voters had erred by electing “transactional” leaders and urged the electorate to support genuine reformers in 2027, particularly those championing women’s issues and broader societal welfare. He dismissed suggestions that

daughters. It is time we give them the recognition they deserve,” he said, stressing that effective leadership must reflect the realities on the ground. Reflecting on the 2022 elections, Maara admitted that voters had erred by electing “transactional” leaders and urged the electorate to support genuine reformers in 2027, particularly those championing women’s issues and broader societal welfare. He dismissed suggestions that

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George Maara Jubilee party chairman Kiambu county and aspiring for Senator seat joined by Kiambu women in leadership.

Jubilee is fading, pointing to its national stature, history of producing a President, and parliamentary majorities. Maara outlined an ambitious plan for Kiambu County, aiming to secure all elective positions—from Governor and Senator to Woman Representative, all 12 MPs, and 60 County Assembly members. On the national stage, he endorsed former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang’i as the party’s preferred presidential candidate, citing his proven leadership credentials.

Addressing calls for former President Uhuru Kenyatta to take a more active role, Maara described the 2022 warnings he gave to the Mt. Kenya region as “prophetic,” noting that the current administration had confirmed his predictions within its first 100 days. He

net Secretary Fred Matiang’i as the party’s preferred presidential candidate, citing his proven leadership credentials. Addressing calls for former President Uhuru Kenyatta to take a more active role, Maara described the 2022 warnings he gave to the Mt. Kenya region as “prophetic,” noting that the current administration had confirmed his predictions within its first 100 days. He

net Secretary Fred Matiang’i as the party’s preferred presidential candidate, citing his proven leadership credentials. Addressing calls for former President Uhuru Kenyatta to take a more active role, Maara described the 2022 warnings he gave to the Mt. Kenya region as “prophetic,” noting that the current administration had confirmed his predictions within its first 100 days. He

said Kenyatta’s guidance remains vital when he decides to provide it.

The celebrations also highlighted the push for greater female participation in politics. Dr. Martha Njeri, Jubilee aspirant for Kiambu Woman Representative, urged the public to trust women with leadership, citing their nurturing role and societal contributions. She acknowledged the unique challenges female candidates face, including verbal abuse and insecurity, and called for respect and fair opportunity for women to lead.

Dr. Njeri promised a grassroots-focused agenda, prioritizing improvements in healthcare, education, and farmers’ welfare. Both leaders underscored the Jubilee Party’s commitment to transformative leadership, social development, and inclusive governance, positioning the party for a potential sweep of Kiambu County in the 2027 elections.

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**Crisis** Mudavadi said that the longer the violence and insecurity last, the greater the harm, especially if traffic through the Strait of Hormuz remains blocked.

# Mudavadi: Government Focused On The Safety Of 500,000 Kenyans In The Middle East

**“There will be disruptions to energy supply, air travel and faith will have greater ramifications economically and security-wise. Clearly, our region is still battling with terrorism, and it must remain this crisis, the Middle East war, like other global crises, including covid 19 and the Russia-Ukraine war,”** said Mudavadi.

**BY OPCS Press Service**  
@themkenyaintimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has said that the Kenyan government is focused on the safety and well-being of more than half a million Kenyan nationals living, working and studying in the Middle East.

Dr. Mudavadi said Kenya remains a neutral and principled voice advocating for peace, restraint, humanitarian protection and international legality.

Speaking when he gave his speech to Chatham House, Mudavadi said that the longer the violence and insecurity last, the greater the harm, especially if traffic through the Strait of Hormuz remains blocked.

“There will be disruptions to energy supply, air travel and faith will have greater ramifications economically and security-wise. Clearly, our region is still battling with terrorism, and it must remain

this crisis, the Middle East war, like other global crises, including covid 19 and the Russia-Ukraine war,” said Mudavadi.

The PCS, also Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, said the violent conflict reinforces the need for African states to diversify supply chains and, more importantly, accelerate integration, including the full realisation of the objectives of the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA).

“We must accelerate the transition to renewable energy. Let us reimagine the future. If Africa were powered by clean energy, including solar, geothermal and hydro, the Middle East crisis would not carry the same distressing impact,” said Mudavadi.

PCS said that the overlap of the Red Sea crisis and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which handles 20percent of global oil, signals a looming crisis and potential anarchy.

He appealed to the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to help de-escalate tensions and be mindful of the looming crisis facing African countries.

“From the impact of the Middle East war, Sudan’s dire humanitarian crisis, which was drawing international attention, or at least beginning to now, risks receding into another era of a forgotten conflict as global attention shifts away to the Middle East, as was the case during the Gaza and Russia-Ukraine conflicts,” he said.

Mudavadi said that Kenya was keen on its response to the changing world order, international Relations stand at a historic turning point.

The global balance of power is changing. As new alliances emerge, all rivalries resurface, and middle as well as

“From the impact of the Middle East war, Sudan’s dire humanitarian crisis, which was drawing international attention, or at least beginning to now, risks receding into another era of a forgotten conflict as global attention shifts away to the Middle East, as was the case during the Gaza and Russia-Ukraine conflicts,” he said.

emerging powers continue to assert influence. Apparently,



PCS Musalia Mudavadi during yesterday’s session.

we have entered into a more complex, perilous and contested global order.

“We are witnessing an international system increasingly marked by interest-driven alliances supplant with multilateral collective economic strategies that prioritise protectionism While constraining global supply chains, transactional calculations and militarism,” said Mudavadi.

He said the long-standing principles of diplomacy, such as peaceful points of coexistence, negotiations, sovereign equality and mutual reciprocity, the foundational values of international relations, including human rights, inclusiveness, rule-based global order

and shared prosperity, were winning.

He noted that the implications of these global changes are most felt in the Global South, particularly in Africa, where the net effect is the disruption of economic growth, escalating conflicts, a new scramble for critical resources, and a resurgence of Cold War-style geopolitics.

Furthermore, Mudavadi said democratic governance is increasingly coming under strain, marked by a troubling rise in unconstitutional changes of government.

“All brought together, these global trends threaten peace and security and the hard-won economic development of

Africa gains. In this moment of global turbulence, African states face a two-fold strategic choice: either to transform their immense potential into strategic influence or to remain at the geopolitical periphery as passive actors and perpetual recipients of international assistance,” said Mudavadi.

He said, Africa must deliberately transform its immense potential in technology, digital innovation, critical minerals, natural resources and youthful population into economic impacts and an assertive international voice.



**Fuel** Kenyans should not be forced to bear additional financial burdens arising from global political developments when the fuel currently available in the country was purchased earlier

# Nyoro Urges Gov't To Keep Fuel Prices Stable Amid Middle East Tensions

BY Bernard Munyao

@themkenyatimes

Kiharu Member of Parliament Ndindi Nyoro has urged the government and the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) to ensure fuel prices remain stable despite rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

Speaking yesterday during the launch of a new Office of the Assistant County Com-

missioner in Kahuro, Murang'a County, Nyoro said the country currently has adequate fuel stocks that were procured before the recent surge in global oil prices. He argued that this should prevent any immediate increase in pump prices.

According to the legislator, Kenyans should not be forced to bear additional financial burdens arising from global political developments when the fuel currently available

in the country was purchased earlier at relatively lower prices.

Nyoro called on the government to be transparent in the fuel pricing formula and avoid passing unnecessary costs to consumers. He warned that any increase in fuel prices would further worsen the already high cost of living affecting many households across the country.

The MP also urged the government to scrap the KSh7



Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro launching a new ACC office at Kahuro. | Photo: Bernard Munyao.

**“The additional taxes and levies on fuel are unfair to citizens who are already struggling to meet their daily needs,” Nyoro said.**



fuel levy introduced in 2024 as well as the eight percent Value Added Tax imposed on petroleum products in 2022. He said the two charges have significantly increased the financial pressure on ordinary Kenyans.

“The additional taxes and levies on fuel are unfair to citizens who are already struggling to meet their daily needs,” Nyoro said.

Nyoro further cautioned the government against using global tensions, including the ongoing conflicts involving Iran, as a justification for raising fuel prices locally. He noted that similar explanations have previously been given for fuel price increases even when international market trends did not necessarily support such adjustments.

The lawmaker observed that historically, when global oil prices decline, Kenyan consumers do not immediately benefit from lower pump prices. However, when international prices rise, the increases are often reflected quickly in the local market.

He cited the example of 2022 when a barrel of crude oil traded at about 100 US dollars while Kenyans continued to pay high prices for fuel at the pump.

Nyoro warned that any further increase in fuel prices would have widespread economic consequences since petroleum products are central to transportation, manufacturing and food production.

He explained that higher fuel prices would automatically lead to increased transportation costs, which would then push up the prices of essential goods and services across the economy.

The MP said the government must prioritise protecting citizens from economic shocks and ensure that policies in the energy sector are designed with the interests of ordinary Kenyans in mind.

He cautioned that poor management of fuel pricing could push many households into deeper financial hardship, noting that many Kenyans are already struggling with the high cost of living.

“As leaders, we must be sensitive to the struggles of ordinary wananchi. Any increase in fuel prices will directly raise the cost of living and affect millions of families,” Nyoro said.

Nyoro urged the government and EPRA to review the current tax structure on petroleum products and introduce measures that will cushion citizens from further economic strain.

He maintained that stabilising fuel prices would ease pressure on households and businesses, adding that global conflicts should not be used as an excuse for policies that place additional financial burdens on Kenyans.



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**Forest** To propagate around five million seedlings, we need space where we can establish nurseries and mobilise human resource

# We Are Clearing Three Acres In Karura To Plant Seedlings – CS Barasa

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

Environment Cabinet Secretary Deborah Barasa has confirmed that a section of Karura Forest is being cleared to establish a tree nursery and temporary housing facilities for National Youth Service (NYS) officials.

In an interview with NTV, Barasa explained that as part of the government's nationwide tree-growing initiative, approximately two to three acres of forest land have been set aside to facilitate the propagation of up to five million seedlings.

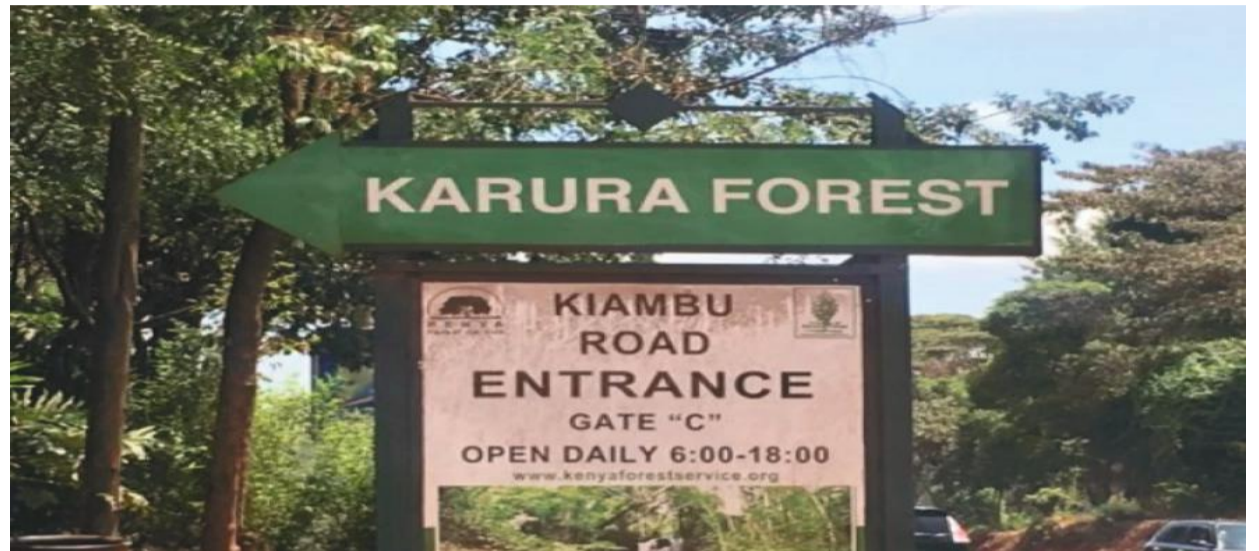
"These seedlings will support afforestation projects across the country, including public parks, forests, urban areas, schools, and highways," she said. "To propagate around five million seedlings, we need space

where we can establish nurseries and mobilize human resources to support the process."

Barasa further noted that temporary housing structures are being constructed for NYS officers to assist in managing the nursery and overseeing large-scale seedling production. She emphasized that the program is a key component of the government's strategy to increase Kenya's forest cover from the current 12 percent to 30 percent over the next several years.

The initiative, however, has drawn criticism from conservationists and members of the public, particularly organizations affiliated with Friends of Karura Forest. They have expressed concern about tree-cutting in the protected urban forest, raising questions about its long-term management.

Barasa dismissed claims that the for-



est is being destroyed, stressing that the project is intended to strengthen Kenya's tree-planting campaign. She explained that the national effort aims to restore degraded ecosystems and expand forest cover by

mobilizing communities in diverse ecological zones—including coastal regions, drylands, and wetlands—to produce and plant more trees.

This formal clarification underscores the government's position

that the clearing of land in Karura is a strategic measure to support large-scale afforestation and environmental restoration efforts nationwide.

The Mt. Kenya Times



## Ode To Moon!



O'My Moon!  
O'My Moon!  
I have nothing  
In my sight!  
That how far,  
Far my soul,  
Flee from you  
Just for you!  
But the closest  
Of my heart,  
Of my soul,  
Of my mind,  
Still you are!  
O' My Moon!  
O' My Moon!

~Taimoor Ehsan

## Uzbekistan



Peace fills the sky, in blue hues groomed.  
The world stands in awe of forefathers grand,  
Time itself bows to this cherished land.  
Faith built on goodness, pure and strong,  
To all of us, Uzbekistan — where hearts belong!

Polvonnazirova Makhbuba  
Uzbekistan

Ancient walls whisper tales to the land,  
Brave young men as guardians stand.  
In this realm where knowledge has bloomed,

## For You, The Moon Is In Its Beautiful Face



But you, your visage heavenize the  
phantasmagoric grains, over the rains

Remember!  
I whisper your moonlight, through all the galaxies  
through all the blackness  
Your dilemma dazzles, and my heart hassles in  
the freshness, lushness and blushness  
Near your ear to my heart, hear the fears,  
through the stars, often clip with drainage draft  
But, your echoes ignite, and your heart tries, the  
gleam, the glints and the green  
all with the shadows of fuel, the mating of lovely  
lean

Remember!  
For you, the moon is its beautiful face  
that everly entangle with the magnificence in all  
its trace  
Ignite for you, delight for you, and overly insight  
for you  
Believe, the obsession, intention, and sensation  
that swiftly, sweetly grew.

—Tajalla Qureshi

Remember!  
the moon with its moonlight  
Proposing you the ultimate embrace  
Your sights, your heights all with their elevated  
grace  
Captivates and encapsulates the fierce nexalune  
Your hands, your warmness, my heart, a twinkling  
tune  
Cherishes your cheers, ravishes your hears  
with my name over your name, my wear over your  
wears  
and indelibly intimates the wine in your eyes, the  
sensation in your sensorus smiles  
Remember!  
the univseral truths are faded under the feet  
you mesmerize, you fantasize, the dynamic heat  
sometimes, glitters become fades, yells and bells  
the unintended migraines

## Of Bachelor's Gadgets



Poet: Meredith Burtley  
Poem: Of Bachelor's Gadgets  
Group: GOC  
Location: Rusape

I once had an accidental communion with a  
bachelor's crib.  
As I navigated my way through the solitary hub,  
Where chaos is order,  
I had to develop wings to evade a rogue and stray  
black rodent.  
I perched on a string where unwashed half torn  
undergarments dangled like pieces of biltong.

The bed was chaotic;  
With exhausted dusty blankets spread

haphazardly.  
I could see the chronic orderliness of a  
psychiatric playhouse,  
Where unwashed stockings leaned against the  
edges of the pot and brown roaches mingling with  
miss that gathered therein.  
The stench was just a fatigue as it escaped  
through my wide nostrils.

The crib was just nauseating,  
Packed with unserviceable utilities, broken  
typewriters and sheafs of torn papers,  
A form of garbage common in a writer's crib.  
I was at the mercy of the moratorium of topsy-  
turviness; rusty spoons lay quietly in the tools  
box; a vault of wonder.

## Small Lifestyle Changes By Big Health Benefits



White sugar, White salt and white rice  
Make the body into three 'H'  
Healthy life, Healthy heart and healthy body.

Consuming more water in an empty stomach  
Come away from the constipation.  
Taking periodic consultation  
Keeping the body fit.

Rajesh Kanna B N

RAJESH KANNA.B N  
M.Sc.,M.A.,M.A., B.Ed., PGD G&C, CELT.,  
BT Asst  
GMHSCHOOL,  
TIRUR,  
TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT.  
Tamil Nadu, India  
Creative Writers.

Getting early from bed  
Earning a day ahead.  
Doing mudras and meditation  
Making health updates .

Saying thanks to all  
Feeling happy and well.  
Avoiding the bed coffee/tea  
Make the situation green.

Reducing three 'W's

## Today the sun rose just for me



Today the sun rose just for me,  
Yet felt so far, like a distant sea.  
People passed, but none stayed near,  
The noise was loud, the heart was clear.

I talked to thoughts, I walked alone,  
Every step felt like a stone.  
Smiles I wore, but deep inside,  
A quiet ache I couldn't hide.

Still, I learned as hours went by,  
Lonely days also help us try-  
To know our strength, to heal, to stay,  
And find ourselves in a lonely day

Ambuja

**Safari** The event drew 822 registered riders and about 700 spectators, bringing total attendance to roughly 1,500 people

# Record Turnout Marks 2026 LOOP Safari Gravel Series Opener In Limuru

BY Felix Njenga  
@themtkenyatimes

The 2026 LOOP Safari Gravel Series began last Saturday at Limuru Country Club with record participation and the reopening of the club's historic cricket pavilion, marking a significant moment for both Kenyan cycling and the Limuru sporting community.

The event drew 822 registered riders and about 700 spectators, bringing total attendance to roughly 1,500 people.

According to LOOP DFS Chief Executive Officer Eric Muriuki, the numbers represent the largest turnout since the gravel cycling series was established.

Muriuki said the strong attendance reflects the rapid growth of gravel cycling in



**Caption** Eric Muriuki LOOP DFS chief executive officer greets participants of the LOOP safari gravel series at the Limuru country club.

Kenya. He noted that the increasing participation demonstrates how the sport is gaining traction nationwide and building a vibrant cycling community.

Beyond the race itself, the

event also celebrated the restoration of Limuru Country Club's cricket pavilion.

The structure had previously been destroyed by fire but has now been rebuilt through a partnership between LOOP

and the club.

The restoration project symbolizes a broader commitment to reviving community infrastructure and preserving Limuru's social and sporting heritage.

The Limuru race is the first of four events scheduled in the 2026 Safari Gravel Series.

The next leg will take place in Naivasha on June 14, followed by another race in Vipingo in August. Organizers have also introduced a new element this season: the location of the fourth and final race will be determined through a community vote among cyclists.

On the course, riders faced a challenging route characterized by mud and wet conditions after rainfall. The demanding terrain tested endurance and bike-handling skills, conditions that are often considered the essence of gravel racing.

Team Amani dominated the men's podium, with Kenneth Karaya securing first place.

His teammate Stanley Ngugi finished second, while two-time defending champion Jordan Schleck took third place.

Schleck, who has more than a decade of racing experi-

ence, said the muddy conditions made the competition tougher but also added to the authenticity of gravel racing. He also highlighted the need for improved cycling infrastructure in Kenya, noting that concerns about road safety discourage many potential riders from entering the sport despite growing interest.

During the event, LOOP also used the platform to showcase Loop Biz, its digital financial platform designed for Kenyan businesses.


The system offers integrated payment options including mobile money, card payments and bank transfers, as well as tools for invoicing, inventory tracking and business management.

Muriuki said Loop Biz currently serves about 400,000 merchants across Kenya.

He emphasized that supporting small businesses remains central to the company's sustainability approach, explaining that the success of customers ultimately drives the company's own growth.

With the upcoming Naivasha race also serving as a UCI-accredited qualifier, organizers believe the Safari Gravel Series is helping position Kenya as a leading destination for gravel cycling in Africa.

**822**  
Registered riders



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**Politics** Oburu emphasized that the ODM-UDA pact was tied to this reform agenda, making it impossible to conclude within a year.

# Oburu Rebuts Sifuna, Insists ODM-UDA Agenda Needs Time

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

ODM leader Oburu Oginga has moved to quash speculation that the ODM-UDA pact has expired, insisting the agreement is a long-term arrangement anchored in the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) report whose provisions cannot be implemented within a single year. Speaking at his Strathmore Lavington offices in Nairobi during a dedication ceremony, Oginga described critics of his leadership as “self-seekers” who do not have the party’s interests at heart. “Senator Sifuna said yesterday that the agreement ended on Saturday 7th. I want to tell him he suffers from memory issues... the agreement between our party and UDA was signed way after the broad-based government had been formed,” he said, adding that the pact was designed to endure beyond short-term political cycles.

The NADCO report, adopted by Parliament in early 2024, was the product of months of multiparty negotiations aimed at easing political tensions and charting a reform path. It outlined sweeping constitutional, legislative, and administrative reforms across five key areas: electoral reforms, public finance transparency, inclusivity in governance, security sector accountability, and legislative adjustments to close governance gaps. Majority Leader Kimani Ichung’wah, who co-chaired the committee, described the report as “a blueprint for stabilizing Kenya’s democracy and ensuring no citizen feels excluded from the national conversation.” Government Spokesman Isaac Mwaura reinforced this view, stating: “There have been claims that the NADCO report is not being implemented. I want to reaffirm that the government



ODM leader Oburu Oginga

is committed to delivering on its recommendations through a structured and time-bound framework.”

Oburu emphasized that the ODM-UDA pact was tied to this reform agenda, making it impossible to conclude within a year. “The issues covered under the ODM-UDA agreement, including the NADCO report, are extensive and require time to implement,” he said. Acting Secretary General Catherine Omanyu urged members to remain patient, noting: “This is not about short-term gains. It is about reshaping Kenya’s governance for generations.” Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja added: “We must give dialogue a chance. The NAD-

CO report is our roadmap to stability.”

The NADCO report’s provisions are far-reaching. Electoral reforms seek to strengthen the independence of the IEBC, while public finance reforms aim to enhance transparency in resource allocation. Inclusivity measures propose broadening representation in government, particularly for marginalized groups. Security sector reforms are designed to improve accountability, and legislative changes address governance gaps that have long undermined public trust. Dr. Agnes Zani, a member of the committee, compared the process to international precedents: “Other democracies have implemented such

reforms at critical junctures. The United Kingdom’s Good Friday Agreement in 1998 is a reminder that sustained multiparty talks can deliver lasting peace.”

The political tensions surrounding the pact were heightened by Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna’s remarks that the agreement had lapsed. Legislator TJ Kajwang warned against “reckless pronouncements that weaken the party’s credibility.” Senator Hamida Kibwana added: “We must remember that reforms of this magnitude cannot be rushed. They require patience and political goodwill.” Oburu urged members to “hold their horses” and avoid fueling divisions, stressing that

the pact was signed after the formation of the broad-based government and remains in force.

Beyond the political wrangling, the implications for Kenya are profound. Analysts note that the NADCO report represents the most ambitious reform blueprint since the 2010 Constitution. Its success depends on bipartisan cooperation and sustained political will. Failure to implement could reignite tensions that the dialogue process sought to defuse. For ordinary Kenyans, the stakes are high. Rising fuel costs, unemployment, and governance challenges underscore the urgency of reforms. As one supporter at the event remarked: “We cannot afford another cycle of political instability. NADCO must succeed.”

The event was attended by Acting Secretary General Catherine Omanyu, Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja, legislators TJ Kajwang, Sen. Hamida Kibwana, Peter Orero, James Nyikal, Joshua Orony, and Peters Owino. ODM Executive Director Oduor Ong’wen, Finance and Administration Director Joshua Kawino, and Oginga’s Chief of Staff Michael Agwanda were also present, alongside other party officials and supporters. Their presence underscored the weight of the occasion and the party’s commitment to the pact.

The NADCO report’s implementation is being pursued through three pathways: administrative, legislative, and constitutional reforms. Administrative measures include strengthening institutions and improving service delivery. Legislative reforms involve passing new laws to enshrine transparency and accountability. Constitutional reforms, the most complex, may require referenda to secure public approval. Government insiders acknowledge the challenges but insist progress is being made. “We are not

rushing this process. We are building a foundation that will last,” said one senior official.

Oburu’s remarks highlight the delicate balance ODM must strike between internal cohesion and external partnerships. While some members remain skeptical of the pact with UDA, the leadership insists it is necessary to achieve the reforms envisioned in the NADCO report. The broader question is whether Kenya’s political class can sustain the dialogue long enough to deliver tangible results. History offers cautionary tales of reform processes derailed by partisan interests, but the NADCO framework is designed to mitigate such risks by embedding accountability mechanisms.

For Kenya, navigating this crisis requires protecting citizens abroad, securing a stable energy supply, and maintaining planned diplomatic alliances. While the physical battles of political contestation may seem distant, the economic and humanitarian stakes remain immediate and dire. The NADCO report is not merely a document; it is a test of Kenya’s ability to translate dialogue into lasting reform. Oburu Oginga’s dismissal of Sifuna’s claims reflects ODM’s determination to stay the course. Whether the reforms succeed will depend on patience, unity, and the political courage to see them through.

In Kenya’s fragile democracy, the true measure of leadership is not how quickly promises are made, but how faithfully they are delivered. The ODM-UDA pact, anchored in the NADCO report, is more than a political arrangement—it is a test of Kenya’s resilience and its capacity to build a future beyond partisan divides. The battles may be distant, but the consequences are immediate. The nation cannot afford to falter.

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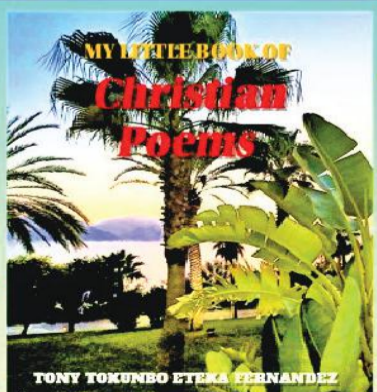
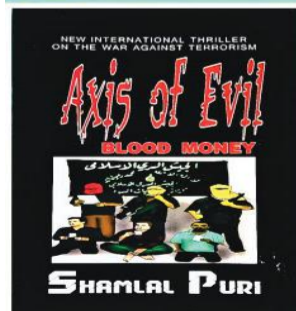
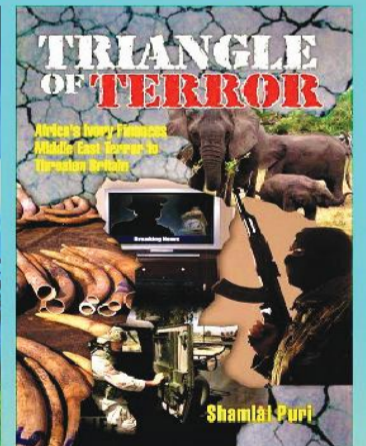
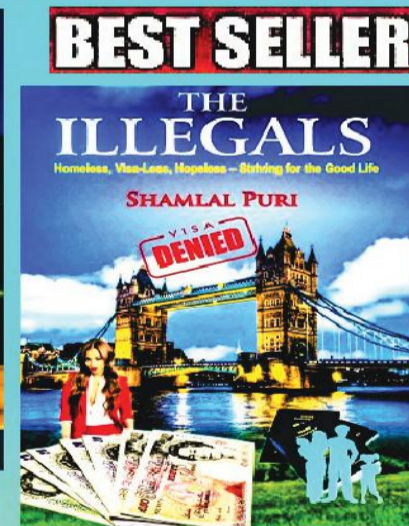
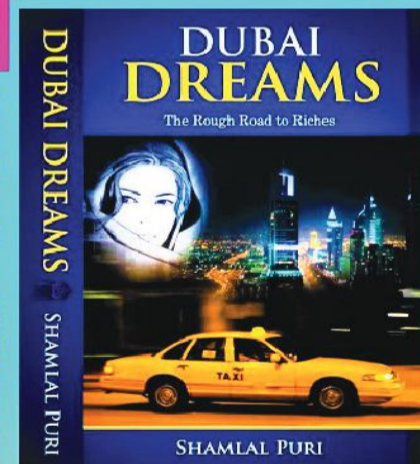
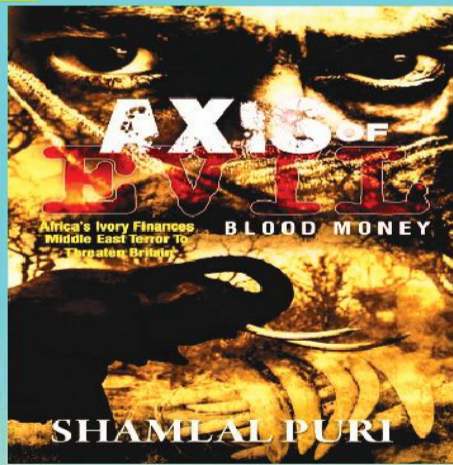
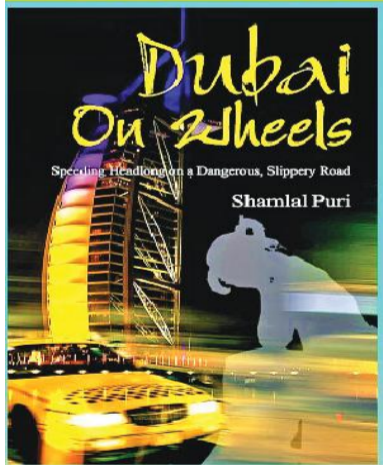
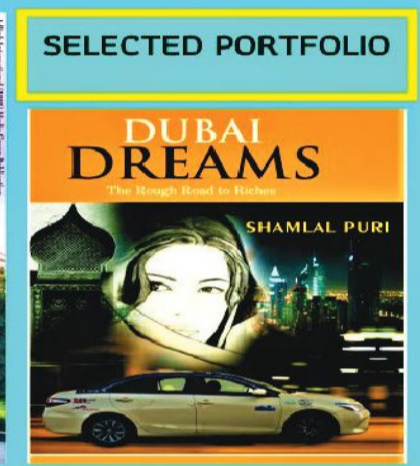
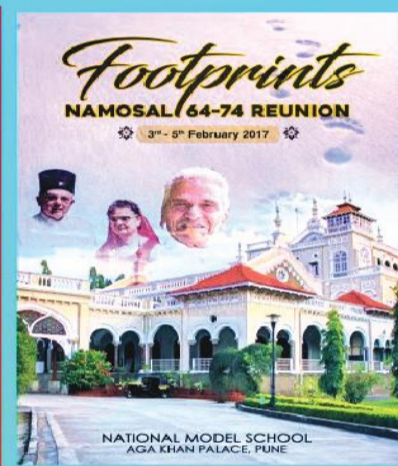
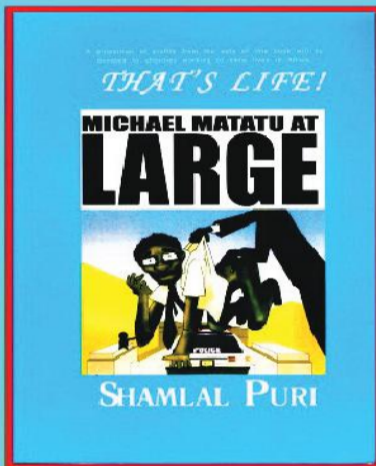
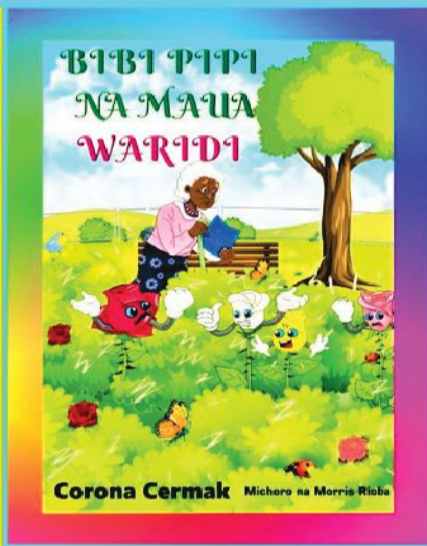
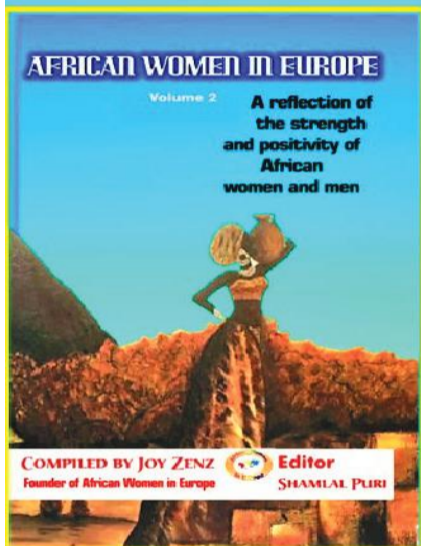
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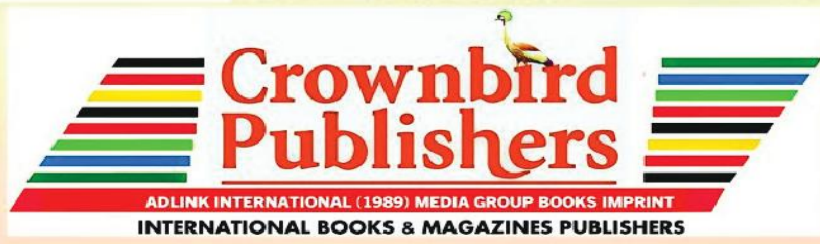
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**Politics** The coalition indicated that replacements for the ousted officials would be announced shortly as part of the expanded party structure

# Azimio Coalition Ousts Senior Leaders Amid Political Realignment

BY MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyentimes

In a dramatic shake-up, the Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition Party yesterday announced the removal of several high-profile leaders from its Coalition Council and National Coalition Executive Council, signaling a significant realignment within the coalition.

The decision followed a joint meeting of the Coalition Council and the National Coalition Executive Council, where the party cited appointments to public office and alignment with competing political coalitions as grounds for the dismissals.

Among those who have ceased to be members of the Azimio Coalition Council are prominent political figures Ali Hassan Joho, Sabina Chege, Abdi Noor Omar Farah, and Junet Mohammed.

The reshuffle in the National Coalition Executive Council is even more extensive, affecting Wycliffe Ambet-



Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka addressing the public in Meru on Sunday. | Photo: Courtesy.

sa Oparanya, Adan Keynan Wehliye, David Pkosing, Mishi Mboko, Abdul Haji, Junet Mohamed, James Opiyo Wandayi, Isabella Wangechi Githinji, Caroline Wanjiru Karugu, and Solomon Kuria.

The coalition indicated that replacements for the ousted officials would

be announced shortly as part of the expanded party structure.

In addition to the council changes, the meeting terminated Junet Mohamed's appointment as Leader of the Azimio Coalition Parliamentary Group in the National Assembly. He has been replaced by Caroli Omon-

di, who assumes the position with immediate effect.

Party leader H.E. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, EGH, SC, in his statement, emphasized that the moves were intended to strengthen the coalition's unity and streamline its leadership ahead of ongoing political

contests.

Political analysts view the shake-up as a strategic effort by Azimio to consolidate influence in key regions and address internal divisions that have surfaced in recent months. The removal of high-profile leaders like Joho and Chege is expected to spark discussions about the coalition's direction and alliances as Kenya approaches critical political milestones.

The coalition, which has faced competition from rival political formations, appears determined to reposition itself with fresh leadership, signaling that loyalty to the party and adherence to its directives will be critical in the coming months.

Observers note that the realignment may have ripple effects across the political landscape, particularly in constituencies where the ousted leaders have considerable influence. How this will affect voter sentiment and coalition negotiations remains to be seen.

**EACC** Mutava was arrested alongside advocate Kimani Wachira and two other suspects.

## Mutava In The Dock: Ex-Judge Arrested Over KSh10.4m Bribery Allegations

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyentimes

The arrest of former High Court judge Joseph Mutava has once again placed Kenya's judiciary under scrutiny, with detectives from the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) confirming he was taken into custody over allegations of soliciting a Sh10.4 million bribe to influence the outcome of a commercial dispute involving a former Cabinet Minister.

Mutava was arrested alongside advocate Kimani Wachira and two other suspects. All four are being held at the EACC Integrity Centre Police Station as investigators complete

preliminary procedures. The case has already stirred public debate, given Mutava's controversial past and the high stakes involved in the alleged bribery scheme.

Mutava's career has long been shadowed by misconduct claims. In 2019, the Supreme Court upheld a tribunal decision recommending his removal from office, dismissing his challenge against findings of gross misconduct. The tribunal had submitted its report to then-President Uhuru Kenyatta in September 2016, and the apex court later rejected Mutava's appeal. At the time, Chief Justice David Maraga remarked: "The integrity of the judiciary cannot be compromised. Judges must be beyond reproach."

The latest arrest underscores EACC's intensified crackdown on

corruption within the justice sector. EACC Chairperson David Oginde said: "Attempts to influence court processes through bribery undermine the rule of law and erode public confidence in the judiciary. We will not hesitate to act against anyone, regardless of their former position." His words reflect growing frustration among Kenyans who have long complained that corruption in the courts denies them justice.

Legal analysts argue that Mutava's case is emblematic of a wider malaise. Professor Kithure Kindiki warned: "When judicial officers are compromised, the entire justice system collapses. It is not just about one case—it is about the credibility of the courts." Transparency International Kenya has also noted that



Former High Court judge Joseph Mutava

"judicial corruption remains one of the most corrosive threats to democracy."

Chief Justice Martha Koome sought to reassure the public, saying: "We are committed to integrity. The arrest of a former judge should not be seen as a reflection of the entire institution, but as proof that accountability mechanisms are working."

For ordinary Kenyans, the implications are stark. Bribery in the courts means delayed cases, skewed judgments, and erosion of trust in the rule of law. As one Nairobi resident told the Mt Kenya Times: "If judges can

be bought, then justice is for sale. What hope does the common man have?"

As Mutava and his co-accused await formal charges, the case is expected to test Kenya's anti-corruption framework. Whether it results in conviction or fades into the long list of unresolved scandals will determine if the message of accountability truly resonates.

**Conflict** This crisis highlights the reality that in our interconnected world, there is no such thing as a “faraway war”;

# The Global Squeeze: How A Faraway War Impacts The Life Of An Ordinary Kenyan Citizen And Africa



Iran - Israel war

from high-risk areas and 24-hour command centers have been established to track and register Kenyans in Iran for potential evacuation.

For Kenya, navigating this crisis requires a delicate balance: protecting citizens abroad, securing a stable energy supply, and maintaining planned diplomatic alliances. While the physical battles are distant, the economic and humanitarian stakes for Kenya remain immediate and dire.

region. In response: The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs has activated its highest level of emergency protocol, Kenya Airways has begun evacuating citizens

**BY Brian Omondi**  
@themkenyatimes

The conflict between the United States and Iran, though occurring thousands of kilometers away, is creating a significant “global squeeze” that directly impacts the lives of ordinary Kenyan citizens. This crisis highlights the reality that in our interconnected world, there is no such thing as a “faraway war”; any disturbance in global harmony creates a ripple effect that touches every connected nation.

The current hostilities officially began on February 28, 2026, following failed diplomatic consultations regarding Iran’s nuclear capabilities. The United States, led by President Donald Trump, demanded a total halt to Iran’s nuclear weapon manufacturing. When Iran refused, the U.S. launched targeted strikes against Iranian plants. These strikes were strategically timed to coincide with Iran’s weakened state, following a failing economy and widespread anti-government protests.

The war has placed African nations in a precarious po-

sition, as they appear to be “paying the price” for a conflict they did not start. Consequently, the African Union and ECOWAS have issued urgent calls for de-escalation.

The most immediate impact is a surge in fuel prices. Because Kenya relies entirely on petroleum imports from the Gulf region, any interruption in crude oil flow disrupts every sector of the economy. Since nearly every business in Kenya involves the transport of goods, even a slight increase in fuel prices leads to higher transportation costs and, subsequently, higher prices for consumers in the market.

Countries that subsidize fuel, such as South Africa, Ethiopia, and Uganda, are facing severe national budget strains as they must allocate more funds to maintain these subsidies. While oil-importing nations struggle, oil-producing African nations like Angola and Libya may actually see a rise in national revenue.

Trade between Africa and Middle Eastern countries has been severely compromised. Iran was a top-10 importer of Kenyan tea, purchasing 4.26 billion KES worth in 2024 alone. The war has disrupted

payment systems and shipping routes, putting this vital revenue at risk. To avoid the Red Sea, many vessels are opting for longer routes around the Cape of Good Hope, adding 10–14 days to transit times and significantly increasing freight insurance premiums.

The cost of importing essential goods—including machinery, medicine, and fertilizers—has increased, making daily life more expensive for everyone.

Initial fears gripped Kenya after Iran announced it would target any nation hosting British or U.S. military assets. However, some of these fears were alleviated on March 2, 2026, when the Iranian Ambassador to Kenya, Dr. Ali Gholampour, addressed the public. Dr. Gholampour clarified that Iran has limited its attack range to 2,000km, effectively ruling out Kenya as a direct target. The Iranian government stated it does not view the U.S. military camp in Kenya as a significant threat due to its magnitude.

Despite these assurances, the Kenyan government remains on high alert. There are approximately 500,000 Kenyans currently in the Gulf

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**Sudan** The UN estimates that 2.8 billion U.S. dollars is needed for humanitarian operations in Sudan in 2026 to reach 20.4 million

# UN Warns Sudan's Food Security At Risk Despite Government Reassurances

At least one in five people suffers from acute malnutrition and is at risk of famine, while roughly 30 percent of children under five are malnourished.

BY Xinhua News Agency  
@themtkenyatimes

As Sudan's civil war approaches its third anniversary, the United Nations warns that humanitarian needs are rising, while the Sudanese government maintains that food supplies remain under control, raising concerns about the country's future food security.

The UN's 2026 Humanitarian Response Plan estimates that 33.7 million people in Sudan will need aid this year, up 3.3 million from 2025. About 29 million people face severe food insecurity, and 23 areas are at risk of famine or already experiencing it. Some 9.1 million people remain internally displaced, while 3.6 million have returned home, mostly to Khartoum and Gezira states, often under harsh conditions with limited access to basic services. The UN attributes rising needs to mass displacement, disrupted supply chains, rising prices, declining agricultural production in conflict-affected areas, and deteriorating health, water, and sanitation services. Humanitarian response is further constrained by funding shortages and access challenges, particularly in Darfur and Kordofan, where more than 80 percent of the population requires aid.

The UN estimates that 2.8 billion U.S. dollars is needed for humanitarian operations in Sudan in 2026 to reach 20.4 million of the most vulnerable. Aid groups warn that funding gaps could leave at least 14.2 million people without assistance. In contrast, Sudanese authorities insist the food situation is stable. Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commissioner, Salwa Adam Benya, said Sunday that the government is



This photo taken on March 8, 2026 shows trucks loaded with humanitarian aid in Port Sudan, eastern Sudan. | Photo: Uqia Elyaki.

working to maintain food supply stability through support for agriculture and coordination with international partners. "The food situation in Sudan remains under control thanks to government interventions and the cooperation of international partners," she said, denying that famine exists despite international warnings of famine risks in some areas. The latest UN-backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report, released in November 2025, highlighted famine conditions in El Fasher, North Darfur, and Kadugli, South Kordofan. The report also warned that more than 21 million people faced high levels of severe food insecurity in September 2025.

At least one in five people suffers from acute malnutrition and is at risk of famine, while roughly 30 percent of children under five are malnourished.

Observers say discrepancies between UN estimates and the government's narrative stem from differing assessment methods and perspectives. International agencies focus on humanitarian indicators, while the



**Observers say discrepancies between UN estimates and the government's narrative stem from differing assessment methods and perspectives. International agencies focus on humanitarian indicators, while the government emphasizes its ability to manage the crisis. "Sudan's food security crisis cannot be separated from the wider armed conflict and its impacts on the national economy," said political analyst Musab Mohsin.**

government emphasizes its ability to manage the crisis. "Sudan's food security crisis cannot be separated from the wider armed conflict and its impacts on the national economy," said political analyst Musab Mohsin. "The war has affected agricultural production, transportation networks, distribution channels, and local markets, causing major imbalances in the movement of food between production and consumption areas," he said. Fighting and displacement in major agricultural states, including Gezira, Sinnar, and parts of Kordofan, have reduced production and limited farmers' access to inputs and markets, while rising transport costs and declining inter-state trade have pushed up food prices.

Food security expert Mohamed Abdul-Qadir told Xinhua that the crisis could worsen if the conflict continues. "The war has dis-

rupted entire agricultural seasons in some areas, especially in Darfur and Kordofan, where many farmers have abandoned their lands due to insecurity or displacement," he said. He added that "the crisis is not only about food availability but also people's ability to access it. Rising inflation and declining household incomes make obtaining food more difficult." On solutions, Abdul-Qadir said reviving agriculture requires broad support, including access to inputs, rehabilitation of rural infrastructure, and enabling farmers to reach finance and markets. With international warnings and government reassurances in tension, Sudan's food security remains closely tied to the trajectory of the ongoing conflict and the effectiveness of humanitarian and development efforts in mitigating its growing humanitarian impact.

## UN Chief Calls For Making Justice A Reality For Women, Girls

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for making justice a reality for women and girls everywhere, in his message on the International Women's Day.

"Worldwide, women hold just 64 percent of the legal rights enjoyed by men," Guterres said on Sunday, adding that legal discrimination can shape every aspect of a woman's life. A woman may be prevented from owning property, seeking a divorce, or taking a job without her husband's permission; in more than 40 countries, marital rape is not recognized as a crime; and other laws restrict women's access to education, their ability to pass on citizenship to their children, or even their freedom of movement outside the home, he added.

The UN chief pointed out that where legal protections do exist, discrimination and weak enforcement mean women still struggle to access courts and legal support.

He warned of "a dangerous new trend", hard-won advances are being rolled back, from fairer work protections to sexual and reproductive rights, amid rising authoritarianism, growing political instability, and a renewed push to entrench patriarchy. "By fighting discriminatory laws and practices -- and defending the progress already achieved -- we can ensure the dignity, opportunity and freedom all women deserve," he said. Noting that this year's International Women's Day focuses on rights, action and justice for all women and girls, Guterres said: "When we are not equal under the law, we are not equal." "It is time to make justice a reality for women and girls, everywhere," he said.

BY Xinhua News Agency  
@themtkenyatimes



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Addressing The Alarming Rise Of Campus Love Crimes In Kenya

Campus romance should never end in tragedy. Yet, Kenya's universities are witnessing a disturbing surge in violent incidents tied to relationships among students. This is not just a private matter—it is a public crisis demanding urgent intervention.

Universities must embed relationship education into their curricula, teaching consent, conflict resolution, and respect. Counseling services and peer support groups should be accessible to victims, while transparent reporting mechanisms must be established to ensure survivors are heard without fear of stigma or retaliation. Student-led campaigns can further foster accountability and reshape campus culture.

The government cannot remain a bystander. Collaboration with universities to enforce safety protocols, allocate resources, and enact a standalone femicide law is essential. Gender-based violence must be treated with the gravity it deserves, not as isolated misfortune but as a systemic threat.



Institutions themselves bear a heavy responsibility. Training staff and students to recognize warning signs of abuse, and responding swiftly, could save lives. Safety and well-being must be prioritized over reputation management.

Kenya's campuses should be places of learning, not breeding grounds for violence. The time for half-measures has passed. If universities and government act decisively, they can turn the tide. If they fail, the headlines will keep writing themselves in blood.

By Alex Nyongesa, Laikipia University

By Alex Nyongesa, Laikipia University

# When The Rains Fall, The Nation Pays The Price

Kenya's rainy seasons are no longer a blessing—they are a bill the nation pays in blood and broken lives. What should nourish farms and replenish rivers now routinely destroys homes, cripples infrastructure, and leaves families displaced.

Floods have become an annual calamity. Roads vanish under torrents, houses collapse, and vehicles are swept away. Families watch years of sacrifice dissolve in hours of relentless rain. Worst of all, lives are lost—people drowned while crossing swollen rivers, electrocuted by fallen power lines, or buried under collapsing walls. Each season delivers fresh tragedy, exposing how unprepared we remain.

The economic toll is staggering. Transport grinds to a halt, businesses suffer, and power outages paralyze communities. Water systems fail, leaving residents desperate for clean supplies. In low-lying settlements, displacement is routine, with families forced into temporary shelters and stripped of essentials like food, clothing, and school materials.

The health risks compound the



misery. Floodwaters mix with sewage, spreading cholera, typhoid, and other waterborne diseases. Children and the elderly bear the brunt, turning natural rainfall into a public health emergency.

This destruction is not inevitable. Poor drainage, blocked waterways, and unplanned settlements magnify the damage. Authorities must invest in urban planning, robust drainage, and disaster preparedness. Citizens, too, must stop clogging drains with waste and heed

warnings during floods.

Rain should sustain life, not steal it. Unless Kenya confronts its failures in planning and preparedness, every downpour will remain a disaster waiting to happen. The nation cannot afford to keep paying this deadly price.

By Beatrice Chepkemol, Laikipia University

# A Small Library Bringing Big Change To Students



In a quiet Nairobi neighborhood, a modest community library is rewriting the future of its young visitors. What began as one teacher's vision to give children access to books has become a lifeline for dozens of students hungry to learn.

Before its doors opened last year, many students struggled to study in cramped homes filled with distractions. Today, they flock to the library each afternoon, finding not just silence but shelves stacked with storybooks, science texts, and newspapers. It is here that homework is completed, exams are prepared for, and curiosity is nurtured.

The impact is tangible. Fourteen-year-old James, a regular visitor, says his grades have improved since he began reading daily. His story is echoed by countless others who now see education not as a burden but as an opportunity. Reading clubs and discussion groups further enrich the experience, guided by teachers and volunteers who ensure no student feels lost.

Parents, too, have noticed the transformation. They speak of children more disciplined, more focused, and more determined to succeed. In a community where resources are scarce, the library has become a beacon of hope, instilling

study habits that will last a lifetime. Though the building is small, its influence is immense. It proves that change does not always require grand projects or vast budgets—sometimes it begins with a single room and a few shelves of books. For the students who gather there each day, this library is more than a study space. It is a launchpad for dreams, and its story is a reminder: even the smallest spark can light the path to a brighter future.

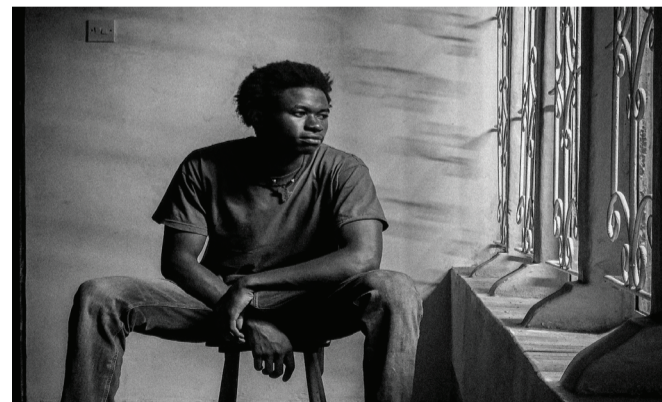
By Rotich Boaz, Laikipia University

# Depression And Anxiety In Kenya's Youth: An Escalating Problem

Kenya's youth are drowning in silence. Depression and anxiety, once whispered about, have now erupted into a national crisis undermining education, productivity, and the promise of an entire generation.

The statistics are sobering. Globally, one in seven adolescents suffers a mental disorder, and Kenya is no exception. Academic pressure, unemployment, family conflict, and the toxic glare of social media are fueling despair. Students buckle under relentless expectations, young graduates face a bleak job market, and online comparisons erode self-worth. The result: rising cases of depression marked by hopelessness, withdrawal, and poor performance, alongside anxiety that manifests in panic attacks and crippling fear.

The consequences ripple far beyond the individual. Substance abuse, risky behavior, and even suicide are stark realities. Society loses not only its youth's potential but also its future workforce



and leadership. This is no longer a private struggle—it is a public emergency.

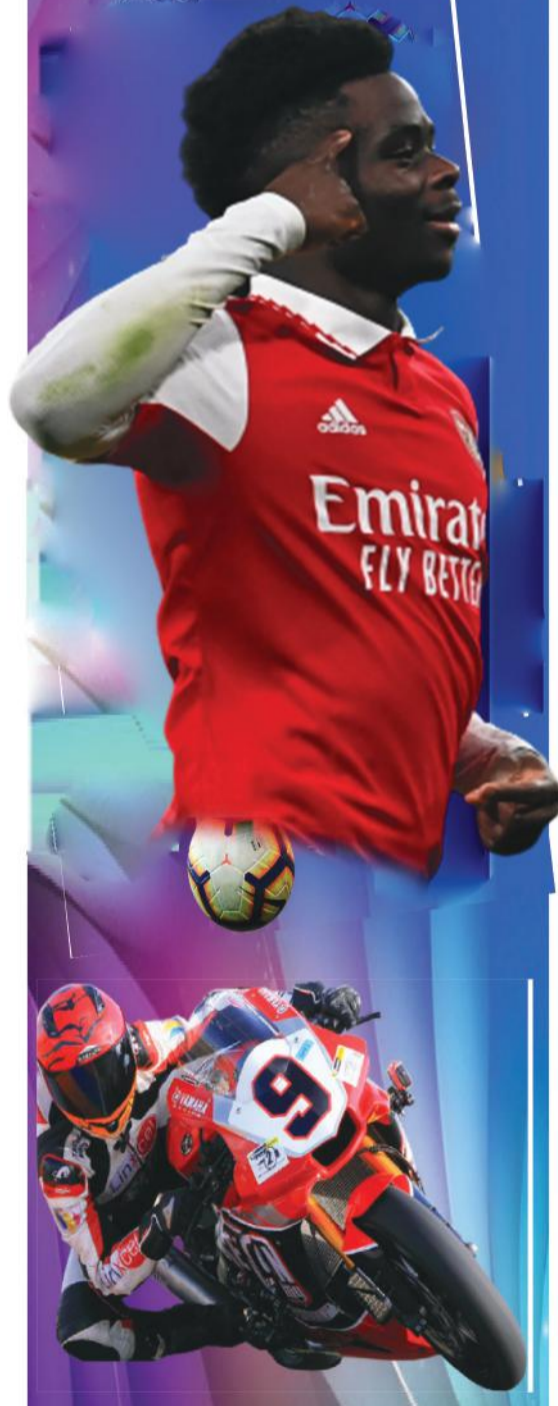
Solutions exist, but they demand urgency. Schools and universities must integrate mental health education and counseling into their systems. Families and communities must break the stigma, creating safe spaces for open dialogue. Government and health organizations must invest in resources, awareness campaigns, and trained professionals to make support ac-

cessible. Kenya's youth deserve more than survival—they deserve resilience, hope, and opportunity. Ignoring this crisis is not an option. If we fail to act, depression and anxiety will continue to rob the nation of its brightest minds. The time to confront this silent epidemic is now—before silence becomes the loudest tragedy of all.

By Collins Kibet, Koitalel University

# SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS  
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BREAKING NEWS



**Sports >>** \*Finnish driver Sami Pajari is dreaming of a podium finish on his second appearance at the WRC Safari Rally.

## Finnish Driver Eyeing Podium Finish On Second Bow At Safari Rally



*Sami Pajari (second right) with Toyota Gazoo deputy team principal Juha Kankunen (right) and Elfyn Evans (second left) join other individuals in inspecting the Toyota Starlet rally car.*

Finnish driver Sami Pajari is dreaming of a podium finish on his second appearance at the WRC Safari Rally.

The youngster says he will try his best to push the bigwigs to final day of the competition in his attempt to go one better than last year's fourth-place finish.

"Last year was my first time doing the Safari Rally. Really exciting, it's more like an adventure compared to some of the rallies, and a really unique event. I was happy to do it, and I was fourth last year, so the result was still pretty solid for the first time," the 24-year-old said.

He added: "For this time I would say I tried to have a little bit better pace. Even though it's a tricky rally in a way. You need to trust your speed to make sure that you go through and not to get any issue, because it can be sometimes really challenging.

But at the same time you need to find the sections where you can push to make a good time."

Pajari is, however, cautious of the brutal nature of the Safari Rally, which has so many times humbled the who-is-who of the motorsports world by retiring them before the ultimate day of competition.

The 2021 Junior WRC champion has singled out the Sleeping Warrior as one stage that will cause a lot of sleepless nights for drivers.

"There are some many tricky key stages, I would say. It's easy to make some mistakes almost on all of the stages. We need to maybe mention the Sleeping Warrior, which is always really a difficult stage, a long stage. Normally, you see a lot of animals on the stage, which is really cool, unless they are in the middle of the

road," Pajari observed.

The youngster added: "It's a long stage, and you can face really different conditions throughout the stage, so that's maybe the one to mention. I am trying to prepare for it, of course, the best we can. It's something really unique you normally face only on this event, and not so much on the other events."

Equally concerning for Pajari is the effect of the ongoing heavy rains on the course.

He is hopeful that the rains will significantly reduce the fesh-fesh, providing him with more grace to push for the podium.

"I don't know this time how the weather has been affecting the road, because it has been raining a lot so maybe the fesh-fesh isn't so bad this year. You need to have some good strategies before you enter this tricky section to make sure you

go through," Pajari said.

Pajari's maiden participation at last year's Safari Rally was a memorable one in which he finished fourth – in a race won by Toyota Gazoo Racing teammate Elfyn Evans.

His rise in the upper echelons of motorsports has been meteoric; he followed up his junior title with victory in the WRC2 in 2024.

The youngster says Toyota has been a cornerstone of this success.

"The car has been really reliable, first of all, but also quick, so hoping for good results also this year. It's nice to be in a Toyota car in Kenya. The car has been basically winning most of the races here, I must say," he said.

*Capital Sport*

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*The Uganda Rugby Union (URU) have revealed four clubs set to represent the country at the revamped Enterprise Cup, with a high-stakes cross-country quarter-final showdown

# Uganda Rugby Name Four Sides For Enterprise Cup As East Africa Rivalry Renewed



Kenya taking control against Uganda in the 2025 Rugby Africa Cup in Kampala cu 2027 World Cup Qualifier. Photo/UGANDA RUGBY X.

The Uganda Rugby Union (URU) have revealed four clubs set to represent the country at the revamped Enterprise Cup, with a high-stakes cross-country quarter-final showdown on March 21, this year.

Leading the charge are the Stanbic Black Pirates, who clinched the top spot, followed by perennial heavyweights Platinum Credit Heathens, KCB KOBs, and Toyota Buffaloes.

The four teams qualified based on their dominant performances in the 2025 Uganda Cup.

The tournament, aimed at strengthening club-level competition and fostering East Af-

rican brotherhood, will reunite rugby enthusiasts from Kenya and Uganda in a celebration of shared passion and fierce regional rivalry.

“This landmark competition breathes new life into a storied legacy. It will sharpen the skills of our athletes, breeding a new generation of fiercely competitive players ready to dominate on regional and international stages,” URU President Godwin Kayangwe Arinaitwe said.

Beyond the technical benefits for players, the Enterprise Cup is designed to strengthen the unbreakable bonds between the two nations, promoting cultural

exchange and the spirit of East African unity.

“We can’t wait for the electric atmosphere, the roaring crowds, and the unforgettable moments that will define this revival. Let’s rally behind our teams,” Arinaitwe added.

The revamped competition features a home-and-away dynamic that will see two teams from Uganda traveling to Kenya and vice versa for the opening weekend.

The winners of these high-octane quarter-final clashes will proceed to the semi-finals on April 11.

The tournament will reach its

peak with a grand finale scheduled for May 30.

Matchup (Uganda Leg)  
Stanbic Black Pirates vs. KCB Rugby  
Platinum Credit Heathens vs. Kabras Sugar

Matchup (Kenya Leg)  
Menengai Oilers vs. Toyota Buffaloes  
Nondescripts vs. KCB KOBs

*Capital Sport*

# SPORTS NEWS



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# SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



# Modern Trends In Linguistics And Their Significance



By: Xoshimjonova Gulxayo

@themkenyatimes

This article analyzes the main trends in modern linguistics and their scientific and practical significance. In particular, it examines cognitive linguistics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, computational linguistics, and pragmatics, highlighting their content, functions, and relevance in contemporary research. The paper also explores the contribution of these fields to education and societal development.

Keywords: modern linguistics, cognitive linguistics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, computational linguistics, pragmatics, language and society

## Introduction

In the era of globalization, linguistics has gained importance not only as a theoretical discipline but also as a practical field of study. Language, as an integral part of human cognition, culture, and social interaction, is constantly evolving. Therefore, modern linguistics is enriched with new approaches and develops through interdisciplinary integration.

The primary aim of modern linguistics is to study language not merely as a structural system, but as a phenomenon closely connected with human cognition, communication, and society.

## The Concept of Modern Linguistics

While traditional linguistics mainly focused on grammar, phonetics, and vocabulary, modern linguistics expands its scope to include psychological, social, and technological perspectives.

This shift allows researchers to analyze language in real-life contexts and understand its functional and dynamic nature.

## Main Trends in Modern Linguistics

### Cognitive Linguistics

Cognitive linguistics explores the relationship between language and thought. It views language as a reflection of mental processes and conceptual structures, helping individuals interpret and organize their understanding of the world.



### Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics studies the interaction between language and society. It examines how language varies across different social groups, regions, ages, and cultural contexts.

### Psycholinguistics

Psycholinguistics focuses on the psychological processes involved in language acquisition, comprehension, and production. It plays a key role in understanding how children and adults learn and use language.

### Computational Linguistics

Computational linguistics combines linguistics with computer science. It deals with automatic language processing, machine translation, and the development of artificial intelligence systems that understand and generate human language.

### Pragmatics

Pragmatics studies how language

is used in context. It analyzes how meaning is shaped by the speaker's intention, the situation, and the interaction between participants.

## The Significance of Modern Linguistic Trends

Modern linguistic approaches play a crucial role in improving educational systems. Through interactive methods and innovative technologies, language learning has become more effective and engaging.

Moreover, these trends contribute to enhancing international communication, improving translation quality, and strengthening intercultural understanding. They also provide deeper insights into human cognition and communication processes.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, modern trends in linguistics contribute to a comprehensive understanding of language. They elevate linguistics to a new level by increasing its practical rel-

evance and interdisciplinary scope.

In the future, the development of linguistics will be further accelerated by technological advancements and innovative approaches. Therefore, modern educators and researchers should actively integrate these trends into their work.

## Author Information

Xoshimjonova Gulxayo was born on February 13, 2001, in the Uchqo'rg'on district of Namangan region. She graduated from Secondary School No. 1 in her district and later completed her studies at the Alisher Navoiy nomidagi Toshkent davlat o'zbek tili va adabiyoti universiteti. Currently, she is a second-year master's student at the Namangan davlat pedagogika instituti.

Her articles on various topics are regularly published in mass media. Gulxayo's goal is to become a highly qualified specialist in her field and to share her valuable knowledge and experience with future generations.

## Worth Noting:

- Cognitive linguistics explores the relationship between language and thought. It views language as a reflection of mental processes and conceptual structures, helping individuals interpret and organize their understanding of the world.
- Sociolinguistics studies the interaction between language and society. It examines how language varies across different social groups, regions, ages, and cultural contexts.
- Psycholinguistics focuses on the psychological processes involved in language acquisition, comprehension, and production. It plays a key role in understanding how children and adults learn and use language.
- Computational linguistics combines linguistics with computer science. It deals with automatic language processing, machine translation, and the development of artificial intelligence systems that understand and generate human language.