



Mudavadi: Invest in Kenya and seize Africa's growth opportunities
Strategic investment in Kenya is key to creating jobs, driving innovation and unlocking Africa's next growth frontier, Prime Cabinet Secretary and CS for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi said at the 4th Kenya International Investment Forum. Page 12



Devolution at moral crossroads: Promise, power and the painful question of accountability in Kenya's counties
The quest for an inclusive state, governance and services closer to the people was at the concept behind the agitation for political and institutional reform that culminated to the constitution of Kenya 2010. Page 18

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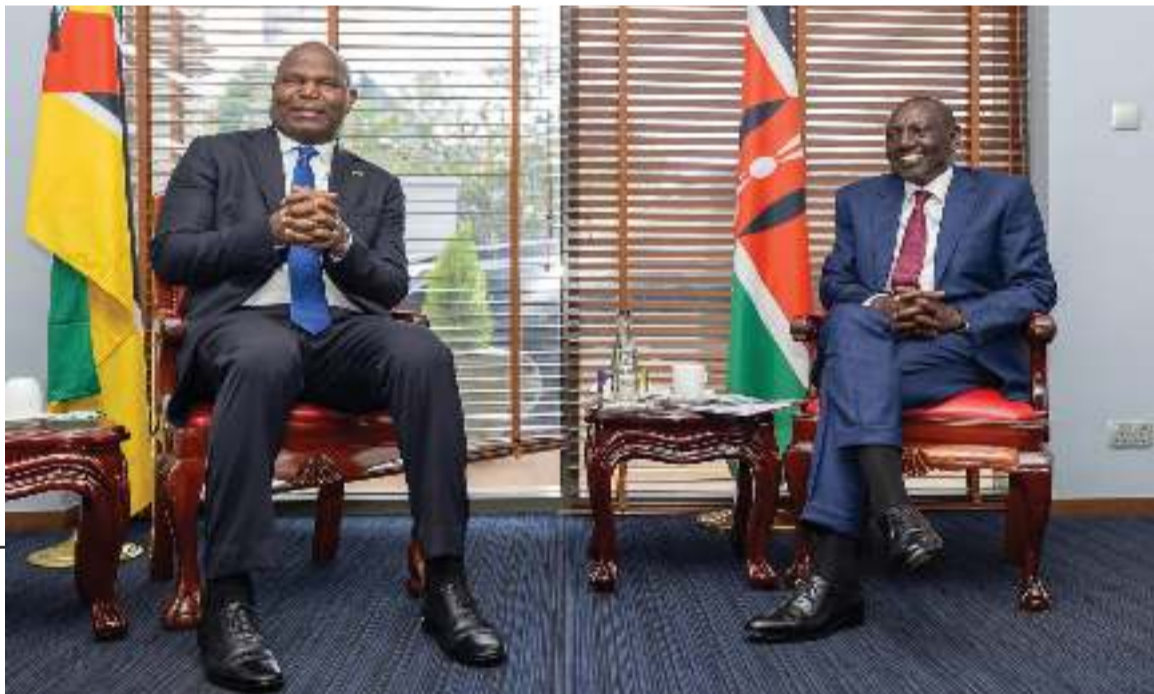
Daily ePAPER

Investment "We are not just talking about numbers; we are talking about real investments, including \$1 billion in agriculture alone," - Ruto

Ruto seals KSh374B deals, to create 63,000 jobs



63,000 Jobs



President William Ruto with his Mozambique counterpart Daniel Chapo yesterday. Photo | Courtesy.

President William Ruto has unveiled more than KSh364 billion in 20 investment deals that will create 63,000 quality jobs for Kenyans. The investments span across agriculture, manufacturing, ICT, Business Process Outsourcing, healthcare, energy, and real estate.

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Jubilee intensifies rebuild push with Nyeri office launch

BY WMW

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in photos

The Jubilee Party has stepped up efforts to rebuild its grassroots network following the opening of its Nyeri County offices, led by presidential candidate Fred Matiang'i.

Speaking during the launch, party leaders said the move marks a renewed push to strengthen structures, deepen public engagement and craft policies that address the needs of wananchi.

The leadership emphasized that the party is focused on rebuilding a responsive national movement anchored on clear direction and inclusivity. After the launch, leaders addressed residents in Nyeri town, where they reiterated their commitment to collaborate with other opposition figures to unseat President William Ruto in the next election.

Party officials Jeremiah Kioni, Moitalel Ole Kenta and Kembi Gitura described the opening as a key milestone in restoring the party's strength and relevance, noting that Jubilee's growing presence across the country reflects its determination to empower local leadership and respond to current economic and social challenges.

The event also brought together aspirants and regional leaders, including Nyeri senatorial hopeful Nick Mararo, who praised the party's outreach efforts during its Mt Kenya tour.

Mararo said engaging directly with residents had strengthened his resolve to serve, adding that listening to citizens' concerns remains central to effective leadership.

The Nyeri launch is part of Jubilee's broader strategy to reconnect with voters and reposition itself ahead of future political contests.

The team was hosted by local leaders led by county chairperson Regina Macharia and former Nyeri Town MP Wambugu Ngunjiri.



The Mt. Kenya Times




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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Principal Secretary for Water and Sanitation, Julius Korir yesterday held a consultative meeting with the Athi Water Works Development Agency technical team and the project proponent for the proposed Maragua 4 Dam. The project is a key strategic investment aimed at enhancing water supply, with a capacity to deliver an additional 140,000 cubic meters of water per day to the Nairobi Metropolitan area, including Murang'a County and Kiambu County. The meeting focused on advancing the project under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) framework, as the Government continues to onboard alternative financing mechanisms to accelerate infrastructure development in the water sector. This initiative underscores the Ministry's commitment to sustainable water supply, urban resilience, and long-term water security for the growing population.



Elgeyo Marakwet County is set to distribute 13 tonnes of iron-rich Nyota bean seeds to 6,500 vulnerable households, targeting malnutrition-prone and food-insecure areas. The initiative, flagged off by Governor Wisley Rotich at Chesoi Sub-County, is implemented under the REACTS-IN programme and aims to improve nutrition while empowering residents economically. Beneficiaries include persons living with disabilities, expectant mothers, and the elderly. Governor Rotich noted that the programme also supports income generation through the sale of surplus produce. An additional 20 tonnes of Nyota beans will soon be distributed across other sub-counties as the programme expands.

Makueni County Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jr has appealed for Sh23 million from development partners and well-wishers to support families displaced by heavy rains in the county. Over 200 households have been affected, with 135 shelters destroyed and 18 lives lost. Urgent needs include food items such as maize, rice, and beans, as well as non-food essentials like blankets, mattresses, cement, iron sheets, sanitary supplies, and medical and nutritional supplements. The county government has already committed Sh10 million toward relief efforts. The appeal was conveyed by the County Drought Coordinator, Alice Munyao, during a County Steering Group meeting in Wote town.



A Court of Appeal quashes KSh8m award to Jimi Wanjigi for erroneous obituary carried by the Nation newspaper in 2019. The court rules NMG made reasonable efforts that led to arrest of the individual who placed and paid for content.



Kiambu County hosted a benchmarking visit by a delegation of hospital CEOs and managers from Uganda, focused on improving service delivery and healthcare financing. The team toured Thika Level 5 Hospital, where they observed operations, interacted with staff, and gained insights into the county's healthcare model. Led by Dr. Paul Emmanuel Batiibwe of Mubende Regional Referral Hospital, the delegation selected Kiambu due to its strong performance in healthcare services and positive patient outcomes. During the visit, they explored key departments including diagnostics (MRI, CT scan, and mammography), as well as the maternity and newborn units, highlighting Kiambu's comprehensive and effective healthcare system.



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Politics Kindiki said some opposition leaders are exploiting the youth for their own political interests including issuing them handouts to attack their rivals

Kindiki: Youths are not hecklers, goons for hire

DP said it is no longer tenable for visionless politicians to take advantage of the jobless youth to advance sinister motives

BY DPCS

@themkenyatimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has said the culture of hiring youth to heckle political opponents must end, stressing that young people are a huge resource to advance the country's development.

Kindiki said some opposition leaders are exploiting the youth for their own political interests including issuing them handouts to attack their rivals without offering them better sources of livelihoods.

"They give them 100 shillings to heckle their opponents in rallies. They are happy to incite them to attack their rivals. They pay them to insult their opponents on social media. They see them as voting machines. They have absolutely nothing to improve their lives. They are visionless and plan-less," DP noted.

The DP spoke yesterday at Alliance High Grounds, Kikuyu Constituency, Kiambu County when he graced the graduation of 1880 young people who were sponsored by the Kikuyu NGCDF for vocational training in various fields.

The youth acquired skills in masonry, electrical installation, plumbing, masonry, painting, welding, tiling, catering, cosmetology, barista, CNA caregiving among others, through the constituency's fund whose patron is Ki-



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki with some of the leaders and graduates.

kuyu MP Kimani Ichungwah, who is also National Assembly Leader of Majority.

"We are totally different from them. We are empowering the young people through intentional and practical programmes. We are working hard to get them employed, to get a source of income for them so as to be important people of our country because it is the only way to ensure our country moves forward," Prof. Kindiki stated.

Affirming the government's commitment to creating more job opportunities through de-

liberate programmes, the DP said it is no longer tenable for visionless politicians to take advantage of the jobless youth

The DP spoke yesterday at Alliance High Grounds, Kikuyu Constituency, Kiambu County when he graced the graduation of 1880 young people who were sponsored by the Kikuyu NGCDF for vocational training in various fields.

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to advance sinister motives.

"The time is up for politicians who only see young people as goons, hecklers, bloggers and voting machines. Going forward is about who has the better vision and plan for employment and job creation for our youth," he added.

The Deputy President enumerated a number of programmes rolled out by the government since 2022 geared at employing youth and creating job opportunities both on the ground, online, locally and internationally.

The construction of afford-

able houses, modern markets and hostels has so far employed 550,000 with a target of 1 million by next year. Those taken in are engineers, quantity surveyors, architects, electricians, masons, plumbers and others crucial for the success of the ongoing national programme.

The Kazi Mtandaoni programme has seen over 300,000 youth get jobs online with a target of more beneficiaries this year. Meanwhile, the Kazi Majuu initiative has benefitted 540,000 youth who have flown out of the country

for jobs overseas.

In the Education sector, 100,000 teachers have been employed in the last three years. An additional 3,300 tutors have also been employed in Technical and Vocational Education Training Centres. The TVET intake has gone up from 297,000 to 718,000 since 2022 owing to key policy interventions that have raised interest in the training centres.

This has been achieved through a significant increase to the Ministry of Education annual budget which has gone up from 500 billion shillings in 2022 to 765 billion shillings in 2026.

"We are working hard to ensure our young people get education and skills to be able to make a better living. Education without skills is not complete.

We have enhanced our support to the education sector. We have increased allocation for education, employed more teachers, improved infrastructure," DP emphasized.

The round two of the NYOTA empowerment programme is also being finalized following massive success of the initial phase.

Present were Mr. Ichungwah, Gatundu North MP Njoroge Kururia, Thika Town MP Alice Ng'ang'a, Githunguri MP Gathoni Wamucumba, NGCDF Board Chairman Olago Aluoch, host of MCAs among others.

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Politics Gachagua claimed that there were organised plans to attack him during both events, which he says were intended to spark ethnic tensions

Gachagua: Why I did not attend Raila's burial, and why I'm yet to visit Bondo

BY Ian Omondi
@themkenyatimes

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has spoken on why he neither attended the State funeral service of the late former Prime Minister Raila Odinga at Nyayo National Stadium nor his subsequent burial in Bondo.

Speaking during an interview on Ramogi TV on Wednesday evening, the Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP) leader revealed that security concerns and intelligence reports informed his decision to stay away.

Gachagua claimed that there were organised plans to at-

tack him during both events, which he says were intended to spark ethnic tensions between the Luo and Kikuyu communities.

"I had planned to go to the Nyayo National Stadium, and I got information that some goons had been arranged to attack me so that it could create conflict between the Luo nation and the Kikuyu nation," he said.

"I applied my mind as a senior politician and as a strategist and I realized that it was a very important occasion for Raila Odinga and his followers, and it would have been imprudent of me to seem like I had brought chaos into a very solemn ceremony that

was very important."

Gachagua explained that despite his intention to attend both the funeral service in Nairobi and the burial ceremony in Bondo, he opted out after assessing what he described as credible threats to his safety and the broader implications such incidents could have had on national cohesion.

"I planned to go to Bondo, I also got information. Where I'm coming from, as you know, I've been attacked by goons in this Nairobi, and most of them have been organized by a senior civil servant from Luo Nyanza. The goons that attacked me in church in Kariobangi...in Mwiki...



Former DP Rigathi Gachagua speaks during an interview with Ramogi TV yesterday. PHOTO | CITIZEN DIGITAL

when I was coming from the airport...were organized by a senior politician from Nyanza who is also organizing goons in Nyanza. The ones that heckled (Siaya Governor James) Orengo were organized by the same person," he

claimed.

The former DP further asserted that his decision was informed by intelligence from within security circles, warning that any attack against him in Bondo could have triggered wider ethnic tensions.

"I have my own intelligence, (so) I get to know what goes on in the security sector and in the country. So when I learnt that also in Bondo there were plans to attack me physically as a strategy to create a wedge between the Luo nation and the Kikuyu nation...because what would have happened

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POLITICS

Gachagua: Why I did not attend Raila's burial, and why I'm yet to visit Bondo



Former DP Rigathi Gachagua

Contd from page 7

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if I was attacked in Bondo, the Kikuyu nation would've felt very bad, and (this would've) created enmity with the Luo nation who have nothing against me," he stated.

He maintained that he enjoys goodwill among residents of the Nyanza region, citing past visits where he said he received a warm reception.

"The last time I was in the Luo nation in the company of William Ruto when I was his deputy, I was given such rousing welcome in Migori, Homa Bay, Siaya and Kisumu. For the four days we were in Nyanza, the Luo nation welcomed me like a king," he said.

Gachagua added that he deliberately avoided both events to prevent any possibility of chaos during what he described as a solemn and significant moment for Odinga's family and supporters.

"So I knew people who have dirty schemes of trying to create a wedge between the two communities wanted to attack me at Nyayo National Stadium and in Bondo to create conflict between the two

communities, but I'm too smart of a politician to fall into such hands," he added.

On why he has yet to visit Raila's home in Bondo six months after his death and subsequent burial, Gachagua said he had already reached out to the family and is awaiting an appropriate time.

"I called Mama Ida Odinga and gave her my personal condolences...Pastor Dorcas and I...and we placed a request that we would like to go to Bondo, and she told us that things were still quite heavy and at an appropriate time she will give us an answer. We're still waiting," he said.

He emphasised that out of respect for family traditions and cultural norms, he would not visit the home uninvited.

"I was ready, with my elders and everybody, but we cannot go to a home unless the owner of that home tells us to come. She told us to wait and we're still waiting. You cannot force yourself into somebody's home. I'm an elder and a leader in this country, I'm also a person who respects families and homes and traditions," he added.



Outspan Global University and Laikipia county government officials during the signing ceremony yesterday. | Photo: Courtesy.

Outspan Global University, Laikipia County Government seal Healthcare partnership deal

The partnership seeks to enhance cooperation between public and private healthcare stakeholders, with a focus on improving access to quality, people-centered and compassionate care for residents.

BY MKT REPORTER

[@themkenyentimes](#)

Outspan Global University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the County Government of Laikipia in a move aimed at strengthening collaboration in healthcare delivery and research.

The partnership seeks to enhance cooperation between public and private healthcare stakeholders, with a focus on improving access to quality, people-centered and compassionate care for residents.

Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu emphasized the importance of quality healthcare in promoting dignity and well-being, noting that the agreement will contribute to building more resilient communi-

ties.

Chairman of Outspan Global Company Dr. Macharia Kiruhi, said the collaboration will not only improve service delivery but also create opportunities for students to gain practical clinical experience within county health facilities.

Laikipia County Executive Com-

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Chairman of Outspan Global Company Dr. Macharia Kiruhi, said the collaboration will not only improve service delivery but also create opportunities for students to gain practical clinical experience within county health facilities.

mittee Member for Health Albert Wagurah Taiti highlighted the MoU's role in advancing joint research, particularly in addressing Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) prevalent in the Mt Kenya region.

Outspan Global University Vice Chancellor Prof. P. M. Mungai reaffirmed the institution's commitment to experiential learning and impactful research aimed at strengthening both preventive and curative healthcare systems.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by key officials, including Deputy Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Research Dr. Lydia Muthoni and representatives from the university's board and administration.

The agreement comes just days after the university entered into a similar partnership with the Nyeri County Government, signaling a broader strategy to expand its role in community health development.

Investment The investments span across agriculture, manufacturing, ICT, Business Process Outsourcing, healthcare, energy, and real estate

Ruto unveils KSh374 billion investment deals to create 63,000 Jobs

The President said the majority of these investments are already at advanced stages of implementation, with several already breaking ground.

BY PCS

@themkenyatimes

President William Ruto has unveiled more than KSh364 billion in 20 investment deals that will create 63,000 quality jobs for Kenyans.

The investments span across agriculture, manufacturing, ICT, Business Process Outsourcing, healthcare, energy, and real estate.

The President said the majority of these investments are already at advanced stages of implementation, with several already breaking ground.

President Ruto explained that these investments are a demonstration of investor confidence in Kenya.

“We are not just talking about numbers; we are talking about real investments, including \$1 billion in agriculture alone,” he said.

He spoke during the Kenya International Investment Conference held in Nairobi alongside President Daniel Chapo of Mozambique.

The President said the government is continuously rolling out far-reaching reforms to strengthen Kenya’s investment competitiveness, improve the ease of doing business, and create a more enabling and investor-friendly environment.

“In direct response to investor feedback, Kenya is implementing a new package of cross-cutting policy actions designed to remove long-standing investment bottlenecks and significantly enhance the ease of doing business,” he said.

He said the government is strengthening tax administration by introducing VAT refund mechanisms for export-led firms and providing greater certainty in transfer pricing frameworks, thereby improving liquidity and predictability for investors.

Other reforms include zero-rating VAT on exported services, tax reforms that allow companies to offset verified tax claims against future liabilities, and the removal of the 30 per cent domestic equity requirement for ICT companies, unlocking significant new investments into Kenya’s rapidly expanding digital economy.

He said through the One-Stop Investment Centre, investors now access seamless, world-class facilitation services.

“By the end of 2026, this platform will be fully digitised, enabling permits and licences to be secured entirely online, reducing costs and improving efficiency for investors,” he said.

President Ruto said the government is also investing heavily in infrastructure and connectivity by expanding roads, railways, airports, and seaports.

He said the government is improving energy competitiveness through tariff reforms and expanded power generation, ensuring more predictable and cost-effective electricity for energy-intensive industries and lower energy costs.

Additionally, he said the government is aligning export processing and special economic zones.

He explained that human capital is Kenya’s greatest asset, and that is the reason the government is strengthening education and training to build a highly capable workforce.

“Despite the clear and demonstrable progress registered, we remain committed to continuous improvement, guided by the insights and concerns of investors, businesses, and all stakeholders,” he said.

The President said these initiatives are positioning Kenya as a premium investment destination, offering stability, predictability, and openness, anchored on strong macroeconomic and microeconomic fundamentals, creating real opportunities for investors.

He described Kenya’s investment climate as very attracting, saying it continues to maintain positive economic growth and stability. The President noted that despite global headwinds, foreign direct investment inflows to Kenya in 2025 grew by over 15 per cent, exceeding \$2 billion (KSh258 billion) for the first



Some of the delegates at the investment conference yesterday.

“**The President said the government is continuously rolling out far-reaching reforms to strengthen Kenya’s investment competitiveness, improve the ease of doing business, and create a more enabling and investor-friendly environment. “In direct response to investor feedback, Kenya is implementing a new package of cross-cutting policy actions designed to remove long-standing investment bottlenecks and significantly enhance the ease of doing business,” he said.**

time.

“Kenya was also recently upgraded by Standard & Poor’s from B- to B, a clear signal of strengthening macro-economic fundamentals and growing investor confidence,” he said.

President Ruto explained that inflation has averaged 4.4% for an extended period, having come down from 9.6 per cent three years ago.

The exchange rate has also remained stable at KSh129 to the dollar for over two years, while the country’s foreign exchange reserves stand at a historic \$14.6 billion, representing nearly seven months of import cover.

On his part, President Chapo said the private sector is key to unlocking Africa’s vast untapped potential for the development of the continent.

He cited Africa’s young population, mineral resources, and potential in agriculture, tourism, infrastructure development corridors, economic growth, industrialisation, and special zones as the necessary assets for the continent’s turnaround.

“We are here to say welcome to Kenya and Mozambique. Kenya and Mozambique are the right places to put your money and do business,” he

said.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi noted that global disruptions such as the Iran conflict, which has interrupted global logistics, call for enhanced intra-African cooperation, including the African Continental Free Trade Area, to ease stress from external shocks.

Investment and Trade Cabinet Secretary Lee Kinyanjui said the ministry is working with investors and addressing their needs.

“When there is a problem and you have a solution, the government is waiting to listen to you,” Mr Kinyanjui said.

He said the government is keen on nurturing a mutually beneficial relationship with investors, noting that the State will provide stability and, in return, the private sector will create jobs.

Paul Russo commended the government’s efforts to enhance competitiveness, noting that the impact is already evident.

“When you invest in Kenya it pays,” he said.

Trade Kenya's economic fundamentals have strengthened, with foreign direct investment inflows rising by over 15 percent in 2025 to exceed about KSh258 billion

Kenya bets on trade, reforms to unlock continental market access

“In literally every sector of the economy, opportunities abound, waiting to be explored,” Kinyanjui said, adding that the conference offers a platform to link investors with bankable opportunities across the country.

BY Suleiman Mbatiah
@themkenyetimes



President William Ruto addressing the conference yesterday.

Kenya is positioning itself as a gateway to a KSh477 trillion African market under the continental free trade framework, as the government intensifies efforts to attract investors and unlock access to over 1.4 billion consumers.

The strategy was outlined yesterday at the Fourth Kenya International Investment Conference in Nairobi, where the government unveiled investment deals worth about KSh374.1 billion expected to create approximately 63,000 jobs across key sectors.

The conference, attended by President William Ruto and Mozambique's President Daniel Francisco Chapo, brought together global investors and policymakers to explore opportunities in manufacturing, agribusiness, ICT, healthcare, energy, and real estate.

“We meet at a moment of

great consequence, defined by profound disruptions and growing uncertainty. From shifting geopolitical alignments to economic volatility and developments in the Middle East, the global landscape is becoming complex,” President Ruto said.

Trade Cabinet Secretary Lee Kinyanjui said Kenya is witnessing expanding opportunities across nearly all sectors, supported by reforms aimed at unlocking underutilised potential and connecting investors with viable projects.

He said the government is prioritising manufacturing, agribusiness, and the digital economy as critical drivers of growth, job creation, and productivity, positioning Kenya as a competitive and diversified investment destination.

“In literally every sector of the economy, opportunities abound, waiting to be explored,” Kinyanjui said, adding that the conference offers

a platform to link investors with bankable opportunities across the country.

Kenya's economic fundamentals have strengthened, with foreign direct investment inflows rising by over 15 percent in 2025 to exceed about KSh258 billion, alongside stable inflation and exchange rates.

Inflation has averaged 4.4 percent, while foreign exchange reserves stand at about KSh1.88 trillion, equivalent to nearly seven months of import cover, reinforcing macroeconomic stability and investor confidence.

The Nairobi Securities Exchange has also posted strong performance, delivering a 52 percent return in 2025 and targeting at least 40 new listings by 2029, supported by increased investor participation.

“Our focus remains firmly on strengthening the domestic environment. We are deepening reforms and executing policies that enhance

“We meet at a moment of great consequence, defined by profound disruptions and growing uncertainty. From shifting geopolitical alignments to economic volatility and developments in the Middle East, the global landscape is becoming complex,” President Ruto said.

”

competitiveness, streamline processes, and create a more enabling and investor-friendly climate,” Ruto said.

The government has introduced reforms including zero-rating VAT on exported services, tax adjustments allowing corporates to offset claims, and removal of the 30 percent domestic equity requirement for ICT firms.

A fully digitised one-stop investment centre is expected by the end of 2026, enabling investors to obtain permits and licenses online, reducing costs and improving efficiency in business operations.

Kinyanjui said the ministry is adopting innovative and flexible strategies to accelerate investment inflows, aligning policies with global trends and investor expectations to enhance Kenya's competitiveness.

“We have adopted an out-of-the-box approach to achieving our investment goals, embracing adaptation and innovation

as our clarion mantra,” he said.

Kenya continues to anchor regional integration, offering access to over 330 million consumers in the East African Community and more than 680 million consumers in the COMESA market.

The government has also finalised a bilateral trade agreement with China, opening access to an additional market valued at about KSh2.45 quadrillion and expanding export opportunities.

Recent investments include a KSh1.81 billion expansion by Flamingo Group in Naivasha, alongside the entry of BUPA Health and Lloyd's of London, reflecting growing investor confidence.

Manufacturing investments by Mars Wrigley and Coca-Cola, valued at about KSh4.26 billion and KSh5.81 billion respectively, alongside a KSh19.35 billion electric vehicle project in Nakuru, signal diversification across sectors.

Kinyanjui said the government is aligning investment promotion with national priorities, including employment creation, energy development, and food security, to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth.

“Together, we can design solutions that meet your investment goals while addressing our priorities, including employment creation, energy, and food security,” he said.

The government has developed an investment projects catalogue to guide investors, while its long-term agenda includes infrastructure expansion, construction of at least 50 mega dams, and scaling energy capacity to 10,000 megawatts.

The transformation plan is projected to cost about KSh5.16 trillion, to be financed through the National Infrastructure Fund and private sector partnerships, as Kenya seeks to sustain long-term economic growth.

Coffee Farmers attending the forum backed her appeal, indicating that waiving the debts would significantly improve their livelihoods.

Waiguru pushes for speedy coffee debt waiver to boost Kirinyaga farmers

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru has called on the national government to fast-track the waiver of approximately KSh1.06 billion in debts owed by 14 coffee cooperatives in the county, arguing that the financial burden continues to hinder farmers and slow the sector's recovery. Speaking during a coffee farmers' sensitization forum held at General Kassam Grounds, which she hosted alongside Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives and MSME Development Wycliffe Oparanya, Waiguru emphasized that clearing these debts would unlock greater investment in production and improve returns for farmers.

She noted that the debts owed to financial institutions have weighed heavily on cooperative societies and their members, limiting their ability to fully benefit from ongoing reforms. The cooperatives affected include Karithathi, Rung'eto, Thirikwa, Ngirambu, Rwama, Kanjuu, Mirichi, Inoi, Kibirigwi, Mwirua, Mutira, New Ngariama, Baragwi and the Kirinyaga Cooperative Union. Waiguru stressed that resolving the debt challenge would complement gains already made through county-led interventions across the coffee value chain.

Farmers attending the forum backed her appeal, indicating that waiving the debts would significantly improve their livelihoods. Some pledged political support for the government if the waiver is implemented, highlighting the importance of the coffee sector to household incomes in the region. Baragwi Cooperative Society Chairman Muchiri Murage also expressed gratitude for government support in providing farm inputs and acknowledged improved re-



Waiguru with Governor Ann Waiguru in Kirinyaga.

turns in recent years, which he attributed in part to county leadership. However, he maintained that debt remains a major obstacle to further growth.

In response, Oparanya confirmed that his ministry has received verified debt waiver requests amounting to Sh6.8 billion from cooperatives nationwide, with only Sh2 billion currently allocated for partial settlement. He assured farmers that Kirinyaga's case would be considered while urging vigilance to ensure that only legitimate debts are addressed. He also highlighted the broader significance of coffee farming, noting that 34 counties in Kenya grow coffee and that the government aims to increase national production to at least 150,000 metric tonnes.

Waiguru outlined notable progress in Kirinyaga's coffee sector, attributing improvements to deliberate investments and reforms. She

reported that production has risen from 28,000 metric tonnes in 2017 to 48,000 metric tonnes, while annual farmer earnings have grown to approximately Sh7.4 billion. She described coffee as a legacy crop that continues to transform livelihoods, reaffirming the county's commitment to strengthening every stage of the value chain—

Waiguru stressed that resolving the debt challenge would complement gains already made through county-led interventions across the coffee value chain.



from production to marketing and value addition.

Kirinyaga has maintained a strong reputation as a producer of premium Arabica coffee, known globally for its quality and high market value. Waiguru cited the performance of Kii Coffee Factory under the Rung'eto Farmers' Cooperative Society as a standout example, where AA-grade coffee fetched Sh1,715 per kilogram in 2023, the highest price recorded in Kenya in five years. She linked such achievements to targeted investments aimed at improving both productivity and quality.

Among the key initiatives is the provision of affordable, high-quality seedlings through county-supported nurseries. Farmers have been able to access improved Ruiru 11 grafted seedlings at subsidized prices, enabling them to rejuvenate aging coffee bushes and boost yields. The

county also continues to offer extension services to promote best farming practices, enhance pest and disease control, and improve post-harvest handling.

To modernize processing and reduce losses, the county has allocated Sh36 million in the current financial year to upgrade wet mills in seven coffee factories. This includes installing solar-powered eco-pulping machines, which improve efficiency, lower processing costs, and enhance bean quality. Additional support through solar dryers is expected to ensure consistent drying and preserve the integrity of coffee beans.

Waiguru also highlighted investments in post-harvest infrastructure, particularly the construction of a modern Sh27 million warehouse at the Kirinyaga Coffee Farmers' Cooperative Union in Kimicha. The facility, which

is nearly complete, will have the capacity to store 40,000 bags of parchment coffee. It is expected to address quality challenges, improve quality control, and strengthen farmers' bargaining power in the market.

On marketing, the governor pointed to progress made through the Kirinyaga Slopes Coffee Brokerage Company, which has enabled farmers to take greater control over the sale of their coffee. Since obtaining its brokerage licence, the company has facilitated the sale of nearly 300,000 bags of parchment coffee worth over Sh10 billion, strengthening the county's presence at the Nairobi Coffee Exchange.

Beyond raw coffee sales, the county is investing in value addition to create more income opportunities. Cooperative societies such as Mutira and Mwirua have received coffee roasting machines, allowing them to produce and market branded products like Tira Coffee and Mwirua Coffee. These products are already being sold locally, helping to expand domestic consumption while creating business opportunities for youth and women.

Local leaders echoed support for the government's efforts to revitalize the coffee sector.

Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya

Kirinyaga Central MP Gachoki Gitari noted that continued political support would depend on sustained increases in farmer payouts. He also opposed the proposed Direct Sale System, arguing that local cooperatives are capable of managing payments effectively. Other leaders, including county assembly officials and members of the Coffee Revitalization Committee, praised ongoing reforms and expressed optimism about the sector's future.

Overall, Waiguru reiterated that addressing the debt burden remains critical to sustaining the sector's growth. She maintained that combining debt relief with continued investment in production, processing, marketing, and value addition would ensure that coffee farming remains a viable and profitable enterprise for Kirinyaga farmers.

Africa Mudavadi highlighted on the theme of the forum, “Unlocking Investment Opportunities to Drive Kenya’s Transformation,” and stressed the pressing global challenges

Mudavadi: Invest in Kenya and seize Africa’s growth opportunities

BY OPCS

@themkenyaintimes

Strategic investment in Kenya is key to creating jobs, driving innovation and unlocking Africa’s next growth frontier, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi said at the 4th Kenya International Investment Forum.

He called on global investors to tap into the country’s dynamic sectors and take advantage of its position as a gateway to regional and continental markets.

Mudavadi joined President William Ruto and Mozambique President Daniel Francisco Chapo at the forum, signaling Kenya’s commitment to strengthening regional and global partnerships. He noted that Kenya is positioning itself as a premier hub for investment in East and Central Africa, connecting innovators, financiers and policymakers to opportunities across the continent.

Mudavadi highlighted on the theme of the forum, “Unlocking Investment Opportunities to Drive Kenya’s Transformation,” and stressed the pressing global challenges affecting the economy.

He cited the ongoing war in the Middle East, which has disrupted oil supplies and logistics worldwide, warning that African countries remain particularly vulnerable due to existing regional conflicts and climate-induced shocks.

“Even then, we must demonstrate our shared commitment to spur investments that will ease our stress from external and domestic shocks,” said Mudavadi, emphasizing that strategic investment solutions are essential for sustainable growth and social prosperity.

He further outlined priority sectors for investment, including technology, manufacturing, energy, maritime and



President Daniel Chapo



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi

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blue economy initiatives and green industrialization.

Mudavadi noted that Kenya’s youthful population, strategic location and participation in frameworks such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) offer investors unique access to regional and continental markets, positioning the country as a bridge between local and global opportunities.

The forum brought together global investors, development partners, policymakers, and private sector leaders to engage in discussions on concrete investment opportunities.

President Ruto described Kenya as “the natural gateway to East and Central Africa,” highlighting the country’s strategic location and vibrant youthful population as drivers of economic growth. Other participants includ-

ed Cabinet Secretaries Lee Kinyanjui, William Kabogo, Hassan Joho, Geoffrey Ruku, Principal Secretaries, Ambassadors and a wide range of investors exploring ways to deepen Kenya’s role as a leading investment hub on the continent.

The event featured high-level panel discussions, plenary sessions, and sector-specific dialogues, allowing participants to share insights on investment trends, regional economic integration and innovative solutions to challenges facing African economies.

The forum also showcased opportunities in emerging industries, fostering partnerships between the public and private sectors, and reinforcing Kenya’s reputation as a dynamic and investor-friendly destination for global capital.

Public participation The bill seeks to codify how citizens engage with government institutions by outlining clear principles of public participation

Citizens demand greater voice: Public participation bill sparks debate

This move is seen as an effort to bridge the gap between government decision-making and citizen input, a challenge that has long frustrated civil society groups.

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

Yesterday, the offices of MMV Associates CLG were abuzz as members presented their views on the much-anticipated Public Participation Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 44 of 2025). Sponsored by Otiende Amalio and Samuel Chepkongs, the bill aims to strengthen the constitutional principle of public participation in governance.

The bill seeks to codify how citizens engage with government institutions by outlining clear principles of public participation, appointing officials responsible for coordinating engagement, and setting both general and specific guidelines for meaningful public involvement. This move is seen as an effort to bridge the gap between government decision-making and citizen input, a challenge that has long frustrated civil society groups.

During their presentation, MMV Associates CLG whose director is James Njuguna Mahuria emphasized the importance of clarity in the guidelines, arguing that vague procedures could undermine the spirit of the law. They proposed mechanisms to ensure inclusivity, particularly for marginalized communities and persons with disabilities, and suggested leveraging technology to make participation more accessible nationwide.

The session also highlighted concerns over accountability, with members urging that those responsible for conducting public participation must report regularly to Parliament and the public. They stressed that without monitoring and evaluation frameworks, the bill's implementation might fall short of expectations.

As the National Assembly considers the bill, the discussion underscores a growing public demand for transparency, accountability, and a more direct role in shaping policies that affect their lives. The debate reflects a shared recognition that genuine public participation is not merely procedural, but central to a thriving democracy.

If enacted, the bill promises to transform how citizens engage with governance, ensuring that voices across Kenya are heard and acted upon, strengthening the very foundation of democratic decision-making.



Members of MMV Associates CLG during the presentation | Photo: Courtesy



Falling in Love with Me



I searched for love in distant skies,
In others' hearts and hopeful eyes,
I shaped myself to fit their view,
And slowly lost what once was true.

I silenced dreams, ignored my voice,
Mistook their needs for my own choice,
Till one day in the quiet night,
I met myself without the fight.

No masks to wear, no role to play,

Just raw emotions on display,
A heart that ached, yet still was strong,
A soul that knew where I belong.

I traced my scars like lines of art,
Each one a story, a broken start,
But in those cracks, a light I found,
A deeper love, unchained, unbound.

I learned my worth, not loud, but deep,
In promises I chose to keep,
To hold my tears, to heal my pain,
To stand in sun, to dance in rain.

Now love's no longer what I chase,
It lives within, a gentle space,
For I am whole, just as I be—
I finally fell in love... with me.

©Dr Daksha Udhani
Ahmedabad

The tears no one sees



Some nights your pillow knows your tears.

Some mornings your smile hides the pain.

You walk through days no one understands.

Carrying battles the world never sees.

Yet your heart refuses to give up.

Even in darkness, you search for light.

Every scar becomes silent courage.

One day the pain will turn into strength.

And the world will see the fighter you became.

V. S. NITHIYASRI
VII
JOHN DEWEY MATRIC HIGHER SECONDARY
SCHOOL, PANRUTI- TAMILNADU.

Not everything you see and hear are necessarily true



Eyes may see a painted scene,
Yet truth may hide behind the screen.
Voices speak both loud and clear,
But not each word we hear is sincere.

Rumors rise like drifting air,
Spreading stories everywhere.
Shadows grow where doubt appears,
Feeding minds with silent fears.

Pause and think before you believe,
For sight and sound can both deceive.
Seek the truth with patient view—
Not all we hear and see is true.

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Respect your journey, every step is building something beautiful:



From the water floating
In the mother's womb swam pleasantly enjoying
As soon as the formation of the heart
Journey of life is a challenging threat

Until the funeral yard which is dry
Stating life's short as quickly passes by
So join hands not only with the brain and mind

But together with soul mates to live in sound
With respect travel beautifully in love
Strongly impacting the natural laws to owe

And step up your journey to behold
With hope and faith in God
Unloading the sorrows & never be sick

Bury it & fill it with music
To reach the board of destiny
Building every step of your journey

Motivating towards the goal
To fuel as 'I will & I can' on the whole.

G.Sarala
Creative Writers

Happy Father's Day!



My dear mother, you are my paradise,
My father, you are my treasure and prize.
You are my joy, my heart's delight,
My pride, my wealth, my guiding light.
I carry your prayers, so full of grace,
A smile lights my face, joy in every place.
Father, my law, my steadfast shield,
With you beside me, luck will never yield.

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I always aspire window seat
Leaning comfortably
During my travel to home town
Glancing the racing scenes outside;
Slight sliding of glass panes
Lets in breeze of dusk
That sometimes lulls me to sleep;
The mellifluous music played
In the bus brings the aroma of paradise
That enthalls the hearts of passengers;
When I am immersed in deep slumber
The rhythm and lyrics mix
With my soul and blood

And takes me to a new
World of ecstasy
That makes me feel light
And gives me endless delight;
I feel all my tightness
Just relaxing ;
The soul of music tranquilizes
Me to forget the gloomy and scary life which none
can afford me;
A feel that penetrates
The nook and corner of my mind
And soothes my heart wrapped with wounds;
Often my feelings of romance
Peeps out that brings
An enchanting smile
On my blushing face;
Music is a tonic
And my sole companion.

SHYNI. S. S,
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GHSS, RAMESWARAM.

Music, my sole companion

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Agribusiness From total revenues of KSh5.4 billion, Kakuzi, a leading grower of Avocado, Macadamia, and Blueberry superfoods, posted a KSh568 million pre-tax profit

Kakuzi returns to profit with KSh387.5 million after tax earnings, with double dividends for shareholders



Kakuzi Blueberry Manager Laban Koima (right) explains package features to Investments, Trade and Industry Cabinet Secretary Lee Kinyanjui (second left) during his recent visit to Kakuzi Plc orchards in Murang'a County, as the firm's Chairman Nicholas Ng'ang'a and Managing Director Chris Flowers (right) look on. | Photo: Courtesy.

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyaintimes

Listed agribusiness and superfoods grower, Kakuzi Plc, has posted a KSh387.5 million after-tax profit, marking a significant turnaround from the KSh131.6 million after-tax loss booked last year in its 2025 full-year financial results released yesterday.

The firm's Board of Directors, buoyed by the firm's profitable run last year, has also recommended a first and final dividend of KSh16 per share, double the payout for 2024.

From total revenues of KSh5.4 billion, Kakuzi, a leading grower of Avocado, Macadamia, and Blueberry superfoods, posted a KSh568 million pre-tax profit, up from the KSh167 million pre-tax loss in 2024.

According to the firm Chairman Mr Nicholas Ng'ang'a, while certain circumstances that led to the loss in 2024

have been mitigated, geopolitical tensions continue to negatively impact the firm's flagship avocado operations.

To mitigate losses, Kakuzi Managing Director, Mr Chris Flowers said the firm is actively rolling out a products-and-market diversification strategy, among other efforts to accelerate growth.

"For example, as an agricultural company, we have expanded our irrigation water conservation capacity by adding 1 million cubic meters of rainwater storage, bringing our total to 13 million cubic meters. This key development further enhances our self-sufficiency in water tapped from water catchment areas in our farm," Mr Flowers said.

He added, "These sustainability and business development initiatives demonstrate our commitment to integrating sustainable agricultural practices into our operations, which we believe will be fundamental to our future success."

While describing the com-

pany's performance as commendable on the back of tighter governance and sustainable business operations, Mr Flowers singled out the firm's blueberry operations, which continue to indicate that, despite high establishment costs, the crop could significantly contribute to Kakuzi's diversification strategy. "As a part of our corporate strategy of product diversification, we continue to focus on value addition wherever it makes commercial sense. The strategy is paying off, and while Kakuzi was export-oriented in the past, we can now confirm that we have a growing domestic market contribution to the bottom line, with sales exceeding Ksh 50 million," he said.

Kakuzi's domestic market revenue stream is enjoying steady growth from the sale of value-added products at the Kakuzi Farm Market, including ready-to-eat macadamia nuts, cold-pressed macadamia oil, avocados, and blueberries. This year, the firm has

also recently added loose-leaf tea products.

Segmentally, Kakuzi avocado profits last year grew by 96% to Ksh 709 million, up from Ksh 361 million in 2024. Avocado export operations in the period under review, however, were negatively impacted by instability stemming from complex shipping logistics experienced last year. The Red Sea route reopened in the year; however, logistical instability on this route continues to cause fruit quality problems and lower prices.

Avocado production increased by 23%, but export volume was negatively affected by pest and disease pressure.

"Pest pressure continues to intensify nationally as the area under avocado orchards increases. We, however, continue to work with the relevant partners to develop new techniques to proactively manage these emerging issues," Mr Flowers said.

The European market prices last year were lower for our main Hass crop, due to substantial volumes from traditional suppliers Peru, South Africa, and, to some extent, Colombia. In 2025, Kakuzi exported 525 containers, up from 446 containers the previous year, achieving an average price of Euro 7.13 per carton.

The Company, he said, con-

tinues to develop mitigation measures, including leveraging market access to both China and India. "While these markets offer easier logistics, the current market size does not offer an immediate substitute for Europe," Mr Flowers explained.

The firm's Macadamia business posted better profits, closing at KSh 365 million, up from KSh 69 million the previous year.

Demand for macadamia, Mr Flowers said, continues to recover, with increased sales volumes and improved prices. "However, to maintain sustainable demand, the product needs to expand the opportunities for how consumers can experience quality macadamia kernels," he said.

The Kakuzi Blueberry operation recovered to a KSh5 million profit, up from a KSh19 million loss the previous year. Production volumes also increased to 90 tons, up from 53 tons.



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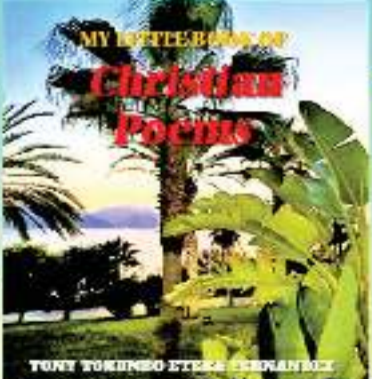
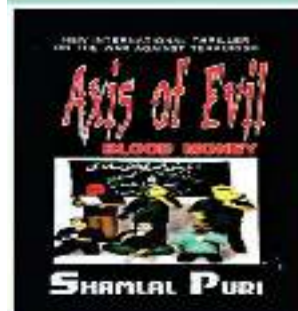
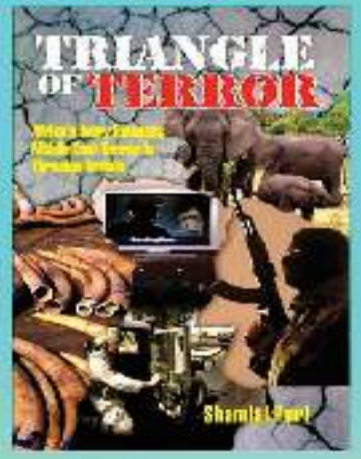
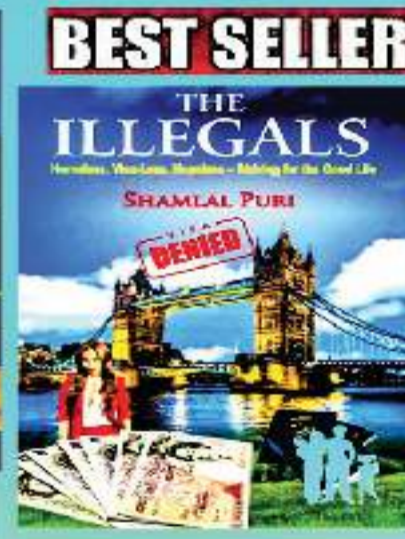
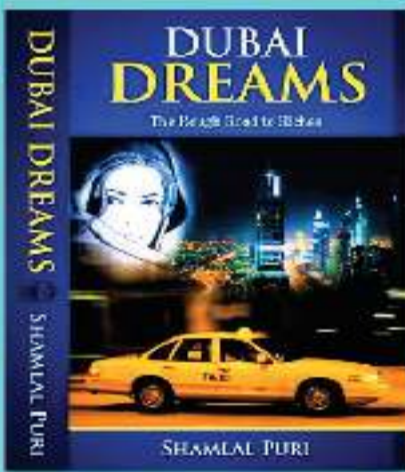
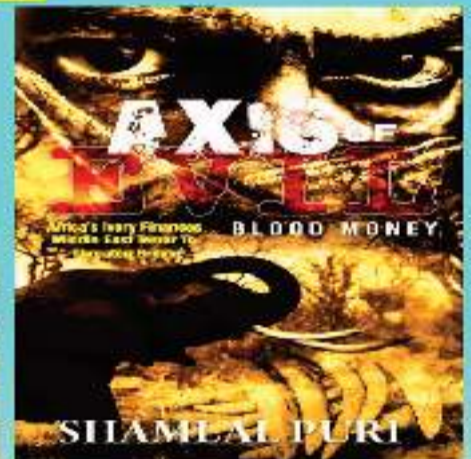
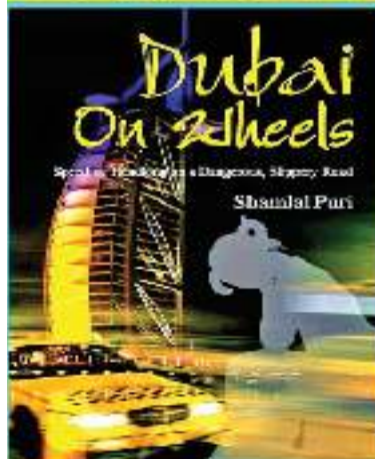
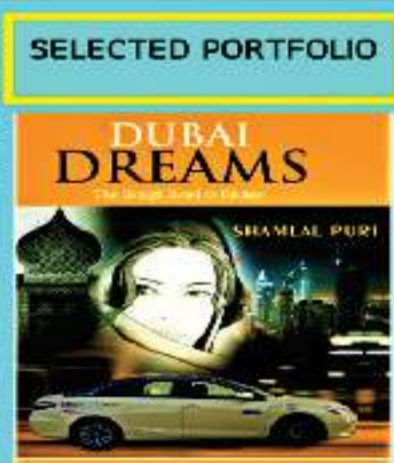
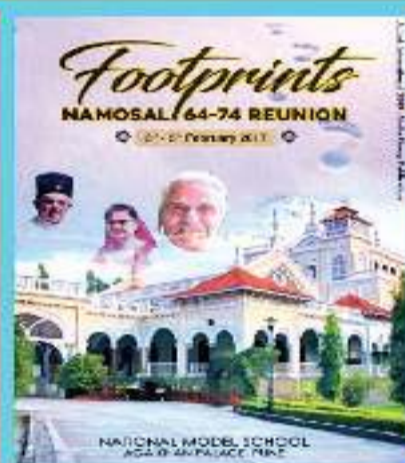
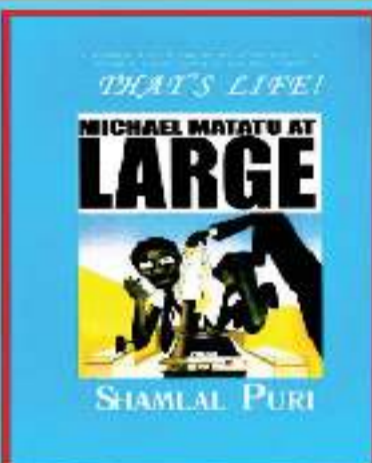
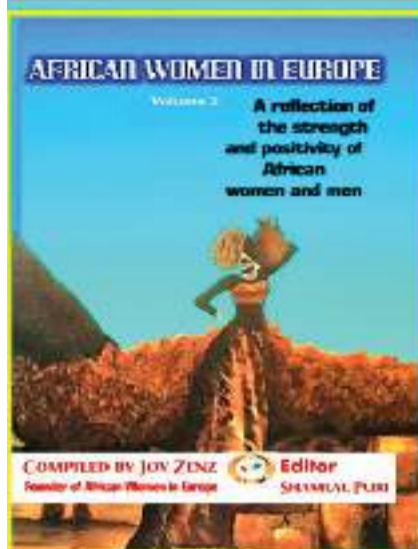
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Counties In some counties audit findings reveal glaring discrepancies between funds allocated for development and the actual outcomes on the ground.

Devolution at moral crossroads: Promise, power and the painful question of accountability in Kenya's counties



BY Fredrick Chelimo
@themkenyatimes

The quest for an inclusive state, governance and services closer to the people was at the concept behind the agitation for political and institutional reform that culminated to the promulgation of the constitution of Kenya 2010. At the core of this constitution was devolution introduced as a bold and transformative governance framework intended to dismantle the rigid centralization that had defined long Kenya's administrative culture. The establishment of the forty-seven county governments was envisioned as a powerful corrective measure that would redistribute resources, power and decision making closer to the people while fostering equitable development across regions that had historically remained marginalized.

For many across the country, particularly those located far from the administrative and economic centre of the state, devolution symbolized a long-awaited recognition that governance must be rooted in the lived realities of citizens. Prior to this, development planning and resource allocation were heavily concentrated within the national ministries headquartered in Nairobi, leaving many regions struggling with limited infrastructure, inadequate health care services and minimal public investments. Devolution therefore represented both structural and psychological shift – government would no longer remain distant from the people and would operate within their reach.

The ushering in of a new governance system in 2013 through general election, the lived experience of devolution reveals a complex and evolving picture, a system that is deeply rooted with fiscal indiscipline, governance integrity and accountability in the management of public resources. Though there are

visible signs of rural roads, health facilities constructed, agricultural programmes expanded and local markets expanded to stimulate economic activity, critical underlying issues still persist. Allocations in 2013, the amount of money advanced to counties through shareable equitable share by Commission of Revenue Allocation(CRA) collectively has ran into trillions, resources intended to empower local administrations to design and implement development initiatives that directly address the needs of their communities.

Yet along these achievements lies a growing sense of national unease regarding the stewardship of public resources within county governments. Over the years, reports issued by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) Kenya have consistently painted a troubling picture of financial management within several devolved units. These reports have documented recurring cases of unreported expenditures, irregular procurement process, incomplete or stalled development projects, questionable contracts variations and weak financial controls.

In some counties audit findings reveal glaring discrepancies between funds allocated for development and the actual outcomes on the ground. Projects worth millions of shillings appear incomplete or abandoned, while procurement procedures often fail to meet the legal threshold established under the public finance management regulations. Such findings have not only raised technical concerns about accounting practices

but have triggered a broader question about the ethical stewardship of public funds entrusted to the county administrations. The challenges have been compounded by the limitations of the oversight institutions including Senate and sometimes open hostility from governors including ganging up to abscond key oversight schedules. The Senate of Kenya, a constitutionally mandated institution to oversight and represent the people by protecting the interests of the counties and overseeing the utilization of revenue allocated to devolved units, frequently finds itself constrained in its ability to enforce meaningful consequences for non-compliance.

Senate committees routinely summon governors to respond to audit queries and financial irregularities. However, the institutional framework available to the Senate often limits its capacity to impose stringent penalties when cases of glaring non-compliance or apparent misuse of public funds emerge. This has created a troubling paradox within the governance architecture of devolution. While oversight exists to ensure accountability, the practical enforcement of sanctions against errant county officials remains limited, leaving the Senate in what many observers describe as a frustrating position – able to identify and expose governance failures but often unable to enforce corrective action.

Recent developments have further complicated the dynamics, especially the call by the Council of Governors for governors to boycott

appearances before Senate finance committee responsible for scrutinizing County expenditure. This has attracted a national debate about the meaning of accountability in devolved systems, since if such move is sustained, risks of undermining one of the central pillars upon which democratic governance rests and this undermines public officials' authority to submit themselves to institutional scrutiny.

Public accountability is not an optional exercise negotiated between political actors, but a constitutional duty owed to citizens. When leaders entrusted with managing billions of shillings in public resources decline to appear before oversight institutions, the resulting perception among citizens is one of evasion rather transparency. This fiscal debate surrounding devolution has also gained prominence as the Council of Governors continue to advocate for increased funding to be allocated to the counties.

While their concerns and call for additional allocation may be valid, they must be evaluated along side other pressing issues. Political pressure to create employment opportunities at local level, inherited large workforce and creation of ne administrative units, has created unsustainable wage bill at the expenses of development, straining county finances. Without disciplined human resource planning and performance oriented public administration, the sustainability of county budgets remains vulnerable.

Beyond fiscal management, the in-

clusivity of devolved governance remains another critical measure of success. The constitutional vision of Kenya places strong emphasis on the protection and empowerment of marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities. Legal safeguards exist under the persons with disabilities Act 2025, and institutions such as National Council for Persons With Disabilities (NCPWD) continue to advocate, though minimally, for greater inclusion in public institutions and development programmes

Lived experience however, show that many persons with disabilities have not enjoyed any meaningful inclusion in counties and continue to lack accessibility features, economic empowerment programmes targeting persons with disabilities remain limited, and enforcement of employment quotas within county public service boards remain uneven or totally uncompiled. For communities that hoped devolution would amplify their voices and address long standing exclusion, these gaps represent an unfinished chapter in Kenya's governance journey.

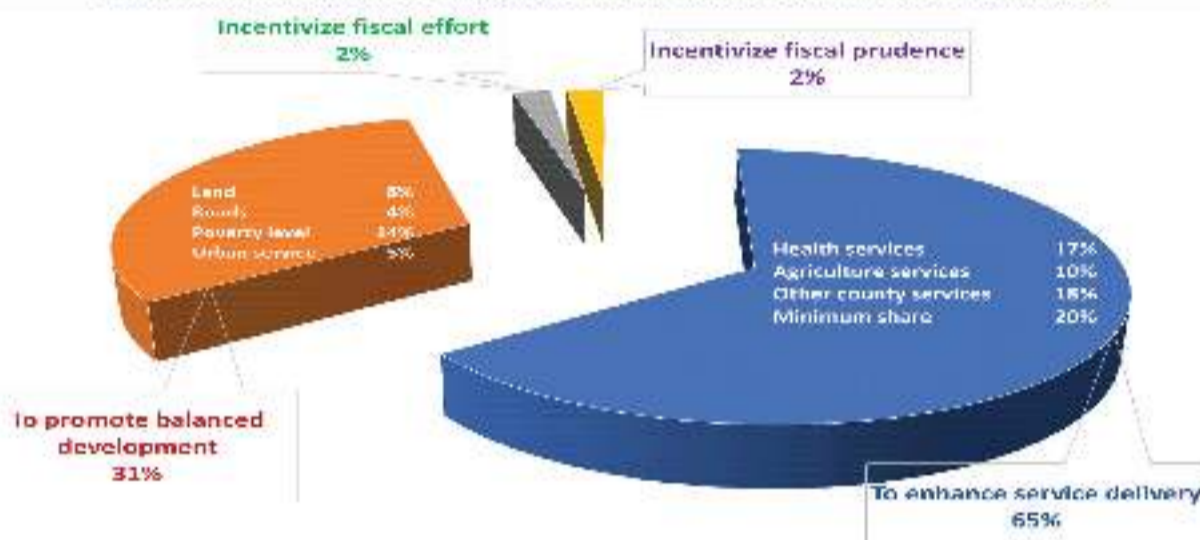
Ultimately, the question confronting Kenyans today is not whether devolution was right choice, but history has delivered the verdict. Devolution has undoubtedly redistributed development opportunities, expanded access to services and brought governance closer to the people. Communities that once felt invisible to the national government now have institutions within their reach capable of addressing local challenges.

The deeper question now concerns how the devolved system will mature in years ahead, and make devolution not just a transfer of resources, but with strengthened accountability, fiscal discipline, professional county administration and genuine development programmes that improve the lives of citizens.

Devolution was conceived as an instrument of justice, equity, and inclusive governance accountable to citizens through oversight institutions. The future success of counties will depend on its leaderships' fidelity to constitutionalism and humble submission to public scrutiny for the prudent use of their resources, a sure commitment to integrity and transparency. Only through such commitment can transformative promise of devolution be sustained and the aspirations of constitution realized for all Kenyans

Mr. Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo PWD is the Chairperson, Jiamini Disability network Community Based organization. Email: jiamini.network@gmail.com

THE THIRD BASIS FOR REVENUE SHARING AMONG COUNTY GOVERNMENTS



Power President assured Kenyans that nuclear power is safe and has been used by advanced economies to power their development.

Kenya shift to Nuclear Power to boost energy capacity to 10,000 MW

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyaintimes

Kenya is diversifying its energy sources to include nuclear power to strengthen the country's energy capacity, President William Ruto has said.

The President said this will help the country achieve its energy generation expansion plan from the current 3,300 MW to the ambitious 10,000 MW target, noting that 3,000 MW of the 10,000 MW will come from nuclear energy.

Speaking yesterday during the International Conference on Nuclear Energy at KICC, Nairobi County, the President assured Kenyans that nuclear power is safe and has been used by advanced economies to power their development.

"There is a perception that nuclear energy poses a significant danger to human well-being. This perception, while understandable, is not supported by evidence," he said.

The President said Kenya will enact comprehensive legislation and adhere to the highest global standards of nuclear safety, security, and safeguards, as it builds a regulatory framework that inspires both domestic confidence and international partnership.

Nuclear Energy Agency CEO William Magwood, Siaya Governor James Orenge, Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi, and Nuclear Power and Energy Agency (NuPEA) CEO Justus Wabuyabo were present.

The President explained that energy is the lifeblood of industrialisation, innovation, and economic transformation.

He noted that integrating nuclear energy into the national grid will help meet Kenya's growing electricity demand by providing clean, reliable, and stable power.

He added that it will also



President William Ruto addressing the forum yesterday.

“

Speaking yesterday during the International Conference on Nuclear Energy at KICC, Nairobi County, the President assured Kenyans that nuclear power is safe and has been used by advanced economies to power their development.

“There is a perception that nuclear energy poses a significant danger to human well-being. This perception, while understandable, is not supported by evidence,” he said.

lower electricity costs, reduce reliance on volatile fossil fuel markets, and strengthen energy security and national resilience.

“By optimising our energy mix through nuclear power, Kenya will realise a significant reduction in electricity costs of between 4 and \$5.5 cents a unit,” he said.

Additionally, President Ruto said the development of a nuclear power programme brings significant investment in infrastructure, creates jobs from highly skilled engineers and technicians to support services, and facilitates the transfer of advanced technology, stimulating growth across multiple sectors of the economy.

“During the peak construction phase, the nuclear project will generate about 5,000 to 12,000 jobs, ranging from manual labour to highly specialised engineering roles,” he said.

He said construction of a 2,000 MW nuclear power plant in Siaya County will begin next year, with commissioning of the project expected in 2034.

The President said Kenya welcomes the COP28 declaration to triple global nuclear energy capacity by 2050.

“Achieving this ambition will require all nations to scale up their efforts and adopt concrete, realistic implementation plans,” he said.

He called on international organisations and other institutions to support the enabling conditions for nuclear energy development, including policy, capacity-building, financing mechanisms, and the establishment of a level playing field for all zero-emission energy sources.

Mr Orenge observed that for Kenya to achieve its first-world economy status, it must leverage nuclear power to offer an alternative source of energy.

He said Siaya County is

ready to host the first nuclear power plant, noting that safety concerns are being adequately addressed to ensure residents are not misled.

Mr Opiyo reiterated the President's sentiments, saying nuclear power will play a key role in achieving the 10,000 MW power generation target.

He said energy will be an enabler of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, Vision 2030, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr Magwood said having a successful nuclear plant requires solid leadership, lauding the President for moving with efficiency to establish the nuclear programme.

“We think Kenya is on the right path and we are here to help,” he said.

Mr Wabuyabo said NuPEA will work in close collaboration with KenGen to deliver the first nuclear power plant in the country.

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Iran-Israel/America war: Iran's Tehran Times reported Tuesday that Tehran views U.S. calls for negotiations as a deceptive scheme

Why doesn't Iran trust the U.S.?

don't sense Iran is ready to agree to either demand," Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Michael O'Hanlon told Xinhua.

Iran's state media has denied that Iran has engaged in any peace talks with the United States. Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said no negotiations have occurred with the United States, and that "fake news" has been used to "manipulate" the oil markets.

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themkenyatimes

Iran's Tehran Times reported Tuesday that Tehran views U.S. calls for negotiations as a deceptive scheme, stressing that it "does not trust these messages," even as Washington claims progress in talks.

U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday that the two sides had held "very good and productive conversations," but Iran denied any talks had taken place. The conflicting claims highlight the deep mistrust defining U.S.-Iran relations, after months of indirect negotiations that have repeatedly collapsed due to Washington. Despite three rounds of talks, the latest cycle ended in joint U.S.-Israeli strikes on Feb. 28 that ignited the current war.

Why conflicting claims

Trump claimed Monday there were "major points of agreement," saying Iran "wants to make a deal" and "wants peace," while indicating any agreement would require Tehran to give up its nuclear capabilities entirely. "I am pleased to report that the United States of America, and the country of Iran, have had, over the last two days, very good and productive conversations regarding a complete and total resolution of our hostilities in the Middle East," Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social.

Iran's state media has denied that Iran has engaged in any peace talks with the United States. Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said no negotiations have occurred with the United States, and that "fake news" has been used to "manipulate" the oil markets. Iran's semi-official Fars news agency reported that there had been no direct or indirect contact with Trump, and the foreign ministry said Trump's remarks were "part of efforts to reduce energy prices and buy time" for military plans. The current impasse is the latest chapter in a pattern of negoti-

ations that have produced claims of progress followed by sudden breakdowns.

High-level indirect talks, mediated by Oman, began in April 2025 in Muscat with U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. Multiple rounds followed through June 13, 2025, before collapsing when Israel and the United States launched strikes on Iranian nuclear and military sites. Talks resumed in February 2026. Meetings were held in Oman and later in Geneva, where mediators described the third round on Feb. 26 as the "most intense" so far, with "significant progress" and plans for technical follow-ups in Vienna. Less than 48 hours later, on Feb. 28, the United States and Israel carried out coordinated strikes that sparked the current war.

Why no trust

For Tehran, the breakdowns are not isolated but a part of a longer pattern. In Trump's first term, he withdrew the United States from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), on May 8, 2018, even



Trump claimed Monday there were "major points of agreement," saying Iran "wants to make a deal" and "wants peace," while indicating any agreement would require Tehran to give up its nuclear capabilities entirely. "I am pleased to report that the United States of America, and the country of Iran, have had, over the last two days, very good and productive conversations regarding a complete and total resolution of our hostilities in the Middle East," Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social.



though international inspectors confirmed Iran was in full compliance. Washington then reimposed sweeping sanctions under a "maximum pressure" campaign. Tensions escalated further in early 2020, after the U.S. assassination of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani, an action Iran viewed as an act of war that prompted Tehran to abandon JCPOA limits on uranium enrichment.

The 2026 cycle repeated the se-

quence. After three rounds of talks that mediators called productive, the United States and Israel struck anyway. Iranian leaders say such episodes prove that Washington cannot be trusted to honor commitments when it believes it holds military superiority. "Trump is fairly locked into two goals: Complete, permanent and verifiable nuclear disarmament with very little if any Iranian enrichment, and a reopening of Hormuz. I

Indeed, Trump demands that Iran dismantle its nuclear program, which Washington believes is meant to build nuclear weapons, but Iran maintains that it is for peaceful purposes. Other analysts have expressed doubt that Iran is ready to come to the negotiation table, in the belief that Iran has prepared itself for months to weather the storm.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HELB crisis deepens as thousands risk missing university funding

Kenya's higher education life-line is fraying fast. The Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), once the bedrock of opportunity for students from modest backgrounds, is now staring at a financial abyss that could shut the doors of learning for more than 100,000 young Kenyans. The crisis, driven by ballooning demand, sluggish loan recovery, and a widening budget deficit, threatens to derail the country's promise of education as a pathway to social mobility.

For decades, HELB has been the bridge between aspiration and achievement, enabling students from low- and middle-income families to pursue degrees that shape careers and communities. But billions of shillings remain unpaid by past beneficiaries, leaving the revolving fund model broken. Official data from the Ministry of Education shows recovery rates far below projections, undermining the board's ability to



finance new applicants.

Government interventions—ranging from intensified recovery campaigns to pledges of budgetary support—have so far failed to plug the gap. “We cannot continue to rely on a system that is structurally unsustainable,” warned education economist Dr. Mercy Wanjiru. “Without bold reforms, the funding crisis will only deepen, and the most vulnerable students will pay the price.”

Stakeholders are urging a rethink: stronger enforcement mechanisms, alternative financing models, and greater

public investment in higher education. The urgency is clear. Kenya's ambition to build a skilled workforce for a competitive economy cannot survive if thousands are locked out of classrooms.

The HELB crisis is more than a financial headache—it is a test of Kenya's resolve to uphold education as a national priority. Failure to act decisively risks crushing the dreams of a generation and dimming the country's future.

By Scovia Atieno, Laikipia University

Kenya's food crisis is a failure of leadership

Kenya's hunger problem is not simply a story of failed rains—it is a story of failed leadership. Year after year, droughts and erratic weather are blamed for food shortages, yet the deeper truth is that weak governance, poor planning, and chronic mismanagement have turned predictable challenges into national calamities.

Successive governments have rolled out ambitious agricultural programmes, but most collapse under the weight of corruption, policy inconsistency, and lack of accountability. Farmers are left stranded without subsidies, quality inputs, or reliable markets. Irrigation remains neglected despite vast potential, leaving agriculture dangerously dependent on rainfall. Land fragmentation, limited credit, and weak extension services further cripple smallholder farmers—the backbone of Kenya's food system.



The consequences are stark. Millions face hunger and malnutrition, with children suffering stunted growth that undermines future productivity. The country spends billions importing food, draining resources and exposing citizens to volatile global prices. Scarcity fuels conflict over water and pasture, destabilising communities and eroding public trust in government.

Experts insist the crisis is solvable. Long-term investment in irrigation, climate-smart agriculture, and storage infrastructure could transform production. Transparent institutions

and stronger enforcement of recovery programmes would restore confidence. Farmers need access to affordable credit, modern technology, and functioning markets. Strategic reserves and early warning systems must be managed with discipline, not politics.

Kenya's food crisis is not about growing more maize—it is about growing accountability. Until leadership rises to the challenge, hunger will remain the shameful legacy of neglect.

By Collins Kibet, Koitalel University

Beyond books: The social advantage of mixed schools

Kenya's education debate often centres on grades and exam scores, yet the real test of schooling lies in how well it prepares young people for life beyond the classroom. Mixed, or co-educational, schools offer a social advantage that single-sex institutions struggle to match: they mirror the realities of society, fostering confidence, adaptability, and respect across genders.

Daily interaction between boys and girls equips students with vital communication skills. It reduces awkwardness, builds confidence, and normalises collaboration. “When students learn together, they grow together,” says education analyst Dr. Jane Mwangi. “Mixed schools cultivate openness and social maturity that single-sex schools cannot replicate.”

The diversity of personalities and perspectives in co-educational settings sharpens teamwork and tolerance. Students



learn to resolve conflicts, express opinions, and appreciate differences—skills essential in workplaces and communities. Participation in debates, sports, and clubs further strengthens bonds, encouraging collaboration and broadening friendships across gender lines.

Critically, mixed schools prepare students for the realities of adulthood. In professional and social life, men and women work side by side. Early exposure to this dynamic environment makes graduates more adaptable, socially aware, and better equipped to navigate re-

lationships and careers. It also reduces unhealthy curiosity or anxiety about the opposite gender, replacing it with respect and understanding.

Education is not only about academic achievement; it is about shaping citizens who can thrive in diverse societies. Mixed schools deliver that balance, ensuring students leave with both knowledge and the social intelligence to use it wisely. Anything less is a disservice to the future.

By Mutinda Erick, Laikipia University

Youth turn coins into capital through table banking

In Laare town, Meru County, a group of young men is rewriting the script of rural finance. Every Tuesday, 40 bodaboda riders gather at the local social hall armed with cash boxes, notebooks, and determination. What began as a rescue mission for a colleague injured in a violent attack has evolved into a thriving table banking scheme that is transforming lives.

The Upendo Bodaboda Table Banking Group was born in 2025 after rider Darwin Mutua lost his hand in a gang assault. Initially formed to support him, the group soon expanded its vision under chairman Elias Mwirigi. Members now contribute Sh300 weekly, pooling up to Sh12,000 each meeting. Loans are issued the same day, repaid within three months with modest interest, and reinvested to grow the fund.

The impact is tangible. Kefa, one of the first beneficia-



ries, used Sh8,000 to launch a poultry project alongside his transport business. His income has nearly doubled, supplying eggs to local shops while still ferrying passengers. Another member, Gabriel Mwirigi, set up a vegetable stall for his mother, easing household expenses and creating new savings. In just eight months, more than Sh100,000 has circulated among members, proving that small contributions can spark big change.

Challenges remain—late repayments and disputes test the

group's unity—but strict rules and penalties keep discipline intact. Elders who once doubted now attend celebrations, acknowledging the initiative's success. With plans to register formally and tap county grants, the group is positioning itself for even greater impact.

From coins to capital, these youths have built more than a fund—they have built resilience, dignity, and hope.

By Brian Karani, Laikipia University

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
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BREAKING NEWS



Sports >> *Team Kenya maintained their second spot position on the leader board after the second round of the All Africa Junior Teams Golf Championships at the par 72 Windsor Golf and Country Club yesterday.

Kenya maintain second spot as South Africa stretch lead at AAJTGC at Windsor

Team Kenya maintained their second spot position on the leader board after the second round of the All Africa Junior Teams Golf Championships at the par 72 Windsor Golf and Country Club yesterday.

South Africa stretched their lead to open an unassailable lead going into today's final round where the best two teams in the boys' competition and one in the girls' competition will qualify to the World Junior Championships in Japan in June.

In the boys' competition, South Africa represented by Andries Van Der Vyver, Cilliers Craig, Dewan De Bruin and Roelof Craig opened a 30-point lead as they are at 18 under, while hosts Kenya who are represented by Mwathi Gicheru, Junaid Ayaz Manji, Tsevi Soni, Yuvraj Rajput follow in the second spot on 12 over.

Uganda and Morocco completed the top three list tied on third spot.

South Africa's 16-year old Andries Van Der Vyver continued with his round one form as he garnered seven under par 72 during Wednesday's round after sinking four birdies on the first nine and sinking three birdies on the second nine to finish the second day with an individual of 11 under.

His team mate, Cilliers Craig played six under par 72 after sinking two birdies in the first nine and registering two eagles on par five hole three and par four hole nine.

In the second nine, he dropped two shots on the par 4 11th hole and par four 16th hole, but recovered with two birdies on holes four and six.

"My golf today was good; I picked it from where I left yesterday. I kept the ball on the greens, my putt was soo good, but I am satisfied. Today is a totally different experience from the first day, I'm happy with the



weather, it's warmer and beautiful," Andries Van Der Vyver said.

Royal Nairobi Golf Club's Mwathi Gicheru had the best score for the Kenyan team on level par 72 after sinking three birdies and an eagle, but had five bogeys.

In the girls' competition, South Africa represented by Phenyo Sebata, Lourenda Steyn and Casey Twidale opened an 11-point gap, after finishing the second day on eight under on the leader board.

Kenya who are represented by Bianca Ngecu, Kanana Muthomi and Belinda Wanjiru are second on three over.

Phenyo Sebata anchored South

Africa's scores on three under, after sinking four birdies and dropping a single point.

Boys Leaderboard After Round Two:

1. South Africa -18
2. Kenya +12
3. Uganda +18
4. Morocco +18
5. Zimbabwe +25
6. Zambia +27
7. Mauritius +37
8. Botswana +38
9. Namibia +41
10. Ghana +57
11. Egypt +61
12. Tanzania +63
13. Cote D'Ivoire +74
14. Egypt +91

Girls Leaderboard After Round Two:

1. South Africa -8
2. Kenya +3
3. Morocco +22
4. Tunisia +27
5. Zimbabwe +29
6. Uganda +47
7. Ghana +57
8. Botswana +57
9. Mauritius +70
10. Zambia +92
11. Egypt +108

Citizen sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *In a dramatic twist that has sent shockwaves across African football, Senegal has lodged a formal appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, challenging CAF's decision

Senegal's AFCON crown heads to court of appeal



Senegal players celebrate with the trophy after winning the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) final football match against Morocco at the Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium in Rabat on January 18, 2026. (Photo bCourtesy)

In a dramatic twist that has sent shockwaves across African football, Senegal has lodged a formal appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, challenging the Confederation of African Football's (CAF) decision to strip them of their Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) title and award it to Morocco. The case, confirmed yesterday by CAS, has reignited debate over the integrity of the continent's premier football competition and the governance of its ruling body.

"The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) confirms receipt of an appeal by the Senegalese Football Federation (FSF) against the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and the Royal Moroccan Football Federation," CAS said in a statement. Senegal's appeal seeks to overturn CAF's ruling and reinstate their hard-fought 1-0 victory in extra time over Morocco in the

January 18 final. That triumph, celebrated wildly in Dakar, was later annulled after CAF determined that Senegal had breached tournament regulations when several players walked off the pitch in protest at a controversial penalty decision.

CAF's disciplinary committee announced on March 17 that Senegal's walk-off constituted a forfeiture, retroactively awarding Morocco a 3-0 victory and the championship. The ruling stunned fans and officials alike, with Senegalese captain Kalidou Koulibaly calling it "a betrayal of the spirit of the game." He added, "We fought for every ball, we respected the competition, and we won fairly. To have that taken away is an injustice we cannot accept."

Morocco, the host nation, has maintained that CAF's decision was correct. A spokesperson for the Royal Moroccan Football Federation said, "Rules exist to

protect the integrity of football. Senegal's actions undermined the competition, and CAF acted within its mandate." Yet critics argue that the ruling sets a dangerous precedent, punishing players for protesting what they believed was an unfair call rather than addressing the officiating itself.

CAS Director General Matthieu Reeb sought to calm tensions, noting, "We understand that teams and fans are eager to know the final decision, and we will ensure that arbitration proceedings are conducted as swiftly as possible, while respecting the right of all parties to a fair hearing." Legal experts suggest the case could hinge on whether Senegal's brief walk-off constituted a formal abandonment of the match or a protest within the bounds of sporting conduct.

The stakes are enormous. Beyond the trophy itself, AFCON carries immense symbolic

weight for African nations, representing pride, unity, and global recognition. Senegal's President Macky Sall weighed in, declaring, "Our Lions earned their victory on the pitch. Justice must prevail, and Senegal will defend its honour." His words reflect the national mood, where football is more than sport—it is identity.

As the continent awaits CAS's verdict, the dispute underscores the fragile balance between sporting regulations and the human drama of competition. Whatever the outcome, the ruling will shape not only the legacy of AFCON 2026 but also the credibility of African football governance for years to come. For now, the trophy remains contested, the emotions raw, and the future uncertain.

By MKT Reporter

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Nilton Matias

Angolan Nilton Matias, the young brave author

BY Paula.O.M Otukile

@themtkenyatimes

A book is like a father; with both rigor and love, it conceals thoughts and reveals the pain of a country.

Nilton André António Matias, simply known as Nilton Matias, is a young Angolan resident of Luanda who, at the age of 17, decided to enter the literary world as a writer.

At 17, on the eve of beginning his literary career, Nilton started writing his texts on his computer, which gave rise to his first book entitled "HAVING SEX ONLY WHEN MARRIED? WHAT IF HE IS INFERTILE?", a work that received much attention on social media for its theme, which always triggers diverse and different opinions. Nilton Matias' book, "Having Sex Only When Married? What If

He's Infertile?", is undoubtedly one of the most talked-about novels in Angolan literature, due to its structure and unfolding events. In this work, Matias tells the story of a couple with opposing principles, beliefs, and values, whose great challenge was dealing with these differences, because when one wanted to make a move, the other said they couldn't because of their beliefs... You really need to read it! The book is already available in digital format for all readers who wish to access the work; please leave a message at the author's team number.

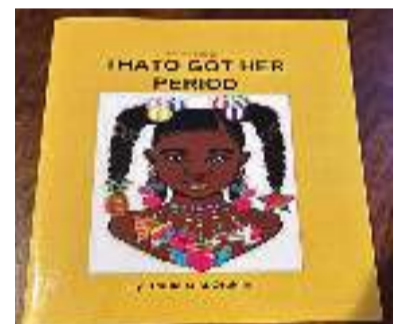
Nilton Matias, with strong dreams and ambitions, believes he still has much to offer to African literature, especially national literature, with projects, new books, and documentaries on continental issues.

It is also worth remember-



ing that his literary manager, Cláudia Francisca Quizembo Fortunato, announced that this year Nilton Matias will launch another literary work entitled "YOHANNA," a work in which he will narrate the story of an Angolan girl with enormous qualities who, after some time and effort, shines like a star, bringing significant changes to her country, Paula Otukile writes.

Paula launches menstruation campaign!



BY MKT REPORTER

Mahalapye, Botswana.

@themtkenyatimes

The Thato Got Her Period book shall be launched tomorrow at the Botswana National Library at Mahalapye branch.

The author is none other than multi award winning Sehnora Doutora "The Rose Of Leko-ba!"

She is called Paula O. M. Otukile from a village in Botswana named Mahalapye. She writes different genres and her stories centralize societal issues! Tomorrow 26/03/26 she shall be launching a menstruation awareness campaign at Mahalapye public library.

She is a human rights activist and a literary consultant. Being a publisher is one of her accolades. Apart from being a poetry performer and a literature mentor she is the founder of the Mulher Forte African Literature. She is also a pioneer of the Francistown international book festival!

She has written a series of educational Children's books under Gwape Series, using a character named Thato.

Why "Thato!" Almost every ward in Botswana have a Thato. The name means love. Tomorrow she is meeting up with a teacher, librarians and 50 girls at the Botswana National library, Mahalapye branch.

The objective

The aim is to raise menstrual awareness.

The idea is to bring back the love of reading and to ignite library love on the children.

It is clear that kids will engage on a book discussion & get pads donation! The book synopsis shall be very educational and shall have an experienced counselor, Holy matrimony founder Mrs Opelo to carry the kids through this rite of passage teaching!

It's a closed up book launch with limited entry and selected attendance because it's having an intimate girl affair!