



**Mudavadi In India To Boost Kenya's Economic Diplomacy At Raisina Dialogue**  
 Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi is in New Delhi, India, to represent Kenya at the prestigious Raisina Dialogue, India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, running Thursday to Saturday.  
 Page 12



**Kenya's Prof Kariuki Muigua, Appointed As A Member Of The Inaugural Asian International Arbitration Centre Court Of Arbitration**  
 Prof Muigua, a Chartered arbitrator, joins the recently established AIAC Court of Arbitration (AIAC Court)  
 Page 18

**THANK YOU FOR ADVERTISING WITH US**  
 For any news you would wish us to publish,  
 email us: [news@mountkenyentimes.co.ke](mailto:news@mountkenyentimes.co.ke)  
**For Adverts & Sponsorship**  
 email us: [ads@mountkenyentimes.co.ke](mailto:ads@mountkenyentimes.co.ke)

# The Mt. Kenya Times

Daily ePAPER

**Meru** Multi-billion projects drive Meru's growth, positioning town for imminent city status.

## Kindiki: Mega Projects Set To Propel Meru To City Status



### 49B

The investments are not just reshaping the town's skyline—they are laying the foundation for Meru to join Kenya's growing list of urban powerhouses.



*Deputy President Kithure Kindiki addressing Meru residents as local leaders led by Governor Isaac Mutuma (left) looks on.*

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki said ongoing multi-billion-shilling infrastructure projects will pave the way for the elevation of Meru town to city status, citing massive investments in markets, health, roads and sports facilities. Speaking yesterday during a public sensitisation forum at Gakoromone Market, Kindiki announced that the government has released Sh1 billion for the construction of an ultra-modern fresh produce market at the site.

Page 9

## NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"



**Contact Us:**

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438  
 +254 706 237 040 / +254 724 613 401  
[business@exponentialinternational.com](mailto:business@exponentialinternational.com)

SCAN TO REGISTER

"ALL BUSINESSES ONE PLATFORM"

# Government Invests KSh2 Billion In Health And Market Infrastructure In Meru

BY WMW  
@themtkenyatimes

*Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures*

Meru Town is set for major infrastructure transformation after the government released KSh2 billion for key development projects. Deputy President Kithure Kindiki announced that KSh1 billion has been allocated for the construction of an ultra-modern fresh produce market at Gakoromone, aimed at boosting trade and improving livelihoods for residents and traders.

In addition, Sh1 billion is being used to expand the Meru Teaching and Referral Hospital into a twin-tower complex with modern facilities. The upgrade will enable the hospital to offer specialised services, including delicate surgeries, cancer, heart, and kidney treatment, paving the way for its elevation from Level 5 to Level 6, a National Teaching and Referral Hospital. This will reduce the need for residents from Meru and neighbouring counties, including Tharaka Nithi, Embu, Isiolo, Marsabit, and Laikipia, to travel to Nairobi for specialised medical care.

Other ongoing projects in Meru Town include the Sh3.7 billion link roads project and the completed Sh900 million 10,000-seat Kinoru Stadium. Across the county, Sh39 billion is being invested in road works, 17 fresh produce markets are under construction at Sh2 billion, and 26,000 households, businesses, and public amenities are being connected to electricity under a Sh2.3 billion programme.

The announcements were made during a public sensitisation event attended by Governor Isaac Mutuma, Deputy Governor Linda Kiome, Woman Representative Elizabeth Kailemia, MPs Rahim Dawood, Mpuru Aburi, Dan Kiili, Dorothy Muthoni, MCAs, and other local leaders.



Editor's Desk



The Mt. Kenya Times



The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative. It is published by **Exponential International Limited**, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

**Group Executive Chairman**  
M. Danson  
**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dan-mwangi-1b47446b/>

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

**Facebook:** Mt. Kenya Times, **Instagram:** Mt. Kenya Times, **Twitter:** @themtkenyatimes  
**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mt-kenya-times-a07999115/>

# NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"



"ALL BUSINESSES  
ONE PLATFORM"



SCAN TO REGISTER

## Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438



+254 706 237 040 / +254 721 274 369

+254 724 613 401 / +254 100 423 971

+254 724 613 401



business@exponentialinternational.com



[www.businessavaibale.com](http://www.businessavaibale.com)

## NEWS IN BRIEF



Nakuru County is boosting poultry farming with a Sh3 billion initiative to enhance food security, income, and employment. Under the Improved Local Chicken Stimulus Project, 16 farmer groups from Mau Narok and Kihingo Wards received 3,842 one-month-old improved Kienyeji chicks and basic poultry care training, with ongoing technical support from livestock officers. The project targets women, youth, and persons with disabilities, promoting dual-purpose breeds that mature quickly, produce more meat, and start laying eggs within five months. Last year, Nakuru poultry farmers earned over Sh1.3 billion from eggs and meat. The county plans to intensify vaccination programs to reduce disease risks and production costs, aiming to increase overall poultry productivity and income generation while supporting urban agriculture and sustainable livelihoods.



At least 6,500 residents in Suba South, Gwassi Ward, are set to access clean water following the launch of two projects by National Treasury CS John Mbadi. The Luwa Chabichabi and Mumisa water projects, costing Sh17 million, will serve over 3,500 and 3,000 people respectively, including Mumisa Comprehensive School. Implemented by Lake Victoria South Water Works Development Agency, the projects involve boreholes, piped networks, and water kiosks, and are expected to be completed by June 2026. Officials urged residents to protect the infrastructure, while locals expressed optimism that the initiatives will reduce waterborne diseases and support economic activities.



Mombasa Governor Abdulswamad Shariff Nassir launched the Mombasa Care healthcare program at Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital, directing improvements in service delivery, corruption elimination, and ensuring no patient is detained over unpaid bills. He emphasized SHA registration on arrival, use of the Facility Improvement Fund for unregistered patients, and digitalization of lab results and prescriptions. Nassir banned brokers, addressed queue-jumping, and reassigned the CEO involved in a recent patient death case. The program includes hiring additional health staff, compassionate mortuary services for seven days, and a 24-hour toll-free helpline (1599). The initiative builds on free care for children under five and aims to modernize the hospital amid high patient volumes.



Dock workers at the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) have issued a strike notice over delays in implementing their 2024–2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), citing alleged interference by a senior KPA officer. Dock Workers' Union Secretary General Simon Sang accused the officer of using influence within the Judiciary, Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC), and Public Service Commission (PSC) to destabilize the union, affecting members' morale. Sang warned that if the CBA is not processed by the end of March 2026, the union will call what he described as "the mother of all strikes." The union has maintained industrial peace since 2016 through dialogue but is now prepared to take action if management fails to address their concerns.

Form Four leavers in Ting'ang'a, Kiambu Constituency, received career guidance and mentorship during a fair organized by Jitume ICT Hub in partnership with PCEA Gituamba. Kiambu Town MP Machua Waithaka emphasized supporting youth in making informed academic and career choices and pledged continued mentorship. The event featured tertiary institutions, including Kiambu National Polytechnic, Zetech University, and Kabete National Polytechnic, highlighting programs aligned with job market demands. Waithaka also announced a scholarship program in collaboration with the Romanian Embassy to advance ICT skills abroad, strengthening technology exchange and digital capacity building. Officials from Romania and Kenya's ICT Ministry attended, promoting globally competitive digital competencies.



The Kenya Forest Service (KFS) plans to harvest 317 hectares of mature and overmature commercial forest plantations in Iveti Hills and Muumandu, Machakos County, as part of sustainable forest management. Senior Deputy Chief Conservator Dr. Clement Ngiorireng emphasized that harvesting salvages deteriorating trees while ensuring replanting, protecting government investments. Public participation forums were held to inform communities and align with constitutional requirements. KFS has integrated online registration for forestry investors and streamlined tender processes to enhance transparency. Local leaders and millers support the initiative, highlighting benefits from value addition, job creation, and the requirement that replanted trees match or exceed harvested numbers.

### MASS VOTER REGISTRATION

Patriots must register as voters in large numbers and get ready for the big change. Your vote your choice your future



**TO BECOME A PATRIOT,  
SIMPLY DIAL \*386# AND  
JOIN KPP**



# The Africa Largest eCOMMERCERCE



[www.gotyou.co.ke](http://www.gotyou.co.ke)



Call/Text/WhatsApp: +254 714 090 155

# NEWS PAPER



## IN BUSINESS

# The Mount Kenya Times

+254 724 439 949, +254 720 918 828, +254 721 103 040, +254 713 318 438

website: <https://mountkenyatimes.co.ke>

**Justice** The training, themed “Grounding for Greatness,” goes beyond legal theory, addressing practical, ethical, and personal aspects of judicial service.

# Newly Recruited Magistrates Urged To Uphold Integrity, Justice

**Justice Wanjala highlighted that the programme includes psycho-social support and wellness initiatives**

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

Newly recruited Resident Magistrates have been urged to uphold integrity, empathy, patience, and an unwavering commitment to the rule of law as they take up their judicial responsibilities.

Justice Smokin Wanjala, Judge of the Supreme Court of Kenya and Director General of the Kenya Judiciary Academy (KJA), reminded the magistrates of the immense public trust vested in their office, noting that their courts are “where the Constitution meets the citizen and where the promise of justice becomes a tangible reality.”

Speaking yesterday during the induction and swearing-in ceremony at the Kenya School of Government, Justice Wanjala emphasized that the two-week programme marks the beginning of a solemn journey from the study of law to the lived responsibility of judicial office.

The induction, jointly organized by the Kenya Judiciary Academy and the Office of the Registrar, Magistrates Court, is a comprehensive immersion into the institutional ethos of the Judiciary. Justice Wanjala said the programme represents a significant milestone for both the magistrates and the Judiciary, reflecting the recruits’ merit, resilience, and commitment to justice following a rigorous compet-

itive selection process.

The training, themed “Grounding for Greatness,” goes beyond legal theory, addressing practical, ethical, and personal aspects of judicial service. Participants are equipped with skills in judgment writing, active case management, and judicial craft, while also being guided on fostering collegiality, wellness, and resilience.

Justice Wanjala highlighted that the programme includes psycho-social support and wellness initiatives, reinforcing

**Justice Smokin Wanjala, Judge of the Supreme Court of Kenya and Director General of the Kenya Judiciary Academy (KJA), reminded the magistrates of the immense public trust vested in their office, noting that their courts are “where the Constitution meets the citizen and where the promise of justice becomes a tangible reality.”**

”

ing the Judiciary’s commitment to holistic development. “These sessions will explore the transformative role of adjudicators in enhancing access to justice and promoting social transformation,” he said.

The Kenya Judiciary Academy reaffirmed its dedication to continuous professional development and lifelong learning for judicial officers, aiming to build a judiciary that is legally astute, technologically proficient, and ethically steadfast.

Through the programme, magistrates are expected to internalize values that strengthen public confidence in the judicial system, ensure fair and timely delivery of justice, and promote ethical conduct in all aspects of court administration.

The induction also emphasizes the importance of collegiality among judicial officers, resilience under pressure, and the need to balance professional demands with personal wellbeing, ensuring a judiciary that serves Kenyans with excellence and integrity.

The Judiciary’s focus on grounding new magistrates in both legal expertise and ethical responsibility reflects ongoing efforts to cultivate a justice system that is accessible, transparent, and transformative for the Kenyan public.



Justice Smokin Wanjala



Some of the newly magistrates during the induction session. | Photo: Courtesy.

The **MT. KENYA TIMES** Where Investors Get Returns

To advertise in Mt. Kenya Times read by discerning Kenyan professionals and the business community contact our exclusive **UK & Europe Advertising and Marketing representatives.**

**ADLINK INTERNATIONAL**  
(1989) MEDIA GROUP  
GLOBAL PRINT, BROADCAST OUTDOOR & DIGITAL ADVERTISING  
SERVING YOU SINCE 1989

**ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP**  
16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF  
Phone: 0330 606 1438 (44 330 606 1438)  
Email: media@adlinkinternational.com  
www.adlinkinternational.com  
Contact: Mr Shamlal Puri



**ARS**  
REHABILITATION  
MENTAL WELLNESS  
HOSPITAL

**OUR SERVICES**

LABORATORY SERVICES

PHARMACY

DETOXIFICATION

CONSULTATION

COUNSELLING SESSIONS

NURSE AID TRAINING

0750 222337/ 0712 201695  
[info@ars.co.ke](mailto:info@ars.co.ke)  
[www.ars.co.ke](http://www.ars.co.ke)

Nyeri County, Along Marua-Kiganjo Highway

The Mt Kenya Times



10th

*Anniversary  
Celebration*

## KISUMU

## Court Clears Ombudsman, Faults Teachers Service Commission In Kisumu Employment Case

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

The Employment and Labour Relations Court in Kisumu has cleared the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ) of wrongdoing in a wide-ranging employment dispute, while faulting the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) for procedural lapses in its disciplinary process.

In the case of Fred Apima Obita v Teachers Service Commission and seven others, the petitioner accused multiple state agencies of workplace insecurity, wrongful interdiction, discrimination, defamation, conspiracy, and administrative inaction. Among the respondents was the CAJ, also known as the Office of the Ombudsman, which he alleged had failed to properly investigate his complaints.

Justice Dr. Jacob Gakeri dismissed the allegations against the Ombudsman, noting that the Commission had written to the TSC “no fewer than seven times during the course of its inquiry, seeking clarification, facts, and corrective measures.” The court found this correspondence demonstrated diligence rather than neglect. During cross-examination, the claimant admitted that the Commission’s intervention had partially resolved his concerns by enabling him to access documents and facilitating the eventual disciplinary hearing.

The judge clarified that the Ombudsman’s constitutional role is to investigate maladministration, make recommendations, and promote administrative justice, but not to usurp investigative or disciplinary powers of other state organs. Consequently, the declaration sought against the CAJ was declined as unmerited, effectively vindicating the Commission.

The court, however, faulted

the TSC. While affirming the employer’s authority to discipline the claimant for alleged desertion of duty, it identified procedural defects in the disciplinary process. Specifically, the disciplinary panel convened by the TSC was improperly constituted, lacking a Commission member as chairperson as required under Regulation 151 of the Code of Regulations for Teachers. This omission rendered the proceedings—and the resulting suspension—a nullity in law.

The court further ruled that deregistering the claimant from the AON Minet Medical Scheme during the disciplinary period was irregular, unfair, and unlawful. Denying medical benefits infringed on his right to dignity. As a result, the court awarded Sh200,000 in general damages against the TSC and declared that failure to remit NHIF deductions was illegal.

Most of the claimant’s expansive claims collapsed. Allegations of defamation, discrimination, conspiracy, and collusion were dismissed for lack of credible evidence. The court emphasized that serious constitutional and tort claims must be strictly proved and cannot rest on speculation. On salary, the judge held that wages were not payable during interdiction, in line with established employment law principles.

The ruling underscores the importance of procedural compliance in disciplinary matters while reaffirming the Ombudsman’s role as a watchdog rather than an enforcer. For the claimant, partial relief was granted, but the broader claims failed.

In Kisumu, the judgment sends a clear message: administrative justice requires diligence, but disciplinary processes must be watertight—or risk being struck down in court.



UDA officials during yesterday’s meeting.

## UDA Reschedules Grassroots Elections Following Ng’eno’s Death

BY Suleiman Mbatiah

@themtkenyatimes

The United Democratic Alliance (UDA) has postponed its Repeat Phase III grassroots elections following the death of Emurua Dikirr MP Johana Ng’eno, pushing the exercise in affected counties by at least a week.

The party’s National Steering Committee met at the headquarters in Nairobi under chairperson Cecily Mbarire, who is also the Embu Governor, to review the situation.

Members observed a minute of silence in honour of Ng’eno before receiving a briefing from Senate Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot on preparations for his burial.

The committee resolved to reschedule the repeat Phase III grassroots elections from Saturday to March 14, 2026, to allow mourning and funeral arrangements.

“We have found it necessary to adjust our timelines accordingly in solidarity during this period of mourning,” said National Elections Board chair

Anthony Mwaura.

The March 14 repeat Phase III elections will be conducted in Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Embu, Nyandarua, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Murang’a, Kiambu, Samburu, Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu and Elgeyo Marakwet.

Other affected counties include Nandi, Baringo, Laikipia, Nakuru, Kericho, Bomet and Vihiga, according to the notice issued by the National Elections Board.

The party also rescheduled Repeat Phase II grassroots elections, which will now be conducted on Thursday, April 9, 2026, across several counties.

Counties listed for the April 9 exercise include Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, Tana River, Lamu, Taita Taveta, Garissa, Wajir, Mandera and Marsabit. Others are Isiolo, Kitui, Machakos, Makueni, Turkana, Kajiado, Bungoma, Siaya, Kisumu, Migori, Kisii, Nyamira and Kakamega.

“Subsequently, Repeat Phase II Grassroot Elections have also been rescheduled and will be conducted on Thursday, 9th April 2026,” the board said.

The steering committee also

reviewed the party’s performance in recent by-elections, where it won the Isiolo South parliamentary seat and three ward seats.

The ward seats were Muminji, Evurore and West Kabras, with the party saying it secured all the contested positions in the mini polls.

“The meeting reviewed the exceptional performance of the party during the just concluded by-elections, where the party won all the contested seats,” the statement said.

Those present included Secretary General Hassan Omar Hassan, National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung’wah and Senate Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot.

Also in attendance were Treasurer Japhet Nyakundi, Organising Secretary Vincent Kawayu, Deputy Secretary General Omboko Milemba, Vice Chair Kelvin Lunani and Executive Director Nicodemus Bore.

Members of the National Elections Board and other party directors also attended the meeting chaired by Mbarire at the party headquarters.

**City** Kindiki has said ongoing multi-billion-shilling infrastructure projects will pave the way for the elevation of Meru town to city status

# Kindiki: Mega Projects Set To Propel Meru To City Status

Across the county, the Deputy President said KSh39 billion worth of road works are ongoing in all nine constituencies following the settlement of pending bills owed to contractors. Additionally, 17 fresh produce markets valued at KSh2 billion are under construction, while 26,000 households, businesses and public institutions are being connected to electricity under a KSh2.3 billion rural electrification programme.

**BY Dennis Dibondo and William Muchiri**

@themkenyatimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has said ongoing multi-billion-shilling infrastructure projects will pave the way for the elevation of Meru town to city status, citing massive investments in markets, health, roads and sports facilities.

Speaking yesterday during a public sensitisation forum at Gakoromone Market, Kindiki announced that the government has released Sh1 billion for the construction of an ultra-modern fresh produce market at the site.

He said the project is part of a broader transformation agenda aimed at positioning Meru as a modern urban centre ready for official city conferment by President William Ruto.

The Gakoromone market project comes alongside a KSh1 billion expansion of the Meru Teaching and Referral Hospital into a twin-tower complex equipped with specialised medical facilities.

The hospital upgrade is expected to elevate the institution from its current Level 5 status to Level 6, making it a National Teaching and Referral Hospital.

“The expansion will see the hospital offer specialised facilities like delicate surgical procedures, cancer, heart and kidney treatment to pave way for the hospital’s elevation from the current Level 5 to Level 6,” Kindiki said.

He noted that the upgrade will ease the burden on patients from Meru and neighbouring counties — including Tharaka Nithi, Embu, Isiolo, Marsabit and Laikipia — who currently travel to Nairobi for specialised treatment. The improved facility is expected to shorten travel distances, reduce medical costs and enhance access to critical healthcare services.

Kindiki also inspected the ongoing construction works at the hospital and called for speedy but quality implementation to ensure timely completion.

Other flagship projects include the Sh3.7 billion Meru Town bypass and link roads, which are set to improve mobility and decongest the town, and the recently completed KSh900 million Kinoru Stadium with a 10,000-seat capacity.

Across the county, the Deputy President said KSh39 billion worth of road works are ongoing in all nine constituencies following the settlement of pending bills owed to contractors. Additionally, 17 fresh pro-

“The expansion will see the hospital offer specialised facilities like delicate surgical procedures, cancer, heart and kidney treatment to pave way for the hospital’s elevation from the current Level 5 to Level 6,” Kindiki said.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki (in white safety helmet) interacting with construction workers in Meru yesterday. | Photo: Courtesy.

duce markets valued at KSh2 billion are under construction, while 26,000 households, businesses and public institutions are being connected to electricity under a KSh2.3 billion rural electrification programme.

Kindiki said the coordinated rollout of infrastructure projects is designed to stimulate economic growth, create jobs and uplift livelihoods, positioning Meru as a regional economic hub.

During the forum, the Deputy President also weighed in on the political landscape, dismissing the DCP party associated with former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua as politically insignificant ahead of the 2027 General Election. He said the ruling United Democratic Alliance (UDA) remains dominant, citing recent by-election victories, including Leo Wamuthende in Mbeere North and Mohamed Tubi in Isiolo South.

“There is a clear distinction between leaders who merely talk and those focused on development. We cannot abandon a government that is delivering projects for wananchi,” Kindiki said, urging the opposition to prepare for defeat in 2027.

Leaders present said the ongoing

mega projects mark a decisive step towards transforming Meru into a fully-fledged city anchored on modern infrastructure, quality healthcare and expanded economic opportunities.

Those in attendance included Meru Governor Isaac Mutuma, his deputy Linda Kiome, Woman Representa-

tive Elizabeth Kailemia, Members of Parliament Rahim Dawood (Imenti North), Dan Kiili (Igembe Central), Mpuru Aburi (Tigania East), as well as Members of County Assembly and other local leaders who pledged support for the development agenda.



Kindiki speaking during a public sensitisation forum at Gakoromone Market

**Message** We warned that the sign of the third great shaking of the world would begin when Russia rose against Ukraine

# A Message From Mt Kenya Elders And Seers

**We called for repentance, reconciliation, justice, and a return to the ways of the Almighty.**

**BY MKT REPORTER**

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

From The Sacred Heights Of Mount Kenya, we, the Elders and Seer's.

We speak again to the nations of the earth.

We warned that the sign of the third great shaking of the world would begin when Russia rose against Ukraine, and when the long-burning conflict between Israel and Palestine intensified before the

eyes of the world.

These things have happened. Now tensions deepen further, drawing in powerful nations including the United States, Israel and Iran, while instability spreads across lands such as Dubai, Qatar, all gulf nations, and across the whole continent. The earth trembles under the weight of prolonged wars that have stretched across decades.

When the first signs appeared, we offered a solution. We called for repentance, reconciliation, justice, and a return to the ways of the Almighty. We urged leaders to choose dialogue over destruction, humility over pride, mercy over revenge. But our

message was ignored.

And we must now speak of a deeper wound.

For decades, since the day Kenya received independence in 1963, we wrote letters. We petitioned authorities. We appealed peacefully for land to build a sacred Temple. A place of healing, prayer, unity, and spiritual refuge for the nations. A sanctuary where people of all tribes and races could gather for cleansing and restoration under the Almighty.

Yet the land was denied.

The Temple of healing was not built.

The place meant to stand as a beacon of reconciliation for the nations was withheld. And



the wars that have unfolded over decades have followed in the shadow of that refusal. What could have been a fountain of peace became silence unanswered.

Now the conflicts have multiplied. What began as distant battles have grown into global tensions. The storm is widening.

Therefore, we repeat our call: Let the people of the Al-

mighty cleanse themselves. Cleanse your hearts of hatred. Cleanse your communities of injustice. Turn away from corruption and violence. Seek righteousness while mercy is still extended.

For a time is coming when the Almighty will call His people to the Mountain, to a place of healing and refuge for those affected by war and suffering. Not merely a physical ascent,

but a spiritual rising. From there shall flow restoration for broken nations.

Let leaders listen. Let the faithful awaken. Let the nations humble themselves.

The Mountain stands. The call has been spoken. Mercy remains, but the hour is urgent.

Return the land. Build the place of healing. Let peace rise again among the nations.

# The Mt. Kenya Times



**Scholarships** Dozens of financially disadvantaged youths across East Africa are transforming their lives through sports scholarship programmes

# Sports Scholarships Offer Lifeline To Needy Youth Across East Africa



John Mwai-Director of Corporate Affairs and Marketing at Zetech University engaging with football players.

**The programmes not only support academic advancement but also provide structured platforms for young athletes to grow their skills in disciplines such as football, rugby and basketball.**

**BY Felix Njenga**  
@themtkenyatimes

Dozens of financially disadvantaged youths across East Africa are transforming their lives through sports scholarship programmes that combine university education with talent development.

For many who would otherwise have missed the opportunity to pursue higher education after high school,

these initiatives are offering a second chance and a pathway to a brighter future.

Across Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan, Rwanda, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, talented young men and women are leveraging their athletic abilities to gain access to university education while nurturing cross-border friendships and promoting regional unity.

The programmes not only support academic advancement but also provide structured platforms for young athletes to grow their skills in disciplines such as football, rugby and basketball.

At the centre of this effort is Zetech University, whose sports scholarship programme continues to open doors for gifted but underprivileged students. The initiative allows beneficiaries to pursue degree courses of their choice while actively participating in competitive sports.

Speaking during regional

friendly matches held at the university's Mang'u Campus in Juja to promote peace and unity within East Africa,

the institution's Director of Corporate Affairs and Marketing, John Mwai, said the programme reflects the uni-

versity's strong commitment to social responsibility. He disclosed that the university invests approximately Sh10 million annually to support talented youth from disadvantaged backgrounds.

According to Mwai, the goal is not only to nurture sporting talent but also to secure the long-term futures of young people who might otherwise miss out on higher education due to financial challenges. He noted that the initiative has played a vital role in steering many youths away from antisocial behaviours such as crime, drug and alcohol abuse, exploitation by self-serving politicians, unplanned pregnancies and other destructive activities.

"This programme has helped rescue many young people who might have drifted into harmful paths," Mwai said, adding that the university remains committed to sustaining and expanding the initiative. He encouraged youths across Kenya and the wider East African region to embrace opportunities that combine education and talent development, noting that such approaches foster personal growth and create sustainable livelihood pathways both locally and internationally.

For beneficiaries like student and footballer Monalisa Anyango, the scholarship has been life-changing. She said her sporting talent unlocked an

opportunity that might never have materialised otherwise.

"Without this scholarship, my life could have taken a completely different direction. I might have ended up on the streets. Today, I can study, play football and look forward to a brighter future," she said.

Anyango also urged fellow young women to avoid destructive coping mechanisms driven by financial hardship. She cautioned against dependence on unhealthy relationships for survival, warning that such choices can expose them to exploitation and unplanned pregnancies. Instead, she encouraged young women to focus on developing their talents, working hard and striving for financial independence.

She credited football and the university's support for enabling her to meet her needs through income earned from sporting engagements, while building confidence and hope for the future.

As regional sports engagements continue to foster unity and talent exchange, the scholarship programme stands out as a powerful example of how targeted support can empower struggling youth. By blending academics with athletics, it is helping young people overcome adversity, access higher education and build meaningful careers both within and beyond the sporting arena.



Youths battle it out on the pitch during a thrilling football match at the Zetech University Mang'u Campus grounds in Juja.

**Diplomacy** Mudavadi is in New Delhi, India, to represent Kenya at the prestigious Raisina Dialogue

# Mudavadi In India To Boost Kenya's Economic Diplomacy At Raisina Dialogue



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi with African Guarantee Fund leaders after their meeting in Nairobi yesterday. They discussed expanding SME financing and boosting enterprise growth across Africa. | Photo: Courtesy.

**Mudavadi will also represent Kenya in discussions under the theme Africa Rising: Pathways, Partnerships, and Priorities**

**BY MKT REPORTER**

@themtkenyatimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi is in New Delhi, India, to represent Kenya at the prestigious Raisina Dialogue, India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, running Thursday to Saturday.

The three-day event will convene global leaders, pol-

icymakers, industry experts, academics, and journalists to deliberate on pressing international issues, including trade, investment, climate change, and regional security. Mudavadi's participation underscores Kenya's ambition to strengthen its geopolitical and economic profile while attracting foreign investment.

During the dialogue, the PCS will highlight Kenya's ongoing economic diplomacy under President William Ruto's administration, including a series of bilateral trade and investment agreements that aim to expand markets, reduce barriers, and position Kenya as a central hub for value-added trade in Africa.

"Kenya is moving from being a raw exporter to a value-adding trade hub at the heart of Africa's growth story," Mudavadi said, noting that the country's strategic location, youthful popula-

tion, and investment-friendly policies make it a key partner for global trade and economic partnerships.

Mudavadi will also represent Kenya in discussions under the theme Africa Rising: Pathways, Partnerships, and Priorities, where he will outline how Africa's youthful population, which makes up approximately 70 percent of the continent's total population combined with vast natural resources and a growing technology sector, positions the region as a source of long-term optimism and global economic opportunity.

In addition to the Raisina Dialogue, Mudavadi will attend the Kenya-India Joint Commission for Cooperation, where he will meet senior Indian officials to set a results-driven agenda aimed at achieving tangible outcomes for both countries. Strengthening the Kenya-India rela-

tionship, which spans over a century, will focus on trade, investment, technology transfer, and people-to-people ties.

Analysts say the visit comes at a critical time for Kenya as it seeks to diversify markets, attract foreign direct investment, and leverage strategic partnerships in Asia to support infrastructure, industrialization, and digital transformation initiatives across the country.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary is expected to return with actionable frameworks that will bolster Kenya's position as a competitive and reliable trade and investment destination, while deepening diplomatic and economic ties with India.

## BAT Kenya Resumes Sale Of Velo Nicotine Pouches After Clarity



By: Phidel Kizito

@themtkenyatimes

BAT Kenya has resumed sales of its Velo oral nicotine pouches after receiving regulatory clarity, marking a renewed push into non-combustible products as cigarette sales decline.

The company said the return of the Velo brand highlights its strategy to diversify revenue streams in a market facing increased competition from illicit tobacco products and falling cigarette consumption.

BAT Kenya reported a 10 percent drop in turnover in 2025, with revenue closing at Sh23.2 billion. The decline was largely attributed to the growing presence of illegal tobacco products in the market.

According to Finance Director Philemon Kipkemoi, Velo contributed about 1 percent of total turnover between July and December 2025, translating to roughly Sh232 million.

"Our ability to reenter the market in the second half of last year was driven by a more suitable regulatory environment that now accom-

modates oral nicotine products," Kipkemoi said.

Following the divestment of its local manufacturing plant, BAT Kenya has shifted to an import model. The company currently sources Velo pouches from Pakistan but says it may reconsider local production depending on the product's performance.

Globally, parent company British American Tobacco has recorded 34 million non-combustible product consumers by the end of 2025. This represents 68 percent of its target of 50 million users by 2030. The group aims to generate 50 percent of its revenue from non-combustible products by 2035, up from the current 18 percent.

In Kenya, Kipkemoi projects that Velo could account for between 15 and 25 percent of total revenue within the next three to five years.

The resumption of sales forms part of BAT Kenya's broader strategy to expand alternative nicotine products while complying with evolving regulations and responding to changing consumer preferences.

**Conflict** The government has urged all factions involved in the ongoing Middle East conflict to de-escalate hostilities and engage in dialogue

# Government Calls For Dialogue As Middle East Conflict Escalates, Unveils Key National Initiatives

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyentimes

The government has urged all factions involved in the ongoing Middle East conflict to de-escalate hostilities and engage in dialogue through multilateral platforms to resolve the standoff peacefully. Speaking at Harambee House Annex, Government Spokesperson Dr. Isaac Mwaura said President Dr. William Ruto is closely monitoring the situation and prioritizes the safety of Kenyans working, studying, or conducting business in affected regions.

“All Kenyans in conflict zones are advised to avoid danger areas, reduce unnecessary movement, and use embassy contact numbers for assistance,” Dr. Mwaura advised, emphasizing that the Government is fully committed to protecting its citizens abroad.

On domestic governance, Dr. Mwaura addressed the implementation of the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) report, dismissing

claims of inaction. He outlined a three-pronged approach involving administrative measures across all 54 State Departments, the processing of 16 key legislations, and consideration of referendum proposals either during the General Election or through other constitutional mechanisms. He assured that the implementation process will be inclusive, transparent, and time-bound.

The Spokesperson also highlighted the importance of voter registration, particularly among youth, noting the Government’s support for the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) in targeting over six million new voters, 70 percent of whom are young people.

Dr. Mwaura reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to free, fair, and transparent elections and warned against premature campaigning outside legally designated areas.

In public health, the Government announced the rollout of Lenacapavir, a long-acting injectable pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention. The first phase, starting

in March 2026, targets 15 high-burden counties, including Mombasa, Kilifi, Machakos, Nairobi, and Kisumu. Dr. Mwaura clarified that while often referred to as a vaccine, Lenacapavir is an injectable administered twice yearly, reducing the risk of HIV acquisition by over 99.9 percent when properly used. The medication will be provided free at designated public health facilities and NASCOP-supported sites.

Regarding infrastructure, Dr. Mwaura confirmed the termination of the previous public-private partnership deal with the Adani Group for the upgrade of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA). The Government is now implementing a sovereign integrated JKIA master plan, which includes a new passenger terminal, a second runway, airfield expansion, and development of an airport city, with construction scheduled to begin this year under full Government oversight.

Dr. Mwaura urged Kenyans to remain vigilant, follow official advisories, and verify information through



Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura addressing the media yesterday

authorized sources. He emphasized that these initiatives—from ensuring citizen safety abroad to advancing public health and national infrastructure—demonstrate the Government’s commitment to stability, democratic processes, and innovative service delivery.

The Government’s proactive ap-

proach underscores its dual focus on safeguarding Kenyans internationally while advancing critical domestic programs that promote health, infrastructure, and civic engagement.



**KENYA REVENUE AUTHORITY**  
*Tulipe Ushuru, Tujitengenezi*



**30 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP**

# INSIDE TAX



# Income and Expenses Validation Notice



**Contact Centre:**

Call us on: +254 20 4 999 999, +254 711 099 999 or Email us: [callcentre@kra.go.ke](mailto:callcentre@kra.go.ke)

## My Mother Tongue



There are thousands of languages in the world,  
Listening to each, you remain amazed.  
But when I listen to my mother tongue,  
I feel like rising and flying.

I give thanks for having a language,  
For having my own words and my own tongue.  
For being on a peaceful land under a peaceful sky,  
I give thanks for having my mother tongue.

The mother tongue for me is strength, it is fire,  
It is a passionate flame in the depths of my heart.

When it burns, it is music, a wordless language,  
The Uzbek language for me is a perfect language.

Bo'riyeva E'zoza Rasul daughter Born on 27  
February 2012 in Sovjironbobo neighbourhood,  
Sho'rchi district, Surxondaryo region. A 7th-  
grade pupil at School No. 30, Sho'rchi district,  
Surxondaryo region.

The mother tongue is sacred, the mother tongue  
is great,  
It is like an undying flame.  
The mother tongue is splendid and eternally  
suitable,  
My mother tongue is the only great thing for me.

Even if it is bad, even if it is the best,  
My mother tongue is sacred and great to me.  
It is my eternal pride and honour,  
It is my undying language and eternal weapon.

## Last Few Minutes Of Work



When the clock strikes tick-tick,  
heart beats faster,  
each second is valued more.

Many a time, last-minute preparation  
and last-minute execution end up in failure  
because of tension and mental pressure.  
It is wise to be consistent in preparation

instead of last minute preparation.  
last minute preparation is not advisable

Brinda. D  
GRADUATE TEACHER,  
GOVT HIGH SCHOOL,  
MELPATTAMPAKKAM  
CUDDALORE, Tamilnadu India  
creativewritersmag@gmail.com

Last five minutes of anything is very serious,  
That is too important.  
Being relaxed during the initial stage  
and hurrying up during the last moment

this is quite natural for all.

## Never Forgot How They Gave Distance Instead Of Love



Forgetting that action leads to life's pitfalls.  
Gently tackle or swiftly pave your own platforms.  
Though they're your heart dwelling.  
Don't forget your heart swelling.

Each and every beat creates rhythmic woes.  
Worry not later for your misdeeds.  
Let's sit back and wait for next turn.  
Be vigilant with your next mile.

M DEVIKA  
PGT ENGLISH & CREATIVE WRITER  
FIITJEE GLOBAL SCHOOL, CHENNAI,  
TAMILNADU, INDIA.

Distance creates a huge difference.  
Yet tides with life lessons.  
Smaller or greater getting crushed,  
Like a broken leaves matter.

## My Father



My favourite colour is white.  
My father's face is bright.

My father is my king,  
My favourite jewel is ring.

My father is a great power.  
I have a flower.

By  
S. Kanshika.  
V Std  
PUMS Chinna Obulapuram  
Gummidipoondi  
Tiruvallur Dt  
Tamilnadu, India.

My father is best.  
And always first.

My father is a cook.  
My mother cooks seeing a book.

## Perfectly Imperfect



We shouldn't push ourselves for others.  
We are living our own surreal moments,  
So don't stress too much to please the world.  
Everyone carries emotions in their own way,  
Everyone walks life differently.  
Just like our fingers are not the same,  
Why expect everyone to think or feel alike?  
Simply move on,  
And don't blame others for choosing yourself.  
Moving on is far better than forced adjusting.  
Practice saying no to what you can't offer,  
Because stopping a conflict early  
Is better than carrying it forever.  
Being imperfect is better than pretending to be  
perfect.  
It's real — never meant to be fake.

Imperfect but real  
Neither perfect nor imperfect,  
That doesn't decide your well-being.  
Most imperfections are real and true,  
And they make us who we are.  
We can't satisfy everyone in life,

By  
ZAHETHA R  
BT ASST  
GHS PAPPANTHANGAL  
TVM DIST

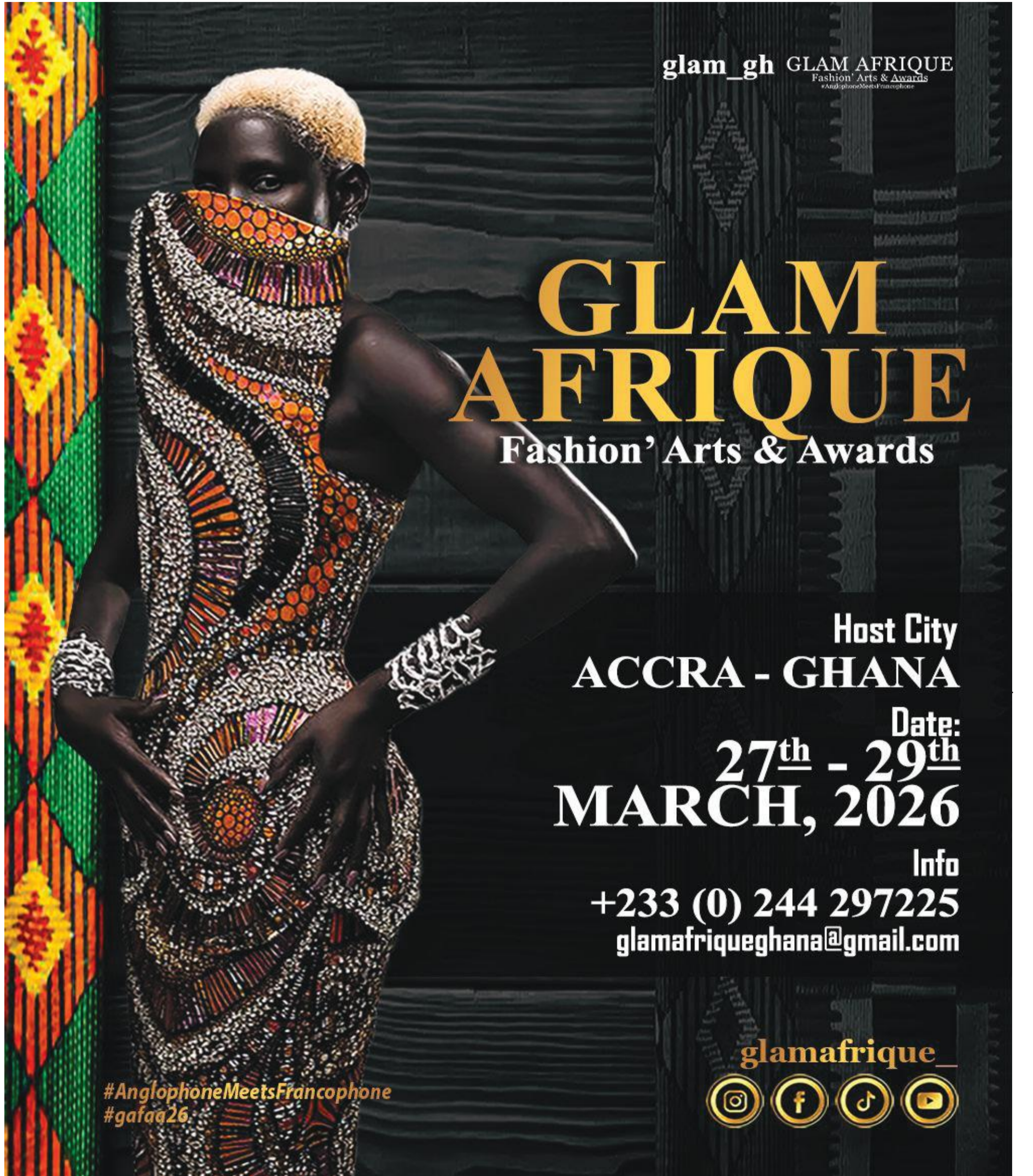
## A Cup Of Coffee, A Book In Hand



The brew feels soft, the words feel strong,  
Healing hearts where they belong.  
In silent corners, souls are fed,  
By coffee warm and stories read.  
Between the lines, the worries rest,  
The mind feels light, the heart feels blessed.  
In every sip and sentence found,  
A peaceful escape from the noisy ground.

R. SRIPRIYA  
BT ENGLISH  
GHSS KOLAPAKKAM KANCHIPURAM DISTRICT  
TAMILNADU  
INDIA

A cup of coffee, a book in hand,  
Where quiet thoughts gently take their stand.  
Each turning page, a warming sip,  
Time slows down in this mindful trip.



glam\_gh GLAM AFRIQUE  
Fashion' Arts & Awards  
\*AnglophoneMeetsFrancophone

# GLAM AFRIQUE

Fashion' Arts & Awards

Host City

ACCRA - GHANA

Date:

27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>  
MARCH, 2026

Info

+233 (0) 244 297225  
glamafriqueghana@gmail.com

#AnglophoneMeetsFrancophone  
#gafaa26

glamafrique\_



**MFA** The Ministry for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs will comply with the decision of the National Assembly

# Kenya Moves To Annul GCA Privileges Amid Legal Technicalities

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyaintimes

Kenya's Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs has confirmed it will comply with Parliament's decision to annul the diplomatic privileges previously granted to the Global Centre for Adaptation (GCA), a move that underscores the delicate balance between legislative oversight and Kenya's ambition to become a hub for multilateral diplomacy.

The announcement came in a public notice issued yesterday by Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Korir Sing'oei, who explained that the privileges and immunities had been conferred under the Privileges and Immunities Act, Cap 179, following the signing of a Host Country Agreement with GCA on 10 February 2025. The legal notice was published in May 2025 and subsequently tabled in Parliament.

"The Ministry for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs will comply with the decision of the National Assembly, fully cognizant that the nullification of the legal notice does not in any way affect the previous activities of the Global Centre for Adaptation in Kenya," Sing'oei said. His statement sought to reassure both domestic and international stakeholders that Kenya's commitment to climate diplomacy remains intact despite the procedural setback.

The Parliamentary Committee on Delegated Legislation annulled Legal Notice No. 82 of 2025, citing a technicality under Section 17 of the Privileges and Immunities Act, which requires a draft legal notice to be tabled in Parliament before publication. The Ministry countered that under the Statutory Instruments Act of 2013, the Cabinet Secretary is required only to convey a copy of the instrument to Parliament after publication. This



divergence in interpretation triggered the annulment, but officials stressed that a new draft legal notice will be prepared and submitted in compliance with the law.

"This is a matter of procedure, not substance. Kenya remains committed to hosting international organisations and strengthening its role in global diplomacy," the Ministry added in its clarification.

The Global Centre for Adaptation, headquartered in Nairobi for Africa, has been instrumental in promoting climate resilience across the continent. Its flagship Africa Adaptation Acceleration Programme focuses on resilient infrastructure, agriculture, and water management. The organisation's presence in Nairobi was hailed as a major diplomatic win for Kenya, positioning the capital as a centre for climate action and multilateral engagement.

On 24 February, President William Ruto reaffirmed Kenya's partnership with GCA after meeting Supervisory Board Chair Macky Sall, the former President of Senegal, at State House Nairobi. "With the Africa headquarters of the organisation being established in Nairobi, the GCA

will continue playing a key role in unlocking finance for climate adaptation, especially through the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Programme," Ruto said. "The programme is building resilience and confronting the harsh realities of climate change with practical and lasting solutions."

Diplomatic analysts note that the annulment, while procedural, could raise questions among international partners about Kenya's consistency in hosting multilateral organisations. However, the Ministry's swift assurance of compliance and its pledge to reissue the legal notice are seen as efforts to maintain confidence. Dr. Jane Mwangi, a governance expert at the University of Nairobi, observed: "This episode highlights the importance of aligning statutory instruments with parliamentary procedure. It is not a rejection of GCA's role but a reminder that Kenya's legal frameworks must be respected."

The annulment also highlights the tension between Kenya's legislative processes and its foreign policy ambitions. While Parliament insists on strict adherence to procedure, the executive branch is keen to demonstrate

flexibility and responsiveness to international partners. This dynamic reflects Kenya's broader struggle to balance domestic accountability with global engagement.

For GCA, the focus continues to be on delivering climate adaptation solutions across Africa. Macky Sall emphasised during his Nairobi visit: "Africa cannot afford delays in climate action. Our partnership with Kenya is critical in ensuring adaptation finance reaches communities most at risk." His words underscored the urgency of climate resilience and the importance of Nairobi's role as a continental hub.

Kenya's ambition to position Nairobi as a diplomatic capital remains intact. The annulment is expected to be resolved once a new legal notice is tabled and approved. For the Ministry, the priority is to ensure that Kenya's reputation as a reliable host for international organisations is not undermined by procedural disputes.

Observers argue that the incident could serve as a learning moment for Kenya's institutions. By strengthening coordination between Parliament and the executive, future

agreements with international organisations could be streamlined, avoiding similar setbacks. The episode also illustrates the growing importance of legal precision in international diplomacy, where even minor procedural lapses can have significant implications.

Kenya's climate diplomacy has gained momentum under President Ruto, who has positioned the country as a leader in adaptation and resilience. The partnership with GCA is central to this vision, offering access to global financing mechanisms and technical expertise. The annulment of privileges, therefore, is not merely a bureaucratic hiccup but a test of Kenya's ability to align domestic processes with international commitments.

The Ministry's reassurance that Kenya remains committed to hosting GCA is crucial in maintaining confidence among stakeholders. International organisations often weigh legal certainty and political stability when choosing host countries. By pledging to correct the technicality, Kenya signals its determination to uphold its role as a trusted partner.

The broader context is Africa's vulnerability to climate change. With rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and frequent droughts, the continent faces immense challenges. GCA's work in Africa, particularly through the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Programme, is designed to address these realities. By focusing on resilient infrastructure, sustainable agriculture, and water management, the programme aims to build long-term resilience.

Kenya's hosting of GCA's Africa headquarters is therefore more than symbolic. It positions the country at the heart of continental efforts to confront climate change. The annulment of privileges, while procedural, risks send-

ing mixed signals. Yet the government's swift response suggests a determination to prevent any erosion of confidence.

The incident also raises questions about the role of Parliament in shaping foreign policy. While legislative oversight is essential, critics argue that excessive procedural rigidity could undermine Kenya's diplomatic ambitions. Supporters counter that adherence to the law is non-negotiable, and that international organisations must operate within Kenya's legal frameworks.

Ultimately, the annulment of GCA's privileges is a reminder that diplomacy is not only about grand visions but also about meticulous adherence to legal processes. Kenya's challenge is to ensure that its ambition to be a hub for multilateral diplomacy is matched by institutional coherence.

The Ministry's pledge to reissue the legal notice is a step in the right direction. By aligning procedure with substance, Kenya can reinforce its credibility. For GCA, the priority remains delivering climate adaptation solutions. For Kenya, the priority is to ensure that its institutions support, rather than hinder, its global ambitions.

The annulment is unlikely to derail Kenya's partnership with GCA. Instead, it may serve as a catalyst for stronger institutional coordination. As President Ruto noted, "The programme is building resilience and confronting the harsh realities of climate change with practical and lasting solutions." His words capture the essence of Kenya's climate diplomacy: pragmatic, solution-oriented, and forward-looking.

Kenya's future as a hub for global adaptation efforts will depend on how swiftly and effectively it resolves this matter—and how firmly it continues to walk the talk on climate leadership. The annulment is a procedural setback, but Kenya's response will determine whether it becomes a footnote or a turning point in the country's diplomatic journey.

# DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

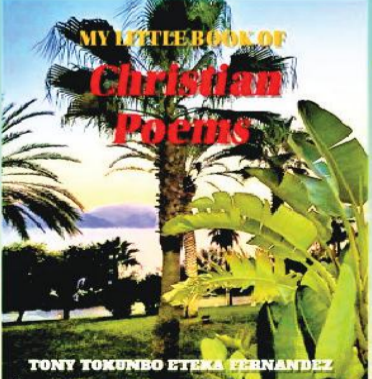
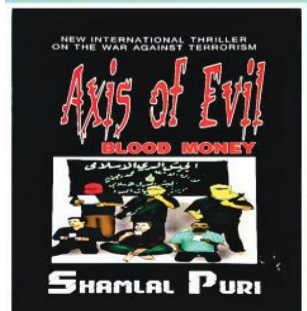
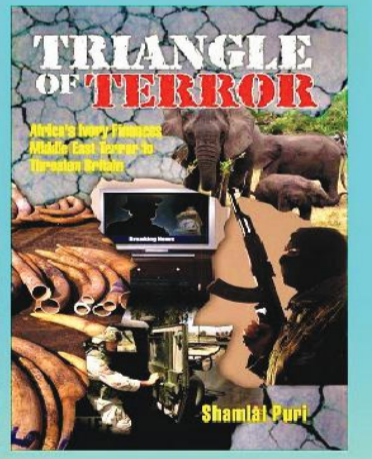
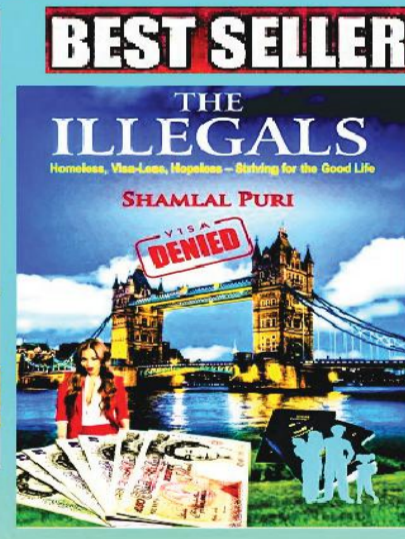
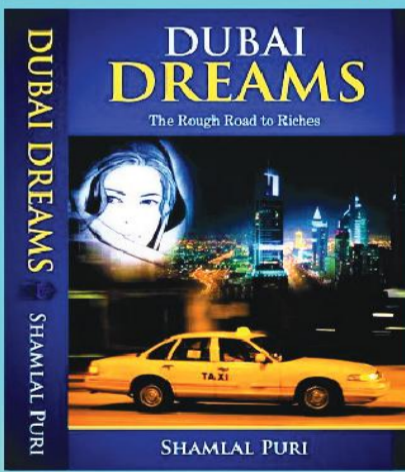
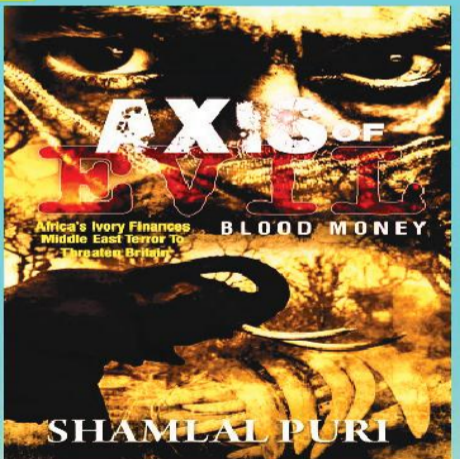
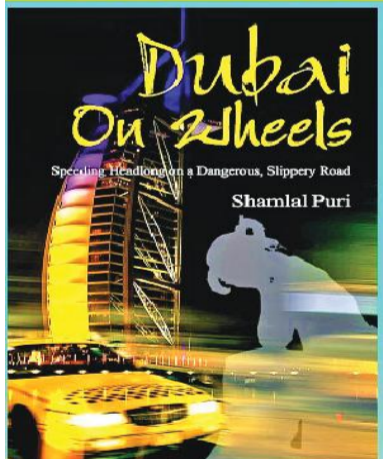
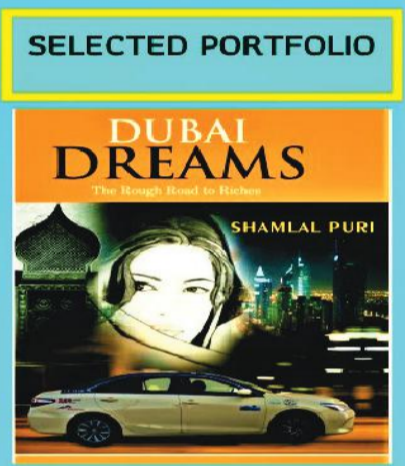
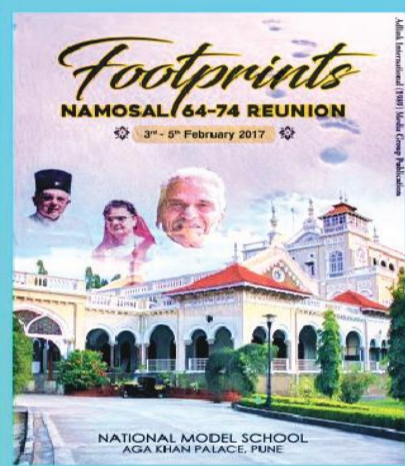
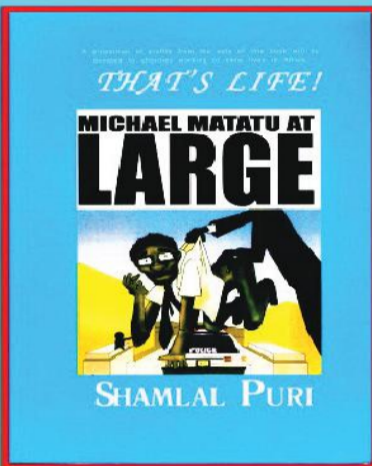
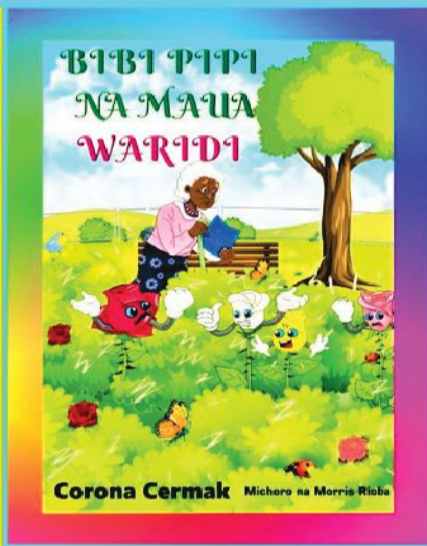
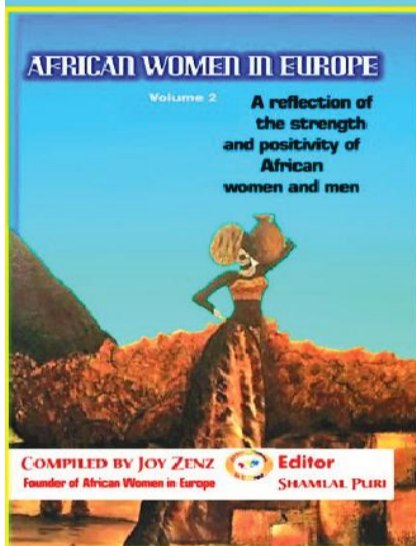
## ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

Let Professional Editors and Authors turn your story into a Dream Book.

THRILLERS - FICTION - FICTION - BIOGRAPHIES - TRAVELOGUES - HUMOUR- COFFEE TABLE - BROCHURES

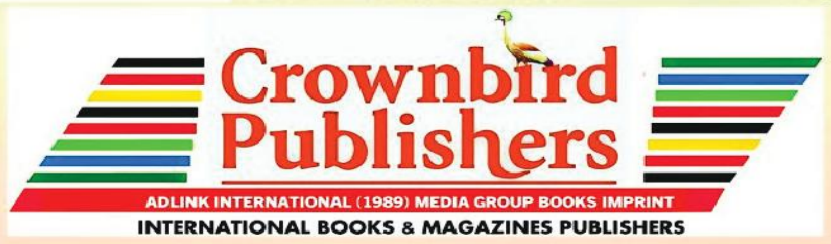
London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.

We offer one-stop top notch Editing, Expert Design, Proof Reading, Book Covers, Artwork, Digital, Litho Printing, E-Books, Corporate Brochures and UK ISBN number. Reasonable costs. We print and deliver books. Authors retain 100% sales profits.



The Crownbird Publishers logo and imprint owned by Adlink International (1989) Media Group London

Copies of some books available for sale: hard copy/ digital. Contact us: media@adlinkinternational.com Email Subject: Crownbird Books



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP Books Division 16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF (UK) Tel: 44 330 606 1438 Email: media@adlinkinternational.com www.adlinkinternational.com

**Court** Prof Muigua, a Chartered arbitrator, joins the recently established AIAC Court of Arbitration (AIAC Court)

# Kenya's Prof Kariuki Muigua, Appointed As A Member Of The Inaugural Asian International Arbitration Centre Court Of Arbitration

*The inaugural AIAC Court comprises a diverse panel of Court Members with extensive and renowned international and domestic ADR experience. The Court Members will assume an instrumental role in reinforcing the AIAC's stature and contribute to the overall effectiveness of the AIAC Court.*

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

A distinguished Kenyan law scholar, Environmental Consultant, and accomplished mediator, Prof. Kariuki Muigua, has been named as a member of the inaugural Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC) Court of Arbitration.

Prof Muigua, a Chartered arbitrator, joins the recently established AIAC Court of Arbitration (AIAC Court), which seeks to elevate the role of Alternative Dispute Resolution globally from its seat in Malaysia.

The inaugural AIAC Court comprises a diverse panel of Court Members with extensive and renowned international and domestic ADR experience. The Court Members will assume an instrumental role in reinforcing the AIAC's stature and contribute to the overall effectiveness of the AIAC Court.

Speaking when he confirmed his appointment to the 25 Member AIAC Court, Prof Muigua disclosed that a Communique from AIAC noted that the inaugural AIAC Court of Arbitration (AIAC Court) has been established to fulfil the mandate of delivering neutral, independent and efficient world-class alternative dispute resolution ("ADR") services.



Mr Kariuki Muigua

"My appointment to the AIAC Court is an honour to the people of Kenya as it recognises our national alternative dispute resolution aspirations, which I cherish," Prof Muigua said.

He added, "As an AIAC Court Member, I will strive to further entrench and reinforce Justice systems that promote Economic advancement through International Commercial Arbitration principles."

According to the communique from the AIAC, pursuant to the formalisation of the Second Supplementary Agreement to the Host Country Agreement on 24th December 2025 between the Government of Malaysia and the Asian-African Legal

“

**“My appointment to the AIAC Court is an honour to the people of Kenya as it recognises our national alternative dispute resolution aspirations, which I cherish,” Prof Muigua said.**

Consultative Organisation (AALCO), the inaugural AIAC Court of Arbitration (AIAC Court) has been established to honour the mandate pivotal in delivering neutral, independent and efficient world-class alternative dispute resolution ("ADR") services.

The President and Court Members appointed are:

President; Dato' Mary Lim Thiam Suan (Immediate Past Director of the AIAC; Retired Federal Court Judge of Malaysia)

Court Members are; Tan Sri Abdul Rahman Sebli - Malaysia, Mr. Alvaro Lopez de Argumedo - Spain, Mr. Anibal Martin Sabater - United

States, Ms. Bronwyn Lincoln - Australia, Dr. Christopher To - Hong Kong SAR, Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima David Wong Dak Wah - Malaysia, Professor Emilia Onyema - United Kingdom, Dato' Lee Heng Cheong - Malaysia, Mr. Hiroyuki Tezuka - Japan, Ms. Kamilah Kasim - Malaysia, Professor Kariuki Muigua - Kenya,

Mr. Kunal Vajani - India, Ms. Laura Fadlallah - France, Mr. Chan Leng Sun, SC - Singapore, Ms. Marion Smith, KC - United Kingdom, Dato' Seri Mohd Hishamudin bin Md Yunus - Malaysia, Mr. Ning Fei - China, Datuk Dr. Prasad Sandos ham Abraham - Malaysia, Mr. Sanjay Mohanasundram - Malaysia, His Excellency Justice Shamlan Al Sawalehi - United Arab Emirates, Ms. Shanti Abraham - Malaysia, Professor Steven P. Finizio - United Kingdom, Mr. Vladimir Khvalei - Russia, Dato' Mah Weng Kwai - Malaysia and Mr. Zeyad Khoshaim - Saudi Arabia.

The AIAC Court is constituted in tandem with the enforcement of the Arbitration (Amendment) Act 2024, the Construction Industry Payment and Adjudication (Amendment) Act 2024, Construction Industry Payment and Adjudication (Amendment) Regulations 2025, and the AIAC Suite of Rules 2026, which came into force on 1st January 2026.

To that end, this successful establishment marks another monumental milestone in the transformative institutional journey of the AIAC.

**War** Iran's Ambassador to Kenya, Ali Gholampour, has assured Nairobi that Kenya will not be targeted in Tehran's ongoing retaliatory strikes

# Iran Envoy Rules Out Kenya As Target In Retaliatory Strikes

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian echoed the sentiment, declaring: "Iran considers it its legitimate duty and right to avenge the perpetrators." Ali Larijani, head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, was even more blunt: "Today we will hit them with a force that they have never experienced before."

BY MKT REPORTER  
@themtkenyatimes

Iran's Ambassador to Kenya, Ali Gholampour, has assured Nairobi that Kenya will not be targeted in Tehran's ongoing retaliatory strikes against US and Israeli military assets, even as tensions escalate across the Middle East. Speaking at a media briefing in Nairobi, Gholampour said Iran values its "long historical, friendly, and mutual relations" with Kenya and does not believe the country would ever provide facilities for attacks against Iran.

"I don't think that we will. Because we have had long historical, friendly, and mutual relations with the great people and the Government of Kenya, and we do our best to preserve that relation. And I do not believe that Kenya will provide such a facility to attack Iran from its land. This is something that I assume it will not happen, absolutely," said Iran's top diplomat.

His remarks come just weeks after the Kenya Defence Forces, in partnership with the United States Government, broke ground on a 10,000-foot runway expansion project at Kenya Navy Manda Base in Lamu County. The base has long been a strategic site for US-Kenya military cooperation, raising questions about



Iran's Ambassador to Kenya, Ali Gholampour

whether it could be implicated in wider regional hostilities. Gholampour's statement sought to dispel such fears, insisting that Kenya remains outside Tehran's retaliatory calculus.

Iran's leadership has meanwhile doubled down on its right to respond to what it calls foreign aggression. Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi told ABC News on Sunday that "no country's leader has the right to tell Iran not to respond to the ongoing U.S.-Israeli massive strikes on Iran," adding that Iranian forces "are capable enough to defend our country."

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian echoed the sentiment, declaring: "Iran considers it its legitimate duty and right to avenge the perpetrators." Ali Larijani, head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, was even more blunt: "Today we will hit them

with a force that they have never experienced before."

The rhetoric has been matched by action. In Israel, an Iranian missile attack killed at least nine people and injured dozens more in the central city of Beit Shemesh on Sunday, following a fatality near Tel Aviv the previous day. Three more were injured on one of Jerusalem's main roads, underscoring the widening scope of Iran's strikes.

Iran's political structure is also in flux. Following the killing of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, a transitional leadership council composed of President Pezeshkian, the head of the judiciary, and a member of the Guardian Council has temporarily assumed the duties of supreme leader while a permanent successor is identified. Analysts say this interim arrangement has emboldened hardliners to project

strength abroad, even as domestic uncertainty lingers.

Kenya's position in this unfolding drama is delicate. As a key US ally in East Africa, Nairobi hosts military cooperation projects that could theoretically draw scrutiny from Tehran. Yet Gholampour's reassurance reflects Iran's recognition of Kenya's non-aligned stance in Middle Eastern conflicts. "We do our best to preserve that relation," he said, stressing that Kenya's role is seen as constructive rather than confrontational.

Regional security experts note that Iran's statement is significant. Dr. Hassan Mwangi, a lecturer in international relations at the University of Nairobi, said: "By publicly ruling out Kenya, Iran is sending a message that it distinguishes between US military assets globally and host nations that are not directly involved

in aggression. It is a diplomatic gesture aimed at maintaining goodwill in Africa."

The United States has not commented directly on Gholampour's remarks, but Washington continues to emphasize its partnership with Kenya. The Manda Base expansion is part of a broader strategy to strengthen maritime security in the Indian Ocean, counter terrorism, and enhance regional stability. For Kenya, the project is framed as a boost to its defence infrastructure rather than a provocation against Iran.

Still, the broader geopolitical context remains volatile. Iran's retaliatory strikes are intensifying, Israel is reeling from civilian casualties, and the United States has vowed to protect its assets worldwide. Against this backdrop, Kenya's reassurance from Tehran may provide temporary relief but does not eliminate the risks of being caught in the crossfire of global rivalries.

Diplomatic observers argue that Kenya must tread carefully. While its military cooperation with the US is longstanding, Nairobi has also cultivated ties with Tehran, particularly in trade and cultural exchange. Preserving this balance will be critical as tensions mount. "Kenya's foreign policy has always been pragmatic," said Mwangi. "It seeks to benefit from multiple partnerships without being drawn into conflicts. Iran's statement validates that approach."

For ordinary Kenyans, the reassurance is welcome. Concerns had been raised that the expansion of Manda Base could make the country a target. Gholampour's categorical denial helps ease those fears, though the unpredictability of regional conflict means vigilance remains necessary.

Iran's insistence on its right to retaliate, coupled with its explicit exclusion of Kenya, illustrates the complexity of modern geopolitics. Nations far removed from the battlefield can still find themselves implicated by virtue of alliances and facilities. Kenya's ability to navigate these waters will test its diplomatic agility in the months ahead.

As the missiles fly and rhetoric hardens, one thing is clear: Kenya is determined not to be a pawn in the escalating confrontation between Iran, Israel, and the United States. Tehran's envoy has given his word, but in a world where promises are tested by war, Nairobi must remain alert.

Kenya's future lies in maintaining its role as a trusted partner to all, without becoming a target for any.

**Iran War** Democratic and Republican lawmakers are sharply divided over U.S. President Donald Trump's military strike on Iran

# Democrats, Republicans Divided Over Trump's Attack On Iran

**The attack, which reportedly killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and dozens of senior Iranian officials, has drawn fierce criticism from Democrats**

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes

Democratic and Republican lawmakers are sharply divided over U.S. President Donald Trump's military strike on Iran, setting the stage for a contentious congressional debate over war powers in the coming week.

The attack, which reportedly killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and dozens of senior Iranian officials, has drawn fierce criticism from Democrats, who argue that the action was carried out without congressional authorization and risks plunging the United States into another prolonged conflict in the Middle East. Republicans, by contrast, have largely defended the strike, portraying it as a decisive and necessary move against a long-standing adversary.

Democratic lawmakers have questioned both the legality and the strategic wisdom of the operation. Senator Mark Warner, vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said he had seen no intelligence suggesting that Iran was on the verge of launching a pre-emptive strike against the United States. He emphasized that when a president commits American forces to what he called a "war of choice," he must seek authorization from Congress and make the case directly to the American people.

Senator Tim Kaine, a longtime advocate for congressional oversight of military engagements, condemned the operation as "an illegal war." He dismissed claims that an Iranian threat was imminent, citing intelligence assessments that indicate Iran remains years away from developing missiles capable of



People gather to mourn the death of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran, Iran, March 1, 2026. | Photo:

Mehr News Agency/Handout via Xinhua

reaching the United States. Kaine is leading efforts in the Senate to pass a war powers resolution that would restrict the Trump administration's military actions against Iran.

Senator Adam Schiff echoed those concerns, stating that there was no imminent threat justifying the exposure of U.S. troops to heightened risks. He warned that the strike could unleash unpredictable consequences in the region and entangle the United States in another costly and destabilizing conflict. House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries also criticized the president's decision, expressing sorrow over the loss of American service members and urging Congress to act swiftly to restrain executive authority.

The human toll of the operation has intensified the debate. According to U.S. Central Command, three American service members have been killed and five others seriously wounded during the ongoing military campaign. In a video posted Sunday, Trump acknowledged that additional casualties were likely before the conflict concludes. Democrats argue that the operation has left U.S. troops vulnerable to Iranian retaliation and has heightened tensions

across the region.

While Democratic opposition has been strong and unified, Republican reactions have been more supportive, though not without some dissent. House Speaker Mike Johnson



**Senator Tim Kaine, a longtime advocate for congressional oversight of military engagements, condemned the operation as "an illegal war." He dismissed claims that an Iranian threat was imminent, citing intelligence assessments that indicate Iran remains years away from developing missiles capable of reaching the United States.**

said the administration had pursued diplomatic solutions before resorting to force and framed the strike as a necessary response to Iranian aggression. Senator Ted Cruz described recent diplomatic efforts with Iran as a failure and called the decision to strike the most consequential of Trump's presidency.

Senator Lindsey Graham, a close ally of the president, defended the operation vigorously, asserting that it strengthens American security, deters adversaries, and restores U.S. credibility on the global stage. He argued that eliminating Iran's supreme leader was in the national interest and would send a powerful message to hostile actors.

However, not all Republicans are aligned with the president. Former Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene criticized the move as contrary to the "America First" doctrine, warning that war with Iran undermines domestic priorities. Congressman Thomas Massie similarly opposed the strike, stating that it does not reflect America First principles. He announced plans to work with Democratic Representative Ro Khanna to force a congressional vote on military action against Iran once

lawmakers reconvene.

At the center of the dispute is the War Powers Act of 1973, which was enacted to limit the president's authority to commit U.S. forces to armed conflict without congressional approval. The law permits unilateral military action only in cases of national emergency created by an attack on the United States, its territories, or its armed forces. Critics argue that the strike on Iran does not meet that threshold.

Congress has the ability to introduce a war powers resolution to curb the president's actions. However, it remains uncertain whether such a measure could secure sufficient support in both chambers, especially given Republican backing for the strikes. Even if a resolution were to pass the narrowly divided Congress, it would likely face a presidential veto, and lawmakers may lack the two-thirds majority needed to override it.

The debate is widely viewed as partly symbolic, underscoring the broader struggle between the legislative and executive branches over war-making authority. Earlier this year, the Senate failed to pass a war powers resolution related to Venezuela, illustrating the difficulty Congress faces in asserting its constitutional role in matters of war and peace.

Public opinion appears divided as well. A Reuters/Ipsos poll released Sunday found that 27 percent of Americans approved of the strikes on Iran, while 43 percent opposed them and 29 percent were undecided. The mixed response reflects deep uncertainty about the potential consequences of the military action and concerns over further escalation in an already volatile region.

As Congress prepares to vote on competing war powers resolutions, the clash over Trump's Iran policy highlights enduring partisan divides over foreign policy, executive authority, and America's role in the Middle East. Whether lawmakers can meaningfully influence the course of the conflict remains unclear, but the debate has once again brought constitutional questions about war powers to the forefront of U.S. politics.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Laikipia University Strengthens Academic Growth, Partnerships, And Student Support Initiatives

Laikipia University is on the move — sharpening its academic edge, expanding partnerships, and reinforcing student support in ways that signal a bold new chapter.

The institution has rolled out fresh job opportunities, recruiting senior lecturers and security staff to boost teaching capacity and campus safety. This recruitment drive underscores a deliberate push to strengthen leadership and enhance the quality of instruction.

Beyond its gates, Laikipia University has been active in forging partnerships that matter. Early in 2026, it welcomed a delegation from the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), reaffirming its commitment to student financing. The university also marked the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, spotlighting gender inclusion and encouraging female participation in STEM disciplines.

Strategic collaborations are taking root. A partnership with Groots Kenya is linking academic research



to community empowerment and climate action, ensuring students engage with real-world challenges while supporting local communities. Benchmarking with Garissa University's research ethics committee further demonstrates Laikipia's dedication to high standards of scholarly integrity and inter-institutional cooperation.

These initiatives reflect a university determined to grow not just in numbers but in impact — weaving together academic excellence, student welfare, and societal rele-

vance. Laikipia University is proving that higher education in Kenya can be both rigorous and responsive. The message is clear: this is an institution not content with standing still, but intent on shaping the future.

Laikipia University is not just keeping pace — it's setting the pace.

*By Sharon Jepkosgei, Laikipia University*

### Alarm Over Recruitment Of Kenyans Into Russia-Ukraine War

Kenya is waking up to a disturbing reality: young citizens lured abroad with promises of lucrative jobs are instead finding themselves thrust into the brutal Russia-Ukraine war. What began as offers of construction or security work has, according to investigations, morphed into coerced military service in foreign combat zones.

Reports indicate that recruitment has been carried out through shadowy networks and online platforms, bypassing official labour channels. Many recruits only discovered the true nature of their assignments upon arrival in Russia, where they were pressured into signing military contracts. Some were dispatched near front-line areas with little or no training.

The revelations have sparked outrage at home. Lawmakers are demanding answers on how such recruitment could occur undetected, while analysts point to Kenya's chronic youth unemployment as a driver of vulnerability. For many, the promise of steady income outweighed the risks, leaving families devastated when sons vanished into



war. Relatives describe a humanitarian crisis unfolding in silence. Some have lost contact with loved ones entirely; others have received word of injuries or deaths through unofficial channels. With no formal communication from recruiters or authorities, families remain trapped in uncertainty.

Government officials have acknowledged the issue and pledged investigations into rogue agencies and brokers. Citizens are being urged to verify overseas job offers through registered channels, though

critics argue enforcement remains weak.

As the war grinds on, Kenya's involvement—however unintended—underscores its global reach. The country now faces a stark choice: tighten labour protections and safeguard its youth, or risk watching more of them disappear into a distant battlefield.

Kenya cannot afford to let desperation become a recruitment pipeline to war.

*By Larry Kiprotich Yegon, Laikipia University*

### Early Campaigns: An Obstacle To National Development

Kenya's politics has slipped into a permanent campaign mode. Long before the electoral clock strikes, politicians are already on the trail—holding rallies, branding projects, and saturating public discourse with slogans. What should be a season of governance has become an endless race for power. The result is a country distracted, institutions weakened, and development stalled.

When leaders devote their energy to premature electioneering, policy implementation suffers. Cabinet secretaries, governors, and legislators juggle governance with subtle campaign activities, leaving public institutions compromised. Resources meant for healthcare, education, and infrastructure are diverted into visibility projects disguised as community engagement. Even private spending tilts toward short-term political branding rather than long-term investment.

The policy consequences are equally corrosive. Leaders shy away from bold reforms, fearing voter backlash. Fiscal discipline, structural adjustments, and institutional restructuring are postponed in favor of populist gestures. Gov-



ernance becomes reactive, not strategic.

Socially, the damage is profound. Extended campaigns deepen polarization, fracture communities, and shift national conversations from innovation and youth empowerment to alliances and rivalries. Kenya's electoral laws were designed to prevent this, but enforcement has faltered, and premature campaigning has become normalized.

If Kenya is to achieve meaningful progress, the culture of endless campaigning must be broken. Leadership demands focus, disci-

pline, and courage. Development is not built on rallies or slogans—it is built on policy consistency, economic stability, and accountable governance.

Kenya cannot afford to be trapped in perpetual politics. To move forward, it must silence the noise of early campaigns and return to the steady work of nation-building.

*By John Irungu Maina*

### Hidden Potential In Sports: Best Way To End Unemployment Crisis In Kenya

Kenya's youth are brimming with talent, yet the nation stubbornly refuses to treat sports as a serious career path. For many young people, football, athletics, and other disciplines are more than games—they are dreams of greatness, dreams of livelihoods. But those dreams are crushed by broken systems, neglected facilities, and a society that dismisses talent as frivolous.

In Europe, football is a billion-dollar industry employing thousands. Players are scouted early, nurtured in academies, and supported by governments that understand sports as both an economic engine and a cultural force. In Kenya, by contrast, talent is left to rot in villages. Parents discourage it, institutions ignore it, and the government offers only lip service. Even athletics—our global pride—thrives despite, not because of, state support.

The irony is glaring. Kenya has a full ministry dedicated to sports, yet its impact is invisible. Leadership is often handed to political



loyalists with little knowledge of the sector. The result: incompetence, mismanagement, and wasted opportunity. Meanwhile, unemployment continues to choke the youth, while sports—one of the most obvious job creators—remains sidelined.

Sponsors and fans are ready to invest time, money, and passion. But without proper structures, accountability, and quality facilities, their support cannot translate into

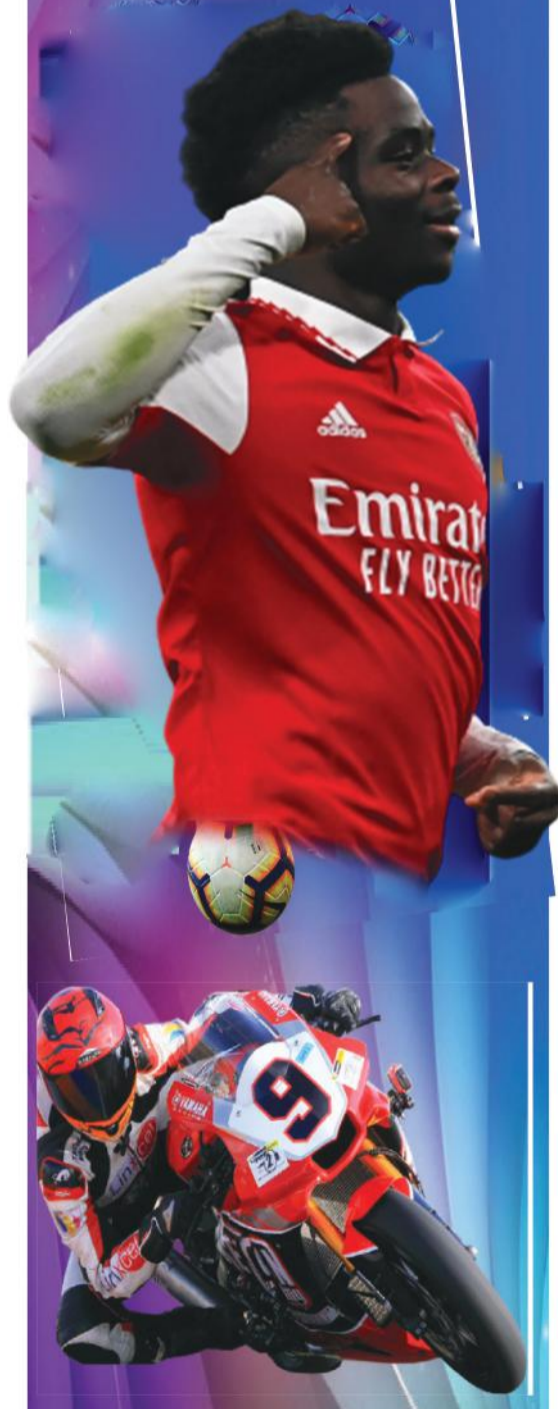
careers. Sports can be Kenya's answer to joblessness, but only if the nation stops treating it as a hobby and starts building it as an industry.

Kenya must wake up: sports are not playthings. They are jobs, wealth, and dignity. Ignoring them is not just a missed opportunity—it is a national betrayal.

*By Daniel Maina, Laikipia University*

# SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS



**Sports >>** \*Sport stars are among those grounded in Gulf countries as the crisis in the Middle East widens.

## How sport is dealing with Middle East travel disruption

Sport stars are among those grounded in Gulf countries as the crisis in the Middle East widens.

Iran responded to an attack by the US and Israel on Saturday by firing at US assets and allies across the region, targeting Israel, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan.

Thousands of flights have been cancelled to and from the region in one of the most serious disruptions to global travel since the Covid-19 pandemic.

The UK Foreign Office has urged British nationals – so far more than 100,000 Britons have registered their presence in the Middle East – to follow local advice, which in most countries was to shelter in place.

The crisis has also raised questions about upcoming sporting events including this summer's World Cup, which will be co-hosted by the US.

Here is what we know so far.

'Everyone will be ready' for F1 curtain-raiser

Australian Grand Prix organisers say they are "really confident" this weekend's opening race of the Formula 1 season will not be affected.

Close to 1,000 members of F1 staff have been forced to rearrange travel plans to Melbourne, with an estimated 500 of them reportedly set to be flown from Europe on charter planes.

Australian F1 chief Travis Auld said on Monday that "everyone will be here ready for the race", despite the "reshuffling of flights" required to ensure the transportation of key personnel – including drivers.

F1 also said it is "closely monitoring" the situation, with upcoming races in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia scheduled on 12 and 19 April respectively.

Lions and Bairstow await up-



Formula 1, Las Vegas. Photo/TEAMTALK MEDIA

dates

In cricket, the England Lions squad are following official advice from security experts and the government while they remain unable to leave the UAE.

The Lions – England's development team led by coach Andrew Flintoff and Test captain Ben Stokes and consisting of around 30 players and staff – travelled to the UAE for matches against Pakistan Shaheens.

The second of those matches, due to take place in Abu Dhabi on Sunday, was cancelled. While no official notice has been given, it is expected the remaining matches will be called off.

England star Jonny Bairstow, who is in Abu Dhabi but not with the Lions, replied to UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer's statement on Iran on X: "Can you get us home?"

At the T20 World Cup, West

Indies are unable to return home from India after their exit on Sunday and remain in Kolkata, with Zimbabwe reportedly in a similar situation.

England women were due to leave for a one-month training camp in Abu Dhabi this week, but that has been delayed.

Will Iran compete at US-hosted World Cup?

Iran have qualified for this summer's World Cup, which will be co-hosted by the United States, but doubt has been cast on the nation's participation.

The head of Iran's football federation, Mehdi Taj, told Iranian television that it is "far from our expectations that we can look at the World Cup with hope" – but added the country's sports officials would decide if any action was necessary.

Fifa's general secretary Matthias Grafstrom said on Satur-

day: "Our focus is to have a safe World Cup with everybody participating."

Meanwhile, Lionesses manager Sarina Wiegman says England have been given reassurances there are no safety concerns over their Women's World Cup qualifier against Ukraine being held in Turkey on Tuesday.

Turkey borders Iran and Iraq and is close to Cyprus, where an Iranian drone crashed into a British RAF base on Sunday. Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon have also exchanged strikes.

The Finalissima match between European champions Spain and Copa America winners Argentina at Qatar's Lusail Stadium on 27 March is in doubt after the Qatar Football Association suspended all matches indefinitely.

Medvedev among tennis stars stuck

Dubai Tennis Championships

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> \*Sport stars are among those grounded in Gulf countries as the crisis in the Middle East widens.

## How sport is dealing with Middle East travel disruption



winner Daniil Medvedev is among the tennis players facing a disruption to their schedule.

The Russian's representative said they were trying to establish how Medvedev could travel to California for next week's Indian Wells tournament after the UAE "partially and temporarily" closed its airspace.

Finland's Harri Heliövaara, winner of the men's doubles event alongside Britain's Henry Patten, said his travel plans are "still uncertain".

"All of us players, the finalists and a few other doubles players, are stuck in Dubai. [Plus] all of the ATP staff, the umpires, physiotherapists, coaches and other team and family members – a total of about 30 people," Helio-

vaara wrote in his blog, external. He added that the option of leaving by road had been explored, but that would involve either a five-hour drive to Muscat – although bad traffic jams have been reported at the Oman border – or a journey exceeding 10 hours to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The ATP said it remains in direct contact with those affected, with "a small number of players and team members" still in Dubai being accommodated in official tournament hotels "where their immediate needs are being fully supported".

The ATP Challenger Tour event in Fujairah, UAE is going ahead as planned this week, but operating with heightened security measures and taking place be-

hind closed doors as a precautionary step.

Arrival of Paralympic 'stakeholders' impacted

The 2026 Winter Paralympics begin in Milan and Cortina on Friday but the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has confirmed that the closure of airspace "is impacting the arrival of some stakeholders".

The IPC said it was "assessing the impact on Games operations, in particular on travel" and remains in close contact with all delegations competing at the Games.

"We would prefer not to comment on the status of individual delegations or stakeholders at this stage but can provide as-

urance that we are working diligently with Milano-Cortina 2026 to find solutions for those affected," the IPC said.

In badminton, India's Olympic and world medallist PV Sindhu remains stuck in Dubai, leaving her participation at the All England Championships – which start on Tuesday – in doubt.

Wales' women's hockey team were due to fly to Hyderabad, India via Dubai to face Scotland, Uruguay and India between 8-14 March but have had to reschedule their flights.

BBC

# SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS



# SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



# Anastasia Muema: The Rising Voice Of Catholic Gospel Music In Kenya

By: David Nyaga

@themkenyatimes

Anastacia Muema has steadily emerged as one of the most distinctive voices in Kenya's Catholic gospel music scene, blending deep liturgical themes with contemporary sounds to create a unique and spiritually uplifting musical identity. Hailing from Kitui County, she represents a new generation of faith-driven artists who use music not just for entertainment, but as a tool for evangelization, reflection, and spiritual nourishment. Since launching her music career in 2021, Muema has dedicated her artistry to filling a notable gap in the gospel industry by championing Catholic solo performances, a space traditionally dominated by church choirs.

Her journey into music is rooted in faith and purpose. Rather than following mainstream gospel trends, Anastacia Muema chose to focus on liturgical gospel music, crafting songs that align with Christian teachings, prayerful meditation, and the seasons of the Catholic Church calendar. This intentional direction has allowed her to stand out as an artist whose music is suitable for Lent, Easter, Christmas, and other sacred moments within the Church. Her lyrical approach is deeply devotional, often centered on themes of gratitude, hope, surrender, divine love, and unwavering faith in God.

Among her growing discography are several songs that have resonated widely with listeners across digital platforms and church communities. Some of her notable songs include Umenibariki, Nitume Mimi, Ni Mungu Tu, Nina Neno, Rafiki Wa Kweli, Njooi Tumwimbie, Tupendane, Jipeni Moyo, and Ni Mwaka Mpya. Each of these songs carries a strong spiritual message, combining melodic simplicity with powerful worship lyrics that encourage reflection and prayer. For instance, Nitume Mimi captures the spirit of service and obedience to God's calling, while Umenibariki expresses deep gratitude for divine blessings.



Similarly, Njooi Tumwimbie and Tupendane promote unity, love, and communal worship, making them particularly popular in church gatherings and Christian events.

Musically, Anastacia Muema's style is characterized by soft yet expressive vocals, meditative rhythms, and a harmonious fusion of traditional liturgical tones with modern gospel instrumentation. Her songs often feature Swahili lyrics, allowing her to connect authentically with local audiences while maintaining a universal spiritual appeal. This balance between tradition and modernity has played a key role in her rising influence, as it allows her music to remain doctrinally grounded while still appealing to younger listeners who engage with gospel content through digital media.

Beyond music, Muema is also a dynamic entrepreneur and brand influencer. She is the founder and CEO of Zoana Events & Decor, a company

specializing in event planning, décor, and event management.

Her entrepreneurial journey reflects her creativity and leadership beyond the stage, demonstrating her ability to build a personal brand that integrates faith, business, and artistry. Her academic background further complements her professional growth, as she is a graduate of the University of Nairobi, where she studied Economics and Sociology. This educational foundation has influenced her strategic approach to both her music career and business ventures.

A defining aspect of Anastacia Muema's career is her mission to evangelize through music. She consistently emphasizes that her songs are meant to inspire, educate, and spiritually uplift listeners across different Christian denominations. Through her digital presence, particularly on video and social media platforms, she has managed to reach a global



Anastacia Muema

audience while maintaining a strong Kenyan fan base. Her online ministry has become a powerful avenue for spreading Catholic gospel music, especially among young believers who seek faith-centered content in modern formats.

Her public persona has also earned her recognition as a "Queen of Catholic Music" among her supporters, a title that reflects both her niche specialization and her commitment to ministry through song. As a solo Catholic gospel artist, she has played a pioneering role in redefining how liturgical music can be performed and distributed outside traditional choir settings. This contribution is significant within Kenya's gospel landscape, where contemporary gospel styles have long overshadowed

Catholic liturgical expression.

Despite being relatively early in her career, Anastacia Muema continues to demonstrate remarkable consistency, purpose, and spiritual authenticity. Her music remains rooted in devotion rather than commercialism, a quality that has strengthened her credibility within faith-based audiences. As she continues to release new songs, expand her ministry, and grow her entrepreneurial ventures, she stands as a powerful symbol of faith, creativity, and resilience. Through her dedication to gospel music and evangelization, Anastacia Muema is not only shaping her own legacy but also inspiring a new wave of Catholic artists who aspire to serve God through their talents.