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Engineer Samson Mosonik Kipkoeh Menjo.

Leadership Shake-Up At KTDA As Chairman, Vice Chairman Ousted

Page 12

Mathira Political Titans In Battle Of Wits

A requiem mass at Ki-anderi village, Ngandu in Mathira constituency, almost turned into a political contest after three of the leading aspirants for the area parliamentary seat turned up, guns blazing.

Page 18



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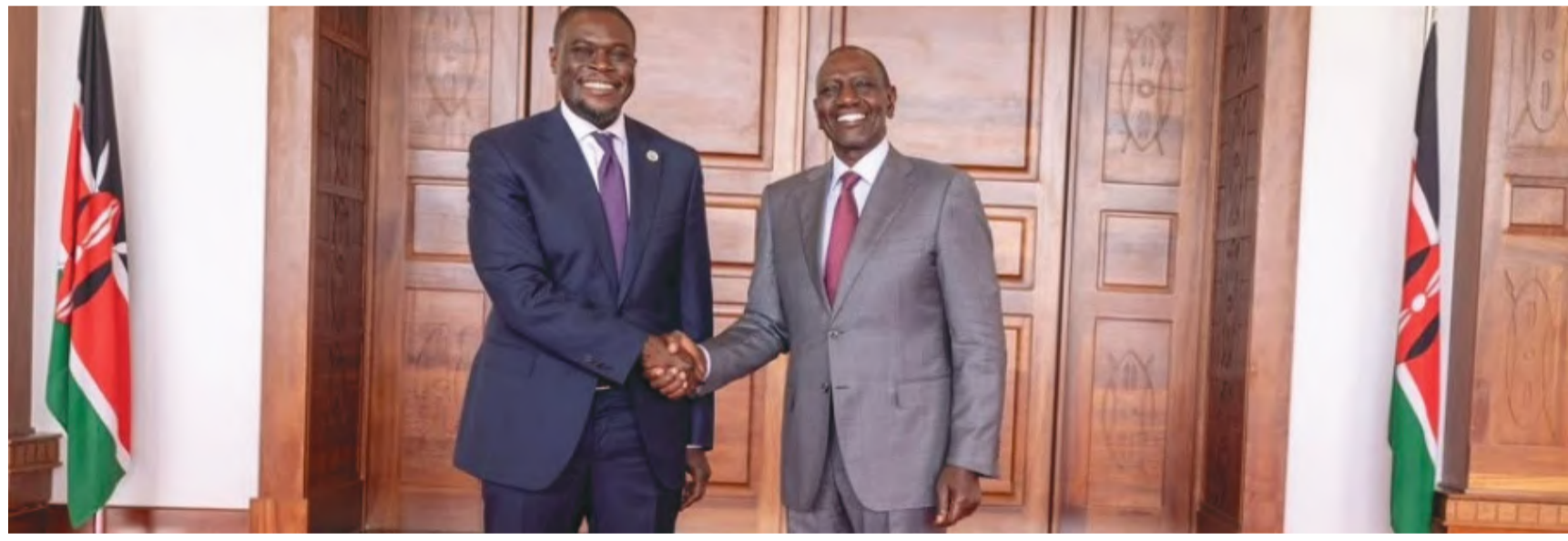
Handshake Both levels of government must work in structured partnership to meet the demands of the capital - Ruto

Nairobi Assembly Backs Ruto-Sakaja Deal



80B

Promises to reshape the capital's infrastructure, service delivery, and governance dynamics



Nairobi's political and development landscape shifted dramatically this week after the County Assembly unanimously approved a landmark cooperation agreement between President William Ruto's administration and Governor Johnson Sakaja. The deal, worth an estimated Sh80 billion, promises to reshape the capital's infrastructure, service delivery, and governance dynamics.

President William Ruto and Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja
Photo | Courtesy

Page 9

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Ruto Launches Schools Projects, Inspects Market And Hospital Works In Dagoretti

BY WMW
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto yesterday toured Dagoretti constituencies in Nairobi, where he launched education projects, inspected ongoing developments and reaffirmed his administration's commitment to improving public services.

In Dagoretti North, the President opened a new 20-classroom block at Kawangware Comprehensive School and commissioned a tuition block at Kawangware Primary School, saying the expanded infrastructure will enhance the learning environment. He noted that the government has hired more teachers and increased funding for higher education to strengthen human capital development.

At PC Kinyanjui Technical Training Institute in Dagoretti South, Ruto inaugurated a new workshops' block and announced plans to construct hostels for 580 students at a cost of KSh250 million in the first phase. The Head of State also inspected progress at the Riruta Modern Market, scheduled for commissioning in May 2026, and toured the near-complete Dagoretti Sub-County Level IV Hospital in Mutuini, a 400-bed facility expected to open next month.

He was accompanied by several leaders led by Governor Johnson Sakaja and MPs John Kiarie who hosted them in Dagoretti South and Beatrice Elachi in Dagoretti North.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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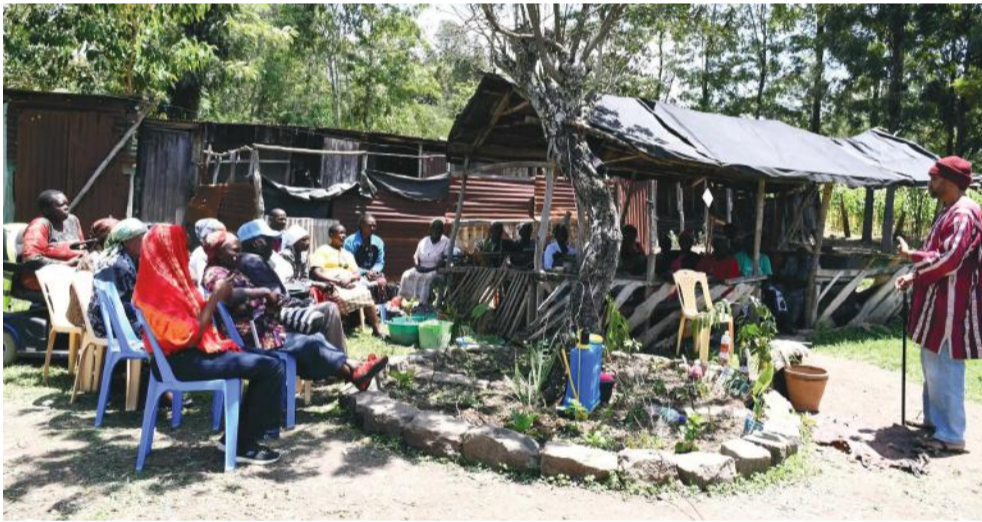


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NEWS IN BRIEF



Elgeyo Marakwet County has stepped up conservation efforts, planting more than 2,000 tree seedlings ahead of World Wildlife Day as part of plans to revamp Rimoi Conservancy into a vibrant tourist hub. Deputy Governor Grace Cheserek said the initiative aims to restore degraded ecosystems and position the county as a key wildlife tourism destination. Kenya Wildlife Service Chairman Joseph Lagat highlighted tourism's contribution to the national economy and called for stronger collaboration between government and communities. Officials said upgrading the conservancy will attract more visitors, create jobs for youth, spur investment in hospitality and promote cultural enterprises while enhancing environmental sustainability.



In Karunda, Chaka in Nyeri County, members of the Wirugamie Karundas Widows Self-Help Group are embracing herbs and spice farming to improve their livelihoods. After years of struggling with failed income-generating projects, the widows are now benefiting from a new agri-preneurship programme supported by the Kenya e-learning centre, Eco-mobilus Technology and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. The initiative trains them to grow herbs such as mint, basil, thyme, rosemary and lemongrass in kitchen gardens for nutrition and income. They are also learning climate-smart farming, water conservation, aggregation and marketing skills. Organisers hope the programme will boost self-sufficiency, cut medical costs and enable the widows to access larger markets through cooperative efforts.



Githurai Sub-County Community Health Promoters have completed a five-day Interpersonal Psychotherapy Group (IPT-G) training, equipping them to deliver structured group-based mental health support at community level. The programme was jointly facilitated by the Kiambu County Government and StrongMinds. IPT-G is an evidence-based model designed to address depression, which the World Health Organization says affects over 264 million people globally, with major treatment gaps in low- and middle-income countries. The initiative aligns with Kenya's Mental Health (Amendment) Act 2022 and aims to expand access to care, reduce stigma and strengthen community-level mental health services.



Uasin Gishu County on Monday flagged off drugs and medical supplies worth Sh68 million to 130 health facilities to improve access to treatment and reduce shortages. Governor Jonathan Bii Chelilim said the consignment, which includes X-ray products, pharmaceuticals, laboratory supplies and community health items, will strengthen service delivery. He urged Kenya Medical Supplies Authority to ensure timely distribution and called on facility managers to prevent wastage. The governor noted improvements under the Facilities Improvement Fund. The event coincided with the launch of the Sh38 billion Integrated Natural Resources Management Programme supported by International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Senator Catherine Muyeka Mumma has defended her proposed amendments to the Tobacco Control Act, saying they aim to protect consumers from harmful products. However, critics argue the changes could limit access to regulated alternatives and push users toward unregulated options. A nationwide survey by the Campaign for Safer Alternatives found over 80 per cent of respondents view the amendments as counterproductive, citing concerns about harm reduction and consumer choice. The debate has drawn attention within the Parliament of Kenya.

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Politics The government will not be distracted by political noisemakers only interested in dividing the country

Kindiki: Kenya's Progress Won't Be Stalled By Political Distractions

In total, the county has received KSh15.6 billion for various road projects.

BY DPCS

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

The government will not be distracted by political noisemakers only interested in dividing the country along tribal lines, Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has said.

The DP said the administration's focus is bringing the country together and spreading development to every part of the country without consideration tribal, religious or regional affiliation.

Speaking yesterday after inspecting ongoing development projects in Taita Taveta County, Prof. Kindiki said all Kenyans are benefitting from the transformative development agenda being rolled out by President Ruto's government.

"We are serving all Kenyans because we only have one country. I am a proud Kenyan to see the transformation that is happening across the country. The development transformation is happening without discrimination along tribal, region or religious affiliation. We have one country, one nation, one people and all of us are entitled to development," DP noted.

The DP checked the progress of the ongoing construction of Mto Mwangodi-Msau-Mbale-Wundayi-Bura Road and Mwatunge ESP Market in Mwatate.

The DP said Taita Taveta



County is a big beneficiary various road projects. not be lied to by the opposi-

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki addressing Taita Taveta residents | Photo: DPCS

of the equitable development plan as every other county saying multiple road projects, modern markets, affordable houses and hostels and electricity connection projects costing billions of shillings are progressing well in the coastal county.

The DP urged the contractor to accelerate the construction of Mto Mwangodi-Msau-Mbale-Wundayi-Bura Road citing it risks being behind schedule.

The road is crucial as it links Taveta and Mwatate constituencies.

The tarmacking of the Taveta-Chala-Njukini-Rombo-Ilasit Road which links Taita Taveta and Kajiado Counties is also going on.

In total, the county has received KSh15.6 billion for

Mwatunge Market is 99 percent complete.

Other major projects funded by the Ruto administration in the County are construction of 340 hostels at Mwatate Technical Training Institute costing KSh154 million, 1,630 hostels at Taita Taveta University, electricity connection at KSh450 million targeting an additional 5,700 households.

"I will work with Taita Taveta leaders to increase the allocation for more homes to be connected to electricity," he promised.

Modern markets are also nearing completion in Voi, Maungu, Taveta, Bura Ndogo among others.

The Deputy President said the youth have benefitted from the projects urging them

tion leaders who have no plan on how to engage them in developing the country.

"We don't want our youth to be misused by politicians who have no plan for them. They only see them as bloggers, goons and hecklers but for us in Kenya Kwanza led by President Ruto we see them as great contributors to our nation's growth," he stated.

The DP was accompanied by among others Taita Taveta County Governor Andrew Mwandime, Woman Representative Haika Mizighi, MPs Peter Shake (Mwatate), John Bwire (Taveta), former Governor John Mruttu, former Woman Representative Joyce Lay, MCAs and other leaders.

KFS Charts Clear Path For Plantation Harvesting

BY MKT REPORTER

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

Kenya Forest Service (KFS) has finally put its cards on the table. In Kitui County yesterday, the agency convened a high-level forum that brought together investors, county officials, Community Forest Associations, and sector stakeholders to deliberate on sustainable plantation harvesting in the Lower Eastern Conservancy. The message was unmistakable: plantation forestry must be managed transparently, responsibly, and with economic and ecological balance in mind.

Led by Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests Anthony Musyoka and Kitui's Environment CECM Richard John Mwendandu, the forum underscored a principle too often overlooked — production forests thrive on rotational cycles. Mature stands must be harvested on schedule, not only to preserve timber quality but also to reduce fire and pest risks, safeguard economic value, and enable immediate replanting. In short, delay is costly, both to the economy and the environment.

KFS anchored its discussions on the legal framework guiding plantation management. The agency highlighted the controlled Annual Allowable Cut of 5,000 hectares, strict adherence to the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act (2015), and ecosystem-based Environmental

Impact Assessments licensed by NEMA. These measures, it stressed, are not bureaucratic hurdles but safeguards to ensure accountability and sustainability.

The urgency is clear. Kenya's closed canopy forest cover stands at 8.83 percent, still shy of the recommended 10 percent. Plantation harvesting, when well-regulated, is not a threat but a solution — sustaining jobs across the wood value chain, supporting climate resilience, protecting water towers, and complementing the government's ambitious 15 Billion Tree Growing Programme.

KFS's commitment to transparency through digitalized investor registration, integrated forest inventory management, and continued stakeholder engagement is a welcome step. But promises must translate into practice. Citizens and communities will judge the agency not by the eloquence of its forums but by the integrity of its actions.

Forests are more than timber; they are lifelines. If KFS delivers on its pledge, plantation harvesting could become a model of how conservation and commerce can coexist. If it falters, Kenya risks losing both trees and trust.

The time for talk is over — Kenya's forests demand action.

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Kenya Met Says Heavy Rains To Persist Until March 9



BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatomes

River, Kilifi, Isiolo, Marsabit, Garissa, and parts of Wajir and Mandera.

The department warned of flooding, flash floods, and reduced visibility, particularly in low-lying and flood-prone areas. "Floodwaters may ap-

Kenya is bracing for another week of pounding rains. The Kenya Meteorological Department has issued a fresh advisory warning that heavy downpours—exceeding 20 millimetres within 24 hours—will persist across much of the country until March 9. The caution comes as swollen rivers, flash floods, and treacherous roads already test the resilience of communities nationwide.

In Heavy Rainfall Advisory No. 02/2026, released Tuesday, the weatherman projected that the rains will intensify and peak between March 4 and March 7 before easing in most areas by March 8. Yet, for the Lake Victoria Basin, Western Kenya, the Central Highlands, Southeastern lowlands, and the Coast, the deluge is expected to continue through March 9.

Counties on high alert include Turkana, Samburu, Migori, Nyamira, Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega, Vihiga, West Pokot, Baringo, Elgeyo Marakwet, Trans Nzoia, Nandi, Uasin Gishu, Nakuru, Siaya, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Kisii, Kericho, Bomet, Kiambu, Embu, Murang'a, Kirinyaga, Nyandarua, Nyeri, Laikipia, Tharaka-Nithi, Meru, Nairobi, Narok, Kajiado, Makeni, Machakos, Taita-Taveta, Kitui, Kwale, Mombasa, Tana

9 March Heavy Rainfall Advisory end date

pear in places where it has not rained heavily, especially downstream," the advisory noted. Residents have been urged to exercise extreme caution—avoid crossing flooded roads and bridges, stay clear of moving water, and seek shelter during thunderstorms.

Authorities pledged to issue timely updates should conditions change. But the responsibility also lies with citizens to heed warnings and act prudently. Kenya's vulnerability to climate extremes is no longer abstract; it is lived reality.

The rains may be relentless, but disaster need not be inevitable. Preparedness, vigilance, and respect for nature's force will determine whether this season is remembered for resilience—or tragedy.

Gloves Off For Westlands Seat As Mudavadi's Son Joins The Race

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatomes

The race for the Westlands parliamentary seat heats up as new contenders emerge day in, day out ahead of the 2027 General Election.

The latest entrant in the race is Moses Budamba Mudavadi, the first-born son of Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi.

Budamba Mudavadi announced his bid, raising the bar to the next level for a race that continues to shape the politics of one of the toughest constituencies to win in an election within Nairobi County.

Humble, social, respectful, determined and a go getter Budamba Mudavadi will be bringing fresh energy and tough competition in the Westlands race where precision and focus will be key.

"This is my personal decision, and I have not been influenced or persuaded by anyone. I want to see the people of Westlands benefit from the real touch of services at the grassroots level. My focus is on the welfare of the people and development for Westlands," he said when reached for a comment.

"It is always good to pick up from where your predecessor left. Some do an excellent job, but some are average. For Westlands in relation to education standards set by the outgoing MP, my senior Tim Wanyonyi, I want to set the bar more-higher," he added.

Budamba Mudavadi said he has keenly been following the unfolding dynamics within the Nairobi politics and in particular Westlands Constituency, and he has his eye on the UDA ticket as his vehicle for the 2027 general election.

He dismissed critics who have emerged with a narrative that he will be riding on the back of his father's political prowess, stating that he is building his own networks



Moses Budamba Mudavadi

and the ground work he has begun will shock the nay-sayers.

"I am the son of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, that is a fact. But that does not mean I am not myself, Moses. Fine, I might wish to borrow from his political experience but on reality I am going for the seat as a UDA aspirant with the name Moses Budamba Mudavadi," he noted.

The 34 years old son of Mululu said in politics it is ones agenda that makes the people vote for you and not your name, tribe, religion or race.

He added that the youthful experience he wants to bring in the Westlands politics has nothing to do with his lineage but his passion to serve the people of Westlands constituency and Kenya in the near future.

On a UDA ticket Budamba Mudavadi will be squaring off against the current MP's NG-CDF official Bernard Mwononyo (Wanyonyi), former LSK President Nelson Havi of DCP, Mike Gumo son to former MP Fred Gumo who once occupied the seat, na-

tional youth leader Alex Matero who is yet to state which party he will vie on and Alvin Olando (Palapala) who has an eye on the ODM ticket.

The Westlands jitters come as current MP Tim Wanyonyi prepares to step aside after three terms in office, with plans that include pursuing the Bungoma gubernatorial seat.

Westlands constituency is one of the seventeen constituencies in Nairobi County.

The constituency is situated within Westlands Sub-County, formerly Westlands District and has an area of 72.4 km² (28.0 sq mi). It contains some of the high-income suburb areas such as Runda, Lake-View, Muthaiga, Kitisuru and Highridge. Middle and low-income areas include the famous Kangemi, Githogoro, Deep-Sea, Mji Wa Huruma, Kaptagat, Kibagare, Maasai and Suswa.

It has four 5 wards, Kitisuru, Parklands/Highridge, Karura, Kangemi and Mountain View.

Handshake The agreement, signed at State House on February 17, sets out a framework for collaboration anchored in the Constitution of Kenya

Nairobi County Assembly Approves Ruto–Sakaja Cooperation Deal

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyaintimes

Nairobi's political and development landscape shifted dramatically this week after the County Assembly unanimously approved a landmark cooperation agreement between President William Ruto's administration and Governor Johnson Sakaja. The deal, worth an estimated Sh80 billion, promises to reshape the capital's infrastructure, service delivery, and governance dynamics.

The agreement, signed at State House on February 17, sets out a framework for collaboration anchored in the Constitution of Kenya, the Intergovernmental Relations Act, and the Urban Areas and Cities Act. President Ruto emphasized that the deal does not transfer county functions to the national government but instead supplements Nairobi's efforts in critical sectors.

"This initiative reflects the constitutional principle of cooperative governance," Ruto declared. "Both levels of government must work in structured partnership to meet the demands of the capital."

The President outlined four primary work streams: water and sanitation; roads, bridges, and drainage; street lighting and safety; and housing and informal settlement upgrades. He further directed the Interior Ministry to establish a Nairobi Metropolitan Police Unit within 60 days to bolster security.

Governor Sakaja, appearing before the Senate Committee on Devolution on February 26, defended the deal against critics who feared a repeat of the Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS) model. "This is not a transfer of functions," Sakaja clarified. "We shall continue running as a county, and the National Government will provide additional resources for development."

He highlighted the disparity in funding between Nairobi and global capitals: "Paris has a budget of Sh1.5 trillion with two million people. Nairobi, with seven million people, has only about Sh45 billion. To be where Paris is, we need more money."

Sakaja pointed to tangible benefits already flowing from the partnership, including Sh1 billion allocated

for new classrooms, some of which were handed over this week. "As a Governor, why should we struggle with this budget when the law provides for cooperation? We embraced it," he said.

The Nairobi County Assembly's approval came with a list of priority projects: infrastructure improvements, affordable housing, health-care, and education. Speaker Ken Ng'ondi noted that the Assembly's unanimous vote reflected a rare moment of political consensus. "This is about service delivery, not partisanship," Ng'ondi remarked. "Nairobians deserve better roads, cleaner water, safer streets, and decent housing. This deal is a step in that direction."

The cooperation deal marks a turning point in Nairobi's governance. Analysts argue it strengthens Sakaja's political capital by aligning him with the President while simultaneously giving the County Assembly a stake in oversight. Political scientist Dr. Wanjiru Kamau observed: "This agreement redefines Nairobi's leadership. Sakaja gains legitimacy by securing resources, while Ruto demonstrates national stewardship over the capital. The Assembly, by approving the deal, positions itself as a watchdog ensuring transparency."

The Sh80 billion injection is expected to fast-track development, but it also raises questions about accountability. Civil society groups have urged vigilance to prevent misuse of funds. Transparency International Kenya warned: "Large-scale projects in Nairobi have historically been prone to corruption. The success of this deal depends on strict adherence to procurement laws and public participation."

Globally, metropolitan governance often involves shared responsibilities between city and national governments. London, Paris, and Johannesburg operate under similar cooperative frameworks. Nairobi's deal, therefore, aligns the capital with international standards of urban management. Urban planner Prof. David Ndi noted: "Nairobi cannot be managed as an ordinary county. It is a global city. This cooperation deal is a recognition of that reality."

The stakes are high. Nairobi's closed canopy forest cover stands at



Nairobi MCAs

8.83 percent, below the recommended 10 percent, while its population continues to swell. The cooperation agreement promises to address infrastructure bottlenecks, improve waste management, and enhance security. Yet, the political implications are equally significant. By embracing the deal, Sakaja strengthens his hand in city leadership, while Ruto consolidates influence over Nairobi without undermining devolution. The Assembly's unanimous approval signals a rare unity of purpose, but the true test will be in execution.

The impact on Nairobi's leadership is profound. Sakaja, often criticized for struggling with limited resources,

“This initiative reflects the constitutional principle of cooperative governance,” Ruto declared. “Both levels of government must work in structured partnership to meet the demands of the capital.”

es, now has a platform to deliver visible results. His argument before the Senate that Nairobi's budget is insufficient compared to global cities resonated with many. By securing national government support, he positions himself as a pragmatic leader willing to embrace cooperation rather than confrontation. For Ruto, the deal cements his influence in Nairobi, a city that has historically been politically volatile and symbolically important. By framing the agreement as cooperative governance rather than a takeover, he avoids the pitfalls of the NMS era while still ensuring national oversight.

The Assembly's role cannot be understated. By approving the deal unanimously, it demonstrated political maturity and a willingness to prioritize service delivery over partisan battles. This consensus strengthens Nairobi's institutional leadership, ensuring that oversight mechanisms remain intact. However, the Assembly must now prove its vigilance in monitoring implementation, procurement, and accountability.

The cooperation deal also has implications for Nairobi's place in Kenya's broader political economy. As the country's economic hub, Nairobi's success or failure reverberates

nationally. Improved infrastructure, housing, and security will not only benefit residents but also attract investment, boost productivity, and enhance Kenya's global competitiveness. Conversely, mismanagement or corruption could erode public trust and undermine devolution.

Observers note that the deal could set a precedent for other counties, particularly urban centers facing similar challenges. If successful, it may inspire structured partnerships between national and county governments elsewhere. If it falters, it could reignite debates about the balance of power between the two levels of government.

Ultimately, Nairobi's leadership is at a crossroads. The cooperation agreement offers a rare opportunity to align vision, resources, and governance. But opportunities are only as good as their execution. The city's leaders must now translate promises into tangible improvements — cleaner streets, safer neighborhoods, better schools, and affordable housing.

Nairobi has been promised transformation — now its leaders must deliver, or risk turning cooperation into yet another missed opportunity.

Governors The governors are pushing for the dissolution of the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) and KURA.

Governors Demand Lion's Share Of Road Funds, Citing 76% Network Control

BY Felix Njenga
@themtkenyatimes

The Council of Governors (CoG) has staged a bold push for a radical overhaul of the Kenya Roads Amendment Bill, 2025, seeking to control more funds.

They are arguing that the current proposal to allocate a meagre 2.5% of road maintenance funds to counties is impractical and a threat to the spirit of devolution.

Appearing before the Senate Committee yesterday, Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi who chairs the CoG Committee on Transport, Infrastructure, and Energy presented a scathing critique of the Bill.

He told Senators that the proposed formula fails to account for the massive infrastructure burden currently carried by the 47 devolved units.

At the heart of the dispute is the Roads Maintenance Levy Fund (RMLF). The new Bill proposes to allocate counties 5% of the non-securitized portion of the fund, which Wamatangi pointed out effectively translates to a mere 2.5% of the total kitty.

The Governor contrasted this figure with the reality of Kenya's road map that county governments manage 182,092 kilometers which is 76% of the national network while the national government manages 57,030 kilometers, which is about 24% of the national network.

"The original spirit of the RMLF envisioned that over 50% of the fund would go to local authorities," Wamatangi

told the committee. "Those responsibilities are now vested in County Governments. To offer 2.5% for 76% of the roads is not just inconsistent; it is an affront to the constitutional principle of equity."

The Council's submission did not stop at funding.

Wamatangi called for immediate policy consistency, citing the recommendations of the Presidential Taskforce on Parastatal Reforms.

The governors are pushing for the dissolution of the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) and the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA).

They argue that since the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution classifies rural and urban roads as devolved functions, these agencies represent a duplication of roles and a waste of taxpayer resources.

"The Cabinet approved these reforms on January 21, 2025, to eliminate duplication and enhance efficiency. It is time we align our laws with the reality that rural and urban roads are county functions," Wamatangi stated.

The CoG is now urging the Senate to intervene and ensure a minimum allocation of 42% of the RMLF is channeled to counties.

This, they argue, is the only way to ensure the sustainability of the 182,092 kilometers currently under their watch.

Wamatangi concluded by reminding the Senate of its mandate under Article 96 of the Constitution, which tasks the house with protecting the interests of the counties.

"We look to the Senate to safeguard the interests of the people at the grassroots. Fairness and effective service de-

livery depend on a formula that respects the work being done on the ground," he said.

The Senate Committee is expected to retreat to consider these submissions before the Bill proceeds to the next stage of the legislative process.



Kiambu Governor Dr. Kimani Wamatangi who chairs the CoG Committee on Transport, Infrastructure, and Energy making his submissions at the Senate committee on roads yesterday.




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Security Major police housing developments are ongoing at the GSU Headquarters in Ruaraka, Kiganjo Police Training College and the GSU Training School

Gov't Unveils 47,000 Housing Units for Police, Security Officers

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

The government is rolling out more than 47,000 housing units for police officers and other security personnel under the Affordable Housing Programme, in a major push to tackle long-standing accommodation shortages in the sector.

The announcement was made during a meeting of the Governance and Public Administration (GPA) Sub-Committee of the National Development Implementation Committee (NDIC) on Monday, where officials reviewed progress on security sector housing and other governance reforms.

According to the committee, the security cluster now represents the largest institutional housing pipeline under the affordable housing framework. A total of 165 projects are underway across the country, delivering 47,464 housing units.

Of these, 2,092 units have been completed, 9,555 are under construction, while 24,720 are at the procurement stage.

Major police housing developments are ongoing at the GSU Headquarters in Ruaraka, Kiganjo Police Training College and the GSU Training School in Embakasi, among other high-demand operational areas.

Under the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) affordable housing programme, projects are being implemented in Kahawa, Embakasi, Lang'ata, Moi Airbase, Lanet, Gilgil, Nanyuki and Mariakani military camps.

A 500-unit housing project in Roysambu has already been completed and handed over, with additional units sched-



Interior PS Raymond Omollo speaks when he chaired the Governance and Public Administration (GPA) Sub-Committee of the National Development Implementation Committee (NDIC) on Monday.

uled for completion by January 2028.

The sub-committee also reviewed progress in digital transformation across government departments. The State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services reported that 22,665 government services have been onboarded onto the e-Citizen platform out of a target of 26,550 services by June 30 this year.

Integration of Government-to-Government services has begun, starting with selected state corporations and foreign missions in Nairobi.

Officials said onboarding of services within the National Police Service and Correctional Services is expected to accelerate following enhanced technical and financial support.

Under the Usajili Mashinani mobile registration initiative, 100,195 national identity cards have been issued since September last year, including 70,648 first-time registrations. In addition, 52,262 birth certificates were processed during the outreach exercise.

To enhance access to services in remote areas, the government has acquired 45 new vehicles and is operationalising additional civil registration offices in the current financial year.

The committee further noted progress under the Government Legislative Agenda, including the enactment and operationalisation of key laws aimed at strengthening governance and accountability. These include amendments to the Independent Electoral and

Boundaries Commission Act, the Conflict-of-Interest Act, the National Lottery Act and the Gambling Control Act.

The Public Benefits Organizations Act has also been operationalised following the gazettelement of its commencement date.

Additionally, the Diaspora Integrated Information Management System (DIIMS) has been launched to provide integrated digital services to Kenyans abroad, in line with the Kenya Diaspora Policy 2024.

The meeting was chaired by Internal Security and National Administration Principal Secretary Dr Raymond Omollo and brought together principal secretaries and senior officials from departments within the governance cluster.

Officials reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening implementation oversight, enhancing inter-agency coordination and accelerating delivery of priority governance and security sector programmes.

An advertisement for 'New Year. Same Chai.' featuring a large '2025' made of green tea leaves. The ad includes a cup of tea, a teapot, and various tea products. The text 'New Year. Same Chai.' is written in a green, stylized font. At the bottom, there are social media icons and the website URL www.katoo.com.

KTDA The changes mark yet another transition at KTDA Holdings, a farmer-owned company

Leadership Shake-Up At KTDA As Chairman, Vice Chairman Ousted

Kirundi, who also served as Director for Zone 3, and Ombasa, Director for Zone 11, were removed from their board leadership positions

BY WMW

@themtkenyatimes

A major leadership shake-up has hit KTDA Holdings Ltd following the ouster of National Chairman Geoffrey Chege Kirundi and National Vice Chairman Omweno James Ombasa.

Kirundi, who also served as Director for Zone 3, and Ombasa, Director for Zone 11, were removed from their board leadership positions in changes that now see Enos Njeru, Director for Zone 6, assume the role of National Chairman. Njeru served as the national chairman before he was controversially replaced by Kirundi in 2024.

Engineer Samson Mosenik Kipkoech Menjo, Director for Zone 9, has also been elevated to the national leadership team as the vice chairman of the board.

The changes mark yet another transition at KTDA Holdings, a farmer-owned company that provides management services to 54 tea factory companies across the country.

KTDA traces its roots to the former Kenya Tea Development Authority, a state corporation established in 1964 to promote smallholder tea farming.

In 2000, it was privatized and restructured into a private company owned by tea farmers through their factory companies.

Today, KTDA supports over 650,000 smallholder farmers, offering services in tea processing, value addition, marketing, financial services and input supply. It also manages



subsidiaries involved in power generation, insurance, and warehousing, making it one of the most influential players in Kenya's tea sector.

Leadership at KTDA is organized through regional zones, with directors elected by factory companies to represent farmers' interests at the national board level.

Board changes often attract attention due to the agency's central role in determining tea prices, payment structures and strategic direction for the multibillion-shilling industry.

The latest restructuring is expected to influence governance and strategic priorities at a time when the tea sector continues to face challenges including fluctuating global prices, rising production costs and calls for greater transparency in management.

During his leadership as KTDA chairman, Mr. Njeru guided the launch of Chai Gold, a value-addition venture developed in partnership with KETEPA.

The initiative sought to move farmers further up the value chain, signalling a strategic shift toward domestic processing and giving smallholders a rare chance to earn a larger share of profits that have historically been captured abroad.

He has pushed factories to



embrace transparent accounting systems, encouraged agronomy programs aimed at improving leaf quality and supported initial mechanization efforts in processing plants hampered by outdated equipment.

Under his watch, extension officers widened their reach, delivering routine field demonstrations, soil-health evaluations and financial-futurality raining to farmers in remote clusters.

Mr. Njeru has also been a consistent champion for farmer voices in national agricultural discussions. He has pressed for prompt disbursement of bonus payments, urged government agencies to reduce administrative delays that slow down export clearances and hacked smallholder cooperatives seeking fairer transport and insurance ar-

rangements. Across many tea-producing communities, he is credited with backing small-scale but highly impactful infrastructure projects, ranging from grading feeder roads to rehabilitating factory water points and helping farmers access seedlings for higher-yielding tea varieties.

These steady improvements have supported income stability in areas where family livelihoods often depend heavily on green-leaf prices. Collectively, his work reflects a development philosophy grounded in practical, on-the-ground action: strengthening institutions that farmers depend on, expanding access to skills and technology, and ensuring that more value is returned to the producer who run the economy.

Sidney Wafula Appointed BAT Kenya Managing Director



Sidney Wafula

BY MKT CORRESPONDENT

@themtkenyatimes

BAT Kenya has appointed Sidney Wafula as its new Managing Director effective June 16, 2026.

Wafula, currently Finance Director for BAT Sub-Saharan Africa Area, will replace Crispin Achola, who has led the company for over five years and is set to exit the group.

In a statement, BAT Kenya credited Achola with strengthening operational resilience, reinforcing the company's export business and advancing its long-term competitiveness strategy.

The firm noted that its strong share price performance and consistent dividend record during his tenure reflected disciplined execution and effective leadership.

Wafula joined BAT Kenya in 2006 as Head of Audit and has held several senior roles within the BAT Group.

His previous positions include Head of Operations and Marketing Finance for BAT West Africa in Lagos, Head of Finance for BAT Egypt in Cairo, Head of Finance for

Southern Africa Markets in Mozambique, Head of Finance for East and Central Africa, and Finance Director for BAT Kenya.

The Board also announced the appointment of Catherine Chepkong'a as Finance Director effective April 1, 2026.

She will replace Philemon Kipkemoi, who exits the role on March 31, 2026, after a 19-year career with the company.

Chepkong'a joined the BAT Group in 2012 and has held multiple finance leadership roles across the region, including Head of Finance and Non-Executive Director for Uganda, Finance Controller for East Africa Markets, Head of Finance for the Horn of Africa and Indian Ocean Islands, and most recently Finance Controller for East and Southern Africa Markets. She also serves as a Trustee of the BAT Kenya Staff Provident Fund.

BAT Kenya Board Chair Rita Kavashe thanked Achola and Kipkemoi for their contribution to the company's growth and transformation agenda, noting that the changes reflect the company's long-term succession planning and strong internal talent pipeline.

Court Nelly Jemutai and Cecil Kiplimo are alleged to have committed the offence at Makongeni area in Thika West sub-county

Two Arraigned In Thika Court Over Motorcycle Theft As Crackdown To Dismantle Syndicate Intensifies

BY John Kamau
@themkenyatimes

Two people were arraigned in a Thika court yesterday for stealing a motorcycle as authorities intensify crackdown to dismantle motorbike theft syndicate.

Nelly Jemutai and Cecil Kiplimo are alleged to have committed the offence at Makongeni area in Thika West sub-county on February 23, 2026, where they stole the two-wheeler belonging to Watu Credit Limited.

They were arrested by detectives last Saturday.

The duo appeared before Thika Senior Resident Magistrate Fredrick Koome where they were charged with stealing the motorcycle contrary to Section 278A of the Penal Code and denied the accusation.

The charged stated that on the 23rd February this year at Makongeni, Thika West sub-county in Kiambu County, jointly with others not before court, stole motorcycle registration number KMGV 997V make

Boxer Bajaj red in colour worth KSh194,470 the property of Watu Credit Limited.

The magistrate freed the two suspects on a KSh200,000 bond with one surety of a similar amount or a cash bail of similar amount.

The matter will be mentioned on April 10 while hearing was set for June 30,2026.

The matter comes amid a sharp rise in motorcycle theft in several parts of the country, a crime that is being perpetrated by a well organized syndicate.

The crime is characterized by well-organized syndicates, violent robberies, and the subsequent stripping of bikes for spare parts or illegal sale across borders.

Reports from the authorities indicate that criminal gangs often use women to pose as passengers to lure riders before stupefying them or hire criminals to attack riders directly.

In the recent past, police have made huge strides in the fight against the criminal cartels who are operating trans-border trade of stolen motorcycles.

In July 2024, police in Eldoret recovered 59 motorcycles and 35 engines in a single raid on a suspected illegal dealer's premises.

Stolen bikes are often quickly dismantled for parts, with reports indicating a rise in the theft of components rather than just the entire vehicle.

In 2024 alone, over 10,000 motorcycles were reported to have been stolen.

Those perpetrating the crime are reported to be targeting loaned motorbikes.

There is a notable, high-profile concern regarding the theft of motorcycles purchased through asset financing companies like Watu Credit, with questions raised about how bikes equipped with trackers are stolen without a trace.

In retaliation due to the rising theft and due to frustration, local riders have increasingly taken the law into their own hands, with incidents of suspected thieves being stoned or burned to death, such as in Narok and Nairobi.

Recent cases include the lynching



Nelly Jemutai and Cecil Kiplimo at the Thika law court where they were charged with stealing a motorcycle belonging to Watu Credit Limited.

of a suspect in Narok town in January this year, burning of two suspects in Nairobi in June 2025 and arrest of a mechanic in Machakos town who was disabling tracking devices in May last year.

Only about 15% of stolen vehicles, including motorcycles are recovered.

In response, Boda Boda associations are partnering with police to improve tracking and increase patrols in high-risk

The authorities are however, intensifying crackdowns in most affected regions including Nairobi, Central and parts of Western region.

Police have increased patrols and are working with boda boda associations in installing advanced tracking systems as well as coming up with new regulations for the sector to curb the menace.

The Penal Code (Section 278A) dictates up to seven years imprisonment for stealing a motor vehicle.



A Pun-Derful Celebration Of Language: Dr. Giftsy Dorcas E's Witty New Release



Fresh from the "bakery of buns"—oops, puns—Dr. Giftsy Dorcas E returns with her delightfully witty second book, *Pundit Not So Punny* (2025), a celebration of language that promises laughter on every page. A clever collection of 80 original puns, the book transforms the charming chaos of English phonetics into a playground of humour, blending global wordplay traditions with the vibrant flavours of Indian vernacular expression. Rooted in the rich legacy of linguistic wit that stretches from ancient civilizations to Shakespearean drama, this collection reminds

readers that language is meant to be enjoyed as much as it is to be studied. Each pun teases the ear, tickles the mind, and proves that even confusion can be creative.

Light-hearted yet intelligent, *Pundit Not So Punny* is a joyful exercise in lexical mischief—perfect for students, teachers, and anyone who loves a smart laugh.

Authored without AI-generated wordplay and adorned with playful doodles, this book reflects Dr. Giftsy's passion for phonetics, literature, and emotional intelligence. An accomplished academic and award-winning educator, she once again showcases her flair for making language both meaningful and merry.

If you believe words can wink, whisper, and wisecrack all at once, this is one pun-derful read you simply cannot afford to miss.

Giftsy Dorcas E

Distance Reveals Truth



Distance doesn't change hearts,
it only uncovers them.

Never forget the ones who shower you with love.
Never hold on to those who silently ignore you
when you truly need them the most.
They purposely make excuses
and slowly keep their distance.

Love needs care.

Love needs a shoulder to lean on.
The person who truly loves you
will never leave you alone in difficult times.
Some people stay only for their own needs.
If it benefits them, they stay.
If not, they silently laugh behind you,
use you, and walk away without guilt.
So stay away from such people.
Learn to recognize who they really are.

Just move on.
Your true ones will always wait for you
without expectations,
with pure love in their hearts.

By
ZAHETHA R
BT ASST
GHS PAPPANTHANGAL
TVM DIST

Happy Birthday Wish To Dear And Near



Birthday is on the way
We are planning to celebrate the moments
Our wishes to celebrate the event

Ready to plan how to celebrate
we think about the spending money
Inviting our kin and kiths.
Getting blessings first from our parents
Elders wish to bless us
On that day to be repeated every year.
Elders blessings are more important than
receiving gifts.
Giving sweets, receiving gifts and blessings.
Feel as Newly born on the date.
Everyone celebrates birthdate as birthday.

N. SELVARANI
B. T. ASST
GHS-SAKKARAKKOTTAI
RAMANATHAPURAM
TAMIL NADU
INDIA

Poetic Cycle By Malika Boykhonova



ABOUT THE HEART

Sometimes I ponder and feel pity for the heart —
How much sorrow and grief it swallows whole.
Every being is in need of such a pillar;
Without it, our eyes would freeze to stone.

I pity the heart, my friend, so deeply —
It endures all torments with silent strength.
At times, wishing to console itself with a trifle,
It sends a tear toward our eyes.

I am amazed — it stores its grief with dignity
Inside its quiet chest like a noble chest of
secrets.
But when joy appears before it face to face,
It drives it away with loud, ringing laughter.

WHO AM I?

Who am I? A fragile woman —
Thirsting for freedom, restless in thought.
Seeking the Merciful, yet meeting the devil,
Drawing poison while searching for honey.

Who am I? I am a mad teacher,
Whose student surpasses even her child.
Not glory, but justice I have sought,
Finding privilege in suffering.

Such is my station,
Forever sacrificed to betrayal.
Let the pleasures of this world be cursed —
May the next world grant its mercy, I pray!

AFTER READING "LISON UT-TAYR"

When chess pieces line up for battle,
The people of Rum begin their march.
The fierce ancient foe of the darkened host
Launches attack through cunning stratagem.

As rivals gallop their horses in pride,
Kings clash beyond all bounds.
Once they cross the battlefield of war,
The pawn may suddenly turn into a queen.

In the army — pomp, intrigue, and design;
The laws of war are strictly kept.
Someone waits in ambush, watching the hour
To besiege the enemy's ranks.

A battlefield roaring with chance —

Rarely does such intensity arise.
When one edge of the board is lifted,
The Day of Judgment reveals its face.

No trace remains of war or strife —
All will fit into a single sack, indeed.
Sometimes even the king falls low, believe me,
And from above, a pawn takes his place.

FORGIVE ME, MY FRIEND

Forgive me, my friend — I broke my promise;
Once again tears shine upon my cheeks.
Once again I have turned away from life;
My endurance walks off without looking back.

Do not brandish willpower and patience —
Grief has drained the strength from me.
Did even God, weary of sorrow,
Expel humankind from Paradise?

MY SISTER... HANGED HERSELF WITH HER
SCARF...

I saw grief —
Sitting with its head bowed,
As if sunk into an armchair.
Her cheeks hollow, her gaze extinguished,
Her saffron face veiled by a scarf.

I saw grief...
It settled in my eyes day and night,
Stealing my peace, crushing my heart.
One day she counted the years of her life
And sensed the hour of farewell had come.

I saw grief...
Grief stood hanging.
As if flying free toward the sky.
One end fastened tightly to wood,
The other embracing her neck — the scarf...

SUPPLICATION

O Life, do not be angry with me —
I have burdened your head with sorrow.
Forgive me, pardon your weak one;
I mixed poison into your meal.

I have come to water the tree of grief
With the tears of my eyes.
I have come to drink
The bitter wine called "Sorrow."

Is there more of that wine?
Pour all of it for me.
Only one plea — not a single drop
Must remain for my daughter...

Malika Boykhonova, Member of the Writers' Union
of Uzbekistan.

"Faynberg — The Inspiration In My Heart"



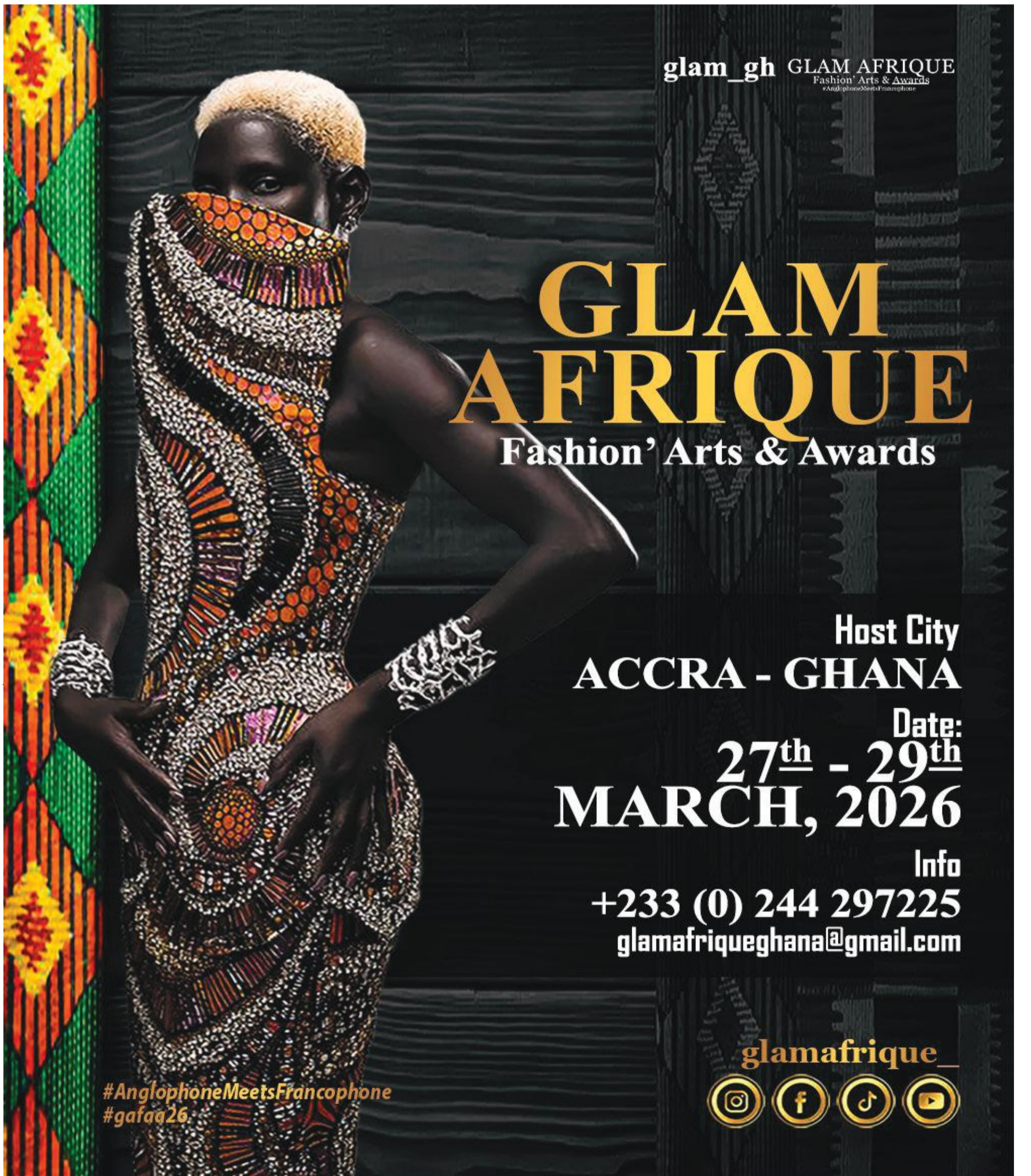
When I think of Faynberg, waves rise in my chest,
Your gentle verses give my restless heart its

rest.
Each line you write — a candle in the night,
Your words awaken hidden flames alight.

Each verse you craft is sealed upon my soul,
With love and faith that make my spirit whole.
Your art, Faynberg, is deep as endless sea,
Each line pours quiet joy and light in me.

Your path for me — a lighthouse shining bright,
Your words bestow my yearning heart its flight.
Your inspiration pulses through my veins,
Through every poem, life in my heart remains.

Zamira Moldiyeva Bahodirovna



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Women World prepares to mark International Women's Day 2026 on Sunday under the United Nations theme "Rights, Justice, Action for All Women and Girls"

Women's Rights In Agrifood Systems Take Center Stage Ahead Of International Women's Day

BY John Kariuki

@themkenyatimes

As the world prepares to mark International Women's Day 2026 on Sunday under the United Nations theme "Rights, Justice, Action for All Women and Girls," leading agricultural and research institutions have called for urgent, concrete measures to strengthen women's rights and leadership in agrifood systems.

At a high-level meeting in Nairobi, convened by the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development, the CGIAR Gender Equality and Inclusion Accelerator, the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology and CIFOR-ICRAF, stakeholders from across Kenya gathered to address systemic barriers limiting women's full participation in food systems.

The forum brought together researchers, policymakers, investors, development partners and women farmers, focusing on dismantling obstacles that continue to undermine women's contributions to agriculture and food value chains.

Despite clear evidence that women play a central role in food production, processing and marketing, speakers noted that their work remains undervalued and poorly supported. Many operate in informal and labour-intensive segments, often under irregular and low-paying conditions.

Women also face persistent challenges, including limited access to land ownership, credit facilities, modern technology, education, extension services and meaningful participation in decision-making at household, community and national levels.

Nicoline de Haan, Director of the CGIAR Gender Equal-



ity and Inclusion Accelerator, said the International Year of the Woman Farmer offers an opportunity to accelerate reforms and ensure food systems work for women.

She stressed that scientific research must respond to the realities faced by smallholder households.

A recent report on the status of women in agrifood systems

in sub-Saharan Africa shows that investing in women's empowerment can unlock inclusive economic growth, boost food security and strengthen climate resilience. The find-

resources, strengthen leadership pathways and amplify women's voices in shaping equitable and resilient agrifood systems.

Stakeholders also underscored the importance of gender-disaggregated data to inform policies and ensure interventions respond effectively to the needs of both women and men along the agrifood value chain.

Aligned with the International Year of the Woman Farmer, the event spotlighted grassroots women farmers driving innovation in their communities. They showcased practical solutions that are boosting farm productivity while outlining structural reforms needed to transform food systems into inclusive engines of opportunity.

As global reflections on progress toward gender equality continue, the convening partners reaffirmed their commitment to sustained collaboration among research institutions, governments, private sector actors and farming communities.

They expressed optimism that coordinated efforts will translate into tangible actions that advance rights, justice and equitable growth for women across Africa's food systems.

ings reinforce calls to treat gender equality not only as a moral obligation but also as a strategic driver of sustainable development.

Dr Susan Kaaria, Director of AWARD, observed that more than 90 per cent of women engaged in food systems operate within informal sectors. She noted that many lack social protection and remain largely invisible in official data, weakening evidence-based policymaking.

She urged stakeholders to move beyond viewing women as beneficiaries of development programmes and instead recognize them as co-creators of solutions.

The Nairobi convening was structured as an action-oriented platform centred on women's lived experiences. Participants explored ways to improve working conditions, expand access to productive



At a high-level meeting in Nairobi, convened by the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development, the CGIAR Gender Equality and Inclusion Accelerator, the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology and CIFOR-ICRAF, stakeholders from across Kenya gathered to address systemic barriers limiting women's full participation in food systems.

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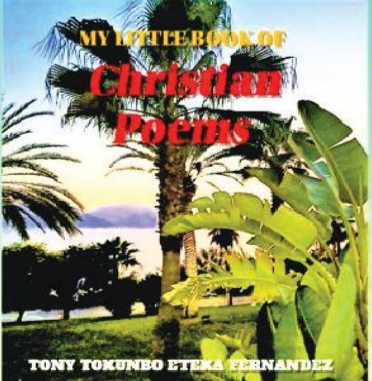
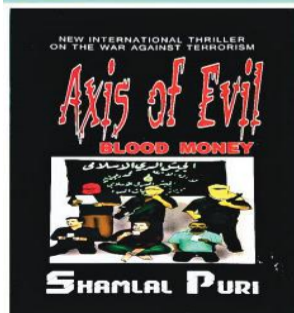
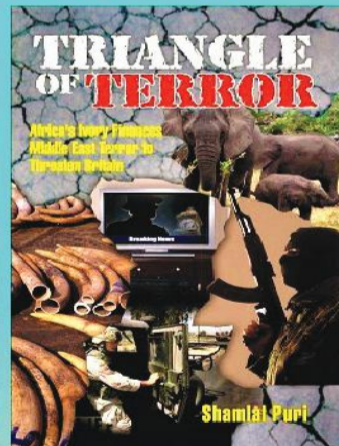
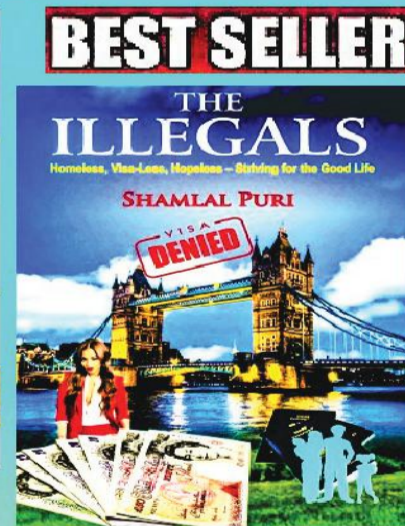
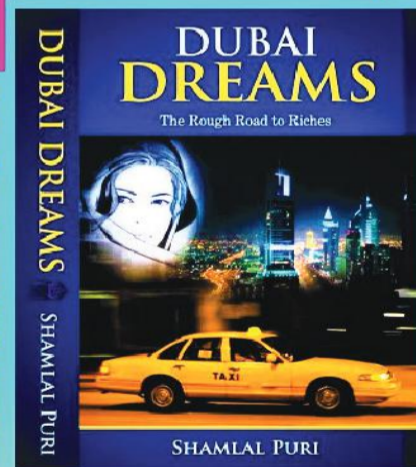
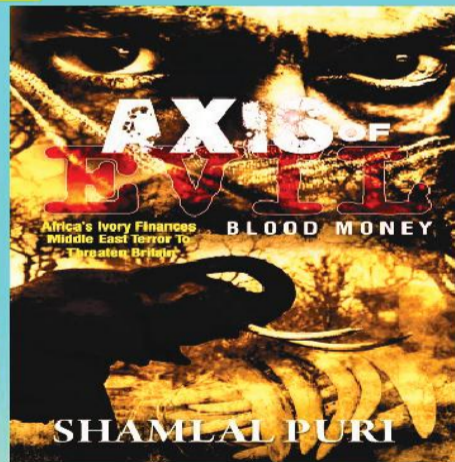
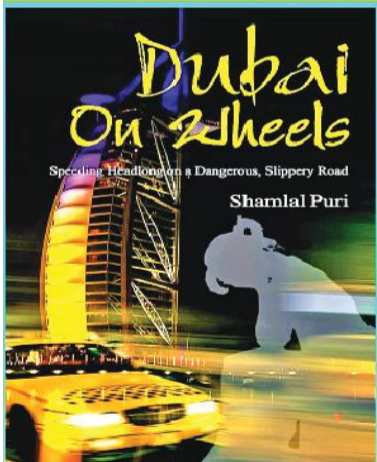
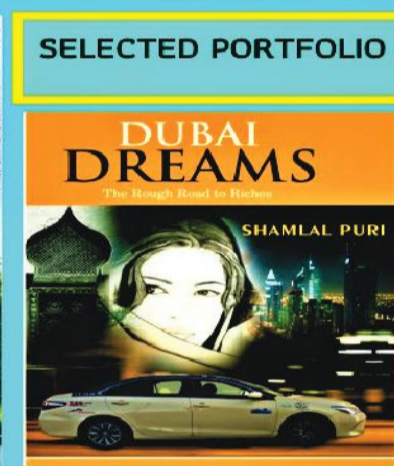
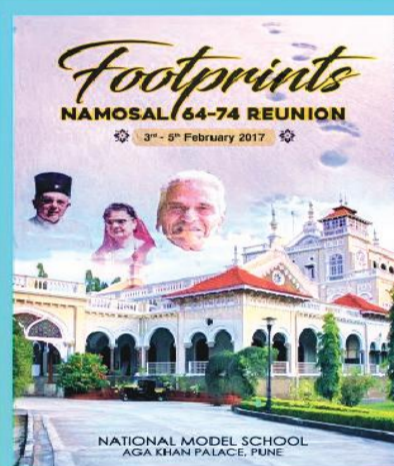
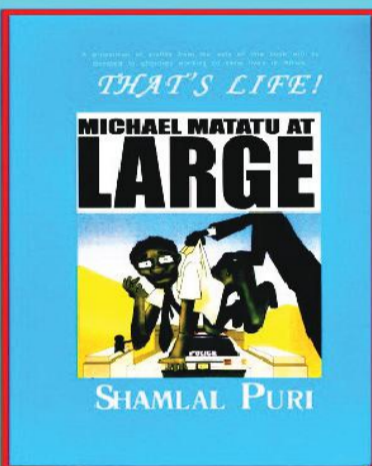
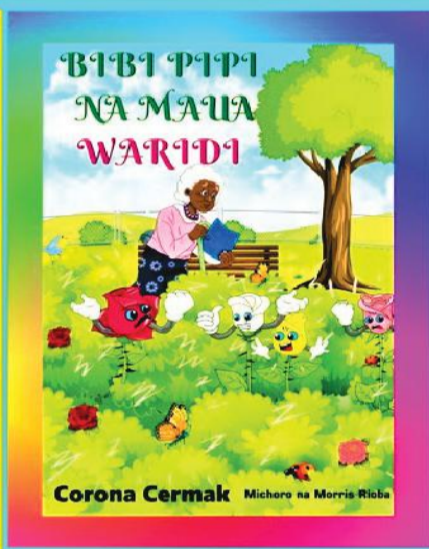
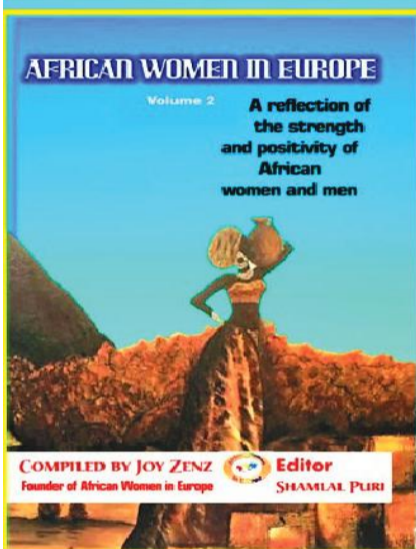
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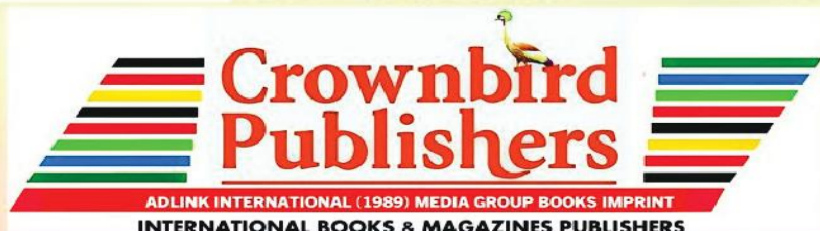
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Politics A requiem mass at Kianderi village, Ngandu in Mathira constituency, almost turned into a political contest

Mathira Political Titans In Battle Of Wits

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

A requiem mass at Kianderi village, Ngandu in Mathira constituency, almost turned into a political contest after three of the leading aspirants for the area parliamentary seat turned up, guns blazing.

Anthony Ndagita, the area Member of the County Assembly set the ball rolling when he said that in the last five years he had revitalised the coffee farming in Kirimukuyu ward raising production from 2.6 million of cherry in 2019 to an impressive 6.2million kilos last year.

“I have ensured that my Kirimukuyu residents have been empowered financially and I therefore need to be upgraded and represent a larger constituency and thus become Mathira Member of Parliament,” pleaded the two term MCA.

Immediate former chairman of KTDA (MS) Solomon Muriithi Maina locally branded ‘Solo’ and “Mr money bag” for his indiscriminate use of apparent bottomless wallet to endear himself to the constituents narrated how he has built houses razed down by fires in the recent past at phenomenal costs.

He further told the mourners who had come to condole with the family of career educationist Paul Muhoro Gatheo, who passed on last week at the ripe age of 96 years that he had built tea buying centres.

He further denied a tag doing the

“

I have ensured that my Kirimukuyu residents have been empowered financially and I therefore need to be upgraded and represent a larger constituency and thus become Mathira Member of Parliament,” pleaded the two term MCA.



Peter Githinji Tropical



Solomon Muriithi Maina Solo

round locally that he was an appendage of the ruling party and vowing to attend all gatherings convened by

DCP party leader Rigathi Gachagua who is also the immediate Deputy President and hails from his locality



Anthony Ndagita

in Ruguru ward.

“I cannot betray Rigathi who facilitated my appointment to the chairmanship of KTDA from which I retired two months ago and I will attend all his functions hereafter,” he pledged.

He was apparently discounting murmurs doing rounds to the effect that he has never been seen anywhere in the former deputy president’s functions including one where he conspicuously set up a billboard in Karatina town centre where Riggy G held a roadside rally.

He has also never been seen in a photo session in Wamunoro where almost all aspirants on the have been photographed with the party boss.

Matters were not made any better by his assertion that he was a business partner of Kiharu legislator Ndingi Nyoro who is also not known to have declared his liking or support for the former DP.

The two are also shareholders at Sidian Bank where the majority shareholder is President William Ruto through one of companies.

Coffee marketer Peter Githinji, popularly known as Tropical, dismissed Maina’s hypocrisy of painting himself white while he could not explain why farmers reaped miserable bonuses last year.

“How can a former chairman take pride in his tenure in office while

farmers across the country wallow in peanery due to poor pay,” posed Githinji whose catchphrase is murimi ateithike (let the farmer benefit).

Tropical who has 25 years in the coffee sector including farming and marketing challenged his competitor to tell wananchi what he knows about the reasons for the health insurance fund SHA failure hence bringing untold suffering to citizens across the country.

In the constituency known for high octane politics in the last half century or so and has produced a deputy president and a county governor, incidentally brothers, will be one of the parliamentary electoral areas to watch not only in the region but nationally in next year’s general elections.

Though both Githinji and Solo are both endowed with deep pockets, association with Rigathi Gachagua who is almost a religion in area that he represented in the 12th parliament and as at now the coffee marketer is miles ahead of the rest as he is always beside the party chief and particularly in events across the region.

World Hearing Day Health experts in Kisii County have called on parents and teachers to prioritize early hearing screening for children

Kisii Health Experts Raise Alarm Over Rising Hearing Loss In Children During World Hearing Day

The specialists have urged the community to watch out for warning signs such as frequent ear tugging, persistent nasal discharge, declining school performance, and children constantly increasing television volume.

BY Elizabeth Angira
@themkenyatimes

Health experts in Kisii County have called on parents and teachers to prioritize early hearing screening for children, warning that undetected hearing loss is silently affecting academic performance and social development. Speaking during commemorations of World Hearing Day at Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital, Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) specialists have urged the community to watch out for warning signs such as frequent ear tugging, persistent nasal discharge, declining school performance, and children constantly increasing television volume.

The event, marked globally under the guidance of the World Health



Ear, Nose and Throat specialist Dr. Geoffrey Otomu (middle), Dr. Sarah Mumbi Mutuku (left), an ENT surgeon Dr. Bruce Okari (right), an ENT surgeon addressing the press during the sensitization event held in Kisii County have called on parents and teachers to prioritize early hearing screening for children. | Photo: Elizabeth Angira

Organization, focused this year on the theme “From Classrooms to Communities: Hearing Care for All Children.”

Speaking during the sensitization event held at Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital, ENT specialist Dr. Geoffrey Otomu emphasized that this year’s theme, “From Classrooms to Communities: Hearing Care for All Children,” focuses on early detection and intervention

among school-going children.

Dr. Otomu noted that parents and teachers play a critical role in identifying children with possible hearing challenges.

“We are reaching out to parents and teachers who spend most of their time with these children. If a child is struggling academically, frequently asking others to repeat themselves, or showing signs of difficulty in hearing, they could be experiencing

hearing problems,” he said.

He urged parents to seek professional assessment from ENT experts to determine whether a child requires medical treatment, hearing aids, or sign language training.

“We have the facilities here in Kisii to assess, manage, and train. Today, we have also sensitized a team of health workers on what signs to look out for and how to refer such cases appropriately,” he added.

Dr. Sarah Mumbi Mutuku, an ENT surgeon at Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital, reiterated the importance of school-based screening.

“Many children in schools have hearing problems that go unnoticed. It is our responsibility to conduct screenings so that we can identify

them early and support them,” she said.

Dr. Mutuku explained that hearing loss could result from various causes, including congenital conditions, infections, trauma, accidents, and allergies.

She said that some children are born with hearing defects, while others acquire them as they grow.

Adding to the discussion, Dr. Bruce Okari, also an ENT surgeon in Kisii County, highlighted how untreated hearing loss can negatively affect a child’s social development, academic performance, and future career prospects.

He advised parents to be alert to warning signs such as persistent nasal discharge, frequent ear tugging, increasing the television volume excessively, declining academic performance, or children preferring to sit closer to the teacher in class.

“One of the most common causes of hearing loss in our community is otitis media with effusion a condition where fluid accumulates in the middle ear. If left untreated, it can progress and cause more serious complications. The good news is that it is manageable, both medically and surgically,” Dr. Okari explained.

He further called for the strengthening of newborn hearing screening programs, especially for babies admitted to the Newborn Unit (NBU), with plans to eventually expand screening to all newborns.

As health workers marked the day, they encouraged parents, teachers, and the wider community to prioritize early screening and timely intervention to ensure no child is left behind due to preventable hearing loss.

According to World Health Organization (WHO) around 90 million children aged 5-19 years, live with hearing loss.

It also states that Over 60% of childhood hearing loss is preventable through simple, cost-effective public health measures.



Health workers



Health workers

War The Israeli military ground advance across the border and operations in southern Lebanon

Israeli Troops Operating In Southern Lebanon As Fighting With Hezbollah Intensifies

Hezbollah condemned the attacks on the media outlet buildings as a "criminal Israeli aggression"

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes

Israel yesterday said its troops are "operating in southern Lebanon" as its strikes continued against Lebanon's Iran-aligned group Hezbollah, which earlier in the day launched a series of drone and rocket attacks on Israeli military sites.

The Israeli military ground advance across the border and operations in southern Lebanon, along with troop deployments at several points near the border, are part of an "enhanced forward defense posture" to beef up security for local residents in the border area, according to the Israeli military. Meanwhile, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said that he and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have authorized the military to "advance and secure additional strategic areas in Lebanon." Katz added that the move is intended to allow the military to take over new positions within Lebanese territory for what he described as defending border towns in Israel. An Israeli force consisting of a tank and three military bulldozers crossed at around 8:00 a.m. local time the Blue Line separating Lebanon and Israel, advancing approximately 1 kilometer into Lebanese territory, Lebanese security sources and eyewitnesses told Xinhua.

The sources added that "the force moved toward the town of Tal al-Nahas, located between the village of Adaisseh and the town of Burj al-Muluk in the eastern sector of the southern border region, before carrying



Israeli troops

out bulldozing operations in the area." They noted that "the Lebanese army is monitoring the movement of the Israeli force." Katz noted Tuesday that the Israeli military will continue to "operate forcefully" against Hezbollah targets in Lebanon, and warned the group will pay "a heavy price" for firing at Israel on Monday. Overnight between Sunday and Monday, the Iran-backed group fired missiles and drones toward Israel as the joint U.S.-Israel strikes on Iran went on. Hezbollah stated its strikes were in retaliation for the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Late Monday and into early Tuesday, Israel responded with strikes including those targeting the headquarters of Al-Manar TV channel and Al-Nour Radio, both affiliated with Hezbollah,

according to the group. Hezbollah condemned the attacks on the media outlet buildings as a "criminal Israeli aggression," and called

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The Israeli military ground advance across the border and operations in southern Lebanon, along with troop deployments at several points near the border, are part of an "enhanced forward defense posture" to beef up security for local residents in the border area, according to the Israeli military. Meanwhile, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said that he and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have authorized the military to "advance and secure additional strategic areas in Lebanon." Katz added

them part of a systematic Israeli campaign aimed at silencing the resistance's voice and affecting Lebanese morale in a psychological warfare. The Lebanese Health Ministry has reported that at least 52 people were killed in the Israeli attacks against Hezbollah. Earlier on Tuesday, starting from 5:00 a.m. local time, Hezbollah issued separate statements claiming new rounds of drone and rocket attacks targeting Israeli military sites. It said the strikes were in retaliation for what it called ongoing Israeli aggression against Lebanon, including airstrikes hitting dozens of Lebanese towns and villages and the capital Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiyeh, as well as against the group's affiliated media outlets. The statements said the group launched swarms of attack drones target-

ing radar sites and control rooms at Ramat David Airbase and Meron monitoring base in northern Israel, as well as a large rocket barrage hitting Nafah army base in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. While stressing its attacks were directed at military targets, the group condemned Israeli strikes on civilians and civilian facilities that have caused casualties and damage. In a separate statement released late Monday, the group noted that it had repeatedly warned that continued attacks would not go unanswered, and called for external efforts to stop the direct cause of the escalation - the continued Israeli attacks.

Trump Voices Disappointment As Britain Declines To Join Strikes On Iran

U.S. President Donald Trump said the Britain-U.S. relationship is "obviously not what it was," as Britain reaffirmed its decision not to join the U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran, British media reported yesterday.

Speaking to The Sun, Trump said British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has "not been helpful." "I never thought I'd see that. I never thought I'd see that from the UK," Trump said, adding: "It's very sad to see that the relationship is obviously not what it was." Trump said he is "very disappointed" in Starmer for blocking him from using the military base in Diego Garcia to carry out strikes on Iran. Britain's previous refusal to let U.S. forces use the base was unlike anything that had "happened between our countries before," Trump said. In Sunday's statement, Starmer accepted the U.S. request to use the base for "specific and limited defensive purposes." But Trump said Starmer "took far too long" to change his mind. Starmer on Monday told the British parliament that Britain is not joining the U.S. and Israeli "offensive strikes" on Iran. "President Trump has expressed his disagreement with our decision not to get involved in the initial strikes, but it is my duty to judge what is in Britain's national interest," he said.

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes



Donald Trump

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How The War Between Israel And Lebanon Can Be Stopped

The Middle East is once again on the brink. The war between Israel and Lebanon is not just another border clash—it is a humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in real time. Civilians are paying the highest price, while leaders trade fire and rhetoric. Yet this conflict, rooted in decades of mistrust, is not beyond resolution. Peace is possible if courage replaces calculation.

The first step is urgent: an immediate, unconditional ceasefire. Retaliation only deepens wounds and prolongs suffering. A monitored truce, ideally under United Nations supervision, would halt the spiral and open space for diplomacy. Dialogue must then follow. Direct or mediated talks can chip away at mistrust, with regional and global powers acting as neutral facilitators. Negotiations must aim for durable solutions, not temporary pauses.

Security concerns remain central. Israel cites threats from armed groups in southern Lebanon; Lebanon points to violations of sovereignty. Both fears are legitimate. Strengthening border monitoring and reinforcing international agreements can reduce tensions. Mean-



while, humanitarian protection must be prioritized. Safe access for aid agencies is non-negotiable—schools, hospitals, and homes must not remain battlegrounds.

This war is not isolated. Regional dynamics fuel its flames, making international cooperation essential. Peacekeeping coalitions and diplomatic pressure can prevent spill-over. Beyond ceasefires, long-term peacebuilding—through cultural exchange, economic cooperation,

and reconstruction—will rebuild trust and reduce hostility.

Stopping this war demands courage from leaders and patience from citizens. Military victories fade; peace endures. The world must act now—because a future defined by cooperation, not conflict, is the only victory worth claiming.

By Austine Kelly Owino, Laikipia University

Rise Of Smart Living: Technology Reshapes Work, Travel And Communication

A silent revolution is rewriting the rhythms of modern life. From the way we earn a living to how we move and connect, technology is no longer a backdrop—it is the stage. The rise of smart living, powered by artificial intelligence, automation, and digital connectivity, is transforming society with breathtaking speed.

Work has broken free from the office. Remote tools, cloud systems, and virtual meetings have turned homes and cafés into global workstations. Companies are embracing AI to streamline operations, while freelancers tap digital platforms to access worldwide markets. Smart offices equipped with sensors and intelligent assistants are redefining productivity.

Travel too has gone digital. Ride-hailing apps, real-time traffic updates, and navigation systems have made movement seamless. Electric vehicles are gaining ground, while airports and public transport integrate smart technology—digital tickets, automated check-ins, and live-tracked buses



ease congestion and improve customer experience.

Communication, however, is the most radical shift. Social media, instant messaging, and video calls have erased borders, keeping families and colleagues connected in real time. With 5G rolling out, smart devices—from home assistants to wearable health monitors—are embedding connectivity into daily routines.

Cities are now adopting smart infrastructure to manage energy, security, and waste. Yet with con-

venience comes risk: privacy and cybersecurity loom large. Governments and companies must build robust safeguards to protect citizens in this connected age.

Smart living is no longer science fiction—it is today's reality. The challenge is clear: harness technology to empower, not endanger. The future is knocking, and it is wired.

By Mutinda Erick, Laikipia University

Why Are Many Students Doing STEM In Senior Schools

Kenya's classrooms are undergoing a quiet revolution. In the new competency-based curriculum (CBC), more than half of Grade Ten learners have chosen the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) pathway. This decisive tilt toward science-oriented learning signals not just a change in preference, but a generational bet on the future.

The surge is driven by career ambition and market demand. Students are eyeing high-growth sectors—medicine, engineering, and information technology—where opportunities are expanding faster than in the arts. For many, STEM is not just a subject choice; it is a ticket to relevance in a competitive economy.

National vision also plays a role. Kenya's Vision 2030 seeks to build a "Silicon Savannah," a tech-driven economy powered by innovation and industrialization. The STEM pathway provides the workforce pipeline to realize that ambition, aligning education with national development goals.

Institutional realities further shape the trend. Many senior schools prioritize STEM, making it mandatory



or heavily resourced. By contrast, arts programs often struggle with inadequate equipment and limited institutional support, nudging students toward science by default.

This shift carries both promise and peril. While STEM equips learners with skills for tomorrow's economy, the arts risk marginalization, yet they remain vital for creativity, culture, and critical thinking. A balanced system must ensure that while science drives progress, the arts continue to enrich society.

Kenya's students are voting with

their choices—and their ballots are cast for STEM. The challenge now is to harness this momentum without silencing the voices of creativity. Progress must be powered by both logic and imagination.

By Clinton Wambua, Laikipia University

The War Between Iran And Israel: A Bold Strike

The Middle East has been jolted by a dramatic escalation. On February 28, 2026, Israel and the United States launched a coordinated assault on Iran, striking military and nuclear facilities in an operation that stunned the region. Israel dubbed it "Operation Roaring Lion," while Washington called it "Operation Epic Fury." The strikes killed senior Iranian leaders, including Defense Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh and IRGC commander Mohammad Pakpour. Most shocking was the death of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, confirmed by Iranian state media, which declared 40 days of national mourning.

Iran's retaliation was swift. Missile and drone attacks targeted Israel and U.S. bases, while Hezbollah joined the fight, firing rockets into northern Israel. The violence has triggered panic across the Gulf, with residents stockpiling supplies and militaries bracing for wider confrontation. Regional stability now hangs by a thread.

International voices are urging restraint, but Washington and Tel



Aviv warn of severe consequences should Iran escalate further. The stakes are immense: unchecked conflict could ignite a regional war with global repercussions. Diplomacy, though fragile, remains the only path to de-escalation.

This bold strike has altered the balance of power in the Middle East. Whether it ushers in deterrence or disaster depends on the choices made in the coming days.

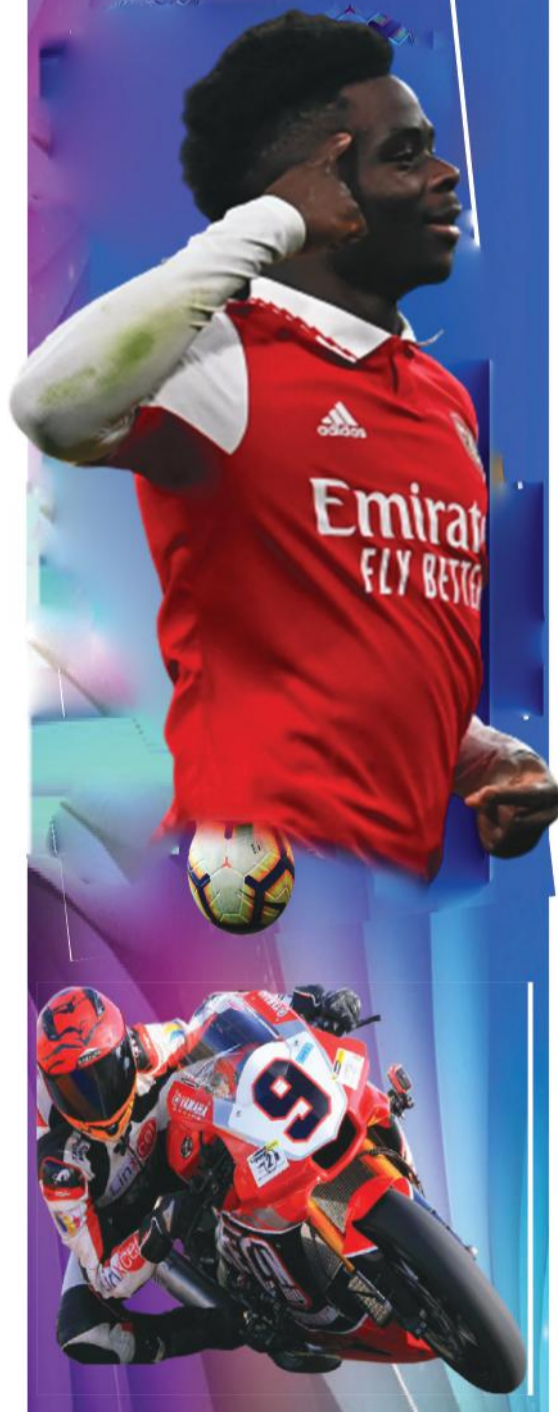
The world watches anxiously, knowing that in this volatile theater, one misstep could set the region ablaze.

The lesson is stark: wars may begin with bold strikes, but peace only endures through bold diplomacy.

By Jahenda Catherine, Laikipia University

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Harambee Starlets Mwanalima "Dogo" Adam has called for a sharp focus on rectification following Kenya's 2-0 defeat to Benin in their first international friendly on Monday.

We Have Known Our Mistakes": Mwanalima 'Dogo' Adam Reflects On Benin Loss



Harambee Starlets striker Mwanahalima Adam. PHOTO/Telecomasia.net

Harambee Starlets Mwanalima "Dogo" Adam has called for a sharp focus on rectification following Kenya's 2-0 defeat to Benin in their first international friendly on Monday.

The match, held at the Alassane Ouattara Olympic Stadium, served as a reality check for Beldine Odemba's side as they fine-tune their preparations for the 2026 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON).

Despite naming a strong lineup, the Starlets were carved open early by a 10th-minute strike from Nailatou Sadikou and a second-half goal from Yolande

Gnammi.

For Dogo, the loss is not a setback but a necessary diagnostic tool. In her post-match reflections, Mwanalima emphasized that these build-up matches are specifically designed to expose vulnerabilities before the tournament kicks off in Morocco on March 17.

"It's our first build-up match as we prepare to go to WAFCON. So we have seen our mistakes, and in the next game with the Ivory Coast, we will rectify them and have better results," Dogo noted.

The Starlets are currently inte-

grating a blend of experienced veterans and rising Starlets graduates. While the defeat highlighted work still to be done in defensive organization and clinical finishing, Mwanalima remains optimistic about the team's trajectory.

"The benefits of those friendlies are to be prepared and ready, so we see what needs to be done before the WAFCON. Benin was not an easy team, but we shift focus to the next game, and after that, we will be able to gauge ourselves," she added.

The team remains in Abidjan for their second high-pro-

file friendly against the hosts, the Ivory Coast, on Wednesday, March 4, at the Alassane Ouattara Olympic Stadium in Ebimpé.

Following the West African leg of their tour, the squad will fly to Miramas, France, for an intensive 10-day residential training camp. This final phase will focus on tactical refinement and recovery before they head to Rabat to face hosts Morocco in their WAFCON opener.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *For the third consecutive year, Faith Kipyegon has been shortlisted for the most prestigious individual honor in sports: the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year.

Track Queen Faith Kipyegon Headlines Laureus 2026 Nominees

For the third consecutive year, Faith Kipyegon has been short-listed for the most prestigious individual honor in sports: the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year.

The nominations, announced Tuesday in Madrid, place Kipyegon alongside an elite circle of global icons.

While the Kenyan legend has dominated the track for nearly a decade, her 2025 season was a masterclass in longevity and record-breaking brilliance, making her the sentimental favorite for the "Athletes' Award".

Kipyegon's nomination follows a year where she redefined the limits of middle-distance running once again.

In the Tokyo World Championships, she secured a historic fourth World Championship gold medal in the 1500m.

On July 5, 2025, she shattered her own 1500m world record in Eugene, clocking a blistering 3:48.68.

She set a new African Record in the 3000m with a time of 8:07.04, the second-fastest in history.

In addition to her 1500m gold, she secured a silver medal in the 5000m at the Tokyo World Championships.

Kipyegon faces formidable competition from athletes who have similarly redefined their respective sports over the past twelve months:

Aitana Bonmatí, the midfield maestro from Barcelona and Spain, continues her unprecedented era of dominance. Having already won the 2024 Laureus Award, Bonmatí is back following a historic 2025 where she secured her third consecutive Ballon d'Or Féminin.

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, known for making the impossible look effortless, at the 2025 World Athletics Championships, she shattered the championship record in the 400m flat, proving



Faith Kipyegon celebrating after winning world silver in 5000m Tokyo. Photo/WORLD ATHLETICS.

her versatility as the world's premier long-sprint athlete. Her year was capped off with a signature gold in the 4x400m relay, further solidifying her "Track Athlete of the Year" pedigree.

Katie Ledecky, a USA swimmer, in 2025 reached a milestone that most athletes only dream of, taking her World Aquatics Championships medal count to a staggering 30. By securing her seventh consecutive world title in the 800m freestyle, she became the first swimmer, male or female, to achieve such a feat in a single event, proving that her dominance over distance swimming remains absolute.

Aryna Sabalenka, the world's No. 1 female tennis player, successfully defended her US Open title and reached three out of four

Grand Slam finals during the calendar year. Her ability to maintain the World No. 1 ranking against an incredibly deep field of competitors has made her the leading face of women's tennis, characterized by her mental fortitude and fearless spirit.

Rounding out the shortlist is the breakout sprint sensation of 2025, Jefferson-Wooden. She achieved a feat rarely seen in the modern era, becoming only the second woman in history to win the "Triple Crown" at a single World Championships. By sweeping gold in the 100m, 200m, and the 4x100m relay, she officially inherited the mantle of the world's fastest woman, bringing a new era of excitement to the short sprints.

For Kipyegon, this nomination

is a testament to a career built on humility and grace.

Having already achieved the unprecedented triple-crown of three consecutive Olympic 1500m titles, she continues to prove that her greatest competitor is often herself.

The winners will be revealed by the legends of the Laureus World Sports Academy at a gala ceremony on April 20, 2026, at the Palacio de Cibeles in Madrid.

Should she win, Kipyegon would become only the second Kenyan to ever receive the award, following Vivian Cheruiyot in 2012.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Colors, Competition And Creativity: Three Interactive Methods For An Engaging And Effective Lesson

By: Abdullaeva Rano Norboevna
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The “Colored Napkins” method is organized through small groups. Each group receives a different colored sheet of paper (or napkin). The teacher reads questions aloud, and groups quickly write their answers on their assigned colored paper. The responses are then displayed on the board and analyzed collectively.
- The “Matchsticks” method is used to assess how well students have mastered a topic. Each matchstick represents one concept or key term. Students pick one or more matchsticks and must explain the corresponding number of concepts.
- Gamification involves integrating game elements such as points, levels, rewards, and rankings into the learning process. This approach aligns well with the interests and psychological needs of modern students.

This article analyzes three interactive teaching methods — “Colored Napkins”, “Matchsticks”, and Gamification — that enhance lesson effectiveness and increase students’ engagement. These approaches foster quick thinking, independent learning, collaboration, and intrinsic motivation. Their practical application demonstrates that interactive strategies significantly improve learning outcomes and classroom dynamics.

Keywords: interactive methods, student engagement, gamification, collaborative learning, active learning

Introduction

In the modern educational environment, effective teaching goes beyond delivering information. Teachers are expected to create engaging learning experiences that encourage students to think critically, participate actively, and collaborate with peers. Interactive methods play a crucial role in transforming students from passive listeners into active participants. This paper explores three highly effective strategies that make lessons more dynamic and student-centered.

1. The “Colored Napkins” Method: Speed, Teamwork, and Healthy Competition

The “Colored Napkins” method is organized through small groups. Each group receives a different colored sheet of paper (or napkin). The teacher reads questions aloud, and groups quickly write their answers on their assigned colored paper. The responses are then displayed on the board and analyzed collectively.

Pedagogical Benefits:

- Develops quick thinking skills
- Encourages teamwork and shared responsibility
- Creates a visually stimulating learning environment
- Promotes healthy competition
- Groups are evaluated based on the number of correct answers. The use of colors makes the process visually engaging and helps maintain students’ attention throughout the lesson.

2. The “Matchsticks” Method: Encouraging Independent Thinking

The “Matchsticks” method is used to assess how well students have mastered a topic. Each matchstick represents one concept or key term. Students pick one or more matchsticks and must explain the corresponding number of concepts.

Educational Value:

- Strengthens independent thinking
- Enhances self-assessment skills
- Improves speaking and explanation abilities
- Makes revision activities more interactive
- A timed variation of this method (similar to a “blitz tournament”) adds excitement and increases focus, especially during review sessions.

3. Gamification: Learning Through Play

Gamification involves integrating game elements such as points, levels, rewards, and rankings into the learning process. This approach aligns well with the interests and psychological needs of modern students.

Advantages:

- Makes challenging topics more engaging
- Increases motivation and participation
- Creates a positive emotional atmosphere
- Improves overall academic performance
- For example, implementing a point-based system or small rewards during class activities can significantly boost student involvement. As a result, learning becomes an enjoyable and meaningful experience rather than an obligation.

Conclusion

The “Colored Napkins,” “Matchsticks,” and Gamification methods contribute to a more interactive, motivating, and effective learning environment. These strategies enhance students’ cognitive engagement, encourage collaboration, and support deeper understanding of subject content.



An effective modern teacher is not only a knowledge provider but also a facilitator who creates an atmosphere of creativity, cooperation, and positive competition. When interactive methods are implemented thoughtfully, they lead to higher educational quality and improved learning outcomes.

Author: Abdullaeva Rano Norboevna was born on February 15, 1961, in the Khavast district of the Syrdarya region. She graduated from School No. 85 in her district with a gold medal and was admitted to the Faculty of General Medicine at the Tashkent Medical Institute. In 1986, she successfully completed her studies and began working as a resuscitator-anesthesiologist at the city central hospital, where she served for five years.

Since 1991, she has been teaching specialized and general professional subjects at the Abu Ali ibn Sino Public Health Technical School in Yangiyer (formerly known as a medical college).

Several of her учебные пособия (teaching manuals) have been widely used in medical colleges. She won first place in the “Best Specialized Subject Teacher of the Year” competition. In 2024, she was awarded the honorary title of “Excellence in Professional Education.”

A number of her articles have been published in international online journals.

Abdullaeva R.N.’s professional goal is to train highly competent and well-rounded nurses and to provide close mentorship and support to young educators.

