



**Mau Mau Veterans Caucus Announces Annual General Meeting To Elect Leadership And Discuss Compensation**  
A Caucus of former freedom fighters and their descendants is set to hold a crucial meeting later this month.

Page 12



**Farmers Invited To Kilimo Biashara Expo 2026 In Thika**

Farmers from across the country have been invited to attend the Kilimo Biashara Expo 2026, which will take place on Thursday and Friday next week at the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) Seeds centre in Thika.

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)

Friday, March 6, 2026

No. 01499 KSh 60 (TSh 1,700 : USh 2,700 : RFr 900)

[f](#) [@](#) [t](#) themtkenyentimes

Voice of the People

# The Mt. Kenya Times

Daily ePAPER

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

**Constitutional amendments** "These provisions remain the biggest obstacle to enforcing integrity standards," Mohamud said.

## EACC To Bar Impeached Leaders From 2027 Race



### EACC

"This is not about denying justice," Mohamud explained. "It is about protecting the public interest and ensuring that only men and women who meet the integrity threshold are entrusted with leadership."



Former Kiambu Governor Ferdinand Waititu and former Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko  
Photo | Courtesy



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua  
Photo | Courtesy

Appearing before the National Assembly's Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee, EACC Chief Executive Officer Abdi Mohamud laid bare the commission's frustrations with Articles 99 and 193 of the Constitution, as well as Section 24(3) of the Elections Act, which currently allow individuals convicted of corruption or abuse of office to remain eligible for election until all appeals are exhausted.

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"

# Kindiki Highlights Government Progress In Key Sectors During Cabinet Committees Review

BY WMW  
@themtkenyatimes

*Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures*

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki underscored the critical role of Cabinet Committees in shaping and guiding the government's policy, legislative, and programmatic priorities. Speaking yesterday after convening a joint meeting of the Committees, Kindiki emphasized that these bodies serve as the backbone of government decision-making, assessing initiatives before they are transmitted for consideration by the Full Cabinet.

During the session, the Committees reviewed the performance of government programs and the progress achieved in implementing policy and legislative agendas. Deliberations highlighted steady gains in stabilizing the economy, strengthening the agricultural sector, and accelerating flagship projects aimed at improving the livelihoods of Kenyans. Key areas of focus included initiatives to expand access to affordable healthcare, modern housing, reliable energy, quality education, and employment opportunities.

The Deputy President noted that the government is committed to ensuring that these programs are effectively rolled out, with tangible benefits reaching citizens across urban and rural areas.

Kindiki affirmed that continuous monitoring and evaluation through Cabinet Committees remain essential to sustaining progress, enhancing policy implementation, and ensuring accountability in delivering on the government's development objectives for the people of Kenya.

This meeting signals the administration's determination to maintain momentum in achieving its national development goals.



**Editor's Desk**




**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



From left, Baringo Senator Vincent Chemutai, Murang'a County Woman Representative Betty Maina, and Mbeere North MP Leo Wamuthende during an economic empowerment forum at Ichagaki Ward, Maragua Constituency. The leaders urged communities to embrace and economically empower persons with disabilities (PWDs), enabling them to live dignified and independent lives through active participation in social and economic development.



The Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTE) has been praised for enhancing STEM learning through an outreach programme in Mt Elgon Sub-County, Bungoma County. The initiative targets both teachers and learners to strengthen performance in science subjects and inspire interest in STEM careers. At Kapsokwony DEB Primary and Junior Secondary School, about 125 Grade Nine students gained hands-on experience using laboratory equipment in biology, chemistry, physics, technology and mathematics. CEMASTE Coordinator Joseph Kuria said the programme brings science equipment and experimental materials to schools unable to visit the Nairobi centre, making

lessons more practical and engaging while also supporting teachers' professional development and improving classroom instruction.



Residents of Kamuguga Informal Settlement in Kiambu have elected members to the Settlement Executive Committee (SEC) and the Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) after the area was included in the Second Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISIP II). The committees will mobilise residents, coordinate community participation in tenure regularisation, and address complaints to promote fairness and transparency during implementation. KISIP II,

funded by the World Bank and implemented by the State Department for Housing and Urban Development, seeks to improve land tenure security, infrastructure and access to basic services in informal settlements. Through the programme, eligible residents in Kamuguga will have an opportunity to obtain legal land ownership documents and improve housing and livelihoods.



A section of Vice-Chancellors from universities across Kenya follow proceedings on the opening day of the Public Universities Vice-Chancellors' Summit at PrideInn Paradise Hotel, Mombasa. Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Migos Ogamba urged public universities to prepare for the influx of undergraduate students under the Competency-Based Education (CBE) system in 2029, stressing the need to align curricula with practical skills, labour market needs, and national priorities.

Principal Secretary for Environment and Climate Change Dr. Eng. Festus Ng'eno has reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in advancing environmental conservation and climate action. Speaking in Nairobi, he said UNDP supports Kenya through funding, technical expertise and capacity building in initiatives such as the National Climate Change Action Plan, carbon market development, forestry reforms and efforts to address rising water levels in Rift Valley lakes. Key priorities include operationalising the Designated National Authority for carbon markets, implementing the 15 billion Tree Growing Initiative, promoting the circular economy, establishing Material Recovery Facilities, rehabilitating the Nairobi River and removing asbestos roofing from public institutions. Ng'eno also announced Kenya will host Desertification and Drought Day and the UN Ocean Conference 2026 in June.



Trans Nzoia Senator Allan Chesang has praised the Affordable Housing Project at Maili Tatu in Saboti Sub-County, saying it will provide affordable homes while creating employment. After inspecting the site, he said the project is progressing well and expected to be completed within schedule. Chesang noted the initiative has already created jobs for skilled and unskilled workers, including engineers, architects, electricians and casual labourers, while boosting the local economy. The project will deliver 1,035 housing units at a cost of Sh2.8 billion. County Director of Housing Moses Oduor said construction is 45.7 per cent complete despite early delays caused by heavy rains, and work remains on track.





**INSIDE TAX** 

**Income and Expenses Validation Notice** 

**KENYA REVENUE AUTHORITY**  
*Tulipa Uchuru, Tujitigame!*

**30 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP**

**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)



**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>

**Diplomacy** President Ruto assured the envoys of his government's support as they begin their diplomatic assignments in Kenya.

# Ruto Receives Credentials From New Ambassadors Of Jordan, Saudi Arabia And Mozambique, Pledges Support For Their Mission

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

President William Ruto yesterday received credentials from three newly assigned ambassadors to Kenya during a ceremony held at State House, Nairobi.

The diplomats are Rulan Mahmoud Samara of Jordan, Jacinto Januario Maguni of Mozambique and Saad Bin Abdullah AlNofaia of Saudi Arabia.

President Ruto assured the envoys of his government's support as they begin their diplomatic assignments in Kenya.

Ambassador Samara is a distinguished diplomat who has served in several roles, including Director of the Economic Affairs and International Cooperation Directorate. She has previously held diplomatic postings in London, Rome and Bahrain.

She pledged to work towards strengthening bilateral relations between Kenya and Jordan.

"I intend to focus on expanding trade flows and strengthening cooperation in key sectors, including agriculture, healthcare, information technology, tourism and direct investment," she said.

Ambassador AlNofaia has served as a minister and ambassador in Senegal, Dean of the Arab diplomatic corps, and deputy ambassador to France. He has also been a



President William Ruto with the new envoys.

non-resident ambassador to Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde.

He expressed his commitment to enhancing cooperation between Kenya and Saudi Arabia in five key areas: political, economic, development, defence and investment.

He said he will do everything in his power to ensure the two countries' bilateral cooperation continues to grow.

**"I intend to focus on expanding trade flows and strengthening cooperation in key sectors, including agriculture, healthcare, information technology, tourism and direct investment," Ambassador Samara said.**

”

tion continues to grow.

High Commissioner Maguni, a long-serving Mozambican diplomat, also pledged to work closely with the Kenyan Government to unlock the full potential of the bilateral partnership between Kenya and Mozambique for the mutual benefit of citizens of both nations.

## Enos Njeru Returns As KTDA Chairman, Pledges "Farmer First" Focus



From left: Enos Njeru, James Omweno, Chege Kirundi and Samson Menjo at KTDA headquarters yesterday.

BY WMW

@themkenyatimes

Enos Njeru, the newly elected Chairman of KTDA Holdings Limited, has pledged to prioritise farmers' interests, focusing on revenue growth, stability, sustainability, and the full implementation of the "Farmer First" mantra.

Njeru, who was elected on Tuesday alongside Vice Chairman Engineer Samson Mosonik Menjo, takes over from Chege Kirundi and James Omweno, whose terms ended as part of the organisation's routine governance transition.

In his first public statement, Njeru thanked his predecessors for their dedication and service, praising them for a smooth handover and for committing continued support to the new leadership.

"We remain committed to building on the strong foundation you have laid," he said in a post on his Social Media

platform last evening.

He also expressed gratitude to KTDA's farmers and Board Members for entrusting the new leadership with the organisation, promising to ensure smallholder tea farmers receive the rewards they deserve.

KTDA plays a central role in Kenya's tea sector, managing production, processing, marketing, and distribution for millions of farmers.

The leadership change aims to strengthen oversight, enhance operational efficiency, and safeguard farmers' value.

Njeru's return is seen as a move to bring experienced leadership at a time when the agency is focused on deepening market competitiveness and reinforcing good governance.

"Thank you all for your continued support. We pray that God gives us wisdom, strength, and stability to faithfully execute our duties," Njeru concluded.

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

# The Africa Largest eCOMMERCE



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

**NOW  
OPEN**

Call/Text/WhatsApp: +254 714 090 155

## EXPORT

## Kenya Poised To Export Sheep To Algeria Ahead Of Eid



CS Mutahi Kagwe with Algerian Ambassador Farid Ouahid Dahmane after the talks. | Photo: Courtesy.

BY MKT Correspondent  
@themkenyatimes

16,000 metric tonnes of urea fertilizer Algeria donated in 2024.

The discussions further included collaboration in livestock health through animal vaccines produced by the Kenya Veterinary Vaccines Production Institute (KEV-EVAPI), as well as potential exports of Kenyan dairy products, tea, avocado, macada-

### 16,000 Metric tonnes Urea fertilizer Algeria donated in 2024

mia, and mango products.

Both governments say the engagement represents a shift toward practical, mutually beneficial trade partnerships that could strengthen Kenya's livestock export sector while providing consistent markets for farmers across the country.

This deal signals a major boost for Kenya's agricultural trade and underscores the growing potential of the country's livestock and agribusiness sector in regional and international markets.

Kenya is preparing to export hundreds of thousands of live sheep to Algeria ahead of the upcoming Eid al-Adha festival, following talks between the two governments aimed at boosting livestock trade.

Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mutahi Kagwe met with Algerian Ambassador Farid Ouahid Dahmane to fast-track livestock exports and deepen agricultural cooperation.

The discussions follow a recent visit by an Algerian technical delegation that assessed Kenya's sheep production systems and supply capacity.

Algeria's government-backed livestock import programme could require up to one million sheep, particularly to meet Eid demand, offering Kenyan farmers a potentially lucrative annual market.

Officials say the initiative could develop into a multi-billion-shilling export market, creating stable opportunities for local farmers and traders. Beyond sheep, the talks also explored wider agricultural cooperation under the African Continental Free Trade Area framework.

Kenya expressed interest in importing fertilizer from Algeria to bolster local crop production, building on the



Leaders pay tribute to MP Johana Ng'eno during a funeral service | Photo: Courtesy

## Leaders Pay Tribute To MP Johana Ng'eno And Four Others In Emotional Farewell

BY MKT REPORTER  
@themkenyatimes

Grief and disbelief gripped Emurua Dikirr yesterday as thousands of mourners gathered to receive the bodies of five men, including local Member of Parliament Johana Ng'eno, who died in a plane crash last Saturday. The usually lively grounds of Emurua Dikirr Primary School were transformed into a solemn sea of tears, silence, and tributes as residents, leaders, and families confronted the devastating loss.

Helicopters descended at the Emurua Dikirr Technical Institute early in the morning, each carrying a coffin draped in national colors. As the aircraft touched down one by one, cries of anguish pierced the air. Some mourners fainted, others sank to their knees, overwhelmed by the sight of the coffins of Ng'eno, Robert Keter alias Carlos, Wycliffe Rono, Nicholas Kosgei, and

Amos Kipngetich.

Local residents hailed the fallen leaders as "heroes of the community." One elder, speaking through tears, said: "Ng'eno was a humble man who never forgot his people. His death is not just a family loss, it is a community tragedy."

Political leaders from across the spectrum joined the mourners, offering tributes that underscored the men's legacy of service and unity. Senate Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot remarked: "These men gave their lives to the service of their people. Their dedication will remain a guiding light for generations." Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga added: "We stand with the families in this dark hour. Kenya has lost true patriots."

Government officials pledged continued support for the bereaved families. Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki assured mourners: "The government will walk with these

families. Their sacrifice will not be forgotten."

The tragedy has left Emurua Dikirr shattered, but it has also united Kenyans in mourning and reflection. Residents described the five men as selfless servants whose courage and commitment shaped the community. For several minutes, the field echoed with cries of pain and heartbreak, a raw testament to the depth of the loss.

The victims will be laid to rest at their respective homes on Friday, but the grief in Emurua Dikirr will linger far longer. As one mourner poignantly observed: "Behind every coffin lies a story of service, sacrifice, and love for the people."

When the final prayers are said and the coffins lowered, one truth will remain—these men may have fallen from the skies, but their legacy will forever stand tall on the ground they served.

**Politics** The EACC is also seeking amendments to the Leadership and Integrity Act to clarify its role in vetting candidates.

# EACC Moves To Clip The Wings Of Impeached Leaders Ahead Of 2027 Ballot

Appearing before the National Assembly's Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee, EACC Chief Executive Officer Abdi Mohamud laid bare the commission's frustrations with Articles 99 and 193 of the Constitution, as well as Section 24(3) of the Elections Act, which currently allow individuals convicted of corruption or abuse of office to remain eligible for election until all appeals are exhausted.

**BY MKT REPORTER**  
@themkenyaintimes

Kenya's Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) has intensified its push for constitutional amendments that could bar impeached and convicted leaders from contesting the 2027 General Election, a move seen by many as an attempt to tame the influence of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and other government critics whose political futures remain clouded by integrity questions.

Appearing before the National Assembly's Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee, EACC Chief Executive Officer Abdi Mohamud laid bare the commission's frustrations with Articles 99 and 193 of the Constitution, as well as Section 24(3) of the Elections Act, which currently allow individuals convicted of corruption or abuse of office to remain eligible for election until all



EACC Chief Executive Officer Abdi Mohamud appearing before the National Assembly

appeals are exhausted.

"These constitutional provisions are the biggest hindrance to enforcing ethical, moral and integrity requirements for candidates," Mohamud told lawmakers. He argued that the appeals process has become a convenient shield for leaders facing serious charges, enabling them to contest elections or even hold office while their cases drag on for years.

The commission's recommendations would mean that once a court has made a determination, the burden shifts to the convicted individual to overturn the decision on appeal before they can seek or hold office. In effect, leaders impeached or convicted of corruption would remain disqualified unless and until their convictions are quashed.

The implications of such reforms are far-reaching. Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, who was impeached, could find himself barred from the ballot if the amendments are enacted and his legal troubles remain unresolved. Similarly,



**The implications of such reforms are far-reaching. Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, who was impeached, could find himself barred from the ballot if the amendments are enacted and his legal troubles remain unresolved. Similarly, former Kiambu Governor Ferdinand Waititu, impeached in 2020 over corruption allegations, would be automatically locked out of any comeback bid. Former Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko, whose impeachment was upheld by the courts, would also be excluded from the race unless he successfully overturns his conviction.**

former Kiambu Governor Ferdinand Waititu, impeached in 2020 over corruption allegations, would be automatically locked out of any comeback bid. Former Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko, whose impeachment was upheld by the courts, would also be excluded from the race unless he successfully overturns his conviction.

"This is not about denying justice," Mohamud explained. "It is about protecting the public interest and ensuring that only men and women who meet the integrity threshold are entrusted with leadership."

The EACC is also seeking amendments to the Leadership and Integrity Act to clarify its role in vetting candidates. Currently, the law leaves ambiguity over how the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) should handle candidates' self-declaration forms and how the EACC should enforce compliance. To close this gap, the commission has recommended statutory timelines for integrity verification,

formal frameworks for information sharing among government agencies, and strengthened coordination between the EACC and IEBC during candidate clearance.

"It is important for all stakeholders who play various roles in ensuring integrity of candidates in the general election to collaborate and coordinate their strategies for synergy," Mohamud urged. "This will be vital to electoral preparedness as we move towards the 2027 General Election."

Analysts say the reforms, if passed, could dramatically reshape Kenya's political landscape. By raising the bar for leadership, they would deter unethical behaviour and restore public trust in elections. Yet they also warn that implementation will require political will, judicial efficiency, and safeguards against misuse.

Prof. Patrick Lumumba, a constitutional lawyer, observed: "Chapter Six was meant to be the soul of our Constitution, but it has been reduced to a dead letter. If Parliament embraces these reforms, Kenya will take a decisive step towards reclaiming integrity in public service."

As the 2027 election approaches, the EACC's proposals set the stage for a national conversation on integrity, accountability, and the future of Kenya's democracy. Whether Parliament acts on these recommendations will determine if the country can finally close the loopholes that have allowed tainted leaders to thrive.

For now, the commission insists that the reforms are not optional but essential. "We must safeguard the credibility of our elections," Mohamud concluded. "The people of Kenya deserve leaders who embody integrity, not those who exploit legal technicalities to cling to power."

Kenya's fight against corruption has long been a battle of words and promises; the EACC's bold call for reform now demands action. The question is whether lawmakers will rise to the occasion—or allow history to repeat itself.

**Revenue Leakages** The concerns emerged as lawmakers reviewed the government’s fiscal framework ahead of the 2026/27 national budget

# Auditor-General Flags Revenue Leakages, Weak Tax Compliance In Budget Review

**BY Suleiman Mbatiah**  
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya is losing billions of shillings through tax leakages, weak compliance and enforcement gaps, the Auditor-General has warned in a review of the government’s 2026/27 Budget Policy Statement.

The findings highlight persistent weaknesses in revenue collection even as the government seeks to expand its tax base to finance rising public spending and manage growing debt obligations.

According to the Auditor-General’s submission to Parliament’s Budget and Appropriations Committee, several compliance gaps continue to undermine the country’s

revenue performance despite ongoing reforms at the tax authority.

“These include loss of excise stamps, tax compliance certificates issued to taxpayers with arrears, abuse of tax amnesty provisions, and failure to onboard some Affordable Housing Levy payers,” the report states.

The concerns emerged as lawmakers reviewed the government’s fiscal framework ahead of the 2026/27 national budget, which is expected to rely heavily on improved tax collection.

Parliamentary analysts warned that repeated revenue shortfalls could force the government to increase borrowing, placing additional pressure on the country’s already high debt servicing costs.

Actual ordinary revenue, the committee noted, has repeatedly fallen short of targets in recent financial years, raising questions about the credibility of revenue projections used in budget planning.

The Auditor-General also cautioned that persistent implementation challenges across government projects were undermining value for public spending.

Delays in the release of funds, weak absorption of development budgets and stalled projects have contributed to the accumulation of pending bills and slowed delivery of key public programmes.

In some cases, funds allocated to projects that fail to progress beyond early stages end up becoming sunk costs with little benefit to citizens.



**Auditor-General Nancy Gathangu**

Lawmakers said the government must strengthen revenue administration and close loopholes in the tax system to reduce leakages and improve fiscal stability.

They urged the National Treasury and the Kenya Revenue

Authority to tighten compliance mechanisms while enhancing transparency in tax administration.

The committee further called for stronger oversight of government spending and improved project management

to ensure public funds deliver measurable economic returns.

The recommendations will guide parliamentary debate as MPs prepare to approve expenditure ceilings and fiscal targets for the 2026/27 financial year.




## Where Moments Become Memories

Use Promo Code **TOURISM26**

Sales valid until 15th March 2026  
Travel valid until 30th June 2026



Book on: [www.kenya-airways.com](http://www.kenya-airways.com),  
or via KQ Mobile App

www.kenya-airways.com


@KenyaAirways

KQ mobile



**Politics** “We are not pushovers, we are focused and we are serving the people,” Kindiki noted.

# Kindiki To Opposition: Prepare For Tough Contest; We Are Not Pushovers

**“Every leader is known by the work they do for wananchi. When the time comes, I will show the roads, water, markets, electricity we have done. And our opponents must be ready to do the same because they were in power before,” DP stated.**

**BY MKT REPORTER**  
@themkenyatimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has asked the opposition to get ready for a tough political contest centred on who has delivered life-changing projects and programmes for the people during their time in office.

The DP said those opposed to the government have occupied powerful positions before and should be ready to tell Kenyans what they did for them during their tenure in power.

“Every leader is known by the work they do for wananchi. When the time comes, I will show the roads, water, markets, electricity we have done. And our opponents must be ready to do the same because they were in power before,” DP stated.

Prof. Kindiki promised to show what he has achieved as the Second in Command when the time comes, saying he is not a pushover as some of those opposed to him have claimed.

“We are not pushovers, we are focused and we are serv-

ing the people,” he noted.

Speaking yesterday when he inspected ongoing development projects in Tigania West, Meru County, Prof. Kindiki said the Ruto administration has allocated billions of shillings for several projects ongoing in Meru County. He checked the progress of Kianjai Modern Market which is set for completion in two months and also inspected Kianjai township roads being constructed by the government.

The government is constructing roads costing KSh39.5 billion in the County including revival of many that stalled in the previous regimes. Meru town alone has been allocated KSh3.7 billion for revamping of roads within the town.

“Every constituency in Meru County will get a fair share of the road budget for Meru County. We have paid pending bills for all contractors

**“Speaking yesterday when he inspected ongoing development projects in Tigania West, Meru County, Prof. Kindiki said the Ruto administration has allocated billions of shillings for several projects ongoing in Meru County. He checked the progress of Kianjai Modern Market which is set for completion in two months and also inspected Kianjai township roads being constructed by the government.**

and most of them are back on site, others are on the way,” DP said.

Modern markets in Kianjai, Maua, Laare, Mutuati, Mikinduri among others are nearing completion. They cost between KSh300 million and KSh350 million.

Twelve ESP markets are also under construction in Timau, Kiirua, Gikumene, Gatimbi, Mujwa, Mwichuine, Igoji, Kamachege, Mulika, Nchiru, Kangeta and Athiru Gaiti at a cost of between KSh55 million and KSh70 million.

The administration has disbursed KSh2.3 billion for extension of electricity connection to an additional 27,000 households and a power sub-station is being set up in



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki with some of Meru leaders yesterday.

Nyambene at KSh300 million.

The DP also urged opposition leaders who visit Meru to avoid insulting local leaders who do not subscribe to their political agenda.

“You cannot succeed as a leader if the only thing you do is insult leaders, incite people against others, sponsor violence or feed people with empty talk without providing

solutions to their challenges,” DP said.

He said as a Njuri Ncheke elder he will respect all the leaders and will never return insults but will forgive those who do so.

“I have no problem with all the Meru leaders. I have forgiven those insulting me. As a Njuri Ncheke elder, I know our community must remain united now and after elec-

tions. As an elder, I cannot insult a fellow elder. It is not in our culture to disrespect fellow elders,” he declared.

He was joined by Meru Deputy Governor Linda Kiome, MPs John Mutunga (Tigania West), Dan Kiili (Igembe Central), Mpuru Aburi (Tigania East), host of MCAs among others.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki interacting with Meru residents. | Photo: DPCS

**Mau Mau** A Caucus of former freedom fighters and their descendants is set to hold a crucial meeting later this month

# Mau Mau Veterans Caucus Announces Annual General Meeting To Elect Leadership And Discuss Compensation

The Board of MMV Associates CLG has issued a public notice for its upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM), scheduled to take place on March 27, 2026, at the Kakamega Golf Club.

BY MKT REPORTER  
@themkenyentimes

A Caucus of former freedom fighters and their descendants is set to hold a crucial meeting later this month.

The Board of MMV Associates CLG has issued a public notice for its upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM), scheduled to take place on March 27, 2026, at the Kakamega Golf Club.

The meeting, set to bring together members from across the country, will focus on key

agenda items including elections for ward, sub-county, and county leadership positions, as well as discussions on compensation matters for its stakeholders.

MMV Associates CLG, a community-focused organization, works in close partnership with groups such as the Mau Mau War Veterans Associates, the Mau Mau Indigenous Knowledge initiative, and the Jeremiah Mugi Foundation. The organization has a longstanding commitment to preserving the legacy



James Njuguna Mahuria, Director of MMV Associates CLG addressing members during a past function

of Kenya's freedom fighters, advocating for the welfare of veterans, and promoting indigenous knowledge and cultural heritage among younger generations.

The AGM is expected to attract a diverse group of participants, including descendants of the Mau Mau fighters, community leaders, and representatives of local civil society organizations. Through these meetings, MMV Associates CLG seeks to strengthen democratic governance within its structures, ensure equitable representation at all levels, and provide a platform for members to voice concerns and contribute to strategic decision-making.

In addition to leadership elections, the meeting will address compensation policies, particularly for veterans and families who have historically faced economic and social challenges. The organization has emphasized its commitment to transparency and inclusivity in ensuring that all members have an opportunity to participate in shaping policies that affect their welfare. James Njuguna Mahuria, Director of MMV Associates CLG, urged all members to attend and actively engage in the proceedings. He noted that the AGM is a vital forum for reinforcing organizational cohesion and planning for initiatives that support community development, cultural

preservation, and socio-economic empowerment.

For further information regarding attendance, nominations, or the agenda, the public is encouraged to contact Joyce Ndirangu at 0726880248 or Emmah Kasis at 0722138349.

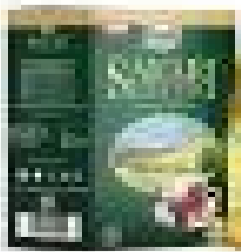
The upcoming AGM highlights MMV Associates CLG's continued efforts to champion the interests of post-colonial communities, preserve historical legacies, and provide a structured platform for advocacy and development, ensuring that the voices of veterans and indigenous groups remain central in Kenya's social and cultural landscape.

This strategic gathering is expected to set the tone for the organization's priorities in 2026, reinforcing its role as a key institution in community leadership and heritage preservation.

**For further information regarding attendance, nominations, or the agenda, the public is encouraged to contact Joyce Ndirangu at 0726880248 or Emmah Kasis at 0722138349.**



New Year. Same Chai.



**Industrialisation** Manufacturers and packaging industry players across East Africa have been urged to adopt world-class packaging systems

# Industrialisation Players Urged To Conform With Latest Technology

BY MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

Manufacturers and packaging industry players across East Africa have been urged to adopt world-class packaging systems and innovations to strengthen the region's competitiveness in global markets.

The call was made by public and private sector leaders convening at the three-day exhibition and conference at Sarit Expo Centre, which brings together over 5,000 stakeholders from the packaging, printing, plastics, and processing industries, representing more than 35 countries.

Principal Secretary for Trade Regina Ombam emphasized that modern packaging standards are essential for enhancing export competitiveness and consumer confidence.

"Embedding world-class packaging systems into our national trade strategies ensures compliance, dignity for producers, and confidence for consumers," Ombam stated through Matthew Kipchumba, Director at the State Department of Trade.

The event comes as East Africa's packaging sector grows rapidly, driven by expanding FMCG markets, urbanization, and increased regional trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Angela Kinyua, Managing Director of Montgomery Group East Africa, highlighted that the milestone edition underscores the industry's growth and the critical role of partnerships in shaping its future.



Stakeholders are taken through a packaging technology showcase during the 10th Edition of the Propak East Africa Expo in Nairobi.

The Mt. Kenya Times



## My Uzbek Daughters



My Uzbek daughters  
Your traces are like flowers  
Your cheeks are like tulips  
Your lips are like buds

Your scarf is like silk  
Your thoughts are like Ibo  
Your faces are like the sun

Your eyes are like Shahlo  
You are the flower of my homeland  
You are the pride of my people  
The sprout of the future  
The luck of Uzbekistan

There is meaning in your words  
You are beautiful, O Rano  
My tongue is too weak to speak  
Your lips are flowing with blood.

Mukhammadeyeva Vasila, a student of grade 6B  
of school number 3 of the Kokdala district of the  
Kashkadarya region

## My Real Goddess!



I saw the Goddess in light,  
My heartfelt immense delight.  
She is the twinkling star in the sky,  
Become the shooting star of my life.  
She is the only person,  
Who understands me the most

She looked so divine,  
And I felt like a glass of wine.  
She saved me from all my fate,  
And kept me safe till the date.  
The Goddess, I saw is you,  
It's only you, My Gorgeous Angel!  
My real Goddess, my Mom!

M. Sruthi Bala  
MA II year  
Ethiraj Women's College  
Chennai

## 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

## Disappointed Balloon Man



Yes! the balloon man stood  
In a disappointed mood  
Masked as an airless balloon  
Unable to return home soon

As his balloon stayed unsold  
He had to feed his kids & parent's old  
Let us not prick his heart  
So buy a few before he departs And distribute to  
the poor kids  
Helping their sorrows to get rid  
Let both-the kids & the balloon man  
Fly in happiness as high as they can.  
And watch our soul also enjoy it as a colourful  
balloon  
As our heart feels light with melodious tune.

G.Sarala.  
Creative Writers.

## Never Mock At The Small One...



Strength doesn't lie in the size or shape.  
Even a small one may deliver a plan to escape.  
Never belittle and under rate the weak.  
Slow and steady also reach the peak.

Mocking at the small one shows your arrogance.  
Proud of the strength and lacking prudence.  
When mighty and powerful fallen off their stand.  
The weak emerged to free the mightiest on land.

As the strongest and invincible lay trapped  
helpless.  
Help came from the weak and powerless.  
Think twice before mocking at the small one.  
For they too possess a power to be proven.

By, Mrs. Gulzar Jahan

## Even A Correct Decision Is Wrong, When It's Too Late



I knew the truth, I knew the way,  
But waited far too long to say.  
The clock kept moving, time didn't wait,  
Silence slowly sealed my fate.

A right choice made at the wrong time,  
Turns wisdom into a quiet crime.  
Moments pass, they don't return,  
That's a lesson we all must learn.

Act when the moment stands at your door,  
Or the right decision matters no more.

R. SRIPRIYA  
BT ENGLISH  
GHSS KOLAPAKKAM KANCHIPURAM DISTRICT  
TAMILNADU  
INDIA

## My Mother Padmapriya



My mom is my strength, my light each day,  
She shows me the right and gentle way.  
In her warm smile, my worries end,  
She's my mother, my guide, my best friend.

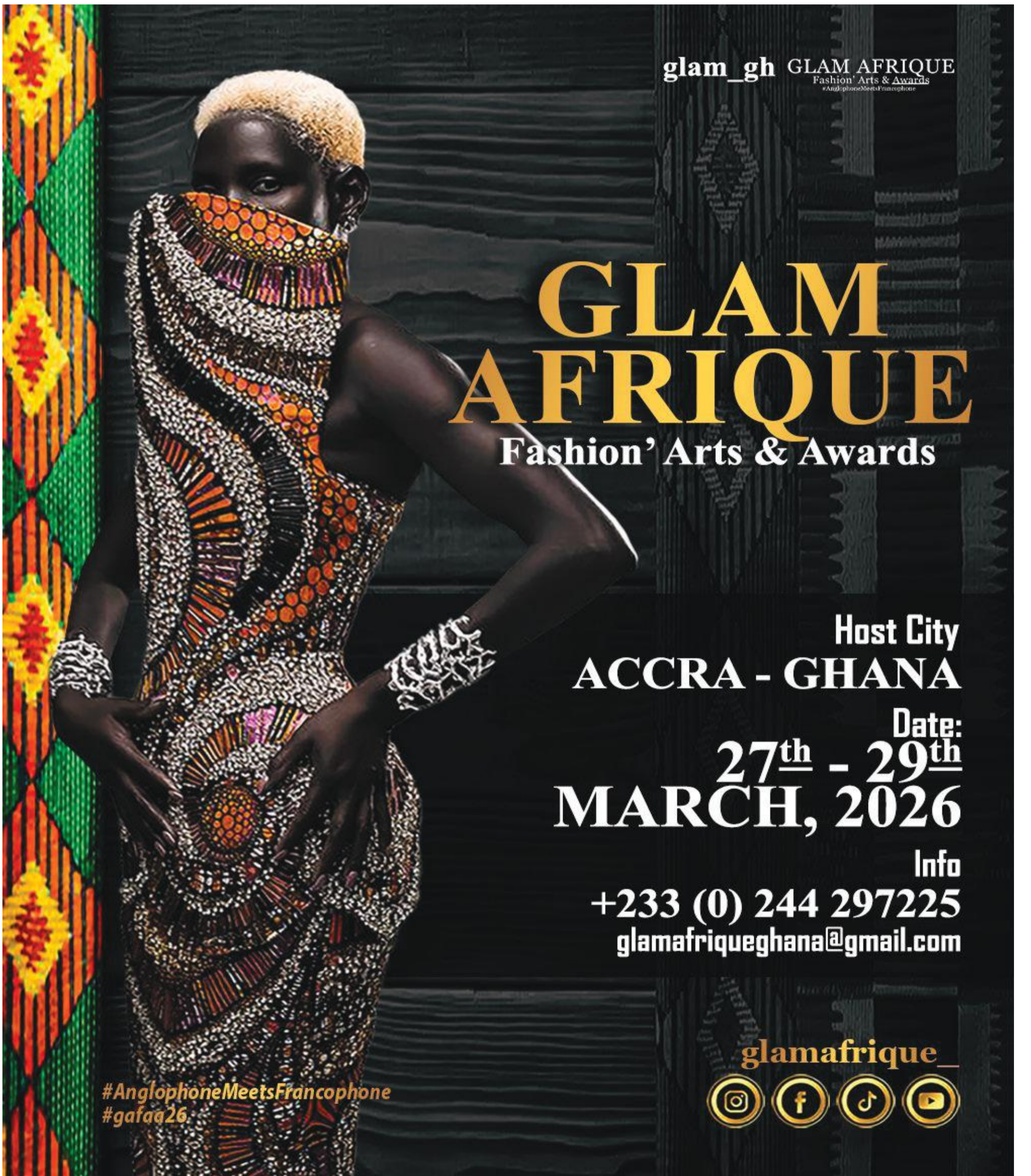
When I fall, she lifts me high,  
Wipes my tears before I cry.  
Her love is pure, a blessing true,

My world feels safe because of you.

No words are enough, no gift can show,  
How much I love you-more than you-know.

Forever grateful, forever proud,  
My mom, my heart, my angel

S.P. Ambuja  
Seventh standard  
John Dewey Matric Higher secondary , school  
,panruti ,  
Cuddalore district ,  
Tamil Nadu  
India



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\_

**Infrastructure Fund** The opposition also demanded the resignation of Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi, accusing him of misleading the public

# Opposition Rejects KSh.5 Trillion Infrastructure Fund, Calls It A “Bribe”



United Opposition leader; Gachagua, Kalonzo, Karua, Matiang'i

Business leaders are wary too. The Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) has urged the government to clarify how the fund will be managed. In a statement, KEPSA said: “Investors need assurance that the fund will be transparent and accountable. Without this, confidence in Kenya’s economy could be undermined.”

The United Opposition has pledged to challenge the fund in court if Parliament proceeds with implementation, setting the stage for a protracted battle between government and opposition. With billions of shillings at stake, the outcome will shape Kenya’s economic trajectory and political future.

As the debate intensifies, one

truth remains clear: the fight over the Ksh.5 trillion fund is not just about infrastructure—it is about trust, accountability, and the integrity of Kenya’s democracy. The stakes are high, and the verdict will determine whether the fund becomes a cornerstone of development or a symbol of corruption.

## BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Kenya’s political landscape has been jolted by fierce opposition to the government’s newly approved Ksh.5 trillion National Infrastructure Fund, with critics branding it a “bribe fund” designed to manipulate voters ahead of the 2027 General Election. The United Opposition, a coalition of key political figures, has vowed to challenge the measure in court and mobilize citizens against what they describe as the largest corruption scheme in the country’s history.

The fund, passed in Parliament earlier this week, is intended to finance large-scale infrastructure projects including roads, ports, and energy facilities. But opposition leaders argue it is a disguised campaign tool. Rigathi Gachagua of the Democratic Congress Party accused the government of creating a financial instrument without accountability. “They are creating a fund that will not be subject to audit and oversight. It is meant to

bribe Kenyans and influence the presidential campaigns,” he said.

Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka echoed the sentiment, warning of procurement scandals. “This fund draws grand corruption dressed up as development,” he declared. Eugene Wamalwa of DAP-K added: “There are no established audit and follow-up channels to hold the managers of this fund accountable.”

The opposition also demanded the resignation of Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi, accusing him of misleading the public. Gachagua charged: “He has been lying. What do you expect when his boss lies often? The CS Treasury should be held accountable.”

Concerns extend beyond the fund itself. The opposition claims the government’s plan to redevelop Jomo Kenyatta International Airport is a backdoor attempt to reintroduce India’s Adani Group, a private investor previously blocked from a Ksh.200 billion airport deal. Wamalwa told supporters: “We successfully blocked the Adani loot through JKIA. Now we hear

they want to sneak him back through the back door.”

Civil society groups have joined the chorus of criticism. At the People’s Dialogue Forum on good governance held at Uhuru Park, activists warned that unchecked funds of such magnitude could destabilize Kenya’s economy. Professor Peter Kagwanja, a governance analyst, noted: “A Ksh.5 trillion fund without clear oversight is a recipe for disaster. It risks undermining public trust in institutions and could trigger capital flight.”

The opposition leaders used the forum to rally young Kenyans, urging them to register as voters ahead of the 2027 polls. Kalonzo appealed: “The youth must rise and defend their future. Register to vote and reject corruption disguised as development.”

Analysts say the controversy could stall infrastructure projects and deepen political divisions. While the government insists the fund will accelerate development, critics argue it risks becoming a slush fund. International observers have also raised concerns about foreign investor involvement, questioning Kenya’s sovereignty and transparency.



## KIRINYAGA COUNTY WATER AND SANITATION PLC

**LOGGING A COMPLAINT?**

When reporting, water shortages, burst or water supply failures, provide the following details to help us respond effectively:

- Your Full Name
- water Account Number
- Active Contact Number
- Exact location (including Estate or Street)
- Nearest Landmark
- Type of Issue (no water, burst, sewer overflow)
- Date and Time the issue was noticed
- Any Additional Information or Observations

**CONTACT US:**

☎ 0715413591

✉ [info@kicowasco.co.ke](mailto:info@kicowasco.co.ke)



# DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

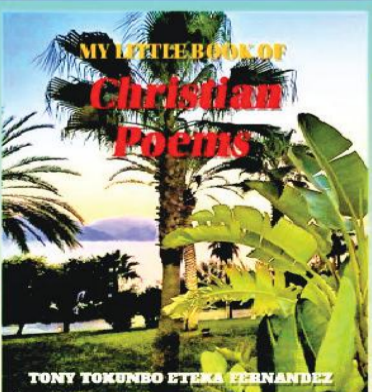
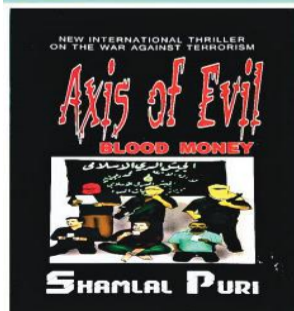
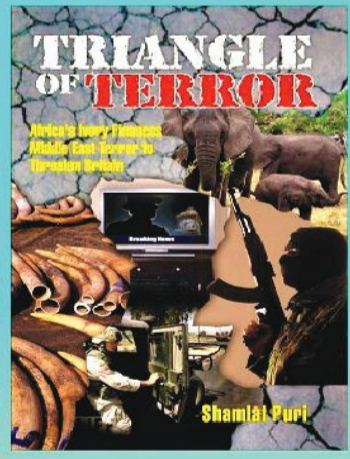
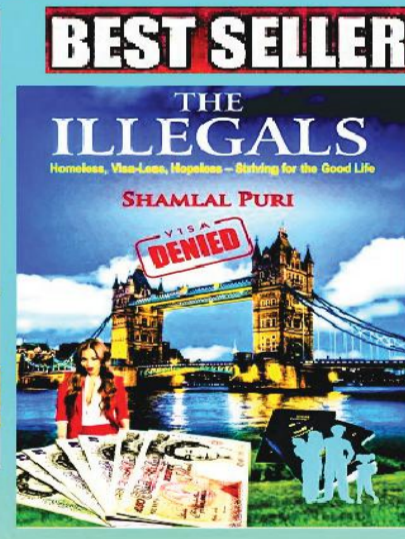
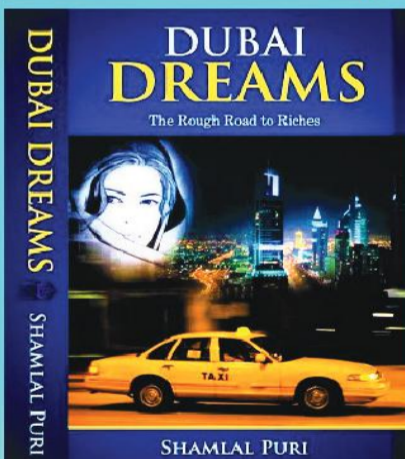
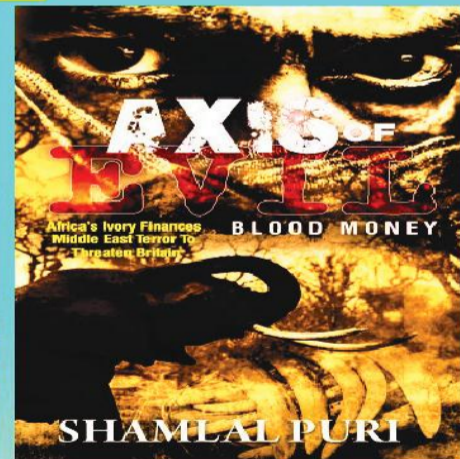
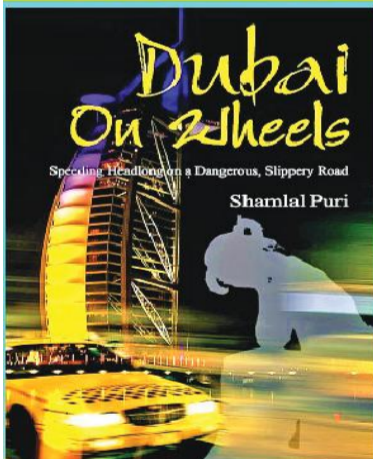
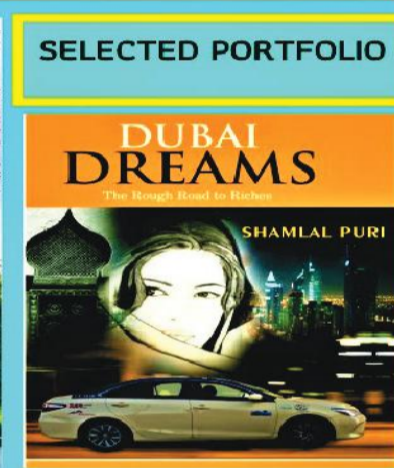
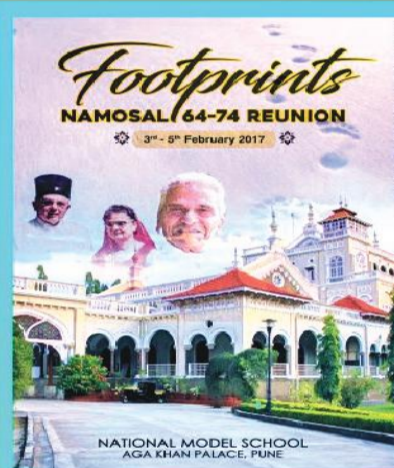
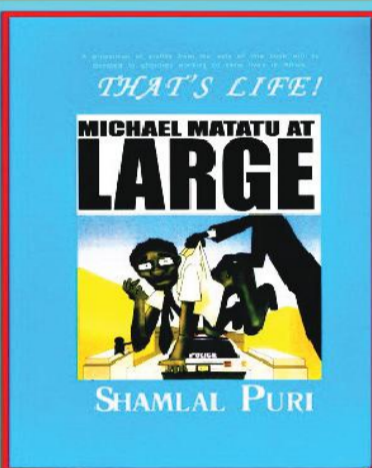
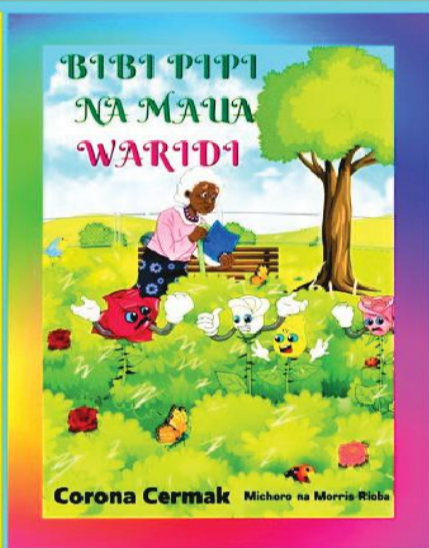
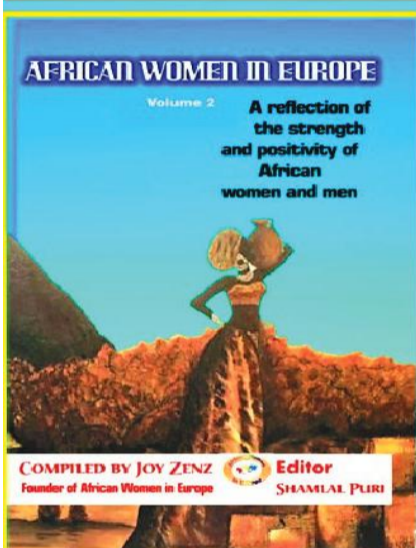
## ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

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

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

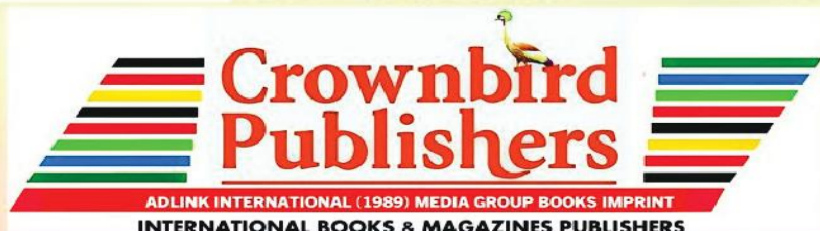
London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.

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

**Kilimo Biashara Expo** The event is organized by the KALRO as part of efforts to strengthen agribusiness and connect farmers with modern agricultural innovations.

# Farmers Invited To Kilimo Biashara Expo 2026 In Thika

The call to farmers was made yesterday during a media breakfast briefing held at the KALRO Seeds Centre in Thika, where organizers shared details about the two-day expo expected to attract thousands of farmers, exhibitors and stakeholders in the agricultural sector.

BY Amon Keziah  
@themtkenyatiimes

Farmers from across the country have been invited to attend the Kilimo Biashara Expo 2026, which will take place on Thursday and Friday next week at the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) Seeds centre in Thika.

The event is organized by the KALRO as part of efforts to strengthen agribusiness and connect farmers with modern agricultural innovations.

The call to farmers was made yesterday during a media breakfast briefing held at the KALRO Seeds Centre in Thika, where organizers shared details about the two-day expo expected to attract thousands of farmers, exhibitors and stakeholders in the agricultural sector.

This year's event will be held under the theme "Advancing Agribusiness through Improved Technologies, Partnerships and Market Linkages."

The expo aims to link farmers with new farming technologies, research innovations, business partnerships and markets that can help increase productivity and income.

KALRO Seeds Director Robert Musyoki said the organization continues to play a major role in developing technologies that support farmers to improve crop and livestock production.

He explained that researchers at KALRO are involved in developing improved crop varieties that are high-yielding, drought tolerant and resistant to pests and diseases.

The institution is also conducting livestock research aimed at developing improved animal breeds, formulating quality animal feeds and

promoting better livestock management practices to increase farm productivity.

Musyoki explained that the Kilimo Biashara Expo began about five years ago when the institution opened the Seeds Centre and invited farmers from neighboring communities to visit the facility and learn about agricultural technologies being developed there.

The initiative initially started as an open day, but the interest from farmers quickly grew. Many farmers later requested that the event be expanded into an annual expo where various players in the agriculture sector could showcase their innovations and interact directly with farmers.

Since then, the expo has developed into an important platform that brings together farmers, researchers, seed companies, agribusiness firms and other stakeholders in the agricultural value chain.

Organizers expect about 100 exhibitors to participate in this year's expo, while more than 5,000 farmers from different parts of the country are projected to attend the event.

Apart from traditional food crops, the expo will also highlight industrial crops that farmers can grow to diversify their income. Demonstration plots at the centre will showcase several crop varieties and technologies that farmers can adopt for commercial production.

“

**KALRO Seeds Director Robert Musyoki said the organization continues to play a major role in developing technologies that support farmers to improve crop and livestock production.**

**He explained that researchers at KALRO are involved in developing improved crop varieties that are high-yielding, drought tolerant and resistant to pests and diseases.**

**The institution is also conducting livestock research aimed at developing improved animal breeds, formulating quality animal feeds and promoting better livestock management practices to increase farm productivity.**



KALRO Seeds Director Mr. Robert Musyoki, during a media interview at the KALRO Seeds Head Office in Kandara Thika.



KALRO media breakfast meeting at the KALRO Seeds Centre Kandara, ahead of the Kilimo Biashara Expo 2026.



Kinuthia Muturi, a farmer from Kandara Thika.

Musyoki said the demonstrations will allow farmers to see the technologies firsthand and learn how they can diversify their farming activities for better returns.

Timothy Ndembo of iTrade Events, one of the partners supporting the expo, said the company joined the initiative in 2022 after recognizing the need to create stronger platforms for sharing agricultural knowledge with farmers.

Ndembo said exhibitions provide a practical way for farmers to interact with experts and learn about emerging technologies and innovations that can improve their farming practices.

He added that collaboration between event organizers, communication agencies and KALRO has helped expand the expo into a broader public-private initiative aimed at strengthening agribusiness development.

Agribusiness champion Irene Kagera emphasized the importance of youth participation in agriculture, saying young people have a key role in promoting innovation and technology in the sector.

Kagera said young people are well positioned to interpret scientific research and communicate it in ways that farmers can easily understand and apply. She noted that youth involvement in agriculture is gradually increasing as more young people recognize the opportunities available in the sector.

She encouraged young people to attend the expo to learn about new innovations and share their own ideas.

Farmers who have benefited from KALRO programs also encouraged others to attend the upcoming event.

One of them, Kinuthia Moturi, a farmer from Kandara, said many farmers have improved their harvests after adopting certified seeds and modern farming methods promoted through the program.

Moturi said the expo will give farmers the opportunity to access certified seeds and seedlings, as well as training on modern farming practices such as irrigation and improved crop production.

He urged farmers from different parts of the country to attend the expo, saying the event provides a valuable opportunity to learn new techniques that can help improve farm productivity and incomes.

Over the years, the Kilimo Biashara Expo has continued to grow into a key meeting point for farmers, researchers, agribusiness companies and innovators working together to strengthen agricultural production in the country.

**Repatriation** The repatriation flight, organized in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Kenya Airways

# Relief As Kenyans And Students Stranded In Dubai Repatriated Amid Regional Tensions

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

A wave of relief swept through Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) yesterday morning as a Kenya Airways mercy flight touched down, carrying hundreds of Kenyans who had been stranded in Dubai following escalating tensions in the Middle East. Among the returnees were students from Olivine School in Mombasa, whose educational trip was abruptly disrupted by the outbreak of hostilities between the United States, Israel, and Iran.

The repatriation flight, organized in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Kenya Airways, was a lifeline for citizens caught in the chaos. Families waiting at JKIA broke into tears of joy as their loved ones disembarked, safe after days of uncertainty. For many, the return marked not just the end of a harrowing ordeal abroad, but also a reminder of the fragility of peace in a region that has long been a geopolitical flashpoint.

The students' ordeal began when missile strikes on Tehran triggered heightened security alerts across the Gulf. Dubai, a major transit hub, quickly became a zone of anxiety. Airports were closed, shelters were activated, and foreign nationals were advised to remain indoors. Angie Abawama, one of the learners, recalled: "At first it didn't click that there was a war going on, but when the alerts started coming in, that's when it sank in how serious the issue was."

Her classmate Jesse added: "Out of nowhere, we just started hearing alerts on our phones. I was shocked when we were told airports were closing and we had to find shelters. It was frightening."

From sightseeing tours to confinement in hotel rooms



The Kenya Airways repatriation flight lands safely in Nairobi, bringing passengers home.

and bunkers, the students experienced the stark contrast between Dubai's glittering skyline and the grim reality of war. Dr. Olivine, who accompanied the group, described the surreal scenes: "Missiles were being seen. Sometimes you would just see light and then they were intercepted. For us, this was unimaginable. The closest we've seen back home is cattle rustling, but this was war."

For four days, the group lived in fear, stranded in a foreign country and uncertain of their fate. The announcement that Kenya Airways would operate a special flight out of Dubai became their beacon of hope. "We stayed at the airport so the plane would not leave without us. It was 50/50—it might or might not happen. When we finally flew and entered Ethiopian airspace, we felt a huge sense of relief," Dr. Olivine recounted.

The students' safe return has been hailed as a success of swift government intervention. Foreign Affairs officials confirmed that Kenya coordinated closely with UAE authorities to secure safe passage. A senior official noted: "Our priority was to ensure no Kenyan was left behind. We worked tirelessly with our

partners to make this flight possible."

Analysts say the incident underscores Kenya's vulnerability to global conflicts and the importance of proactive foreign policy. Professor Macharia Munene, an international relations expert, observed: "Kenya must strengthen its crisis response mechanisms. The Middle East is volatile, and as long as Kenyans travel and work there, the government must be prepared for emergencies."

“

**For four days, the group lived in fear, stranded in a foreign country and uncertain of their fate. The announcement that Kenya Airways would operate a special flight out of Dubai became their beacon of hope. "We stayed at the airport so the plane would not leave without us. It was 50/50—it might or might not happen. When we finally flew and entered Ethiopian airspace, we felt a huge sense of relief," Dr. Olivine recounted.**

Civil society groups also praised the repatriation but urged the government to establish a permanent emergency evacuation fund. "We cannot wait for ad hoc measures every time there is a crisis. Kenyans abroad deserve assurance that their safety is guaranteed," said the Kenya Diaspora Alliance in a statement.

For the students, the experience was both traumatic and transformative. Jesse summed up the mood: "I feel relief and my stress has gone. I feel safe coming back to my family." Angie added: "It was scary, but it taught us how fragile life can be. We are grateful to be home."

As the passengers reunited with their families at JKIA, the atmosphere was one of gratitude and reflection. The mercy flight was more than a logistical operation—it was a symbol of Kenya's responsibility to protect its citizens, wherever they may be.

The Middle East conflict continues to cast uncertainty over global travel and trade, but for the Kenyans who stepped off that flight, the nightmare is over. Their story is a reminder of the human cost of war, and of the resilience of a nation determined to bring its people home.

In the words of one parent at JKIA: "Today, Kenya showed us that even in the darkest times, we can count on our country. Our children are home, and that is all that matters."

The return of the stranded Kenyans may not end the war raging abroad, but it has restored hope at home. And in a world increasingly defined by uncertainty, that hope is priceless.




DRINK . CLEAN . SANITIZE

## GET STARTED WITH MAJISAFI IN 4 STEPS

- 1** Download the App from Google PlayStore
- 2** Sign up & verify your phone number
- 3** Go to services and click "Add account"
- 4** Link the account associated to your number

**GET STARTED NOW!**

Download Majisafi app today!

GET IT ON Google Play

0701 038 226



SCAN FOR MAJISAFI



**China** As the world's second-largest economy embarks on the inaugural year of its 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) period

# What To Watch At China's "Two Sessions" As New Five-Year Plan Begins

The fourth session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference commenced on Wednesday

BY Xinhua News Agency  
@themtkenyatimes

This year's "two sessions"; the annual meetings of China's top legislature and top political advisory body are set to open at a pivotal moment.

As the world's second-largest economy embarks on the inaugural year of its 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) period, these gatherings in Beijing will serve both as a review of past achievements, and as a strategic compass guiding the nation's future development.

The fourth session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference commenced on Wednesday, one day before the opening of the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC). Lawmakers will deliberate on the central government's annual work report, and review the draft government budget and development plan for 2026. This year, they will also examine a draft outline of the new five-year plan, which will anchor policy priorities until 2030. This year's legislative agenda is particularly robust, signaling a focus on long-term institutional development. NPC deputies are set to deliberate on three important pieces of legislation covering areas including the environment, ethnic unity, and national development planning. China's top legislator, top political advisor, chief justice and top procurator will also present work reports. Beyond the plenary meetings, ministers and heads of various government departments as well as national legislators and political advisors will hold press conferences, where they will elaborate on policies related to the economy, social development, and foreign affairs to domestic and foreign media. As China enters a fresh planning cycle, the "two sessions" offer a window into how the country aims to advance its high-quality development and sustain

the momentum of its reform in an ever-changing global landscape. Outlined here is a selection of highlights at this year's "two sessions."

## NEW PLANNING CYCLE

In China's governance system, five-year plans function as strategic frameworks for economic and social development. As lawmakers review the draft outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan, they are effectively setting priorities that will guide fiscal policy, industrial transformation and social progress through 2030.

This new cycle is beginning on solid ground. The 14th Five-Year Plan period came to a close with China's economy surpassing 140 trillion yuan (about 20 trillion U.S. dollars) in 2025. International media outlets have noted that key targets, including economic growth, labor productivity, research and development spending, urbanization and average life expectancy, broadly met or exceeded expectations during the period. However, the development environment China now faces is increasingly complex. External headwinds, including trade tensions, geopolitical frictions and insufficient global growth momentum, pose a great challenge for China's development. Domestically, China must deftly navigate long-standing structural issues while responding to ever-emerging technological and industrial challenges. Against this backdrop, the new five-year plan will offer a strategic roadmap -- not merely a list of tasks, but a framework guiding how the country will navigate its development priorities, ranging from strengthening its supply-chain capacity to advancing its low-carbon transformation.

## GROWTH TARGET

China's 2026 GDP growth target will be one of the most closely watched numbers at the "two sessions." Early in-

dicators from provincial-level regions suggest a broad consensus: Expansion remains essential, but it must be anchored firmly in quality and structural upgrading. In 2025, China achieved its growth target of 5 percent as the country spared no effort to boost domestic demand and innovation, propelling its economy toward structural rebalancing and continuing to serve as one of the most stable and reliable engines for world economic growth. This year's target, therefore, will align with the country's high-quality development imperative, which centers on fostering new quality productive forces, boosting consumption, upgrading the manufacturing sector, and advancing the green and low-carbon development. For international investors and trading partners, this focus signals both policy continuity and substantial opportunities.

## NEW LEGISLATIONS

Chinese lawmakers are set to deliberate on a draft environmental code, a draft law on promoting ethnic unity and progress, and a draft law on national development planning. The proposed environmental code seeks to embed the principle of green development more firmly within the rule-of-law framework by systematically integrating and revising existing environmental legislations. It comes at a crucial time -- China has pledged to peak its carbon emissions by 2030. NPC deputy Zheng Haijin, who is from east China's Jiangxi Province and an expert on the environment, said the "encouraging" environmental code provides clearer guidance for ecological restoration and related sectors. The law on promoting ethnic unity and progress is intended to strengthen social cohesion and forge a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation, while the law on national development planning will serve as a basic law to regulate the formulation of national develop-



A journalist asks a question at a press conference of the fourth session of the 14th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 3, 2026. The CPPCC National Committee, China's top political advisory body, held a press conference on Tuesday, one day before its annual session. | Photo: Xinhua/Chen Yehua.

ment plans and ensure their implementation.

## INDUSTRIES OF THE FUTURE

Five-year plans have long been central to how China steers its development, charting its strategic course and laying out blueprint for its future-oriented industries.

In January, the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee devoted its first group study session of the year to forward-looking industrial development, underscoring its priority for the new planning cycle. Quantum technology, biomanufacturing, hydrogen and nuclear fusion power, brain-computer interfaces, embodied AI and 6G mobile communications, have been highlighted as new growth drivers in the recommendations for formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan, which were adopted at a key meeting of the CPC Central Committee. This emphasis on quantum technology in the new plan reflects a shift from laboratory validation to industrial application, said NPC deputy Guo

Guoping, a quantum science professor at the University of Science and Technology of China. The Chinese leadership has urged core technology breakthroughs, as well as a more strategic approach to basic research and the accelerated commercialization of innovation. Greater emphasis is being placed on the role of enterprises -- leading tech firms, in particular -- supported by enhanced fiscal measures, sci-tech finance and talent policies. These strategic moves are expected to be high on the agenda of this year's "two sessions," as lawmakers and political advisors map out pathways to secure long-term development momentum.

## MESSAGES TO THE WORLD

China's "two sessions" have long served as a window into the country's external stance. When Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with the press during last year's "two sessions," he answered 23 questions from Chinese and international journalists covering a wide range of topics from major-country ties to global gov-

ernance. Certain themes stood out, with mentions of "cooperation," "openness" and "multilateralism" recurring throughout. The prominence of references to "the Global South" and "a community with a shared future" highlighted partnership and multilateral coordination. During this year's "two sessions," regional hotspot issues, such as the latest escalating military conflict in the Middle East and the strained diplomatic ties between China and Japan, are set to be in the spotlight. The year itself carries weight, as 2026 marks the 70th anniversary of the start of diplomatic ties between China and African countries. China will also hold the 33rd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in November. For investors and governments alike, China's positions on international relations will be watched particularly closely during this year's "two sessions" amid a rapidly evolving and increasingly complex global landscape.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Rising Global Oil Prices Due To The Middle East Conflict

Oil prices are surging once again, and the culprit is familiar: escalating conflict in the Middle East. The region, long the world's most critical oil hub, is rattling global markets as tensions between Iran and Israel intensify, drawing in the United States and other powers. The fear is not abstract—instability in this region has historically translated into higher costs at the pump, inflationary pressures, and economic strain across continents.

At the heart of the anxiety lies the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow shipping lane through which a significant share of global oil exports flows daily. Any threat to its security sends traders into panic mode, driving prices upward even before actual disruptions occur. The mere anticipation of shortages is enough to spark volatility. Compounding this is the risk of reduced production from key players like Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Iraq. Pipelines, export terminals, and production facilities are vulnerable, and even the perception of danger can jolt markets.

The ripple effects are immediate. Rising oil prices inflate transportation and manufacturing costs, pushing up the price of goods and



services worldwide. For developing nations, the impact is particularly harsh. Kenya, for instance, faces higher fuel costs, steeper public transport fares, and increased electricity prices. Households already burdened by high living expenses will feel the squeeze, while governments may be forced to rethink subsidies, taxes, and energy policies.

This crisis is a stark reminder of how tightly global politics and eco-

nomics are intertwined. As long as the Middle East remains volatile, oil will remain a weapon of uncertainty. The world cannot afford to ignore this reality—because when oil burns, economies everywhere feel the heat.

By Victor Ochieng – Laikipia University

### War In Iran Sends Economic Shockwaves Across The Globe

The war in Iran is no longer a distant conflict—it is shaking the foundations of the global economy. Oil prices are climbing, trade routes are under threat, and inflationary pressures are spreading across continents. What began as a regional security crisis has morphed into a worldwide economic storm.

At the center of the turmoil is the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow but vital artery through which a significant share of the world's oil supply flows. Any disruption here rattles energy markets instantly, and traders are already pricing in risk. Fuel costs have surged, driving up transportation, electricity, and production expenses across nations. For households, this translates into higher costs of living; for governments, it means scrambling to stabilize energy sectors.

Kenya, like many African nations, is feeling the pinch. Officials insist the country has sufficient reserves and secured imports, but uncertainty lingers. If the war drags on, reserves may dwindle, subsidies may be strained, and ordinary Kenyans could face rising fares, food prices, and electricity bills. The question



is not whether the conflict will affect daily life—it already has.

Global trade is also slowing. Shipping delays, higher insurance premiums, and disrupted supply chains are pushing consumer prices upward. Investors, wary of prolonged instability, are retreating to safe havens like gold and the U.S. dollar, leaving emerging economies exposed to currency weakness and inflation.

Economists warn that if the war persists, high energy prices could choke growth and keep interest rates elevated. The message is clear: instability in Iran is not contained—it reverberates worldwide. When oil routes falter, economies everywhere stumble.

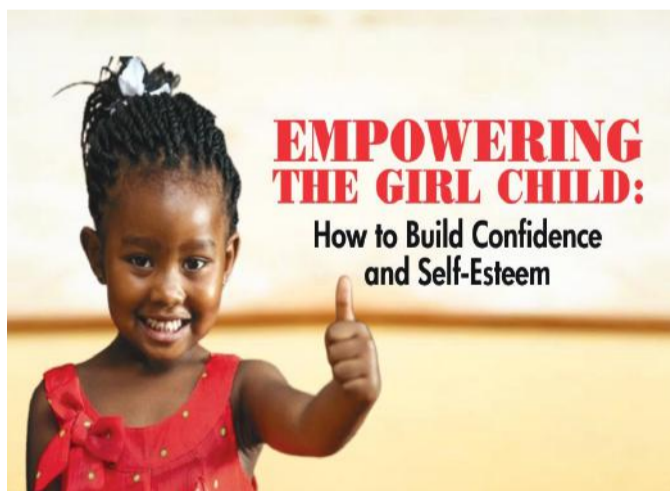
By Caren Litiema – Laikipia University

### How Girls Can Improve Their Self-Esteem

In a world where social media filters and unrealistic beauty standards dominate, many girls find themselves questioning their worth. Yet self-esteem is not a luxury—it is a necessity, shaping how young women see themselves and how they engage with society. The path to stronger self-esteem begins with rejecting comparisons and embracing individuality.

Every girl has unique strengths, and learning to value them is the first step toward confidence. Social media often magnifies insecurities by showcasing curated perfection, but the antidote lies in focusing on personal growth rather than measuring against others. Setting small, achievable goals—whether academic, creative, or athletic—creates victories that build belief in one's abilities.

Equally important is the company girls keep. Supportive friends, mentors, and family members can reinforce positive self-image, while toxic influences erode it. Encouragement and constructive feedback nurture resilience, reminding girls that their voices matter. Physical and mental well-being also play a



crucial role. Healthy eating, regular exercise, and adequate rest are not just routines—they are foundations of confidence.

Positive self-talk is another powerful tool. Replacing doubt with affirmations such as "I am capable" or "I am worthy" rewires thinking patterns. Mistakes, too, should be reframed—not as failures but as lessons that strengthen character. Speaking up in classrooms, communities, or social spaces further reinforces independence and self-

worth.

Self-esteem is not built overnight, but with conscious effort, supportive environments, and belief in their own abilities, girls can rise above pressures and claim their place with confidence. The message is clear: when girls believe in themselves, they don't just change their lives—they change the world.

By Melody Akinyi Ochieng – Laikipia University

### The Strength Behind Her Pain: Why Every Woman Deserves Respect

From the moment a baby girl takes her first breath, her life is often marked by sacrifice, resilience, and unspoken strength. Behind every stage of womanhood lies a story of endurance—one that shapes families, communities, and the future of society. This truth is why respect for women is not a courtesy; it is a necessity.

Childbirth alone is a testament to courage. Labor pain is among the most intense physical experiences known to humanity, yet women endure it to bring life into the world. That act alone should command reverence. As girls grow, they face the monthly realities of menstruation—often accompanied by discomfort—yet they continue to study, work, and care for others without pause. These experiences, rarely discussed openly, are universal reminders of women's quiet resilience.

Intimacy, too, demands respect. A woman's vulnerability in relationships must never be met with harm or disregard. Consent, compassion,



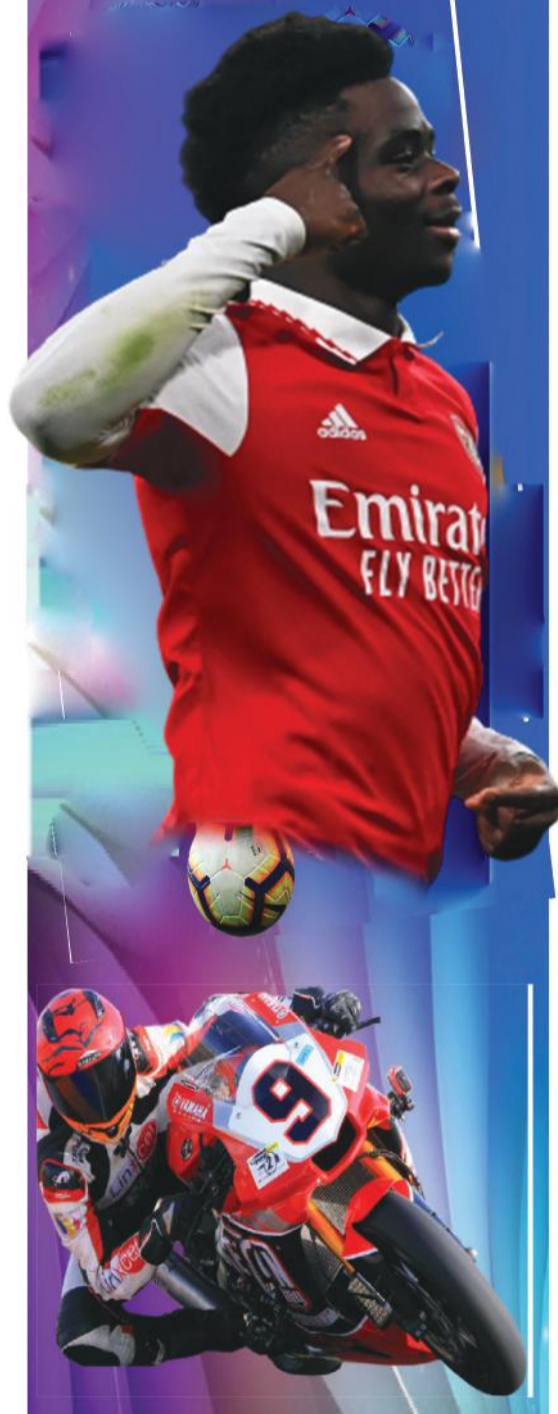
and equality are the foundations of healthy connections. To ignore this is to undermine her dignity.

Throughout life, women transform pain into progress. Behind every child's first step, every family's stability, and every community's growth is often the unseen labor of a mother, sister, or daughter. Their sacrifices are not just personal—they are societal.

Respecting women means valuing

their voices, protecting their dignity, and supporting their ambitions. It is not optional; it is essential. Women are not defined by the pain they endure but by the strength with which they rise above it. When we respect women, we respect humanity itself.

By Rebah Mukalo, Laikipia University

SPORTS  
NEWSPHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS

**Sports >>** \*The Confederation of African Football (CAF) has confirmed that the Women's Africa Cup of Nations (Wafcon), originally scheduled to begin on March 17 in Morocco

## Women's Africa Cup Of Nations Postponed To July



Harambee Starlets line up before their match against Benin. PHOTO/HARAMBEE STARLETS.

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) has confirmed that the Women's Africa Cup of Nations (Wafcon), originally scheduled to begin on March 17 in Morocco, has been postponed. The tournament will now take place from July 25 to August 16, 2026. CAF explained that the decision was due to unforeseen circumstances and emphasized that the rescheduling was necessary to guarantee the success of the competition. This announcement has affected 24 national teams across Africa, including Kenya's Harambee Starlets, who had already begun their preparations for the continental showpiece.

Kenya's national women's football team, coached by Bel-dine Odemba, had been drawn into Group A alongside hosts Morocco, Senegal, and Algeria. This group is considered highly competitive, and the Starlets had already embarked

on a rigorous training program. In the past week, they traveled to the Ivory Coast where they played two international friendlies against Benin and the hosts. Although they lost both matches by a solitary goal, the fixtures provided valuable experience and highlighted areas that require improvement. The team was then scheduled to proceed to Miramas, France, for a high-performance training camp before heading to Morocco for the start of the competition.

The postponement now presents both challenges and opportunities. On one hand, it disrupts the immediate plans of the teams, forcing federations to reorganize logistics such as travel, accommodation, and funding. On the other hand, it provides an extended preparation window that could prove beneficial. For the Harambee Starlets, the delay offers more time to refine strategies, strengthen squad co-

hesion, and build confidence. It also opens the possibility of arranging additional friendly matches to sharpen their competitive edge.

CAF's decision reflects its commitment to delivering a well-organized tournament that matches the growing stature of women's football in Africa. While fans may be disappointed by the delay, the new dates align with a period when football viewership traditionally peaks, potentially increasing engagement and visibility for the women's game. The postponement also underscores the importance of ensuring that all logistical and organizational aspects are in place to guarantee a successful event.

For Kenya, the road ahead remains demanding. Facing Morocco, Senegal, and Algeria will require tactical discipline, resilience, and sharp execution. Yet, the extended timeline could

allow Odemba's charges to regroup and approach the tournament with renewed focus. The narrow defeats in Ivory Coast serve as a reminder of the fine margins at this level, but they also highlight the team's potential to compete strongly if they can convert opportunities and maintain defensive solidity.

As anticipation builds once again, the Harambee Starlets and their continental rivals will continue their preparations with determination. The July kickoff now represents not just a rescheduled date but a fresh opportunity for teams to showcase their progress and ambition. For Kenya, it is a chance to make history and demonstrate the strides being made in women's football, both on the pitch and in the broader sporting landscape.

# GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*A record 822 cyclists have registered for the season opener of the LOOP Safari Gravel Series scheduled for tomorrow, at the Limuru Country Club.

# Record 822 Cyclists Set For 2026 LOOP Safari Gravel Series Opener In Limuru



Cyclists tackle the gravel terrains of Machakos during the second leg of the 2025 LOOP Safari Gravel Series .

A record 822 cyclists have registered for the season opener of the LOOP Safari Gravel Series scheduled for tomorrow, at the Limuru Country Club.

The highly anticipated gravel cycling series returns this year with a four-leg calendar that will once again take riders across some of Kenya’s most scenic and demanding off-road terrains, blending elite competition with recreational cycling and adventure tourism.

Among the headline participants for the Limuru race are Ugandan cycling stars Jordan Schleck and Mary Aleper, both of whom have established themselves as dominant figures in the regional gravel racing scene.

Schleck has so far won five out of the eight races held across the two seasons, winning twice

in the inaugural season in 2024 and thrice last year, including the season ender at Vipingo Ridge in August.

Speaking ahead of Saturday’s race, Schleck expressed excitement about returning to competition and confidence in his preparation.

“I’m really looking forward to the opening leg in Limuru. The LOOP Safari Gravel Series has grown tremendously, and it’s always exciting to line up against such a strong field. I’ve prepared well for this season and I’m hoping to enjoy the race and see how it unfolds. I am quite familiar with the series having won in five out of eight races and I am hoping to bank on my experience to get a win in the opening leg,” said Schleck.

The Limuru event will feature

three race distances catering to different categories of riders. Of the 822 registered cyclists, 115 have registered for the elite 100km race, while 366 cyclists will compete in the 50km race, and 235 cyclists will take part in the 20km recreational category.

Team competition is also expected to be fierce this season, with Monica Jelimo set to lead Team Ariya Finergy Solar Vortex for the first time as captain.

Jelimo, who finished second overall in the women’s standings last year, expressed confidence in her team’s preparation ahead of the Limuru opener.

“Our preparations have gone well and the team is ready for the season,” said Jelimo. “We have a strong squad of 21 cyclists this year, and everyone is motivated. Limuru is a beautiful place

to ride, and we are hoping the weather will be favourable so we can enjoy the race and start the season strongly.”

Team Ariya Finergy Solar Vortex finished second in last year’s team standings, and Jelimo believes their squad this season gives them a strong chance of challenging for the overall team title in 2026.

The top ten finishers in the elite 100-kilometre race for both men and women set to claim cash prizes of KES 20,000, KES 15,000, KES 10,000, KES 8,000, KES 7,000, KES 6,000, KES 5,000, KES 4,000 and KES 3,000, respectively.

*Capital Sport*

# SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS



SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



## It Takes A Village To Raise A Child

By: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi

@themkenyatimes



### Worth Noting:

- The current dynamics in the education system requires more collaboration and partnership. The government should understand that they need teachers and the teachers should know they need parents as well as parents should know that they need the teachers to facilitate their children's learning process.
- It can be noted that effective collaboration provides an ideal learning environment for all partners. It creates unity and the learner or the child develops knowing that their education protection is supported by various parties. As a matter of fact strong community relations with the school or the government helps in developing a conducive learning environment with consideration for various ideas given by different parties.



It has always been said once and again that it takes a village to raise a child. This is exactly true. The school settling especially because the school and the community are expected to collaborate to provide a safe, secure and a conducive learning environment for learners. Leaders are expected to understand this. This is why most schools share their vision and motto by displaying it either at the school gate or other platform to inform the community what they intend to achieve at the end of the schooling year of every learner.

Leaders need to bring together different partners in the education triangle and elaborate to them their need to take part in the education implementation of every child. By doing this it gives the parties the chance to take part in the shared goal and aim at developing a well rounded child. It is however important to note and appreciate that the collaboration of various parties is needed to bring forth a well educated learner. At times it might be complex because it encompasses a wide range of different expectations and needs by different parties but this is necessary when designing engagements you need to make them informal especially with parents and the neighbouring com-

munity or formal with the government, teachers or the sponsors.

The current dynamics in the education system requires more collaboration and partnership. The government should understand that they need teachers and the teachers should know they need parents as well as parents should know that they need the teachers to facilitate their children's learning process.

It can be noted that effective collaboration provides an ideal learning environment for all partners. It creates unity and the learner or the child develops knowing that their education protection is supported by various parties. As a matter of fact strong community relations with the school or the government helps in developing a conducive learning environment with consideration for various ideas given by different parties.

For instance, some strategies from the government should first be brought to the Kenya Head Teachers body before implemented. The Head of institutions will then come to a conclusion and involve the other teachers as well as the parents. This mass will choose which one suits best. When all is done the teachers can employ it in the learning system. With this strong communication network shows truthfully that every

party has been involved and no one is left out. This transparency will accelerate the education sector to a global recognition.

School leaders as well as the government are encouraged to be proactive so as to be able to create a rapport with teachers, parents and learners and the community especially due to differences in religion, gender or socio-economic status, political affiliation and also people with disability. Their participation is vital as it helps to improve the learning environment. As much as their interests vary, their main priority is to advance better outcomes for learners and the education sector.

Success is the end point if there is good collaboration. First, the learners will tend to perform well when the leaders or the government is a pillar of support, encouragement and builds confidence in them. As yourself, what happened to Tuesday evenings when students were offered guidance and counselling and even taught career pathways. What happened to times when the ministry of education used to send various representatives to various regions to speak to learners and assure them about their future with their education. This should be revived if not resurrected. When the government

wakes up here, students will show this in their academic performance.

Parents on the other hand will not be left out. Engaging them will bring a positive learning outcome. They will support the learning process by even checking their children's books at night. I am sure you all know it is a small percentage of parents that do these things. Some come from work direct to their bedroom not even bothering to know how school was. There should be a platform for parents, or the Class Representative to give a talk to the learners. I know you know that this works.

Teachers as leaders will feel a warmth when communicating the vision of the school. They will feel motivated and this will as well show in their performance as teachers. It increases trust and appreciation.

In conclusion, the overall performance of the education sector when different stakeholders have been involved will be visible. There will be developments of schools, good and greater performance in assessments and the impact will be felt by the learners as well as other parties. Learning and teaching will be established in a firm foundation and the intended outcomes will be seen.