



Kirinyaga Farmers Trained On Climate-Smart Agriculture At Annual Field Day
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Former Civil Servants Union Leader Dr Kinity Joins 2027 Presidential Race
 Former Kenya Civil Servants Union Secretary-General, Dr Isaac Newton Kinity has entered the 2027 presidential race, unveiling a platform centred on fighting corruption, lowering the cost of living and expanding social protection. Page 18

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Politics Gachagua, leader of the DCP, criticised the police deployment as unnecessary and politically motivated

Meru Church Blockade Sparks Opposition Outcry



Entry Denied!
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DCP leader Rigathi Gachagua addressing Buuri constituency residents as former Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi looks on.
 Photo | Courtesy.



Opposition leaders yesterday condemned what they describe as political intimidation after they were blocked from attending a church service by a heavy police presence in Meru County.

The incident occurred at Kaaga Methodist Church, where Deputy President Kithure Kindiki attended a service, while Rigathi Gachagua and Kalonzo Musyoka were denied entry by police officers. There was tense exchanges between Gachagua's allies and security personnel.

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Gachagua Condemns Police Intimidation, Accuses Ruto of Dividing Mt. Kenya

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has sharply criticized what he termed the excessive use of police force to block his access to church services during a visit to Meru County.

Speaking at East Africa Pentecostal Njotene Church in Buuri Constituency, Gachagua described the deployment of officers as unnecessary and politically motivated, alleging that President William Ruto's frustration during his three-day tour pressured Deputy President Kithure Kihika to intervene.

Earlier, Gachagua was prevented from attending Kaaga Methodist Church in Meru town, where Kithure Kindiki reportedly arrived with police in the early morning.

Gachagua accused the government of using intimidation to block opposition leaders, calling such actions futile and a threat to democratic processes.

He urged authorities to focus security efforts on bandit-prone areas at the Meru-Isiolo and Igembe North borders.

The former deputy president emphasized unity in Mt. Kenya, blaming the president for regional divisions, and criticized government mismanagement of the economy and urban infrastructure, noting the deadly consequences of neglected sewer systems.

DP Party Leader Justin Muturi echoed these concerns, while Wiper Party Leader Kalonzo Musyoka condemned the actions as unconstitutional.

The United Opposition is continuing its three-day tour across Meru and Tharaka Nithi counties.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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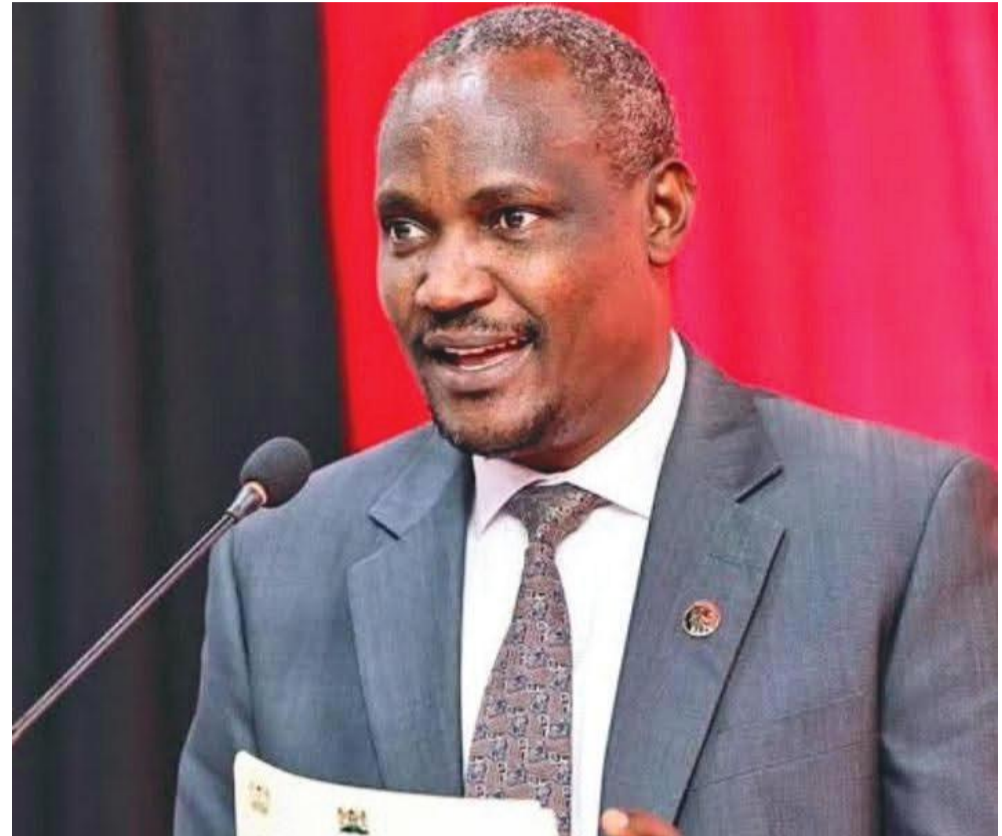
Ugandan authorities detained 27 fishermen from Remba Island in Homa Bay County over an alleged territorial waters dispute near Hama Island in Lake Victoria. Nine fishermen were later released after paying a fine of Sh24,000, while 18 fishermen and six boats remain in custody. Remba Beach Management Unit Chairman Semiakia Mamra termed the arrests unfortunate and urged the Kenyan government to intervene through diplomatic channels to secure the release of those still detained and their vessels. He said Ugandan authorities are demanding fines of Sh20,000 per boat, which many fishermen cannot afford. Mamra called for a peaceful resolution and stronger cross-border cooperation to safeguard fishermen's welfare as Kenya and Uganda continue discussions on joint fisheries management.



Nyeri County Executive Committee Member in charge of Gender, Esther Ndung'u, assessing a walking frame at Hope Mobility Kenya offices along Mombasa Road last week. The County Government of Nyeri has partnered with Hope Haven Mobility Kenya to promote public awareness on the inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) as full members of society. With her is the foundation's Executive Director Jack Muthui.



Chief Registrar of the Judiciary Winfridah Mokaya urged newly admitted advocates to view the legal profession as a calling to serve justice rather than merely a career. Speaking during the admission ceremony of 171 new advocates, she told them their role carries a responsibility in the administration of justice. Mokaya noted that success in the legal field often takes time, warning that young lawyers may face periods when opportunities seem limited. She encouraged patience, perseverance, and dedication to excellence as they grow in their careers. The Chief Registrar also advised them to protect their reputation, describing it as the most valuable currency in the profession. She further emphasized the importance of upholding constitutional values such as the rule of law, integrity, social justice, and strong professional ethics.



National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi has expressed confidence that the proposed National Infrastructure Fund will accelerate Kenya's development by supporting major infrastructure projects and promoting long-term economic growth. Speaking during the groundbreaking of a maternity ward at Lwanda Gwassu Health Center and the drilling of a borehole at Lwanda Comprehensive School in Suba South, Mbadi emphasized that the fund is purely for development and not linked to politics. He noted that similar funds have successfully supported infrastructure growth in countries such as India, Canada, South Africa, and Singapore. Mbadi said the fund will finance economically viable projects without increasing the country's debt burden, unlike infrastructure bonds that rely on borrowing. He also welcomed Parliament's approval of the National Infrastructure Fund Bill and said the government is awaiting President William Ruto's assent.

A section of young Muslim boys follows the proceedings during the first day of a Qur'an recitation competition organized by the Said Abdalla Foundation at Sheikh Zayed Hall in Nyali, Mombasa County. A total of 87 young participants aged between five and 18 years took part in the competition, reciting portions of the Holy Qur'an ranging from two to 15 Juz (sections). The Qur'an is divided into 30 Juz to facilitate memorization and recitation.



Young people are playing a key role in transforming Kenya's agriculture sector through modern skills and agribusiness training aimed at improving food security and economic growth. Secretary Administration at the State Department for Agriculture Harun Khator opened the fourth cohort of the Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) programme in Horticulture Production at the Kenya School of Agriculture, Nyeri Campus. The programme emphasizes hands-on learning, with 80 percent practical training and 20 percent theory, preparing trainees for employment and self-employment. Offered in Nyeri, Thika, Ainabkoi, and Ugenya campuses, it includes three months of training and a three-month industrial attachment. The government has also supported youth through UK internships and invested over KSh 500 million in KSA infrastructure.



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Agriculture Theme “Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Growth.”

Kirinyaga Farmers Trained On Climate-Smart Agriculture At Annual Field Day



Farmers get information at the various exhibitions during the farmers field day at Kirinyaga Agricultural and Technical, Vocational Education and Training Center at Kamweti.

BY MKT Correspondent
@themkenyaintimes

Hundreds of farmers from across Kirinyaga County gathered at the Kirinyaga Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training Centre (ATVET) at Kamweti Farm for the county’s annual farmers’ field day, where they received practical training on climate-smart agriculture, modern farming technologies and emerging agribusiness opportunities.

The two-day event, held on Friday and Saturday, brought together farmers, agricultural experts, agribusiness stakeholders, students and

members of the public. Through demonstrations, exhibitions and training sessions, participants learned new approaches aimed at improving farm productivity while promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

This year’s event was held under the theme “Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Growth.” The theme underscored the importance of adopting farming methods that help farmers adapt to climate change while increasing yields and improving household incomes.

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru has consistent-

ly championed initiatives aimed at strengthening the agricultural sector. Through the Wezesha Kirinyaga programme, the county government has supported farmers to adopt better farming practices, improve product quality and enhance environmental sustainability, while transforming smallholder farming into a key driver of economic growth and empowerment.

Speaking during the event, County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Livestock, Veterinary and Fisheries Dr. John Gachara said the annual field day provides an important platform for farmers to gain hands-on



Kirinyaga County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Dr. John Gachara takes a tour at the Kamweti agricultural demo farm during a farmer’s field day at Kirinyaga Agricultural and Technical, Vocational Education and Training Center. | Photo: Courtesy.

experience and learn modern agricultural techniques.

During the training sessions, farmers were introduced to improved crop varieties, livestock management practices, fisheries, sustainable soil management and the safe use of agrochemicals.

Dr. Gachara urged farmers to apply the knowledge gained to increase productivity and embrace value addition. He also emphasized the need for responsible use of agrochemicals to safeguard both human health and the environment.

He further announced that the former Kamweti Agricul-

tural Training Centre (ATC) has been upgraded and officially registered as an agricultural TVET institution. The centre has already begun admitting students into new programmes, including ICT courses launched in January, while agriculture-related courses are expected to begin in May.

Agricultural experts also trained farmers on organic and environmentally friendly farming methods. Organic agronomist Zachary Mwangi said the initiative is helping farmers shift to safer and more sustainable farming systems.

Farmers who attended the field day said the demonstrations exposed them to new technologies and high-yield crop varieties. Justus Kamau, a fish farmer from Kiamutugu who also grows maize, said he was impressed by a high-yielding maize variety showcased during the demonstrations and plans to plant it on his half-acre farm.

The event also featured exhibitions on value addition technologies, climate-smart farm inputs and various agricultural products aimed at boosting productivity and food security in the county.

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CYBERSECURITY

Kenya Strengthens Cybersecurity Through Collaboration



CAK DG David Mugonyi

BY MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK) Director General David Mugonyi says the government has intensified efforts to strengthen national cybersecurity through enhanced collaboration and information sharing among public and private sector stakeholders.

Speaking during the closing of a five-day Information Sharing and Building Trust Networks training, Mugonyi said the initiative equipped cybersecurity professionals with skills to protect Kenya's digital ecosystem.

"Over the past five days, stakeholders from the government and industry have learnt ways to collaborate more effectively to safeguard Kenya's digital ecosystem," he said, noting that cyber threats are increasingly sophisticated,

borderless, and disruptive, making coordinated action essential.

The training, organised in partnership with the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), focused on building structured systems for sharing cyber threat intelligence through key national structures such as the National Computer and Cybercrimes Coordination Committee (NC4), Cybersecurity Operations Centres (CSOCs), sector regulators, and critical infrastructure operators.

"Structured information sharing ensures that our national cybersecurity architecture functions as a unified, responsive system reinforced by early detection, coordinated response, collective resilience and trust among institutions," Mugonyi added.



United Alternative Government leaders during the church service in Buuri, Meru yesterday.

Meru Church Blockade Sparks Opposition Outcry

BY MKT Correspondents

@themkenyatimes

Opposition leaders yesterday condemned what they describe as political intimidation after they were blocked from attending a church service by a heavy police presence in Meru County.

The incident occurred at Kaa-ga Methodist Church, where Deputy President Kithure Kindiki attended a service, while Rigathi Gachagua and Kalonzo Musyoka were denied entry by police officers. There was tense exchanges between Gachagua's allies and security personnel.

Some opposition supporters also claimed a personal aide of Gachagua was briefly detained.

Gachagua, leader of the Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP), criticised the police deployment as unnecessary and politically motivated.

He called on authorities to focus resources on urgent security issues such as banditry along the Meru-Isiolo border.

Kalonzo described the actions as unconstitutional, urging faith groups and legal bodies to condemn the move.

Both leaders attended a separate service at East Africa Pentecostal Church in Njotene Parish, Buuri Constituency, and vowed to pursue legal remedies.

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Gachagua, leader of the Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP), criticised the police deployment as unnecessary and politically motivated.

He called on authorities to focus resources on urgent security issues such as banditry along the Meru-Isiolo border. Kalonzo described the actions as unconstitutional, urging faith groups and legal bodies to condemn the move.

Deputy President Kindiki dismissed the opposition's accusations, describing their behaviour as politically disruptive.

He urged visiting politicians to maintain discipline and criticised Gachagua's record, calling for constructive engagement rather than rhetoric.

The episode has intensified political tensions ahead of the 2027 general elections, with opposition leaders warning that blocking access to a religious venue signals growing political intolerance.

Both sides are now considering legal and public mobilisation strategies, raising the stakes in Kenya's democratic and constitutional debates.

Other leaders present included former Cabinet Secretaries Mithika Linturi and Justin Muturi.

They were accompanied by dozens of former, current and aspiring political leaders allied to the United Alternative Government caucus

Dairy Industry Enter TanoDairy, a digital platform aiming to transform the continent's dairy industry. Developed by Tanolope, the platform combines an e-commerce marketplace

TanoDairy: The Digital Platform Disrupting Africa's Dairy Industry

Inspired by the Blue Ocean Strategy taught at Harvard Business School, TanoDairy doesn't compete in the crowded dairy market. Instead, it creates a new digital ecosystem where farmers, suppliers, and service providers interact directly—building the infrastructure for a modern dairy economy.

BY Alex Gathii Gitonga

[@themkenyatimes](#)

Africa's dairy sector has long struggled with inefficiencies. Millions of small-scale farmers produce milk, yet the supply chain connecting farmers, suppliers, veterinarians, processors, and markets is fragmented and costly.

Outdated paper records, middlemen, limited market access, and weak data make dairy business expensive and complicated.

Enter TanoDairy, a digital platform aiming to transform the continent's dairy industry. Developed by Tanolope, the platform combines an e-commerce marketplace, farm management software, training programs, and financial tools into one integrated system.

Its mission is straightforward: lower costs, boost efficiency, and bring transparency to the dairy value chain.

Inspired by the Blue Ocean Strategy taught at Harvard Business School, TanoDairy doesn't compete in the crowded dairy market. Instead, it creates a new digital ecosystem where farmers, suppliers, and service providers interact directly—building the infrastructure for a modern dairy economy.

Digitizing the Dairy Value Chain

Traditionally, dairy operations exist in silos. Farmers manage livestock manually, veterinarians operate independently, and buyers hunt for suppliers through informal networks. Financial records are often scattered across notebooks. TanoDairy changes this. Its loca-

tion-based marketplace connects farmers to verified suppliers, equipment providers, veterinary services, and training programs.

Orders, payments, and service bookings are all handled within the platform.

The result? Reduced hidden costs, faster transactions, and greater trust. Farmers spend less time searching for suppliers, and suppliers benefit from verified buyers. Every transaction is tracked, replacing fragmented networks with a structured digital system.

Smart Farm Management

Beyond commerce, TanoDairy offers tools that digitize daily farm operations.

Farmers can track each animal, monitor milk production, manage feeding plans and breeding cycles, and maintain health and vaccination records.

Dashboards provide real-time production trends and financial reports.

Global experience shows that digital herd tracking improves productivity and decision-making.



Traditionally, dairy operations exist in silos. Farmers manage livestock manually, veterinarians operate independently, and buyers hunt for suppliers through informal networks. Financial records are often scattered across notebooks. TanoDairy changes this. Its location-based marketplace connects farmers to verified suppliers, equipment providers, veterinary services, and training programs. Orders, payments, and service bookings are all handled within the platform.



From left; Gerald Ezekiel and Deo from Tanzania, Ms Ann Mwangi, Alex Gathii and Mwangi Githaiga when they visited Meved Dairy to showcase the e-Commerce platform last week. Photo: Courtesy

For African farmers, this means identifying health or production issues early, optimizing feed, and increasing milk yield, all while lowering costs.

Integrated Services in One Platform

What sets TanoDairy apart is its integration.

The platform brings multiple services under one roof;

- A dairy marketplace for products and services.
- Farm management software for herd tracking.
- Professional advisory services, including farm audits and veterinary support.
- Training programs in dairy management and milk hygiene.
- Financial tools for invoices, payouts, and recordkeeping.

By consolidating these services, farmers reduce reliance on multiple systems or intermediaries, lowering coordination costs and simplifying operations.

Reducing the Cost of Doing Dairy Business

Inefficiencies in Africa's dairy sector are widespread;

- Poor herd records reduce productivity.
- Manual bookkeeping leads to financial leakages.
- Middlemen raise marketing costs.
- Limited data restricts access to finance.

Weak logistics coordination increases operational costs

TanoDairy addresses all these issues by digitizing herd management, transactions, and advisory services.

The platform's effect is comparable to how Uber lowered transport costs and Amazon revolutionized retail: connecting participants directly and efficiently.

A Blue Ocean Opportunity

Africa produces over 50 million tonnes of milk annually, yet productivity per cow remains among the world's lowest.

This gap signals a huge opportunity. Digital platforms that link farmers, services, data, and markets can unlock efficiency gains across the dairy industry.

TanoDairy isn't just building another farm or processor; it is creat-

ing the digital backbone of Africa's dairy economy.

As more farmers, suppliers, and service providers join, network effects amplify, increasing the platform's value for all users.

The Future of Dairy Platforms

Worldwide, dairy technology platforms are digitizing the "cow-to-consumer" supply chain. Systems like YantraDairy leverage AI, IoT, and data analytics to enhance milk collection, logistics, and supply chain transparency.

TanoDairy adapts this vision to African realities.

If it scales across farmers, cooperatives, and processors, it could become a cornerstone of Africa's dairy industry.

The next revolution in dairy may not come from new cow breeds—it may come from smarter data, better markets, and digital platforms connecting the entire value chain.

Mr Alex Gathii Gitonga is the founder and CEO, Tanolope Dairy Consultancy. He can be reached on +254723331611

SGBV The recovery centre known as the Tumaini Clinic, will be providing confidential and comprehensive care and support to survivors

Reprieve For SGBV Victims As KUTRRH Opens Support Clinic

BY John Kamau
@themtkenyatimes

Survivors of sexual gender based violence (SGBV) will now be able to access specialized medical care following the establishment of a new clinic at the Kenyatta University Teaching Referral and Research Hospital (KUTRRH). The recovery centre known as the Tumaini Clinic, will be providing confidential and comprehensive care and support to survivors of sexual gender violence, more so women. Speaking during the launch, the hospital's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Zeinab Gura

said the facility will offer medical, psychological and legal support services to survivors, while strengthening the institution's response to gender-based violence in the community. In a speech read on her behalf by the Director, Training and Research at the facility Dr Caroline Ngugi, the CEO noted that gender-based violence remains a serious public health and human rights concern, with many victims suffering in silence due to stigma and fear. "Data shows that nearly 40 percent of couples have experienced some form of gender-based violence from their partners. The Tumaini Clinic

will provide post-exposure prophylaxis, emergency medical treatment, psychosocial support, legal linkages and follow-up care to ensure survivors begin the journey toward healing and recovery," she said. Dr Gura added that the hospital will also strengthen staff capacity through specialized training to ensure survivors receive trauma-informed and compassionate care. According to the hospital management, the facility will also address the psychological toll that violence leaves on survivors, including trauma, loss of trust and feelings of insecurity. A senior nurse and repre-



sentative of the clinic management Purity Kibathi said many survivors experience deep psychological scars and require long-term mental health support. "Gender-based violence remains a common health and human rights issue in society. Survivors often suffer in silence because of stigma, but this clinic will provide a safe space where they can access support and begin rebuilding their lives," she said. Security officials also called on the public to report cases

of abuse and stop protecting perpetrators. Yusuf Yaya, a senior police officer who is also the Gender-Based Violence coordinator at Kahawa West Police Station, said poverty and social pressures are among key drivers of violence. "Many cases still go unreported because victims fear stigma or retaliation. People should report all cases and avoid shielding perpetrators so that justice can be served and victims protected," he said.

He added: "Let us support the victims, rather than victimize them. There's need to strengthen co-operation between police and the community." Salome Ndolo, a social health worker at Kenyatta National Hospital said surveys show that at least one in three women experience physical violence in their lifetime, underscoring the need for stronger prevention and survivor support systems.

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Health Investing in incubators is investing in families - Tessie Musalia

Ushiriki Wema Foundation Boosts Neonatal Care With Incubator Donation



Chair of the Ushiriki Wema Foundation, Tessie Musalia during the donation ceremony.

BY MKT REPORTER
@themkenyatimes

The fight against neonatal mortality received a major boost today following the donation of life-saving infant incubators by the Ushiriki Wema Foundation through its flagship Okoa Malaika programme to hospitals across Tharaka-Nithi County.

Speaking during the handover of the incubators at Chuka County Referral Hospital in Chuka, Tharaka-Nithi County, Chair of the Ushiriki Wema Foundation, Tessie Musalia, underscored the critical role they play in saving newborn lives and protecting mothers from preventable grief.

“When a baby is born too soon, it is often the mother who carries the emotional weight, the fear, the guilt, and the uncertainty. Investing in incubators is investing in families,” she added.

She noted that such investments strengthen women’s mental health and preserve families, ensuring that both mothers and children thrive.

The donation of infant incubators, she said, goes beyond machines giving mothers hope and a fighting chance for

their babies.

The launch coincided with International Women’s Day 2026, with Madam Tessie Musalia emphasising, “Every investment we make in women and girls returns multiplied in healthier families, stronger communities, and a more prosperous nation.”

She added, “We are also celebrating International Women’s Day, whose 2026 UN theme is ‘Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls, with its campaign theme being ‘Give to Gain’. How wonderful it is to mark these two events here in Tharaka-Nithi County.”

Madam Tessie highlighted that prematurity remains a leading cause of newborn deaths globally.

She revealed that, in Kenya, inadequate neonatal intensive care contributed to 4,112 infant deaths out of 20,156 under-five deaths recorded in health facilities, most of which could have been prevented with cost-effective interventions.

So far, Madam Tessie reported that the Okoa Malaika programme has reached 28 counties, strengthening referral hospitals with neonatal equipment, supporting health-

care workers, and empowering mothers.

She also called for extended maternity leave for mothers of preterm babies, citing examples from Tanzania, The Gambia, and Djibouti and noting that Kenya’s standard 90-day maternity leave is insufficient for mothers of preterm infants who often require extended care.

“These infants often require prolonged hospitalisation under specialised care, with constant monitoring even after discharge. How then can a mother who has given birth prematurely be expected to return to work within 90 days? Those ninety days are simply not enough,” she said.

Madam Tessie emphasized that extending maternity leave for mothers of preterm babies is not charity but an investment in healthier children, stronger families, and a more productive nation.

“I therefore urge our legislators, at both national and county levels, to rise to this moment. They have the capacity to determine an appropriate period suitable for both mother and child.”

Politics When you are here in Meru, you must respect area leaders

Respect Is Not Negotiable, DP Tells Opposition Leaders



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki in Meru

BY DPCS
@themkenyatimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has demanded respect for Meru leaders saying insults and attempts to berate them will not be tolerated.

The DP said the habit by the opposition leaders to insult leaders from Meru region whenever they visit the area is no longer acceptable, calling for respect for everyone despite political differences.

Speaking yesterday when he addressed a mammoth crowd at Makutano in Meru County after attending the induction of Rev. David Mwitwa as the new Bishop of Kaaga Synod, Methodist Church of Kenya, Prof. Kindiki said everyone is welcome to the region but insults will not be accepted.

“When you are here in Meru, you must respect area leaders. Everyone is welcome to Meru but they must respect the region’s leaders,” he said.

The Deputy President said

those who are leading in disrespecting their opponents had been in powerful positions before but did nothing to better the lives of Meru residents.

“When you were Vice President, when you were Deputy President, you did not initiate a single project in Meru County but now you are lying to residents that you are interested in their affairs”

In the last one year he has been Deputy President, Prof. Kindiki, said he has initiated massive development projects in the area promising more ranging in multi-billion shillings.

“I have been a Deputy President for only a year and already we are upgrading Meru Level 5 hospital to Level 6 facility that will offer the best medical services to the residents,” he revealed.

Other key projects he has influenced are the redesigning of the Nithi bridge which has been allocated 7 billion shillings and the expansion of the Makutano-Embu-Chuka-Me-

ru Road set to start soon among others.

Road projects worth 39 billion shillings are also ongoing in all the constituencies in Meru County and another 3.7 billion shillings has been allocated roads for Meru town alone.

Gakoromone Modern Market is being constructed at 1 billion shillings in Meru town and will be among the biggest in the country.

“I have been a Senator for 10 years, Majority Leader for 5 years and Deputy Speaker, Interior Cabinet Secretary and now Deputy President, I know how to deliver development to the people,” DP stated.

The DP urged all the leaders to exercise decorum while engaging Kenyans warning of zero tolerance to politically instigated violence.

“We must conduct our politics peacefully. Leaders must explain to the people their development plans and not engage in violence. We will have zero tolerance to violence,” he said.

Water According to Muiruri, many households in Maragua are already connected to clean water supplied by Muwasco

Maragua Residents Oppose Water Politics, Back Current Service Provider

BY Bernard Munyao

@themkenyatimes

Residents of Maragua town and its surrounding areas have called for an end to what they describe as unnecessary politics in the water sector.

The concerned locals have observed that such disputes pitting two water service providers risk disrupting the steady supply of clean water they currently enjoy.

The residents said they are satisfied with services offered by Murang'a Water and San-

itation Company (Muwasco), which has been supplying the town with clean and reliable water for domestic use.

They argued that the ongoing debate over which Water Company should serve the area should not interfere with a system that is already working for the community.

The dispute emerged after the Water Services Regulatory Board (Wasreb) called for public participation to determine the boundaries of water service providers operating within Murang'a County.

The process has sparked de-

bate, with some individuals arguing that Maragua falls within the southern part of the county and should therefore be served by Murang'a South Water and Sanitation Company (Muswasco).

Last week, residents from parts of Murang'a south held demonstrations accusing Muwasco of what they termed as interfering with water meant for irrigation, claims that management of the firm dismissed.

However, a section of residents who spoke to the press on Friday insisted that they



Residents of Maragua town airing their views about ingoing water politics in the area. | Photo: Bernard Munyao

One of the residents and a community leader, Lameck Muiruri condemned those raising what he termed as water politics, noting that the town's pressing need is not a change of service provider but the establishment of a proper sewer system. According to Muiruri, many households in Maragua are already connected to clean water supplied by Muwasco and attention should now shift to improving sanitation infrastructure.

”

are comfortable with the services currently provided by Muwasco and urged leaders to avoid politicizing the issue. One of the residents and a community leader, Lameck Muiruri condemned those raising what he termed as water politics, noting that the town's pressing need is not a change of service provider but the establishment of a proper sewer system.

According to Muiruri, many households in Maragua are already connected to clean water supplied by Muwasco and attention should now shift to improving sanitation infrastructure.

“What we need as residents is a sewer system. We already have access to clean water,” he said, adding “already the government has set aside Sh. 2 billion to put up a sewerage system at Maragua town and we don't want politics to delay the project.”

He further criticized some political leaders whom he accused of attempting to disrupt ongoing water connections in the area being spearheaded by Muwasco.

Kamau Waithera also expressed concern that the public participation exercise on water service boundaries could end up interfering with the supply of water to residents.

He noted public participation was done some years back which resolved Maragua and the surrounding areas to be supplied water by Muwasco.

He maintained that Maragua town has been well served by the water company and warned that altering the current arrangement without proper consultation could negatively affect residents.

Waithera also criticized leaders pushing for Maragua to be served by Muswasco arguing that the company already has a large coverage area where water supply challenges still persist.

“Muswasco has many areas that are poorly served with

water. Instead of bringing politics here, leaders should focus on addressing those challenges,” he remarked.

Andrew Thuo echoed similar sentiments explaining that Muwasco has mainly focused on the supply of water for domestic use which has greatly benefited residents in the area.

He noted that concerns raised by some residents about water tariffs should be handled through proper engagement with relevant stakeholders rather than politicizing the matter.

“Any issues to do with water tariffs should be discussed with the right authorities so that solutions can be found,” Thuo said.

Faustia Wangui, another resident, said the community is currently enjoying consistent water supply and hopes the situation will not be disrupted by ongoing debates.

She recalled the difficult times when residents depended on unclean water sources before the current supply system was established.

“We used to fetch water from unsafe sources, but now we can access clean water easily. That is why we are asking leaders to stop bringing unnecessary politics into this sector,” she said.

The residents now want stakeholders and leaders to prioritize service delivery and infrastructure development instead of engaging in disputes over administrative boundaries.

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Agribusiness A tray of eggs that previously sold for about Sh380 now goes for over Sh450,” says a trader.

Egg Prices Surge Amid High Feed Costs And Cold Weather

BY KNA
 @themtkenyatimes

Egg prices in Murang'a have surged by more than 30 percent in recent weeks, with traders citing reduced supply, high poultry feed costs, and cold weather caused by ongoing rains.

A spot check by KNA in several shops and egg outlets within Murang'a town revealed that the price of eggs has gone up by more than 30 percent in the past few weeks.

In Murang'a town, an egg wholesaler, Emma Wanjiru, has noted that the price increase has forced her to adjust how she sells to retailers.

She notes that a tray of eggs that previously sold at Sh380 is now going for more than Sh450, a rise she attributes to higher production and supply costs from farmers.

“A tray of eggs that previously sold for about Sh380 now goes for over Sh450,” she says.

Traders also blame increased transport costs and reduced egg production as chickens lay fewer eggs during cold seasons.

“The price from farmers has gone up because feeds are very expensive and egg production has reduced. Even transporting the eggs to Murang'a now costs more than before, so we have no choice but to increase the price,” said Wanjiru.

Benson Irungu, a smokie-mayai vendor in Murang'a town, says eggs are a key ingredient in his business and any increase in their price directly affects his profits.

He notes that smokie-mayai vendors depend on a steady supply of affordable eggs to keep their businesses running.



The Mt. Kenya Times



Memories In Objects How Everyday Items Carry Stories



The things in our life carried some stories.
The most essential thing - Hawaiian chappal.
Telling a lot about replacing war straps.
And hook the cut strap with chappal.

The iron trunk box is the asset for the middle class.
It reflects their social economic status.
Moped is a classical motor vehicle.
It gives a proud moment while driving.

Ammikkal and attukkal hears many stories of family members.
Palm hand fans give good air
The needle and thread tells granny's efforts.

The list is going on with endless.
And carries many memories.
Make everyone happy with those days.
Lantern lamp gives eyes to everyone.

Rajesh Kanna B N

RAJESH KANNA.B N
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TIRUR.
TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT.
Tamil Nadu. India
Creative Writers.

Whatever You See And Hear...



Whatever you see, hear may not be true always,
That can be false, what we hear also can go wrong.
What we see also can go wrong, don't be in a
haste to decide
Analyse well with rational thinking and way.

Use your right brain for clear reference

Because appearance can be deceptive,
Don't believe in anything, look beyond the surface
Look deep properly
Think beyond the box, what you see and hear may
be different

What you see and hear may not be truth,
Use your seventh sense, don't get trapped soon
Before analysing don't come to a conclusion
Don't judge anything, anyone
You don't have any rights or Liberty to judge
If at all you judge, judge right and correct

Brinda. D
GRADUATE TEACHER,
GOVT HIGH SCHOOL,
MELPATTAMPAKKAM
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And to live colorful without strife
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Favouring your eyes to pursue

Energetic as parrot green
Talkative ever seen
Symbolising as dove white
Stabilizing your heart to be light
Brave as lion gold
Learning to be bold
Dutiful as tiger yellow
Dedicating with family to glow
Thankful as the dog brown
And do not frown
Attract as a butterfly
Embracing hearts at a sigh
Be as the love bird's icon
But not as a chameleon.

G.Sarala.
CREATIVE WRITERS.

My Capricious Mind



I mustered up my valour
To fix and focus my mind
To one particular direction,
That's towards my destination;
Yet my whimsical ignorant mind
Knew no bounds;
It fled to the past
And excavated the feelings
Buried deep inside long ago;

Then leaped to the present
With a handful of worries
And regrets;
Swung to and fro,
Tethered my senses,
Crippled my movement
Leaving a vast space of emptiness;
All of a sudden surged to the unseen and
unpredictable future
And dwelled there for a while
Arousing fear and perturbed me
To the core leaving me muddy;
Mercilessly it fled to faraway lands
Adjoining the flight of birds;
I waited patiently to harness
My capricious mind.

By
Shyni. S. S,
English Teacher,
GHSS, Rameshwaram.

Blind Trust



Some people travel with you
For a very long time.
Yet you never truly see
The feelings they hide inside.
You believed
You were important in their life.
You gave them love,
Care,
Time,
And pieces of your heart.
You shared everything.
You stood beside them.
You chose them.
But in return,
They showed you distance,
Silent grudges,
Unspoken resentment.

They never listened.
They only used
As much as they could.
And in the end,
Believing the wrong person
Always leads to emptiness.
Love should never be poured
Into hands that don't value it.
Not everyone who stays
Deserves your loyalty.
Sometimes love blinds us.
We trust without question.
We give without limit.
But the painful truth is —
Not everyone deserves
A heart that is pure.
So protect your love.
Be aware.
And never forget —
Your kindness is precious.

By
ZAHETHA R
B T ASST
GHS PAPPANTHANGAL
TVM DIST

A Good Soul



True love is felt, not seen.

The moon and the sun in the sky,
How beautifully they give us light.
Even when they are high above,
The sun smiles and the birds sing.

Nature shows the true bond,

Yet we refuse to adjust and bend.
Love is a secret, sweetheart;
When we realise the truth,
We no longer need to face problems.

Wherever we live does not matter;
What matters is how many hearts we win
And how many friends we make.

Love does not know the future;
It simply feels and never tries to foresee.
So if you find a good soul,
Do not miss it.

V. JAYANTHI
Graduate teacher
Creative Writer
Chengalpattu district
Tamil Nadu
India

Counties Laikipia County has recruited a new team of health specialists and other public service officers

Laikipia County Recruits Health Specialists To Strengthen Hospital Services

Among those recruited are orthopaedic trauma technicians who will assist doctors in managing fractures, trauma injuries and post-surgical care in health facilities.

BY Fatuma Rashid
@themkenyatimes

Laikipia County has recruited a new team of health specialists and other public service officers to strengthen service delivery and expand specialised care in hospitals across the county.

County Secretary and Head of Public Service Koinange Wahome said the recruitment prioritised healthcare professionals in order to improve access to specialised services while also boosting staffing in other key departments.

Among those recruited are

orthopaedic trauma technicians who will assist doctors in managing fractures, trauma injuries and post-surgical care in health facilities.

The county also hired medical engineering technologists and technicians who will be responsible for installing, maintaining and repairing hospital equipment to ensure diagnostic machines, surgical tools and other critical medical devices operate safely and efficiently.

Nutrition and dietetics technologists will help hospitals and communities promote proper nutrition, therapeutic diets and disease prevention, particularly for patients man-



aging chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and malnutrition.

Clinical officers and community health officers have also been recruited to strengthen frontline healthcare services. They will help diagnose illnesses, prescribe treatment and coordinate disease prevention programmes in communities and primary health-

care facilities.

Health records and information management officers will oversee patient records and medical data systems to ensure accurate and confidential handling of health information necessary for patient care and planning.

The county has also hired health administrative officers who will coordinate hospital

operations, supervise support staff and manage logistics such as staffing schedules and supplies to ensure health facilities run efficiently.

Medical social workers will provide counselling to patients and families and help vulnerable households access support services while addressing the social and psychological needs of patients.

Beyond the health sector, the county government has recruited human resource management officers to strengthen staff administration and workforce planning within the public service.

Forest officers have also been hired to support environmental conservation through forest protection, tree planting initiatives and community-based programmes aimed at promoting sustainable natural resource management.

In addition, cartographers will support county planning and development by producing spatial data used in infrastructure planning, land management and environmental monitoring.


Assets and liabilities management officers have also joined the county government to enhance financial oversight by maintaining asset registers, tracking county investments and ensuring proper management of public resources.

Koinange said the recruitment process was conducted transparently by the County Public Service Board in line with constitutional requirements on merit, gender balance and regional representation.

He urged the new officers to serve with professionalism, integrity and dedication, noting that their work will directly impact the wellbeing of residents across Laikipia County.

Clinical officers and community health officers have also been recruited to strengthen frontline health-care services. They will help diagnose illnesses, prescribe treatment and coordinate disease prevention programmes in communities and primary healthcare facilities.





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Floods According to county disaster officials, dozens of homes have been destroyed, while farmlands—critical to Kenya’s food supply—lie submerged

Nakuru Leaders Warn Of Further Flood Calamities If Action Not Taken



BY MKT REPORTER
@themtkenyatimes

Nakuru’s leaders have sounded a stark warning: unless urgent action is taken, the floods devastating the county will only worsen. Speaking after a Sunday service at Full Gospel Church in Molo, local leaders Dan Mwangi, Geoffrey Mwangi, and Wairimo Kabogo accused both county and national authorities of ignoring clear meteorological warnings, leaving communities exposed to tragedy. “The government had prior warnings from the meteorological department, yet no measures were taken to protect vulnerable communities. The results have been trag-

ic,” said Geoffrey Mwangi, his voice echoing the frustration of residents who have seen homes, roads, and farms swept away in recent days.

Heavy rains have already claimed lives and displaced families across Nakuru. Rivers have burst their banks, cutting off villages and leaving relief teams scrambling. According to county disaster officials, dozens of homes have been destroyed, while farmlands—critical to Kenya’s food supply—lie submerged.

Dan Mwangi warned that inaction could prove catastrophic: “If disaster response teams are not deployed immediately, if evacuations are not carried out in high-risk areas, we will see more deaths. This

is not just about property—it is about human lives.”

Beyond immediate relief, the leaders linked the crisis to broader questions of governance. Wairimo Kabogo urged citizens to use their vote wisely: “The floods are a stark reminder that leadership must be accountable and responsive. Kenyans must elect leaders who genuinely care about the people.”

Their remarks resonate with a wider national debate. The Kenya Meteorological Department has repeatedly issued alerts about heavy rainfall, yet critics argue that disaster preparedness remains weak. International agencies, including the Red Cross, have also warned that climate change is intensifying rainfall

patterns, making floods more frequent and severe.

In Molo and surrounding areas, residents are living in fear of the next downpour. Relief efforts are underway, but logistical challenges persist. Roads remain impassable, and emergency supplies are slow to reach those stranded. Local churches and community groups have stepped in, offering shelter and food to displaced families.

Kabogo emphasized the need for long-term solutions: “We cannot keep reacting after lives are lost. We need proper drainage systems, flood barriers, and investment in infrastructure. Otherwise, every rainy season will be a season of mourning.”

The leaders’ call has placed pressure on Nairobi to act decisively. The Ministry of Interior has promised to scale up disaster response, while the National Disaster Operations Centre has urged counties to strengthen local preparedness. Yet residents remain skeptical, pointing to repeated promises that have failed to translate into action.



International observers note that Kenya’s vulnerability to floods is compounded by rapid urbanization and deforestation. The United Nations Environment Programme has warned that unless land management practices improve, extreme weather events will continue to wreak havoc.

For Nakuru’s leaders, the

message is clear: the time for political rhetoric has passed. “We are tired of condolences and empty pledges,” said Dan Mwangi. “We want action—real action—to protect our people.”

As the rains continue, the urgency of their appeal cannot be overstated. The floods are not just a natural disaster; they are a test of Kenya’s governance, resilience, and commitment to its citizens.

If leaders fail to act, the waters will not only wash away homes and farms—they will wash away trust in government itself.

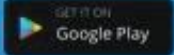


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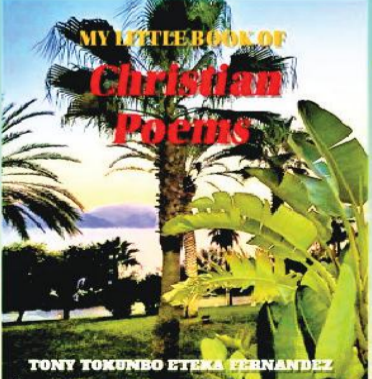
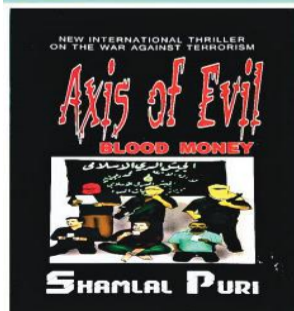
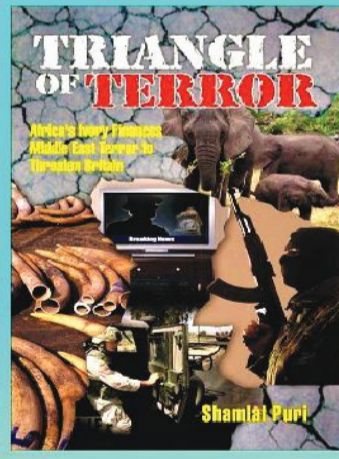
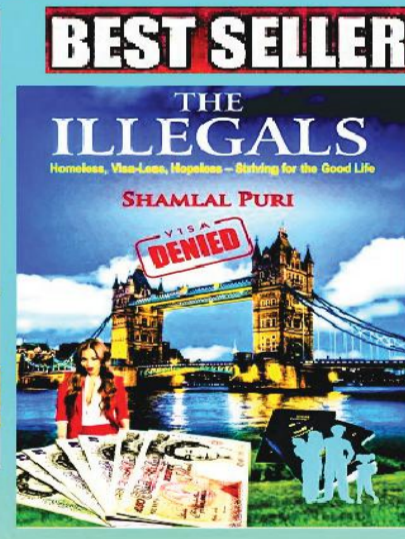
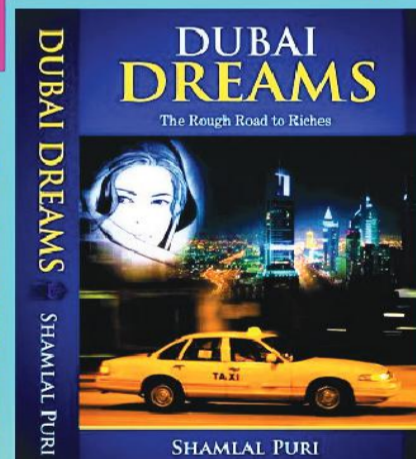
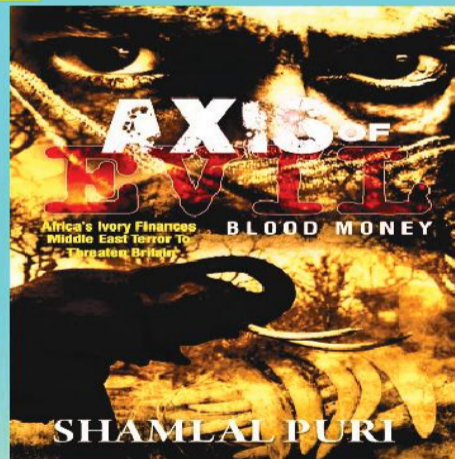
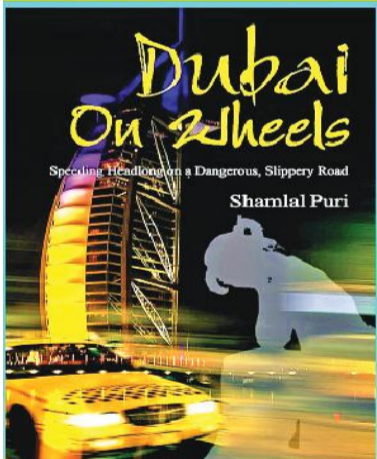
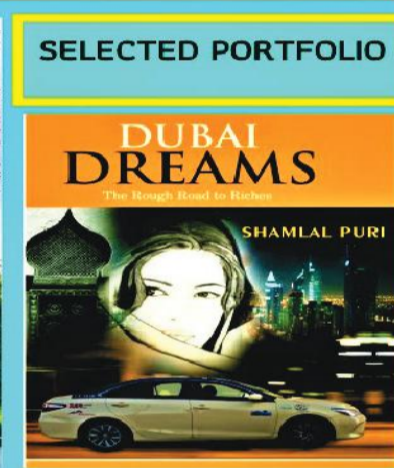
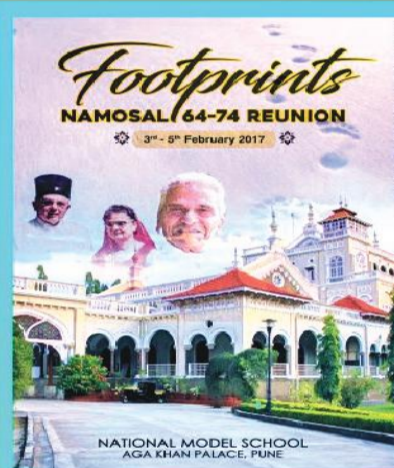
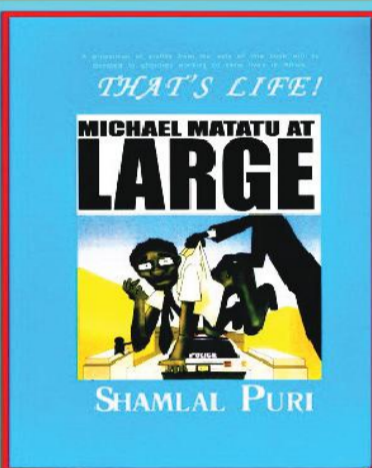
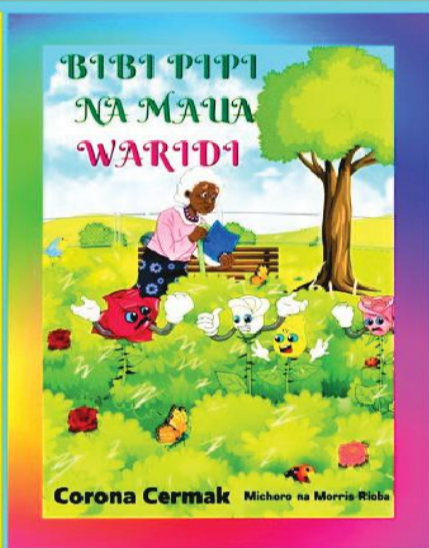
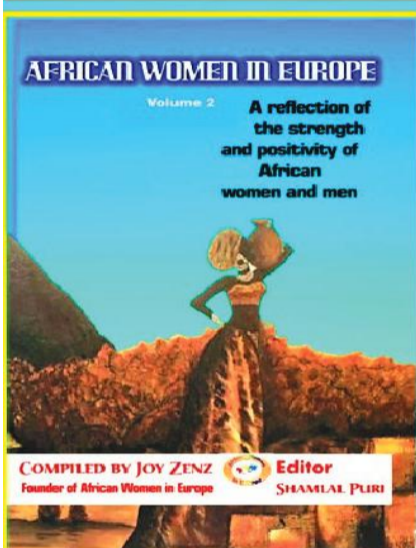
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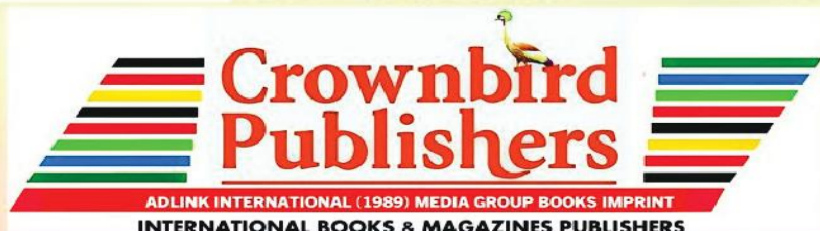
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Politics Dr Kinity announced his candidacy in a formal declaration issued yesterday saying Kenya's long struggle with corruption has blocked meaningful development

Former Civil Servants Union Leader Dr Kinity Joins 2027 Presidential Race

According to Dr Kinity, corruption remains the root cause of many national challenges

BY Suleiman Mbatiah

[@themkenyatimes](#)



Dr Isaac Newton Kinity

Former Kenya Civil Servants Union Secretary-General, Dr Isaac Newton Kinity has entered the 2027 presidential race, unveiling a platform centred on fighting corruption, lowering the cost of living and expanding social protection.

Dr Kinity announced his candidacy in a formal declaration issued yesterday saying Kenya's long struggle with corruption has blocked meaningful development and left millions of citizens facing poverty, unemployment and rising living costs.

The governance activist said his campaign will focus on strict protection of the 2010 Constitution, restoration of free education for Kenyan children, implementation of universal healthcare and stronger social support programmes for vulnerable groups.

He outlined a broader economic agenda aimed at reducing unemployment and cutting the cost of living by 40 per cent within two years, while ensuring fair pay for Kenyan workers, including members of the Kenya Defence Forces.

The candidate also pledged stronger protection for farmers, businesses and investors against extortion and bribery demands by corrupt officials, while pushing for policies to end unnecessary food imports by boosting local agricultural production.

According to Dr Kinity, corruption remains the root cause of many national challenges, including widespread looting of public funds, abuse of the Constitution, weak public services, high unemployment and growing insecurity across the country.

Other consequences, he said, include struggling health systems, education sector difficulties, rising poverty and allegations of extrajudicial killings, problems he argues cannot be solved without decisive action against corruption in government institutions.

The former union leader promised that if elected president he would launch a determined campaign to eliminate corruption within two years, describing the fight against graft as the foundation for national recovery.

"If Kenyans entrust me with this responsibility and reject corrupt leadership during the 2027 elections, I will eradicate corruption within two years," Dr Kinity said in the declaration.

He added that failure to achieve that goal within the two-year period would compel him to voluntarily resign from the presidency, a pledge he said demonstrates his commitment to accountability and integrity in public leadership.

Dr Kinity said his decision to seek the presidency follows more than two and a half years of appeals from Kenyan youths, elderly citizens and other groups urging him to offer leadership in the 2027 election.

Initially, he said the requests surprised him because presidential candidates in Kenya have historically emerged through party coalitions rather than direct encouragement from ordinary citizens seeking alternative leadership.

However, after reflecting on the calls from across the country, Dr Ki-

nity said he began to see the appeals as a possible expression of public desire for reform and accountable leadership.

"After careful consideration, I have decided to accept this responsibility," he said, adding that his decision was guided by a long-standing belief that Kenya has the potential to become a prosperous nation.

Dr Kinity traced his political and governance activism to the early 1980s when he publicly opposed

“He outlined a broader economic agenda aimed at reducing unemployment and cutting the cost of living by 40 per cent within two years, while ensuring fair pay for Kenyan workers, including members of the Kenya Defence Forces.**”**

the dissolution of the Kenya Civil Servants Union by the late president Daniel arap Moi through a presidential decree.

His opposition to the move and criticism of corruption in government institutions, he said, placed him at odds with the administration and exposed him to threats during a period when civil servants were often blamed for corruption scandals.

During that time, he said politicians frequently used civil servants as scapegoats to avoid responsibility for looting public funds, a practice he argues entrenched impunity and weakened accountability across government institutions.

Dr Kinity said his fight for transparency and justice placed his life in grave danger, exposing him to numerous threats and several alleged assassination attempts during the height of his activism.

He said the most serious incident occurred on January 7, 1998, when he was poisoned in what he described as an attempt on his life, leaving him with severe health complications.

The poisoning, he said, led to multiple medical problems including eyesight complications, nerve infections, weakness on the right side of his body and infections affecting the kidney, bladder and prostate.

He also suffered a serious head infection that required brain surgery, alongside a significant loss of white blood cells and other complications that required specialised medical treatment outside the country.

Dr Kinity said he later travelled to the United States where he received extensive treatment at Yale New Haven Hospital in Connecticut following the life-threatening poisoning incident.

He left Kenya on December 27, 1998, after learning that unidentified men driving vehicles with foreign registration plates had come to his home in Nakuru two days earlier on Christmas night.

According to Dr Kinity, he was fortunate not to have been at home when the individuals arrived, an incident he said reinforced concerns about threats to his life during the period of political activism.

Despite the challenges and years of health recovery, he said he remained committed to advocating for justice, accountability and democratic governance in Kenya through international forums and reform campaigns.

Dr Kinity noted that he has travelled widely around the world advocating for political reform and good governance in Kenya while participating in international platforms including the International Anti-Corruption Conferences.

Throughout his public life, he said he has remained convinced that Kenya possesses the potential to achieve prosperity if corruption is confronted decisively and public institutions operate within the law.

He argued that entrenched corruption within the political system has prevented the country from implementing a decisive and uncompromising fight against graft since independence in 1963.

Looking ahead to the 2027 election, Dr Kinity said his administration would prioritise rebuilding public trust, protecting constitutional governance and ensuring national resources are used for the benefit of citizens.

If corruption is successfully eliminated within the two-year target period, he said he would dedicate the remainder of his presidential term to strengthening economic growth, stability and social welfare programmes.

Dr Kinity also called on voters to reject what he described as the recycling of corrupt political leaders who return to power using claims of experience and leadership credentials.

"My humble appeal to all Kenyans is simple: reject corrupt leadership, choose integrity, and together we will restore the dignity and prosperity of our nation," he said.

Politics They are trying to oust Baba's (Raila) Secretary-General. But even if they succeed, let them know Baba will never have another SG. I was his last SG

Sifuna Braces ODM Ouster: 'Raila Will Never Have Another SG'

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyaintimes

ODM Senator Edwin Sifuna has thrust Kenya's oldest opposition party into fresh turbulence with his defiant declaration that he will be the last Secretary-General to serve under Raila Odinga. His words, delivered in Kaiti Constituency before a charged crowd, have sharpened the battle lines within the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) and raised questions about the party's future in the post-Raila era.

"They are trying to oust Baba's (Raila) Secretary-General. But even if they succeed, let them know Baba will never have another SG. I was his last SG," Sifuna said, insisting that even if the ODM National Executive Committee (NEC) succeeds in removing him, Raila Odinga will never have another Secretary-General. The remark was not just a statement of loyalty—it was a political challenge, daring the party establishment to sever his symbolic link to Odinga's legacy.

ODM, founded in 2005, has had three Secretaries-General: Anyang' Nyong'o, Ababu Namwamba, and Sifuna. Yet the NEC's February resolution to eject Sifuna has triggered a storm of resistance. Siaya Governor James Orenge, a long-time ally of Raila, dismissed the move as unconstitutional. "The NEC cannot act outside the party constitution. What happened in Mombasa was procedurally flawed and cannot stand," Orenge said, echoing the sentiment of many ODM loyalists who view the ouster as a political ambush.

Sifuna swiftly challenged the decision at the Political Parties Disputes Tribunal (PPDT), arguing that the ouster blindsided key party organs and lacked consultation. The tribunal issued an order block-



ODM Senator Edwin Sifuna

ing ODM from executing the removal and stopping the Registrar of Political Parties from gazetting the decision. "This was a blatant violation of our constitution. We had no choice but to seek legal redress," Sifuna explained, adding that the tribunal's intervention was "a victory for internal democracy."

The reprieve was extended to March 12, 2026, giving Sifuna temporary breathing space. Yet Deputy Secretary-General Catherine Omwanyo escalated tensions by convening a Special National Delegates Conference to ratify the NEC's contested decision. Her move has been described by insiders as a "political grenade," threatening to deepen divisions within ODM.

At the grassroots, ODM supporters are split. In Kibra, Raila's symbolic stronghold, some residents rallied behind Sifuna. "He has stood by Baba. Removing him is betrayal," said Mary Atieno, a trader. Others argued the party must move on. "Sifuna is clinging to power. The party needs fresh leadership," countered Peter Otieno, a youth leader.

Political analysts say the dispute reflects broader struggles over succession and control in ODM following Raila Odinga's retirement from active politics. Dr. Jane Mwangi, a

political scientist at the University of Nairobi, noted: "Sifuna's defiance is symbolic. He is positioning himself as Raila's loyalist, but also as a defender of party democracy. This battle is about more than one seat—it is about the soul of ODM."

Raila Odinga himself has remained conspicuously silent, fueling speculation about his stance. Party insiders suggest Raila is reluctant to intervene directly, preferring to let institutional processes play out. "Baba has always believed in institutional processes. His silence should not be mistaken for indifference," said ODM Treasurer Timothy Bosire.

The silence, however, has left room for speculation. Some argue Raila's non-intervention signals tacit approval of the NEC's decision, while others believe he is protecting his legacy by avoiding open confrontation. Whatever the case, Sifuna's declaration that Raila will "never have another SG" has been interpreted as an attempt to bind his political fate to Odinga's, effectively daring the party to sever that bond.

The PPDT's ruling has bought Sifuna time, but the stakes remain high. If the Special Delegates Conference ratifies his removal, ODM could face a protracted legal battle. "The tribunal order

is clear. Any attempt to ratify the NEC decision before March 12 would be contempt of court," warned lawyer Paul Mwangi, who represents Sifuna.

Meanwhile, ODM's opponents are watching closely. Jubilee Party Secretary-General Jeremiah Kioni remarked: "ODM's internal wars are weakening them. If they cannot manage their own house, how can they manage the country?" His words underscore the wider political implications: ODM's internal strife could weaken its ability to mount a credible challenge in the 2027 elections.

The crisis has also exposed ODM's vulnerability to factionalism. Moses Ka-

jwang, Senator for Homa Bay, warned: "ODM must remain united. Removing Sifuna without consensus risks tearing the party apart." His caution reflects fears that the party could fracture into rival camps, undermining its electoral strength.

Observers say the outcome will shape ODM's trajectory in the post-Raila era. If Sifuna survives, he could emerge as a central figure in the party's future, positioning himself as the custodian of Raila's legacy. If ousted, ODM risks alienating a key loyalist and fracturing its base.

For Sifuna, the battle is personal and political. "I will not be intimidated. My loyalty to Baba is unquestionable, and I

will defend the constitution of ODM to the end," he vowed. His defiance has turned the dispute into a test of ODM's internal democracy and resilience.

As the March 12 deadline approaches, ODM faces a defining moment. Will the party uphold the tribunal's order and seek reconciliation, or will it press ahead with the delegates' conference, risking legal sanctions and deeper divisions?

The ODM drama is more than an internal squabble—it is a test of party democracy, loyalty, and leadership in Kenya's shifting political landscape. As Sifuna braces for a showdown, his defiant words ring louder than ever: "Baba will never have another SG."

Whether prophecy or political theatre, the coming weeks will determine if ODM can weather the storm—or if the party that once embodied reform will drown in its own divisions.

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U.S., Israel, Iran Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a live broadcast statement on Saturday that Israel's attack will continue

What To Know About Objectives Of U.S., Israel And Iran In Their Military Conflict?

On Saturday, U.S. President Donald Trump said in a post on Truth Social that "today" Iran will be hit very hard.

BY Xinhua News Agency
@themkenyatimes

As the regional exchange of fire triggered by U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran entered its eighth day on Saturday, questions are mounting over how the conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran may unfold in the coming days.

Here's a quick overview of recent statements from the three sides on their objectives and the potential course of the conflict.

The United States

On Saturday, U.S. President Donald Trump said in a post on Truth Social that "today" Iran will be hit very hard.

-- On Friday, the U.S. State Department said that it has approved a possible Foreign Military Sale to Israel of munitions and related support services, including 12,000 aerial bombs. The deal is worth about 151.8 million U.S. dollars.

-- On Friday, Trump has privately expressed "serious interest" in deploying U.S. ground forces into Iran, NBC News reported, citing multiple sources. Trump has discussed the idea of deploying ground troops with aides and Republican officials outside the White House, focusing on a small contingent of troops for specific strategic missions rather than a large-scale invasion.

-- On Friday, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said that Trump will alone decide when Iran has effectively delivered the "unconditional surrender" Washington demands. Hours earlier, Trump said on Truth Social that "there will be no deal with Iran except unconditional surrender."



Israel

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a live broadcast statement on Saturday that Israel's attack on Iran will continue with "full force and uncompromising momentum."

Israel has a well-prepared plan with many surprises to undermine "Iranian regime" and "enable change," Netanyahu said.

-- On Saturday, the Israeli military said that it had begun "a broad-scale wave of strikes" on Iranian government infrastructure in Tehran.

It also said it had struck two main ballistic missile production sites in the Iranian areas of Parchin and Shahrud over the past week, and it had conducted 3,400 strikes on Iran since war began.

-- On Thursday, Israel's military chief Eyal Zamir said in a televised address that Israeli forces are moving to the "next phase" of their campaign against Iran, in which they will intensify strikes against the Iranian

“As the regional exchange of fire triggered by U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran entered its eighth day on Saturday, questions are mounting over how the conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran may unfold in the coming days.”

government's foundations and its military capabilities.

He said the goal of the joint U.S.-Israeli operation is to strip the Iranian government of its military capabilities and bring it to "a point of strategic isolation and a point of weakness they have never been in before."

Iran

On Saturday, Iran's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Iran's exercise of its inherent right to legitimate self-defense will continue until the "aggression" ceases, or until the UN Security Council fulfills its duty identifying and naming the "aggressors" and determining the responsibilities arising from their "aggression."

The statement emphasized that Iran's defensive operations against U.S. military bases and installations in the region should by no means be construed as enmity or hostility towards the countries of the region.

-- On Saturday, Iranian President Masoud Pezesh-

kian said that Iran has decided not to attack or fire missiles at targets in neighboring countries from now on unless it is targeted from those countries.

-- On Saturday, Abolfazl Shekarchi, a spokesman for Iran's armed forces, said that Iran has not and will not attack those regional countries that do not put their airspace, land and facilities at the disposal of the "enemies."

-- On Friday, Pezeshkian said that some countries have begun mediation efforts, without identifying them. "Let's be clear: we are committed to lasting peace in the region yet we have no hesitation in defending our nation's dignity and sovereignty," Pezeshkian said in a post on social media platform X.

-- On Friday, Iran's state TV quoted a military source as saying that the Strait of Hormuz remained open, but warned that any vessels belonging to the United States or Israel would be considered military targets

Guinea Dissolves Around 40 Political Parties

Around 40 Guinean political parties were dissolved overnight from Friday to Saturday by the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization through a decree announced on national television.

The dissolved parties include the former ruling Rally of the Guinean People-Arc-en-ciel, the Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea, previously the main opposition party, and the Democratic Party of Guinea-African Democratic Rally, founded by Guinea's first president, Ahmed Sekou Toure, who led the country to independence. The ministerial decree cited the parties' failure to comply with legal obligations governing the existence and operation of political organizations in Guinea. Article 2 states that "the present dissolution results in the immediate loss of the legal personality and legal status of the political organizations concerned." Consequently, "any political activity conducted in the name of these parties is prohibited throughout the national territory as well as in diplomatic missions," the document states.

The ministry also recalled that the use of the acronyms, logos, emblems, and other distinctive signs of these political parties is henceforth prohibited. The decree further mandates the sealing of party headquarters and decentralized offices. Article 3 specifies that the assets of the dissolved parties will be placed under sequestration, with a curator appointed to oversee their management and disposal. Implementation of the decree is entrusted to the general directorates of elections and political affairs, the national police, the high command of the gendarmerie, the directorate of military justice, and the governors, prefects, and sub-prefects across the country.

BY Xinhua News Agency
@themkenyatimes



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Floods In Kenya



Kenya is drowning in a cycle of floods that return with punishing regularity, exposing the nation's fragile infrastructure and inadequate planning. Each rainy season, swollen rivers and landslides sweep away homes, livelihoods, and lives. Climate change, deforestation, and reckless urban sprawl have turned what should be seasonal rains into national disasters.

The toll is devastating. Informal settlements in Nairobi are often the first to suffer, their residents displaced overnight. Rural communities watch their crops vanish under water, threatening food se-

curity. Public health collapses as cholera and other waterborne diseases spread in the wake of contaminated supplies. The humanitarian response, though earnest, is consistently undermined by limited resources and logistical bottlenecks.

This is not simply a story of weather—it is a story of neglect. Poor drainage systems, unchecked construction, and the destruction of forests have stripped Kenya of its natural defenses. Relief efforts alone cannot stem the tide. What is needed is foresight: sustainable land management, investment in resilient infrastructure, and communi-

ty education that empowers citizens to prepare rather than react.

The floods are a warning, not just a tragedy. Kenya must confront the root causes with urgency, or the cycle will continue to erode lives and futures. Climate change is not waiting, and neither should we.

If Kenya fails to act, the floods will not just wash away homes—they will wash away hope.

By Jaqueline Nyambura, Laikipia University

Heavy Rains Cause Havoc In Nairobi

Nairobi woke up to chaos as torrential overnight rains turned the capital into a watery graveyard of cars, homes, and lives. What should have been a seasonal downpour became a deadly disaster, exposing the city's fragile infrastructure and poor planning. At least 23 people lost their lives—some swept away by raging waters, others electrocuted as power lines collapsed under the flood's fury.

The destruction was swift and merciless. Police reported 71 vehicles swept off roads, while countless others were submerged or overturned. Families fled their homes as floodwaters invaded living rooms and businesses, leaving behind wreckage and despair. Rescue teams, backed by the military and humanitarian groups, scrambled to evacuate residents and deliver food and medical aid. Yet the scale of devastation underscored how unprepared Nairobi remains for predictable seasonal rains.

Experts point to blocked drainage systems and unchecked urban growth as culprits, while climate change intensifies rainfall across East Africa. The city's rapid expansion has outpaced infrastruc-



ture, leaving residents vulnerable to every storm. Authorities have urged caution, warning citizens against crossing flooded roads, but warnings alone will not suffice.

Promises of improved drainage and disaster preparedness must translate into action. Nairobi cannot afford to treat floods as routine inconveniences; they are lethal re-

mindings of the cost of neglect.

If the capital continues to drown in its own failures, the next storm will not just wash away cars and homes—it will wash away confidence in leadership.

By Sharon Jepkosgei, Laikipia University

Middle East Conflicts A Threat To Global Peace

The Middle East is once again ablaze, and the flames are licking at the edges of global stability. What begins as territorial disputes or political rivalries in the region quickly metastasizes into crises that ripple across continents. Oil markets tremble, refugee flows strain fragile systems, and the specter of terrorism looms larger. These conflicts are not contained—they are contagious.

The human toll is staggering. Families are uprooted, economies shattered, and generations scarred by violence. Yet the world too often watches passively, issuing statements while civilians pay the price. Kenya feels the pinch at the fuel pump, Europe grapples with migration, and Asia recalibrates trade routes. The Middle East's turmoil is everyone's problem.

Diplomacy must replace indifference. The United Nations and regional powers cannot afford to treat peace as optional. Dialogue, mediation, and development programs are not luxuries—they are lifelines. Violence breeds only more violence, and the longer the world hesitates,



the deeper the wounds become.

Education and responsible media coverage also matter. Understanding the region's history and complexities prevents blind partisanship and fosters empathy. Journalism must illuminate, not inflame. Citizens everywhere must demand leadership that values peace over posturing.

The lesson is clear: peace is frag-

ile, but its absence is catastrophic. Global cooperation, informed citizens, and courageous diplomacy are the only antidotes. The Middle East's conflicts are not distant fires—they are sparks on our doorstep. Ignore them, and the blaze will consume us all.

By Christine Simiyu

Knowledge Consumers, Not Creators: The Research Gap In Universities

Universities are meant to be engines of discovery, yet too many have stalled into factories of recycled ideas. The research culture that once defined higher education is eroding, replaced by shortcuts, copy-paste assignments, and an overreliance on technology. The result is a generation of students more comfortable consuming knowledge than creating it—a dangerous drift for institutions tasked with shaping tomorrow's innovators.

The causes are clear: overloaded curricula, weak mentorship, time pressures, and a declining reading culture. Kenneth K. Rotich of Egerton University points to technology and AI as double-edged swords—tools that can empower research but too often encourage academic laziness. The consequences are equally stark. Graduates without investigative skills are less competitive in the job market, unable to meet employers' demand for analytical thinkers. Academic integrity suffers as plagiarism

The results indicated that 68.8% universities do not have RDM policy or guidelines that directs how research data are to be handled, 18.8% indicated that they have and 12.5% were not sure.

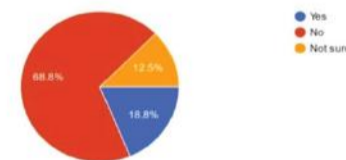


Figure 1: Presence of RDM policy or Guidelines

The findings revealed a mixed picture regarding the implementation of Research Data Management practices in Kenyan universities. Half of the respondents reported that their institutions have implemented RDM services, while the other half indicated that RDM services

rises, while critical thinking and problem-solving skills weaken.

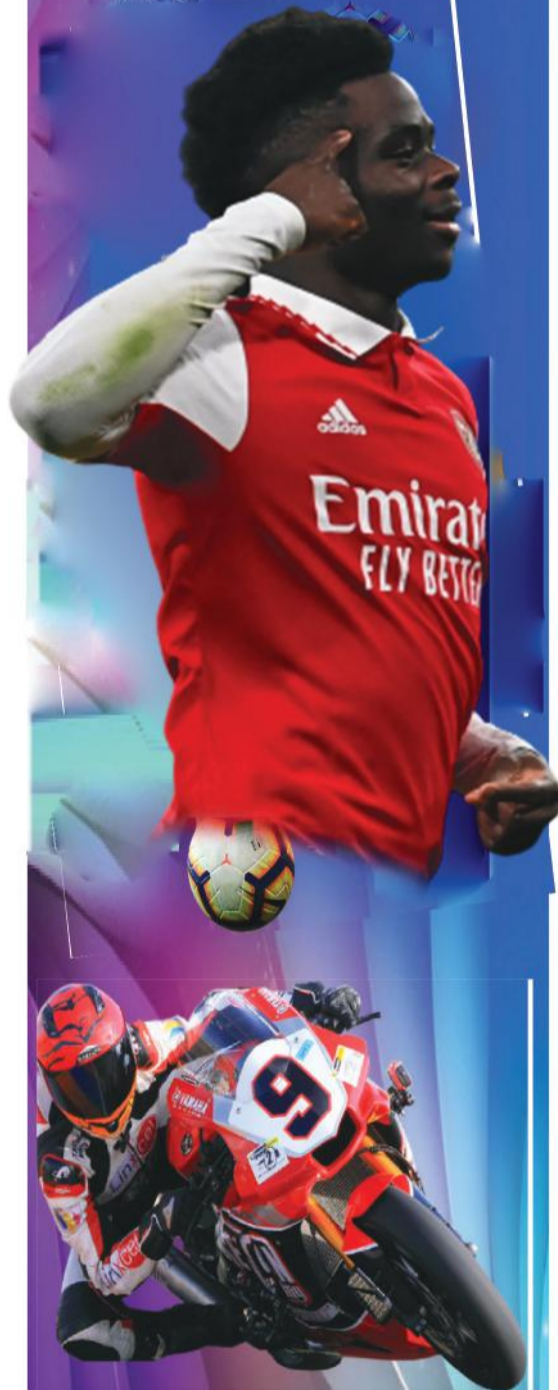
Poor academic writing standards compound the crisis. Students who avoid deep reading cannot produce quality work, and reliance on AI for assignments only accelerates intellectual decay. Innovation, too, is in retreat. Fewer undergraduates contribute original ideas or publish research, leaving universities with diminished impact on society's progress.

The solution lies in reform: early

research training, stronger mentorship, encouragement of undergraduate publications, and responsible use of technology. Universities must rekindle curiosity and discipline before the gap becomes a chasm.

If higher education continues to churn out passive consumers instead of bold creators, the future of innovation will not just be delayed—it will be derailed.

By Faith Oloo, Rongo University

SPORTS
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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *The Chana siblings are heading back to the WRC Safari Rally behind the wheel of a newly tuned Ford Fiesta Rally 2, ready to pit themselves against the world's elite in the competition's second tier category.

Rubis Castrol WRC Safari Rally Team Of Chana Brothers Raring To Go

The Chana siblings are heading back to the WRC Safari Rally behind the wheel of a newly tuned Ford Fiesta Rally 2, ready to pit themselves against the world's elite in the competition's second tier category.

Jasmeet and his brother Ravinder "Ravi" Chana will kick off their Kenya and Africa championship bids on Thursday, decked out in the Rubis Castrol scheme. Their objective is to finish inside the top five Kenyan crews in the Rally 2 class, thereby harvesting essential championship points.

"We're determined to make an impact in WRC2. With a reliable car and the support of Rubis Energy Kenya, we have everything we need for the Safari and the rest of the season," Jasmeet said during the Rubis Castrol Rally Team launch in Nairobi last Thursday.

Olivier Sabrié, Rubis's East Africa CEO and Group Managing Director of Rubis Energy Kenya, added that CRS Racing – backed by Castrol's lubricants expertise and Rubis's energy resources – is fully equipped to tackle the punishing terrain of the Kenyan Safari Rally, one of the most demanding and iconic events on the World Rally Championship calendar.

Based out of Naivasha, the rally is renowned for its rough gravel stages, unpredictable weather and gruelling endurance demands.

"As a Kenyan driver, my aim is to win my class; anything beyond that would be a bonus," Jasmeet explained, noting that he will be joined by his brother Ravi, an experienced co driver, in the Ford Fiesta Rally 2.

Jasmeet will be up against a formidable Kenyan lineup that includes national champion Samman Vohra, double Africa champion Karan Patel, 2022 Kenya Motorsports Man of the Year Aakif Virani, seasoned



Jasmeet and Ravi Chana Ford Fiesta

competitors Isaa Amwari and Ismael Azeli, as well as former FIA Rally Star programme participant Jeremiah Wahome – all piloting Skoda Fabia R5s. Fellow FIA Rally Star graduate Hamza Anwar will also be contesting in a Fiesta Rally 2.

These homegrown talents will share the stage with a contingent of European specialists led by ex M Sport Ford Rally 1 driver Gus Greensmith, who will run a brand new Toyota GR Yaris Rally 2. Regular Safari entrants such as Robert Virves (Skoda Fabia RS), Andreas Mikelsen (Skoda Fabia RS), Diego Domínguez (Toyota GR Yaris) and Daniel Chwist

(Skoda Fabia) are also slated to start.

After securing the overall Kenya National Rally Championship title in 2023 and racking up several class wins, Jasmeet swapped his Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution X for the current Ford Fiesta Rally 2, hoping to match the speed of the WRC2 field.

However, the car has yet to see competitive action after the last two rounds of the Kenya National Rally Championship were abandoned.

His brother, Jaswinder Chana, is collaborating closely with M Sport Ford engineers to fine tune the car's electronic dynamics for the unique challenges

presented by the Safari.

The project is backed by Rubis Energy Kenya, CRS Racing and Identisys.

"We wouldn't be here without Rubis and Identisys. Running the Safari Rally is costly, and their support makes a huge difference. We're proud to have them beside us," Jasmeet remarked.

Jasmeet has been active in rallying for two seasons, is a former Kenya Two Wheel Drive Champion and a veteran of numerous Kenya National Rally and Safari Rally outings.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Three-time world cross-country champion Jacob Kiplimo returned to the EDP Lisbon Half Marathon – the scene of his record-breaking performance five years ago

Kiplimo Breaks World Half Marathon Record With 57:20 On Lisbon Return



Uganda's Jacob Kiplimo won the men's 5,000m gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Games

Three-time world cross-country champion Jacob Kiplimo returned to the EDP Lisbon Half Marathon – the scene of his record-breaking performance five years ago – and triumphed in a world record of 57:20* at the World Athletics Elite Label road race on Sunday (8).

The Ugandan took 10 seconds off Yomif Kejelcha's official world record for the distance. Before Kejelcha produced that mark in Valencia in 2024, Kiplimo had held the previous world record at 57:31, which he

achieved in Lisbon in 2021.

In a race with no pacemakers, Kiplimo covered the first 5km in a swift 13:28. Kenyan duo Nicholas Kipkorir and Gilbert Kiprotich were tucked close behind the Ugandan for the first half, with the trio passing through 10km in 27:00 as Kiprotich started to fade.

Kiplimo and Kipkorir continued to run side by side and passed through 15km in 40:52. Realising the pace had dropped slightly, Kiplimo picked up the tempo and forged ahead, covering the

next 5km section in 13:31.

He maintained that pace until the end and crossed the finish line in 57:20. Kipkorir followed in 58:08 with Kiprotich holding on for third (58:59).

"I'm so happy to break the world record," said Kiplimo. "After the first 10km, I thought the world record was possible. I tried to keep pushing the pace in the final two kilometres."

Kiplimo had clocked 56:42 in Barcelona last year, but it could not be ratified as a world record because the race conditions were

not fully compliant with World Athletics rules.

Ethiopia's Tsige Gebreselama successfully defended her title in the women's race, clocking 1:04:48.

By World Athletics

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The Unscripted Life Of Beatrice Adongo



By: Alfred Lobawoi
@themtkenyatimes

1) Briefly tell us more about you.

My name is Beatrice Adongo, and I am a passionate student journalist. I am deeply interested in storytelling, community issues, designing, and giving a voice to people whose stories are often unheard. As a student journalist, I am constantly learning, practicing, and improving my writing and reporting skills. I believe journalism is not just a career, but a responsibility to inform and educate society.

2) What motivated you to become who you are?

I was motivated by my love for communication and storytelling. Growing up, I realized that information has power. The way stories are told can influence how people think and understand the world. I wanted to be part of that process to tell stories that matter, highlight social issues, and promote positive change in society.

3) What does your ideal day look like?

My ideal day involves researching a meaningful story, conducting interviews, designing, writing, and interacting with different people. I enjoy attending events, covering community activities, and then sitting down to turn raw information into a well-structured story. A productive day for me is one where I learn something new and improve my skills.

4) What is the favourite aspect of your work?

My favourite aspect is storytelling. I love transforming real-life experiences into powerful articles that inform, inspire, or educate others. I also enjoy meeting new people and learning from different perspectives.

5) What is the hardest part of what you do?

The hardest part is sometimes dealing with deadlines and ensuring accuracy at the same time. Balancing academic work and journalism responsibilities can also be challenging. However, these challenges help me grow and become more disciplined.

6) Have you ever incurred any

challenges in your work? If yes, tell us about it.

Yes, I have faced challenges such as limited access to information, unresponsive interviewees, and time pressure during events coverage. Sometimes gathering accurate information can be difficult. However, these experiences have taught me persistence, patience, and professionalism.

7) How do you foster yourself to keep moving?

I motivate myself by remembering why I started my passion for journalism. I also read articles from experienced journalists, practice writing regularly, and seek feedback from lecturers and mentors. Continuous learning keeps me moving forward.

8) Do you advertise your work? If yes, tell us how it has helped you.

I share my work on social media platforms and through school publications. Advertising my work has helped me build confidence, expand my audience, and connect with other journalists and media students. It also helps me create a professional identity.

9) What advice would you give to a person who wants to be like you?

I would advise them to stay curious, read widely, and practice writing every day. Do not fear making mistakes, mistakes are part of learning. Also, uphold ethics and integrity because credibility is very important in journalism.

10) If given a chance, what impact would you bring to the world, nation, and to yourself?

If given a chance, I would use journalism to promote truth, social justice, and development. At the national level, I would highlight community issues that need attention. Globally, I would tell stories that promote unity and understanding. Personally, I aim to grow into a professional journalist who makes a meaningful difference.

11) If someone wants to check your work and what you do, where can they find you?

They can find my work in school publications, online platforms where



Beatrice Adongo

I contribute my designs, and on my social media pages where I share my journalism pieces and projects.



Worth Noting:

- “I was motivated by my love for communication and storytelling. Growing up, I realized that information has power. The way stories are told can influence how people think and understand the world.”
- My favourite aspect is storytelling. I love transforming real-life experiences into powerful articles that inform, inspire, or educate others.
- Stay curious, read widely, and practice writing every day. Do not fear making mistakes, mistakes are part of learning.”