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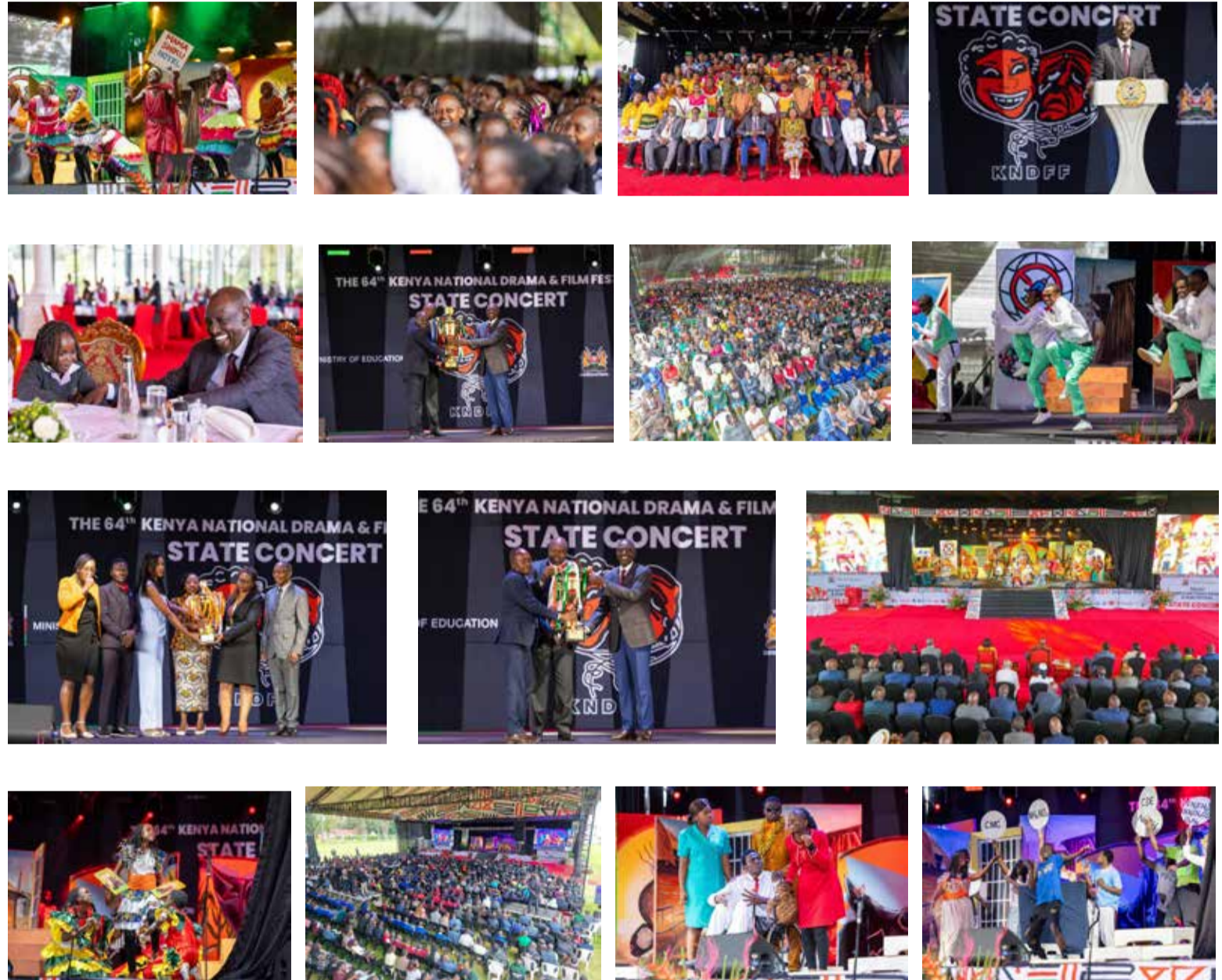
Ruto roots for creative industry growth at National Drama Festival

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

President William Ruto has reaffirmed the government's commitment to nurturing the creative industry, describing performing arts as both a cultural pillar and an emerging economic force. Speaking at State House, Nairobi, during the 64th Kenya Schools and Colleges National Drama Festival, the President said the arts reflect the country's heritage while addressing contemporary issues. He noted that the sector is increasingly providing sustainable livelihoods for young people across the country. Ruto, accompanied by First Lady Rachel Ruto, hosted participants and lauded students for their creativity and bold expression. He said the government is investing in platforms that allow youth to showcase talent, build confidence, and tap into income-generating opportunities within the creative economy. The annual festival, organised by the Ministry of Education, brings together thousands of learners from schools and colleges nationwide to compete in drama, music and cultural performances. Education stakeholders have in recent years emphasized the role of performing arts in the Competency-Based Curriculum, which seeks to identify and nurture learners' talents early. Ruto's remarks come amid broader efforts to expand opportunities in the creative sector, including film, theatre and digital content, positioning it as a key driver of youth employment and national development.



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, **Adverts:** ads@mtkenyatimes.co.ke,
News Desk: news@mtkenyatimes.co.ke, **Web:** www.mtkenyatimes.co.ke

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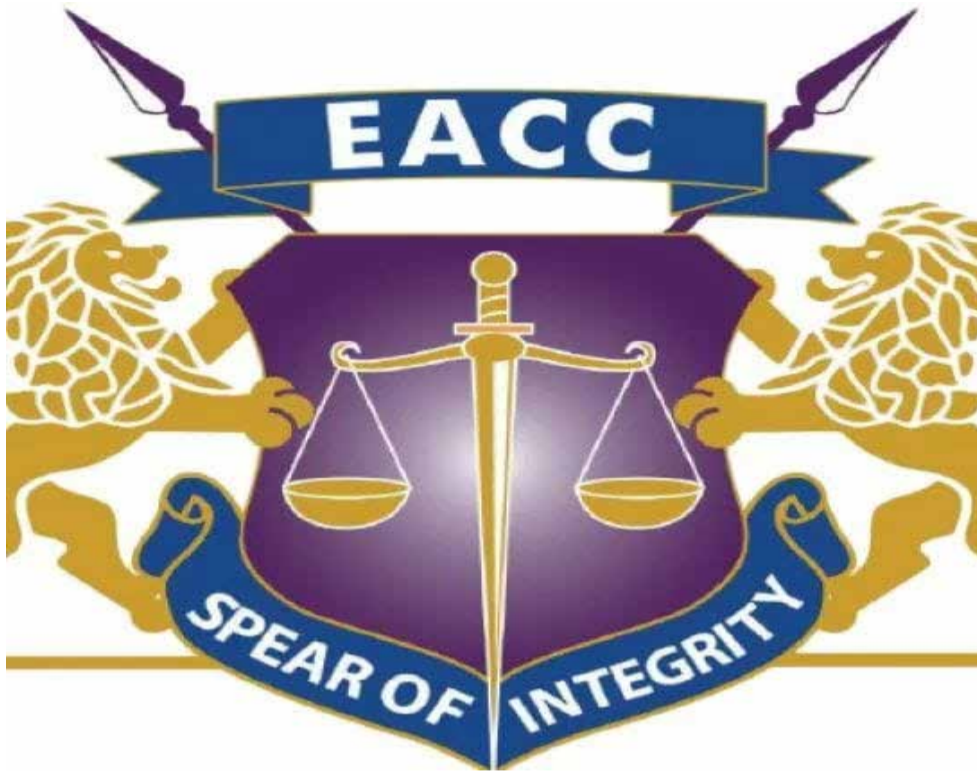


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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) conducted a court-authorized search at Mavel Hotel on Friday as part of investigations into alleged corruption at the National Youth Service (NYS). The operation targeted David Mbogo Muthee, Head of Procurement at the NYS Training School in Gilgil, and his associate Naftali Kiperu. Investigators are probing claims of conflict of interest and abuse of office, where senior officials allegedly traded with NYS through companies, receiving about KES 2 billion between 2019 and 2025. Evidence was recovered, with findings expected to guide prosecutions and asset recovery.



Kiambu County Woman Rep Anne Muratha issuing a cheque to a women's self-help group in Kambaru, Lari Constituency. Kambaru Welfare Group and Nyamuthanga Welfare Group each received one tent and 100 chairs to enable them to venture into event hire services within the community. Speaking during the distribution, Muratha said the support was intended to translate empowerment into practical opportunities that generate income and dignity for beneficiaries. In addition, four groups from Lari Constituency received empowerment cheques of Sh100,000 each. The beneficiaries include Nyambari Market Traders, Gichuhiki Self-Help Group, Magina Widows Self-Help Group, and Kiganda Self-Help Group.



Principal Secretary for Mining, Harry Kimtai (second left), joins conservationists during a mangrove restoration exercise at the Mwache Mangrove Conservation Area, beneath the Dongo Kundu bypass. The Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, in collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), plans to plant 20,000 mangrove propagules in support of the government's target of growing 15 billion trees by 2032.



Some of the 2,500 gradaunds who were awarded certificates and diplomas in various technical and artisan courses during the 6th Graduation Ceremony of the Nyeri National Polytechnic.

Trainees graduating from Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions will no longer be required to wear academic robes during graduation.

This follows a directive by Principal Secretary (PS) in the State Department for TVETs Dr Esther Muoria, instructing all TVETs to design appropriate academic attire that matches each of the technical disciplines offered in the respective institutions. Dr Muoria said that this will ensure that those graduating are identifiable by their area of training. Photos, Courtesy

Veterinary officers from the Department of Health Services in Vihiga County are conducting a livestock vaccination exercise as part of ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases and protect both animal and public health. The county has confirmed an outbreak of cutaneous anthrax in Emuhaya Sub-County. According to the department, the outbreak followed the handling and consumption of meat from a cow that died suddenly on April 7, 2026, at Ebusunzo Village in Emukolla Sub-location, West Bunyore Ward.



The National Government has stepped-up efforts to enhance safety, transport, and economic opportunities along Lake Victoria through a Sh4.6 billion major infrastructure and training programme spearheaded by the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA). The initiative, dubbed Lake Victoria Maritime Communication and Transport project, aims at improving safety, strengthening regulation, and expanding economic opportunities across the Nyanza region. Speaking at Tom Mboya University in Homa Bay town, KMA Nyanza Regional Director, Henry Mosaru, said the initiative targets key challenges affecting transport and livelihoods in Lake Victoria, particularly in areas with high vessel activity.

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Judiciary At the heart of the summit's joint communiqué is a commitment to mandatory early screening

Kenya's mediation summit adopts thirteen binding resolutions to transform family justice

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Delegates at the 4th Annual Mediation Summit 2026 have adopted thirteen far-reaching resolutions to strengthen the role of mediation in resolving family, children, and succession disputes in Kenya, concluding three days of deliberations at Strathmore University in Nairobi on Thursday.

The summit — convened under the theme “The role of mediation in resolving family, children and succession disputes: bringing peace and harmony in our families and society” — brought together the Judiciary Steering Committee on Mediation, the Family Division of the High Court, mediators, state agencies, development partners, academic institutions, private sector representatives, and legal practitioners. The breadth of participation reflected the growing consensus that Kenya's courts alone cannot absorb the volume and complexity of family disputes that pour through them each year.

At the heart of the summit's joint communiqué is a commitment to mandatory early screening: from now on, all family matters — including custody, maintenance, matrimonial property, burial disputes, and probate — must be screened within thirty days of filing, with automatic referral

to mediation unless a court explicitly exempts the case. For families caught in the slow grind of litigation, the change could mean the difference between years of courtroom hostility and a negotiated resolution within weeks. “Mediation offers families a pathway to resolve disputes amicably, reduce hostility, and foster harmony in society.” — Joint communiqué, 4th Annual Mediation Summit 2026

The resolutions go significantly further than process reform. Delegates agreed to establish an Annual Family Mediation Week, featuring free clinics, court open days, and community dialogues designed to demystify a mechanism that many Kenyans still regard with suspicion or simply do not know exists. Strathmore Law School has been tasked with developing a dedicated training module for practitioners, community leaders, and members of the public — a recognition that mediation's reach must extend well beyond the legal profession if it is to fulfil its promise.

Children's rights featured prominently in the deliberations. Guidelines will be developed to ensure that children's voices are genuinely heard during mediation — in ways that are age-appropriate, safe, and rights-sensitive. The summit also committed to prioritising the protection of vulnerable parties: wid-



Delegates at the 4th Annual Mediation Summit 2026

ows, widowers, orphans, persons with disabilities, indigent individuals, and survivors of domestic violence. The inclusion of these groups signals a determination to ensure that mediation does not simply offer a faster route to resolution, but a fairer one.

On accountability, delegates agreed to publish a National Family Mediation Dashboard tracking quarterly data on referrals, settlements, turnaround times, and user satisfaction. The Steering Committee on Mediation will engage the Attorney General and Parliament to accelerate adoption of a national ADR policy framework, while stakeholders will examine gaps in the Law of Succession Act to enable more timely and cost-effective handling of inheritance disputes. Technology integration was also endorsed, subject to clear safeguards around confidentiality, fairness, and access.

Progress on all thirteen commitments will be overseen by a new multi-stakeholder implementation committee chaired by the Presiding Judge of the Family Division, with a formal progress report due at the 5th Summit. The communiqué was signed by representatives of the Judiciary, Strathmore University and its Dispute Resolution Centre, the Law Society of Kenya, the Kenya Bankers Association, the Kenya Judiciary Academy, and international partners.

For the thousands of Kenyan families trapped in drawn-out, expensive, and emotionally exhausting litigation over land, children, and estates, the resolutions offer something rare in the legal world: a credible promise that help is coming — and a committee to make sure it does.

Education stakeholders challenged to boost STEM education



Dr. Pius Mutisya

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Education stakeholders have been challenged to strengthen STEM education through effective training, knowledge sharing, collaboration, and accountability at the county level.

Speaking during a three-day workshop for In-Service Education and Training (INSET) Centre Principals and county trainers at the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEIA) in Karen, Nairobi, Chair of the Board of Governors, Dr. Pius Mutisya, said teacher trainers and institutional leaders play a central role in supporting the government's efforts to boost STEM education.

“I am very happy to be here; I am meeting the pedagogical leaders who are also principals of our INSET centres,” Mutisya said. “We depend on you to ensure that STEM education and training are actualised in this country.”

The workshop brought together 118 INSET Centre

Principals and 94 County Trainers' Representatives, responsible for implementing teacher training programmes at both county and institutional levels. It is being held under the theme “Enhancing management of CEMASTEIA activities at the county level for effective implementation of STEM education”, with a focus on strengthening coordination, leadership, and delivery of STEM initiatives nationwide.

Mutisya noted that achieving Kenya's long-term development aspirations will depend heavily on sustained investment in science and technology education.

“If we are to achieve our aspirations as a country, science is the way to go,” he said. “With proper STEM training, we will build our own capacity as a nation and reduce reliance on external expertise.”

He urged participants to embrace collaboration, accountability, and continuous professional development, stressing that prudent resource management and transparency are vital for sustaining progress.

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ODM At the philosophical level, power is never a matter of declaration; it is a matter of structure. Political actors do not operate on goodwill but on incentives

The day ODM began negotiating with Itself



By: Gitile Naituli

@themkenyatimes

There is a moment in politics when language betrays reality, when what is said publicly exposes what is unfolding privately. ODM's recent statement "demanding respect" from UDA is one such moment. It is not merely a weak statement; it is a revealing one. For in politics, respect is not demanded. It is enforced through leverage. And when a party finds itself asking for it, the uncomfortable truth is that it has already ceded ground.

At the philosophical level, power is never a matter of declaration; it is a matter of structure. Political actors do not operate on goodwill but on incentives, calculations, and perceived strength. Negotiations between equals are not sustained by rhetoric but by mutual dependency. Each side must believe that the other has the capacity to withhold something essential. When that balance collapses, what remains is not negotiation, but accommodation dressed up as dialogue.

ODM's contradiction is therefore stark. It claims parity with UDA while simultaneously appealing for recognition from it. This is not the language of equals; it is the language of asymmetry. It suggests that beneath the surface of formal engagement lies a deeper imbalance, one in which ODM is no longer negotiating from a position of consolidated strength, but from a fragmented and uncertain base.

Within the Kenyan context, this moment must be understood as part of a broader strategic design. William Ruto is not engaging ODM as a unified entity; he is engaging it as a collection of individuals. This is not accidental. It is a deliberate application of a well-established principle in political strategy: weaken the centre, empower the periphery, and the structure collapses from within.

The events in Kisii illustrate this with clarity. The visible alignment with Governor Simba Arati is not

merely a political gesture; it is a signal. It communicates that access to power is no longer mediated through party hierarchy. It can be obtained directly, individually, and regionally. In doing so, it subtly delegitimizes the authority of the ODM centre. The message to other leaders is unmistakable: you do not need the party to negotiate your relevance, the state can do that for you.

Once that message takes root, the consequences are predictable. Party cohesion begins to erode, not through open rebellion, but through silent recalculation. Leaders start to reassess where their interests are best served. Hassan Joho consolidates his regional leverage at the Coast. Arati strengthens his local autonomy in Kisii. Others, watching closely, begin to reposition themselves in anticipation of a shifting political terrain.

This is how dominant parties dismantle opposition formations, not by confronting them head-on, but by decentralizing their unity. The opposition is not defeated; it is disassembled. Its members are not overpowered; they are absorbed, one by one, into alternative centres of influence. What emerges is not a broken party, but a hollowed one, intact in form, but diminished in function.

ODM's strategic miscalculation lies in underestimating the cost of this fragmentation. A political party derives its strength not from the prominence of its individual leaders, but from its ability to act as a coherent bloc. It is this coherence that gives it bargaining power, electoral weight, and narrative clarity. Once that co-



At the philosophical level, power is never a matter of declaration; it is a matter of structure. Political actors do not operate on goodwill but on incentives, calculations, and perceived strength. Negotiations between equals are not sustained by rhetoric but by mutual dependency. Each side must believe that the other has the capacity to withhold something essential. When that balance collapses, what remains is not negotiation, but accommodation dressed up as dialogue.



ODM Party leader Oburu Odinga

herence is compromised, the party ceases to be a collective actor and becomes a platform for individual negotiation.

The consequences of such a shift are profound. First, it weakens the party's negotiating position. A fragmented party cannot credibly threaten withdrawal or opposition, because its members are no longer bound by a unified position. Second, it erodes public confidence. Voters do not rally behind uncertainty; they align with clarity and conviction. A party that appears divided invites both skepticism and disengagement. Third, it redefines the internal logic of the party itself. Loyalty shifts from the collective to the individual, from ideology to opportunity.

It is in this context that ODM's failure to consolidate around assertive, nationally visible figures becomes significant. Leaders such as Babu Owino and Edwin Sifuna represent not just generational change, but communicative clarity. They em-

body a form of political engagement that is direct, visible, and nationally resonant. By not anchoring the party's strategy around such figures, ODM has allowed its narrative to drift and its centre to weaken.

Instead, what is emerging is a marketplace of political actors, each negotiating their own relevance, each seeking their own advantage, and each operating with increasing autonomy from the party structure. In such a marketplace, the concept of collective power becomes meaningless. The party no longer speaks with one voice; it echoes with many.

The moral dimension of this moment cannot be ignored. Political parties are not merely vehicles for power; they are institutions of representation. They carry the aspirations, frustrations, and hopes of their supporters. When a party fragments, it does not just weaken itself; it betrays the collective mandate entrusted to it. It transforms politics from a shared project into a series of private

transactions.

ODM now stands at a critical juncture. It must decide whether it will remain a cohesive political force or continue its drift into decentralized relevance. This is not a question of public statements, but of internal discipline. It requires a reassertion of party authority, a consolidation of leadership, and a clear articulation of purpose. Without these, any attempt to negotiate with UDA will remain fundamentally compromised.

For in the end, the most telling insight from ODM's statement is not what it demands, but what it reveals. A party that must ask for respect is a party that is no longer sure it can command it. And in realpolitik, once that doubt sets in, the negotiation is no longer between two parties. It becomes a negotiation within one.

The writer is a former commissioner with NCIC who comments on various topical issues

Economy IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva confirmed this week that at least twelve countries have approached the Fund for assistance

Kenya seeks emergency World Bank funds as Iran war drives up oil prices and tests public finances

Central Bank Governor Kamau Thugge has confirmed a formal request for rapid financial support, making Kenya the first major emerging economy to go public with such an appeal. Analysts warn that the shilling faces depreciation risks if crude prices remain elevated.

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

Kenya has formally requested emergency financial support from the World Bank to cushion its economy against the shocks of the Iran war, Central Bank Governor Kamau Thugge confirmed to Reuters on Thursday, making the country the first significant emerging economy to publicly disclose such a request.

The disclosure, made on the sidelines of the IMF and World Bank spring meetings in Washington, underscores the speed with which a conflict thousands of kilometres away is reordering the economic calculus of nations heavily dependent on imported energy. Kenya, which relies almost entirely on oil imports to power its economy, is now scrambling to prevent fuel shortages, contain inflation, and defend the shilling — all at once.

Thugge described the request as “significant” without providing a specific figure. The World Bank support, he explained, would be sought through what the institution terms Rapid Response Support — a fast-disbursing financial window designed precisely for crises of this kind. Crucially, this would be in addition to a separate budgetary support loan, known as a development policy operation, that Kenya and the World Bank were already negotiating before the outbreak of hostilities.

to confirm its request on the record marks it out as unusually transparent in a moment when most governments are quietly negotiating behind closed doors.

Analysts have broadly welcomed the move. Andrew Matheny, senior economist at Goldman Sachs, highlighted Kenya’s particular vulnerability in a note that will make uncomfortable reading for policymakers in Nairobi.

“While Kenya’s external buffers are large and ample, it is among the most exposed countries in the region to the Iran price shock given its oil import dependence. Risks to the shilling are tilted toward depreciation, especially in the event of a more protracted shock that implies higher oil prices for longer.” — Andrew Matheny, Goldman Sachs

Despite those concerns, Kenya’s dollar bonds rose on Friday — the most among African issuers — with the 2034 bond gaining nearly a cent to be bid at 89.21 cents on the dollar and the 2048 bond reaching 99.25 cents, according to Tradeweb data. Bond markets, it appears, have interpreted the World Bank approach as a signal of responsible crisis management rather than distress — at least for now.

President William Ruto moved quickly on the domestic front, signing legislation on Friday that temporarily cuts value-added tax on petro-



CBK Governor Dr. Kamau Thugge

The central bank, meanwhile, had already trimmed its 2026 economic growth forecast the previous week, revising the projection down to 5.3 per cent from 5.5 per cent, citing the war’s risks to key sectors of East Africa’s largest economy. At that same policy meeting, the Monetary Policy Committee opted to pause its easing cycle — holding rates steady rather than cutting further — to assess the full impact of the oil price shock before making its next move. The June policy meeting is now shaping up as a pivotal moment, with Thugge indicating that any future interest rate decisions will be guided strictly by incoming data.

On the currency, Thugge offered cautious reassurance. The shilling did weaken at the height of the fighting between the United States, Israel, and Iran, he acknowledged, but has since recovered most of its losses. He was measured but direct about what comes next.

“If there’s pressure, definitely it will depreciate,” he told Reuters. “What I would say is that depreciation will be orderly. The whole point about why we have been building these international reserves to where they are — to the highest levels — was precisely to be able to avoid excessive volatility.”

Those reserves now stand at above \$13 billion, providing 5.8 months of import cover — a figure that places Kenya in a stronger position than many of its regional peers, even if it does not render the country immune to a prolonged external shock.

In a further signal of long-term strategic thinking, Thugge confirmed that the central bank is pressing ahead with plans to add gold to its reserve portfolio. Policymakers are studying domestic gold purchase models that have been successfully implemented by other countries — an approach that, if adopted, would reduce Kenya’s dependence on dol-

lar-denominated assets and provide an additional buffer against currency volatility in times of geopolitical stress.

The broader picture is one of a government and central bank that are, by the standards of the region, responding with speed and a degree of transparency to a crisis not of their making. Whether the World Bank support arrives quickly enough, and in sufficient quantity, to prevent a more painful economic adjustment will depend heavily on how the conflict evolves — and on whether oil prices remain elevated through the second half of the year.

For millions of Kenyan households already stretched by the cost-of-living pressures of recent years, the answer to that question will not arrive as a statistic or a bond price — but at the petrol pump, the market stall, and the end of each month.

KENYA AT A GLANCE — KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Hard-currency reserves	Above \$13 billion
Import cover	5.8 months
2026 GDP growth forecast (revised)	5.3% (down from 5.5%)
VAT on petroleum (new, for 3 months)	8% (reduced from 13%)
Kenya 2034 bond (bid)	89.21 cents on the dollar
Kenya 2048 bond (bid)	99.25 cents on the dollar

Kenya is far from alone in its predicament. IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva confirmed this week that at least twelve countries have approached the Fund for assistance in coping with the crisis. Egypt is among those reported to have sought support from multilateral lenders. But Kenya’s willingness

to confirm its request on the record marks it out as unusually transparent in a moment when most governments are quietly negotiating behind closed doors. The measure is designed to blunt the impact of surging crude prices on consumers, although economists note that its duration is short and its fiscal cost non-trivial at a moment when the government’s finances are already under strain.

Court The orders, issued on Friday by consent of both parties, direct KRA to lift the agency notices that had locked Sonko out of several accounts

Sonko wins tribunal order unfreezing his bank accounts as CBK probes Equity Bank over court defiance

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

The Tax Appeals Tribunal has ordered the Kenya Revenue Authority to unfreeze former Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko's bank accounts at Equity Bank Kenya Limited, granting him access to his funds pending the full hearing of his tax appeal.

The orders, issued on Friday by consent of both parties, direct KRA to lift the agency notices that had locked Sonko out of several accounts — a significant, if temporary, victory for the flamboyant former county chief, who has been entangled in a widening web of legal disputes spanning tax liability, asset recovery, and now, banking compliance. The tribunal had first

signalled its direction on April 14, issuing interim orders that barred KRA from enforcing the same notices ahead of an inter partes hearing on April 17. Friday's ruling effectively converts that provisional relief into a standing order while the substantive tax case proceeds.

The timing is striking. Just one day before the tribunal acted, the Central Bank



Former Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko.

of Kenya confirmed it had opened a probe into Equity Bank following a formal complaint alleging that the lender defied a High Court order to lift restrictions on accounts linked to Sonko. In a letter dated April 16, the CBK said it had sought clarification from the bank and would issue a comprehensive response once its investigations are complete. The case before the

High Court's Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Division involves the Asset Recovery Agency — a separate thread in what has become a multi-front legal battle over Sonko's finances.

The convergence of a tax tribunal ruling, a banking regulator inquiry, and an ongoing corruption court process around the same set of accounts at the same institu-

tion is, at minimum, an uncomfortable position for Equity Bank — and a reminder that Sonko, whatever his legal fortunes, has not left the headlines behind.

For now, the accounts are unfrozen. What the tribunal ultimately finds when it reaches the merits of the tax dispute is a question that will take considerably longer to answer.

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STEM There is overwhelming support for STEM among learners and teachers, with 96 per cent of learners expressing interest in pursuing STEM-related careers.

Study flags gaps in STEM implementation



Ms Clotilda Nyongesa

BY MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

The Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa has raised concerns over gaps in the implementation of the Competency-Based Education (CBE) STEM pathway in senior schools, following findings from a baseline study conducted across 20 schools countrywide.

Speaking at a workshop for In-Service Education and Training (INSET) Centre Principals and County Trainers held in Karen, Nairobi, CEMASTE Deputy Head of Research and Innovation Clotilda Nyongesa said the study focused on the implementation of STEM subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics and technical pathway subjects in senior schools.

According to the findings, there is overwhelming support for STEM among learners and teachers, with 96 per

cent of learners expressing interest in pursuing STEM-related careers.

A majority of teachers also view the curriculum positively, with 85 per cent saying CBE enhances learner engagement, 83 per cent noting it promotes problem-solving skills, and 80 per cent reporting confidence in implementing STEM under the competency-based framework.

Despite this strong buy-in, the report indicates that implementation capacity remains a major challenge. It notes that while perceptions are positive, classroom practice often falls short of CBE expectations.

The transition towards learner-centered pedagogy is ongoing, with 85 percent of teachers reporting use of group work, 78 percent applying learner-centered approaches, and 95 percent of learners reporting active participation.

However, observations show only 45 percent of lessons are truly learner-centred, indicat-

ing a significant gap between policy and practice.

The gaps are attributed to inadequate laboratories or specialised rooms, limited textbooks and ICT tools, restricted and unscheduled access to available facilities, predominantly teacher-directed use of resources, and limited opportunities for learner experimentation, where demonstrations often replace hands-on learning.

“Laboratories, textbooks and other instructional materials are often inadequate, inequitably distributed or underutilised, with access to available facilities frequently restricted and unscheduled,” she said.

Nyongesa noted that the assessment collected views from teachers, learners and school heads to determine whether classroom practice aligns with CBE policy requirements.

“We went to 20 schools around the country and collected data on teachers’ and learners’ perceptions regard-

Nyongesa pointed to weaknesses in lesson preparation, noting that key documents such as Schemes of work and Lesson plans were often missing or not aligned to CBE standards. “Good teaching begins with preparation. Where preparation is not adequate, delivery is also affected,” she said.

On school leadership, she said the study found a gap between policy compliance and instructional leadership, with some institutions focusing on meeting requirements without actively supporting classroom practice.

“There is leadership for compliance rather than instructional leadership that goes into classrooms to support teachers,” she said.

While 85.7 per cent of heads of institutions reported that teachers are implementing CBE, only 25.6 per cent of teachers said school leadership provides meaningful support for classroom pedagogy, suggesting that most leadership efforts remain focused on compliance-oriented rather than classroom pedagogy-focused. This points to the need to shift from compliance monitoring to instructional mentorship and teacher capacity building.

She also raised concerns over resource constraints, noting that teaching and learning materials are inadequate in many schools, while available resources are underutilised even where they exist.

Nyongesa said although 68 per cent of learners reported having equitable access to learning resources, a notable 41 per cent said they had never used digital tools in STEM learning, highlighting gaps in both availability and effective use of ICT in classrooms.

The Study further highlights

that the use of resources remains largely teacher-directed, limiting meaningful learner engagement, while opportunities for experimentation are minimal as demonstrations increasingly replace hands-on learning.

Nyongesa added that in some schools, ICT facilities exist but are not effectively integrated into teaching, while in others, textbooks have either not reached learners or are insufficiently distributed.

The findings further show that in many schools, practical

lessons are not conducted regularly, and opportunities for learner experimentation remain limited, undermining the competency-based approach that emphasises hands-on and inquiry-based learning.

Nyongesa pointed out that the teaching in schools continues to rely on traditional teaching methods, which further hinders efforts to implement learner-centred pedagogy, as many teachers continue to make limited use of formative assessment strategies for and as learning.

“The traditional teaching methods such as note dictation are still prevalent, while group work is sometimes poorly facilitated, leaving learners with minimal guidance,” she said.

She further noted growing collaboration with universities, saying some higher learning institutions are already seeking alignment with CBE principles to ensure continuity in training future teachers.

“I have found universities coming to find out what we are doing so that they can infuse CBE principles into pre-service training,” she said.

She also called for stronger parental engagement, saying parents require more sensitisation to support learners in making informed subject and career choices.

According to the report, while Kenya has made significant progress in embracing STEM under the competency-based curriculum, the main challenge lies in translating policy into effective classroom practice.

She expressed optimism, noting that education stakeholders in Kenya will use the report as a precursor to addressing gaps in STEM implementation in schools and to assess the country’s readiness to implement STEM effectively.

“I want to believe we are ready. It is about harnessing our energies and focusing on doing the right things in the classroom,” she said.

Politics The DP said security issues that had been a headache for previous administrations have been dealt with in the last three years

Kindiki: Baringo and North Rift enjoying peace and development owing to successful security interventions



Deputy president Kithure Kindiki addressing a meeting on Friday.

BY DPCS

@themkenyatimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki says banditry in Baringo County and North Rift region has been significantly suppressed enabling the region to benefit from the government's extensive develop-

ment agenda.

The DP said security issues that had been a headache for previous administrations have been dealt with in the last three years and residents are enjoying the fruits of peace and tranquility.

"Baringo was notorious for banditry for a long time but now security has been re-

stored. I thank the President for his resolve to restore peace in the region. The leaders and residents of Baringo have also played a great role and we appreciate them for their cooperation," DP said.

The Second in Command spoke on Friday when he inspected development projects in Mogotio Constituency,

Prof. Kindiki stated that the focus is now developing the region to be at par with other areas highlighting several projects funded by the government in the region.



Baringo County. The Deputy President checked the progress of the 78-kilometre Mogotio-Lake Bogoria-Kapkitur-Kisanana-Kamukunji Road, Mogotio Livestock Training and Service Centre and launched Kipkararam Last Mile Electrification Project. Later, he addressed residents at Eming Shopping Centre in the Constituency.

"Peace has been restored in Baringo. Now we are fully focused on development. We have many projects going on here. I am proud to be associated with the stability, security and freedom of the people of Baringo," DP revealed, noting that he visited Baringo at least 23 times in an effort to beef up security when he served as Interior Cabinet Secretary between 2022 and 2024.

He appreciated the efforts by his successor, Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen who has enhanced the pace and attention to fully wipe out banditry in the region.

Prof. Kindiki stated that the focus is now developing the region to be at par with other areas highlighting several projects funded by the government in the region.

Among them is the construction of the 78-kilometre Road which is being done at 3.7 billion shillings.

It is one of the road projects totaling 854 kilometres being tarmacked in the County at 32 billion shillings.

"Baringo County is one of the biggest beneficiaries of road construction because

historically it has lagged behind in matters of roads and infrastructure. I urge the contractors to do quality work, speed up the works and prioritise giving the local community job opportunities," he added.

Additionally, the County has been allocated 712 million shillings to connect additional 4000 residents to electricity. In Mogotio Constituency, 17 last-mile electrification projects are ongoing to connect an additional 1000 households at a cost of 145 million shillings.

Further, the Deputy President assured residents that the President is working hard to stabilize fuel prices that have shot up due to the war in Iran. He urged residents not to fall prey to politicians peddling lies without providing any solution to the matter.

"We will stabilise fuel prices and restore them to where they were. We have a working plan so that citizens do not suffer. We have reduced VAT from 16% to 8%, and we will roll out more short-term and long-term measures to cushion Kenyans from rising fuel prices," he added.

The DP also asked eligible Kenyans to register to vote to have the power to choose leaders in the coming elections.

Present were Baringo Deputy Governor Felix Kipng'ok, Mogotio MP Ruben Kiborek, Senator Kiprono Chemitei, Eldama Ravine MP Musa Sirma, host of MCAs and thousands of residents.

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CHERISH Programme The 10-year CHERISH Programme, anchored on the President's 15BillionTrees Growing Agenda, aims to restore over 62,000 hectares

Kenya intensifies restoration of Cherangany Hills under CHERISH initiative

BY KNA

@themkenyaintimes

The Government has intensified efforts to restore the degraded Cherangany Hills ecosystem, one of Kenya's five critical water towers, through the flagship Cherangany Hills Ecosystem Restoration for Livelihood Improvement, Sustainability and Harmony (CHERISH) Programme.

Speaking during a partners' breakfast roundtable in Nairobi, Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen, who is also the Patron of the CHERISH program, underscored the urgency of restoring the 414,928-hectare ecosystem, which spans Elgeyo-Marakwet, West Pokot, Trans-Nzoia, and Uasin Gishu counties. He noted that years of unregulated human activity have

led to severe degradation, with 15 percent of the ecosystem critically degraded and 67 percent moderately degraded. This has resulted in significant loss of forest and grassland cover, biodiversity decline, and recurring landslides that have disrupted livelihoods.

The 10-year CHERISH Programme, anchored on the President's 15BillionTrees Growing Agenda, aims to restore over 62,000 hectares of degraded land, protect key water sources, and create up to 500,000 green jobs for youth through initiatives such as agroforestry, beekeeping, and ecotourism. The programme will be officially launched on 22nd May 2026 in Elgeyo-Marakwet County, alongside the inaugural Cherangany Conservation Run scheduled for 21st May 2026.

His Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Counterpart Dr. Deborah Barasa reaffirmed the Govern-

ment's commitment to ecosystem restoration, noting that the adoption of Cherangany Hills under the #15BillionTrees Growing Programme marks a significant milestone in safeguarding Kenya's natural capital. She highlighted national progress, including the planting of over 1.43 billion trees and the establishment of robust seedling production and monitoring systems, while emphasizing the shift from tree planting to tree growing as a measure of accountability and impact.

Dr. Barasa further described CHERISH as a transformative, multi-stakeholder initiative aligned with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, positioning ecosystem restoration as both an environmental and economic priority.

The event was attended by Principal Secretaries Gitonga Mugambi (Forestry), Dr. Eng. Festus K. Ng'eno (Environment and ClimateChange),



CS Kipchumba Murkomen, Deborah Barasa and PS Gitonga Mugambi

and Mr. Joel Arumonyang (Public Works), alongside Elgeyo Marakwet county leadership, Members of Parliament, and CEOs of sector agencies. Development partners present included UNDP, Equity Group and its Foundation, KCB, IGAD, WRI,

WWF Kenya, KWS, Kenya Forest Service, Water Resources Authority, KALRO, KenGen, Nature Kenya, and the Kenya Accreditation Service, among others.

The Mt. Kenya Times

THE



The fear of feeling too deep



I never feared the dark of night,
Nor walking roads without a light,
But what unsettles me inside,
Is letting someone see my tides.

To care too much, to feel too strong,
To hold a place where they belong,
It sounds so warm, it feels so right—
Yet carries shadows dressed as light.

For hearts don't break with sudden cries,
They shatter slow, in silent sighs,
In every "stay" that turns to "leave,"
In every hope we still believe.

Attachment blooms like fragile art,
Soft petals wrapped around the heart,
But every bloom I dare to grow,
Comes with a fear of letting go.

What if they learn my every scar?
Then drift away, not very far—
Just enough to make me see,
I gave them all... they lost in me.

So I step back when feelings start,
Build gentle walls around my heart,
Not 'cause I don't long to feel—
But 'cause I know how deep I heal.

Yet somewhere in this quiet ache,
A part of me still wants to break,
To risk the fall, to feel the spark...
Even if it leaves a mark.

©Dr. Daksha Udhani
Ahmedabad

Fragments in the mirror



We shattered the grand tale long ago,
No hero's arc, no final truth to claim.
Just shards of stories scattered in the snow,
Each fragment laughing at the others' name.

Language twists like smoke in neon haze,
Signifiers dance where meaning used to stand.
The author died; the reader sets the blaze,

Rewriting rules with an unsteady hand.

History folds into a playful lie,
Power hides in every smiling mask.
High and low collapse beneath the sky—
A cathedral made of cheap plastic and trash.

Irony drips from every solemn word,
Sincerity mocked, then mocked again.
We build our towers on the absurd,
And call it freedom in this endless game.

Yet in the ruins something strange persists:
A quiet ache for what we burned away
The hunger for a truth that still resists,
Beneath the clever rubble of today.

Qasim Ali Kharal

Life passes by



Life passes by,
the river flows endlessly.

Youth goes quickly,
the wind rushes away.

When people age,
they miss their younger days.

No matter the longing,
youth never returns.

Youth doesn't wait for a person to grow up.

Even if youth waited, life would still pass by.

Davlatova Zebanda Sherali

I miss your tender eyes, mother



I miss your sorrowful eyes, dear mother,
I miss your gentle, loving words, dear mother.
Those hands that woke me each morning with a
touch,

I miss your warm embrace, dear mother.
Even our home feels empty without you,
The walls seem to silently weep too.
Where you are, the world always blooms,

Without you, autumn falls upon my soul.
You would pray when I set out on my way,
"Stay safe, my child," you'd softly say.
Your voice still echoes within my ears,
My aching heart trembles with longing and tears.

At night, I gaze up at the stars,
As if I could find you among them afar.
My tears fall quietly in the dark,
I whisper your name and weep once more.
Mother, you were always my dearest treasure,
Like light, you've settled in my heart forever.
There is not a day I do not miss you,
You have become my whole world, dear mother.

Xolboyev Mashrab
Uzbekistan

If someone willing to be at my lowest, they deserve a seat at my highest



I will never forget them in the bright days of my
life—in success, in joy, in every celebration.

For they stood beside me when I was falling, when
sorrow spoke louder than hope, when my world
felt heavy and dim.

They were there in my silence, in my broken
moments, holding me steady.

So in my happiness, their place remains—not as a
memory, but as a part of every smile I carry.

KRISHNAVENI
GRADUATE TEACHER
CUDDALORE DIST
TAMIL NADU
INDIA.

A pleasant morning dear God



A beautiful morning dear God,
I will pray to you god,
God make my day happy,
I must happy in all time,

In yesterday you give all for me which I pray to
you,

I pray everyday you to do my things easy,
are really great my God,
It is the day i watch pleasant
To pray to you God,
Be with me God every time,
You give such a beautiful life dear God,
I will pray in the morning and make my day good.

P.HEMANYA,
VIII,
JOHN DEWEY MAT HR SEC SCHOOL,
PANRUTI CUDDALORE DISTRICT.

Importance of Participation



Dear students, always try,
Spread your wings and learn to fly!
Participation helps you grow
And makes your hidden talents glow.

In speech and drama, take your part,
They build your voice and shape your
heart.
In debate, dear ones, learn to speak
With courage strong and thoughts
unique.

In dance, you move with joy and grace,
A happy smile lights up your face.
In handwriting, practice makes you
bright,

Your words will shine so neat and right
In sports, dear hearts, play with cheer,
Building strength year after year.
Win or lose, don't ever fear,
Each brave try brings success near.

So, dear students, take your part,
Participation is a work of heart!

V. JAYANTHI
Graduate teacher
Creative Writer
PUMS KONGANANCHERRY
CHENGALPATTU DISTRICT
TAMIL NADU

Politics

Wetang'ula threatens criminal sanctions against governors who snub parliamentary committees

BY MKT REPORTER
@themkenyatimes

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula has warned all 47 governors that they face criminal prosecution if they continue to ignore summons from parliamentary committees, and has directed Rarieda MP Otiende Amollo to lead the drafting of legislation to enforce that threat.

Wetang'ula delivered the warning on Friday during a youth empowerment event in Mabera, Kuria West Constituency in Migori County — but the message was plainly aimed far beyond the crowd in front of him. The Speaker has grown increasingly frustrated with a pattern he described as a dangerous precedent: county governors routinely failing

to appear before the Senate to respond to Auditor-General reports on the billions of shillings allocated to their counties each year.

“You cannot take billions of taxpayers’ money and when you are asked what work it has done, you start making noise and refusing to appear before Parliament to account.” — Speaker Moses Wetang'ula
“As Parliament, we will not compromise on oversight,” Wetang'ula declared. “For whom much is given, much more is expected. I want to sound a very strong warning to all the 47 governors: you must appear before Parliament and explain how you have spent public funds.” His instruction to Amollo — a Senior Counsel and a senior member of his legal advisory team — to spearhead the formulation of criminal sanctions signals

that this is no longer merely a rhetorical escalation. Parliament, the Speaker made clear, intends to create enforceable consequences.

The constitutional basis for Parliament’s oversight mandate is well established under the 2010 framework, but the mechanisms for compelling compliance from county executives have long been regarded as toothless in practice. Governors summoned over audit queries have repeatedly cited scheduling conflicts, disputed jurisdiction, or simply failed to appear — often with impunity. Wetang'ula’s move to close that gap through legislation could mark a turning point in the often fractious relationship between the national legislature and devolved governments.

“Governors are not owners of public funds; they are trustees

and custodians of the public good,” he said. “When they err, they must come to Parliament and answer questions.” The framing was deliberate — positioning accountability not as a political contest between Nairobi and the counties, but as a basic obligation owed to ordinary Kenyans.

Wetang'ula also used Friday’s platform to praise Members of Parliament for the speed with which they passed amendments cutting value-added tax on fuel products by half — a move requested by President William Ruto in response to rising global crude prices linked to the Iran conflict. “Fuel touches every aspect of our lives, from transport to food production and small businesses,” he said. “Reducing VAT was necessary to cushion wana-chi.” The cut mirrors a broad-



National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula

er set of emergency economic measures the government has been rolling out as oil price pressures begin to bite.

On national cohesion, the Speaker called on Kenyans to reject ethnic division, referencing the legacy of the late Raila Odinga’s opposition politics in advancing constitutional reform and inclusivity. “Kenya has no small or big tribes — only Kenyans,” he said. “We must treat one another with respect and dignity.” And addressing the youth directly, he urged responsible stewardship of empowerment funds, cautioning against frittering away loans designed to seed enterprise: “Use the funds to invest in tools of pro-

duction and build sustainable businesses. Do not squander opportunities meant to uplift your lives.”

The Speaker was accompanied by Migori Senator Eddy Oketch, Suna West MP Peter Masara, Migori Woman Representative Fatuma Mohamed, Kuria West MP Mathias Robi, Navakholo MP Emmanuel Wangwe, and Rarieda MP Amollo himself — the man now tasked with translating Wetang'ula’s warning into law.

For governors who have grown accustomed to treating parliamentary summons as optional, that prospect may soon feel considerably less comfortable.

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PBOs Okiring further hailed the PBOs for coming up with resilience programmes especially those that cushion communities from the effects of drought and floods

PBOs hailed for fostering peace and security efforts in Northeastern



PBO officials planting a commemorative tree

BY KNA

[@themtkenyaintimes](#)

Public Benefit Organizations (PBOs), formerly NGOs in the northeastern region, have been commended for fostering collaboration and building trust between communities and security agencies thus enhancing security in the region. In a region that has experienced insecurity incidents especially from al shabaab insurgents in recent years, PBOs have played a critical role in facilitating dialogue to overcome historical mistrust between local communities

and the state, promoting social cohesion and allowing information flow to avert security threats.

PBOs in the region have also been leading efforts to address violent extremism and manage inter-communal conflicts by working with community-based peace structures, such as peace committees and elders, to support early warning systems and mediation, thus acting as a bridge to formal security apparatus.

Speaking after leading a tree planting exercise bringing together officials from different PBOs at the North Eastern regional headquarters in

Garissa, Garissa Township deputy county commissioner Sebastian Okiring said that the PBOs had been supportive of peace and security efforts by engaging the communities through dialogues on the importance of a secure country.

Okiring further hailed the PBOs for coming up with resilience programmes especially those that cushion communities from the effects of drought and floods which have been recurring in the region leaving behind losses of livelihoods.

“Our working relationship is very cordial. The PBOs have been very supportive even to

our programmes, particularly facilitating security issues, bringing the communities closer to the law enforcement agencies, which has gone a long way in improving the security situation because members of the public are now willing to share information,” Okiring said.

“Funding for most PBOs has drastically gone down, and as a government, we have put a lot of effort into bringing together the PBOs to avoid issues of duplication. Our key areas of focus given that this is a drought- and flood-prone area, are resilience programmes where we support families to start-up businesses,” he added.

At the same time, the DCC

said that the government had aligned all the programmes being undertaken by the PBOs so that there was no duplication and to make sure that there were no repeat beneficiaries at the expense of others.

Mohamed Abdullahi, who was representing the PBO Regulatory Authority Director General on his part called for support of the PBOs noting that the sector impact in the country was very momentous.

“The impact of the PBOs is very significant across the country. In the last financial year, the country received through the donor aid Shs 246 billion, out of which Shs 214 billion was utilized in the

country,” Abdullahi said.

“We are encouraging the leaders across every region to support PBOs because in this way, we can create employment for our youth and also supplement the government and fill the gaps where the government cannot reach,” he added.

Abdiweli Mohamed, the founder of Semi-Arid Resilient Network PBO in Garissa called for a public-private partnership in resource mobilization for the PBOs to fill in the financial gaps left by the withdrawal of major aid organizations due to global issues and conflicts.

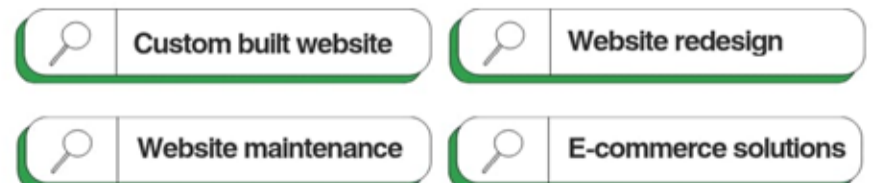
“There have been funding issues for the PBOs because of the global conversations and conflicts but we are committed to contributing to community resilience and the national development plan. The focus line here is now the private - public partnership, which is very key for the development resource mobilization efforts,” Mohamed said.



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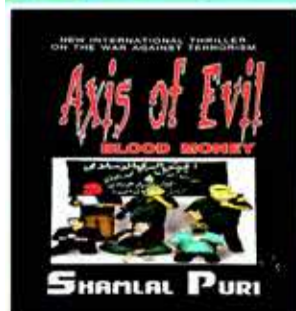
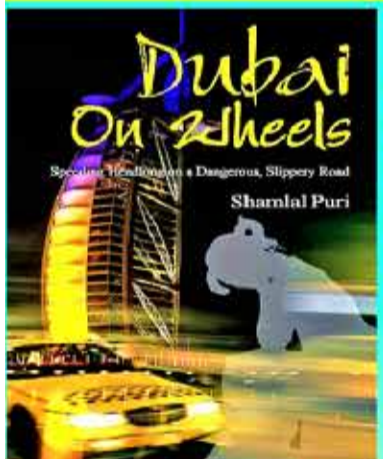
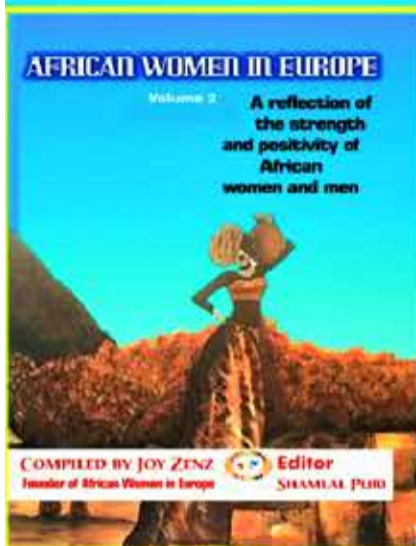
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Politics Recent concerns emerging from Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) have brought this tension into sharp focus.

When power shields impunity; Confronting the quiet capture of public institutions in Kenya



BY Fredrick Chelimo
@themkenyatimes



Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH)

Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH), Kenya's largest second teaching and referral hospital, is currently facing significant operational crisis characterized by severe financial constraints, labour disputes, infrastructural strain and brain drain. This has led to severe congestion and high patient load, shortage of supplies and degraded service delivery. Emerging issues of administrative and social challenges seems to put the final nail to the already suffocating intuition. The trend is not unique to this institution alone.

There is a growing unease across Kenya, subtle yet persistent, that something fundamental is shifting within the country's public institutions. What were once regarded as pillars of service, accountability and national pride are, in some instances, perceived as vulnerable to internal decay. At the center of this concern is a pattern that is no longer easily dismissed; the rise of malpractice within institutions, often intertwined with networks of political patronage and protection. This is not merely a conversation about corruption in its traditional sense. It is a deeper more structural question about integrity of governance itself, about whether public institutions are still guided by the constitutional principles upon which they were established or whether they are gradually being repurposed to serve narrower, private interests.

The constitution of Kenya is unambiguous in its expectations. Article 10 enshrines national values and principles of governance, including integrity, transparency and accountability. Article 73 places a duty upon public officers to exercise authority in a manner that demonstrates respect for people and brings honor to the nation. Article 232 demands that public services be conducted on the basis of fair competition, merit and

professionalism. These are not aspirational ideals: they are binding obligations. Yet, the lived reality within some institutions suggests a widening gap between law and practice.

Recent concerns emerging from Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) have brought this tension into sharp focus. Allegations, ranging from irregular recruitment and intimidation of staff to suspected diversion of medical supplies and deterioration of critical services, have stirred both professional and public anxiety. While such claims must be subjected to due process and independent verification, their very existence points to a deeper institutional fragility. When a facility entrusted with safeguarding life begins to exhibit systemic distress, the implications extend far beyond its walls.

What is particularly troubling is the perceived role of political connectivity in insulating wrongdoing. In environments where individuals are believed to enjoy proximity to power, accountability mechanisms can become hesitant, delayed or all together ineffective. Investigations stall, disciplinary process lose momentum, and in some cases, those who raised concerns find themselves isolated rather than protected. This dynamic, not only undermines justice but erodes confidence in the rule of law.

Oversight institutions like Ethics

and Anti-Corruption Authority, the Office of Auditor General, and Directorate of Criminal Investigation are constitutionally and statutorily mandated to address precisely these challenges, their role is critical in investigating allegations, safeguarding public resources, and ensuring that no individual regardless of status, is above the law. However the effectiveness of these institutions depends not only in their legal mandate, but also on independence and consistency with which they are allowed to operate.

For frontline professionals like nurses, doctors, technicians, and administrators, the consequences of institutional malpractices are neither abstract nor distant. They are immediate and deeply personal. A compromised procurement process does not simply reflect poor governance; it translates into empty pharmaceutical shelves, non-functional equipment, and delayed and denied care for patients resulting to deaths. Irregular recruitment practices do not merely breach policy; they affect morale, competence, and the overall quality of service delivery. In such environments, the ethical burden on professionals becomes heavier, as they are forced to navigate between their duty to serve and the realities of a system under strain.

There is also a profound human cost. Patients, particularly the most

vulnerable, bear the brunt of institutional failure. The constitutional right to the highest attainable standard of health, guaranteed under article 43, becomes difficult to realize when essential services are disrupted. For persons living with disabilities, the elderly and those without alternative means, the collapse or weakening of public intuitions of such status is not just an administrative concern; it is a matter of dignity, access, and survival.

For Persons with disabilities (PWDs), this crisis assumes an even sharper and more painful dimension. Healthcare systems are not merely service points for PWDs, they are lifelines. Many rely on consistent access to specialized care, assistive technologies, PWDs do not simply experience inconvenience; they face compounded exclusion. A non-functional ICU, inaccessible facilities, or absence of essential medication can translate into irreversible setbacks, deepening inequality, and stripping away hard-won gains in inclusion.

Moreover, malpractice that diverts public resources disproportionately affects PWDs who are often already navigating economic and social marginalization. Funds that should support inclusive healthcare, rehabilitative programmes, or assistive services are instead lost to inefficiency or misappropriation. This result is a silent but profound injustice, one

that widens the gap between constitutional promise and lived reality. Yet, even within this challenging environment, there are pathways to reform.

Enhance public vigilance plays a defining role in our society by becoming attentive, informed, and engaging, creating an environment where malpractice struggles to thrive. The media, civil society and professional bodies must continue to illuminate issues of concern, not with sensationalism, but with responsibility and adherence to fact. In doing so, they reinforce the principle that transparency is a cornerstone of democratic governance.

The ultimate question before the nation is not whether malpractice exists, it clearly does, but whether it will be allowed to take root as a defining feature of public life. Institutions do not fall overnight. They erode gradually through tolerated irregularities, differed decisions and quiet normalization of conduct that falls short of constitutional standards.

The most uncomfortable and the necessary question, one that cannot be ignored if meaningful reforms is to be pursued; who stands to benefit from the gradual weakening, or even collapse, of public health care systems in Kenya? Is it those who profit from private alternatives when public facilities fail? Is it networks that thrive in opaque procurement systems? Or is it convergence of interests that finds advantage in a system too fragile to enforce accountability? The answer to this can be found by examining such failures and ride on alternative private entrepreneurs to serve the purpose.

It should be noted that public office is a trust held on behalf of the people and not for individual discretionary expediency. The public must stay vigilant and on guard to jealously guard what is truly theirs, institutions entrusted with oversight should have the courage to uphold professional ethics and act decisively. Leadership at all levels should demonstrate that accountability and fidelity to law is not selective. We must reaffirm that integrity is not negotiable and that no network of influence, however powerful can override the supremacy of the constitution or dignity of the citizens and more so the vulnerable and including PWDs.

Mr. Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo
PWD

Chairperson, Jiamini Disability network Community Based organization

Email: jiamini.network@gmail.com

Youth “A failure is that good, inspirational, and assertive leader who has never mentored a successor.”

The silence of the sages: Why young people must have a seat at the table

Governments, corporations, and institutions continue to sideline the generation that will inherit the consequences of today’s decisions. That silence is not just unfair — it is dangerous.



GenZ



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
mukphix@gmail.com

“A failure is that good, inspirational, and assertive leader who has never mentored a successor.”

Across the world’s boardrooms, legislative chambers, and institutional corridors, the voices of the generation that will bear the weight of today’s decisions are being ignored — and the cost of that silence grows more dangerous by the day.

The world is at a crossroads. The choices made now will shape the course of history for decades to come. And yet, in the very spaces where those

choices are made, a troubling pattern persists: the current generation — Gen Z, the most diverse, educated, and digitally fluent cohort the world has ever known — remains locked out of the conversation. They are treated, too often, as an afterthought rather than a constituency. That is both an injustice and a strategic failure.

The issues that matter most to young people today — climate change, social justice, economic inequality, mental health — are routinely sidelined, dismissed, or co-opted by older voices who claim to speak on their behalf. The result is a catastrophic failure of representation. A betrayal of trust. And, quietly, a deepening disillusionment that no institution can afford to ignore. Studies suggest that seven in ten young people feel the system is rigged against them, and that nearly as many be-

lieve their voices simply do not count. The consequences of that belief — apathy, disengagement, and a slow-burning revolt against the status quo — are already visible.

This is not only a generational grievance. It is a civilisational one. By excluding young people from decision-making, we are not merely disenfranchising a cohort; we are sabotaging our collective future. We are choosing to address the most urgent problems of our time with the same tired solutions that have repeatedly failed us. Gen Z has grown up with climate change hanging over their lives like the sword of Damocles. They are not asking for sympathy. They are demanding action — and they are right to do so.

The case for inclusion is, in truth, not complicated. Young people bring perspectives that are genuinely different: shaped by new technologies,

new values, and a lived understanding of the world as it actually is — not as it was. Their approaches to complex problems tend to be creative, unencumbered by institutional inertia, and grounded in an authenticity that older systems struggle to manufacture. No one is better placed to represent the interests of a generation than that generation itself.

The risks of continued exclusion are equally clear. A generation that feels disenfranchised will not quietly accept the status quo. It will find ways to disrupt it. Institu-

tions that dismiss young people’s concerns today will find themselves scrambling to respond to the consequences tomorrow — from accelerating climate breakdown to social unrest that no policy paper anticipated.

What is needed, then, is not tokenism. It is not a youth advisory panel that meets once a year and reports to no one. It is genuine inclusion — young people in rooms where real decisions are made, with real authority to shape outcomes. It means governments creating meaningful pathways for youth representation in poli-

cy. It means corporations elevating young voices beyond the marketing department. It means listening, not just consulting; amplifying, not just acknowledging.

To those who argue that Gen Z is too idealistic, too radical, or too inexperienced — that argument misses the point entirely. No one is asking the young to slot seamlessly into broken systems. The invitation is for those systems to evolve, to open up, and to recognise that the status quo is no longer adequate. Change has never been comfortable. It has also never been optional.

To young people themselves, the message is simpler: do not give up. Your voices matter, and the arc of history — however slowly it bends — bends toward those who refuse to be silent. Keep pushing. Keep speaking. The world is not just watching. Eventually, it listens.

The future, after all, belongs to those willing to fight for it.

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China-Uganda agriculture project proves success of South-South cooperation



This picture taken on April 16, 2026 shows a millet variety grown in Uganda under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)-China-Uganda South-South Cooperation project being exhibited during the project's Phase III conclusion event held in Kampala, Uganda.

BY Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyatimes

China's transfer of skills and technologies is transforming agricultural production in Uganda, demonstrating how Global South countries can accelerate development through South-South cooperation, officials said.

The remarks were made at a review workshop marking the completion of the third phase of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)-China-Uganda South-South Cooperation project. According to Uganda's Ministry of Agriculture, since the project began in 2012, China has dispatched more than 60 agricultural experts to Uganda to share knowledge and skills with smallholder farmers and local specialists, help Ugandan farmers transition from subsistence to commercial farming, and boost production and household incomes. Frank Tumwebaze, Uganda's minister of agriculture, animal industry and fisheries, told the meeting that the project demonstrates how Global South countries can collaborate to share knowledge and technology to transform their agrifood systems. Tumwebaze praised China's cooperation with Africa, saying the project aligns with Uganda's

priorities on agro-industrialization, food security and rural livelihoods.

"It supports strategic value chains such as rice, millet, sorghum, chili, livestock and fisheries, which are critical to livelihoods enhancement, food and nutrition security," the minister said.

Ye Anping, director of FAO's South-South and Triangular Cooperation Division, said that amid declining donor support due to the current geopolitical situation, the tripartite project has demonstrated the potential for Global South countries to lift millions out of poverty through the sharing of knowledge and skills. Wu Xiuqiang, a representative of the Sichuan Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, said the project's three phases have contributed to the modernization and industrialization of Uganda's agricultural sector, while serving as a model for China-Africa agricultural cooperation and broader South-South collaboration.

Fan Xuecheng, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Chinese Embassy in Uganda, said the transfer of knowledge and skills under the project has helped cultivate a new generation of Ugandan agricultural professionals, ensuring that its achievements are locally owned and

sustained. Fan added that more than 100,000 Ugandans have benefited from training and technical support provided by Chinese experts over the years. Under the project, three agricultural technology transfer hubs were established, focusing on crop varieties, livestock and fisheries. One key achievement in the crop sector is the introduction of WDR-73, a high-yielding, drought-resistant rice variety now being promoted nationwide, which has benefited nearly 5,000 households and significantly increased both production and average household income.

Robert Sagura, a rice farmer with over 40 years of experience, is among the beneficiaries. He told Xinhua that more than 500 rice farmers in his home district of Butaleja in eastern Uganda have adopted techniques introduced by Chinese experts. "They gave us new technologies on how to improve our rice farming, such as line transplanting, pest management, and growing high-yielding hybrid rice compared to our local varieties," Sagura said. "We used to get about 500 kg per acre per season, but now, because of their skills and technology, we can get over 2,000 kg per acre per season," he added.

Water crisis grips South Sudan as refugees struggle for survival



Water crisis grips South Sudan

BY Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyatimes

Before dawn in Chemedi Payam in South Sudan's Upper Nile State, women and children line up with empty jerry cans for water that may never arrive.

"We wake up at 3:00 a.m. local time (0100 GMT) and come here to look for water," said Amna Ibrahim, a Sudanese refugee who fled conflict across the border. "We haven't even had breakfast because we came early to fetch water." Chemedi, a remote settlement in Upper Nile State, is home to about 58,000 people, most of them Sudanese refugees and returnees. A worsening water crisis there is ravaging daily life and straining already fragile basic services. The shortages persist despite the settlement's proximity to the Nile, one of Africa's largest rivers. Aid workers and local officials said the problem is not the absence of water sources, but the lack of infrastructure to safely extract, treat and distribute water to dispersed communities. With few functioning boreholes, limited storage capacity and no large-scale treatment systems, most residents rely on water trucking or unsafe alternatives. Seasonal water

points often dry up during prolonged dry spells.

For many families, access to water depends on tanker deliveries supported by aid agencies, but humanitarian workers warn that these operations are increasingly constrained by funding shortfalls. "If the tanker doesn't come, we don't know what we will do," Zainab Yasin, another Sudanese refugee, told Xinhua. According to local authorities, the rapid influx of people fleeing violence in Sudan has overwhelmed the area's already overstretched water infrastructure. The lack of reliable water supplies is also undermining the delivery of critical health services, particularly for malnourished children and mothers.

At a primary healthcare facility supported by the United Nations Children's Fund and its partners, dozens of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition are treated daily, alongside pregnant and breastfeeding women. "Water is a major gap in Chemedi. Without it, our nutrition services cannot function properly," said Jansuk Alex Sworo, a nutrition specialist working in the area. According to Sworo, the absence of sustained funding for water services has left both the facility and surrounding communities struggling. Aid

agencies are trucking in water from Renk, about 80 km from Chemedi, but the approach is difficult to sustain under current financial constraints, he said. With few alternatives, many residents resort to unsafe sources like untreated water from shallow wells or seasonal reservoirs that dry up quickly.

Beyond health impacts, the water crisis is also disrupting education. At a primary school, where most of its 650 pupils are refugees, lessons are frequently cut short. "We have an issue with water here, and that is why we release learners at 11:00 a.m.," head teacher Awadia Paulo Adowk said. Some parents have stopped sending their children to school altogether as securing water becomes a daily struggle. "Sometimes we get water, and after two days, we don't have anything to drink," said Rasham Mohamed Sheikh Al-Din, a mother of eight. Local officials and aid workers are calling for increased support to address growing water needs. As the conflict in Sudan continues to drive displacement across the border, residents warn that without sustained funding and long-term infrastructure, thousands will remain dependent on unsafe and unreliable water sources.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Kenya's youth rise up to tackle climate change



Kenya's youth are not waiting for climate summits or political promises. They are rolling up their sleeves and rewriting the script of environmental action.

In Nairobi's Eastlands and Kibera, young innovators are transforming plastic waste into paving blocks. In Nakuru, climate-smart farming is boosting harvests and fortifying food security. Across rural Kenya, solar entrepreneurs are wiring homes that have never known reliable electricity. This is climate leadership in motion, not theory.

Leah, a 20-year-old activ-

ist, captures the urgency: "We won't inherit a planet that's on fire. We're taking charge." James, 22, installs solar panels with the conviction that "we're not just the future, we're the now." Their voices echo a generation unwilling to wait.

Social media amplifies their reach, turning hashtags into accountability tools and sparking national debates. International partners are taking note, scaling grassroots solutions born in Kenya's neighborhoods and farms. "Their energy is infectious," says environmentalist Dr. Patel.

Challenges remain. Funding is scarce, resources stretched, and policy support uneven. Yet conviction and ingenuity are proving more powerful than budgets. These young leaders are redefining climate activism as collaborative, tech-savvy, and impatient with delay.

Kenya's youth are not reacting to crisis — they are shaping a new model of leadership. The real question is whether the rest of society can match their pace.

By Agnes Otieno, Laikipia University

The silent crisis: Why mental health must be a national priority

Kenya cannot afford to treat mental health as an afterthought. While headlines focus on physical illness and economic strain, an invisible emergency is eroding lives, productivity, and communities: the mental health crisis. Depression, anxiety, and stress-related disorders are no longer rare—they are everyday realities demanding urgent national attention.

Modern pressures are relentless. Economic uncertainty, academic competition, social expectations, and the constant pull of digital media have created a climate of exhaustion. For young people, the struggle to balance identity, relationships, and ambition often comes at a heavy emotional cost. Yet stigma keeps many silent, fearing judgment more than the illness itself. That silence is deadly.

Breaking stigma requires education and open dialogue. Schools, universities, and workplaces must normalize



conversations about mental health, provide counseling, and foster peer support. Access to care is equally critical. Too few professionals, high costs, and limited infrastructure leave millions without help. Governments must invest in affordable counseling, community programs, and digital platforms that extend care beyond urban centers.

Technology can be both a burden and a lifeline. While social media fuels stress, mobile apps and online therapy offer discreet, accessible support. Families and communities also

carry responsibility: empathy, listening, and kindness can be transformative.

Ignoring mental health has consequences—lost productivity, broken families, rising healthcare costs, and, tragically, preventable deaths. Mental health is not a luxury; it is a cornerstone of national well-being. The time for half-measures is over. Kenya must act decisively, or risk losing a generation to a crisis we refused to confront.

By Geoffry Mutuku, Laikipia University

Broken promises



Kenya's citizens were promised relief, reform, and accountability in 2022. What they have received instead is a widening gap between words and deeds. The government led by President William Ruto pledged to lower VAT, dismantle cartels, and end extrajudicial killings. Four years later, those promises ring hollow.

Rather than easing the tax burden, VAT was raised from 16% to 18%, squeezing households already struggling with high living costs. Petroleum prices have soared to historic levels, inflating transport and production costs and pushing families

to the brink. The government's economic choices have deepened hardship instead of alleviating it.

Equally troubling is the human toll. Demonstrations have been met with force, and the number of deaths — many of them young people — has climbed. The pledge to uphold justice and protect lives has been overshadowed by a reality of repression and fear. These are not the hallmarks of a government that vowed to defend rights and dignity.

As the 2027 general elections approach, Kenyans must look beyond rhetoric. Accountabil-

ity cannot be postponed; it must be demanded now. Citizens have the power to insist on leadership that delivers tangible progress, not recycled promises. The nation's future depends on leaders who act with integrity and urgency.

Kenya's youth, workers, and families deserve more than slogans. They deserve a government that keeps its word. The question is no longer whether promises were broken — it is whether Kenyans will allow them to remain unchallenged.

By Charity Mwangi, Laikipia University

The quiet presence of a leader: Raila Odinga's absence during a pivotal time in Kenya

Kenya's political stage feels strangely muted. For decades, Raila Odinga has been the voice of defiance, the champion of the underprivileged, and the relentless critic of government excess. Today, as the fuel crisis deepens and suspicions of cartel manipulation resurface, his silence is deafening.

Long queues, erratic prices, and sudden shortages have become routine. In the past, Raila would have been front and center, accusing entrenched interests of exploiting national resources. His absence leaves a vacuum that neither government nor opposition figures have convincingly filled. For a nation accustomed to his fiery interventions, the quiet is unsettling.

Leadership in Kenya has always been fluid, with figures

rising, fading, and reinventing themselves. Yet Raila's role as a quasi-institutional opposition leader gave citizens a focal point for their frustrations. Without that anchor, public discontent risks scattering into diffuse anger rather than channeling into accountability.

His legacy remains contested. Admirers hail him as a reformist who sacrificed ambition for democracy. Critics argue he perpetuated cycles of political contestation that deepened divisions. But whether hero or antagonist, his presence shaped the national conversation.

Kenya is not short of leaders, but leadership is more than titles. It is about timing, voice, and resonance with public sentiment. Raila's reduced visibility may be strategic, transition-



al, or final. What is clear is that his absence is felt. In a time of economic strain and rising inequality, the country is left asking: who will step forward next?

By Oliver Ouma, Rongo University

SPORTS
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Sports >> *The former Harambee Stars midfielder joins Gusii's flagbearers days after a surprise exit from Murang'a Seal, as Shabana try to keep their title and cup ambitions alive amid mounting pressure.

Monday lands at Shabana as Glamour Boys look to steady ship

By **Martin Weche** •

Osborne Monday, the immediate former Murang'a Seal head coach, has been appointed assistant coach at Shabana FC, the club confirmed on Thursday, just four days after parting ways with the Thika-based side.

The appointment, announced through an official club statement, is being framed by Shabana's administration as the opening move in a broader restructuring of the technical bench — one that has been in flux since the abrupt dismissal of head coach Peter Okidi last month.

"Following his previous experience with the team and his deep understanding of our team philosophy, we believe he is the right fit for this role as we fast-track the rebuilding process of our technical bench. We look forward to his contribution as we continue to strengthen and move the club forward," said Elizaphan Kerama, the club's secretary general.

Monday's arrival at Gusii Stadium brings with it a curriculum vitae that few coaches at this level can match. Having taken charge of Murang'a Seal at the start of the 2025/26 season — a side that had only narrowly escaped relegation the previous term — he guided them to ninth on the Kenya Premier League table, accumulating 38 points from 27 matches. His most remarkable achievement was overseeing a ten-match unbeaten run between late 2025 and early this year, a sequence that turned heads across the league and briefly silenced critics who had questioned the appointment of the former Harambee Stars midfielder in the hot seat.

His sudden departure from Murang'a Seal, despite that largely creditable record, was met with considerable surprise in football



Immediate former Murang'a Seal coach Osborne Monday in Shabana colours. PHOTO/SHABANA FC KENYA

circles. No official reason has been given by either party.

At Shabana, Monday steps into a club whose season has been defined by dramatic highs and troubling lows in equal measure. The Glamour Boys — known affectionately as Tore Bobe — entered the campaign as genuine title contenders, and for much of the season they have remained in the thick of a three-way race with Gor Mahia and AFC Leopards at the summit of the table.

Yet results at the sharp end of the season raised uncomfortable questions about the direction of the team. Two successive defeats — to AFC Leopards and, more humiliatingly, to Kariobangi Sharks on home soil at Gusii Stadium — proved to be Okidi's undoing. The former Nakuru All Stars tactician had elevated Shabana to third on the table before being relieved of his duties, a decision that, while understandable

given fan pressure, left the club without clear technical leadership at a critical juncture.

Shabana currently sit fifth with 43 points from 27 matches, with the title now appearing an increasingly remote prospect. However, the FKF Cup offers a more immediate prize. The club have reached the quarterfinal stage of the competition, and silverware via that route remains a tangible ambition.

Monday is expected to work in close collaboration with Andrew Mark Ongwae, who has been managing the team on an interim basis since Okidi's exit. Whether Ongwae retains a role in the permanent structure or steps aside once a head coach is named remains to be seen, but Monday's appointment suggests that the club's hierarchy is moving deliberately rather than in panic.

For Monday, the challenge is as clear as it is urgent — restore

belief, shore up a leaky defensive structure, and ensure that Shabana's season does not fizzle out entirely in its final weeks. He has demonstrated in Murang'a that he can build cohesion and manufacture momentum where little existed before. Whether he can do it again, this time from the dugout bench rather than the top chair, is the question that Gusii faithful will be watching with keen interest.

The Kenya Premier League season enters its decisive phase, and Shabana's next fixtures will offer an early verdict on whether Monday's appointment has had the intended effect.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Team Kenya have expressed confidence and determination ahead of this year's Toyota Junior Golf World Cup set for 5-9 July at the prestigious Chukyo Golf Club in Japan.

Kenya ooze optimism ahead of prestigious junior golf tourney in Japan



Yuvraj Rajput in action during the 2026 NCBA Kenya Junior Strokeplay Golf Championship at Muthaiga Golf Club

Team Kenya have expressed confidence and determination ahead of this year's Toyota Junior Golf World Cup set for 5-9 July at the prestigious Chukyo Golf Club in Japan.

Speaking during the NCBA Kenya Junior Strokeplay Championship closing ceremony at Muthaiga Golf Club on Thursday, the players said they are ready to embrace the challenge and proudly represent the country on the international stage.

"It was a tough event. I didn't play my best the first two days and was still trying to find my swing, but I fought back strongly. I've learned a lot from that experience, especially around course management and decision-making. We are going to try our best in Japan, prepare well, and give everything for Kenya," Yuvraj Rajput, who is part of the qualifying team, said.

He added that the rapid growth of junior golf in Kenya has been driven by consistent opportunities for young players.

"JGF is doing an amazing job. If you look at junior golf two years ago and where it is now, the standards and scores are much better. Opportunities to compete regularly have really helped us improve," Rajput said.

Echoing his sentiments, Rajput's teammate, Mwathi Gicheru, said qualification for Japan was both an honour and motivation to raise Kenya's profile globally.

"We were proud to represent Kenya at such a high level, and qualifying for Japan was a huge reward for all the hard work. Playing against top players in Africa taught us a lot and showed us the level required to compete internationally," he said.

Gicheru recalled his birdie on the 18th hole during the All Africa Championship as a defining moment in helping Kenya secure qualification.

"That last hole was special. To make birdie with the team depending on it was a proud moment. There is pressure when

you are carrying the hopes of a country, but we are grateful for the opportunity and ready for the next challenge," he said.

He added: "I have to thank NCBA for supporting so many junior tournaments over the years. Since I started playing, I have seen NCBA backing junior golf consistently. That support has truly helped grow the game and given many of us the platform to improve."

Speaking at the same time, NCBA Deputy Director and Head of Brand Jacquie Muhati said seeing young golfers progress from local events to international competition validates the investment being made in junior golf.

"The team's performance at the All Africa Junior Team Championship was outstanding. Finishing second in Africa and qualifying for Japan is a proud achievement," she said.

Muhati added: "What is especially rewarding is seeing players like Kanana, Mwathi, and

Junaid, who have grown through the JGF Junior Series, now carrying Kenya's flag to the world stage. These are the moments that show the value of investing in young talent."

The team booked their place at the global showpiece after finishing runners-up at the continental championship held at Windsor Golf Hotel & Country Club, marking the country's first qualification for the World Cup since 2001.

South Africa claimed the continental title, with both nations now set to represent Africa in Japan against the world's leading junior golf nations.

The Toyota Junior Golf World Cup will be played over 72 holes of stroke play across four days, with the best two scores from each nation's three-player team counting toward the overall team standings each day.

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The Latest Makeup Trends Taking Hollywood by Storm

By: Kadrolsha Ona Carole

@themtkenyatimes

Hollywood is always at the forefront of beauty innovation, setting the standard for trends that resonate across the globe. From bold colors to natural looks, the makeup trends emerging from Tinseltown often inspire makeup enthusiasts everywhere. Here's a rundown of the hottest makeup trends currently trending in Hollywood.

1. Glowing Skin

The dewy, natural glow is a trend that never seems to fade. Hollywood stars are now focusing on skincare as much as makeup. The look begins with a healthy skincare routine, followed by lightweight foundations and illuminating primers that enhance natural radiance. Products infused with hyaluronic acid and vitamin C are popular choices, giving the complexion a fresh, luminous finish. The goal? To look like you just stepped off the beach after a day of sunshine.

2. Bold Eye Makeup

Big, bold eyes are making a statement! Whether it's graphic liners, vibrant eyeshadows, or glitter accents, Hollywood's leading ladies are embracing their eyes as the focal point of their makeup. Bright neon colors, especially electric blues and rich purples, have surged in popularity, alongside graphic eyeliner styles ranging from dramatic winged looks to geometric patterns. This trend channels a sense of fun and creativity, allowing for plenty of artistic expression.

3. Retro Red Lips

Classic red lips are making a comeback, gracing the lips of many starlets on and off the red carpet. This timeless look exudes sophistication and confidence. The trend sees various shades of red—from deep burgundies to bright, cherry reds—used to complement different skin tones. Pairing a bold lip with minimal eye makeup creates a chic contrast, classic with a modern twist.

4. Natural Brows

The heavily sculpted, Instagram-ready brows are stepping



Kadrolsha Ona Carole.

back as more Hollywood celebrities embrace a softer, more natural brow. This trend emphasizes fuller brows with a slightly untamed look, achieved through the use of brow gels and pencils that mimic natural hair. The goal is to frame the face while maintaining an effortless vibe that aligns with the clean beauty movement gaining traction in Hollywood.

5. Soft Blush and Monochromatic Looks

Soft, diffused blush is being swept across the cheeks to create a youthful flush, often extending to the temples for a seamless and cohesive look. This trend often goes hand-in-hand with monochromatic makeup, where cheeks, lips, and eyes are harmonized using a single shade or color palette. Blushes in soft pinks and peaches, paired with matching lip tints, create an ethereal, almost

dreamy effect that complements the glowing skin trend beautifully.

6. Glossy Eyes

Forget matte finishes; glossy eyelids are taking over. This trend, which reflects light beautifully and enhances the eyes' natural allure, is often achieved with clear or tinted lip gloss applied over eyeshadow or directly onto the eyelids. Celebrities are enhancing their eye looks with this glassy finish, making their eyes appear larger and more luminous.

7. Eco-Friendly and Clean Beauty

As environmental consciousness rises, Hollywood is increasingly turning towards eco-friendly and clean beauty products. Stars are prioritizing brands that use sustainable ingredients and packaging, showing a commitment to ethical beauty practices. This trend not only influ-

ences what products are popular but challenges the industry to innovate sustainably.

KO's Thoughts

Hollywood's ever-evolving makeup trends reflect the industry's willingness to experiment and embrace diverse beauty standards. With an emphasis on glow, boldness, and sustainability, today's trends highlight individuality and creativity. Whether you're aiming for a bold eye look or opting for that perfect red lip, there's something for every makeup lover to explore. As Hollywood continues to inspire, these trends remind us that makeup is not just about aesthetics but also about self-expression and individuality.

Visit Ko: <https://hollywoodentertainmentnews.com>



Worth Noting:

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