



Kindiki: KSh21 billion to construct 400 kilometers
The government has stepped up its infrastructure development agenda in Tharaka Nithi County, with leaders affirming that the Kenya Kwanza Manifesto remains central to driving economic growth through improved connectivity and modern markets.

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Kenyans to wait longer for cheap gas as Saudi deal collapses
Kenyans will have to wait longer for affordable cooking gas after the government confirmed the collapse of a much-anticipated deal with Saudi oil giant Saudi Aramco, dealing a major setback to efforts aimed at boosting supply and lowering prices. Page 18

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The Mt. Kenya Times

Daily ePAPER

Politics Their show of camaraderie underscored renewed efforts to consolidate the region's political voice amid shifting alliances.

Uhuru, Gachagua reunite

Retired President Uhuru Kenyatta and former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday made a dramatic joint appearance in Kirinyaga County, calling for unity in the Mt Kenya region in what could signal a significant political realignment ahead of the next general election.

The two leaders, who publicly embraced for the first time since the last election, were speaking during the burial of former Kirinyaga Senator Daniel Karaba in Kirinyaga Central Constituency.

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Retired President Uhuru Kenyatta being welcomed by former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua in Kirinyaga yesterday.



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SCAN TO REGISTER

President Ruto reaffirms commitment to women's empowerment with KSh250 million boost

BY WMW

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

President William Ruto yesterday reaffirmed his administration's commitment to advancing women's empowerment, describing women as key drivers of economic growth and social transformation in the country.

Speaking at State House Nairobi during a meeting with 5,000 members of the Maendeleo ya Wanawake Organisation, the President announced a KSh250 million allocation to the Maendeleo ya Wanawake Sacco.

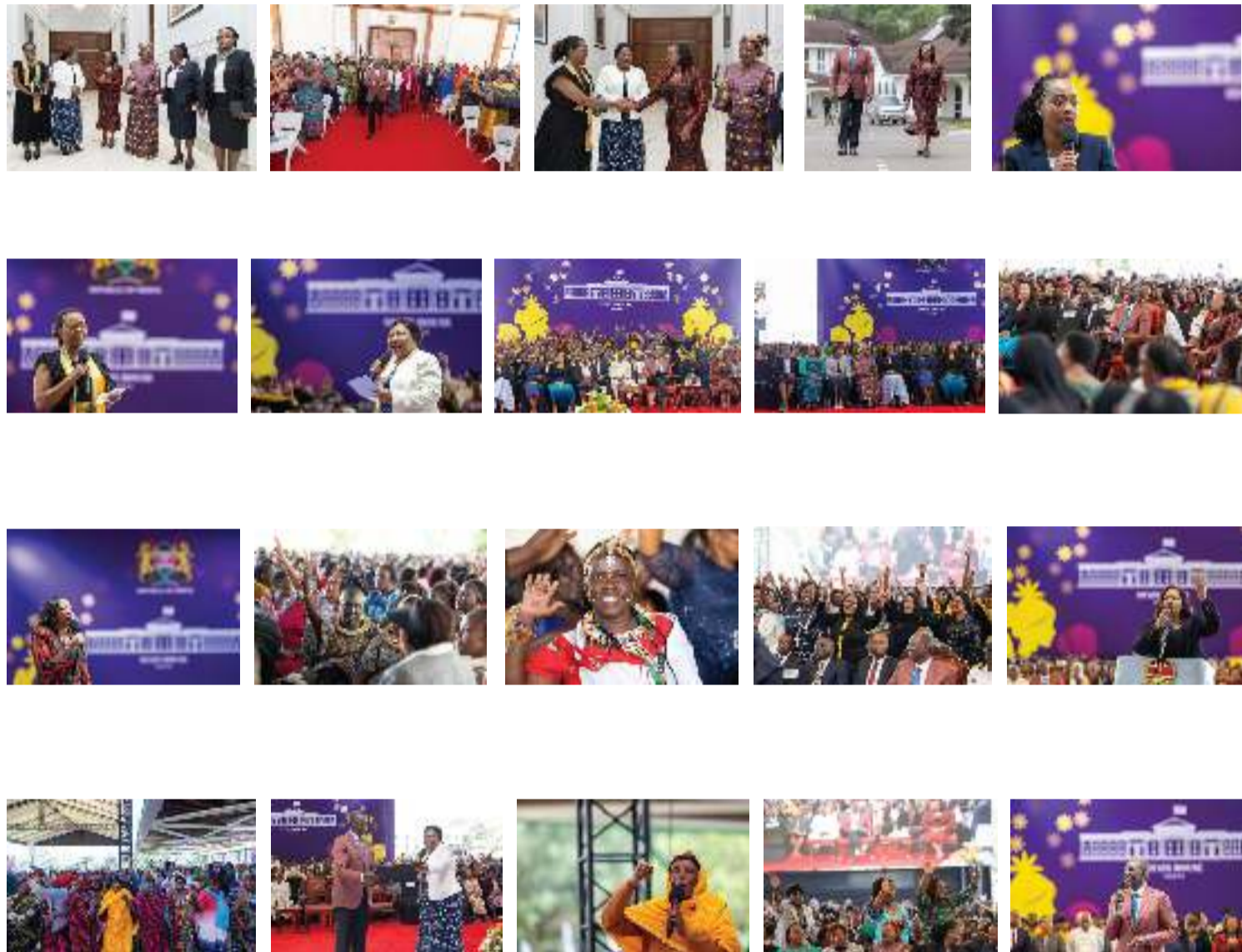
The funding is aimed at expanding access to affordable credit for women entrepreneurs and strengthening their participation in the economy.

Ruto emphasized that empowering women through financial inclusion remains central to the government's broader development agenda. He noted that improved access to credit will enable more women to grow businesses, create jobs, and uplift livelihoods at the grassroots level.

The President also revealed ongoing efforts to work with Parliament to implement the two-thirds gender rule, a constitutional requirement intended to ensure fair representation of women in elective positions. He said achieving this target would promote inclusivity and strengthen democratic governance.

The event was attended by First Lady Rachel Ruto and several government officials, underscoring the administration's focus on gender equality.

Ruto reiterated that sustained investment in women's empowerment would accelerate national development and foster a more equitable society.



Editor's Desk

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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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NEWS IN BRIEF



Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe engaged the Senate to strengthen collaboration on advancing Kenya's agricultural sector and enhancing food security. During a courtesy call on Amason Kingi at Parliament Buildings, discussions focused on reinforcing government relations and prioritizing key agricultural projects. Kagwe also held talks with several Senators, exploring strategies to boost agricultural productivity, promote sustainable farming practices, and empower local farmers. The engagements highlighted the need for innovative approaches to ensure long-term food self-sufficiency and drive economic growth. He reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to creating a supportive environment for farmers, noting that joint efforts between the executive and legislature are vital in securing a prosperous and food-secure future for Kenya.



Tana River Governor Dhadho Godhana has raised concerns over rising vandalism and theft targeting water infrastructure belonging to Tana Water and Sanitation Company Ltd (TANAWASCO). He also criticised illegal water connections, saying they have worsened the county's water distribution problems. He says water infrastructure vandalism, including water theft and facility damages, is causing significant disruptions in water provisions and losses for residents and businesses.

The county boss said his administration has made significant investments in water utilities in a bid to provide clean water and improved sanitation, but wanton acts of vandalism were undermining the county's efforts.



A 56-year-old human rights defender from Murang'a South Sub-County, Priscilla Wangui, was fined Sh50,000 or sentenced to six months in prison after being convicted of assault causing bodily harm. The ruling was delivered by Resident Magistrate Jackinda Renna in a Kenol court. Wangui was found guilty of assaulting a 71-year-old former chief in 2023. Her lawyers had sought leniency, citing her activism and family responsibilities, including caring for her ailing husband. However,

the prosecution argued the offence caused serious harm. The court noted failed reconciliation attempts and emphasized the case focused solely on assault. Wangui was granted 14 days to appeal.



Kenya Association of Physicians (KAP) President Dr Erick Njenga has called on medical practitioners to adopt emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) ethically to enhance diagnosis and patient care. Speaking at the association's annual conference in Mombasa, Dr Njenga said that as health challenges become increasingly complex and interconnected, physicians must rely on collaboration, innovation, and evidence-based practice to drive meaningful progress.



President William Ruto has appointed seven members to the Governing Council of the National Infrastructure Fund for a three-year term, in a move aimed at strengthening oversight of key development projects. The council will be chaired by John Mbadi and includes Dr. Kamau Thugge, Dorcas Agik Oduor, Richard Etemesi, Paul Russo, Faith Boinnet, and Prof. Benedict Oramah. The team is tasked with providing strategic oversight, setting investment policy, and overseeing the recruitment of an independent Board of Directors. The appointments are expected to enhance transparency and efficiency in financing major infrastructure projects critical to the country's economic growth.



William Ruto has pledged government support to Gengetone and Urbantone artistes following concerns over loss of rights to their music through exploitative contracts with foreign entities. The artistes reported losing control of over 700 songs, including Sipangwingwi by Exray. Ruto termed the situation regrettable, noting the continued exploitation of young creatives despite their cultural contribution. He said legal support has been facilitated to ensure proper representation in court. The President also urged Parliament to fast-track the Creative Economy Bill 2026 and copyright reforms, and highlighted a new e-Citizen portal to improve royalty collection and distribution.



One of the beneficiaries of the wheelchair issued by the Walkabout Foundation at the Migori County Referral Hospital.

A total of 100 wheelchairs will be given to People with Disabilities (PWDs) in Migori County to improve their mobility. Fredrick Otieno, the Doctor in Charge of Physiotherapy at the Migori County Referral Hospital (MCRH), said the partnership between the county and the Walkabout Foundation will host a Wheelchair Service Week to address mobility challenges. The Walkabout Foundation, a charitable international organisation, has been providing free wheelchairs to support PLWD and others with mobility difficulties.

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Leadership He wants to apply discipline to public service as he eyes the Kikuyu parliamentary seat during 2027 election

From survey lines to power lines: Why Stephen Kigathi thinks Kikuyu constituency's future must be built from within

BY MKT REPORTER
@themkenyatimes

In a political arena often filled with lofty promises but little to show in results, Stephen Kigathi is stepping forward with a different kind of pitch; one grounded in precision, practicality, and lived experience.

His message is simple but striking; the future of Kikuyu constituency must be carefully planned and deliberately built from the inside out.

A licensed surveyor turned businessman, Kigathi is not your typical political entrant. For years, he has measured land, mapped boundaries, and worked within systems that demand accuracy and accountability.

Now, he wants to apply that same discipline to public service as he eyes the Kikuyu parliamentary seat in the upcoming general election.

But his political journey didn't begin in elite circles or behind closed doors. It took shape on the streets, during the Gen Z-led protests that swept across Kenya last year; a movement that shook the nation and forced urgent conversations around governance, accountability, and the neglect of young people. Kigathi didn't just observe from a distance; he showed up, spoke out, and stood firm.

That moment, analysts say, became the foundation of his growing appeal, especially

among younger voters tired of recycled political narratives.

At the core of Kigathi's campaign is a bold economic vision; industrialise Kikuyu to unlock jobs and drive sustainable growth.

He believes the constituency cannot rely solely on service-based opportunities if it hopes to tackle unemployment meaningfully.

Instead, he proposes building local industries that add value, create jobs, and stimulate long-term development. "It's a time of reawakening," Kigathi says. "We must invest in industries that will create real opportunities, especially for our youth."

Yet, he is clear that industry alone is not enough.

Education, in his view, is the backbone of any economic

His message is simple but striking; the future of Kikuyu constituency must be carefully planned and deliberately built from the inside out.

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”



Stephen Kigathi Kionywe | Photo: Ngatia Herman

transformation.

Without a skilled and capable workforce, factories risk becoming empty shells.

His plan ties education directly to employability, ensuring that what students learn aligns with the demands of the job market.

In a constituency filled with educated but underemployed young people, that message is striking a chord.

Beyond policy, Kigathi is also calling for a shift in political culture.

He has openly criticised the rising tide of divisive and inflammatory rhetoric in Kikuyu politics, urging leaders to embrace respect and responsibility in their commu-

nication.

"Leaders must carry themselves with decorum," he insists. "What they say matters."

As the political season unfolds, the question remains whether voters will embrace a fresh, ideas-driven approach over familiar incumbency.

What is certain, however, is that Stephen Kigathi Kionywe has entered the race with clarity, conviction, and a determination to reshape the conversation; starting from the ground up.

Clashes erupt in Machakos as contractors protest unpaid bills



Machakos County Wavinya Ndeti, in a past address. | Photo: Courtesy

BY MKT REPORTER
@themkenyatimes

In Machakos, the bills are two years old, the patience has run out, and the batons are out.

For the second consecutive day, violent confrontations between contractors, suppliers and security officers brought business and transport in Machakos Town to a standstill this week, as traders demanding payment of long-outstanding county dues took their grievances to the streets — and were met, they allege, with force.

The protesters, owed a collective Ksh. 1.9 billion by the Machakos County Government, had announced a peaceful march to the Governor's office. What followed, according to those present, was anything but orderly. "We stated we are coming for a peaceful protest to get our money, but we were welcomed by goons. The funny thing is the people beating us are wearing our uniforms," said contractor Maureen Mwendu, her words capturing both the physical

danger and the bitter irony of the confrontation. Resident Samuel Mwavu corroborated the accounts of violence, describing individuals left seriously injured, including a woman allegedly slapped after simply asking what was happening.

Governor Wavinya Ndeti has pushed back, arguing that some of the protesting suppliers failed to fulfil their contractual obligations, and insisting that verified pending bills will be settled transparently and systematically. The county has paid Ksh. 248 million against the outstanding amount — a fraction, contractors say, that barely registers against two years of financial suffocation.

For contractor Peter Muli, the anguish is personal. "The money relates to services I offered in 2020/2021. You are taken in circles and not paid. You wonder who exactly is being paid in Machakos," he said.

With suppliers vowing daily demonstrations until answers arrive, Machakos County's crisis of trust is now as urgent as its crisis of debt.

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NAIROBI

Ruto receives progress report on Nairobi's KSh80B transformation plan



President William Ruto and Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja | Photo: File

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Nairobi has been promised transformation before. This time, the numbers suggest something may actually be moving.

President William Ruto received a detailed progress report at State House yesterday, outlining the milestones achieved under the KSh.80 billion Cooperation Agreement between the National Government and Nairobi City County. The briefing, presented by a delegation led by Governor Johnson Sakaja alongside members of the Implementation Committee, painted a picture of a capital city in the early but tangible stages of physical renewal.

"We are transforming Nairobi into a modern, clean and orderly city," President Ruto said, citing accelerated progress across waste management, street lighting, roads, water, sewerage and the regeneration of the Nairobi River. The ambition is sweeping — and for once, specific enough to be held accountable.

On waste management, more than 40 trucks are currently clearing accumulated refuse across the city,

with 150 additional vehicles set for deployment within three weeks. Over 40,000 solar and smart streetlights are being installed, complemented by the rehabilitation of 10,000 existing ones, with new power connections being extended to informal settlements. Road works cover 247 kilometres earmarked for construction and rehabilitation, of which 63 kilometres are already 77 per cent complete.

Water supply, a chronic pain point for millions of Nairobi residents, is being addressed through the expansion of the Ng'ethu-Gigiri water works, projected to add 51,000 cubic metres of daily supply to the city. The Nairobi Rivers Regeneration Programme has meanwhile broken ground along the Gikomba Market riverfront, where a modern market serving nearly 5,000 traders is also planned.

The coordination between City Hall and various government agencies, chaired by Governor Sakaja, represents a structural shift in how the capital is being managed.

Whether the machinery of government can sustain that momentum is the only question that ultimately matters.



From left; Kalonzo Musyoka, Fred Matiang'i, Rigathi Gachagua, Uhuru Kenyatta, Martha Karua, Matere Keriri, James Orengo, Eugene Wamalwa and Justin Muturi during the burial ceremony of Daniel Karaba in Kirinyaga yesterday. | Photo: Courtesy.

Uhuru, Gachagua reunite in rare show of unity as Mt Kenya leaders rally against Ruto

BY MKT Correspondents

@themtkenyatimes

Retired President Uhuru Kenyatta and former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday made a dramatic joint appearance in Kirinyaga County, calling for unity in the Mt Kenya region in what could signal a significant political realignment ahead of the next general election.

The two leaders, who publicly embraced for the first time since the last election, were speaking during the burial of former Kirinyaga Senator Daniel Karaba in Kirinyaga Central Constituency.

Their show of camaraderie underscored renewed efforts to consolidate the region's political voice amid shifting alliances.

Uhuru used the occasion to caution against divisive politics and criticized leaders who make promises without delivering tangible results. He urged the region to remain united and not to repeat the election mistake, warning that internal

divisions could weaken its national influence.

The former President also defended his past political pact with Raila Odinga, saying it was aimed at fostering national unity rather than personal gain.

He further called on religious leaders to avoid spreading misinformation, noting that some had contributed to the country's current challenges.

Addressing the youth, Uhuru en-



The two leaders, who publicly embraced for the first time since the last election, were speaking during the burial of former Kirinyaga Senator Daniel Karaba in Kirinyaga Central Constituency.

couraged them to remain principled and prioritize the nation's future over short-term political interests.

On his part, Gachagua declared that the Mt Kenya region remains firmly united and vowed to strengthen alliances aimed at unseating president William Ruto. He accused the President of attempting to divide communities and pledged to work with like-minded leaders to counter such efforts.

"Senator Daniel Karaba was a great unifier. Even in death, he brings us together," Gachagua said, as he led leaders in mourning and extended condolences to the family.

The event drew a host of prominent opposition figures, including Kalonzo Musyoka, Martha Karua, Fred Matiang'i, Eugene Wamalwa, Justin Muturi, and James Orengo, all of whom emphasized the need for opposition unity to challenge Ruto's leadership.

Scores of former, current and aspiring leaders as well as hundreds of mourners attended the final journey of the late Karaba.

Economy Mudavadi said that, worldwide, the business community was reluctant to resolve disputes arising from the composition of Alternative Dispute Resolution

Mudavadi pushes for Nairobi to be a hub for Commercial Dispute Resolution

BY OPCS Team

@themkenyatimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has called for a change of the Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration to make it a world-class dispute resolution that appeals to the local, regional and international business community.

Speaking on Tuesday evening during the 19th Ambassadors Conference Gala Dinner, Mudavadi said there was an opportunity to make Kenya a dispute resolution hub if the law were made to make it an independent body.

Mudavadi said that, worldwide, the business community was reluctant to resolve disputes arising from the composition of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to make it attractive and to make Kenya a hub for dispute resolution.

“The business community is primarily concerned with getting a business solution to a commercial dispute, rather than being dragged into municipal courts with lengthy and protracted procedures. Today, the bulk of international commercial disputes are increasingly being resolved by arbitration in the various international arbitration centres,” said Mudavadi.

PCS said Kenya was recognised as the commercial and business hub of Eastern Africa, with a robust investment and trade environment on the African Continent.

“In this unique and singular position, Kenya requires a world-class dispute resolution service that appeals to both the regional and international business and commercial community. There are tremendous opportunities and great benefits that an international arbitration service brings to a country,” said Mudavadi.

PCS said that Kenya had an opportunity to make Kenya a hub for alternative dispute resolution, but to achieve this, we must change the law to make it attractive for any commercial arbitration to consider our ADR. As a country, we can make this happen.

Mudavadi said ADR needs to be promoted in Kenya and globally, positioning it as vital for reducing court backlogs, easing prison over-



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi addressing the 19th Ambassadors Conference Gala Dinner.

“The business community is primarily concerned with getting a business solution to a commercial dispute, rather than being dragged into municipal courts with lengthy and protracted procedures. Today, the bulk of international commercial disputes are increasingly being resolved by arbitration in the various international arbitration centres,” said Mudavadi.

crowding, and promoting a business-friendly environment through arbitration.

He has championed revamping arbitration practices to build trust among international investors and position Nairobi as a leading African arbitration hub.

“The Judiciary, however, needs to relook at the law on ADR. We want to make Kenya a hub, but let us resolve its formation,” said Mudavadi.

Mudavadi said the government was keen to strengthen legal frameworks to support ADR and improve the efficiency of resolving trade and investment disputes.

PCS said that the function of an international commercial arbitration Centre is to provide efficient international dispute resolution services that support and serve international business seeking to resolve commercial disputes.

“Leading arbitration institutions are primarily, private entities established to provide international commercial

arbitration services. Their management structures focus on efficiency and business orientation, with minimal governmental involvement in the management and operations of the institution,” he said.

The institutions, he said, have put in place arbitration rules of procedure that meet international best practices to guide the conduct of arbitration proceedings held under the auspices of the institution.

As a country, therefore, Kenya has, in place, a modern law that has domesticated the fundamental international arbitration, however he had raised concerns on the Arbitration Act, 1995 (Cap. 49) is a law that has incorporated modern.

Mudavadi said that the members of the ADR, mainly coming from the government side, made the organisation look more like a parastatal, thus making it unattractive to any businesspeople who wanted to pursue such an option.

Chief Justice Martha Koome agreed

with the PCS that the composition of the ADR was not attractive. She said she would suggest legislation to make the team responsive and adept at handling local and international commercial disputes.

“I have heard, and I acknowledge the merits of making the composition independent and not almost everyone coming from the government. I will recommend the legislation to the law so that we can move forward,” said Koome.

The Chief Justice said she was amazed to meet Kenyan top legal minds practising in the South Korean ADR, including the former Attorney General Prof Githu Mungai.

“If indeed we have Kenyans practising there, why don’t we have the ADR in Nairobi, where we can attract everyone across the world. We don’t need to have people going to foreign cities to solve their matters; they can do it here in Nairobi,” said Justice Koome.

Politics Waiguru warned residents of the Mt. Kenya region against embracing what she described as divisive and tribal politics

Waiguru dismisses opposition, urges Mt. Kenya to back Ruto for development

BY MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyaintimes

Kirinyaga governor Anne Waiguru has sharply criticized the country's opposition, arguing that it lacks a coherent development agenda and therefore cannot be trusted with national leadership. She claimed the opposition is largely driven by insults, personal attacks, and incitement against President William Ruto and his allies, rather than offering practical solutions for the country's progress.

Waiguru warned residents of the Mt. Kenya region against embracing what she described as divisive and tribal politics allegedly being promoted by leaders associated with Rigathi Gachagua.

She cautioned that such political direction could isolate the region from the rest of the country and undermine its influence in national affairs.

According to her, aligning with the current government is essential for sustaining development and ensuring continued access to national resources.

Addressing residents during a community empowerment event in Ngariama Ward, the governor emphasized that her administration's achievements have been made possible through close cooperation with the national government.

This working relationship, she said, has enabled her to effectively lobby for development projects and address the needs of her constituents.

Waiguru further argued that leadership should be grounded in unity, mutual respect, and a clear vision for development, rather than political



Governor Ann Waiguru addressing Ngariama residents on Tuesday.

hostility. She expressed confidence that the opposition is already facing internal divisions and will struggle to present a united front in the next general election, particularly due to disagreements over a single presidential candidate.

She also highlighted the importance of national support in winning elections, noting that the Mt. Kenya region alone cannot determine electoral outcomes. She warned

that shifting political allegiance without strategic consideration could leave the region sidelined, especially if political alliances change.

The governor suggested that political partnerships are often driven by interests and could shift unexpectedly, even hinting that the opposition might eventually align with the current administration. She urged residents not to be swayed by political excitement but to

make decisions that secure tangible benefits for the region.

Reaffirming her commitment to representing Mt. Kenya's interests, Waiguru called on residents to support President Ruto's re-election, arguing that continuity in leadership would ensure sustained development and greater opportunities for the county.

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Politics Kindiki said the projects are part of a broader government plan to stimulate local economies, enhance trade, and improve livelihoods.

Kindiki: KSh21 billion to construct 400 kilometers

The Deputy President revealed that the national government is undertaking road construction projects worth KSh21 billion to deliver hundreds of kilometres in Tharaka-Nithi county

BY Alex Njeru
@themkenyatimes

The government has stepped up its infrastructure development agenda in Tharaka Nithi County, with leaders affirming that the Kenya Kwanza Manifesto remains central to driving economic growth through improved connectivity and modern markets.

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki yesterday in company of Governor Muthomi Njuki

among other county leaders toured key ongoing projects in Chuka/Igambang’ombe Constituency, including the construction of Cheera Fresh Produce Market and the upgrading of the Kaanwa-Mwanjati-Kamutiria road.

Speaking during the inspection, Kindiki said the projects are part of a broader government plan to stimulate local economies, enhance trade, and improve livelihoods.

He noted that the Kaanwa-Mwanjati-Kamutiria ring

road is being tarmacked to ease the movement of goods and people, opening up the region for economic opportunities.

The Deputy President revealed that the national government is undertaking road construction projects worth Sh21 billion to deliver about 400 kilometres of new rural roads in Tharaka Nithi County.

In addition, Sh7 billion has been set aside for the construction of a modern



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki addressing a public meeting in Tharaka Nithi yesterday.

21 Billion
To Construct
400 kilometers

900-metre Nithi Bridge, with works expected to begin once land acquisition is complete.

At Cheera, Prof. Kindiki announced that the construction of the Sh70 million Cheera Fresh Produce Market has commenced.

The facility is expected to provide a dignified working environment for small-scale traders, including mama mboga, through modern amenities such as cold storage, an ICT hub, a social hall, boardrooms, and improved stalls.

“This is one of the 14 markets the government is constructing in Tharaka Nithi County to support small traders and boost local commerce,” he said.

The Deputy President added that projects worth KSh7 billion are ongoing across the county, focusing on fresh produce markets, affordable housing, and student hostels, in line with the government’s development priorities.

County leadership led by Governor Njuki welcomed the projects, saying they will significantly transform the county’s economic landscape. They also expressed appreciation to President William Ruto for prioritizing development in the region.

“We reaffirm our support for the leadership of President Ruto and Deputy President Kindiki as they steer the country towards sustainable growth and prosperity,” said Njukí.

He expressed confidence that President Ruto and Prof Kindiki will get a second term and the latter will be the president in 2032.

“We are in full support of Ruto’s Two-term and Kindiki’s four-term campaign,” he said.

Others present during the inspection were Deputy Governor Nyaga Muisrael, Tharaka Nithi Woman Representative Susan Ngugi, Chuka/Igambang’ombe MP Patrick Munene, Maara MP Kareke Mbiuki, County Assembly Speaker John Mbabu, Members of the County Assembly, and local residents.

The Deputy President revealed that the national government is undertaking road construction projects worth Sh21 billion to deliver about 400 kilometres of new rural roads in Tharaka Nithi County. In addition, Sh7 billion has been set aside for the construction of a modern 900-metre Nithi Bridge, with works expected to begin once land acquisition is complete. At Cheera, Prof. Kindiki announced that the construction of the Sh70 million Cheera Fresh Produce Market has commenced.



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Dairy The leaders toured the National Dairy Regulatory Laboratory, a move highlighting the government's commitment to protecting both farmers and consumers.

New Kenya Dairy Board takes charge, CS Kagwe urges focus on farmers and results

BY WMW

@themkenyatimes

Kenya's dairy sector is set to experience a boost following the inauguration of new members of the Kenya Dairy Board (KDB), with a clear directive from the government to prioritize farmers and enhance regulatory oversight.

The first board meeting, chaired by Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mutahi Kagwe, alongside Principal Secretary Jonathan Mueke, marked the official handover of leadership at the board, signaling a renewed focus on improving milk quality, strengthening regulations, and supporting growth across the dairy industry.

During the session, the leaders toured the National Dairy Regulatory Laboratory, a move highlighting the government's commitment to protecting both farmers and consumers.

The laboratory plays a key role in ensuring milk safety, enforcing quality standards, and enhancing regulatory measures across the sector.

Speaking to board members and staff, Kagwe emphasized that the success of Kenya's dairy industry depends on strong institutions that work efficiently for farmers.

He urged officers to uphold professionalism, integrity, and accountability, stressing that a well-regulated sector would provide fair market opportunities, improved services, and a supportive environment for dairy farmers.

"The dairy sector is a critical pillar of our economy, and its growth begins with institutions that serve the farmers effectively. I expect this board to deliver tangible results that will benefit farmers and the nation," CS Kagwe stated during the ceremony on Tuesday.

The newly appointed board is tasked with implementing policies that will not only im-



CS Mutahi Kagwe, PS Jonathan Mueke with Kenya Dairy Board management and members during the inauguration ceremony. | Photo: Courtesy.

prove milk quality but also enhance farmer profitability, market organization, and sector transparency.

For Kenya's dairy farmers, the leadership transition is a promising sign of renewed government focus on creating a more organized, profitable, and farmer-centered industry. Stakeholders expect the new board to roll out initiatives aimed at increasing productivity, improving product standards, and strengthening market regulation to protect both farmers and consumers.

New Kenya Dairy Board Takes Charge, CS Kagwe Urges Focus on Farmers and Results

NAIROBI – Kenya's dairy sector is set to experience a boost following the inauguration of new members of the Kenya Dairy Board (KDB),

with a clear directive from the government to prioritize farmers and enhance regulatory oversight.

The first board meeting, chaired by Cabinet Secretary for Health, Sen. Mutahi Kagwe, alongside Principal Secretary Jonathan Mueke, marked the official handover of leadership at the board, signaling a renewed focus on improving milk quality, strengthening regulations, and supporting growth across the dairy industry.

During the session, the leaders toured the National Dairy Regulatory Laboratory, a move highlighting the government's commitment to protecting both farmers and consumers. The laboratory plays a key role in ensuring

milk safety, enforcing quality standards, and enhancing regulatory measures across the sector.

Speaking to board members and staff, CS Kagwe emphasized that the success of Kenya's dairy industry depends on strong institutions that work efficiently for farmers. He urged officers to uphold professionalism, integrity, and accountability, stressing that a well-regulated sector would provide fair market opportunities, improved services, and a supportive environment for dairy farmers.

"The dairy sector is a critical pillar of our economy, and its growth begins with institutions that serve the farmers effectively. I expect this board to deliver tangible results that

will benefit farmers and the nation," CS Kagwe stated.

The newly appointed board is tasked with implementing policies that will not only improve milk quality but also enhance farmer profitability, market organization, and sector transparency.

A proactive KDB is crucial for addressing challenges such as milk adulteration, unfair pricing, and limited access to markets, which have historically hampered the sector's growth.

For Kenya's dairy farmers, the leadership transition is a promising sign of renewed government focus on creating a more organized, profitable, and farmer-centered industry. Stakeholders expect the new board to roll out initiatives

aimed at increasing productivity, improving product standards, and strengthening market regulation to protect both farmers and consumers.

The appointment of the new board aligns with ongoing government efforts to modernize Kenya's dairy sector, enhance regulatory oversight, and foster public-private partnerships that drive sustainable growth.

As the new leadership takes charge, farmers and industry players are hopeful that the reforms and renewed commitment will translate into better returns, higher quality milk, and a more robust dairy ecosystem.

DCI The suspect was arrested on April 2, 2025, following investigations into the trafficking of two victims to Myanmar in 2024

Immigration officer wanted over human trafficking case and failure to attend court

BY DCI

@themtkenyentimes

Detectives from the Transnational Organized Crime Unit (TOCU) are pursuing an Assistant Director of Immigration Services, Mr. John Pario, who is wanted after failing to appear in court for plea taking in a human trafficking case.

The suspect was arrested on April 2, 2025, following investigations into the trafficking of two victims to Myanmar in 2024 while he was stationed at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA).

He is said to have facilitated their departure despite prior knowledge that they had been denied entry into Thailand under similar circumstances.

Forensic analysis revealed sustained communication between Mr. Pario

and a co-suspect, demonstrating coordinated planning. The suspect is further alleged to have received the victims' photographs and travel documents to aid in their identification and clearance, and later attempted to help them evade scrutiny upon return.

Investigations also established financial transactions linked to the facilitation, while victim statements confirm they were referred to Mr. Pario through the trafficking network.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) approved charges against the suspect, who was released on cash bail of KSh50,000.

He was subsequently enjoined as the third accused person in a criminal case before the Kahawa Law Courts, facing charges of facilitating the exit of persons from the country contrary to Section 7 of the Count-

er-Trafficking in Persons Act No. 8 of 2010.

On Tuesday last week, the suspect was processed at DCI Headquarters and directed to appear in court last Wednesday. Plea taking was deferred to yesterday, but he failed to attend, prompting the court to forfeit his cash bail and issue a warrant of arrest.

He is now a wanted person with efforts to trace and apprehend him ongoing.

Members of the public with information on his whereabouts are urged to report to the nearest police station or #FichuaKwaDCI through 0800 722 203 (toll-free) or WhatsApp 0709 570 000 to report anonymously.



John Pario



There are so many reasons to be happy



On seeing the message of salary credited.
 The dew on the green grass in the chill morning.
 The fog covered mountains,
 Walking along with the beloved one.
 A filter coffee and its aroma in the drizzling evening.
 Fine songs tune our minds into fresh brisk.
 Spending time and Making fun with friends.
 The chirps of the birds and the buzz of bees.
 Getting reviews on my poem in CW.

Rajesh Kanna B N

RAJESH KANNA .B N
 M.Sc.,M.A.,M.A., B.Ed.,
 PGDG&C, CELT.,
 BT Asst
 GMHSCHOOL,
 TIRUR.
 TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT.
 Tamil Nadu. India
 Creative Writers.

Satisfaction filled in last month's tasks.
 Fine and drizzling with chill wind.
 Getting gifts from Santa
 Receiving positive results from children.

While seeing rainbows in the sky,
 Butterflies in the garden,
 A flock of birds swarming in the sky,
 The Blooming flowers in the saplings.

Fragrance from the flowers.
 Fine music from flute and violin.
 Fish swimming in the stream.

Beyond the touch: Where souls speak



I find my home, I find my place.
 You read the storms behind my eyes,
 Heard every truth in masked goodbyes,
 And held my chaos, calm and slow,
 Like you've always seemed to know.
 It's in the laughter, small and light,
 In random texts at end of night,
 In "did you eat?" and "reach me safe,"
 In love that time cannot erase.
 Not every love is loud and bright,
 Some hold your hand in darkest night,
 Not by grip, but by the way
 You never let my mind decay.
 It's in the pauses, soft and deep,
 In promises we never speak,
 In how you notice, how you see
 The hidden parts that make up me.
 No need for touch to feel you near,
 Your presence hums, forever clear,
 In gentle words, in silent grace,

©Dr Daksha Udhani
 Ahmedabad

So let the world define it wrong,
 We'll write our truth in softer song,
 Where hearts don't need a touch to prove—
 That care itself... is the purest love.

Curiosity



Yet, it has to be under limitations.
 Curiosity enriches our imagination.
 It helps to achieve our goal.
 Curiosity reveals many secrets.
 It will remove our doubts and regrets.

By,
 S.S.Nikshith.
 VI Std

PUMS Chinna Obulapuram
 Gummidipoondi
 Tiruvallur Dt
 Tamilnadu, India.

Curiosity is the first step towards learning.
 It develops the art of questioning.

Curiosity will give you many opportunities.
 It will make you explore all the possibilities.

Curiosity is a good quality.

Stay close to the people who want to see you win



Our god will be bless,
 I hard work for achieving my win,
 Our life is in a line that was thin,
 My dream was in my brain,
 No pain no gain.
 Anyone persons stay close to me,
 I want to see,
 Today we will hard work, Tomorrow we will free,
 E imagine our dream was in level of tree.
 They are my winning point,
 I was appoint,
 But my enemy was exploit,
 We are also joint.
 They want to see my success,
 The hard work is in progress,
 The activity is colourful,

S. Abarna.

Money is the best way to test human nature



Deaf when misjudged
 It's pearl for sweating labour
 And God for the needy server
 The urge of conquering it increases
 Defeating humanity & love as a masterpiece
 But at times as Vitamin M energizes to be proud
 In all walks of life speaking loud
 As a magical wand It's the best tool in the human
 hand Declaring him to be black/red/blue
 Carving his nature which is true. (Black-
 unaccountable)
 (Red -illegal)
 (Blue -charity)

G Sarala

Money is the authorised paper
 Human attitude shaper
 Money is dumb when bribed

Small steps, big dreams



A week will pass, the strength will grow,
 What once was hard begins to flow,
 A month will turn the rough to smooth,
 With patient will and steady truth.
 A year will bloom what once was small,
 A mighty rise from a humble call,
 For those who walk and never cease,
 Find power in their quiet peace.
 Small steps taken every day,
 Quiet moves along the way,
 Not in haste, nor in a race,
 But steady hearts that find their place.
 So step by step, don't rush, don't fear,
 Your dreams are slowly drawing near,
 For greatness comes, not all at once
 But built by steps of confidence.

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

Market The government’s case for modernisation is not without merit. Gikomba has endured repeated and devastating fires

Modernisation of Gikomba market: Ruto responds to traders’ outcry

Poor drainage, chronic overcrowding and near-total absence of sanitation infrastructure make the market as hazardous as it is productive. President Ruto, addressing traders’ concerns directly, framed the redevelopment as an act of dignity rather than displacement. “The modernisation plan is designed to uplift traders, not remove them,” he said, outlining proposals for structured stalls, improved drainage, waste management systems and enhanced security.

BY Caroline Nyambura
@themkenyatimes

For decades, Gikomba has survived fire, floods and broken promises. The question now is whether it can survive modernisation.

President William Ruto stepped into a charged public debate this week, defending the government’s plan to redevelop Gikomba Market amid a growing chorus of anxiety from the thousands of traders whose livelihoods depend on its chaotic, combustible, irreplaceable ecosystem. The

market — widely regarded as the largest second-hand goods trading hub in East Africa — has long been a symbol of Nairobi’s informal economic ingenuity, a place where enterprise thrives despite, and sometimes because of, the absence of formal structure.

The government’s case for modernisation is not without merit. Gikomba has endured repeated and devastating fires, the most recent of which destroyed billions of shillings worth of goods and displaced hundreds of traders overnight. Poor drainage, chronic overcrowding and near-total absence of sanitation infra-

structure make the market as hazardous as it is productive. President Ruto, addressing traders’ concerns directly, framed the redevelopment as an act of dignity rather than displacement. “The modernisation plan is designed to uplift traders, not remove them,” he said, outlining proposals for structured stalls, improved drainage, waste management systems and enhanced security.

Those are the right words. The problem, as any Gikomba trader will tell you, is that they have heard right words before.

A significant section of the

market’s business community remains deeply sceptical, and their scepticism is historically earned. Previous redevelopment initiatives announced with similar fanfare quietly dissolved, leaving traders with neither new infrastructure nor the compensation promised during consultations. The fear now is familiar: that modernisation will translate in practice to higher stall fees, reduced trading space and displacement managed with bureaucratic indifference rather than genuine care. For traders operating on daily margins, even a month of disruption without a clear resettlement plan can mean financial ruin.

The Kenya National Federation of Jua Kali Associations, which has followed urban market redevelopment projects across the country, has consistently warned that trad-



Gikomba market demolished


er inclusion in planning processes is not a courtesy — it is a precondition for success. Developments imposed from above, however well-intentioned, tend to optimise for aesthetics and revenue collection rather than for the complex, organic trading relationships that make markets like Gikomba function.

President Ruto acknowledged this tension, calling on county officials and trader representatives to engage in structured consultations and pledging that no trader would face arbitrary eviction. “Their livelihoods remain a priority,” he said. That commitment must now be tested against the detail of implementation — the resettlement timelines, the stall allocation criteria, the

fee structures, and the grievance mechanisms available to traders who feel the process has failed them.

Gikomba is not merely a market. It is an economic institution that absorbs labour, circulates capital and sustains families across Nairobi and well beyond. Modernising it is necessary. Doing so without the trust of the people who built it would be an act of development that destroys the very thing it claims to improve.

The government has made its promises. Gikomba has heard promises before.




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Coffee In farmer terms, this translates to about USD 5.19 per kg of clean coffee, or roughly USD 0.80 per kg of cherry

Lower grades weigh on prices as NCE trades KSh868 Million



BY Henry Kinyua
@themtkenyatimes

If coffee auctions had personalities, this week's sale at the Nairobi Coffee Exchange would be that quiet trader; less noise, fewer bags, but

still moving serious money behind the scenes.

The auction held on Tuesday and referred to as Sale 24 recorded a total of 21,009 bags (1,288,415 kilograms) traded, generating a market value of USD 6.69 million (KSh 862 million). The sale achieved an average price of USD 259 per 50-kg bag, signaling a softer market compared to recent weeks.

In farmer terms, this translates to about USD 5.19 per kg of clean coffee, or roughly

USD 0.80 per kg of cherry, equivalent to approximately KSh103 per kg of cherry using the standard 6.5:1 conversion ratio.

Despite the softer average, the market still recorded a high of USD 395 per 50-kg bag, showing that quality coffees continue to command strong premiums.

The grade mix explains much of the price movement.

Mbuni-MH grade dominated with 6,401 bags (31%), followed by AB (19%) and AA

The auction held on Tuesday and referred to as Sale 24 recorded a total of 21,009 bags (1,288,415 kilograms) traded, generating a market value of USD 6.69 million (KSh 862 million). The sale achieved an average price of USD 259 per 50-kg bag, signaling a softer market compared to recent weeks.

(12%), while ML, C, and UGT added significant volumes.

In total, lower grades-Mbuni- (MH & ML) accounted for nearly 38% of the auction, outweighing premium AA and exerting downward pressure on prices.

Even so, the top end of the market remained competitive, led by high-quality cooperative coffees.

The top five AA lots stood out both in price and consistency: Ruarai factory which is affiliated to Ruthaka Farmets Cooperative Society in Nyeri county led with 50 bags at USD 395, followed by Kiaga factory from Othaya Farmers Cooperative Society in Nyeri with 29 bags at USD 393 and Kamoini factory, also from

Othaya with 23 bags at USD 390, both Fairtrade-certified. Ndimaini factory affiliated to Gakuyu FCS in Mathira, Nyeri traded 52 bags at USD 389, emerging as one of the largest high-value confirmed lots, while Kagaari North Kanja FCS from Embu offered 21 bags at USD 388.

These top lots were largely acquired by Javans Coffee Limited, alongside C. Dormans SEZ Ltd and Sasini (K) Limited, highlighting sustained demand for traceable, high-quality coffees from central Kenya.

Overall, this week's reinforces a familiar lesson in Kenya's coffee market: when lower grades dominate the catalogue, prices tend to soften, but quality coffees still rise above the crowd.

And as the auction bell falls, one truth remains, every bag tells a story, but only a few get to headline the day.

Prices Ease as NAIROBI COFFEE EXCHANGE Trades USD 6.69 Million in Sale 24

• Sale 24 of March 31, 2026

21,009 BAGS
1.29 M Kgs

USD 6.69 MILLION
- KSH 862 MILLION

AVG. PRICE
USD 259.46
Per Bag

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

(Percent of 21,009 Bags)

Lower grades (MH & ML) dominated, pulling down average prices.

TOP-PERFORMING LOTS

(GRADE AA)

Cooperative	Buyer	Avg Price
Ruthaka Ruarai (Nyeri)	50 bags	USD 395 Per 50 kg bag
Kiaga (Nyeri)	29	USD 393
Kamoini (Nyeri)	23	USD 390
Ndimaini (Nyeri)	52	USD 389
Kagaari North Kanja (Embu)	21 bags	USD 388 Per 50 kg bag

• Javans Coffee Limited, C. Dormans SEZ Ltd
• Sasini (K) Limited top buyers

When lower grades dominate, prices soften. But top-quality coffees still stand out!

"Every bag tells a story, but only a few headline the day."

Henry Kinyua
Value Chain Expert & Coffee Enthusiast



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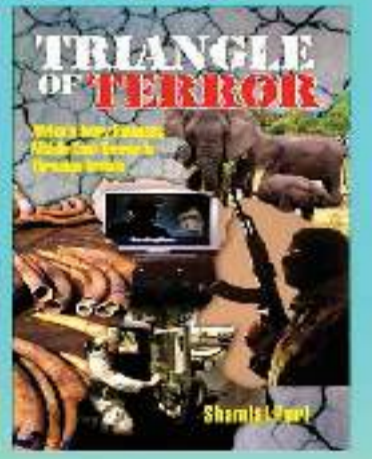
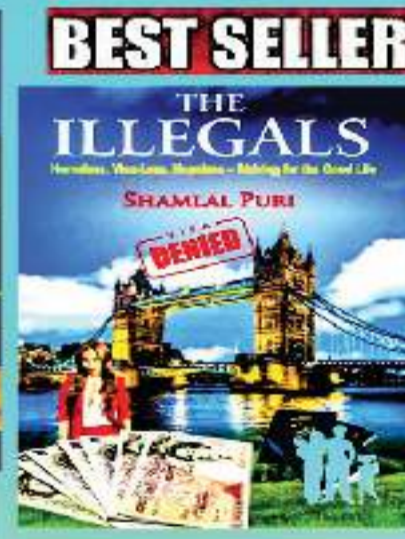
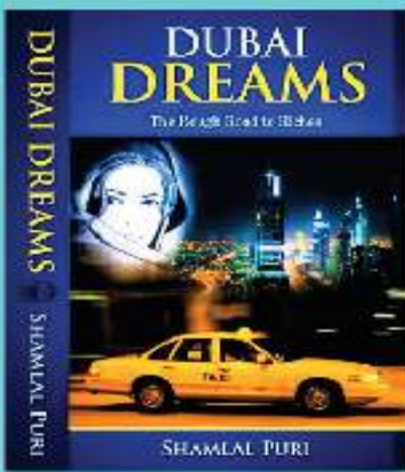
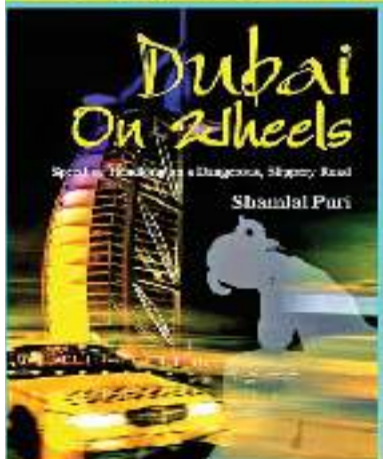
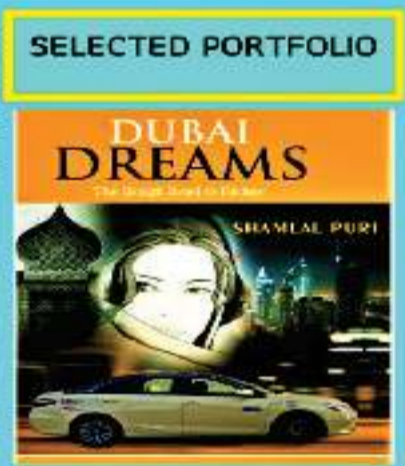
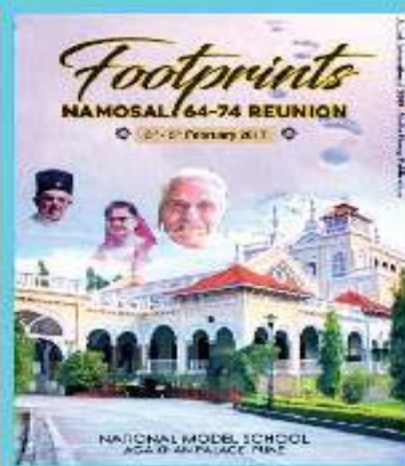
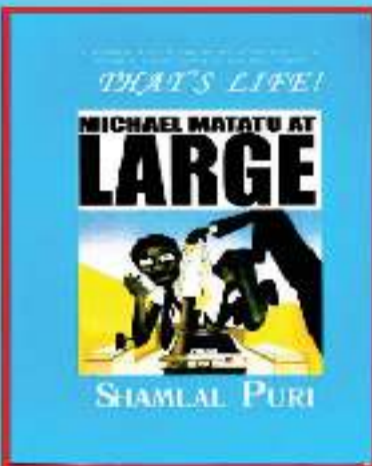
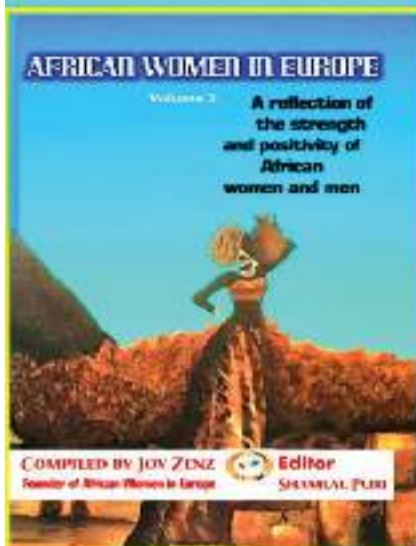
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Energy Wandayi disclosed that the proposed KSh2.5 billion financing package came with stringent conditions, including demands for exclusive LPG supply rights

Kenyans to wait longer for cheap gas as Saudi deal collapses

BY PSC

@themtkenyatimes

Kenyans will have to wait longer for affordable cooking gas after the government confirmed the collapse of a much-anticipated deal with Saudi oil giant Saudi Aramco, dealing a major setback to efforts aimed at boosting supply and lowering prices. Energy Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi told the Senate Energy Committee that negotiations between the Government of Kenya and Aramco's trading arm failed to yield an agreement, stalling plans to expand the country's liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) infrastructure.

Appearing before the committee chaired by Dr. Oburu Odinga, Wandayi revealed that a planned Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Aramco Trading Fujairah FZE was never signed due to disagreements over key terms.

"The intended Memorandum of Understanding was not executed as expected given that parties were not able to amicably agree on the terms," Wandayi told senators on Tuesday.

The failed deal means the Saudi-backed Oil Sustainability Programme, which was expected to finance the distribution of about 8.4 million LPG cylinders, will not proceed as initially planned.

Wandayi disclosed that the proposed KSh2.5 billion financing package came with stringent conditions, including demands for exclusive LPG supply rights—terms the government rejected.

"The so-called \$20 million was coming with serious conditionalities, one of which was exclusive supply of LPGs, which we found untenable," he said.

"In any event, these funds were not coming in one tranche but in multiple tranches, which did not make sense to us."

The CS maintained that the government opted to abandon the deal in favour of more viable alternatives, while assuring lawmakers of continued cooperation with the committee. "We are available to supply supplementary materials and data to the committee," Wandayi added.

However, the explanation drew concern from lawmakers, including William Kisang, who questioned why



CS Opiyo Wandayi (right) with other ministry officials when he appeared in the Senate on Tuesday. | Photo: Courtesy.

Kenya declined to sign a letter of authorisation that would have allowed the project to proceed.

"We visited Aramco in Saudi Arabia and they told us Kenya was not willing to sign the MOU," Kisang said.

"They said they were ready to supply the infrastructure but you refused to sign. So maybe you need to tell us why."

In response to broader sector concerns, the committee chairman raised complaints from smaller petroleum dealers over alleged market domination by multinational firms.

"Small and independent dealers of petroleum products are complaining of harassment by big multinational oil companies," the chairman observed.

Wandayi acknowledged the concerns and outlined measures being taken by the Ministry of Energy.

"The Ministry of Energy is working on increasing the allocation of petroleum quotas for supply of petroleum products in Kenya," he said.

The CS also highlighted progress made in strengthening the country's LPG storage capacity in recent years.

"We have been operating with 25 metric tonnes of LPG until under three years since 2022 where we have increased that storage capacity to 85 metric tonnes," he noted.

He further assured the country of sufficient petroleum supplies in the short term.

"We have stock of all petroleum products to last us until April, and we have agreements with Gulf international energy companies that have ensured we have enough supplies of petroleum products," Wandayi said.

Following the collapse of the Ar-

amco agreement, the government is now shifting focus to private sector participation to salvage its ambitious LPG expansion programme.

"The Ministry is further exploring the possibility of engaging private sector participants to get funding for the programme," he said.

Wandayi added that the ministry has already issued requests for proposals

and identified four local firms to support cylinder manufacturing as part of efforts to boost domestic capacity. He also pointed to Parliament's recent approval of increased petroleum levy collections as a key funding mechanism for LPG infrastructure, including import and storage facilities.

Lawmakers recently approved a rise in the Petroleum Development Levy from 40 cents to KSh5.40, a move expected to generate billions of shillings to support the rollout of the gas programme.

The collapse of the Aramco deal is a blow to President William Ruto's plan to make clean cooking energy more affordable and accessible.

Since 2024, Kenya has been in talks with Saudi Arabia to secure a floating LPG storage and processing facility to be stationed off the port of Port of Mombasa.

According to Principal Secretary Joe Sang, the proposed facility was expected to handle up to 30,000 tonnes of LPG and serve as a temporary storage and bottling plant as the country develops a permanent onshore facility.

The project was central to the government's broader strategy to increase supply, stabilise prices, and fulfil a 2023 pledge to significantly cut the cost of a 6kg gas cylinder.

With the Saudi-backed financing now off the table, the government faces a longer and potentially more complex path to achieving affordable cooking gas for households.

Despite the setback, Wandayi insisted the State remains committed to developing the LPG sector.

"We will continue to engage very productively with private entities in the development of this LPG gas sector, particularly infrastructure for import and storage," he said.



Dr Oburu Odinga (right) and other committee members during the session.

E-Learning Globally, policing institutions are undergoing profound transformation informed by new forms of crime, particularly cybercrime

Inclusive policing in the digital age: Why the National Police Service E-Learning initiative matters



BY Fredrick Chelimo
@themkenyatimes



Illustration of E-learning

The launch of the second phase of the National Police Service E-Learning programme by Inspector General Douglas Kanja is an encouraging and significant development in Kenya's journey towards professional, responsive, inclusive and citizen-centered policing. While the programme is primarily a training initiative, its broader implications extend far beyond the internal institutional development. It prominently reflects an emerging culture within the National Police Service that recognizes the strategic importance of modern knowledge systems, technological adaption and inclusive service delivery.

Globally, policing institutions are undergoing profound transformation informed by new forms of crime, particularly cybercrime and transnational networks, that requires well trained officers equipped with updated skills. Equally important, is the growing expectation that police service must demonstrate professionalism, accountability and sensitivity when interacting with various members of society. Apart from providing with structured modules digitally and reaching personnel regardless of their geographical location, the programmes strengthen their knowledge on critical areas such as use of force, handling sexual and gender-based violence, public order management, bail and bond procedures and most notably engagement with special groups including persons with disabilities.

focusing on special interest groups is particularly important for vulnerable populations that includes persons with disabilities. Sometimes, persons with disabilities interaction with law enforcement can be dramatic and complicated due to communication barriers, misunderstanding, or limited awareness about disability related needs. When officers receive appropriate training on these issues, they are better equipped and prepared to respond with empathy, professionalism and fairness

From the perspective of disability community, the continued strengthening of this programme signals a positive shift towards more inclusive policing. Persons with disabilities are an integral part of Kenyan society and like all citizens, rely on law enforcement agencies for protection, justice and public safety. When police officers are equipped with knowledge on how to effectively engage with persons with visual, hearing, psychological, intellectual and mobility impairments, the result is more accessible and humane justice system.

Equally commendable is the leadership shown by the Inspector General and his team in steering the transformation. Institutional change within public security organisations requires vision, persistence and the ability to mobilise both internal and external partner-

ships. The collaboration with development partners like European Union (EU) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) who have provided valuable technical and institutional support that strengthened the training ecosystem is no mean effort.

The true success of such initiatives will however be measured by how effectively this knowledge is translated from theory to practice in everyday policing practices. Training must ultimately shape officers' behaviors and approach in the field and officers who complete such modules especially handling of vulnerable groups should be able to demonstrate that understanding during the real interaction with citizens, whether at stations, during investigations and in community engagements.

For persons with disabilities, this transition also presents an opportunity for meaningful collaboration. Disability institutions, organisations and community-based advocates possess valuable experienced knowledge about the barriers that persons with disabilities encounter when seeking assistance from law enforcement institutions. By incorporating these perspectives into training and community engagements programmes, the National Police Service can further enhance its responsiveness and professionalism.

As inclusivity transcends boundaries and digital platforms continue to evolve, it

will also be important to ensure that the technology itself is accessible. Disability friendly digital features, such as screen reader compatibility, captioned in structural materials, and simplified user interface can help ensure officers

living with disabilities within the police service are able to fully participate in professional development programmes. Such measures reinforce the principle that inclusion strengthens institutions rather than weaken them.

Encouragingly, the current reform trajectory within the National Police Service suggests a growing recognition that modern policing must be grounded not only in operational efficiency, but also in human dignity and social inclusion. The commitment demonstrated by the Inspector General and his leadership team in advancing training and professional reforms is therefore worthy of recognition and support from all sec-

tors of the society.

For disability community, this initiative represents a step towards more responsive and compassionate policing environment. It signals that concerns and experiences of vulnerable groups are increasingly being noted, recognized and integrated into institutional training frameworks. It also opens doors for continued dialogue and collaboration between law enforcement authorities and community stakeholders.

The disability community welcomes this progressive step and remains ready to contribute knowledge, experiences and insights that can further strengthen the service's efforts to build a professional, inclusive and citizen-focused policing system

*Mr. Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo PWD
Chairperson, Jiamini Disability network Community Based organization
Email: jiamini.network@gmail.com*

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Waste management Through collection, sorting, and recycling, the company converts discarded materials into reusable resources

Tanzanian recycling firm transforms waste into treasure

The project not only reduces environmental pollution but also creates income streams, particularly for women. “The goal is long-term sustainability,” Emmanuel told Xinhua. “We provide both environmental and economic empowerment, especially for women, so they can eventually run similar initiatives independently.”

BY Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyatimes



Waste materials awaiting recycling. | Photo: File

Along the shores of Tanzania’s Dar es Salaam, the rhythm of waves meeting the Indian Ocean is frequently interrupted by plastic bottles, broken glass, and scattered debris lining once-pristine beaches.

In this bustling port city, rapid urbanization and inconsistent waste collection have fueled a growing environmental challenge, with household garbage and industrial refuse often ending up in waterways and along the coastline. During heavy rains, clogged drainage systems push waste into rivers that empty into the ocean, compounding pollution along beaches and threatening marine ecosystems. For many residents, improper disposal has long been the norm, born of necessity, limited infrastructure, and lack of awareness. Yet amid these challenges, a quiet transformation is taking shape, one that reframes waste as an opportunity. At the center of this shift is The Recycler Limited, a local waste management and recycling company. Peter Emmanuel, project coordinator, described the company’s mission simply: “We give life to waste.”

Through collection, sorting, and recycling, the company converts discarded materials into reusable re-

sources, while its most impactful initiative lies beyond corporate clients, within local communities. Launched as a grassroots outreach program, Taka Pesa -- Kiswahili for “waste to cash” -- incentivizes households to collect and separate recyclable waste in exchange for money. The project not only reduces environmental pollution but also creates income streams, particularly for women. “The goal is long-term sustainability,” Emmanuel told Xinhua. “We provide both environmental and economic empowerment, especially for women, so they can eventually run similar initiatives independently.” However, changing habits has proven difficult. Many households still dispose of all waste in a single bin, making recycling more labor-intensive. Behavioral resistance, rooted in inconvenience and lack of familiarity, remains a key obstacle.

To address this, Taka Pesa offers direct financial incentives. By assigning tangible value to waste, the initiative motivates residents to sort materials more carefully. “When people know they will be paid, they begin to see waste differently,” Emmanuel said at the firm’s waste collection point at Mbezi kwa Zena,



Taka Pesa offers direct financial incentives. By assigning tangible value to waste, the initiative motivates residents to sort materials more carefully. “When people know they will be paid, they begin to see waste differently,” Emmanuel said at the firm’s waste collection point at Mbezi kwa Zena, located 200 meters from the Indian Ocean beach. The impact is already visible in neighborhoods like Mbezi Beach, where informal waste collectors have become vital players in the recycling chain.

located 200 meters from the Indian Ocean beach. The impact is already visible in neighborhoods like Mbezi Beach, where informal waste collectors have become vital players in the recycling chain. Among them is Justine Samuel, who now earns a living by gathering discarded materials. “Before, we used to throw everything away,” said Samuel. “Now, waste is money.” Samuel collects plastics, broken bottles, and boxes, sometimes making between 20,000 and 25,000 Tanzanian shillings (about 7.74 and 9.68 U.S. dollars) a day.

The income supports his family and allows him to send his child to school. Beyond personal gain, he notes a broader transformation: cleaner streets and fewer hazardous materials scattered in the community. Similarly, Oliva Msigwa, a supervisor overseeing waste collection in the Mbezi kwa Zena area, highlighted the project’s social impact. “Before, waste was everywhere-on roads, in open spaces,” she said. “Now, people collect it because it has value.” Msigwa added that most participants in her area are women, working together to gather and sell recyclables. Payments are made immediately af-

ter weighing, reinforcing trust and participation in the system. At the operational level, collected waste undergoes meticulous processing. Plastics are cleaned, labels removed, and materials shredded into raw inputs for manufacturing. Some are recycled in-house, while others are supplied to partner industries. Scrap metals, for instance, are sent to firms dealing with repurposing.

Notably, about 60 percent of the materials handled by the company originate from ocean waste, much of it carried by currents from other parts of the coast, including Zanzibar, said Emmanuel. Looking ahead, The Recycler Limited aims to expand Taka Pesa nationwide, with plans to establish centers across Tanzania within five years. Its vision is to transform waste management into a decentralized, community-driven economy. This local momentum aligns with national efforts to promote sustainable practices. The National Environment Management Council (NEMC), in collaboration with environmental stakeholders, is marking the International Day of Zero Waste with a three-day public education campaign in Dar es Salaam. According to NEMC Compliance and Enforcement Manager Hamadi Kissiwa, the event, running from March 28 to March 30 at Mnazi Mmoja Grounds, aims to shift public perception under the theme “Waste is an Opportunity.” The campaign promotes the “3Rs” principle, namely Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, as a pathway to minimizing pollution, improving resource efficiency, and generating income. It also highlights the global challenge of food waste, which contributes an estimated 10 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. For Dar es Salaam, where the ocean continues to carry the visible consequences of waste mismanagement, such initiatives offer a glimpse of a different future, one where communities are not just cleaning up their environment, but building livelihoods from it.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Part-time lecturers struggle amid mounting challenges in higher institutions

They teach the doctors, engineers and lawyers of tomorrow — yet many cannot afford to pay their own children’s school fees today.

Part-time lecturers across Kenya’s universities and colleges are enduring a quiet crisis that strikes at the heart of higher education’s credibility. Delayed salaries, punishing workloads and systemic exclusion from institutional decision-making have left a critical segment of the academic workforce stretched beyond reasonable limits, with consequences that extend far beyond the staffroom.

The financial strain is immediate and personal. Many part-time lecturers juggle appointments at multiple institutions simply to approximate a living wage, a reality that fractures their time, dilutes their teaching quality and leaves little



room for the research and curriculum engagement that define meaningful academic contribution. Some report children sent home from school over unpaid fees — a humiliation no professional entrusted with national development should endure.

Yet the injury is not only economic. When these educators raise concerns about curriculum gaps, resource shortfalls or workload management, institutional management routinely ignores them. Excluded from the very decisions that govern their working lives, their morale erodes alongside their effectiveness.

Universities and colleges cannot credibly claim commitment to academic excellence while treating the people who deliver that education as afterthoughts. Timely salary payments, structured workloads, access to professional development and genuine inclusion in academic planning are not extravagant demands — they are baseline professional standards.

Kenya’s higher education system is only as strong as the people standing at its chalkboards. It is long past time institutions recognised that.

Erick Otieno Laikipia University.

Artificial intelligence: Transforming the future of work and society

The robots are not coming — they are already here, and Kenya is only beginning to reckon with what that means.

Artificial intelligence has moved decisively from the pages of science fiction into the fabric of daily life, reshaping how economies function, how decisions are made and how ordinary people experience the world around them. In Kenya, that shift is accelerating. Businesses are automating operations to cut costs and improve efficiency. Farmers are using AI-driven tools to predict weather patterns, detect crop disease and optimise yields — practical interventions in a sector that feeds the nation. In hospitals, AI-powered diagnostic systems are helping clinicians identify illness earlier and more accurately, a development with profound implications for a health system perpetually stretched thin.



Yet for every promise, a legitimate anxiety follows. Job displacement sits at the centre of public concern, particularly for low-skilled workers whose roles are most vulnerable to automation. History offers partial reassurance — previous technological revolutions eliminated jobs while simultaneously creating new categories of work — but history also took generations to deliver that reassurance to the people it displaced. Speed matters this time.

The deeper challenge is systemic. Kenya’s education infrastructure must urgently pivot towards digital literacy,

critical thinking and adaptability. Without that investment, the AI dividend will flow to those already advantaged, widening inequality rather than narrowing it. Ethical questions around data privacy, algorithmic bias and accountability equally demand regulatory frameworks that do not yet exist in any meaningful form.

AI is a tool — formidable, consequential and morally neutral. The question was never whether it would arrive, but whether Kenya would be ready.

Geoffrey Mutuku is a student at Laikipia University.

The impact of social media on modern communication

We have never been more connected — and yet, somehow, never more alone.

Social media has fundamentally rewired how humanity communicates. Platforms such as WhatsApp, Instagram and TikTok have collapsed geographical barriers, enabling real-time conversation across continents at virtually no cost. For millions, this connectivity is genuinely transformative — reuniting families, powering small businesses and democratising access to information that was once the preserve of the privileged few.

The speed and convenience are undeniable. A voice note sent from Nairobi lands in London within seconds. A video call bridges the distance between a student and their family up-country without a single shilling spent on transport. These are not trivial gains.

But the costs deserve equal



scrutiny. As online interaction displaces face-to-face conversation, something essential is lost. Text strips away tone, nuance and the quiet language of human expression — the raised eyebrow, the hesitant pause, the warmth of physical presence. Misunderstandings multiply. Relationships that feel robust on a screen can prove surprisingly brittle in person.

More troubling still is the documented link between excessive social media use and declining mental health, particularly among young people. Hours surrendered to mind-

less scrolling are hours stolen from meaningful engagement, creative thought and genuine human connection. Addiction, reduced productivity and anxiety have become the uninvited companions of the digital age.

Social media is a tool, not a substitute for human relationship. Used with intention and discipline, it enriches life — but left unchecked, it quietly impoverishes the very connections it promises to deepen.

Lavender Gati is a student at Laikipia University.

Rising road accidents in Kenya: a growing national concern

Kenya is not losing its people to war or famine — it is losing them to its own roads.

In the first 21 days of January 2026 alone, nearly 300 Kenyans perished in road accidents, a figure so stark it demands more than a government statement and a moment of public grief. This is not a spike — it is a pattern. Over 5,000 people died on Kenyan roads in 2025, and the opening weeks of 2026 suggest the carnage is accelerating, not abating.

The causes are well documented and, crucially, largely preventable. Reckless driving, speeding, drunk driving and driver fatigue account for the majority of crashes. Compounding these human failures are crumbling road infrastructure, unroadworthy vehicles that somehow pass inspection, and a traffic enforcement regime so inconsistent it functions more as a revenue



collection exercise than a genuine deterrent. Pedestrians and motorcyclists — Kenya’s most vulnerable road users — continue to bear a disproportionate share of the fatalities.

The economic toll runs into billions of shillings annually. But no statistic captures what road accidents truly cost: children who grow up without parents, breadwinners lost in an instant, survivors condemned to permanent disability with little institutional support.

Kenya has the laws. It has the

agencies. What it has lacked is the sustained political will to treat road safety as the national emergency it plainly is.

The road death toll will not fall through condolence messages alone — it will fall when enforcement is relentless, infrastructure is funded, and impunity behind the wheel finally carries real consequences.

Mercy Maina is a student at Laikipia University.

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Music, fireworks and the occasional round of gunfire erupted across Iraq's capital Baghdad early yesterday after the national team qualified for the World Cup for the first time in decades.

Despite war, Iraq euphoric after team qualifies for World Cup



Football fans celebrate after Iraq became the 48th and final team to qualify for the World Cup, in the Karrada district of Baghdad on April 1, 2026. The team's coach challenged his players to "shock the world" after Iraq became the 48th and final team to qualify for the World Cup with a nerve-shredding 2-1 win over Bolivia in an intercontinental playoff in Mexico on March 31.

Music, fireworks and the occasional round of gunfire erupted across Iraq's capital Baghdad early yesterday after the national team qualified for the World Cup for the first time in decades. The "Lions of Mesopotamia" secured the country's first World Cup appearance since the 1986 competition in Mexico with a 2-1 win over Bolivia on Tuesday night. The build-up to the match had been overshadowed by the outbreak of the Middle East war in late February, when the US and Israel attacked Iran, subsequently dragging Iraq into the conflict. More than 100 people have been killed in Iraq since the fighting began. The war was not far from people's minds on Wednesday but

supporters still thronged one of Baghdad's main shopping streets to cheer on their team as the sun rose. "This victory is incredibly precious to us, despite the war raging," Ahmed, 22, told AFP outside a cafe in the central Karrada district. "The Iraqi people are united across all sects," he said, adding that the win reminded Iraqis of their victory in the 2007 Asian Cup when sectarian violence was at its peak. Waving Iraqi flags, the busy street was at a standstill as thousands of men stood on cars and trucks to cheer, some reduced to tears. Street tea sellers, who eke out a meagre living along Baghdad's uneven pavements, yelled "tea for free! Tea for free!" as they

succumbed to the euphoria. "Despite the dire economic situation and the war, our national team won," Ali al-Muhandis told AFP. "We in Iraq excel in exceptional circumstances," he said, his voice hoarse from shouting. "We are living through a war that has nothing to do with us, because it's between Iran, America and Israel." His country has been sucked into the conflict, with attacks targeting both US interests in Iraq and strikes on pro-Iran armed groups in the country. The war has fractured a period of relative peace that Iraqis were enjoying following decades of violent insecurity. -National holiday- The Iraqi team arrived in Mexico last week after a gruelling

three-day journey, with some forced to make portions of the journey overland after Iraq shut down air travel due to the war. But the squad nonetheless appeared energised as they stormed to victory, with players Ali Al-Hamadi and Aymen Hussein scoring a goal apiece. State TV showed celebrations across the country and the government congratulated the team. Authorities had promised to pay them bonuses if they won and also announced a two-day holiday after the match. Iraq will now play in World Cup Group I against France, Senegal and Norway.

AFP

Sports >> *Chelsea made a Premier League record pre-tax loss of £262.4 million (\$349.3 million) for the year ending June 30, 2025, the club said yesterday.

Chelsea announce pre-tax loss of £262.4 million

Chelsea made a Premier League record pre-tax loss of £262.4 million (\$349.3 million) for the year ending June 30, 2025, the club said yesterday.

The previous highest recorded pre-tax loss in the Premier League was the £197.5 million posted by Manchester City for the 2010/11 season.

Chelsea posted a profit of £128.4m in the previous year's accounts but this was aided by the sale of the women's team to Blueco Midco -- a subsidiary company -- for nearly £200 million.

Chelsea said that the losses were due in part to increased operating costs in 2024/25 compared to the previous year.

Revenue was £490.9 million, the club said, the second-highest recorded by the Blues, and included some of the money earned from winning last year's Club World Cup.

Last month, Chelsea admitted to breaching Premier League rules in relation to some £47.5 million of undisclosed payments made under former owner Roman Abramovich.

The Blues were fined £10.75 million and given a suspended one-year transfer ban by the Premier League.

But, unlike other clubs, they escaped a points deduction -- a move justified by the Premier League on the grounds that Chelsea's new owners, a consortium led by US businessman Todd Boehly, had self-reported the information that led to an investigation and had demonstrated "exceptional co-operation" throughout.

Chelsea were deemed compliant with the Premier League's profitability and sustainability rules (PSR) for the three-year period ending 2024/25.

The rules allow for maximum losses of £105 million over three years, but some of the losses clubs post in their financial re-



Enzo Fernandez of Chelsea tours with 2025 FIFA Clubs World Cup trophy after the pre-season friendly match between Chelsea and Milan at Stamford Bridge on August 10, 2025, in London, England. RaÅŸid Necati AslÄ±m / Anadolu (Photo by RaÅŸid Necati AslÄ±m / ANADOLU / Anadolu via AFP)

ports can be overlooked under PSR -- for example spending on women's football and youth development.

Chelsea also announced on Wednesday that their women's

team, champions of England's elite Women's Super League for the past three seasons, posted a loss of £17.1 million, despite generating £21.3 million in revenue.

AFP

SPORTS NEWS



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A fearless voice against child marriage and a beacon of purpose for the next generation



By: Anila Bukhari
@themtkenyatimes

Biography:

Rebecca Muna is a rising force of inspiration, resilience, and transformative leadership whose voice echoes powerfully across Tanzanian society. At just 22 years of age, she embodies the spirit of a generation determined to rewrite narratives, uplift communities, and challenge deeply rooted societal issues—most notably, the persistent challenge of child marriage. As a youth advocate, poet, and television presenter, Rebecca has not only embraced her purpose but has turned it into a mission that is changing lives and shaping futures.

Her journey is a compelling testament to what passion, courage, and clarity of vision can achieve. Armed with a Diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy, Rebecca combines intellectual grounding with emotional intelligence to address issues affecting young people, especially girls. Her academic background provides her with a global perspective, allowing her to approach local challenges—such as early marriage—with strategic insight and empathy.

Rebecca's advocacy began with a cause that is both urgent and deeply personal to many communities: the fight against child marriage. Through the impactful campaign *Mimi ni Nguvu ya Msichana* (I Am the Strength of a Girl), she stepped into the role of a bold defender of girls' rights. In societies where young girls are often silenced, undervalued, or forced into early unions, Rebecca emerged as a powerful voice of resistance and hope. She did not merely speak about change—she actively became the change. Her work in this space has inspired countless girls to recognize their inherent worth,

understand their rights, and dare to dream beyond societal limitations.

What makes Rebecca's approach particularly effective is her ability to connect deeply with her audience. She understands that child marriage is not just a social issue—it is a complex web of cultural norms, economic struggles, and lack of awareness. Rather than condemning communities, she engages them with compassion, education, and dialogue. Through workshops, school visits, and community interactions, she fosters understanding and empowers both girls and their families to envision alternative futures built on education, dignity, and opportunity.

Building upon the momentum of her early advocacy, Rebecca co-founded Team of Positivity, a platform dedicated to nurturing hope, resilience, and self-belief among young people. This initiative reflects her belief that true change begins within the individual. By promoting positive mindsets and self-awareness, she equips youth with the tools they need to overcome challenges and make empowered decisions about their lives.

Her flagship initiative, Ignite the Future, stands as a shining example of her visionary leadership. Through this transformative program, Rebecca has reached over 300 young

individuals across schools and children's centers. The initiative is not limited to motivational speaking; it is a holistic effort that combines mentorship, education, and practical support. From delivering powerful empowerment talks to distributing essential learning and hygiene materials, Rebecca ensures that her impact is both inspirational and tangible.

In her work, she consistently emphasizes the importance of identity and intentional living. She encourages young people to discover who they are, define their values, and align their actions with their goals. For girls at risk of child marriage, this message is particularly powerful. It shifts their perspective from one of limitation to one of possibility, helping them see themselves as agents of their own destiny rather than victims of circumstance.

Rebecca's influence extends beyond advocacy into the creative and media spheres. As a poet, she transforms emotions, struggles, and hopes into words that resonate deeply with her audience. Her poetry serves as both a mirror and a window—a mirror reflecting the realities faced by many young girls, and a window offering a glimpse of what a brighter, more equitable future could look like. Through television, she further amplifies her message, reaching wider audiences and using media as a tool for education and empowerment.

Her achievements have not gone unnoticed. As a finalist for Miss World Dar es Salaam and the titleholder of Miss Kinondoni 2026, Rebecca has leveraged these platforms to elevate her advocacy. Rather than viewing pageantry as merely a celebration of beauty, she redefines it as a platform for purpose. She uses her visibility to highlight critical issues, advocate for girls' rights, and inspire collective action. Her presence in these spaces challenges stereotypes and demonstrates that beauty and intelligence, grace and strength, can coexist powerfully.

What truly sets Rebecca apart is her unwavering commitment to creating lasting change. She does not seek temporary recognition but aims to



Rebecca Muna .

build a legacy of empowerment and transformation. Her work is rooted in the belief that every young person deserves the opportunity to live a life of dignity, purpose, and choice. In the fight against child marriage, she stands as a symbol of resistance, a champion of education, and a voice for those who are often unheard.

Rebecca Muna's journey is still unfolding, yet her impact is already profound. She represents a new generation of leaders—fearless, compassionate, and driven by purpose. Through her advocacy, creativi-

ty, and leadership, she is not only changing individual lives but also contributing to a broader cultural shift. She is helping to create a world where girls are valued, empowered, and free to pursue their dreams without fear or limitation.

In every role she undertakes—advocate, poet, mentor, or presenter—Rebecca carries a singular mission: to ignite hope, inspire action, and build a future where every young person, especially every girl, can rise to their fullest potential.