



Ruto heads to Italy for talks on infrastructure, energy and investment partnerships
 President William Ruto left for Rome, Italy, on a visit aimed at strengthening Kenya's international partnerships and unlocking new investment opportunities **Page 10**



Linda Mwananchi calls Kenyans to the streets in June
 The Linda Mwananchi faction of the Orange Democratic Movement announced plans for three consecutive days of nationwide protests on June 24, 25 and 26, 2026, **Page 11**

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The Mt. Kenya Times
 Daily ePAPER

Politics Wanjigi framed his campaign around economic security, arguing that political freedoms achieved since independence remain incomplete

Wanjigi storms Nyanza with economic gospel

Safina Party Leader

Businessman Jimi Wanjigi has stepped up his 2027 presidential bid with a bold push into the Nyanza region, opening Safina Party offices in Kisumu and Siaya counties while sharply criticising the government's economic record. Speaking during the launches on Saturday, Wanjigi said the new offices are not symbolic but operational centres aimed at mobilising citizens around what he termed Kenya's "economic liberation struggle." The Siaya office is located along the Ng'iya-Siaya Road near Barding Junction, while the Kisumu office sits in the Buoye area along the Nairobi highway.



Page 9 *Jimmy Wanjigi addressing his party members and supporters.*

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Gachagua intensifies attacks on Ruto over crisis in the country

BY MKT correspondents

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua escalated his criticism of President William Ruto, responding sharply to the Head of State's remarks that the opposition is "sick and needs treatment."

Speaking during his "Meet the People" tour in Nairobi County, on Saturday, Gachagua dismissed the comments, saying that if anyone requires medical attention, it is the President himself. He faulted Ruto's recent remarks suggesting that motorcycles use kerosene instead of petrol, arguing that such statements reflect poor understanding of citizens' daily struggles.

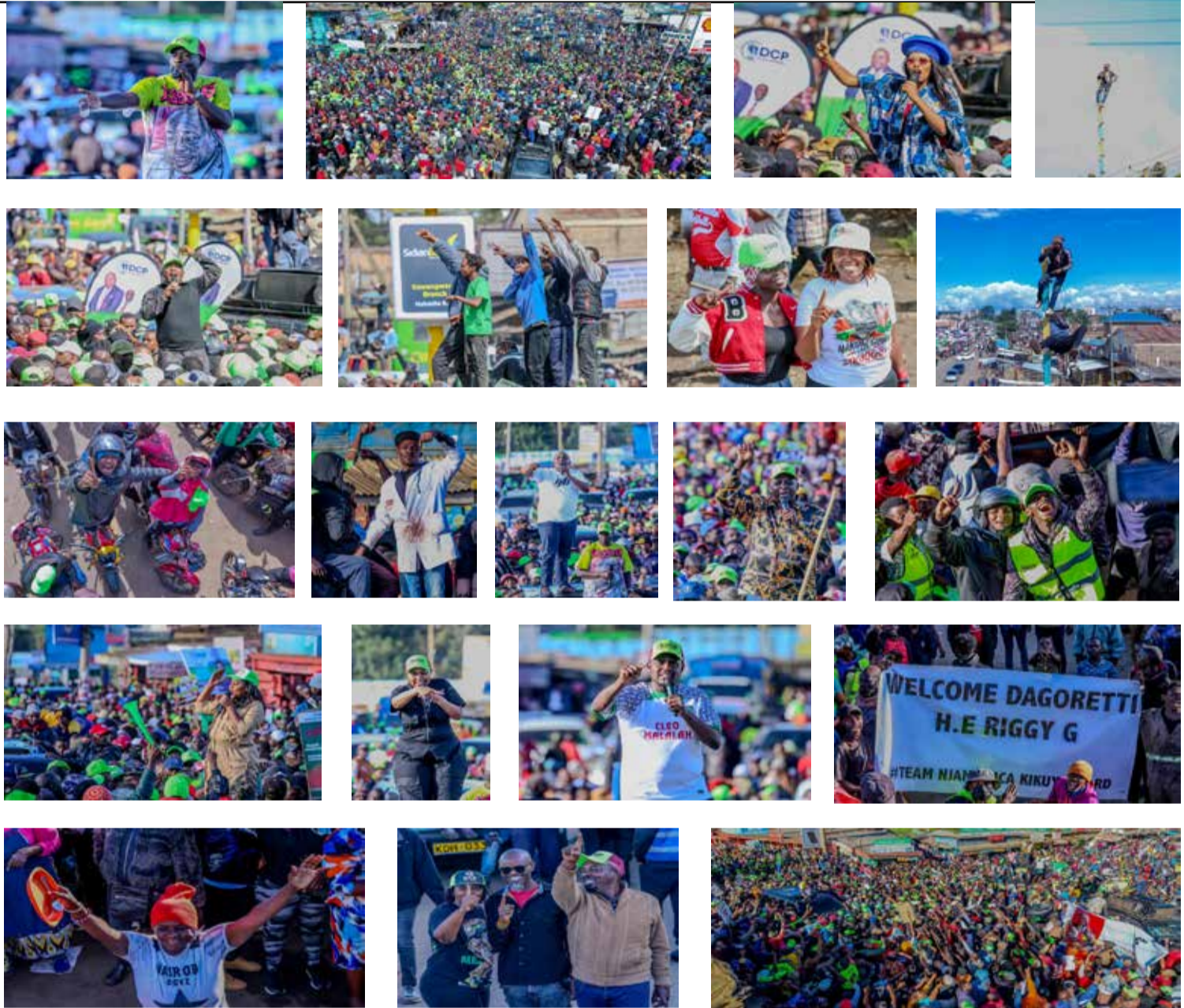
Gachagua said most Kenyans are the ones suffering from illness and financial hardship, adding that many cannot afford basic health-care.

He urged the government to first ensure that Kenyatta National Hospital is fully functional before engaging in political exchanges.

Turning his attention to the health sector, he accused Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale of failing to fix the Social Health Authority (SHA), alleging mismanagement and corruption within the system. He said civil servants and ordinary citizens are struggling due to gaps in healthcare coverage.

Gachagua's remarks were echoed by his allies, including Deputy Party Leader Cleophas Malala, as they criticised the government's handling of economic and social issues.

He continued his political engagements across Kawangware and Ndunyu in Dagoretti North and South, where he addressed residents alongside former, current, and aspiring leaders, maintaining his campaign against the current administration.



Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Mombasa Businessman Abubakar Joho leads hundreds of youth in jogging that culminated with voter registration into the Changamwe constituency. Since the start of the exercise on March 30, 2026, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has registered an impressive 1,370,930 new voters countrywide. Mombasa County has so far recorded 32,625 newly registered voters. According to the IEBC, Mombasa had 641,913 registered voters across its six constituencies during the 2022 General Election. Kisauni led with 135,276 voters, followed by Nyali with 124,253, Mvita with 118,974, Changamwe with 93,561, and Jomvu with 75,085.



Junior secondary school teachers in Nyandarua County have undergone a three-day training on blended learning and gender-responsive pedagogy in STEM education, conducted by the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEA) with support from the governments of Kenya and Belgium. According to Dr Mary Sichangi, the programme was informed by a needs assessment that identified gaps in integrating gender into STEM teaching. The training serves as a foundation for a longer eight-week course and is supported by an offline mobile app to enhance accessibility. Teachers praised the initiative, noting improved assessment methods and increased capacity to promote equitable learner participation and achievement in STEM pathways.



Vihiga Governor Wilberforce Ottichilo has said his administration is focused on shifting farmers from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture, commonly known as Kilimo Biashara, to boost household incomes. Through support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the county has implemented programmes in banana cultivation, traditional vegetables, and dairy farming. Over 800 dairy cows have also been distributed to farmers through cooperative unions to strengthen the dairy sector. The governor urged farmers to adopt climate-smart agriculture practices, including rainwater harvesting for irrigation, especially for those engaged in vegetable farming. He also commended the Taka ni Mali initiative, which promotes the conversion of organic waste into compost manure to support sustainable farming.



Leaders in Homa Bay County have raised concern over low voter registration despite many residents holding national ID cards. Peter Kaluma revealed that about 1.4 million people from the Luo community nationwide, including roughly 250,000 in the county, have IDs but are not registered voters. He termed the figures a missed opportunity for democratic participation. The situation is compounded by thousands of uncollected ID cards in registration offices. In response, county leaders, working with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission and other agencies, have launched a rapid initiative to distribute IDs and boost voter registration within 10 days.



Kericho County has expanded youth empowerment through the NYOTA programme, with 1,959 young people receiving business grants after completing entrepreneurship training. Speaking at a National Government Development County Implementation Coordination and Management Committee meeting, Senior Enterprise Development Officer Michelle Aburilli said the county had targeted 2,520 youths across 30 wards, with 84 per ward expected to benefit. However, only 1,959 met the training requirements and qualified for disbursement. The programme has since entered a mentorship phase, which Aburilli said is fully completed, with mentors offering one-on-one business support. Data shows 70% of beneficiaries are first-time entrepreneurs, while 20% have less than one year of business experience, highlighting growing youth-driven enterprise activity in the county.



Stakeholders and business owners during a training session held at the Kapenguria Youth Empowerment Centre in West Pokot County, a joint initiative by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK), the County Government, and the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI).

Education Sitima emphasized the need for alternative approaches, including the use of Information and Communication Technology

Stakeholders push for tech-driven teaching to strengthen CBC and STEM learning

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

Education stakeholders are calling for a shift from traditional teaching methods to more innovative, technology-driven approaches to support the effective implementation of Competency-Based Education (CBE) and strengthen Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) learning in Kenya.

The appeal comes as the education sector faces mounting pressure to adapt to rapid technological changes, growing student needs, and the challenge of maintaining quality education with a large teaching workforce. Experts warn that without reforms in how teachers are trained and how the curriculum is delivered, the country risks falling behind in preparing learners for a competitive, skills-based global economy.

Speaking during the closing session of a three-day In-Service Education and Training (INSET) workshop at the Centre for Mathematics, Science



Allan Sitima addressing the forum. | Photo: Courtesy.

and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEIA) in Karen, board member Allan Sitima said current teacher training models are no longer adequate. He noted that with an estimated 450,000 teachers nationwide, traditional face-to-face training methods are not scalable.

Sitima emphasized the need for alternative approaches, including the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), to reach more educators efficiently and improve classroom delivery. He highlighted the growing role of digital tools in enhancing collaboration,

learner engagement, and overall learning outcomes, while also supporting gender-responsive and inclusive teaching practices.

He further stressed the importance of aligning education policies with key issues such as gender equity, inclusivity, and equal access to opportunities, noting that these are critical to ensuring all learners benefit from quality education.

Sitima described CEMASTEIA as central to advancing STEM education and the success of the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), urging participants to act as ambas-

sadors for the institution in their respective counties.

The workshop, themed on improving management of CEMASTEIA activities at the county level, focused on building participants' capacity to coordinate STEM programmes effectively. Participants were introduced to Communities of Practice through lesson study approaches, which encourage collaborative problem-solving among teachers and continuous improvement in teaching

methods.

They also received training on instructional leadership, equipping them to support teachers beyond administrative roles and ensure proper curriculum implementation. Additional sessions covered the Teacher Professional Development (TPD) framework, financial accountability, procurement procedures, and asset management to strengthen institutional efficiency.

Acting Director for STEM Training at CEMASTEIA, Makanda John Livingstone, urged participants to apply the knowledge gained to improve both teaching practices and learning outcomes.

The push for innovation reflects Kenya's broader efforts to enhance education through digital integration, improved teacher capacity, and reforms aligned with the demands of a modern, knowledge-based economy.



John Livingstone

Politics .Nzili emphasised that KADU Asili is not a regional outfit confined to the Coast but a national party with membership drawn from across the country

Former KNUT Chairman Mudzo Nzili assumes KADU Asili party leadership

BY MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

Former Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) Chairman Mudzo Nzili has assumed leadership of the Kenya African Democratic Union (KADU) Asili Party, signalling a renewed push to reposition the outfit on the national stage as political realignments gather momentum ahead of the 2027 General Elections.

Speaking during the party's National Delegates Convention held at a Mombasa hotel, the KADU Asili

Party leader announced that the party will field candidates in all elective positions except the presidency, vowing to mount a formidable challenge against established political players as the elections draw closer.

Nzili emphasised that KADU Asili is not a regional outfit confined to the Coast but a national party with membership drawn from across the country since its inception.

"As Kenyans, we remind the government that our security rests in your hands. Independent institutions such as IEBC must remain free from interference, including from the Presidency," he said, adding that

state agencies must serve the interests of citizens.

The party leader also condemned the resurgence of political violence witnessed at recent rallies and even during burial ceremonies, terming it a threat to democratic space.

He further urged the government to fast-track pension payments to retired public servants, many of whom are languishing in poverty due to prolonged delays.

"We want pensions released promptly and timely disbursement of school capitation when institutions reopen, especially as the second term is critical for preparing candidates for na-



Mudzo Nzili briefing journalists after his party meeting.

tional examinations," he said.

Nzili noted that the party remains open to forming coalitions with like-minded political entities, revealing that KADU Asili has developed an elaborate strategy to popularise its agenda ahead of the 2027 polls.

"As you know, I previously led KNUT, which had structures down to the school level. KADU Asili will

establish structures up to the village level. Within the next three months, we will be traversing the country and strengthening our presence," he said, expressing confidence that the party will clinch a significant number of elective seats.

Tech Governor Irungu Kang'ata unveiled the application on Saturday, describing it as a game changer

Murang'a government launches AI-Powered App to ease access to services

BY Bernard Munyao and Purity Mugo

@themtkenyatimes

Murang'a County government has taken a major step in digital transformation after officially launching an AI-powered MyMurang'a App, a platform designed to bring the government services closer to residents through their mobile phones.

Governor Irungu Kang'ata unveiled the application on Saturday, describing it as a game changer that will simplify how the residents access county services, make payments and receive important information without the need to travel to government offices.

The Governor said the new platform combines several digital systems that were previously operating separately into one easy-to-use application, making service delivery faster, more efficient and transparent.

"This app is about empowering our people through technology. We want every resident of Murang'a to access county services quickly and conveniently from wherever they are," said Kang'ata during the launch at Kimorori grounds.

He explained that the app will allow residents to pay land rates, business permits, parking fees, water bills and other county charges through a single



Governor Irungu Kang'ata

portal.

"Users will also be able to submit complaints, track applications, receive county updates and access emergency contacts," he added.

The Governor further noted that the move is part of a broader effort to modernise public service delivery and reduce delays that have in the past frustrated residents seeking services from county offices.

Kang'ata noted that technology remains central to his administration's development agenda, saying digital systems help cut costs, reduce corruption and improve accountability.

He said the App also incorporates Artificial Intelligence tools that will assist users in finding information faster and getting guid-

ance on county procedures without necessarily visiting offices physically.

"This is the future of governance. We are embracing innovation so that wana-nchi can save time and money while accessing services," he remarked.

The launch of the MyMurang'a App comes as the county continues to roll out several development programmes in education, health and infrastructure.

At the same time, Kang'ata highlighted key achievements made by his administration over the last few years.

He said more than 500 ECDE classrooms have been constructed and renovated to provide a better learning environment for young children across the

county.

The governor added that the county's popular Uji feeding programme is now benefiting more than 42,000 children, helping improve school attendance and nutrition among learners.

In healthcare, Kang'ata said access to medical services has improved significantly through the Kang'atacare programme, which supports vulnerable families with medical cover.

He also pointed to the expansion of dialysis services, construction of new health facilities and adoption of digital healthcare systems as evidence of continued investment in the sector.

Residents who attended the launch welcomed the new innovation, saying it would save them time and transport costs previously spent visiting county offices for services.

They expressed confidence that the application will improve their communication with the government while enhancing efficiency in service delivery.

With the rollout of the MyMurang'a App, Murang'a joins a growing number of counties embracing technology to improve governance and make public services more accessible to citizens.

Stakeholders applaud Children Assemblies for promoting civic participation



Some of the students who took part in the exercise. | Photo: Courtesy

BY MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

Stakeholders in Kajiado North Sub-county have lauded the growing involvement of school-going children in elective leadership, describing it as a critical step in empowering young people to voice their concerns and participate in decision-making processes.

Speaking during the Children Assembly elections in Kiserian, Children Officer Nancy Kemunto said the State Department for Children Services is prioritising child participation in issues affecting their welfare.

She noted that such forums provide learners with an opportunity to exercise their civic rights and contribute to discussions on matters that directly impact their lives.

Kemunto emphasised that child participation is anchored in law, citing the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and the Children Act (CAP 141), both of which guarantee children the right to be heard in various spaces.

Learners who took part in the elections also highlighted the importance of the initiative. Jasmine Sianto, a presidential candidate

from Olekasasi Comprehensive School, said the platform allows student leaders to represent peers who may be unable to express their challenges openly. She noted that issues affecting children at home and school can be better addressed through peer leadership structures.

Similarly, Prudence Njiru, a gubernatorial candidate from Kiserian Comprehensive School, said the assemblies help children understand electoral processes and leadership qualities early, preparing them for future civic responsibilities.

Stakeholders, however, pointed out persistent challenges affecting children, including poverty, lack of school uniforms, absentee parents, and exposure to drug and substance abuse. Ben Muia, a child protection practitioner, said such issues continue to hinder children's education and overall well-being.

Held under the theme "My Right, My Future," the elections brought together learners from various schools to elect leaders including president, governor, speaker and clerk, fostering leadership skills and civic awareness among participants.

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- e** IEBC Constituency Offices

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NAIROBI

Foundation empowers youth-led SMEs through training and seed support



Munyiri Africa Foundation founder Bishop David Thagana.

BY John Kamau
@themkenyatimes

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Kenya are receiving a significant boost following expanded entrepreneurship and financial literacy training by the Munyiri Africa Foundation (MAF).

Since its establishment in April last year, the foundation has focused on supporting start-ups, particularly youth-led businesses, by equipping them with essential skills, mentorship, and seed capital to help them launch and sustain their ventures.

Speaking during the foundation's first anniversary, MAF founder David Thagana said the programme aims to tackle unemployment and poverty by nurturing a generation of skilled entrepreneurs. Beneficiaries receive training in financial management, access to markets, networking opportunities with established business leaders, and connections to financial institutions.

Thagana, who also serves as Presiding Bishop at Glory Outreach Assembly Church and Secretary General of the Federation of Evangelical and Indigenous Christian Churches of Kenya, noted that many start-ups fail within two years due to poor management and

lack of mentorship. He said the initiative seeks to address these gaps and promote sustainable enterprises.

He emphasised that young people have the potential to drive economic growth if properly supported, urging them to manage resources wisely, avoid wasteful spending, and focus on long-term investment. He also cautioned against habits such as betting, drug abuse and alcoholism, which can derail progress.

MAF official Monica Wairimu called on private sector players, including faith-based organisations, to complement government efforts in addressing youth unemployment through empowerment programmes.

Beneficiaries, including youth representative Mary Waithera, praised the initiative for restoring hope and enhancing their capacity to grow businesses. She said the training has enabled participants to better utilise available funding opportunities and improve their livelihoods.

The foundation's programme continues to position entrepreneurship as a key pathway for youth empowerment and economic development in the country.



DCP leader Rigathi Gachagua and other leaders in Maragua yesterday. | Photo: courtesy.

Gachagua hits back at Duale, raises concerns over SHA, economy and governance

BY MKT REPORTER
@themkenyatimes

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has strongly responded to recent remarks by Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale defending President William Ruto's administration, escalating an ongoing political exchange over governance and public policy.

Speaking yesterday during a church service at ACK St. Mark Maragua Church in Maragua Constituency, Gachagua dismissed Duale's claims that opposition criticism stems from discomfort with President Ruto's development agenda. Duale had earlier argued that the President is deliberately focusing on national unity and equitable development, and urged critics not to "harass" him in office.

In his rebuttal, Gachagua contrasted Ruto's leadership with that of former President Uhuru Kenyatta,

stating that Kenyatta never moved to impeach his Deputy, unlike the current administration. He alleged that he was deliberately undermined during his tenure as Deputy President, making it difficult for him to perform his duties effectively.

Gachagua also shifted focus to pressing national issues, warning that the Social Health Authority (SHA) is facing serious operational challenges and could collapse within months if not urgently addressed. He claimed that teachers, police officers and other civil servants are already suffering due to reduced medical coverage under the new system.

Responding to President Ruto's remarks suggesting the opposition requires "medical treatment," Gachagua advised the government to prioritize restoring services at Kenyatta National Hospital, which he described as overwhelmed and failing many patients.

He further criticized rising fuel prices, urging the government to ease the cost of living, and faulted the administration for failing to allocate funds to compensate victims of past protests.

On internal political tensions, Gachagua revealed that Deputy President Kithure Kindiki had reached out seeking reconciliation. While expressing no personal conflict with Kindiki, he insisted he could not overlook past actions linked to his time as Interior Cabinet Secretary.

Following the church service, Gachagua continued his "Meet the People" tour across Murang'a County, making stops in Maragua Town, Kenol Town, and Progas Shopping Centre, where he engaged residents on governance and economic concerns.

He was accompanied by dozens of leaders affiliated to the United opposition

Politics The Siaya office is located along the Ng'iya–Siaya Road near Barding Junction, while the Kisumu office sits in the Buoye area along the Nairobi highway

Jimi Wanjigi takes economic liberation message to Nyanza as Safina expands footprint

BY WMW

@themkenyentimes

Businessman Jimi Wanjigi has stepped up his 2027 presidential bid with a bold push into the Nyanza region, opening Safina Party offices in Kisumu and Siaya counties while sharply criticising the government's economic record.

Speaking during the launches on Saturday, Wanjigi said the new offices are not symbolic but operational centres aimed at mobilising citizens around what he termed Kenya's "economic liberation struggle."

The Siaya office is located along the Ng'iya–Siaya Road near Barding Junction, while the Kisumu office sits in the Buoye area along the Nairobi highway.

Addressing supporters, Wanjigi framed his campaign around economic security, arguing that political freedoms achieved since independence remain incomplete without tangible economic progress.

He described the current moment as a "pivotal turning point" requiring bold decisions to transform Kenya into a productive, self-reliant economy.

In a direct attack on President William Ruto's administration, Wanjigi accused the government of presiding over rising debt, corruption and economic hardship.

He claimed billions of public funds had been lost through questionable dealings and faulted what he termed as an "extraction economy" that burdens citizens while benefiting a few elites.

"The tyrant government cannot guarantee freedom if it cannot secure livelihoods," Wanjigi said, adding that many Kenyans continue to struggle with basic needs such as food, education and healthcare.

Central to his message was the Safina Party's slogan; "Pesa Fist Agenda," an economic blueprint he says will reduce reliance on borrowing, simplify taxation to a five per cent sales tax, expand access to affordable credit and invest in large-scale manufacturing and high-value agriculture. He also promised to cut bureaucratic red tape and lower the cost of doing business to spur innovation and job creation.

Wanjigi urged Kenyans to shift from consumption to production, arguing that sustainable prosperity depends on building industries that create jobs and retain wealth within the country.

"A producing nation becomes rich," he said, emphasising the need for competitive local industries powered by affordable energy.

The Safina leader also made a strong appeal for national unity, dismissing ethnic politics and regional divisions. He said the "politics of divide and rule" had been overtaken by a new generation of voters focused on economic opportunity and accountability.

The expansion into Nyanza—long considered a stronghold of the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) comes amid internal debates within the party over zoning arrangements ahead of the 2027 elections.

Recent remarks by ODM figures, including Oburu Odinga, indicate ongoing negotiations and uncertainty over coalition dynamics.

Political analysts say Wanjigi's move signals an attempt by smaller parties to carve out influence in regions traditionally dominated by major political formations.

His grassroots approach, anchored on establishing local offices, is seen as an effort to build direct engagement with voters beyond election cycles.

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"The tyrant government cannot guarantee freedom if it cannot secure livelihoods," Wanjigi said, adding that many Kenyans continue to struggle with basic needs such as food, education and healthcare.



Jimi Wanjigi while opening the Siaya office. | Photo: Courtesy.

Wanjigi announced plans to continue the nationwide rollout with a similar launch in Meru next week, insisting that his presidential ambitions remain firmly on track.

He said Safina's strategy is to create a broad-based movement focused on economic justice, job creation and inclusive growth.

"As Kenyans, we are not aiming to

survive; we are aiming to thrive," he told supporters, calling for collective action to secure what he described as the country's economic independence.



Jimmy Wanjigi addressing his party members and supporters.

Diplomacy A key focus of the visit will be accelerating implementation of major dam projects, including Arror, Kimwarer, and Itare dams

Ruto heads to Italy for talks on infrastructure, energy and investment partnerships

BY MKT REPORTER
@themkenyatimes

President William Ruto left for Rome, Italy, on a visit aimed at strengthening Kenya's international partnerships and unlocking new investment opportunities in infrastructure, energy, and agriculture.

According to a statement from the State House, the President will hold bilateral talks with Italian President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. The



President William Ruto addressing faithful at Karen Africa Gospel Church yesterday. | Photo: PCS

discussions are expected to deepen diplomatic and economic ties between Kenya and Italy, with several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and sectoral agreements set to be signed.

A key focus of the visit will be accelerating implementation of major dam projects, including Arror, Kimwarer, and Itare dams, which are central to Kenya's irrigation and food security agenda. The government views these projects as critical in supporting its broader plan to transition Kenya into a middle- and eventually first-world economy.

The Head of State is also expected to promote Kenya's three key development pillars: expanded infrastructure, increased energy production, and large-scale irrigation. Under the irrigation programme, the government aims to bring 2.5 million acres under irrigation within seven years to boost food production and position Kenya as a net agricultural exporter.



President William Ruto with clergy and political leadership at Karen Africa Gospel Church yesterday.

During the Kenya-Italy Business Forum, President Ruto will present investment opportunities in infrastructure, energy, agriculture, and agro-industrial value chains. He is also scheduled to engage global financial institutions and development partners, including the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The visit will further advance cooperation under Italy's Mattei Plan, which focuses on

agriculture, agro-processing, clean energy, healthcare, and human capital development. State House spokesperson Hussein Mohamed said the trip reflects Kenya's commitment to expanding strategic global partnerships that support long-term economic transformation. The visit is expected to conclude with new agreements aimed at boosting trade, investment flows, and development cooperation between Nairobi and Rome.




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Politics Sifuna's ODM rebel faction draws thousands to Mazembe Grounds and announces three consecutive days of nationwide protests to mark the anniversary of last year's deadly Gen Z demonstrations.

Linda Mwananchi calls Kenyans to the streets in June after Nakuru show of force

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyaintimes

The Linda Mwananchi faction of the Orange Democratic Movement announced plans for three consecutive days of nationwide protests on June 24, 25 and 26, 2026, at a charged political rally held at Mazembe Grounds in Nakuru yesterday.

The announcement, made before thousands of supporters, marked the climax of the movement's sixth major consultative rally since January and its most explicit call to action yet. The dates were chosen deliberately — June 25 is the anniversary of last year's Gen Z-led demonstrations in which several young Kenyans lost their lives after protesters stormed Parliament Buildings in Nairobi.

Siaya Governor James Orengo, one of the faction's most senior principals, delivered the protest declaration during a morning church service at PAG Kivumbini Church in Nakuru Town East, before the movement proceeded to the afternoon rally. "June 25 is coming, and we all remember Gen Zs lost lives for this country," Orengo told the congregation. "So, as Linda Mwananchi, we are asking you to make this country ungovernable on June 24, 25, and 26. And that has happened before." The governor later reaffirmed his own position within ODM, writing on X: "As a principal of Linda Mwananchi, my message is very clear — I am in ODM to stay. I am committed to fighting from within to keep Baba's spirit alive and ensure our party remains the voice of the people."

At Mazembe Grounds, Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna, who leads the faction and remains at the centre of a bitter ODM leadership dispute, drew sharp applause when he trained his fire on President William Ruto's administration. "We want Kenyans to live in an environment free of corruption," Sifuna told the crowd. "You cannot tell us you are building roads when human rights are abused every day and people are being killed. We just want to liberate this country, and nobody will stop us — even if we are thrown in a den of lions."

Embakasi East MP Babu Owino struck an equally combative tone,

calling for an end to political violence and urging the government to address youth unemployment. "Goons' nonsense must end. The government should stop hiring young people as goons," he said, before pledging that Linda Mwananchi would march on to Kisumu for its next major rally. Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osotsi, attending barely ten days after being attacked by unknown assailants in Kisumu, dismissed attempts to fracture the movement along ethnic lines. "I will not be cowed. They attacked me in Kisumu to cause bad blood between Luos and Luhyas so that our movement collapses," he said. "We are steadfast, and we will fight for the final and most important liberation in this country."

The Nakuru rally was the movement's seventh stop on a nationwide tour that has previously taken in Busia, Kitengela, Kakamega, Narok, Mombasa's Tononoka Grounds, and now Nakuru — each drawing progressively larger crowds. The faction, which coalesced around opposition to what it describes as ODM's creeping alignment with the ruling

“**The announcement, made before thousands of supporters, marked the climax of the movement's sixth major consultative rally since January and its most explicit call to action yet. The dates were chosen deliberately — June 25 is the anniversary of last year's Gen Z-led demonstrations in which several young Kenyans lost their lives after protesters stormed Parliament Buildings in Nairobi**



Linda Mwananchi faction leaders address supporters at Mazembe Grounds, Nakuru

United Democratic Alliance under President Ruto, has not registered as a political party. Senator Osotsi told KTN News last week that no such decision had been made: "We have

our own strategy and our own timing. We have not reached a stage of transforming ourselves into a political party."

Whether three days of protests in

June rattle the government or merely rally the faithful, Linda Mwananchi has served notice — it is no longer content with consultations alone.



Politics “Political zoning is wrong. It goes against the spirit of our Constitution, which provides for a multi-party democracy,” said Owalo.

Owalo opposes zoning, cites threat to multi party democracy

BY MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

Presidential aspirant Eliud Owalo has criticised the growing push for political zoning by major parties, terming it unconstitutional and a threat to Kenya’s multi-party democracy.

Owalo took issue with efforts largely associated with the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) and the ruling United Democratic Alliance (UDA) to ring-fence certain regions as exclusive political strongholds, warning that the practice undermines voter choice.

“Political zoning is wrong. It goes against the spirit of our Constitution, which provides for a multi-party democracy,” said Owalo.

He argued that zoning effectively locks out aspirants who fail to secure party tickets, denying voters alternative leadership options and reducing competitive politics.



Presidential hopeful Eliud Owalo addressing the media.

“The net effect of zoning is that once a party decides who its candidate is in a given region, everyone

else is locked out. That is not democracy,” he said.

Speaking at the Pentecostal Assemblies of God (PAG) church headquarters in Nyang’ori, Owalo maintained that Kenya’s political landscape should reflect a free-market model, where multiple parties and candidates compete freely, allowing voters to make informed decisions based on policies and track records.

“We need a multiplicity of political parties so that Kenyans can have a variety of choices, a good political menu from which to choose,” he added.

His remarks come amid renewed debate over zoning arrangements between ODM and UDA ahead of coalition talks in the build up to the 2027 general elections.

Owalo warned that continued reliance on political monopolies could backfire, saying Kenyan voters have become more discerning and are likely to reject imposed candidates in future elections.

“The era where individuals dictate who should vie in which constituency is gone. Kenyans are more informed and will make independent choices at the ballot,” he said.

Politics “The next election should see young people stepping into leadership roles at all levels so they can drive the transformation they want for this country,” he said.

Matiang’i rallies youth to seize leadership ahead of 2027 polls

BY MKT correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

Former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang’i has called on young people across the country to actively seek leadership positions, saying they hold the key to shaping Kenya’s future.

Speaking during the annual thanksgiving ceremony of the Kenya Anglican Youth Organisation (KAYO) at ACK St. Thomas Kerugoya, Matiang’i urged the youth to move beyond rhetoric and take decisive steps toward leadership, particularly as the country gears up for the 2027 General Election.

He noted that young people make up the majority of Kenya’s population and, if well organised, can significantly influence governance and



Jubilee party presidential hopeful Dr Fred Matiang’i in Kirinyaga. | Photo: Courtesy

policy direction. According to him, numbers, and the youth are best positioned to leverage this advantage to bring about meaningful change. “The next election should see young

people stepping into leadership roles at all levels so they can drive the transformation they want for this country,” he said.

Matiang’i, who also serves as Deputy Party Leader of the Jubilee Party, encouraged the church to continue fostering inclusive and constructive dialogue on national issues. He emphasised the importance of peaceful engagement and civic responsibility, particularly among the youth.

At the same time, he cautioned against electing leaders lacking integrity, urging young voters to prioritise credibility, accountability, and clear policy proposals when choosing candidates.

“The conversation now must focus on the future of our country. We must not allow individuals without integrity or meaningful ideas to take up leadership positions,” he added.

His remarks come amid increasing calls for greater youth participation in governance and leadership as Kenya approaches another crucial electoral cycle.

Politics The Deputy President reassured the public that the government is actively working to prevent the situation from escalating into a broader economic crisis.

Kindiki urges patience as government moves to cushion Kenyans from rising oil prices

BY DPCS

@themtkenyatimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has called on Kenyans to remain patient as the government rolls out measures to mitigate the impact of rising global oil prices.

Speaking on Saturday at his residence in Irunduni while addressing residents from Chuka Igambang'ombe, Kindiki attributed the recent surge in fuel costs to external geopolitical tensions rather than domestic policy failures.

He pointed to the ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel as the primary driver of global oil price volatility, dismissing claims that the situation is locally driven.

"The recent escalation of oil prices is a result of the Israel-Iran conflict.

Those calling for oil protests should understand that demonstrations will not bring prices down," Kindiki said.

The Deputy President reassured the public that the government is actively working to prevent the situation from escalating into a broader economic crisis.

"I am confident that the current pressure on oil prices will not destabilise our economy. We ask Kenyans to be patient as we address the issue," he added.

As part of its intervention measures, the government has already reduced Value Added Tax (VAT) on petroleum products from 13 percent to 8 percent, a move that has lowered pump prices by up to KSh 10 per litre.

Kindiki indicated that additional policy measures are under consideration to further cushion consumers

and stabilise prices in the coming weeks.

"We will take more steps to ensure oil prices drop further," he said.

On the political front, Kindiki urged leaders to embrace tolerance, noting that electoral competition should not breed hostility.

"Competition is not enmity. Once voting is complete, winners will proceed to lead, while others will wait for another opportunity," he said.

He also dismissed critics of the Kenya Kwanza administration, saying calls against the government were in bad faith.

"We have had many presidents and deputy presidents, but not once have we sustained chants of 'one term'. Even those who lost did so with our votes in their basket," he added.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki join youth and other leaders in jig.

The Mt. Kenya Times

THE



Those meant to leave



Some souls arrive like a fleeting breeze,
Soft as whispers through trembling trees,
They hold your hand, they learn your name,
Then walk away... not quite the same.

You try to pause what time won't stay,
But hearts that wander lose their way,
No chains can bind, no words can plea,
For leaving hearts were never free.

You gave them love, a place to belong,
Turned their silence into song,

But some are stories, not meant to last,
Just echoes fading into the past.

It hurts to watch them drift apart,
Like stolen pieces of your heart,
Yet truth remains, though tears may start—
Some people leave... that's who they are.

Not every goodbye needs a reason why,
Not every promise learns to comply,
For if they're meant to stay, they'll fight,
Not disappear into the night.

So let them go without regret,
Not every soul is yours to get,
Because the ones who truly stay,
Will never choose to walk away.

©Dr. Daksha Udhani
Ahmedabad

I know my worth



I did my job, I did it well,
Did extra too, though no one could tell.
No thanks, no praise, no word was said,
Yet still they used my heart and head.

I worked so hard, gave all my best,
But they just took and gave no rest.
When I said "no," they looked at me
With angry eyes, no sympathy.

No respect, just use and take,
My self-respect began to break.
So I walked out, I left that place,
To save my pride and keep my grace.

It's better far to go away
Than let your soul break every day.
I won't stay where I'm not seen —
I choose my peace, I keep me clean.

If they don't value what you do,
Walk away. You're worth it too.

RAJITHA D
BT Asst English
GGHSS PADAPPAI
KANCHIPURAM
TAMILNADU

The fake ones



Smiles on their faces, yet sorrow inside,
Sweet are their words, but their intentions hide.
They seem like friends in each passing moment,
Yet their hearts are filled with lies and torment.

They speak with warmth, as if they care,
But deep within, they're strangers there.
They reach out close, as if sincere,
While countless falsehoods they hold dear.

So many fakes exist in this wide world,
With masked faces and darkened souls unfurled.
Though today they laugh and stand by your side,

Tomorrow they'll bring you pain you can't hide.

They swear by friendship, speak of trust,
As if loyalty is a sacred must.
But when the time of trial appears,
They leave you alone with all your fears.

False smiles deceive and lead astray,
But truth within will find its way.
Time will reveal who's real, who's not,
And lies will fade, as they forgot.

Life has taught me this again and again:
"Trust not every smile," it warns within.
Though some may seem so pure and bright,
Dark intentions still hide out of sight.

Yet still the heart refuses to break,
For truth will rise, no matter what's fake.
The false will fade and be forgotten one day,
While sincere hearts will forever stay.

— Xolboyev Mashrab

Marriage



A marriage is a bond, where two souls unite,
With love and commitment,
they take a sacred flight.
Two individuals, with their own stories and past,
Come together, to weave a new life,

The groom's arrival, with the bride by his side,
Marks the beginning, of a new life
Anxiety about change, and expectations
Meet the hopes and dreams, of a new life

The parents' arrival, with love and cheer,
Brings blessings and joy, to the couple

The dream of a future, filled with love and light,
A new family is born, on special day

Despite every expectation, marriage is a bond so
true,
A confluence of two minds,
that many have lived through.
May you live a prosperous life, filled with love and
peace,
may your love for each other, forever increase.

May your union bring joy, to all who know,
And may your love for each other, continue to
grow.
Through life's ups and downs, may you stand as
one,
And may your love be the guiding light, till the day
is done.

P. R. Helen
Social Teacher
GHS Mel pattampakkam, Cuddalore dist,
Tamilnadu, India

My Motherland



A whole world of meaning lies in the word
"Motherland,"
It embodies both love and faithfulness.
The sacred soil where my first blood was shed,

With you I am honored, without you I am a beggar.
The path of loyalty begins from your doorstep,
Your embrace is a mother's, your warmth is light.
In every inch of your land are the traces of
ancestors,

Your children are happy with your love.
Nightingales sing soulfully in your gardens,
Your history is glorious, your roots are deep.
Uzbekistan, the eternal dwelling of my happiness,
My peerless, beautiful garden in all the

Davlatova Zebanda



Economics is not cold ink on a page,
It breathes with hunger, it trembles with wage.
It walks through streets where the tired feet go,
Carrying burdens we rarely show.

It sits at tables where silence is loud,
In empty plates and dreams unavowed.
It weeps in homes where coins run dry,

Where hopes are counted, then denied.

It laughs in markets lively and bright,
In hands that earn their daily right.
It grows in seeds that farmers sow,
In patient faith that things will grow.

It is the pulse beneath each choice,
The unheard cry, the rising voice.
Economics lives within every heart,
But the beating truth of the human heart.

AKSHAYA P K
II B.A., ECONOMICS
PSGR KRISHNAMMAL COLLEGE
COIMBATORE

Economics – A Living Soul

Politics The President will worship at PCEA Jennifer Njuki Memorial Church in Magumoni Ward, where he is also expected to support the ongoing construction of the church

Governor Njuki: President Ruto to visit Tharaka-Nithi on Sunday

Tharaka-Nithi Governor said the county fully supports President Ruto and Deputy President Kindiki, noting that the region is firmly part of the two-term campaign aimed at securing a second term for the President.

BY Alex Njeru
@themtkenyatimes



Governor Muthomi Njuki in a past function. | Photo: Courtesy.

President is expected to visit Tharaka-Nithi County this Sunday where he enjoys strong support for his leadership and the growing two-term campaign momentum.

The President will worship at PCEA Jennifer Njuki Memorial Church in Magumoni Ward, where he is also expected to support the ongoing construction of the church.

Leaders in the county have expressed confidence that the visit will not only focus on the church fundraiser but will also bring development benefits to the region.

Tharaka-Nithi Governor said the county fully supports

President Ruto and Deputy President Kindiki, noting that the region is firmly part of the two-term campaign aimed at securing a second term for the President.

Speaking yesterday during a church service at PCEA Igambang'ombe Church, where he had joined fellow leaders and worshippers led by Rev. Rose Mbabu in supporting the construction of God's house, Governor Njuki said that presidential visits often come with added benefits for local development.

He noted that whenever the President visits a region, even for a church service, he comes with development support, expressing confidence that the upcoming visit will go beyond a church construction fundraiser.

The Governor said the President is also expected to follow up on ongoing projects in the county, including roads and the Nithi Bridge, to ensure that contractors deliver the works within the required timelines.

Governor Njuki called on residents to come out in large numbers to welcome the Head of State during his visit.

He also highlighted that several development projects, especially road works,

are currently ongoing across Tharaka, Maara and Igambang'ombe constituencies.

"We welcome the Head of State in our county coming Sunday and we are sure he will come with goodies," said Njuki.

Leaders present, including Tharaka-Nithi County Assembly Speaker Hon. John Mbabu and Members of the County Assembly; Hon. Justin Kithinji (Magumoni), Hon. Anita Mbae (Mariani), Hon. Jacob Kiriko (Mugwe) and Hon. Zachary Njagi (Nominated) who joined in rallying residents to turn up and give the President a warm reception.

Speaker Mbabu lauded Governor Njuki's leadership noting that he has achieved great milestone as a governor and when he served as Chuka/Igambango'mbe MP for only one term.

"Governor Njuki has done a lot of development in our county and we are sure our people will consider him for a senatorial seat next year," said Mbabu.



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Politics Ruto outlined ongoing and planned projects in the region, including the expansion of electricity supply through installation of nine generators in Mandera County

Ruto pledges transformation of Northern Kenya through major infrastructure and development push



President William Ruto with other leaders join a jig.

tion, with some expressing confidence in his re-election in 2027.

Cabinet Secretaries Aden Duale and Geoffrey Ruku also defended the administration's

record, saying services are reaching all parts of the country without discrimination.

Governor Khalif noted that Ruto is the first president to frequently visit the region for development rather than politics, while other leaders highlighted progress in infrastructure, education and access to identity documents as signs of improved inclusion in national development.



President William Ruto leaving the meeting venue in Mandera. | Photo: Courtesy.

BY PCS

@themkenyatimes

President William Ruto has pledged to accelerate development in Northern Kenya, saying his government is addressing decades of neglect through large-scale infrastructure projects and socio-economic programmes aimed at integrating the region into national growth.

Speaking on Saturday during the Mandera East Grand Women Empowerment Programme at Mandera Stadium, the President said his administration is committed to ensuring that no part of the country is left behind in development. He emphasized that his government will eliminate discrimination, tribalism and marginalisation in service delivery, stating that the presidency serves all Kenyans equally.

Ruto outlined ongoing and planned projects in the region, including the expansion of electricity supply through installation of nine generators in Mandera County and advanced plans to connect the county to the Ethiopian power grid. He also highlight-

ed investments in irrigation agriculture to boost food production, noting that Northern Kenya's vast land and fertile soils present major economic potential.

On infrastructure, the President pointed to the 750-kilometre Isiolo-Mandera road, confirming that multiple contractors are already on site. He also announced the establishment of teachers' training colleges in the region and the recruitment of 1,800 local teachers to improve education stability and reduce disruptions caused by teacher shortages.

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To improve access to public services, Ruto said the government has eliminated extra vetting for national identity cards in Northern Kenya and is fast-tracking issuance to enable residents to fully participate in national affairs. He urged locals to register as voters ahead of upcoming elections.

The President also inspected several ongoing projects in Banissa Constituency, including the Banisa Water Supply Project, which is 85 percent complete and expected to serve over 1,500 households. He also reviewed the construction of a 60-unit police housing project and a modern market set to accommodate more than 200 traders, both nearing completion.

Later, Ruto attended a thanksgiving ceremony for newly elected Banissa MP Ahmed Maalim Hassan.

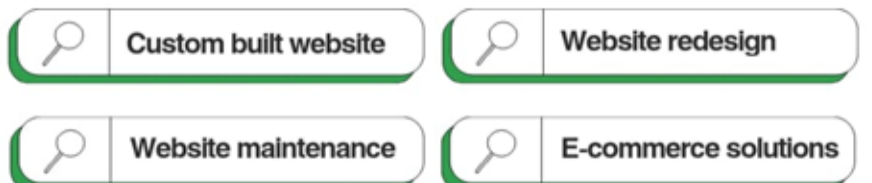
Northern Kenya leaders, including Governors Mohamed Adan Khalif (Mandera), Ahmed Abdullahi (Wajir), and Mohamud Mohamed (Marsabit), praised the President for increased development visits and equitable distribution of national projects. They pledged political support for his administra-



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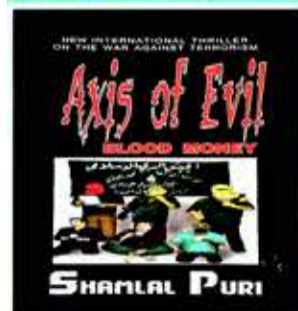
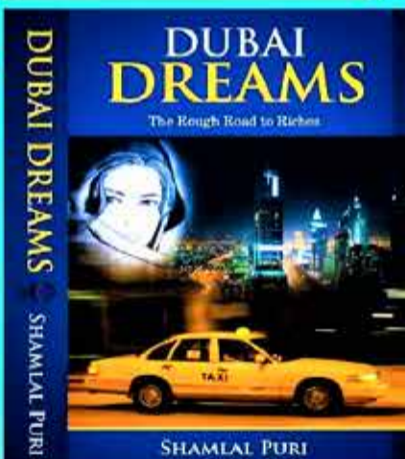
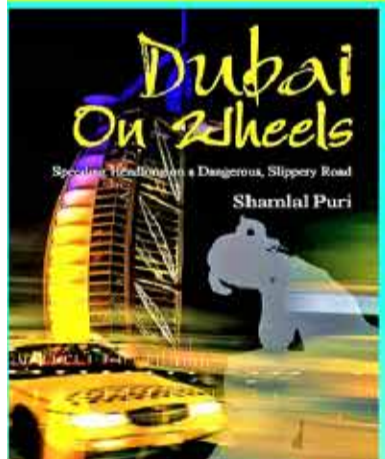
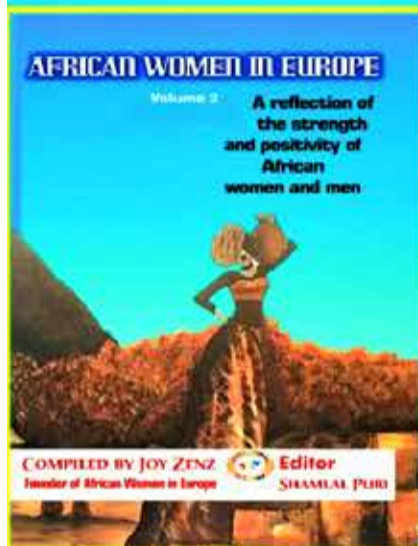
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Women Thirty years of girl-child empowerment created CEOs and graduates. It also left a generation of educated women waiting — and boys dropping out. The data shows why equality cannot be a seesaw.

Excellent women, excellent loneliness: The hidden cost of ignoring the boy child



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
mukphix@gmail.com

For thirty years, global development policy has rightly prioritised girls' education, women's economic inclusion and legal equality — and the returns are visible. In 2020, 66 per cent of girls in sub-Saharan Africa completed primary school, up from 44 per cent in 2000, overtaking boys who stood at 61 per cent. College enrolment now skews female worldwide: there are 1.6 million more women than men enrolled in four-year colleges and universities in the United States alone, and at the tertiary level globally, only 88 men enrol for every 100 women. UNESCO frames the rationale plainly: "Educating a girl educates a nation... success in this endeavour is simply not possible without educated, empowered girls."

Yet a quieter, parallel trend is reshaping households, schools and marriage markets. The boy child is falling behind — academically, socially and economically. The unintended consequence is a growing cohort of educated, financially independent women who still expect traditional courtship, and a growing cohort of men who lack the educational or economic standing to meet it. The result is rising singlehood, delayed marriage and mutual frustration on both sides.

The gains for girls are real and were necessary. Nineteen African countries — among them Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania — have reached gender parity in primary education over the past decade. Outcomes have shifted meaningfully too. College-educated women now marry later, have fewer children, report higher marital happiness and have recorded the sharpest drop in divorce since the 1970s compared with less-educated women. The so-called "success gap" — the notion that educated women are less likely to marry — shrank from 14 percentage points in 1980 to just five points by 2000 in the United States.

At the same time, boys are now statistically behind in school. Uganda's 2024 data shows 52.5 per cent of girls versus 47.5 per cent of boys



Jenga Mama participants at their graduation ceremony. | Photo: Moses Matofu © IFAW

completing primary school. In Kenya, boys' secondary enrolment fell to 45 per cent in 2025, producing a gender parity ratio of 1.16 in favour of girls. Globally, UNESCO's 2022 report found 132 million boys out of school compared with 127 million girls, and boys are more likely to repeat primary grades in 130 of 142 countries surveyed. At tertiary level in the United States, men make up just 43 per cent of college enrolment; in East Asia and the Pacific, there are 87 men per 100 women in higher education.

Several factors explain male disengagement. Child labour affects 97 million boys compared with 63 million girls as of 2020. Boys face pressure to earn income early, negative peer influence, substance abuse, a shortage of male teachers and role models, and cultural norms that frame schooling as somehow unmasculine. In Nakuru County, Kenya, boys drop out to herd livestock or take up informal work, driven by the perception that education offers no viable future.

The relationship mismatch that follows is complex. The fear that educated women cannot find husbands is partly myth, partly reality, and heavily dependent on context. In gender-equal countries, college-educated women are now as likely to marry as less-educated women. Marriage rates for American college women have held above 70 per cent for five decades, and those marriages tend to be more stable: 78 per cent of college-educated American women's first marriages last more than twenty years, compared with 40 per cent for those with only a secondary education. But partner patterns have changed. Only about half of college-educated American women marry a college-educated man; roughly a quarter "marry down" and

another quarter remain single. The marriage market has adjusted — hypergamy has weakened as women's education has risen.

In gender-conservative societies, the picture is reversed. In Hong Kong, highly educated women faced a 72 per cent chance of marriage versus 87 per cent in the United States. Research concludes that "educated women in more sexist nations are less likely to get married" — and therefore less likely to raise sons with liberal values, slowing broader social change in the process.

The African context reveals a specific local dynamic. A 2022 study, *Modelling the impact of girl child empowerment amid boy child neglect on singlehood in Kakamega County*, found a negative correlation between girl child empowerment and singlehood, and a positive correlation between boy child neglect and singlehood. In plain terms: as girls are empowered but boys drop out, singlehood rises because boys "do not feel empowered to take up their roles as heads of families later in life." This aligns with qualitative reports from across Uganda and Kenya. Many educated women still prefer to be approached and expect men to lead financially — consistent with long-standing norms. Yet many non-college men avoid making that approach because of the perceived standards gap. The result is that educated women report feeling "stranded" while men report "fear" — a stalemate that benefits nobody.

Three clear critiques emerge from the evidence. First, zero-sum programming creates new vulnerabilities. UNESCO and UNFPA now warn explicitly that "supporting boys' education does not mean that girls will lose out, and vice versa." Yet for two decades, donor and government campaigns focused almost

exclusively on girls — "educate a girl, educate a nation." The unintended signal to communities was that boys are fine, or that their challenges can wait. Kenya's Elimu Yetu Coalition acknowledges the widening gender gap "caught education planners off guard." Uganda's Minister of Education Janet Museveni has raised alarm at boys' declining completion rates.

Second, we empowered women economically but failed to renegotiate the social scripts around courtship. Economist Betsey Stevenson's research notes that marriage has shifted from "specialisation and exchange" — man earns, woman homemakers — to "shared roles and commonality of backgrounds." But social expectations lag far behind. Many societies still code male initiation, provision and status as masculine prerequisites. When boys underachieve academically, they exit the "eligible" pool in women's eyes — and in their own. Sociologist Daniel Lichter's work found that unmarried women face a shortage of men with "acceptable income and job prospects" and often choose singlehood over what they perceive as marrying down.

Third, neglecting boys ultimately undermines girls' long-term gains. If marriage and family formation stall, fertility drops and social cohesion frays. In conservative contexts, unmarried educated women have fewer children — meaning fewer future boys raised in gender-equal households. Poverty drives boys' drop-out too. A boy who leaves school at thirteen to herd cattle is unlikely to become the partner an engineer or lawyer wants at thirty. The cycles reinforce each other, quietly and relentlessly.

The evidence points to several concrete ways to restore balance. Policy

must adopt a dual-gender lens. UNFPA and the Sustainable Development Goals call for gender equality, not girls-only programming. UNESCO's 2022 report on boys recommends "integrated approaches to improve education for all learners." In Uganda, the AMDA Caravan now runs family and marriage counselling alongside youth mentorship for both sexes — directly addressing the relational fallout. Boys disengage when school feels irrelevant; Kenya's worst teacher shortages are in STEM subjects and arid regions, precisely the areas where male teachers could model alternative masculinities. Economic programmes for young men also matter: cash transfers and technical and vocational training reduce child labour. When boys stay in school, the education gap narrows and the marriage pool deepens.

Community dialogue on courtship norms is equally important. The "wait to be approached" script, combined with the "man must out-earn" script, creates gridlock when education tables flip. NGOs working in Kakamega found that structured mindset-change sessions helped. Churches, media and schools need curricula on healthy relationships that decouple masculinity from sole financial provision. And we should resist the urge to moralise about partner preference while working to expand options. Women marrying less-educated men is already happening — a quarter of college-educated American women do so. In China, higher-educated women "often face difficulties in marriage and love" but are increasingly choosing to marry less-educated men rather than remain single. Destigmatising that choice matters enormously.

Empowerment is not a seesaw unless we make it one. The world was right to invest in girls — the data on health, GDP growth and child well-being proves it conclusively. But equality is not women rising while men fall; it is both rising together. When we allow half the classroom to empty out, we do not produce more CEOs — we produce fewer families. The "stranded" educated woman and the "fearful" undereducated man are two faces of the same policy failure. Fixing it requires retiring the idea that gender is a competition. As UNESCO puts it: "Addressing boys' disengagement is also highly beneficial for achieving gender equality and desirable economic, social and health outcomes." The next phase of empowerment must be relational — teach boys they are more than providers, teach girls they are allowed to choose, and teach communities that a degree is not a dowry. Otherwise, we will keep producing excellent women and excellent loneliness.

Elections Across towns, villages and urban centers, the Kenyan voter is engaging in a deeper, more reflective conversation.

Kenya's defining electoral moment and the quiet power of inclusive choice



BY Fredrick Chelimo

@themtkenyatimes

Tuesday 10th August 2027 is Kenya's next general elections date and whether the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) calendar of campaign is now or not, the campaigns have started. As Kenya moves steadily closer towards this date, a profound shift is unfolding beneath the familiar rhythms of campaign rallies, political alliances and public declarations. This is no ordinary electoral cycle. It is a moment of reckoning, an inflection point where citizens are not only choosing leaders, but also reassessing the very meaning of leadership in the context of their lived realities.

Across towns, villages and urban centers, the Kenyan voter is engaging in a deeper, more reflective conversation. The pressing weight of everyday life, rising costs of living, limited job opportunities, strained healthcare systems, unequal access to quality educations and all these in the face of lavish and opulent nature of our political class flying all over the sky's. This has transformed electoral participation into a personal and urgent decision. For many, this election is no less about political identity and more about survival, dignity and the promise of a better future. These elements will inform the voters alignment to what is the perceived or real solutions and who is likely to provide the solution.

While Kenya's political fabric remains complex and dynamic. The identity, particularly ethnic affiliation, continue to influence the voting patterns, shaped by a history, trust, and enduring search for representation. However, this time round, the growing segment of the popu-



Ballot in Kenya

lation, especially the younger voters are redefining the narrative. They are increasingly drawn to ideas, policies and proven performance. They are asking the harder question, demanding clearer answers, and showing the willingness to break from traditional loyalties in pursuit of meaningful change.

Within this evolving electoral landscape, one constituency stands out for both its vulnerability and its quiet strategic influence; persons with disabilities (PWDs). For far too long, this group has existed at the margins of political consideration, their voices acknowledged but rarely prioritized. Their lived experiences, marked by systemic exclusion, limited access to essential services, and persistent socio-economic barriers, position them uniquely within the national conversation on equity and justice.

PWDs in practical terms, do not operate as a unified voting bloc capable of rallying behind a singular, self-representative candidate. Structural and political realities have not afforded them that level of cohesion. However, this does not diminish their influence. On the contrary it reshapes it. Their electoral behaviour is increasingly defined by discernment, by a careful evaluation of which political actors genuinely pronounce, recognize and priorities their

concerns.

In this regard, a clear pattern is emerging. Persons living with disabilities are more likely to align themselves with political parties and coalitions that move beyond rhetoric and demonstrate tangible commitment to inclusion. Nomination of political leaders who are not only vocal, but also consistent and credible advocates for disability rights. Representations that become a bridge between visibility and action.

In a political environment where tight margins, especially for presidential candidates for fifty percent plus one, every electoral segment of the electorate carries weight. PWDs alongside their families, caregivers, and wider social network, represent a significant and often underestimated force. The choice may not dominate headlines, but they can decisively influence outcomes, particularly in a closely contested race.

From a predictive standpoint, Kenya appears headed towards a highly competitive election, where the path to an outright first-round victory is far from assured. The presence of multiple strong candidates, each commanding a distinct support base, creates a fragmented electoral field. In such scenario, and in the absence of a PWD candidate, success will not be determined by dominance in a

single region or demographic, but by ability to build broad, inclusive coalitions that resonate across diverse voter groups.

Candidates who recognize this reality, who invest in genuine, issue-based engagement, are more likely to gain traction. Those who integrate disability inclusion into the wider governance agenda, linking it to economic empowerment, social protection, and institutional reform, will find themselves better positioned to attract not only PWD voter bur a broader constituency that values fairness and equity. Increased voter participation among young and marginalized groups, has the potential to reshape electoral dynamics in significant ways. These voter blocs are less constrained by traditional

loyalties and more responsive to authenticity, accountability and vision. Their engagement will determine whether Kenya moves towards issue-driven political culture or remains anchored on traditional familiar patterns.

At the core of this election is more than power, it is about purpose and leadership that will rise to meet the complexity of Kenya's challenges with integrity, inclusivity, and foresight. For persons with disabilities, it is an opportunity to assert their place not at the periphery, but at the center of national progress. For the country as a whole, it is a chance to affirm a simple but powerful truth; that a just society is one in which every voice matters, every citizen counts, and no one is left behind.

In the quiet determination of voters seeking dignity, and in measured of those long excluded from full participation, here lies the true moment of power of choice. The future of Kenya will not be shaped solely by those who stand for office, but by those who stand to vote, with clarity, conviction and unwavering belief in a more inclusive tomorrow.

In the quiet determination of voters seeking dignity, and in the measured choices of those long excluded from full participation, lies the true power of this moment. Kenya's future will not be shaped solely by those who stand for office, but by those who stand to vote—with clarity, conviction, and an unwavering belief in a more inclusive tomorrow.

Mr. Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo PWD

Chairperson, Jiamini Disability network Community Based organization

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Hormuz U.S. President Donald Trump welcomed the move, but stressed that the U.S. naval blockade on Iran would remain

As ceasefire nears expiry, what divides Iran and U.S.?

The Navy of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps later confirmed that the Strait of Hormuz would remain closed until the United States lifts its naval blockade on the waterway

BY Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyatimes

With a fragile U.S.-Iran ceasefire nearing its expiry, uncertainty once again clouds the outlook for the Middle East. The stop-and-go situation in the Strait of Hormuz -- briefly reopened and then shut again by Iran -- has added to the volatility.

The episode highlights deep-rooted disagreements over maritime access and nuclear issues, suggesting tensions may remain elevated in the near term.

Back-and-forth in Hormuz

Following the ceasefire in Lebanon -- once a major flashpoint in the early days of the U.S.-Iran truce -- Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said on Friday that the Strait of Hormuz was completely open to all commercial vessels.

U.S. President Donald Trump welcomed the move, but stressed that the U.S. naval blockade on Iran would remain in full force until Washington's transaction with Tehran is "100 percent complete." Just a day later, Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters announced the resumption of strict control over the Strait of Hormuz, accusing Washington of violating the ceasefire and "continuing its banditry and piracy under the so-called title of blockade."

The Navy of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps later confirmed that the Strait of Hormuz would remain closed until the United States lifts its naval blockade on the waterway, warning that no vessel should



A demonstrator holds a placard in front of the White House in Washington, D.C., the United States. | Photo: Xinhua/Li Rui

move from its anchorage in the Persian Gulf or the Gulf of Oman, and any approach to the strait would be deemed "cooperation with the enemy" and targeted accordingly. Following Tehran's reversal, Trump convened a White House Situation Room meeting on Saturday morning to discuss developments in the strait and negotiations with Iran. The meeting reportedly included Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and other senior officials. "They (Iran) can't blackmail us," Trump said at a White House event.

Major differences

On April 11, Iran and the United States, under Pakistan's mediation, held a round of intense negotia-

tions in Islamabad, but no major breakthrough was achieved. Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, who led Tehran's delegation, said that progress had been made, but the two sides remain far apart on key issues.

According to statements from both sides and media reports, the United States and Iran have recently exchanged views on three key issues, with significant gaps remaining. First, the fate of



Following the ceasefire in Lebanon -- once a major flashpoint in the early days of the U.S.-Iran truce -- Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said on Friday that the Strait of Hormuz was completely open to all commercial vessels.

Iran's highly enriched uranium remains unresolved. Trump said on Friday that the United States would work with Iran to remove its enriched uranium. CNN, citing informed sources, reported that Washington is prepared to unfreeze 20 billion U.S. dollars in Iranian assets in exchange for Tehran's handing over its stockpile, a proposal rejected by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh as "impossible."

Second, disagreement persists over Iran's right to enrich uranium. Trump on Friday claimed that Iran had agreed to suspend its nuclear program indefinitely, a claim denied by an anonymous senior Iranian official in an interview with CNN the following day. Meanwhile, U.S. sources familiar with previous talks said Washington had proposed

a 20-year suspension of Iran's enrichment activities, while Tehran countered with a five-year pause -- a proposal the United States did not accept. Third, tensions remain high over freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. A U.S. official told The Wall Street Journal on Saturday that the U.S. military is preparing to board and potentially seize Iran-linked oil tankers and commercial ships in international waters in the coming days. On the same day, a senior U.S. official told Axios that without a diplomatic breakthrough, fighting between the two sides could resume within days. Despite ongoing contacts and mediation efforts, key differences between the United States and Iran remain unresolved, making a swift agreement unlikely, analysts say.

Zimbabwe marks 46th independence anniversary

1980-2026

Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa on Saturday led the nation in celebrating its 46th independence anniversary, calling for unity to achieve the country's "Vision 2030" goal of becoming an upper-middle-income economy.

In his national address at Maphisa Stadium, Matabeleland South Province, Mnangagwa noted post-independence progress in various sectors of the country's economy, including efforts to modernize and industrialize the economy. To accelerate growth, he emphasized the need for full economic emancipation through ownership of the means of production, the swift implementation of people-centered initiatives, and the adoption of advanced technologies and innovation. The president noted that the government is intensifying efforts to unlock the potential of mineral resources by curbing raw mineral exports and promoting local value addition. Regarding national infrastructure, Mnangagwa affirmed that the modernization of road networks remains underway, especially in the aftermath of recent flood damage. Zimbabwe gained independence from British colonial rule on April 18, 1980.

BY Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyatimes



President Emmerson Mnangagwa

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



KUCCPS: guiding Kenya's students to their academic futures

Every year, hundreds of thousands of Kenyan students sit their KCSE examinations and wait — their futures suspended in the hands of the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service, the body that determines who studies what, and where.

KUCCPS was established to bring order and fairness to a process that once favoured the connected over the capable. It operates on a merit-based model: students submit their programme choices online, and the system matches them to institutions according to their KCSE grades and stated preferences. The framework is transparent by design, with cut-off points, admissions timelines and programme requirements publicly accessible through its online portal and regional offices.

Crucially, the placement exercise extends beyond academic scores. KUCCPS reserves consideration for applicants from marginalised and underserved regions, recognising that ge-



ography and poverty should not determine a young person's ceiling. That commitment to equity has meaningfully widened access to higher education for students who would otherwise have been locked out entirely.

Yet the system strains under the weight of its own demand. Public universities and colleges cannot absorb every qualified applicant, and students frequently find themselves placed in programmes they neither chose nor wanted. For those with precise career ambitions, the disappointment is real. KUCCPS has responded by forging partnerships with pri-

ivate institutions and expanding Technical and Vocational Education and Training pathways — alternatives that remain undervalued in a society still fixated on the degree certificate as the sole mark of success.

KUCCPS is not perfect, but it is indispensable. Kenya will not build the skilled workforce it needs by leaving placement to chance, connections or cash — and until public capacity catches up with public ambition, this institution remains the most equitable bridge between a student's potential and their future.

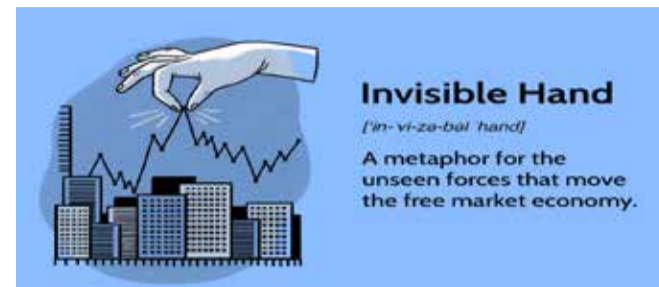
By Diana Thyaka | Laikipia University

The invisible engine of our economy — and its hidden cost

He carries your internet router, your insurance policy and your mobile data plan to your front door — and far too often, you open that door with suspicion rather than courtesy.

The salesperson is the human infrastructure of Kenya's economy. On motorbikes, on foot and in modest vehicles, field sales agents bridge the gap between production and consumption across every estate and dusty backroad in this country. Without them, goods sit in warehouses. Markets stall. Commerce stops. Yet despite this indispensable role, salespeople remain among the least protected and most stigmatised workers in our society.

The stigma carries real consequences. A recent incident — a young salesperson conducting routine door-to-door work who was violently assaulted after an unfounded accusation — is not an anomaly. It is a symptom. Our collective reflex to criminalise before we



verify has made an already difficult job genuinely dangerous. The salesperson survived only because a passerby intervened. But the injustice rarely ends in the street. Back in the workplace, many field agents operate without insurance, face docked salaries when incidents occur, and receive no medical or legal support when things go wrong. Risk that belongs to the employer is quietly transferred onto the worker. The result is double victimisation — first by the public, then by the company whose brand they carry.

This is both a moral and an economic failure. Workers pushed to financial and emo-

tional extremes do not perform — they survive. And an economy built on the labour of people who are neither protected nor respected is an economy building on sand.

Employers must introduce proper insurance, fair pay structures and timely disbursements for field staff. The public must replace reflexive suspicion with basic verification and basic decency. Respect is not a privilege reserved for white-collar workers — and Kenya's economy will not thrive while the people quietly keeping it moving are treated as expendable.

By Elijah Kamwaro

The silent crisis: when parents neglect their responsibilities

A child does not need to be beaten or abandoned to be neglected — and that is precisely what makes this crisis so easy to miss and so difficult to reverse.

Parental neglect wears many faces. It is the empty plate and the untreated wound, but it is also the parent who is physically present yet emotionally absent — scrolling through a phone while a child waits for acknowledgement. Demanding work schedules, digital distraction and shifting social priorities have conspired to quietly widen the distance between parents and children, often without anyone noticing until the damage is done.

The consequences are well documented. Children raised without adequate care and supervision are more likely to struggle academically, develop behavioural problems and experience lasting damage to their self-worth. In the worst cases, they drift towards crime,



substance abuse and harmful peer groups — filling the void that parenting left behind. Kenya's Children's Department and UNICEF have repeatedly flagged the urgency, advocating for child protection laws and parenting education programmes. Enforcement, however, remains chronically weak — particularly in communities already buckling under poverty and unemployment.

Fairness demands acknowledging that not all neglect is born of indifference. Economic hardship, mental illness and fractured support systems trap well-meaning parents in impossible situations. But understanding the cause does not

diminish the harm to the child. It simply reframes the solution — toward accessible counselling, community safety nets and economic empowerment programmes that address neglect at its roots rather than its symptoms.

Raising a child is not a biological accident — it is a lifelong social contract. When parents abandon that contract, the cost is never confined to one household; it is absorbed by schools, health systems, courts and communities for generations. This country cannot afford to keep paying that bill.

By Linda Omondi | Laikipia University

When competition turns harmful: How some women end up hurting each other to impress men

The most damaging rivalries on Kenya's campuses rarely involve raised voices — they unfold in whispered gossip, deliberate exclusion and quiet emotional sabotage between women who were once friends. Students at the University of Nairobi and other institutions report friendships strained by competition over relationships, status and financial support from men. What begins as ordinary social interaction curdles into distrust and isolation, often without anyone naming what is actually happening. The pattern is real, it is widespread, and it deserves an honest conversation rather than the usual silence.

Sociologist Dr Miriam Wanjiru argues that blame lies not with women but with the systems that shape them. "Many

young women are socialised to believe that their value is tied to male attention," she says. "When you combine economic insecurity with social media comparison culture, competition becomes intensified and is sometimes directed at other women rather than at the systems creating the pressure." Campus environments, she adds, amplify these dynamics because students are still forming identity and self-worth. "Without guidance on emotional intelligence, peer influence can easily distort relationships."

Universities have begun to respond. Counselling departments and student leaders are opening dialogue on healthy relationships, self-worth and emotional independence — shifting the conversation from competition for male valida-



tion toward solidarity and mutual respect.

That shift cannot come soon enough. A generation of women taught to compete for approval will always find rivals in each other — but a generation taught their worth is self-defined will find allies instead.

By Limooh Brian, Rongo University

SPORTS
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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *Kenya's under-17 women silence the Baby Gladiators in a five-goal second-half masterclass at Ulinzi Sports Complex to advance in FIFA World Cup qualifying.

Achieng' hat-trick sends Junior Starlets into next round with 7-1 aggregate rout of Namibia

By **Martin Weche**

Kenya's Junior Starlets defeated Namibia 5-0 at Ulinzi Sports Complex in Nairobi on Saturday to advance to the next round of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup qualifiers with a commanding 7-1 aggregate score, powered by a second-half hat-trick from forward Brenda Achieng'.

The result was a tale of two halves. For the opening forty-five minutes, Kenya's attack misfired in ways that would have unnerved the most patient of coaches. Namibia's defence, organised and resolute, frustrated the Starlets at every turn, and the sides returned to the tunnel at the break with the scoreline barren — a mirror image of the slow start Kenya had endured in the first leg. But whatever head coach Mildred Cheche told her players in the dressing room proved transformative.

"We knew the quality was there," Cheche said after the final whistle. "I asked the girls to trust themselves, to be patient, and to be ruthless when the chances came. They delivered beyond what I asked."

The second half opened with the crowd still finding its voice when Achieng' silenced any lingering doubts with a sensational solo run, weaving through Namibia's defensive line before slotting coolly past the keeper to make it 1-0. The goal appeared to unlock something in the Kenyan side. Minutes later, midfielder Emily Adhiambo caught the Namibian goalkeeper off guard with a speculative long-range strike that arced into the net to double the lead — a finish that drew as many laughs of disbelief as it did roars of delight from a jubilant home crowd.

Achieng', however, was not done. She completed her per-

sonal double with a clinical third goal for the team before, moments later, wheeling away in celebration after completing her hat-trick — arms outstretched, chest puffed, in what fans immediately recognised as a nod to Cristiano Ronaldo's trademark "Siuu" salute. The stadium erupted. At 4-0, the contest was long over, but Kenya had no interest in sentiment.

Deep into stoppage time, substitute Elizabeth Opiyo ghosted into the penalty area and swept home a fifth to complete the rout and emphatically underline Kenya's superiority across both legs. For Namibia, whose confederation had backed them as credible challengers heading into the tie, the 7-1 aggregate margin was sobering.

The Confederation of African Football praised the quality of the qualifying series, with officials noting that the standard of junior women's football across the continent had risen markedly in recent cycles. Kenya's performance on Saturday only strengthened that argument.

"This team has grown so much in just a few months," said team captain and central defender Faith Atieno, who marshalled the backline with authority throughout. "We are not satisfied. Uganda is next, and we are ready."

Indeed, Uganda awaits in the next qualifying round — a fixture that promises to be considerably more testing. The East African rivals have historically been competitive at this level, and Cheche will be aware that the clinical ruthlessness displayed in the second half on Saturday must become a default, not an exception. Kenya's slow starts in both legs of this tie remain a concern that the coaching staff will need to address before the pressure of the later rounds intensifies.



Brenda Achieng.

Yet for now, the mood inside Ulinzi is one of genuine optimism. Achieng', who has emerged as the heartbeat of this squad, represents the kind of match-winner that World Cup campaigns are built around. At seventeen, she already plays with the composure and conviction of a seasoned professional — qual-

ities that will matter enormously on the road to the global stage.

Kenya has not merely qualified for the next round — they have announced themselves.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *A 3-0 defeat at Nyayo Stadium leaves AFC Leopards' Kenya Premier League title ambitions hanging by a thread as Gor Mahia reclaim the initiative at the summit.

Police hand Gor Mahia title lifeline with ruthless demolition of Leopards



Kenya Police FC

By **Martin Weche**

Kenya Police defeated AFC Leopards 3-0 at Nyayo National Stadium on Saturday to hand Gor Mahia a commanding advantage in the Kenya Premier League title race, leaving Ingwe's long-awaited championship dreams in serious jeopardy. The result could hardly have arrived at a worse moment for the Nairobi giants. Leopards had entered the fixture with genuine belief, buoyed by Gor Mahia's surprise 1-0 midweek defeat to Tusker in Kirinyaga — a result that had briefly reopened a title race many had assumed was already settled. Sitting second on the table with 55 points, Ingwe needed only a victory to leapfrog their fiercest rivals and seize top spot for the first time this season. Instead, they were dismantled

inside forty-five minutes by a Police side that showed precisely why they are the reigning champions. Burkina Faso striker Yves Kouatime wasted no time setting the tone, breaking the deadlock in just the sixth minute to silence whatever optimism Leopards had carried into the stadium. The goal was a body blow from which Ingwe never recovered. Eric Zakayo doubled the advantage in the 31st minute, converting smartly after a well-weighted assist from Daniel Sakari, and by the time Charles Ouma added a third on the stroke of half-time, the contest was irretrievably over. "We were clinical from the first whistle," said Kenya Police head coach, speaking to reporters after the final whistle. "Our game plan was clear — press early, exploit

the spaces, and make sure they had no time to settle. The players executed it perfectly." For Leopards and their long-suffering supporters, the afternoon represented a painful missed opportunity. The club has not lifted the Premier League title since 2009, and with the finishing line appearing to draw nearer in recent weeks, Saturday's collapse will sting with particular force. An AFC Leopards official acknowledged the scale of the setback, saying the squad would need to "regroup quickly and focus on what remains within our control." Kenyan football analysts had widely tipped this fixture as the defining moment of the title race. Sports journalist and KPL commentator Kevin Oluoch noted that Police's performance underlined the ruthlessness that

has defined their title defence. "This was not a surprise," Oluoch told a local radio station after the match. "Police at home — or in this case at a neutral ground — have been the most complete side in the league all season. Leopards simply did not turn up." The mathematics are now stark. Gor Mahia, whose defeat to Tusker had momentarily handed Leopards a golden opening, will head into their remaining fixtures knowing that their closest challengers have done them an enormous favour. The title, barring a dramatic collapse, appears to be heading back to the Green Army. For AFC Leopards, the wait for glory stretches on — and time, like their title hopes, is running out fast.

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Empowering minds, connecting cultures: the remarkable journey of Anna Abesadze

From Tbilisi classrooms to the Academy Awards gift suite, Georgian educator, author and global governance leader Anna Abesadze is redefining what it means to lead with purpose.



By: Ayesha Talib

@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- As a lecturer of Business English and Business Etiquette, Anna goes well beyond grammar and vocabulary. In her classroom, language becomes a tool for leadership, opportunity and global engagement. She equips students with the confidence to communicate effectively across cultures, navigate the nuances of international professional environments and carry themselves with integrity. Her mission, she has said, is to ensure that young professionals from Georgia are ready to compete — and thrive — on the world stage.

- What perhaps defines her most, however, is her deep commitment to lifting others — particularly young people and women who aspire to lead. Anna holds a firm belief that leadership is not the preserve of a privileged few, but something that grows through courage, service and the willingness to step forward even when the path ahead is unclear.

Anna Abesadze — educator, adviser, author and global governance coordinator — has built a career spanning three continents and dedicated entirely to one goal: empowering people, strengthening institutions, and forging meaningful connections across cultures.

Her story is one of purpose and perseverance. With professional experience across North America, Europe and Asia, Anna has developed a global perspective that informs everything she does. Today, she serves as Adviser to the Rector and Lecturer at Grigol Robakidze University in Tbilisi, where she champions international collaborations and drives strategic educational initiatives. Concurrently, she holds the role of Global Governance Coordinator at World Vision International — a combination that places her at the intersection of academia and global development.

As a lecturer of Business English and Business Etiquette, Anna goes well beyond grammar and vocabulary. In her classroom, language becomes a tool for leadership, opportunity and global engagement. She equips students with the confidence to communicate effectively across cultures, navigate the nuances of international professional environments and carry themselves with integrity. Her mission, she has said, is to ensure that young professionals from Georgia are ready to compete — and thrive — on the world stage.

What perhaps defines her most, however, is her deep commitment to lifting others — particularly young people and women who aspire to lead. Anna holds a firm belief that leadership is not the preserve of a privileged few, but something that grows through courage, service and the willingness to step forward even when the path ahead is unclear. Through mentoring, teaching and public engagement, she consistently encourages those around her to back themselves and pursue their ambitions without hesitation.

That dedication has earned her considerable international recognition.



Anna Abesadze

In 2024, she was honoured as Leader of the Year at the Woman Changing the World Awards and named Woman Changemaker of the Year by the GISR Foundation. In 2025, Women Entrepreneur's Magazine presented her with a Global Impact Award. She was also named a finalist for the GESS Education Awards for Outstanding Contributions in Education — a testament to the mark she has made in the classroom and beyond.

Her record of service has been celebrated at the highest levels. Anna is a recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award from the White House and the Host Country Hero Award from Peace Corps Georgia — honours that speak to her enduring commitment to community impact and cross-border collaboration.

She is also a published author whose words have travelled far beyond Georgia's borders. Anna co-authored three books — *Women living fearlessly* (New York), *Authenticity and action* (London) and *Begin it now* (Vancouver) — each exploring themes of courage, authenticity and personal leadership. The titles resonated so powerfully that all three were selected for inclusion in the official gift packages for Academy Awards nominees in both 2025 and 2026, placing her voice in the hands of some of the world's most celebrated figures.

In 2025, Anna embarked on yet another chapter, beginning a PhD in Business Administration with a focus on management. By weaving her extensive practical experience

into academic research, she hopes to generate new knowledge that will further strengthen international cooperation in education and governance alike.

Anna Abesadze represents a new generation of global leaders — women who lead not with authority alone, but with knowledge, empathy and quiet courage. Whether she is teaching in a lecture hall, coordinating global governance, writing books that reach Oscar nominees or mentoring the next wave of professionals, she is, in every sense, opening doors for others.

Her story is a timely reminder that the truest measure of leadership is not personal success, but how many others you bring with you — and Anna Abesadze is bringing many.