



**Ruto in Rome: Kenya and Italy seal deals in diplomatic push**  
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**Jimmi Wanjigi: What I mean for Kenya**  
 On Saturday, businessman cum politician, Jimmi Wanjigi was in Luo Nyanza where he opened two county offices for his Safina party. **Page 11**

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**Politics** We are a resilient people. Throughout our history, we have faced immense challenges, yet we have always found a way to rise.

# Mwaura: Protests will deepen economic wounds



**Last year protest in Kenya** | Photo: Courtesy.

Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura has warned that planned protests over rising fuel prices will drive Kenya deeper into economic crisis, cautioning youth groups that street demonstrations risk undoing fragile gains made since last year's costly unrest.

Mwaura issued the warning in a formal press statement, invoking figures from the Kenya Revenue Authority that put the cost of last year's Gen Z-led protests at Ksh6 billion in lost revenue. **Page 9**



Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura

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SCAN TO REGISTER

# Gachagua welcomes Kiambu gubernatorial aspirant as DCP expands political base

BY MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

*Some of the moments as captured in pictures*

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has intensified efforts to strengthen his Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP), announcing continued expansion across the country as he unveiled a new gubernatorial aspirant from Kiambu County.

Speaking at the DCP headquarters, Gachagua officially welcomed John Mwaura Kogi into the party, backing his bid for the Kiambu gubernatorial seat. He described the move as a sign of growing confidence in the party's agenda and leadership.

Gachagua said DCP remains committed to a people-centred approach to governance, insisting that meaningful development can only be achieved through active public participation.

He noted that the party is focused on engaging citizens across the country to address their concerns and priorities.

The former Deputy President also assured aspirants of credible internal processes, pledging that DCP will conduct free and fair party primaries ahead of the 2027 General Election. He urged party supporters to uphold integrity and unity as the party builds its structures nationwide.

The development comes amid heightened political realignments, particularly in the Mt Kenya region, where various leaders are seeking to consolidate support bases ahead of the next polls.

Gachagua reiterated his commitment to strengthening the party's grassroots presence, expressing optimism that DCP will play a significant role in shaping Kenya's political landscape.



**Editor's Desk**

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**Group Executive Chairman**  
M. Danson  
**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dan-mwangi-1b47446b/>

**Our Contacts**  
P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262  
**Editorial Desk:** [editorial@mtkenyatimes.co.ke](mailto:editorial@mtkenyatimes.co.ke), **Adverts:** [ads@mtkenyatimes.co.ke](mailto:ads@mtkenyatimes.co.ke),  
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## NEWS IN BRIEF



The Teachers Service Commission (TSC) has dispelled rumours about looming pay delays, reassuring teachers that April salaries are being processed without a hitch.

The clarification comes after unverified reports on social media sparked concern among educators' salary payment. TSC officially dismissed a statement making rounds on social media dated April 19 claiming that the ongoing Kenya Women Teachers Association (KEWOTA) controversy would stall teachers' payments. The Commission clarified that the internal dispute involving the women teachers' association has no relation to the April pay processing. In a statement issued online, the Commission denied the viral claims and reminded the public to verify any information touching on the Commission via the official TSC portals. At the heart of the confusion is a recent report accusing the Kenya Women Teachers Association of facilitating illegal deductions totaling roughly Sh20million per month.

In response, TSC halted the monthly Sh200 charged from each of 100,000 members pending a full probe. The Commission further clarified that the April payroll has been updated to incorporate Junior School interns and replacement staff recruited in January. This month's payment cycle will resolve all pending arrears for these categories of teachers, marking a conclusion to their initial waiting period. This assurance follows President William Ruto's recent approval of the 2026 Supplementary Appropriation Bill on April 8. The move unlocked Sh24 billion for TSC specifically aimed at closing salary shortfalls and securing their medical insurance scheme, effectively stabilizing their financial obligations for April.

A 25-year-old man, Stephen Siamito Kinyanjui, was killed by a rogue elephant in Torosei, Kajiado West Constituency while herding cattle. Kenya Wildlife Service Assistant Director Francis Mbaka confirmed the incident, saying the body was taken to Kajiado County Referral Hospital mortuary and a response team deployed to track the animal. KWS is supporting the family and has stationed a permanent team in the area to manage rising human-wildlife conflict. Authorities cited water scarcity as a key factor pushing elephants into settlements and are implementing water projects to mitigate this. Residents were urged to report incidents via the KWS toll-free code, as leaders continue to call for urgent intervention.



Kilifi County is providing full scholarships to over 3,500 students in national schools under its County Scholarship Programme, according to Deputy Governor Flora Chibule. She emphasized that the support covers all school fees, unlike partial bursaries. The first group of about 2,300 beneficiaries are now in Form Three, while the rest are Grade Ten learners under the Competency-Based Education system. Chibule said the initiative aims to guarantee access to education and complements other funding sources such as the National Government Constituency Development Fund and the National Government Affirmative Action Fund, as well as county bursaries and donor support.



Early cancer screening is Kenya's most powerful tool against the ripping effect of the disease, Kenya Society for Hematologists and Oncologists (KESHO) President Dr. Gladwell Kiarie has declared. Dr. Kiarie further added that timely screening has prevented at least five deaths for every 100 potential fatalities. Addressing a high-level partner's breakfast meeting ahead of the 9th Kenya International Cancer Conference to be held in Mombasa from 19th to 21st November 2026, Dr. Kiarie noted that Kenya records around 47,000 new cancer cases and more than 32,000 deaths each year.



A hotelier from Meru, Joseph Kiriimi, has won Sh10 million through the Goal Rush promotion by SportPesa after correctly predicting outcomes in three selected matches played on April 12, 2026. The free-to-play game requires participants to predict the first scoring team and the exact time of the first goal. Kiriimi, who runs a hotel in Lare, said he initially thought he had missed the win before friends confirmed his success, sparking celebrations. He plans to invest the money in land and rental units. He becomes the sixth Sh10 million winner in the promotion since its launch.



A delegation of international philanthropists visited Turkana County to assess ongoing health and humanitarian programmes aimed at strengthening emergency medical services. The tour, organised by the county health department in partnership with Save the Children Kenya under the Australian Regional Leadership Initiative, included visits to Lodwar County Referral Hospital, where officials highlighted gaps in emergency care, staffing, and transport. Health leaders said the visit would help attract targeted donor support. The team also toured community health facilities, the Kalobeyei reception centre, and a World Food Programme farm project, gaining insight into healthcare delivery challenges and opportunities for improving services across the region.

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**Education** The closure order, which nullifies certificates issued since 2018, leaves thousands of students and graduates in limbo.

# KIM fights for survival after regulator revokes accreditation of all campuses

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

The Kenya Institute of Management has said it is engaging regulatory authorities after the TVET Authority revoked the accreditation of all its campuses and ordered their immediate closure, casting uncertainty over the futures of thousands of current students and more than 70,000 graduates.

KIM, founded in 1954 and one of Kenya's most recognisable professional training institutions, issued a press statement saying it was treating the matter "with the utmost seriousness" and reviewing the contents of the regulator's notice. "KIM is currently reviewing the contents of the notice and actively engaging the relevant regulatory authorities to address the issues raised and determine the appropriate course of action in line with the law," the institute said, urging students, alumni and partners to rely only on official communication channels for updates.

The TVET Authority's notice is sweeping in both scope and consequence. The regulator alleges that KIM has been offering and awarding academic and professional programmes without valid clearances, operating outside those certified by the TVET Curriculum Development, Assessment and Certification Council. It further alleges that KIM engaged trainers without valid licences, a requirement under Section 23(1) of the TVET Act, Cap 210A.

Most significantly, the Authority has declared that KIM lacks the mandate to award academic qualifications altogether — and has retroactively revoked the validity of all

certificates the institution has issued since 2018. The implications of that single clause are enormous. "Any certificates, diplomas, or other qualifications obtained from the institution beyond 2018 are not recognised for purposes of employment, further education, or professional advancement," the notice states.

That is not a regulatory slap on the wrist. It is, if allowed to stand, a professional death sentence for an unknown number of Kenyans who studied, paid fees and built careers on the strength of qualifications they had every reason to believe were legitimate. The order covers all 13 KIM physical campuses and one online branch — effectively shutting down the institution's national footprint in a single administrative stroke.

KIM has not conceded the regulator's position. Its language is careful and legally considered, signalling that it intends to contest the matter through proper channels rather than accept the Authority's findings at face value. The institution has a strong case to make on reputational grounds alone. With over 10,000 active members and decades of service training supervisors, managers and business leaders, KIM is not a fly-by-night operator. It is an institution woven into the fabric of Kenya's professional development landscape.

But reputation, however substantial, does not resolve a regulatory dispute. The core question — whether KIM's programmes met the accreditation standards required under the TVET framework — will need to be answered with documentation, not goodwill. If the Authority's allegations are accurate, the institu-



Kenya Institute of Management

tion faces a reckoning not just with regulators but with the thousands of graduates whose qualifications now hang in legal uncertainty.

For current students, the situation is immediately precarious. Mid-programme, facing closure notices, and uncertain whether their eventual certificates will be recognised, they are the most acutely vulnerable party in this standoff — caught between

an institution defending itself and a regulator that has already made its decision public.

The TVET Authority's advice to the public — to verify accreditation status before enrolling in any programme — is prudent, if somewhat belated given the scale of KIM's existing enrolment. It also raises uncomfortable questions about how long the alleged irregularities went

undetected, and what oversight mechanisms exist to catch such situations before they reach crisis point.

KIM has promised transparency. Regulators have issued their order. What happens next will be decided in offices and, possibly, courtrooms — but the cost is already being paid in corridors and classrooms across thirteen campuses.

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**Diplomacy** “We have decided to join together all the different fronts where we cooperate,” Meloni said.

# Ruto in Rome: Kenya and Italy seal deals in diplomatic push

*Six decades of partnership get a new lease of life as Nairobi and Rome sign eight agreements spanning technology, agriculture and security.*

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

President William Ruto met Italian President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in Rome yesterday, signing eight bilateral agreements covering agriculture, technology, security and environmental conservation in a state visit designed to deepen ties between Kenya and Italy.

The visit, Ruto's first to Italy as head of state, opened with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Piazza Venezia — a ritual that carries weight beyond protocol, signalling Kenya's intent to engage Rome as a serious and equal diplomatic partner. What followed was substantive. Talks with Mattarella set the tone before Ruto sat down with Meloni, and by the time both leaders emerged to address the press, they had a concrete deliverable to announce: a three-year action plan to structure and accelerate cooperation across multiple sectors.

“We have decided to join together all the different fronts where we cooperate,” Meloni said. “Today, with this state visit, we wanted to launch a three-year action plan to support our joint action.” He described Kenya as one of Africa's most dynamic economies and noted that bilateral trade between the two countries has grown steadily, with Italian interest deepening in technology, industry, tourism and agro-industry.

For Ruto, the visit was an opportunity to reframe Kenya's international economic positioning at a time when Nairobi is actively courting foreign capital and expertise.



President William Ruto met Italian President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in Rome

He was direct about the ambition behind the trip. “I want to underscore agreements signed today — so far eight grants,” he said, singling out Italian support for arid and semi-arid land development, the Cherangany Hills forest restoration programme, peace and security training, and research and professional development initiatives.

The Cherangany commitment is particularly significant. The forest, one of Kenya's five water towers, has faced sustained pressure from illegal logging and encroachment. Italian backing for its restoration adds an international dimension to a conservation effort that environmentalists have long argued is underfunded. Similarly, the focus on arid and semi-arid lands — which cover roughly

**Beyond the agreements already signed, Ruto used the Rome platform to make a broader argument about Kenya's digital ambitions. He insisted that Kenya must not be left behind as artificial intelligence and digital infrastructure reshape global economies, and that Italy's technology sector has a role to play in that journey. It was a message aimed as much at Italian business leaders as at domestic audiences back home.**

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80 per cent of Kenya's land-mass and are home to some of its most vulnerable communities — suggests the partnership is being shaped with an eye on development gaps, not just trade volumes.

Beyond the agreements already signed, Ruto used the Rome platform to make a broader argument about Kenya's digital ambitions. He insisted that Kenya must not be left behind as artificial intelligence and digital infrastructure reshape global economies, and that Italy's technology sector has a role to play in that journey. It was a message aimed as much at Italian business leaders as at domestic audiences back home.

Those business leaders will get their moment. Ruto is scheduled to address the

Kenya-Italy Business Forum in Rome, where Kenyan officials will pitch investment opportunities in infrastructure, irrigation and energy — three sectors the government has identified as central to its economic agenda. The forum is expected to produce further private-sector commitments to accompany the government-level agreements already concluded.

The President is also expected to meet senior officials at the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Food and Agriculture Organisation, both headquartered in Rome. Kenya has historically maintained strong working relationships with both institutions, and the engagements are likely to focus on food security, climate resilience and rural development

financing — areas where multilateral support can move at a scale that bilateral agreements alone cannot match.

Italy is not a traditional heavyweight in Kenya's diplomatic calendar, which has historically been dominated by engagements with the United States, United Kingdom, China and regional neighbours. But Rome has been quietly expanding its footprint across East Africa in recent years, driven in part by the Mattei Plan for Africa — Prime Minister Meloni's flagship foreign policy initiative that seeks to build mutually beneficial partnerships between Italy and African nations rather than replicate older models of aid dependency.

Kenya fits neatly into that framework. It is politically stable by regional standards, has a growing middle class, a functional private sector and an increasingly sophisticated digital economy. For Italy, it represents both a market and a gateway into the broader East African community. For Kenya, Italy offers access to European capital, technology transfer and a sympathetic voice within EU institutions at a time when Nairobi is navigating complex conversations about debt, trade and climate financing.

Ruto has framed this visit explicitly within the longer arc of Kenya-Italy relations, noting that the two countries mark six decades of diplomatic ties. That framing is deliberate. It positions the new agreements not as a transactional reset but as a deepening of something already established — a distinction that matters in diplomatic signalling, even if the practical outcomes are what will ultimately define the visit's success.

The three-year action plan, the eight signed agreements and the business forum engagements give both governments tangible benchmarks against which the partnership can be measured. Whether those benchmarks are met will depend on implementation — a word that haunts many a diplomatic communiqué.

But for now, the direction is clear. Kenya is in Rome, making the case for itself, and Italy is listening.

**Protests** Government spokesperson urges dialogue over demonstrations as youth groups mobilise over rising pump prices.

# Mwaura: Protests will deepen economic wounds

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyaintimes

Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura has warned that planned protests over rising fuel prices will drive Kenya deeper into economic crisis, cautioning youth groups that street demonstrations risk undoing fragile gains made since last year's costly unrest.

Mwaura issued the warning in a formal press statement, invoking figures from the Kenya Revenue Authority that put the cost of last year's Gen Z-led protests at Ksh6 billion in lost revenue. That number has become the government's sharpest argument against further demonstrations — a figure it returns to whenever the threat of public unrest re-surfaces. "Anyone calling for further protests risks plunging the country into a deeper economic crisis, ultimately harming the very youth they claim to represent," Mwaura said.

The warning comes as youth groups, emboldened by the momentum of last year's demonstrations, have signalled fresh plans to take to the streets over fuel prices that have climbed steadily in recent months. Petrol and diesel costs have become a flashpoint for broader public frustration, with the increases feeding directly into the cost of food, transport and basic goods — burdens felt most acutely by low and middle-income households.

Mwaura, however, pushed back against the framing of rising prices as a uniquely Kenyan failure. The fuel crisis, he argued, is global in origin, shaped by geopolitical tensions and international market dynamics that no single government controls. He pointed to neighbouring

countries as evidence, noting that fuel costs have risen across the region — not just within Kenya's borders.

Where Kenya diverges, he explained, is in its economic classification. "Kenya is classified as a middle-income economy with a relatively high GDP per capita. Our economy is valued at approximately 123 billion US dollars, while many neighbouring countries are classified as least developed countries," Mwaura said. His argument was pointed: comparisons between Kenya's pump prices and those of lower-income neighbours are, in his view, misleading. A fairer benchmark, he said, would be other middle-income nations —

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where prices are often comparable or higher than those in Kenya.

It is a technically defensible position, though one that is unlikely to resonate with a motorist watching the fuel gauge and the till receipt simultaneously. Economic classifications offer cold comfort when household budgets are stretched. The government's challenge is not merely analytical — it is communicative. Explaining why prices are high is a different task from explaining what is being done to bring them down.

Mwaura acknowledged as much, at least partially. He conceded that fuel prices are high and stated that the government remains committed to cushioning Kenyans from their worst effects through what he described as sound economic policies. He did not, however, detail those policies specifically — an omission that critics and opposition figures are unlikely to let pass without comment.

Kenya's fuel pricing mechanism has long been a source of public tension. The Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority reviews pump prices monthly, and each revision becomes a political moment, particularly when adjustments move upward. The government has, at various points, deployed fuel subsidies to dampen the impact of global price spikes, though those subsidies proved fiscally unsustainable and were ultimately phased out — a decision that continues to draw criticism from consumer advocacy groups and opposition politicians who argue that ordinary Kenyans were left exposed.

The broader economic context adds texture to the government's anxiety about pro-



Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura

tests. Kenya is navigating a tight fiscal environment, managing a substantial public debt load while attempting to maintain spending on infrastructure, health and education. The International Monetary Fund has maintained an active programme with Nairobi, with conditions that constrain the government's room for expansionary spending. In that context, another round of sustained unrest — with its associated disruption to business, tourism and investor confidence — represents a genuine threat to an already pressured economic outlook.

Last year's demonstrations, which began as a protest against proposed tax increases and broadened into a wider expression of public discontent, left a visible mark. Beyond the Ksh6 billion revenue loss cited by Mwaura, the protests rattled foreign investors, disrupted supply chains

and contributed to a period of political uncertainty that took months to stabilise. The government has not forgotten. Neither, it appears, have the youth groups who organised them.

That history gives the current standoff its particular edge. The government is dealing not with a passive public but with an organised, digitally connected generation that demonstrated last year it could mobilise rapidly and at scale. Mwaura's statement is partly a warning and partly an appeal — directed at leaders and stakeholders as much as at protesters themselves. "We call upon all leaders and stakeholders to support the government's efforts to manage the fuel crisis through sound economic policies rather than protests or political grandstanding, which exacerbate economic challenges," he said.

Whether that appeal lands will depend largely on whether the government can offer something more concrete than reassurance. Kenyans watching their cost of living rise month by month are not unreasonable in demanding to know what, specifically, is being done — and when they will feel it.

The government has the podium. The question now is what it does with it.

**Health** PS for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni Muriuki, emphasised the growing burden of mental health conditions

# Kenya launches continental mental health leadership programme

**BY MKT Correspondent**  
@themkenyatimes

The Ministry of Health, through the Kenya Medical Training College in collaboration with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, has launched the 2026 Africa Mental Health Leadership and Advocacy Programme, positioning Kenya as a regional hub for mental health training and capacity building.

The two-week programme has brought together participants from 17 African countries, up from 52 participants across 11 countries in its inaugural cohort last year, reflecting growing continental momentum to strengthen mental health systems.



Some of the stakeholders during the event.

Presiding over the launch, Principal Secretary (PS) for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni Muriuki, emphasised the growing burden of mental health conditions, noting that one in four patients in Kenya presents with a mental health concern.

She highlighted ongoing government efforts to strengthen the sector through policy and legal reforms, including the Mental Health Policy, Mental Health Action Plan, and the Mental Health (Amendment) Act, 2022, which advances a rights-based approach to care. Importantly, Muriuki underscored the need to integrate mental health into primary healthcare, expand community-based services, strengthen the workforce, and improve

data systems to support decision-making.

“The programme is designed to equip participants with practical skills in leadership, governance, advocacy, research and public mental health to enhance access to quality services across Africa,” explained the PS.

The launch was attended by Dr Mohamed Abdullaziz of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, KMTC Board Chairperson Dr Joseah Cheruiyot, KMTC Chief Executive Officer Dr Kelly Oluoch, and other stakeholders.

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**Politics** As we stand here today, there are many Kenyans who cannot cloth, feed, educate their children, get healthcare among other challenges.

# Jimmi Wanjigi: What I mean for Kenya

*Businessman and Safina Party leader Jimmi Wanjigi pitches an economic revolution to Luo Nyanza voters as he makes his clearest bid yet for the presidency.*



**BY Jimmi Wanjigi**  
@themkenyatimes

On Saturday, businessman cum politician, Jimmi Wanjigi was in Luo Nyanza where he opened two county offices for his Safina party. Here is his speech as he seeks Kenyans support to be the next President

We stand united for our economic security.

Today, we are here to only open Safina Party offices but more importantly to speak about our shared destiny.

We are a resilient people. Throughout our history, we have faced immense challenges, yet we have always found a way to rise.

The Luo Nation is land of freedom fighters. People of conviction and vision. You have stood firm for freedom, justice and democracy. You are people who cannot sell their souls for pieces of silver.

It is the freedom to come together as we are doing today, discussing the future of our nation. As we stand here today, there are many Kenyans who cannot cloth, feed, educate their children, get healthcare among other challenges.

As we defend our democracy and freedoms, it is not yet Uhuru because political freedom is meaningless without economic progress. Economic security is foundation of dignity, opportunity and hope for the future.

The tyrant Ruto government cannot guarantee freedom for our people. This is a government that uses security forces and thugs to terrorize our people and not to protect them. It is a government that tells lies and lives by their lie.

On corruption and development, we have seen how Ruto has encouraged and protected corruption. We have seen how Ruto's corruption has destroyed our country and our lives. We have seen how billions of public money have been stolen because of corruption and bad government policies.

Our country has become a nation

heavily in debt and almost incapable of servicing our loans. We have seen how this government has lost the moral authority to speak for this country

Let us open our hearts to each other with one accord. We embrace the opportunities and challenge the future together. We have been aggressively building our democracy. We must now come together and build our economy. This is about our lives. This is our hour of need. We must come together today not tomorrow.

We face an enormous challenge: Bold Action for economic security of our people and the country. We stand at a pivotal moment where our choices now will define the prosperity of our children and the dignity of our nation.

Safina Party is the Ark of our economic revolution. As during the Noah's times we have turbulence and cyclones. We are suffering an economic plague. But there is promise of hope and abundance. We have serious work to do together. Let us



**Our Fist Agenda will end debt colonialism. It will liberate Kenyans from being financial slaves. Our agenda will guarantee healthy, educated and skilled population. It will stop government borrowing and open floodgates for access to cheap credit. Our tax will be simple, predictable and set at sales tax of 5% not 16%. We will cut off regulatory bureaucracy to accelerate innovation and investments. And our agenda will build industrial scale manufacturing and high value added agricultural industry powered by reliable and cheap energy. Kenyans will have direct say in their security affairs.**



Jimmi Wanjigi addressing a public meeting in Kisumu last Saturday.

do it with Safina Party

We must bask in both political freedom and economic prosperity. We must kill this Mbeberu extraction economy. It is finishing our people. They are suffocated.

Our economic security is not a partisan issue. It is crucial national assignment. A prosperous, united, and sovereign nation is within our grasp, but it requires us to move together.

The path to our true economic freedom is not easy. It demands bold, and painful, decisions. It requires us to move from a culture of consumption to one of production, transforming our country from a net importer to a net exporter.

We must create an environment for competition and producing more cheaply. Our strength must come from production. An economy that stops producing cannot survive. A producing nation becomes rich. Money remains inside, creates job and drive technological innovation for production.

As your leader, I want to see all Kenyans with equal rights and opportunities in our entire sovereign republic. Each of us must be well rewarded for their sweat and respected for the hard work you do. I want to

see prosperous farmers, businesses and a people who grow rich from their labours. That's why we have Safina- PESA FIST Agenda

Our Fist Agenda will end debt colonialism. It will liberate Kenyans from being financial slaves. Our agenda will guarantee healthy, educated and skilled population. It will stop government borrowing and open floodgates for access to cheap credit. Our tax will be simple, predicable and set at sales tax of 5% not 16%. We will cut off regulatory bureaucracy to accelerate innovation and investments. And our agenda will build industrial scale manufacturing and high value added agricultural industry powered by reliable and cheap energy. Kenyans will have direct say in their security affairs.

It will be joyous to meet and see prosperous people from all communities of Kenya. I do not want to hear that one is condemned for being industrious because he or she is of different ethnic community. All I want to know is that he or she is a Kenyan and he is working for the success of Kenya.

It is us coming together to ensure that our industries work at full capacity, feeding our people, giving

them something to wear and providing them with housing. I want to know that our workers receive fair treatment and just wages.

I want to end by simple Message: Politics of divide and rule Kenyans is over. Politics of regional kingpins and ethnic blocks was dismantled by Gen Z revolution. All Kenyans are united for their economic and financial security. Their lives and interests.

We are not aiming to survive. We are aiming to thrive. The journey is long, and the path ahead demand collective effort and sacrifice. Our bold economic independence is necessary to secure our sovereignty, create millions of jobs, and ensure high quality of life for every Kenyan.

Let us turn Kenya into a beacon of economic prosperity and innovation. Let us all arise together for our Economic Freedom with Safina Party, the Ark for Economic Revolution.

**Farming** These are improved varieties, meaning they offer higher yields. At the moment, we have 25 acres under seed multiplication across the three sub-counties

# CGA, Egerton University partner to promote improved groundnut varieties

BY Moses Wekesa

@themtkenyatimes

The Cereal Growers Association (CGA) has partnered with Egerton University to develop and promote improved groundnut varieties.

Speaking during a farmers' field day in Amagoro, Teso North, CGA Agribusiness Coordinator for Busia County Eliya Barasa said two improved groundnut varieties, Ndovu and Mwangaza, are

undergoing seed multiplication.

In addition, the two varieties, together with Kanga and Dove, alongside local types, have been put under field trials across Teso North, Teso South, and Nambale sub-counties.

"These are improved varieties, meaning they offer higher yields. At the moment, we have 25 acres under seed multiplication across the three sub-counties," he said.

Barasa explained that the demonstration farms and seed field trials will help determine which varieties perform best in specific areas, enabling farmers to maximize yields and returns.

He said groundnuts are emerging as a high-value crop, with farmers earning significant income citing an example from Elgeyo Marakwet County, where some farmers harvested between 60 and 80 bags of the unshelled



Eliya Barasa

Ndovu variety per acre.

Groundnut farming, according to Barasa, has become less labor-intensive following support from the World Food Programme (WFP), which has provided shelling machines through its innovation centres.

"If you have large quantities of groundnuts, there is a shelling machine available at Jairos in Teso North. Farmers no longer need to rely on manual labour to shell the produce," he said.

He urged farmers to apply Aflasafe, a biological control product that reduces aflatoxin contamination and improves the safety and quality of groundnuts.

Barasa also encouraged farmers in Teso North to diversify into other drought-tolerant crops such as sorghum, millet, and cassava for commercial production.

He said CGA, through the Farm to Market Alliance (FMA) programme, is linking farmers to reliable markets for their produce, including sorghum and groundnuts.

"We are partnering with Greenwells, Thrive Agric, and the East African Breweries Limited (EABL), who provide a ready market for sorghum in bulk," he said.

For groundnuts, Barasa noted that CGA has partnered

with Mamlo Foods, a local processor operating a micro factory in Amagoro, to purchase groundnuts in bulk for peanut butter production.

He added that the FMA programme uses Farmers Service Centres (FSC) model, where trained farmers mobilize others to aggregate produce and meet market demand.

An agricultural officer in Teso North, Getrude Wambia, discouraged farmers against selling their produce individually, asking them to always consolidate their produce in order to have strong bargaining power.

She urged the farmers to join Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Common Interest Groups (CIGs), and cooperative societies within the ward to get more support and maximize their farming practices.

She also asked them to work closely with agripreneurs who are tasked with providing training, linking them to various service providers, and connecting them to buyers of their produce through FPOs.

"When you harvest, don't hide or rush to sell your produce alone. Reach out to agripreneurs who will group you together and find a buyer, which will increase your bargaining power and assure you of better prices," she added.

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**ODPP** The workshop was officially opened by the Secretary Prosecution Services, Mr. Alloys Kemo, who emphasized the critical role of mental wellness

# ODPP strengthens staff support through mental wellness training and policy development

**BY MKT Correspondent**

@themtkenyatimes

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) Mental Wellness Committee is currently undertaking a comprehensive week-long training aimed at strengthening mental health support within the institution, alongside developing an ODPP Mental Wellness Policy as per the DPP's Strategic Agenda and the National Guidelines in Workplace Mental Wellness 2023.

The workshop was officially opened by the Secretary Prosecution Services, Mr. Alloys Kemo, who emphasized the critical role of mental wellness in enhancing productivity, resilience, and overall staff well-being. He underscored the importance of institutionalizing mental health support through a structured policy framework.

As part of the programme, the committee participated in a mental wellness session facilitated by Ms. Esther Kinyanjui from the Directorate of Counselling and Wellness Services, which is under the State Department for Public Service and Human Capital Development. The session focused on key areas including promoting mental health awareness, identifying signs and symptoms of mental health conditions, and outlining appropriate interventions and referral pathways. Participants were also equipped with basic counseling skills, as well as tools for self-awareness and evaluation.

The training seeks to build a well-equipped and responsive committee who will be mental health champions, capable of supporting staff by identifying mental health concerns early, providing initial assistance, and facilitating timely referrals to professional services. Another key



Some of the participants during the forum.

outcome of the workshop is the development of a draft Mental Wellness Policy to guide implementation of wellness initiatives within the ODPP.

Among its core responsibilities, the Mental Wellness Committee will customize the Public Service Counselling and Wellness Policy (2024)

to suit ODPP's operational context, develop annual work plans and budgets for implementation of wellness programmes, and spearhead awareness campaigns on mental health. Additionally, the committee members will be available for staff in need of psychosocial support, guide referral processes, set strategic prior-

ities, and conduct workplace mental health surveys to inform continuous improvement.

This initiative reflects the ODPP's commitment to fostering a supportive and mentally healthy work environment for its staff.

The Mt. Kenya Times



## Living Gods – Our Parents



Why are there so many old age homes?  
Father and mother are our living gods.  
They take care of us with love and kindness.  
They don't sleep well, yet they care for us deeply.

They hold our hands whenever we fall.  
They have pure hearts and do not know how to  
hide anything.  
They shower us with unconditional love.

But why do we forget to show our love to them?  
They need our help only in their old age,  
After they have retired from their work.  
Till now, they have lived and worked only for us.

If you treat them this way,  
The same will return to you in your future.  
How you take care of your parents,

Your children will see and follow the same.

So listen to your parents.  
Let them live happily.  
They need only your kind words.  
They don't expect anything else from you.

Each and every one knows the truth  
There should be no old age homes anywhere.

You are the guardian of your parents.  
Let them laugh loudly.  
Let them live happily.  
Let them share their experiences with you every  
day.

When you follow their guidance,  
A bright future will come your way.  
Don't think of parents as a burden.  
Instead, remember  
They are your living gods.

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

## The art of staying whole



Between the sun and moon we softly stand,  
A fragile heart, yet steady hand.  
Like tides that kiss and then retreat,  
We learn that loss and love both meet.

The sky at dusk, not dark nor bright,  
Holds equal shades of day and night.  
In painted hues of calm in-between,  
Lives the balance—unheard, unseen.

A river flows, yet knows its shore,  
It yields, but never loses its core.  
Through storms it bends, through silence grows,  
In letting go, its strength still shows.

The stars don't shine in endless blaze,  
They rest behind the morning haze.  
For even light must pause and hide,  
To let the dark sit by its side.

Like seasons shifting, soft and wise,  
No single state forever lies.  
The bloom, the fall, the frost, the rain—  
All hold a purpose, joy, and pain.

A soul in balance does not fight,  
It walks with both its dark and light.  
Not chasing highs, nor fearing lows,  
But dancing where the stillness flows.

So be like twilight—calm, composed,  
Where chaos ends and peace is posed.  
For life's true art is not control...  
But holding both—and staying whole.  
©Dr. Daksha Udhani  
Ahmedabad

## Welcome, Chithirai month



Welcome, Chithirai,  
A warm welcome to you...  
Come with a smiling face,  
And bless us...  
Let us enjoy  
Great happiness...  
May families be happy,  
And remove all sorrows...  
Like the spring season,  
Let smiles bloom everywhere...  
May this whole year  
Bring success...

Let laughter  
Fill every home...  
May wealth grow,  
And pride go away...  
May we get all blessings  
And live a happy life...  
Let our homes and hearts  
Shine with joy...  
Welcome, Chithirai, welcome...  
In this New Year,  
Fill our lives with love and care,  
Give us good health,  
And protect us always...

Happy Tamil New Year to everyone!

G. Yasmin Sirajudheen  
Secondary grade teacher  
Melmalayanur block  
Villupuram dt.

## My sister, my power



In my life's journey, I have struggled a lot,  
Yet I faced every hardship with my own strength.  
In crucial times and critical moments,  
I longed for support from those around me.  
When responsibilities weighed me down,  
I needed someone to help carry the rest.  
And through it all, I found that one support—  
The reason I could face every problem.  
My sister stood beside me in every difficult time,

Guiding me with her words in moments of need.  
She took part in my struggles,  
Spoke for me, cared for me, and stood as my  
strength.  
All this, simply because she is my sister.  
A part of my strength comes from her.  
Though she is younger,  
She carries so much care for me.  
She is always ready to stand by me,  
No matter what I face.  
Younger or elder—it does not matter,  
In our hardest times, sisters are the ladder we  
climb.  
She turns my summers into spring.

N. SELVARANI.  
B. T. ASST.  
SAKKARAKKOTTAI  
RAMANATHAPURAM  
TAMIL NADU INDIA

## Headlines



Every morning,  
the world unfolds in black and white,

ink carrying stories  
too heavy for paper.

A child loses a home,  
a voice is buried under power,

truth stands quietly  
while lies speak louder.

We read,  
we pause for a second,

then turn the page—  
as if pain has an ending.

But somewhere,  
behind every headline,

there is a life  
that cannot move on so easily.

Not everything is just news.  
Some stories stay,

even when the paper is thrown away.

V. S. NITHIYASRI  
VII  
JOHN DEWEY MATRIC HIGHER SECONDARY  
SCHOOL, PANRUTI, CUDDALORE DISTRICT,  
TAMILNADU

## My mother



May destiny grant one blessed day,  
With eyes glistening with tears of joy,  
Praying among the many who find their way,  
May my mother reach Medina, as a soul so coy.  
For her child, she struggled with a thousand lives,  
As the wheel of fate turns round and round,  
With the whole sky wishing she arrives,  
May my mother reach Medina, where peace is  
found.  
Her thoughts are tangled in a weary state,

A pilgrimage to Hajj would heal every scar,  
May her dreams come true, her soul elate,  
May my mother reach Medina, though it is far.  
With "Labbaykallah" upon her trembling lips,  
As she journeys toward Mecca, whole and free,  
O Lord, this is my heart's demand that grips,  
May my mother reach Medina, I pray to Thee.

By: Nigora Yuldasheva Sodiqjon qizi  
Recipient of numerous awards including: Ahmad  
al-Farghani, Promoter of Oriental Education,  
Active Researcher, Follower of Jadids, Young  
Researcher, Youth of Renaissance, and  
Ambassador of Friendship.  
Winner of the "Golden Pen" award.  
1st place winner of the "Mosaic of Nations – 8  
Countries, 1 Stage, 1 Heart" international  
festival held in Tashkent.  
Recipient of the "Student of the Year 2026"  
badge.

**Fuel crisis** KAM maintained that both consumers and industry players remain under pressure due to the persistently high cost of petroleum products and the broader cost-of-living crisis.

# Manufacturers urge peaceful demonstrations, protection of businesses during fuel protests

The association also noted that President William Ruto has since assented to the Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which reduces VAT on fuel from 16 per cent to 8 per cent—a move it described as a positive step toward easing fuel costs.

**BY MKT Correspondent**  
@themkenyatimes

The Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) has called for restraint, dialogue, and protection of businesses amid growing concerns over high fuel prices and planned nationwide demonstrations.

In a statement, the Association acknowledged public concern following the recent fuel price adjustments announced by the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) on April 8.

The association also noted that President William Ruto



A tear gas canister explodes during demonstrations in Nairobi. | Photo: Courtesy

has since assented to the Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which reduces VAT on fuel from 16 per cent to 8 per cent—a move it described as a positive step toward easing fuel costs.

However, KAM maintained that both consumers and industry players remain under pressure due to the persistently high cost of petroleum products and the broader cost-of-living crisis.

The association reaffirmed that the right to peaceful assembly is protected under Article 37 of the Constitution and the Public Order Act, but stressed that demonstrations must not endanger lives or lead to destruction of property and businesses.

“While upholding these rights, it is imperative that such actions safeguard human life and property, and do not result in the destruction of businesses and livelihoods,” KAM said.

KAM noted that Kenya, like many neighbouring economies, continues to grapple with economic strain driven by global geopolitical tensions. Manufacturers, it said, are operating under increasingly constrained conditions, making stability critical for economic survival and

growth.

The manufacturers’ body urged leaders to prioritise constructive engagement with stakeholders to resolve the current impasse, while also calling on law enforcement agencies to ensure protection of both citizens and property. It further appealed to Kenyans to embrace tolerance, nationalism, and peaceful approaches in addressing economic challenges.

“Peaceful dialogue is the cornerstone of our democracy,” the statement read.

KAM reiterated its commitment to working with government and other stakeholders to find sustainable solutions that support industrial growth and economic stability.

The statement was signed by KAM Chief Executive Tobias Alando, who emphasised the collective responsibility of all Kenyans in preserving peace, stability, and long-term socio-economic development.



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**Education** When education stops matching employment, an entire generation quietly rewrites the rules of survival — one side hustle at a time.

# The degree on the wall, the hustle at the door



## Unemployment among graduates



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza  
mukphix@gmail.com

The modern résumé is a work of fiction in two parts. The top half lists what you studied. The bottom half lists what you actually do to survive. Between those two sections lies the quiet collapse of a promise an entire generation was handed without being asked: that education is vocation, that the certificate predicts the career, that the debt will be worth the destination.

It did not collapse all at once. It happened in millions of small, private pivots — each one logical, each one quietly rational — until the pattern became impossible to ignore. The engineer drives for Uber. The literature major runs a Shopify store. The biochem-

ist edits TikToks. The teacher sells crypto courses. We live in the age of the credentialed detour, and nobody wants to say the obvious out loud: for most people, what you studied is no longer what you practise. It is what you survived.

The split did not begin with laziness. It began with arithmetic. A generation was told to follow their passion and get a degree — any degree. The market never agreed to that contract. It paid for scarcity, not sincerity. So the philosophy graduate entered a world that needed code, not Plato. The art history major met an algorithm that needed ads, not essays. The debt, however, was entirely real. The interest did not care about passion. So people did what indebted people always do — they found money where money lived. The degree became décor. The side hustle became the salary.

Universities teach in four-year increments. Industries iterate in four-month sprints. By the time a curriculum is

approved, the job it trained you for has been renamed, automated or outsourced. Schools sell permanence. The market sells change. The student is caught between them — and increasingly, the student is choosing survival.

The gatekeepers have fallen too. You used to need a credential to enter the room. Now you need an audience, a skill and an internet connection. The barista with a sociology degree learns copywriting in three weeks and triples her income. The accountant learns video editing and quits. The résumé keeps the credential for respectability. The bank account keeps the hustle for rent.

None of this is simple failure. It is, in many cases, sophisticated adaptation. The critical thinking forged in a literature degree becomes sharper marketing instinct. The research discipline from biology becomes rigorous product development. The degree did not fail. It fermented. It became something else.

The culture, however, has not

caught up. At every family gathering, the question hangs in the air — “So are you using your degree?” It is not really about work. It is about whether the script held. To say no is to confess that the old map was wrong. So people diminish their own ingenuity: “I’m just doing this for now.” But for now becomes years. The alternative becomes the life.

There is a real cost to a generation of educated improvisers. Institutional knowledge erodes when nobody stays in a field long enough to get truly wise. Identity fractures when your work and your training are permanently at odds. And debt-fuelled resentment compounds quietly — every loan

repayment a reminder of the mismatch between what was promised and what arrived.

The answer is not to dismantle universities. It is to stop lying about what they are. A history degree was never a guarantee of employment. It was a promise of depth. If you want money, study money. If you want wisdom, study history. If you want both, you will need two strategies — and the honesty to hold them simultaneously without shame.

Schools that insist on remaining relevant must teach the most valuable skill of all: how to translate what you learned into something the market will actually pay for. The lit-

erature graduate who cannot explain how close reading makes her a sharper marketer will struggle. The one who can will thrive. The subject is not the skill. The transfer is.

The future belongs to those who can hold two truths without flinching. “I studied this because it set me on fire.” And “I do this because it keeps the lights on.” Neither sentence cancels the other.

We built a system that sold a linear map to a non-linear world, then expressed shock when the travellers took detours. The provocation is not that people are leaving their fields. The provocation is that we are still pretending to be surprised.

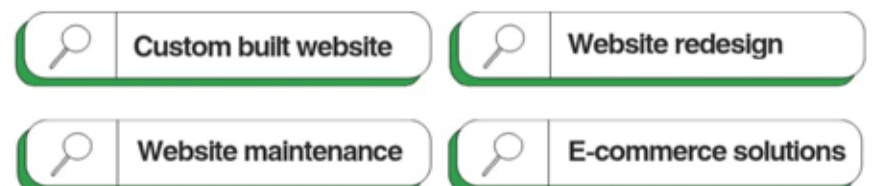
Write the honest résumé. Put the degree at the top. Put the hustle at the bottom. And in the space between, write the one line nobody teaches but everybody lives: I am not what I studied. I am what I learned to become when studying was not enough.



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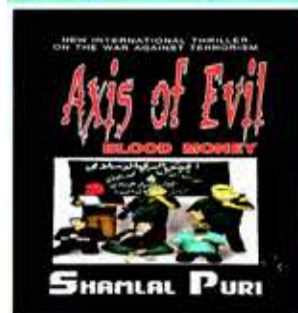
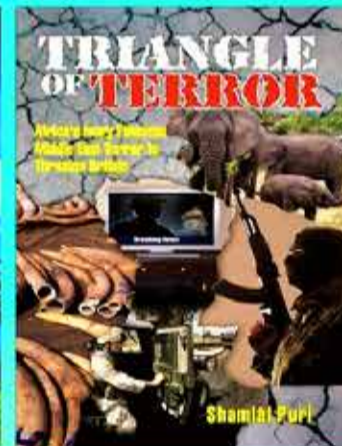
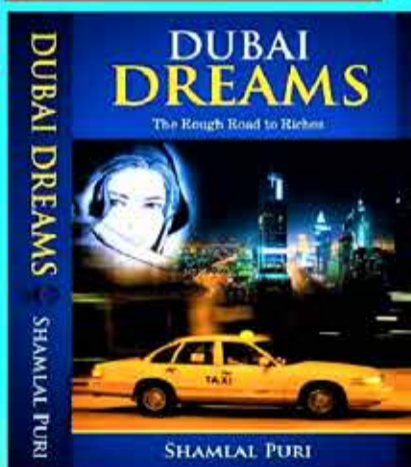
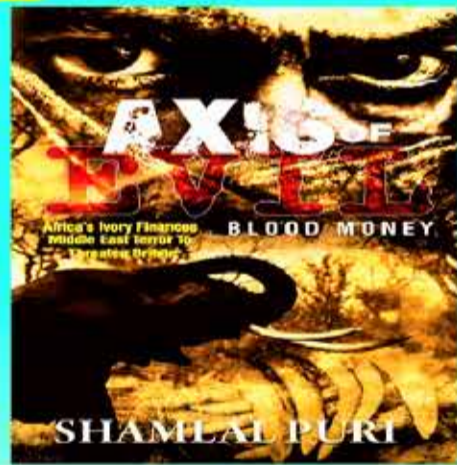
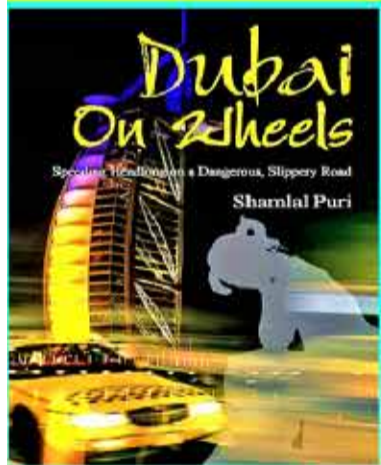
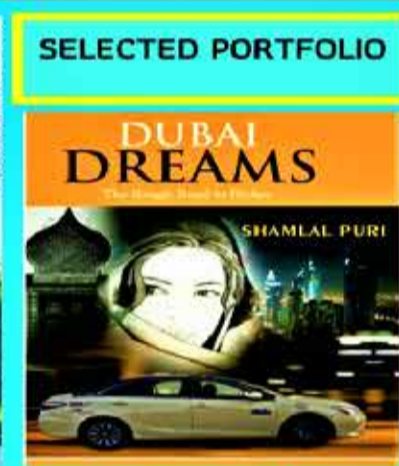
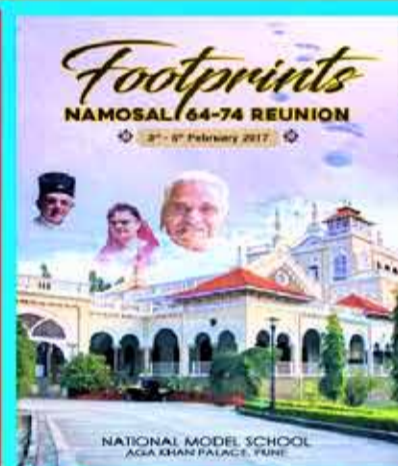
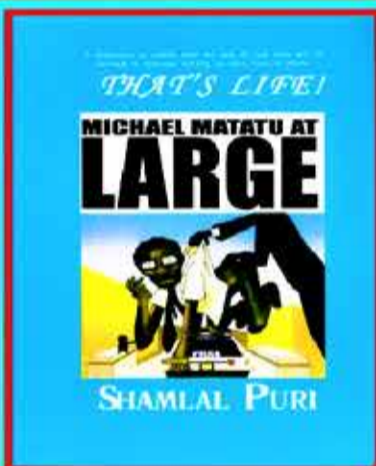
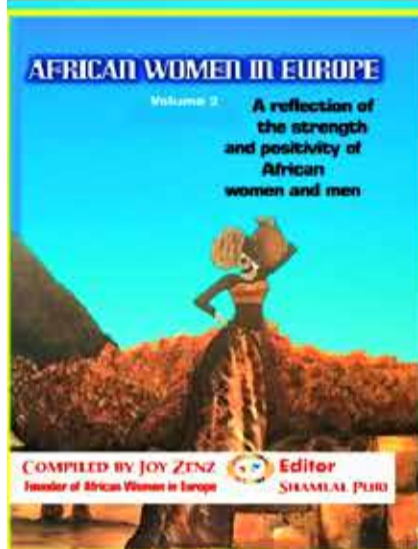
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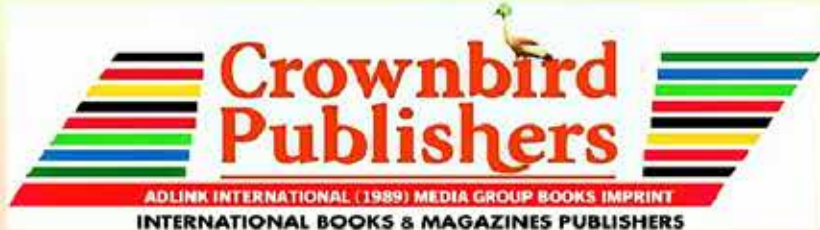
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**Climate** While awareness of climate change has grown significantly over the years, he pointed out that action has not always kept pace with the urgency of the problem.

# No Time to Waste: Patrick Kiarie's Bold Call for Climate Action, Collective Responsibility, and Education Reform in Kenya

BY Herman Ngatia

@themkenyatimes

The global climate conversation is no longer distant or abstract — it is a lived reality reshaping communities, economies, and ecosystems around the world. Against this backdrop, advocacy platforms like We Don't Have Time are emerging as powerful voices pushing for urgency, accountability, and real-world action. With a growing presence in Kenya, the platform is positioning itself as a catalyst for change, amplifying solutions and mobilising stakeholders across sectors.

In a recent interview, Patrick Kiarie, the Kenya Chapter Director, shared a compelling perspective on the state of climate action — both locally and globally. His message was clear and consistent: the climate crisis demands not just awareness, but decisive, coordinated action at every level of society.

## From Reaction to Anticipation

Kiarie opened by calling for a more proactive approach to climate issues. While awareness of climate change has grown significantly over the years, he pointed out that action has not always kept pace with the urgency of the problem. Reactive strategies — those that only kick in after disasters strike — are no longer enough.

“Climate change is not a future threat; it is a present reality,” he said. “We must move from a mindset of reaction to one of anticipation and preparedness. That means strengthening early warning systems, investing in sustainable infrastructure, and supporting communities to adapt before crises occur.”



Patrick Kiarie

“Climate change is not a future threat; it is a present reality,” he said. “We must move from a mindset of reaction to one of anticipation and preparedness. That means strengthening early warning systems, investing in sustainable infrastructure, and supporting communities to adapt before crises occur.”

It's a message that hits close to home in Kenya, where droughts, floods, and increasingly erratic weather patterns continue to batter livelihoods — particularly in regions that depend heavily on agriculture. Kiarie's push for preventive think-

ing is essentially a challenge to both policymakers and ordinary citizens: rethink how we manage climate risk, before it manages us.

## Celebrating What's Working

While much of the climate conversation focuses on gaps and failures, Kiarie was deliberate in highlighting progress already made. Recognising what's working, he argued, isn't just feel-good rhetoric — it builds morale, sustains momentum, and proves that change is possible. “Kenya has made commendable strides in areas like renewable ener-

gy and environmental conservation,” he noted. “From geothermal power development to community-led tree-planting initiatives, there are genuine success stories that deserve recognition. These efforts should be celebrated — and scaled up.”

This balanced narrative is central to We Don't Have Time's approach: pairing urgency with optimism, so that stakeholders feel both challenged and encouraged.

## Climate Action Is Everyone's Business

Perhaps the most resonant theme in Kiarie's remarks was collective responsibility. Climate change, he was emphatic, is not a problem governments can solve alone. It demands active participation from individuals, communities, businesses, and institutions — every sector, without exception.

“Climate action is a shared responsibility,” he said. “Governments must provide leadership and policy direction, but citizens must also adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives. Businesses need to embrace green innovation, and civil society must keep advocating for accountability.”

This thinking aligns closely with We Don't Have Time's broader mission: building a global movement in which everyone has a meaningful role to play. By fostering dialogue and lowering barriers to participation, the platform works to close the often frustrating gap between policy and practice.

## Put Climate Education in the Classroom

One of the interview's most significant moments came when Kiarie turned his attention to education. He made a direct appeal to Kenya's Ministry of Education to ensure that climate change is fully integrated into the national curriculum — not as an elective or an afterthought, but as a core subject.

“Education is the foundation of lasting change,” he said. “If we want to create a generation that is environmentally conscious and genuinely

committed to sustainability, we must start in the classroom.”

But Kiarie's vision for climate education goes beyond textbooks and theory. He envisions a curriculum that develops practical skills, nurtures critical thinking, and gives students real opportunities to engage with environmental issues — from tree-planting drives to school-based waste management projects. Schools, he believes, can and should be hubs for climate action, instilling values that young people carry with them long into adulthood.

This push for curriculum reform reflects something deeper too: the understanding that long-term solutions must be rooted in cultural and behavioural change. Shape the mindset early, and you shape the future.

## The Urgency Is Real — So Is the Hope

Throughout the conversation, Kiarie struck a careful balance: honest about the scale of the challenge, yet genuinely hopeful about our collective capacity to meet it. Platforms like We Don't Have Time, he noted, are uniquely placed to accelerate progress by connecting stakeholders, sharing knowledge, and keeping actors accountable.

What makes the platform's model distinctive is its move beyond traditional awareness campaigns. By leveraging digital tools to spotlight climate solutions and track real-world action, it creates a space where progress can be measured, evaluated, and amplified — empowering both individuals and organisations to own their role in addressing the crisis.

As Kenya navigates an increasingly complex climate reality, voices like Kiarie's offer something essential: clarity, urgency, and a roadmap for action. His message is not one of despair, but of possibility — grounded in the belief that when people, institutions, and governments work together with purpose, meaningful change follows.

The time to act, as he put it, is now. The decisions made today will shape the world tomorrow. By embracing proactive thinking, acknowledging progress, sharing responsibility, and investing in the next generation, Kenya has every opportunity to lead — not just participate — in the global fight against climate change.

Because ultimately, this fight is about more than the environment. It is about protecting livelihoods, advancing equity, and securing a dignified future for the generations that come after us. And with platforms like We Don't Have Time helping to drive that charge, there is every reason to believe we can get there.



# BOOKS & LITERATURE

with **Areeba Shokat**

An M.phill Scholar from the University of Chenab, Gujrat

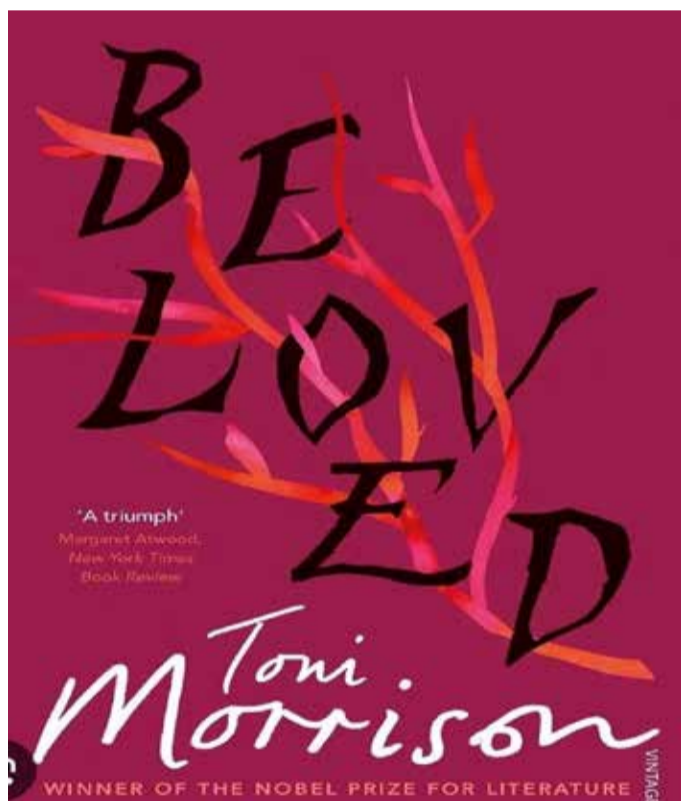
## Book Review:

**Book Review:**

**Author: Toni Morrison**

**Book: Beloved**

**Reviewer: Areeba Shokat**



Remains one of the most profound and unflinching examinations of slavery's aftermath in American literature. Expanding on the earlier overview, here's a deeper dive into its layers, including key characters, iconic quotes with analysis, historical roots, and broader critical perspectives to give you even more insight. The novel draws heavily from the real-life story of Margaret Garner, an enslaved woman who escaped from a Kentucky plantation in 1856 with her family. When recaptured in Cincinnati, she killed her young daughter (and attempted to kill her other children) rather than allow them to return to bondage. This act of desperate maternal resistance—framed in newspapers

as both tragic and defiant—captured national attention during the Fugitive Slave Act era. Morrison discovered the case while editing *The Black Book* (1974) and used it as the seed for Sethe's story, but she transforms it into fiction by focusing on psychological interiority, community, and the supernatural. Unlike Garner, who died in captivity after further enslavement, Sethe survives free, emphasizing themes of resilience and incomplete healing. This grounding in history makes the novel's horrors feel inescapably real—Morrison doesn't sensationalize; she confronts the institution's dehumanization head-on. Sethe is a central figure, a proud, fiercely maternal

woman scarred by Sweet Home's abuses (including being milked like an animal by Schoolteacher's nephews). Her infanticide is portrayed not as monstrous but as an extreme act of love—to "save" her children from slavery's "living death." She embodies the paradox: "For a used-to-be-slave woman to love anything that much was dangerous." Her guilt isolates her, yet her strength lies in claiming ownership over her body and choices. *Beloved* is a the enigmatic title character is the embodied ghost of Sethe's murdered daughter, but also symbolizes the collective trauma of slavery's "sixty million and more" (from the novel's dedication). She arrives as a seductive, needy, vengeful presence—craving Sethe's love while draining her. Her fragmented, poetic chapters ("I am Beloved and she is mine") blur past and present, showing how unresolved history possesses the living.

Denver\_ Sethe's surviving daughter, born during escape, grows up isolated in 124's shadow. Initially fearful and possessive of her mother, she evolves into the novel's agent of change—leaving the house for work and community connection, symbolizing generational hope and the possibility of breaking cycles. Paul D\_ A fellow Sweet Home survivor, he represents suppressed masculinity and wandering post-slavery life. His "tobacco tin" heart (where he locks away pain) cracks open with Sethe, but *Beloved* drives him away. His return signals tentative redemption through shared vulnerability.

Morrison's language is poetic and devastating—here are standout examples:

"124 was spiteful. Full of a baby's venom." (Opening line) — This line comes from *Beloved* Toni Morrison. In simple words, 124 is a house number where the charac-

ter's lived. But this house shows that present his own emotions. Spiteful means this house feels temper and unpleasant. Baby's Venom means this anger is coming to the soul of a dead child. Although children are commonly innocent, this word venom tells us that a child 's soul is grief, pain, and perhaps full of revenge. The story creates the terrible and mysteriousness.

"You are your best thing, Sethe. You are." (Paul D to Sethe) — This line comes from *Beloved*

Toni Morrison and more powerful. In this novel, Paul D says Sethi, you are the best things and I understand that she is the most important thing his herself life. Firstly, sethi thinks that children are the precious items his herself because their love being it. But Paul D wants she important his own self, not just the others. This line suggests self-worth and identity. In simple words, one should over his own self, because a person is valuable in themselves.

"She is the one. She is the one I need. You can go but she is the one I have to have." (*Beloved*) — This line shows desire and passion. "She is the one I need" means he believes that she is the most important person for him, so he couldn't live without it. "She is the one" which The speaker says this feeling becomes dark and repeats it. It also shows that he is not clearly thinking because he ignores everything else and fully focuses on her. "You can go" this line shows that he is ready to leave the others, just accomplished to have it.

"Beloved" chapters (stream-of-consciousness)\_ In Toni Morrison by *Beloved*, some chapters are used in stream of consciousness, it

means to see the character of thoughts and memories as a flow in mind. Specifically the first chapter, the story of 124 quickly alters the flow of past and present, where the memories of Sethe slavery, their children and hidden pain. .These lines show Morrison's mastery—prose that's lyrical yet raw, forcing readers to feel the weight of history.

Beyond motherhood and memory\_ *Slavery's Destruction of Identity* — Enslaved people are treated as animals or property; freedom doesn't automatically restore wholeness. Community's Role — Isolation breeds stagnation (Sethe shunned after the act); collective action (women singing to exorcise *Beloved*) enables healing. *The Limits of Language* — Words fail to capture trauma fully, hence nonlinear structure and poetic repetition. *Re-memory* — Morrison coins "rememory": the past isn't linear; places hold trauma ("Some things go. Pass on. Some things just stay.").

Praised as a masterpiece for its innovation and emotional power, it won the Pulitzer amid controversy—some early critics called it overly sentimental or sensational. Yet most hail its refusal to sanitize history. It sparked debates (e.g., Virginia school challenges in 2021 over explicit content), underscoring

its discomfiting relevance. Many view it as horror fiction's pinnacle—not supernatural scares, but the terror of real atrocities. On platforms like Goodreads and Reddit, readers often call it life-altering but demanding; re-reads reveal new depths.

*Beloved* isn't just a book—it's an experience that lingers, forcing confrontation with America's foundational wound. It's dense, nonlinear, and emotionally brutal, but the payoff is immense: beauty amid horror, insight into human endurance. If the first read feels disorienting, that's intentional—it mirrors trauma's fragmentation. Pair it with an audiobook for Morrison's rhythmic prose. Essential for understanding race, memory, and resilience in literature. If you're ready for something that will unsettle and transform you, this is it.

*The reviewer Areeba Shokat and She is an M.phill Scholar from the University of Chenab, Gujrat. She is a young and dedicated student for her interest in literature and critical studies. She has a strong academic background and is particularly engaged in areas such as drama, feminism, and literary theory. Her work reflects intellectual curiosity and a passion for understanding complex social and psychological issues.*



**Trump** Supporters of psychedelic-assisted treatment often point to early-stage studies showing that substances such as psilocybin and MDMA may help patients with severe depression

# Controversies surrounding Trump administration's push to fast-track psychedelics

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themkenyatimes

U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday signed an executive order to speed up reviews of certain psychedelic drugs, including ibogaine, which remain in the U.S. federal government's most restrictive category for illegal, high-risk drugs.

The move has drawn support from some patient groups, veterans and advocates who see substances such as psilocybin, MDMA and ibogaine as promising alternatives to traditional therapies. Critics warn that the rapid push raises a series of concerns, ranging from whether the science is mature enough to whether the process could weaken long-established drug safety standards and whether political influence is playing an outsized role in shaping pub-



Another source of controversy is the concern that the Trump administration's effort to speed up approvals may weaken the traditionally cautious U.S. drug review process. Trump administration officials have called for faster pathways for psychedelic therapies, including broader use of Right to Try laws created with the intent to allow terminally-ill patients access to experimental therapies and priority review measures. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is set to issue national priority vouchers for three psychedelic drugs next week, marking the first time the agency has extended such fast-track treatment to psychedelics, according to the Associated Press. FDA Commissioner Marty Makary said the vouchers would allow certain drugs to be approved more quickly if they align with U.S. national priorities.



President Donald Trump

lic health policy.

## Scientific uncertainty

Supporters of psychedelic-assisted treatment often point to early-stage studies showing that substances such as psilocybin and MDMA may help patients with severe depression, PTSD and anxiety. Several clinical trials have suggested that psychedelic-assisted therapy could produce faster and more durable effects than some conventional antidepressants, especially for patients who have failed to respond to other treatments. However, many researchers caution that the current evidence remains

limited as most psychedelic studies have involved relatively small groups of participants, making it difficult to determine whether the results can be applied to a broader population.

Researchers have also warned that the long-term effects of repeated psychedelic use remain unclear. Trump said the United States would dedicate 50 million U.S. dollars to federal research into ibogaine, which has raised particular concerns among experts. "It's been incredibly difficult to study ibogaine in the U.S. because of its known cardiotoxicity," Frederick Barrett, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Psyche-

delic and Consciousness Research, told The Associated Press. "If the executive order can pave the way for doing objective, scientific research with this compound, it would help us understand whether it is truly a better psychedelic therapy than others," he added.

## Weakening strict drug approval process

Another source of controversy is the concern that the Trump administration's effort to speed up approvals may weaken the traditionally cautious U.S. drug review process. Trump administration officials have

called for faster pathways for psychedelic therapies, including broader use of Right to Try laws created with the intent to allow terminally-ill patients access to experimental therapies and priority review measures. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is set to issue national priority vouchers for three psychedelic drugs next week, marking the first time the agency has extended such fast-track treatment to psychedelics, according to the Associated Press. FDA Commissioner Marty Makary said the vouchers would allow certain drugs to be approved more quickly if they align with U.S. national priorities. The mechanism could shorten the review process from several months to just a few weeks. Critics warned that if psychedelic drugs are approved too quickly, it could undermine public trust in the FDA, suggesting that psychedelic drugs should be held to the same scientific standards as any other medicine.

## Political impact

The debate over psychedelic drugs has also taken on a strong political dimension. In December 2025, Trump signed an executive order backing research into marijuana and cannabidiol, also substances classified as illegal. The order instructed U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi to move ahead with reclassifying marijuana, a decision that would represent one of the most significant federal changes to marijuana policy in decades, said Reuters. Trump's push for reviews of psychedelic drugs has received backing from veterans' advocacy groups, which represent more than 17 million people. Morgan Luttrell, a military veteran and member of Congress who attended Saturday's signing ceremony, said previous efforts to advance related legislation in Congress had failed. "We will continue working in Congress to build on the president's leadership and expand access to this life-saving treatment," he said. "Our veterans answered the call for us. Now we must deliver for them."



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## A haven of calm: Why Laikipia University is built for serious learning

Tucked into the cool highlands of Nyahururu, Laikipia University offers something increasingly rare in Kenyan higher education — a campus where the environment itself makes you want to study.

The university's indigenous forest cover does more than look good. It kills noise, cleans the air and creates the kind of quiet that busy urban campuses simply cannot manufacture. For students juggling deadlines and exams, that silence is not a luxury — it is an academic advantage.

The climate helps too. While much of Kenya swelters, Nyahururu stays mild year-round. Cooler temperatures mean less fatigue, sharper concentration and longer, more productive study sessions — whether in the library, the lecture hall or outdoors under the shade of a



tree.

That outdoor dimension matters. Walking paths, open fields and shaded spaces give students room to decompress, reset and return to their books with clearer heads. Mental well-being and academic performance are not separate concerns — at Laikipia, the campus design seems to understand that.

The setting also shapes culture. Fewer distractions breed better habits. Students here develop self-discipline not because it is demanded of them,

but because the environment quietly encourages it. Staff and lecturers benefit equally — the tranquility sharpens teaching, deepens research and keeps academic conversations meaningful.

In an era of overcrowded, overstimulated learning spaces, Laikipia University is a deliberate contrast — proof that where you learn is just as important as what you learn.

*By Diana Thyaka, student journalist, Laikipia University*

## Deputy President dilemma

*Kenya's 2027 succession race has begun — and the running mate question is already reshaping political alliances before a single vote is cast.*

Names are flying. Anne Waiguru, John Mbadi, Gladys Wanga, Kithure Kindiki, Oburu Odinga and Opiyo Wandayi are dominating political corridors and social media timelines alike — and in Kenya, when names start circulating this early, it is rarely accidental.

Political insiders say these trial balloons are deliberate. Floated to test public reaction, shape narratives and position individuals ahead of any formal declaration, the speculation is itself a campaign. Kenya's deputy presidency is no ceremonial afterthought — it is a strategic instrument of regional balancing, coalition-building and succession arithmetic.

The backdrop matters. Political loyalties are shifting, traditional alliances are under strain, and both ODM and UDA are recalibrating. Whoever emerges as a running



mate will need to do more than complement a presidential candidate — they must bridge voting blocs, shore up weak regions and survive the scrutiny of an increasingly demanding electorate.

Each name in circulation carries weight but also baggage. Experience in public administration and technocratic credibility count for something. So do controversies, and voters are watching. Social media has accelerated the conversation, turning speculation into quasi-campaigns through

hashtags, polls and viral content that shape perception long before manifestos are written.

For ordinary Kenyans, the debate is ultimately about something more urgent than names — it is about the cost of living, youth unemployment, economic stability and the quality of governance.

In Kenyan politics, the conversation that starts early usually finishes loudest.

*By Oliver Ouma, student journalist, Rongo University*




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# SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS  
SCORES  
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BREAKING NEWS



**Sports >>** \*Manchester City moved to within touching distance of the Premier League title after a pulsating 2-1 victory over Arsenal at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday

## City's relentless machine rolls on as Arsenal's title dream fades

Manchester City moved to within touching distance of the Premier League title after a pulsating 2-1 victory over Arsenal at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday, a result that has decisively shifted the balance of power in one of the most competitive title races English football has seen in years.

It was far from the cagey tactical stalemate many had anticipated. The match delivered genuine, end-to-end drama — Arsenal equalising almost immediately after falling behind, briefly knocking City off their stride before Guardiola's side regrouped and ultimately prevailed with a clinical second-half performance.

"Arsenal did not bottle it this time," said BBC pundit Alan Shearer. "It was a disappointing result for them, but when they re-view this game in the cold light of day, they cannot be disappointed with the performance." And he is right. Arsenal hit the woodwork twice, with Gabriel rattling the post and Eberechi Eze striking the inside of the upright. Kai Havertz spurned a glaring late chance. On another day, Arsenal win this game comfortably.

Yet the result exposes a deeper problem — inconsistency. The previous week's flat home defeat to Bournemouth remains the more troubling result. At the Etihad, Arsenal found urgency and intensity. At the Emirates against a lesser side, they found neither. "You know as a player that when you play City away, you have got to be at it," Shearer noted. "It is different when you are at home to a team like Bournemouth and part of you is thinking, 'we are better than these.'" That mindset gap is costing Arsenal dearly.

Three reasons now point firmly toward City lifting the trophy. They are out of European competition, giving them fresher legs at the most punishing stage of



Erling Haaland celebrates with Phil Foden. PHOTO/MANCHESTER CITY

the season. Guardiola has also, uncharacteristically, settled on a consistent first eleven — in three matches against Liverpool, Chelsea and Arsenal since the international break, his only change was in goal. City scored nine goals across those fixtures and conceded just one. The machine is humming.

The third factor is mentality. City's squad is laden with winners — players who know how to handle a run-in. MOTD pundit Wayne Rooney recalled Sir Alex Ferguson's instruction to his United sides in similar moments. "Go and score another," Rooney

said. "Never shut up shop." City, even at 2-1 up on Sunday, kept attacking. That relentlessness is both Guardiola's signature and his greatest weapon.

Arsenal host Newcastle on Saturday carrying doubt where there was once momentum, with anxious supporters at the Emirates adding to rather than easing the pressure on their players. City, meanwhile, are playing with the looseness of a team that has nothing to fear and everything to enjoy.

The title race is not mathematically over. But the momentum, the mentality and the maths are

all pointing in one direction. City are relentless. And right now, that might just be enough.

BBC

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*Olympic champion Gabby Thomas arrived in Nairobi yesterday afternoon ahead of the Absa Kip Keino Classic scheduled for tomorrow at Nyayo National Stadium

# Gabby Thomas leads star-studded arrivals for Kip Keino Classic



US sprint star Gabby Thomas .

By **Martin Weche**

The triple Olympic gold medalist landed in the capital alongside Kenya's premier sprinter Ferdinand Omanyala, with both athletes carrying significant momentum following dominant performances at the Addis Ababa Grand Prix over the weekend. Their arrival signals the commencement of the final countdown for the seventh edition of the Continental Tour Gold meet, which, in a historic first, will be contested under floodlights to accommodate a prime-time television audience and a high-octane atmosphere for local spectators.

Thomas, who solidified her status as the world's leading 200m specialist at the Paris 2024 Games, enters the Kenyan circuit in formidable condition after securing a sprint double in Ethiopia. However, the Ameri-

can star has opted for a tactical shift that has recalibrated the expectations of the Nairobi meet. Rather than defending her signature distance, Thomas will move up to the 400m, setting the stage for a highly anticipated tactical duel against Kenya's national record-holder Mercy Oketch. "Nairobi has an energy that is unique in the global circuit, and testing my range in the 400m here is a challenge I have looked forward to," Thomas noted upon her arrival, acknowledging the depth of the local field.

The domestic spotlight remains firmly on Omanyala, whose victory in Addis Ababa in 9.98 seconds marked his first sub-10-second performance in 20 months. The resurgent Kenyan champion will lead a local sprint contingent including Mark Otieno and prospect Isaac Omurwa against a formidable international ros-

ter featuring Canada's Aaron Brown and a trio of American challengers: Brandon Hicklin, Sam Blaskowski, and Pjai Austin. This assembly of talent has been bolstered by the inclusion of Olympic 800m champion Emmanuel Wanyonyi and 2019 world champion Timothy Cheruiyot, ensuring that the middle-distance traditions of the host nation remain the centerpiece of the evening's program.

Beyond the track, the field events are expected to provide a significant spectacle. Canada's hammer throw world champion Ethan Katzberg will compete alongside Kenya's veteran javelin star Julius Yego, while hurdles world record-holder Dalilah Muhammad adds further championship pedigree to the roster. In a strategic move to ensure maximum attendance, organizers have announced that

entry to the stadium will be free for the public, a decision aligned with recent calls by international sporting figures to capitalize on Kenya's passionate fan base.

The integration of LED Wave-light pacing technology and the transition to an evening schedule from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM represents a modernization of the meet's format. With a world-class entry list and the tactical intrigue of Olympic champions testing their limits at high altitude, the event is poised to redefine the standard for athletics competitions in the region. The stage is now set for a night where global speed meets Kenyan endurance under the lights of Nyayo.

# SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS  
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BREAKING NEWS



# SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



## A rising voice of youth empowerment and leadership



By: Anila Bukhari  
@themtkenyatimes

Tatia Todua is a dynamic and purpose-driven young woman whose journey reflects determination, adaptability, and an unwavering commitment to personal and social development. Known for her leadership qualities, strong communication skills, and proactive mindset, she stands as an inspiring figure among her peers. Her multifaceted personality is shaped by a blend of academic dedication, active participation in public life, and a deep desire to create meaningful change in society.

From an early stage in her life, Tatia exhibited a natural inclination toward growth and self-improvement. She consistently sought opportunities to expand her knowledge, develop new skills, and challenge herself beyond conventional limits. This mindset allowed her to cultivate a strong sense of responsibility and initiative, qualities that continue to define her path. Her ability to balance academic pursuits with extracurricular engagement demonstrates her discipline and determination to excel in every area of her life.

Tatia is currently a student at Kuitaisi Akaki Tsereteli State University, where she is actively working toward enhancing her academic and professional capabilities. Her educational journey is marked by curiosity and ambition, as she continuously explores new areas of knowledge and strives to deepen her understanding of various disciplines. University life has provided her with a platform to refine her skills, broaden her perspectives, and connect with like-minded individuals who share her passion for growth and innovation.

Her interests span a wide range of fields, reflecting her versatile and inquisitive nature. Tatia is deeply invested in personal development, recognizing it as the foundation for success and fulfillment. She believes in the importance of continuous learning and self-reflection, which

enables her to evolve both personally and professionally. In addition, she has a strong interest in project writing and management, where she applies her creativity and organizational skills to bring ideas to life. Her ability to conceptualize, plan, and execute projects highlights her strategic thinking and attention to detail.

Media literacy is another area that Tatia is passionate about, especially in an era where information plays a critical role in shaping opinions and decisions. She understands the power of media and actively works to promote responsible consumption and creation of content. Through her efforts, she encourages others to think critically, analyze information, and use digital platforms in a meaningful and impactful way.

Environmental protection also holds a special place in Tatia's list of priorities. She is aware of the challenges facing the planet and believes that young people have a crucial role to play in addressing them. Her involvement in environmental initiatives reflects her commitment to sustainability and her desire to contribute to a healthier and more responsible future. By participating in projects focused on environmental awareness, she not only educates herself but also inspires others to take action.

Youth engagement is at the heart of Tatia's work. She firmly believes that young people are powerful agents of change and that empowering them is essential for building a better society. Through her active involvement in various projects and volunteer activities, she creates opportunities for youth to learn, collaborate, and grow. These experiences have allowed her to develop strong teamwork and leadership skills, as well as the ability to navigate challenges with confidence and resilience.

One of Tatia's notable strengths is her experience as a trainer. She has conducted lectures and workshops on important topics such as time management and project management, sharing practical knowledge and tools with young individuals. Her approach as a trainer is both engaging and empowering, as she focuses on helping participants discover their potential and develop the skills needed to achieve their goals. Her ability to connect with her audience and communicate complex ideas in a clear and relatable manner



Tatia Todua.

makes her an effective and inspiring educator.

In addition to her work in education and community engagement, Tatia actively creates content and produces videos that reflect her ideas, experiences, and insights. Through these creative efforts, she builds a platform where she can share motivation, knowledge, and inspiration with a wider audience. Her content serves as a source of encouragement for young people, urging them to believe in themselves and pursue their dreams with confidence.

Tatia's digital presence is an extension of her personality—authentic, thoughtful, and impactful. She uses her voice to highlight important issues, share valuable lessons, and promote a positive and growth-oriented mindset. By doing so, she not only expresses herself but also fosters a sense of connection and com-

munity among her followers.

Her journey is characterized by a strong sense of purpose and a clear vision for the future. She is driven by the belief that every individual has the potential to achieve greatness if given the right opportunities and support. This belief motivates her to continue her work in youth empowerment and community development, as she strives to create spaces where young people can thrive.

Despite her many achievements, Tatia remains grounded and focused on continuous improvement. She understands that growth is a lifelong process and embraces challenges as opportunities to learn and evolve. Her resilience and determination enable her to overcome obstacles and stay committed to her goals, even in the face of uncertainty.

Tatia Todua's story is a testament to the power of passion, hard work, and

a proactive mindset. Her dedication to personal development, her active involvement in community initiatives, and her efforts to inspire others make her a remarkable example of a young leader in today's world. She embodies the values of responsibility, creativity, and perseverance, demonstrating that meaningful impact is possible at any age.

As she continues her journey, Tatia remains committed to making a positive difference in society. Her vision, combined with her skills and determination, positions her as a promising figure with the potential to contribute significantly to the world. Through her actions and achievements, she not only shapes her own future but also inspires others to believe in their abilities and strive for excellence.