



Kindiki: opposition have nothing to offer
Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has dismissed the opposition for offering nothing to Kenyans saying they are ready to face and defeat them in the coming elections.

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The fallacy of marginalisation: Kenya's economic collapse was a national tragedy, not a Mt. Kenya privilege
In the noisy theatre of Kenyan politics, few myths have been weaponised as frequently, and as recklessly, as the claim of regional marginalisation, particularly when directed at the Murima

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Voice of the People

The Mt. Kenya Times

Daily ePAPER

Law & politics Governors and county officials who have defied parliamentary summons now face the prospect of arrest.

Governors exposed as High Court lifts arrest shield



Justice Bahati Mwamuye

The High Court in Kiambu has lifted conservatory orders that had barred the arrest or detention of governors and other public officials, clearing the way for law enforcement agencies to act — and reigniting one of the most combustible institutional standoffs Kenya has witnessed in recent years.

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CoG chairman Wajir County Governor Ahmed Abdullahi

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Ruto deepens Kenya–Italy ties, courts investment and diaspora engagement in Rome visit

BY WMW
@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

President William Ruto has concluded a series of high-level engagements in Rome, Italy, highlighting strengthened diplomatic, economic, and diaspora ties between Kenya and Italy, while promoting Kenya as an emerging investment hub. Speaking during meetings with Kenyan diaspora in Italy and Italian leaders, Ruto said continuous engagement with citizens abroad has helped refine government policies, leading to reforms such as streamlined recruitment agencies, a crackdown on rogue operators, and the establishment of a dedicated diaspora affairs department. He held talks with Italian President Sergio Mattarella, focusing on expanding the over 60-year Kenya–Italy partnership across trade, energy, water, health, education, ICT, and defence.

Both leaders discussed boosting Kenyan exports, encouraging Italian investment in agro-processing, renewable energy, and manufacturing, and strengthening cooperation through the Kenya–Italy Business Forum.

Ruto also met senior Italian officials, including Chamber of Deputies President Lorenzo Fontana, agreeing to deepen parliamentary collaboration and implement eight existing Memoranda of Understanding covering health, education, science, innovation, agriculture, tourism, and space technologies.

During his visit, he laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Rome alongside Defence Minister Guido Crosetto, describing the moment as a reflection of shared history and sacrifice.

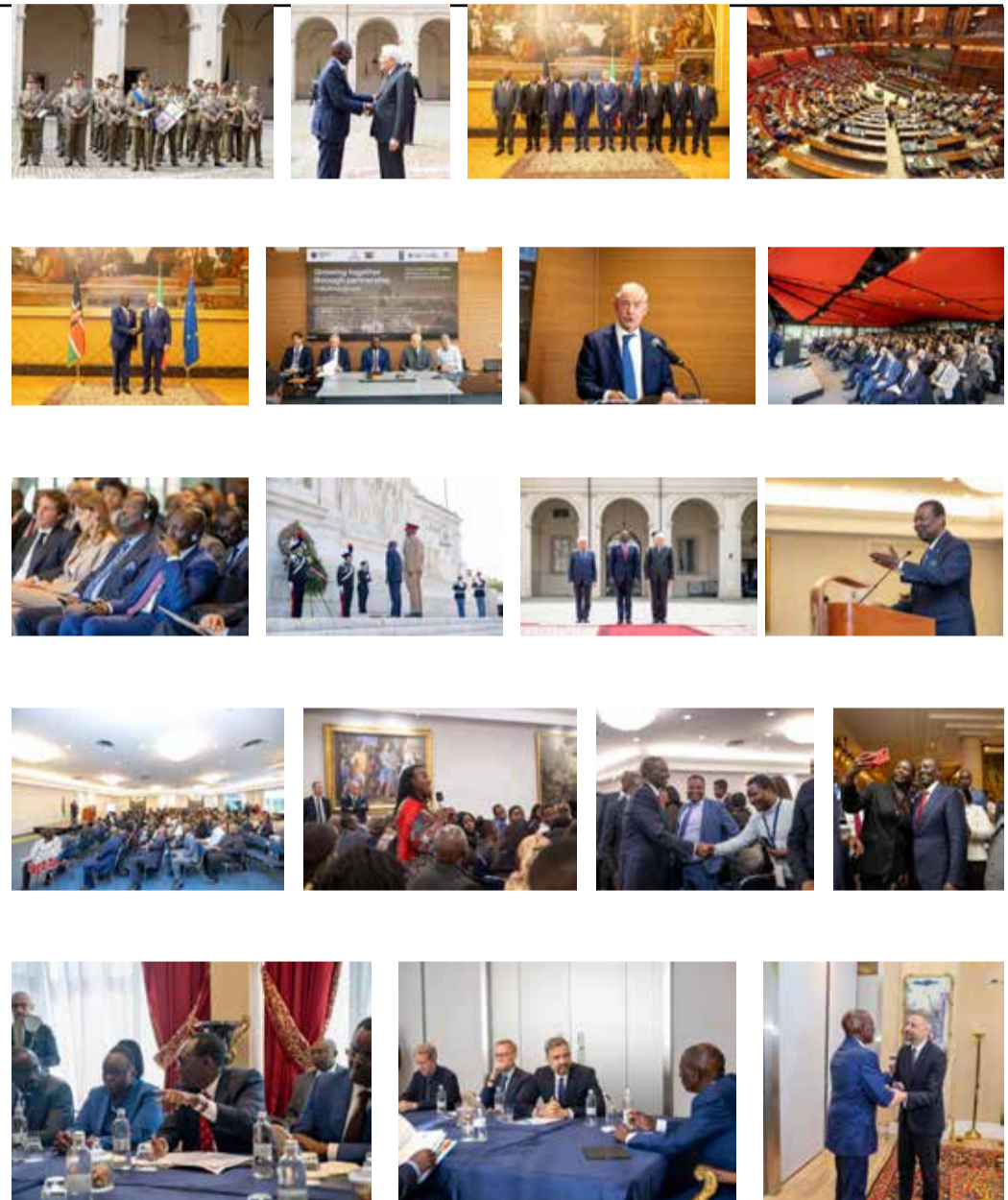
At the LUISS School of Government, the President delivered a public lecture outlining Kenya’s push to position itself at the centre of the global digital and AI economy. He called for Africa to seize the opportunity through the AI 10 Billion Initiative led by the African Development Bank and UNDP, with Kenya among the pioneer countries.

Ruto also witnessed the launch of the €50 million Harmonic Africa Fund, the first Italian venture capital fund domiciled in Kenya through the Nairobi International Financial Centre Authority.

On agriculture, he emphasized food security and poverty reduction, highlighting partnerships with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), including a \$40 million dairy sector investment and a planned \$263 million programme for small-scale farmers.

He said Kenya is pursuing investor-friendly policies, legal predictability, and global partnerships to unlock innovation, drive growth, and accelerate economic transformation.

He was accompanied by several leaders and government officials led by Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi.



Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Martin Muhia, Deputy County Commissioner of Igembe North, led a crackdown on illegal gambling in Laare Town, confiscating and destroying at least eight betting machines at the DCC's office compound. The operation, carried out with chiefs and officers from the National Government Administration Police Unit (NGAPU), targeted unlicensed gambling premises. Muhia said those responsible will face legal action. Authorities raised concern over the harmful social effects of illegal betting, especially its growing influence on school-going children increasingly being lured into gambling activities.



The Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa has launched a programme to train senior secondary teachers in Tana River County on Artificial Intelligence and digital pedagogy. The initiative focuses on AI-powered lesson planning, digital literacy and tools like ChatGPT to improve learning outcomes. Led by Michael Terer, the nationwide training supports the Competency-Based Education system. So far, 41 teachers are being trained at Hola Boys' Secondary School, with officials emphasizing responsible AI use to enhance teaching, bridge digital gaps and prepare students for a technology-driven future.



The Engineers Board of Kenya has challenged engineers in the maritime sector to tap into the vast, largely untapped potential within the industry. Speaking during the 7th Engineering Partnerships Convention in Mombasa, EBK Registrar and Chief Executive Officer Margaret Ogai said the maritime sector remains a niche frontier that both budding and seasoned engineers have yet to fully exploit, despite its significant commercial value. She emphasized that with the right skills, innovation, and investment, the sector could play a key role in driving economic growth and creating new opportunities for professionals in the engineering field.



Hundreds of residents in Garissa protested and demanded swift investigations following the fatal shooting of 22-year-old taxi driver Aden Mohamed, allegedly by a police officer at Modika roadblock. Reports indicate he had gone to assist two arrested friends when an argument with an officer led to him being shot at close range. The incident sparked running battles between police and demonstrators. Family members and leaders condemned the killing, citing a pattern of similar incidents and warning it could erode community-police relations, while urging the government to act against rogue officers.



Kericho governor Erick Mutai has ordered a comprehensive forensic audit and the immediate revocation of irregularly acquired title deeds in the long-standing Chelimo land dispute in Kericho County. The move follows consultations with a county and national government task force aimed at correcting flaws in a resettlement programme for squatters. Mutai said the intervention seeks to restore transparency, fairness, and accountability in land allocation and address grievances from affected residents. The Chelimo land issue has persisted for over a decade, with families living on disputed land. The county had previously been under a court order to evict occupants before opting for structured resettlement on 200 acres.



Over 50 residents of Turkana County regained their sight during an eye medical camp held at Namorupth PAG Health Centre, organized by the county government in partnership with the Fred Hollows Foundation. The outreach recorded 56 successful cataract surgeries and provided eye care services to over 200 patients from Loima, Lokirima and surrounding areas. Health officials highlighted the high burden of avoidable blindness in the county, driven by limited access to care and low awareness. Patients from remote regions praised the intervention, which significantly improved their daily lives and restored vision for many who had been blind for months or years.

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Infrastructure The projects is set to transform the town's housing, education and security landscape

Othaya unveils KSh850 Million housing and education projects as leaders promise jobs and improved services

BY MKT REPORTER
@themtkenyatimes

Residents of Othaya have endorsed a major KSh850 million infrastructure projects following a public participation forum that brought together local leaders, security officials and community members.

The projects, which is set to transform the town's housing, education and security landscape, will include the construction of affordable housing units, police housing blocks and hostels for students at the Kenya Medical Training College Othaya campus.

The Monday forum was attended by Othaya Member of Parliament Wambugu Wainaina, County Administration Police Commander Dennis Otero, KMTC Othaya Principal James Mwangi, county housing officials and local residents.

Major expansion plans

Speaking during the meeting, KMTC Othaya Principal James Mwangi welcomed the project, noting that the planned construction of student hostels will significantly boost the institution's capacity. He revealed that the campus is targeting an expansion to accommodate up to 10,000 students, a move that will elevate it to offer a wide range of programmes comparable to those at the main KMTC campus in Nairobi.

Mwangi added that the growth of the institution is closely tied to the development of the nearby Mwai Kibaki Level 6 Hospital, which continues to expand its services and infrastructure.

The hospital is expected to serve as a key teaching and referral facility for medical students, strengthening healthcare training and service delivery in the region.

Improved security and housing

The County AP Commander highlighted the importance of constructing modern housing units for police officers. He said the new units will ensure officers are accommodated closer to their areas of deployment, improving response times during emergencies and enhancing security operations.

"The project will not only improve the welfare of officers but also strengthen service delivery to residents," he said.

The housing component will include two blocks of police housing units alongside two blocks of affordable housing, bringing the total number of new homes to 264. The initiative is part of the government's broader plan to address housing shortages while improving living standards.

Local economic boost

The area MP assured residents that the project will



Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina addressing stakeholders and his constituents on Monday.

prioritize local participation, particularly for suppliers of construction materials and labour.

He said this approach is aimed at ensuring that the economic benefits of the project are felt directly within the community.

He also outlined several other development projects he has lobbied for in the area, aimed at improving healthcare, electricity access, water availability and business

growth.

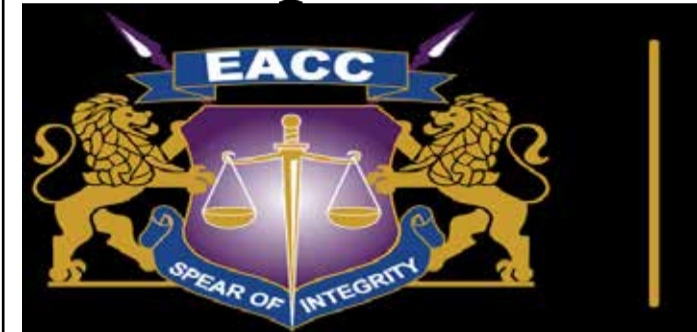
Residents who attended the forum expressed support for the initiative, citing its potential to create jobs, improve public services and raise living standards.

Once completed, the project is expected to position Othaya as a key regional hub for medical training, healthcare delivery and modern urban development in Nyeri County.



Some of the Othaya residents who attended the public participation forum.

NYS procurement head denies links to Embu hotel in KSh 2 billion EACC probe



BY MKT REPORTER
@themtkenyatimes

A senior National Youth Service (NYS) official has denied any connection to an Embu hotel raided by anti-graft detectives in a Sh2 billion corruption probe.

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) confirmed it searched Mavel Hotel in Embu Town, alleging links to David Mbogo Muthée, Head of Procurement at the NYS Training School in Gilgil. The raid, conducted under a court order, reportedly yielded evidence of suspected conflict of interest and abuse of office.

Mbogo, however, has distanced himself from the property, accusing the EACC of misrepresentation. In a letter dated April 20, his lawyer Onuong'a Makori dismissed the claims as false and attached a CR12 document showing Naftali Kiperu as the sole director of The Mavel Place Limited.

Makori accused the Com-

mission of harassment and questioned the legality of the search, noting investigators obtained a parallel warrant from Nyeri despite a similar matter being active at the Milimani Law Courts. He further argued Mbogo's tenure was too brief to implicate him, serving only 21 days between April 17 and May 7, 2025, while the probe covers 2017 to March 2025.

The lawyer stressed that no audit queries have been raised against Mbogo and that procurement processes under review were handled before his appointment. He also accused the EACC of recycling allegations from a May 2025 raid, terming the exercise "public sensationalism and reputational damage."

Mbogo now demands the Commission retract its statements, cease misrepresentation, and issue a public apology within seven days, warning of legal action for defamation and constitutional violations.

The EACC has yet to respond.

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Kindiki: opposition have nothing to offer

BY DPCS

@themkenyatimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has dismissed the opposition for offering nothing to Kenyans saying they are ready to face and defeat them in the coming elections.

The DP said the figures in the opposition previously occupied senior positions in government but did nothing to improve the lives of the people but are now out presenting themselves as the needed alternative.

“I challenge them to tell the people of Kenya what they did for them when they were in power,” DP said.

He spoke yesterday when he launched and inspected ongoing development projects in North Imenti Constituency, Meru County.

“We cannot be afraid of people who are full of insults. Some of them had time to work for the people but because of their incompetence they were kicked out. Whenever they come here, ask them what they did for Meru people when they were in power,” DP stated.

Prof. Kindiki launched Kambiti Last Mile Electricity Project, inspected Mwendatu Affordable Housing Project and later addressed jubilant residents in Meru town where he informed them of the massive development projects being done by the government in the County.

The Deputy President challenged political opponents to get ready for a tough contest that will be centred on development not insults and chest thumping.

“The contest for the next elections has been clearly defined. Every lead-

“

“We cannot be afraid of people who are full of insults. Some of them had time to work for the people but because of their incompetence they were kicked out. Whenever they come here, ask them what they did for Meru people when they were in power,” DP stated.

er will account for their time in office. They will be required to tell the people what they did with their time in office. Insults will not take you anywhere,” he noted.

The DP said the government has rolled out projects worth billions of shillings in Meru County that will anchor its quest for support towards reelecting President Ruto in next year’s polls.

“We are not just telling you to reelect President Ruto. We have a lot to account for our time in office. Meru Referral Hospital has been elevated to Level 6, we are constructing modern markets including one of the biggest in Gakoromone in Meru town,” DP cited.

Road projects costing billions of shillings are also in various stages of completion in the County including revamping of Meru town link roads.

“As a community, we must support President Ruto. We have no other option than to support the President to secure his second term as we look ahead to elections after next year’s,” he reiterated.

He was accompanied by several area leaders led by Governor Isaac Mutuma.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki addressing the public in Meru yesterday.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki with other leaders in Meru yesterday. | Photo: courtesy.

Law The National Police Service and other enforcement agencies are no longer bound by the earlier directives.

Governors exposed: High Court lifts the shield — and a long crisis comes into focus

The lifting of conservatory orders barring governors' arrest is the latest turn in a bitter standoff between Kenya's county chiefs and Parliament — one rooted in allegations of extortion, billions of unaccounted public funds, and a constitutional dispute that has no clean resolution in sight

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

The High Court in Kiambu has lifted conservatory orders that had barred the arrest or detention of governors and other public officials, clearing the way for law enforcement agencies to act — and reigniting one of the most combustible institutional standoffs Kenya has witnessed in recent years.

Justice Bahati Mwamuye delivered the ruling yesterday, vacating interim protections that had been in place since 8 April 2026 after petitioners Ashton Ngugi Gichuhi and Charles Mugane sought to amend their original case. The judge found that the proposed changes fundamentally altered the legal character of the petition, introducing new constitutional questions that had not formed part of the original pleadings. Under those circumstances, he ruled, the earlier protections could not justifiably remain in force. “Once the character of the petition changes, the court must reconsider whether interim protections remain justified,” Justice Mwamuye stated.

The National Police Service and other enforcement agencies are no longer bound by the earlier directives. Governors and county officials who have defied parliamentary summons now face the prospect of arrest. The matter returns to court on 27 April, when the amended petition — yet to be formally filed and served — is expected to receive further directions from the bench.

To understand what Tuesday's ruling means, it is necessary to trace how Kenya arrived at this point — and how a dispute ostensibly about financial accountability descended into a constitutional confrontation involving police deployments, allegations of extortion, a senator-governor brawl outside Parliament, and an arrest warrant for a county boss who slipped out of his own offices through a back door.

The roots of the crisis lie in the Senate's County Public Accounts Committee, known as CPAC, and its mandate to scrutinise the Au-

ditor-General's reports on county finances. Each year, county governments receive hundreds of billions of shillings in equitable share allocations and grants from the national government. The audit trail for much of that money has long been a source of concern. The Senate has grown increasingly aggressive in demanding that governors appear before CPAC to account for expenditures — and increasingly frustrated by a pattern of non-appearance.

The confrontation reached its most dramatic moment on 30 March 2026, when police officers arrived at Nairobi's City Hall seeking to arrest Governor Johnson Sakaja, who had been found in contempt of Parliament for failing to honour multiple CPAC summons. The committee had fined Sakaja Sh500,000 and directed Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja to compel his appearance. Police Regional Commander Issa Mohamud confirmed that officers had searched for the governor throughout the day without success. “We've been looking for him, we never got him,” Mohamud told journalists, “but we received information that he might be around.” Sakaja was reported to have left through a rear exit as officers arrived at the front. He presented himself voluntarily to the Senate the following day.

Sakaja's position was that his absence was not personal defiance but a collective institutional decision. The Council of Governors had resolved that its members would boycott CPAC appearances until allegations of extortion and intimidation against four of the committee's members were addressed. “The issue at hand is not a personal matter concerning Governor Sakaja Johnson, but one that is being handled collectively by the Council of Governors,” his office said. He called for the dispute to be resolved through structured dialogue rather than enforcement action, describing the police deployment as “unwarranted drama.” On the same day, 29 other governors had been summoned by the same committee. Only two appeared, and even they declined to engage substantively, in



Justice Bahati Mwamuye

line with the Council's position.

Council of Governors chair Ahmed Abdullahi was unsparing in his criticism of the enforcement operation. “We state in the strongest terms possible that this matter is not a personal issue concerning one governor but a collective decision made by the Council of Governors following continuous extortion, unnecessary harassment, and intimidation by four members of the said committee,” Abdullahi said. He called for the immediate withdrawal of all arrest warrants, warning that pursuing coercive action while the underlying allegations remained unresolved “defeats the intent of oversight, deepens mistrust, and undermines the rule of law.”

The Senate, for its part, showed no appetite for retreat. Senate Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot had issued a 30-day ultimatum on 4 April demanding that all governors appear before Senate committees to account for public funds, warning that those who refused should resign. The High Court's initial conservatory orders, issued on 8 April, briefly halted the escalation — but Tuesday's ruling

has stripped that protection away.

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula has gone further still, calling for criminal sanctions against governors who defy summons. Speaking at a function in Maberu, Migori County on 17 April, Wetang'ula framed the issue in stark terms: “Governors who continue to ignore invitations to appear before parliamentary committees risk facing legal consequences.” The Speaker argued that the growing pattern of non-compliance undermined the constitutional duty of Parliament to scrutinise public expenditure.

The tensions have not been confined to formal chambers. Senators and governors came to physical blows outside Parliament, with Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna, Migori's Eddy Oketch, and Kiambu's Karungo wa Thang'wa among lawmakers reported to have manhandled Samburu Governor Lati Lelelit after he declined to honour a summons. The incident crystallised how far the dispute had moved beyond institutional process into something uglier and more personal.

The constitutional question at the

heart of all of this remains unresolved. The High Court and the Court of Appeal have in previous rulings affirmed the Senate's authority to summon governors to answer audit questions about county revenue. Governors do not dispute this in principle. What they contest is the conduct of the specific CPAC proceedings and the individuals leading them — allegations that have been made loudly but, thus far, without a formal independent investigation.

With the court's protection gone and the next mention date set for 27 April, Kenya's governors are back in the open — and the institutions that have spent weeks threatening them are now free to act. Whether they do so, and whether it brings accountability or merely more conflict, is the question the country will spend the coming days answering.

Politics Kamau says as the electioneering period approaches, politicians have been using church functions to spew hatred among Kenyans.

Juja constituency aspirant Mbiyu Kamau calls on Religious leaders to reign on politicians inciting public

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

Lawyer Mbiyu Wa Kamau has called on religious leaders to reign over politicians who are fond of inciting the public. Kamau says as the electioneering period approaches, politicians have been using church functions to spew hatred among Kenyans.

He wants all religious leaders, irrespective of their faith, denomination or religion to call out such politicians for the sake of the country's stability ahead of the 2027 General Elections.

Speaking during different interviews and media shows, Kamau said the country was entering a crucial period



Mbiyu Wa Kamau during the interview with Kameme TV. | Photo: Courtesy.

where every word, uttered by former, current and aspiring leaders matters. "I am calling on our religious leaders to be vigilant on what politicians say when given a chance in their forums. They must insist and call out those who try to incite the public,"

he said during an interview with this publication. Kamau who has declared his interest for the Juja parliamentary seat and is great supporter of the current administration said leaders should give out their mission and vision for the people they are



Mbiyu Wa Kamau during the interview with Nyumba itú TV.

seeking to represent in various governance positions and not to incite them against the government, leaders or fellow citizens.

He called on Kenyans who are yet to register as voters to do so, so that they can have a chance to elect leaders of their choice when elections

are called next year. "The mass registration exercise is still going on. Those who are yet to register should do so now," he said.

During media shows at Nyumba itú TV and Kameme TV a few days ago, Kamau discussed wide ranging issues including on Constitution,

governance, human rights and citizens responsibility.

He noted that Kenyans are now aware of their constitutional rights unlike before the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution.

Kamau urged Kenyans to take advantage of various independent constitutional agencies to report vices and actions that are contrary to the laws.

At the same time, he defended the economic empowerment initiatives by President William Ruto's government saying they were meant to uplift the living standard of citizens.

He also defended hosting of delegations by President Ruto and his deputy Kithure Kindiki saying such a move was basically meant to have the two top political leaders get, first hand, issues affecting the citizens from all parts of the country.

Kamau said once elected as the Juja MP, he would devote his energy and ability to ensure that resources for his constituents are prudently utilized.

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Business The rise of a more design conscious consumer base is driving demand for products

New players redefine Kenya's paint industry as legacy brands face pressure



Paint awaiting to be delivered out of the production facility. | Photo: courtesy.

BY MKT Correspondent
@themkenyaintimes

Kenya's paint industry is undergoing a notable transition, with emerging brands beginning to reshape a market long dominated by established manufacturers.

For years, companies such as Crown Paints Kenya, Basco Paints, and Kansai Plascon Kenya have defined the sector through strong distribution networks, competitive pricing, and consistent product performance.

However, shifting consumer preferences, particularly in urban centres like Nairobi, are beginning to challenge this traditional model. Industry analysts say paint is increasingly being viewed not just as a construction necessity, but as a key element of interior design and lifestyle expression.

The rise of a more design conscious consumer base is driving demand for products that deliver both performance and aesthetic value. Homeowners and developers are placing greater emphasis on finish quality, color experience, and the overall ambience created within a space.

This marks a shift from traditional purchasing criteria, which have largely centred on durability and cost.

As a result, brand perception and the ability to inspire consumers are becoming increasingly important in influencing buying decisions.

Despite their continued dominance, some of the industry's leading companies are facing pressure to adapt.

Market observers point to several challenges, including limited evolution in brand positioning, a continued focus on product features over customer experience, and retail environments that remain largely transactional.

These factors have created opportunities for newer entrants to differentiate themselves by aligning more closely with emerging consumer expectations.

One of the brands gaining attention in this evolving landscape is Hermosa Paint. Positioning itself as a design driven alternative, Hermosa is focusing on the experiential and emotional aspects of paint. The company emphasizes premium finishes, curated color palettes, and a stronger connection to how consumers want their spaces to look and feel.

Analysts note that this approach is resonating with a segment of buyers seeking more than just functional value, particularly among younger, urban homeowners.

The broader industry is also witnessing a move toward experience driven consumption. Consumers are increasingly seeking guidance in color selection, visualization tools, and inspiration throughout the buying process. This represents a departure from traditional retail models, where decisions were primarily based on price and availability.

Experts say brands that integrate design support, storytelling, and more engaging customer experiences are likely to gain a competitive advantage. Kenya's paint industry remains closely linked to the construction sector, which continues to support steady demand. However, analysts believe the competitive landscape will increasingly be shaped by how well companies adapt to changing consumer preferences.

While established manufacturers retain significant advantages in scale and distribution, the rise of players such as Hermosa Paint suggests that future growth will depend not only on production capacity, but also on the ability to connect with consumers on a design and lifestyle level.

As the industry evolves, the focus is expected to shift from simply supplying paint to shaping how spaces are experienced.

Law Eastern Africa Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (EAAACA)

Regional anti-corruption authorities convene in Nairobi in renewed anti-graft push

BY EACC
@themkenyaintimes

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) is this week hosting regional anti-corruption authorities in Nairobi, marking a renewed push to tackle cross-border corruption and illicit financial flows.

The conference, convened under the banner of the Eastern Africa Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (EAAACA), brings together agencies from eight countries—Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Djibouti, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo—under the theme “Unmasking Beneficial Ownership in the Fight Against Corruption and Recovery of Assets.”

Speaking during the official opening, EAAACA President and Inspector General of Government of Uganda, Naluze Aisha Batala, called for enhanced collaboration among member agencies. She highlighted key milestones achieved by the association, including the harmonization of anti-corruption laws across member states, the publication of Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) Guidelines to support investigations and asset recovery, and strengthened regional capacity-building efforts.

EAAACA Vice President and EACC Chief Executive Officer Abdi A. Mohamud echoed these sentiments, noting significant progress in information sharing among agencies. He said the removal of bureaucratic barriers has facilitated mutual legal assistance and accelerated investigations. He also underscored Kenya's commitment to beneficial ownership transparen-



Abdi Muhamud



Some of the participants in a group photo.

cy, citing amendments to the Companies Act that institutionalized the maintenance of a beneficial ownership register under the Business Registration Service.

EAAACA continues to play a central role in strengthening the region's anti-corruption framework through capacity development, coordination, and collaboration among member institutions. The association also provides a platform for heads of agencies to exchange best practices, engage jointly with international partners, and pursue asset recovery efforts.

The meeting has drawn representatives from Financial Intelligence Units, asset recovery agencies, anti-corruption authorities, law enforcement bodies, prosecution services, oversight institutions, the private sector, and development partners.



Naluze Aisha Batala

The conference supported by SecFinAfrica, GIZ and UN-ODC includes the Annual General Meetings of EAAACA and the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Eastern Africa, will run until Friday.

Marginalisation To mistake strategic geography for political privilege is to misunderstand the logic of state development.

The fallacy of marginalisation: Kenya's economic collapse was a national tragedy, not a Mt. Kenya privilege



By: Gitile Naituli
@themkenyatimes

In the noisy theatre of Kenyan politics, few myths have been weaponised as frequently, and as recklessly, as the claim of regional marginalisation, particularly when directed at the Murima (Mt. Kenya) community. From political podiums to social media trenches, the accusation that one region disproportionately benefited from post-independence development has become a convenient rallying cry for grievance politics. It is a narrative designed not to illuminate truth, but to in-

flame emotion. Yet when subjected to historical scrutiny, this claim collapses under the weight of evidence.

Let us deal with facts. Not feelings. Agriculture has always been the backbone of Kenya's economy, sustaining over 90% of rural households and forming the foundation of early post-independence growth. At independence, Kenya's first administration pursued a deliberate strategy anchored in primary production and agro-industrial value addition. This was not accidental. It was visionary. The result was a robust and growing economy, with GDP expanding at an average rate of 7.5% under President Jomo Kenyatta.

But that trajectory did not last.

The second administration under President Daniel arap Moi presided over one of the most tragic and systematic destructions of Kenya's eco-

omic infrastructure. By the time that era ended in 2002, Kenya's GDP had plummeted to a shocking -1.8%. What unfolded during those decades was not a story of regional enrichment. It was a story of national decay.

Consider the breadth of institutional collapse across the country. In Western Kenya, massive public investments in sugar production, Mumias, Miwani, Muhoroni, Chemelil, were squandered through mismanagement, political interference, and outright looting. These factories, once anchors of regional prosperity, are now shadows of their former selves, defunct, indebted, or barely operational.

In Nyanza, Kisumu Cotton Mills (KICOMI) stood as a beacon of industrial ambition and regional pride. It employed thousands and sustained entire communities. Today, it is a relic of what could have been. A casualty

of neglect and policy failure.

In the Rift Valley, the story is no different. Rift Valley Textiles (RIVATEX), once a pillar of Kenya's manufacturing sector, struggled for decades under the weight of corruption and inefficiency before partial revival efforts. Meanwhile, the Maize and Wheat Boards, institutions meant to stabilise farmer incomes and ensure food security, were hollowed out, leaving farmers exposed and disillusioned.

In Mt. Kenya itself, the supposed "beneficiary" of this narrative, the collapse was equally devastating. Coffee, once a globally competitive export, has withered in many Murima regions, with farms abandoned or reduced to subsistence activity. Tea, though more resilient, has not escaped governance challenges. Cooperative societies, once engines of rural prosperity, were infiltrated by politically connected appointees who treated them not as institutions to build, but as opportunities to extract. Mt. Kenya Textiles (MOUNTEX) followed the now-familiar path to ruin. What remains is not evidence of privilege, but of shared loss.

At the Coast, the decline of cashewnut, coconut, and sisal industries tells a similar story. These sectors once sustained local economies and provided livelihoods for thousands. Their collapse was not due to geographic disadvantage, but to sustained neglect and poor policy choices. Ports in Mombasa and Lamu, though strategically significant, have suffered from inconsistent investment and underutilisation relative to their potential.

In North Eastern Kenya and among pastoralist communities, the dismantling of the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC), along with quarantine stations, grazing systems, and livestock holding grounds, dealt a severe blow

to pastoral economies. These were not marginal sectors, they were critical to regional stability and national food systems. Their decline reflects systemic failure, not regional exclusion.

Across the country, the pattern is unmistakable. From the Kenya Farmers Association (KFA) to the Kenya Cooperative Creameries (KCC), from the Kenya Planters Cooperative Union (KPCU) to numerous regional processing plants, the story is one of institutional decay. These entities were not captured by a single community. They were undermined by a governance system that rewarded extraction over production, patronage over performance.

What happened, therefore, was not the enrichment of Murima. It was the impoverishment of Kenya. The claim that Mt. Kenya uniquely benefited from post-independence development often points to infrastructure, roads, markets, and public services, as evidence. But this argument ignores a fundamental reality: geography and strategy matter. The major transport corridors linking Kenya to Uganda, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Tanzania necessarily pass through the central highlands. Infrastructure development in these regions was not an act of favoritism; it was a function of national connectivity.

To mistake strategic geography for political privilege is to misunderstand the logic of state development. This is not to deny that inequality exists in Kenya. It does, and it must be addressed. But inequality is not the same as marginalisation, and certainly not the kind that can be simplistically mapped onto ethnic or regional lines. The danger of doing so is that it obscures the real sources of our challenges: poor governance, weak institutions, and a political culture that thrives on division.

The narrative of marginalisation, when weaponised, becomes a convenient alibi for failed leadership. It allows those in power to deflect responsibility, to mobilise support through grievance rather than performance, and to perpetuate a cycle of blame that leaves the underlying problems untouched.

It is a politics of evasion.

The truth is far less comfortable, but far more necessary: Kenya's economic decline was a shared national experience. No region was spared. No community emerged unscathed. The ruins of our factories, the struggles of our farmers, and the frustrations of our youth are not regional stories, they are Kenyan stories.

And they demand a Kenyan response. The Murima community, like every other, has contributed to the building of this nation and has suffered in its moments of failure. It has nothing to apologise for. Nor does any other community. What we owe each other is not accusation, but accountability. Not resentment, but renewal.

So we must ask ourselves: who benefits from the continued peddling of these divisive narratives? Who gains when Kenyans are encouraged to see each other not as partners in a shared project, but as competitors in a zero-sum game of historical grievance?

The answer is clear. And it is not the ordinary citizen. Kenya stands at a crossroads. We can continue down the path of grievance politics, of selective memory and manufactured outrage, or we can choose a different path. One that is grounded in truth, guided by evidence, and committed to rebuilding what was lost.

Our salvation will not come from blaming each other. It will come from confronting our shared national wounds with honesty, and from demanding leadership that is equal to the task of healing them. That is the work before us. And it cannot wait.

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

Politics The recruitment drive signals DP's renewed push to expand its political footprint as Kenya begins to shift focus toward the 2027 polls.

Democratic Party of Kenya launches 2027 candidate recruitment drive

BY WMW
@themtkenyatimes

The Democratic Party of Kenya (DP) has announced a nationwide call for aspirants seeking elective positions in the upcoming 2027 General Election, positioning itself as a key player within the emerging United Alternative Government coalition led by Justin Bedan Muturi.

In a statement issued yesterday, the party invited “visionary, capable and dedicated leaders” to vie for nominations across all major elective seats. These include Governor, Senator, Women Representative, Member of Parliament (MP), and Member of County Assembly (MCA).

The recruitment drive signals DP's renewed push to expand its political footprint as Kenya begins to shift focus toward the 2027 polls.

Party officials emphasized that candidates who secure the party's ticket will have the opportunity to “fly the

party flag” while championing development-oriented and people-centered policies.

To ease access for potential members, the party has rolled out a simplified registration process, allowing Kenyans to join by dialing *509# on their mobile phones.

The party also encouraged interested aspirants and supporters to reach out through its official communication channels for further engagement.

A party with historical roots

Founded in 1991 during the reintroduction of multiparty democracy in Kenya, the Democratic Party of Kenya is one of the country's oldest political parties.

It was established by veteran politician Mwai Kibaki, who later became Kenya's third president following the landmark 2002 Kenyan general election that ended decades of single-party dominance.

Over the years, DP has played a significant role in coalition politics, often aligning with like-minded parties to influence governance and policy direction. While its prominence has fluctuated with changing political dynamics, the party remains an established brand with a legacy tied to economic reform, governance, and institutional development.

Renewed momentum ahead of 2027

The current recruitment push reflects a broader strategy by DP to reassert its relevance in a competitive political landscape.

By aligning itself with the United Alternative Government coalition, the party hopes to tap into growing calls for political realignment and alternative leadership ahead of 2027.

Observers note that the involvement of Justin Muturi; former Speaker of the National Assembly and Attorney General adds weight to the party's



Some of DP national executive members during the party's NDC on January 28, 2026. | Photo: Courtesy

efforts to attract credible candidates and rebuild grassroots support.

With its rallying call of “Umoja na Haki and United Alternative Government's Wantam!”, DP is seeking to energize supporters while presenting itself as a platform for reform-minded leaders committed to unity, jus-

tice, and national development.

As political mobilization gradually intensifies across the country, DP's open invitation marks one of the earliest structured efforts by a party to scout and prepare candidates for the next general election cycle.

The Mt. Kenya Times



Simple living



I don't want much—
just a quiet morning,
a warm cup in my hands,
and a little time to think.

No need for a crowded life,
or things that shine too loud.
I'd rather have a few true people
than stand out in a crowd.
Some days, it's just the breeze,
or sunlight on my face—
small things, really,
but they make the day feel right.
I'm learning slowly
that less is enough,
and peace doesn't come from having more,
it comes from letting go.
And maybe that's all I need
a simple life,
where I can just be
without trying too hard.

Sangeeta Khattar
DAV Public School
NH-3, NIT, Faridabad

Trying to study everything the night before the exam



Trying to study everything the night before the
exam,
Like quenching their thirst by drinking all the
water in the sea.
Try to fill all the air into the tube and
eating all the eatables served in the dinner .

Little drops make the mighty
Like reading a few pages everyday makes plenty.

Small consistent efforts make a lot.
Even a small ant tries to eat big food into chunks
not as whole.

Rome was not built in a day
The exam can't be cleared in a day by reading.
Readymades are better than customised
For that we need to work for a few days.

Rajesh Kanna B N

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

Forget your age if you have goals to achieve; you are still young



Do not say you've grown old—
Say you've grown ready.
Time has not weakened you,
It has prepared you
For the place you once dreamed of
But weren't yet strong enough to hold.
This moment is not delayed,

It is designed—
Given by God
When you are finally worthy to stand there.
You are not late,
You are chosen.
So rise with faith,
Hold your ground with courage,
Because victory is no longer far—
It is waiting for your final step.
And remember this always:
Never stop trying,
Because the one who continues
Is the one who wins.

KRISHNAVENI R
GRADUATE TEACHER
CUDDALORE
TAMIL NADU
INDIA.

The moon that listens



In the hush of night when the world feels still,
And silence softly bends to will,
There glows a light so calm, so bright—
A quiet heart within the night.

It does not rush, it does not speak,
Yet finds the souls that feel too deep,
And in its glow, so soft, so wide,

It holds the tears we try to hide.

A silver whisper in the sky,
That understands the unsaid why,
It shines for those who feel alone,
Yet makes their fragile hearts feel known.

No need for noise, no need to prove,
It simply stays, it simply soothes,
Like gentle hands on weary days,
Or love expressed in silent ways.

And maybe we are just the same—
A quiet light, a hidden flame,
Not loud enough to claim the night,
Yet soft enough to make it bright. 🌙✨

©Dr. Daksha Udhani
Ahmedabad

A step toward victory



True happiness is never gained with ease,
Through toil and hardship, one must find the way.
Over others, you hold no power or decrees,
Each soul must bear their burden every day.

Though life's heavy weights may press on you so
deep,
Do not bow down, keep your head held high and
proud.

If your heart's depths find no solace to keep,
God alone sends light through every dark cloud.

Do not rush, for time has its own sovereign rule,
Everything has its season, its moment, its pace.
He who is patient, in hardship's harsh school,
Will see the throne of fortune and grace.

To fall is not defeat, nor is it the end,
Only those who stop are truly defeated.
Walk forward in silence, on yourself depend,
Your triumph will be by the whole world greeted.

Trials only strengthen and mold us within,
Even flowers break through the stones to the
light.

Leave a brave mark where your journey has been,
The will shall conquer every sorrow and plight.

Author Information:
Nigora Yo 'Idasheva

The bliss of patience



At first, we failed to understand each other,
Bitter words often left our hearts in pain.
But time has washed our souls and brought us
closer,
And from our hearts, no grudges now remain.
Through heavy days and mountains high, we've
drifted,
Today, mutual respect is our greatest prize.
The key to joy has finally been lifted;

In "Patience" and "Respect," the secret lies.
This heart, tempered by years of trials and
testing,

No longer gives a place for old regret.
A noble bond has kept our spirits resting:
Home is the holiest place we've ever met.
We cast aside our pride to find the treasure,
In the language of affection, we spoke low.
Our garden of patience yields fruit beyond
measure,

It was care that helped our lasting bliss to grow.
Now, in our home, the flower of peace is blooming,
A woman's greatest wealth is a soul at ease.
This harmony is life's most righteous journey,
The truth of every dream is found in peace.

Author Information:
Gulchehra Umrzaqova – 3rd-year Psychology
student at Alfraganus University, recipient of
the Rector's Scholarship.

Economy At Wairia Market in Kenol, trader Daniel Mugambi said the sudden spike has disrupted business operations.

Tomato prices surge in central Kenya following earlier glut, straining consumers and traders

BY Florence Kinyua

@themkenyatimes

Just months after a severe oversupply pushed tomato prices to historic lows, markets in Murang'a County and the wider Central Kenya region are now grappling with a sharp shortage that has sent prices soaring to a two-year high.

A 60-kilogram crate of tomatoes is currently retailing at between Sh6,800 and Sh7,000, a dramatic rise from as little as Sh1,000 recorded in January during the glut. Retail prices have also surged, with a kilogram now going for about Sh100 compared to Sh20 just three months ago. The steep increase has left both traders and consumers struggling to adjust.

At Wairia Market in Kenol, trader Daniel Mugambi said



Tomato

the sudden spike has disrupted business operations. He noted that he had not sold tomatoes at such high prices in over two years, adding that supply has become inconsistent. The high cost has forced many customers to scale back purchases, with tomatoes in-

creasingly viewed as a luxury rather than a staple.

The current shortage marks a stark turnaround from January, when farmers across Central Kenya—including Kirinyaga County, Nyeri County and Laikipia County—suffered heavy losses due

to oversupply. During that period, Grade One tomatoes dropped to around Sh1,000 per crate, while Grade Two fetched as little as Sh500. Farm gate prices plunged even further, ranging between Sh300 and Sh500, leaving many farmers unable to re-

cover production costs.

Farmers such as John Muthii from Kirinyaga reported significant losses, with some produce going to waste or being used as livestock feed due to lack of buyers. Similarly, Beatrice Wanjiku from Murang'a recounted being left with large quantities of unsold tomatoes and incurring additional losses on transport and labour.

Agricultural experts attribute the current shortage to a combination of factors linked to the earlier glut. Many farmers reduced or halted tomato planting after suffering losses, leading to reduced supply in subsequent cycles. Seasonal changes have also played a role, with the earlier crop planted during the October rainy season benefiting from natural rainfall, resulting in overproduction.

In contrast, the tomatoes currently in the market were

planted during the January dry season and rely heavily on irrigation, which limits production scale. According to soil analyst Bernard Ndung'u, weather conditions have also contributed to the volatility. Excess rainfall during the previous season encouraged the spread of pests and diseases, shortening the shelf life of tomatoes and increasing post-harvest losses.

To address the recurring cycle of glut and shortage, experts are advocating for long-term solutions such as greenhouse farming, which can help regulate growing conditions and ensure a more stable supply throughout the year. They also recommend better planning strategies, including staggered planting, expanded irrigation, and co-operative marketing to stabilise prices.

Additionally, investment in value addition—such as processing tomatoes into paste and sauces—could help reduce post-harvest losses and protect farmers from market fluctuations. Analysts say adopting these measures could help create a more resilient tomato value chain, benefiting both producers and consumers in the long run.



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Economy The program focused on supporting women micro-entrepreneurs, a critical yet often underserved segment of the economy.

New insights from BFA Global reveal what it really takes to increase women's incomes

BY African Media Agency (AMA)

@themkenyatimes

New research by BFA Global is challenging long-held assumptions about how to improve the earnings of low-income women, showing that sustainable income growth depends on a combination of interconnected factors rather than a single intervention.

The findings, released yesterday in Nairobi, stem from a two-year collaboration under the Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) Opportunity Leads Umbrella Program, which involved 11 enterprises across Kenya.

The program focused on supporting women micro-entrepreneurs, a critical yet often underserved segment of the economy.

According to the report, about 1,800 women who participated in the initiative recorded an average income increase of 49 percent; equivalent to roughly 85 U.S. dollars more per month highlighting the potential of well-designed, multi-layered support systems.

"We wanted to understand what truly works in practice when it comes to increasing women's incomes," said co-authors Phoebe Kiboi and Maha Khan.

"What became clear is that no single solution is sufficient. Real progress happens when several enabling conditions come together."

Five key drivers of income growth

The study identifies five critical domains that must align for women entrepreneurs to translate opportunities into sustained earnings.

At the foundation are support structures, including access to childcare, freedom of movement, and social norms that influence participation in economic activities. Without

addressing these realities, the report notes, many women remain excluded from opportunities altogether.

Equally important are skills and confidence. Training programs yield better outcomes when they not only build technical expertise but also strengthen self-belief and provide practical opportunities to apply new knowledge.

The role of networks also emerged as a central pillar. Informal peer groups often serve as lifelines, enabling women to access capital, customers, and vital business information.

Access to productive capital and assets is another key factor, though the report cautions that poorly designed financial products can do more harm

The study identifies five critical domains that must align for women entrepreneurs to translate opportunities into sustained earnings.



BFA GLOBAL

than good. Capital must be timely and suited to the specific needs of entrepreneurs.

Finally, market linkages—connections to buyers and supply chains—create opportunities for growth, but their impact depends heavily on the strength of the other four domains.

Moving beyond one-dimensional solutions

The research underscores that progress stalls when any one of these domains is missing.

For instance, providing skills without market access does not lead to higher incomes, while access to finance without adequate capacity can increase financial risk.

As a result, the report calls for more integrated approaches that address multiple constraints simultaneously rather than focusing on isolated interventions.

A broader development agenda

The findings come at a time when policymakers and development partners are increasingly prioritizing women's economic inclusion as a

pathway to broader economic growth in Kenya and across emerging markets.

Founded in 2006, BFA Global works with governments, private sector players, and philanthropic organizations to design and scale solutions for underserved communities.

The organization has implemented over 600 projects in more than 100 countries and supported hundreds of ventures across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Analysts say the latest insights could help reshape how programs targeting women entrepreneurs are designed, shifting the focus toward comprehensive, ecosystem-based solutions that address the real-world challenges women face.

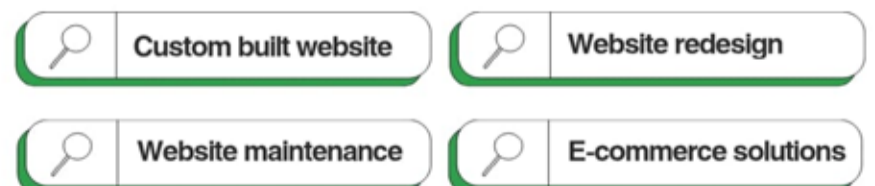
With growing evidence that inclusive economic strategies can drive both social and financial returns, the report reinforces the case for investing in women—not just as beneficiaries, but as key drivers of economic transformation.



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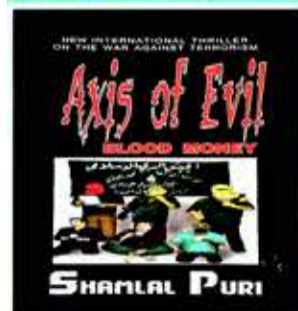
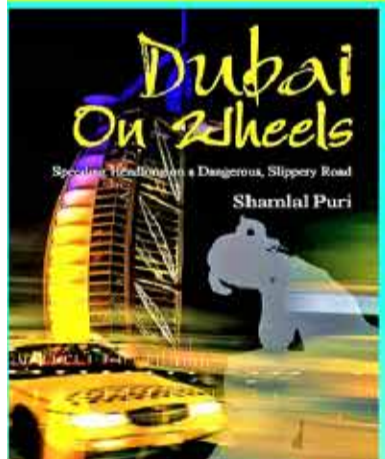
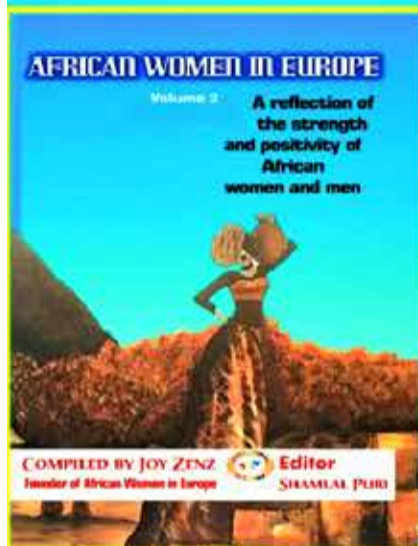
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Education The child who was once reserved becomes defiant; the obedient daughter now challenges authority, the quiet boy becomes absorbed in a smartphone

When the school gates swing open: Kenyan parents, their children and the humbling season of rediscovery



BY Fredrick Chelimo
@themkenyatimes



Open school gate

When schools close across Kenya for holidays, homes undergo a subtle but profound transformation. Spaces once quiet during school hours suddenly swell with a beehive of activity, noise, movements and constant negotiation for boundaries. For many parents, this period is not only a logistical adjustment; it is an emotional and psychological reckoning, time when children removed from the structured classroom environments and boarding institutions, reveal the true self that startles parents, leaving them confused, apprehensive and deeply unsettled.

Across urban estates, rural homesteads, and peri-urban settlements alike, a familiar narrative unfolds. Parents begin to question whether the children before them are same ones they sent off to school. The discipline, order, and predictability they associated with their sons and daughters seem to dissolve, replaced by attitudes, habits and behaviours that feel foreign. The child who was once reserved becomes defiant; the obedient daughter now challenges authority, the quiet boy becomes absorbed in a smartphone, navigating digital worlds his parents barely understand.

This strangeness is not imagined, but reflects a deeper reality about the dual lives Kenyan children increasingly lead. On one hand is the structured, rule bound world of school, particularly boarding schools, which dominate much of Kenya's schooling system. On the other hand, is the unregulated environment of home, where societal, technological, and generational forces intersect in complex ways. When children transition between these two worlds. The contrast becomes stark, and parents are left confronting a version of their children they have not fully come to know.

While it is precisely in this moment

of discomfort that a quiet realization dawns on many parents, the environment teachers operate in is far more complex and demanding than often appreciated. Managing dozens, sometimes hundreds of children from different backgrounds, each with unique personalities, emotional needs, different abilities, and behavioral tendencies is no mean task. The myth that children can be moulded into uniform character dissolves quickly during school holidays. Parents begin to see, first hand, that children are not standardized beings. They are fluid, layered, and often unpredictable.

At home, even managing two or three children can feel overwhelming. Multiply that by an entire classroom, and the magnitude of teacher's responsibility becomes clearer. The same child who appears difficult, moody or resistant at home is one among many in school, each bringing their own complexities to the fore. It is therefore in this holiday moment, amid the noise, the disagreements, the negotiation over chores and screen time, that many parents develop a renewed respect for teachers. The concept discipline becomes redefined, it is not only about rules, it is about patience, consistency, emotional intelligence, and an almost, relentless, invisible labour of guidance

At the heart of this disconnect is the evolving nature of childhood itself. Today's Kenyan child is growing up in a rapidly changing society, one shaped by digital technology, global cultural flows, economic pressure, and shifting social norms. Platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and online gaming and betting are not just forms of entertainment, but powerful socializing agents. They shape the language, attitudes, inspirations and even morals. By the time the child returns home for holidays, they are not just bringing homework, but an entire subculture with them.

For many parents, particularly those raised in more traditional settings, this presents a disorientating challenge. The parenting models they inherited, ones rooted in authority, respect, and clear hierarchies, often feel inadequate in the face of chil-

dren who question, negotiate, and sometimes outright resist. The result is a sense of alienation. Parents begin to feel like strangers in their own homes, unsure how to engage, correct, or even understand their children.

This period of school closure, as chaotic as may be. Offers critical opportunity, one that is often overlooked. A rare window of reconnection. During the school term, especially for boarding students, parents' involvement is limited to phone calls, fee payment and occasional visits. Holidays therefore offer not just breaks; they are the only extended periods when families can truly interact, observe, and rebuild relationships with their siblings.

The behaviour that shock parents, late waking hours, excessive screen time, reluctance to do chores or assertive communication, should not be dismissed merely as discipline. They are signals that point to a deeper shift in identity, exposure, and influence. A child who resists household rules may be grappling with a sense of autonomy shaped by peer environments. One who appears withdrawn may be navigating pressure, academic, social or emotional, that they have not yet articulated.

To better understand this requires a shift in parental approach, from control to engagement, from assumption

to enquiry. It calls for conversations that go beyond instructions and reprimands. Parents should take time and understand what are children consuming online, who are their friends, the pressure they face in school, their fears, ambitions and frustrations. This are necessary for understanding the children and why they behave the way they behave. Discipline, however, remains essential, but must be contextual. Blanket prohibition without explanation often backfires, creating resistance rather than compliance. Children should be guided on use, exposure and shared understanding to yield better outcomes on use of digital space.

There is also a broader societal dimension to this challenge. Kenya's education system, while highly competitive and structured, often prioritises academic performance over holistic development. Schools may enforce discipline within their walls, but they rarely equip parents with tools to manage their behavioral and psychological transitions that occur outside them. This gap leaves families to navigate complex developmental issues with inadequate support. Additionally, many Kenyan parents juggle demanding work schedules, leaving limited time to active parenting. In such context, schools, and increasingly, digital devices, become surrogate caregivers. By the time holiday arrive, the parent-child relationship may already be strained by distance and unfamiliarity.

The sense that these children are strangers, is not therefore a parental failure, but reflects a rapidly shifting social landscape. It is a signal that traditional parenting, must evolve to meet the contemporary realities. The solution that not lie on stricter controls, nor passive acceptance, but on a deliberate effort to rebuild connection, understanding and mutual respect. When children stream back home for holidays parents should not view as a burden, exhausting interruption of routines, but a humbling season for rediscovery.

In the laughter, the conflict, the confusion, and the unexpected lessons, there lies a deeper truth; children are not problems to be fixed, but individuals to be understood, and in understanding them, parents may also come to better appreciate the silent, complex work carried out daily in classrooms across the country

Mr. Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo
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At home, even managing two or three children can feel overwhelming. Multiply that by an entire classroom, and the magnitude of teacher's responsibility becomes clearer.

Relationship

The unspoken trap and cost of forced love: how love became a weapon of control



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
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Marriage was once a covenant. Two people, eyes open, chose a life together and bore the weight of that choice. Today, in too many bedrooms, boardrooms, and family WhatsApp groups, that covenant has been inverted. It has become a closing argument in a trial the man never knew he was standing in. The plaintiff rests, the jury is public opinion, and the verdict is pronounced before he speaks: "You must marry her." This is not an article about romance. It is an article about force — the kind that leaves no bruises but rewires a life.

The new mechanics of entrapment

Entrapment used to be crude — a pregnancy announced too late, a father with a shotgun. The modern version is quieter and therefore more effective. It runs on three levers: biological pressure, social litigation, and economic hostage-taking.

Biological pressure: the deadline as a weapon

The female fertility window is real, and culture has baptised it into a moral emergency. At 27, she is reminded she is "running out of time." At 29, the reminders become ultimatums. The man she is dating hears it too — but for him the translation is different: "Your indecision is now violence." Suddenly the abstract question of marriage becomes a concrete tribunal. To hesitate is to abandon. To ask questions is to insult. The timeline of her biology becomes the verdict on his



freedom.

Social litigation: the crowd as enforcer

No one needs a court when the community will do the sentencing. Screenshots are curated. "He used me for five years" goes viral before he knows he is accused. Aunts call his mother. Pastors call his boss. The narrative is set: he is the thief of youth, she is the defrauded investor. His reputation, built over a decade, is offered as collateral for her ring. The marriage no longer asks, "Do you love her?" It asks, "Can you afford not to?" In this court, the dowry is his silence.

Economic hostage-taking: the invoice of intimacy

Modern dating performs

equality but bills asymmetrically. He pays for dinners, trips, rent supplements, and the small emergencies that become monthly obligations. After three years the ledger is long. When she says "marry me or I walk," she is not issuing a preference — she is calling a debt. If he refuses, he is not just single; he is ungrateful, exploitative, a bad investment. The years he contributed are retroactively reclassified as fraud. Marriage becomes the only settlement that clears his name.

Why men comply, and why compliance feels like death

Men comply because the alternatives have been systematically removed.

First, the law has abandoned him. In most jurisdictions, a

child born in or out of wedlock binds a man financially for 18 years but binds a woman to nothing if she chooses to leave. The state will garnish his wages, not her access. When pregnancy appears, the calculus is brutal: marry and have some say in your child's home, or refuse and become a monthly remittance with visitation you must beg for. The choice is between captivity and exile.

Second, culture has redefined his refusal as abuse. A woman who says no is empowered. A man who says no is "leading her on." The asymmetry is not accidental — it is the moral scaffolding that makes entrapment possible. His no is read as cruelty; her no is read as wisdom. Under that rule, only one party is ever truly free to leave.

Third, his own sense of honour is turned against him. Good men were raised to "do the right thing." The trap uses that code as a lever. "If you were a real man, you would marry her." The sentence works because he believes it. So he signs the licence not from love but from fear of being the villain in his own story. That is how you imprison a man without locks: you convince him the cell is character. And when he complies, something in him goes quiet. The photos are perfect. The smile is rehearsed. Inside, a clock starts counting down to resentment, to withdrawal, to divorce — and to the child who will one day ask why their father is so distant. Forced vows produce forfeited homes.

The emotional ledger nobody reads

We talk about her wasted years. We never audit his. He spent his late twenties and early thirties building a career, burying a parent, paying a sibling's school fees, becoming the man he was told he needed to be before he proposed.

Then he is told those years do not count, because her biological clock was ticking louder.

We talk about her heartbreak. We never examine his. The man frogmarched into marriage grieves a real loss: the death of agency. He learns that his consent is decorative. That his future can be decided by someone else's panic. That love, for him, is not a choice but a sentence handed down for the crime of being available.

That grief does not make headlines. It makes alcoholics. It makes absent fathers. It makes men who tell their sons: "Don't trust, don't invest, don't linger." And so the cycle repeats — because a boy raised by a trapped man learns that love is a trap.

The question we punish people for asking

Was it ever really about love? If it were, the ultimatum would be unnecessary. If it were, the pregnancy would prompt a conversation, not a checkmate. If it were, the community would ask him, too, whether he is ready — instead of telling him he is already late.

But we do not ask. Because the entrapment economy depends on our silence. It depends on calling coercion "commitment" and calling refusal "wickedness." It depends on pretending that a man's freedom is expendable as long as a woman's timeline is satisfied.

What restoring honour looks like

The answer is not to vilify women. The answer is to re-establish consent as a right that belongs to both sexes.

First, decouple children from marriage. A man should be able to be a father without being compelled to be a husband. A woman should be able to be a mother without being compelled to be a wife. Parental responsibility and

marital status are not the same contract. Conflating them creates hostages.

Second, dismantle the social tribunal. Friends, family, and clergy must stop officiating ultimatums. The statement "marry her or you are evil" should be as socially unacceptable as "marry him or you are worthless." If we defend a woman's right to walk away, we must defend a man's equally — even when it is painful.

Third, teach young men to recognise the warning signs. If her love has a deadline, it is not love. If her family joins the negotiation, you are not courting a person — you are in dispute with a clan. Men must be permitted to say this aloud without being labelled misogynists. Awareness is not hatred. It is self-preservation.

Finally, restore marriage to its original meaning: a free yes. Anything less is a contract signed under duress — and a vow made under duress is a betrayal of the soul. It will be broken, in the bedroom or in court, and the children will pay the legal fees.

The cost of a forced "I do"

A society that permits marriage to become entrapment will inherit husbands who are inmates and wives who are wardens. Neither will be faithful, because neither was free. The home becomes a cold war. The children become citizens of a demilitarised zone.

We tell women: "Don't trap him." Not because they are villains, but because the alternative destroys them too. You cannot build lifelong devotion on a foundation of duress. You can only build a very expensive, very slow divorce.

Let the man choose. Let him choose late. Let him choose no. Because a woman who has to force a man into marriage has already lost him — she simply has not admitted it to herself yet. And the day she does, it will be too late for both of them.

US-Iran However, by the time of filing this report, it's still not certain whether and when the two sides can meet again in Islamabad

Table for talks set as world awaits U.S., Iran meet halfway in Islamabad



Iranian soldiers patrol the Strait of Hormuz in southern Iran in the past.

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Pakistan has readied its capital and intensified diplomatic efforts for the expected renewed U.S.-Iran talks, despite the next round of the high-stakes negotiation still hanging in the air.

Negotiating table set

Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi informed Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghadam on Monday that preparations for the second phase of talks in Islamabad have been completed, said the interior ministry.

According to a statement, the minister met with the ambassador to discuss arrangements for the second round of talks, saying that foolproof security arrangements have been put in place for visiting foreign delegations. Some 20,000 police personnel, supported by hundreds of

elite commandos, including snipers, have been deployed on security duty across Islamabad and the neighboring garrison city of Rawalpindi, according to police sources. Additional Punjab Highway Patrol, Dolphin Force and Quick Response Unit teams have also been placed on alert, while Safe City cameras and rooftop snipers are maintaining round-the-clock surveillance. Similar arrangements were made before the first round of peace talks between the United States and Iran aimed at easing recent hostilities in the Middle East. Security officials said a batch of advance teams from the United States, including security personnel, have arrived to coordinate arrangements for the expected talks.

Major hotels, including the Serena Hotel and Marriott Hotel, have asked guests to vacate after the government requisitioned the properties for the talks, while hostels and guest houses in the capital were directed to close until further notice. Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign

Minister Ishaq Dar also spoke with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Monday, stressing the need for continued dialogue and early engagement to resolve pending issues through diplomatic channels and promote regional peace. It was the second contact between the two foreign ministers in less than 24 hours, highlighting Pakistan's active mediation role as tensions continue to shape prospects for a broader U.S.-Iran understanding.

Negotiators pending

However, by the time of filing this report, it's still not certain whether and when the two sides can meet again in Islamabad.

U.S. President Donald Trump told Fox News that an agreement with Iran could be signed "tonight" in Pakistan's capital, while U.S. media later reported that U.S. Vice President JD Vance and the American delegation will travel to Islamabad on Tuesday. Iran struck a cautious

tone. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said Tehran currently had no plan for a second round of talks, accusing Washington of failing to show seriousness since the April 8 ceasefire. He cited what he called broken promises, the U.S. "naval blockade" in the Strait of Hormuz, the seizure of an Iranian commercial vessel, and disagreements over whether the Lebanon truce was part of the ceasefire arrangement. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian also took a defiant stance, saying on social media that Iranians "do not submit to force" and accusing Washington of sending contradictory signals while seeking Tehran's surrender. The current two-week ceasefire is due to expire on Wednesday, and Trump said it was "highly unlikely" he would extend it without a deal, adding that the Strait of Hormuz would remain blocked until an agreement is finalized.

Earlier in the day, Pakistan's Army Chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, reportedly told Trump that the block-

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According to a statement, the minister met with the ambassador to discuss arrangements for the second round of talks, saying that foolproof security arrangements have been put in place for visiting foreign delegations. Some 20,000 police personnel, supported by hundreds of elite commandos, including snipers, have been deployed on security duty across Islamabad and the neighboring garrison city of Rawalpindi, according to police sources. Additional Punjab Highway Patrol, Dolphin Force and Quick Response Unit teams have also been placed on alert, while Safe City cameras and rooftop snipers are maintaining round-the-clock surveillance.

ade of Iranian ports would remain a major obstacle to meaningful diplomatic progress. Iran has also indicated it may consider charging tolls for vessels passing through the strait, raising concern among Gulf states and international shipping companies. Despite the uncertainty, analysts remained cautiously optimistic about the prospects of talks in Islamabad. Defense analyst and retired Air Commodore Khalid Chishti said neither side appeared interested in restarting the war despite the ongoing brinkmanship, as both Washington and Tehran were under growing pressure to find a face-saving resolution.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Campus hustle: Turning fashion into a future at Rongo University

While most students clock out after lectures, Gordon is just getting started. The Rongo University student has quietly built a clothing and footwear business on campus — no shop front, no business degree, just a gap he spotted and decided to fill.

FAITH: Your posts are everywhere on WhatsApp and social media. How did the business actually begin?

GORDON: Personal need. Students wanted to look good for presentations and weekends, but quality meant travelling to town or paying inflated shipping fees online. I pooled my savings, bought a few trendy sneakers and quality thrift shirts, sold them, and reinvested the profit. It grew from there.

FAITH: You are a full-time student. How do you balance exams with running a business?

GORDON: Strict scheduling. Mornings

are for lectures and the library; evenings are for deliveries and customers. I keep inventory updated online so customers can browse without me present. During exams, the business runs on maintenance mode — pre-orders only.

FAITH: Why shoes and clothes specifically?

GORDON: Fashion is recession-proof. Everyone wants to look presentable, and style is self-expression. Shoes are a high-turnover item — keep quality high and prices fair, and you will always have customers. Students want premium looks without premium prices.

FAITH: Biggest challenge?

GORDON: Cash flow and reliable suppliers. Every sale goes straight back into stock. Finding suppliers who consistently deliver quality took serious trial and error.

FAITH: Advice for students wanting to start their own hustle?

GORDON: Start where you are. My biggest mistake was overthinking; my biggest win was simply beginning. And prioritise customer service — on campus, your reputation is your currency. Treat one customer well and their entire hostel hears about it. That word-of-mouth beats any advertisement.

FAITH: Where does this go after graduation?

GORDON: A physical shop in Rongo town, or an e-commerce platform serving universities across the region. The goal is a brand — not just a side hustle.

Gordon's story is a reminder that entrepreneurship does not wait for a diploma — sometimes, it starts with a pair of sneakers and the nerve to sell them

By **Faith Kemuma**, Rongo University – Migori

Love, pain, and healing: Akothee opens up on Dr Ofweneke's podcast

Musician Akothee's appearance on Dr Ofweneke's YouTube podcast has ignited a national conversation about love, heartbreak, and emotional recovery — and why Kenyans rarely speak about any of it honestly.

The episode, which blended humour with disarming candour, saw Akothee speak with unusual frankness about the emotional cost of relationships. Known for her outspoken public persona, she stripped back the bravado to describe how love can both elevate and devastate — and how those extremes quietly reshape a person's sense of self.

Her central argument was blunt: most people enter relationships chasing perfection, then crumble when reality arrives. Pain, she insisted, is not a sign of failure but an inevitable part of growth — provided you are willing to sit with it rather than bury it. "Healing requires time, self-awareness,



and a willingness to learn," she said, "not just a willingness to move on."

Dr Ofweneke, who steered the conversation with precision, added a layer of psychological weight. Many relationship failures, he argued, are not really about the other person at all — they are the visible symptoms of unresolved insecurity and poor self-understanding. His advice was direct: do the inner work before you ask someone else to carry you.

Self-love emerged as the episode's defining theme. Akothee was emphatic that seeking worth from another person, before finding it in yourself, is the surest path into a damag-

ing relationship. Heartbreak, she reframed, is not an ending — it is a turning point, and the sharpest teacher available.

Clips circulated widely after the episode aired, drawing praise for their authenticity. Viewers recognised themselves in the conversation — not because it offered easy answers, but because it finally asked the right questions.

In a media landscape flooded with curated relationship goals, Akothee and Dr Ofweneke did something quietly radical: they told the truth.

By **Diana Thyaka** | Laikipia University

Bought applause: Kenya's political rallies are a jobs crisis in plain sight

On any working weekday across Kenya, thousands of young people pack political rallies — not out of conviction, but because someone paid them to be there.

The arrangement is no secret. Mobilisers move through estates and villages offering small payments — enough for transport and a meal — in exchange for attendance. Young people show up, chant slogans, and manufacture the appearance of mass political enthusiasm. What floods social media as evidence of a leader's popularity is, in many cases, a transaction born of desperation.

The deeper scandal is not the payment — it is what the availability of those crowds reveals. A country where thousands of young people are idle on a Tuesday is a country with a serious unemployment problem. Kenya's youth joblessness rate remains among the most stubborn in the region, yet the sight



of packed midweek rallies rarely prompts a single politician to ask the obvious question: why are all these people free?

Instead, the crowds are celebrated. Large turnouts are packaged as political strength, broadcast as mandate, and recycled into campaign narratives. The irony — that the very people cheering are evidence of a system that has failed them — goes entirely unremarked.

The civic cost is as serious as the economic one. When young people learn to associate political participation with payment, democratic engagement corrodes. Rallies stop being forums for accountability and become arenas for performance.

Ideas yield to spectacle, and the nation's most energetic generation is reduced to a stage prop.

Media and civil society bear responsibility too. Reporting that counts heads without interrogating what those crowds represent misses the story entirely. A weekday rally drawing thousands should not only make headlines — it should demand answers.

Kenya's leaders will keep mistaking noise for support — right up until the moment the country can no longer afford the silence underneath it.

By **Moses Nkamasai** | Rongo University




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Sports >> *Lokedi also retains her women's title as Kenya dominates Patriot's Day in Boston — while a pregnant British runner captures the world's imagination

Korir shatters Boston record to claim back-to-back crown



Kenya's John Korir wins the Boston Marathon. PHOTO/BOSTON MARATHON

By **Martin Weche**

Kenya's John Korir won the 2025 Boston Marathon in a course record of two hours, one minute and 52 seconds, becoming the first man in the modern era to defend the title on Boylston Street.

The 29-year-old sliced one minute and ten seconds off the previous course record set by his compatriot Geoffrey Mutai in 2011, lifting his time into fifth place on the all-time global marathon rankings. It was a performance that announced, unmistakably, that Korir is no longer merely a contender — he is the dominant force in long-distance road racing.

The victory adds a glittering entry to an already formidable recent record. Korir claimed the Chicago Marathon title in 2024 and crossed the line first at the Valencia Marathon last December, making him one of the few

runners in history to hold three major marathon titles simultaneously. Athletics Kenya officials confirmed after the race that Korir had trained at altitude in the Rift Valley ahead of the Boston campaign, a preparation strategy that has become the backbone of Kenya's marathon dominance.

Korir, who fell early in last year's edition before recovering to take the win in what became one of the race's most dramatic recent finishes, was composed and controlled throughout Monday's edition. "This year was a breeze for me because I had no problems at the start or at the finish," he said at the post-race press conference. "It felt like a race back home with all the people cheering. It was in my mind to set the course record and I thank God that he fulfilled my wishes."

The women's race delivered its own moment of Kenyan supremacy. Sharon Lokedi defended her

title in two hours, 18 minutes and 51 seconds, finishing 44 seconds ahead of fellow Kenyan Loice Chemnung, who took second place. Lokedi could not eclipse her own course record of two hours, 17 minutes and 22 seconds set in 2024, but her authority over the field was never in doubt. The 2022 New York Marathon champion spoke of the mental discipline that carried her to the line. "I just kept telling myself, 'Be patient, be humble, you can do this'," she said. "And then I saw a little girl who said, 'You got this, ladies!' And it was so cute, and that was what I needed."

Kenya's clean sweep of both titles deepened a remarkable period of dominance for the nation in the World Athletics Marathon Majors series. According to World Athletics records, Kenyan runners have won more combined Boston titles in the past decade than any other country,

a statistic that underscores the depth of the country's distance running pipeline.

The human story of the day, however, belonged to Britain's Calli Hauger-Thackery. The 33-year-old completed the course in two hours, 43 minutes and 58 seconds — while 22 weeks pregnant. Hauger-Thackery won the Honolulu Marathon at four weeks pregnant and followed it a month later with victory at the Houston Marathon, a sequence that has drawn both widespread admiration and serious scientific interest in the physiological capacity of elite female athletes during pregnancy.

For Kenya, though, Monday belonged to Korir and Lokedi. On the oldest annual marathon course in the world, two Kenyan athletes rewrote its records and its history — and showed the world exactly where the summit of marathon running resides.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *The world's greatest sprinter sees his teenage self in Australia's 18-year-old sensation — and is worried about what comes next

Bolt to Gout: don't let the fame swallow the finish line



Australian star Gout Gout

Sprint legend Usain Bolt has urged Australian teenage sensation Gout Gout to stay anchored to track and field and build a strong support network around him before the pressures of global stardom pull him off course.

The warning from the eight-time Olympic champion came after Gout, 18, delivered one of the most startling performances in the recent history of sprint athletics. On 12 April, at the Australian Athletics Championships, the teenager retained his national 200 metres title in a time of 19.67 seconds — erasing American Erriyon Knighton's world under-20 record of 19.69 and surpassing Bolt's own teenage benchmark of 19.93, which the Jamaican set in 2004 when he was the same age.

The numbers alone tell a remarkable story. Gout also claimed the national under-20 100 metres title at the same championships,

cementing his status as the most compelling young sprinter on the planet. The run followed a wind-assisted 19.84 at last season's championships and a 20.04 in 2024 — at the time the quickest 200 metres ever recorded by a 16-year-old. World Athletics confirmed the championship marks as valid and began the process of ratifying the under-20 world record.

It is precisely this trajectory that has drawn Bolt's attention — and his concern. The Jamaican, who has previously said that Gout "looks like young me," spoke candidly to CNN about the dangers that accompany sudden, stratospheric fame in a young athlete's life. "At that young age, because I was there, you start getting put left and right and then you forget track and field," Bolt said. "Hopefully he has the right set of people to guide him and keep him focused on track and

field, because the rest of the stuff will always be there. But if you mess up on track and field, then it all goes away."

The advice carries the authority of lived experience. Bolt navigated the same crossroads at a comparable age, managing the competing demands of commercial opportunity, public adulation, and the relentless discipline required to become the most decorated sprinter in Olympic history. That he emerged intact was, by his own account, largely a function of the team around him — coaches, family, and a management structure that kept the sport at the centre of everything.

For now, Gout's competitive calendar suggests a young man with his priorities ordered correctly. He is set to make his Diamond League debut in the 200 metres in Oslo on 10 June, a stage that will test him against the world's senior elite for the first time at a

major international meet. He has also confirmed that he will bypass the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, opting instead to focus on the World Under-20 Championships in Oregon in August — a decision his coaching staff at Athletics Australia are understood to strongly support.

The choice to prioritise age-group development over the glamour of a senior multi-sport Games speaks to a maturity that Bolt, for one, will recognise. Whether Gout can sustain that discipline as the sponsorship calls multiply and the world's cameras follow his every stride remains the defining question of what promises to be a truly extraordinary career.

Bolt built a dynasty by never letting the world forget why it first came to watch him. Now he is telling Gout Gout the same thing — and hoping someone is listening.

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



A Voice of Faith and Purpose: The Rising Influence of Okoedion Ekeata, Known as Jewel Speaks



By: Anila Bukhari
@themkenyatimes

In every generation, there are voices that rise not only to entertain but to awaken hearts, challenge limitations, and ignite purpose. Among such voices is Okoedion Ekeata, widely known as Jewel Speaks, a Nigerian poet and spoken word artist whose words carry the power of faith, inspiration, and transformation. Through her poetic expression and unwavering commitment to uplifting others, she is steadily emerging as a voice that resonates deeply with audiences seeking encouragement, spiritual strength, and personal growth.

Jewel Speaks represents a new wave of artists who use creativity not merely for performance but for purpose. Her spoken word poetry is rooted in spiritual conviction, emotional honesty, and a profound desire to see others rise above their circumstances. For her, poetry is more than rhythm and metaphor—it is a ministry, a message, and a movement designed to awaken dreams and ignite courage in the hearts of listeners.

Her journey into spoken word began during her teenage years, when she discovered the transformative power of expression within the supportive environment of Living Faith Church, Ebhoakhuala, Ekpoma in Nigeria. It was within this spiritual community that her passion for poetry first took root. Surrounded by faith, encouragement, and a desire to serve, she realized that words could become a powerful tool for spreading hope and truth.

At an age when many young people are still searching for direction, Jewel Speaks found clarity in her calling. She recognized that her voice carried a purpose far greater than personal expression. Through poetry, she could speak life into situations, challenge societal barriers, and inspire individuals—especially

young women—to recognize their potential and pursue their dreams with confidence.

From those early beginnings, her spoken word journey evolved into a mission. Jewel Speaks began using her platform to encourage others to rise beyond the limitations imposed by fear, doubt, or circumstance. Her work consistently focuses on empowering the girl child, reminding young women that their dreams are valid, their voices matter, and their futures hold limitless possibilities.

Through carefully crafted verses and powerful delivery, she invites listeners to see themselves not as victims of circumstance but as individuals capable of greatness. Her poetry serves as a reminder that strength often lies hidden within the human spirit, waiting to be awakened by faith and determination.

What sets Jewel Speaks apart is the depth of conviction behind her message. Her work is deeply rooted in spiritual truth and biblical inspiration. Drawing guidance from scriptures such as 1 John 5:4, which reminds believers that faith overcomes the world, and 2 Corinthians 10:4, which speaks of spiritual weapons capable of breaking strongholds, she believes that words empowered by faith have the ability to transform lives.

For Jewel Speaks, spoken word poetry is not simply an art form—it is a weapon of transformation. Through her performances, she encourages individuals to break free from limiting beliefs and step boldly into their divine purpose. Her words often carry themes of resilience, faith, courage, and destiny, reflecting her belief that every person is capable of influencing the world around them.

This perspective has shaped her identity as both an artist and a motivator. When Jewel Speaks stands before an audience, she does more than perform poetry. She delivers messages that challenge individuals to awaken their dreams, embrace their calling, and pursue their visions with unwavering faith.

Central to her mission is the empowerment of young girls and women. She understands that many

young people grow up in environments where their voices are overlooked or their dreams underestimated. Through her poetry, she seeks to change that narrative by reminding them that their potential is not defined by their circumstances.

Her words often serve as a call to action—an invitation for young women to discover their strength, develop their talents, and build lives of influence and impact. Jewel Speaks believes that when girls are empowered to believe in themselves, they become leaders capable of transforming families, communities, and entire generations.

Another defining element of her work is her belief in the power of language. Words, she believes, have the ability to build or destroy, to encourage or discourage, to limit or liberate. By choosing words that inspire faith and courage, she seeks to create messages that uplift the spirit and ignite hope.

Through her spoken word performances, she paints vivid images of possibility. Her poetry challenges listeners to see beyond present obstacles and envision a future shaped by purpose and determination. Each line she delivers carries the intention of stirring hearts and reminding individuals that greatness often begins with a single courageous step.

Jewel Speaks also emphasizes the importance of dreaming boldly. Many of her poems focus on awakening dormant dreams—aspirations that may have been forgotten or suppressed by fear and disappointment. She believes that within every individual lies a dream waiting to be rediscovered, nurtured, and brought to life.

In her performances, she often reminds audiences that dreams are not accidental. They are seeds planted within the human heart, calling individuals toward purpose and fulfillment. By speaking these truths through poetry, she encourages listeners to reclaim their vision and pursue it with passion.

As her voice continues to reach wider audiences, Jewel Speaks remains grounded in the principles that first inspired her journey: faith,



Okoedion Ekeata

service, and authenticity. Her rise as a spoken word artist is not driven by fame but by a sincere desire to make a difference.

Each poem she writes and every stage she steps onto becomes an opportunity to uplift, encourage, and inspire. Her message is clear—when faith and purpose align, individuals gain the strength to overcome barriers and influence the world around them.

Looking toward the future, Jewel Speaks continues to grow as a voice of inspiration for her generation. With each performance, she strengthens her mission to awaken potential, empower young women, and remind people everywhere that words spoken with faith can change lives.

Through her art, she demonstrates that poetry can become a force for

transformation, capable of shaping minds, restoring hope, and inspiring bold action.

Okoedion Ekeata, known to many as Jewel Speaks, is more than a poet. She is a messenger of faith, a champion of dreams, and a voice determined to inspire a generation to rise—fearlessly, faithfully, and purposefully—into the destiny prepared for them.