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**Kenya Cultural Centre faces Parliamentary scrutiny on various issues**  
 The management of the Kenya Cultural Centre came under intense scrutiny from the PICS-SAA following damning audit queries that exposed financial distress, unresolved land ownership issues, and long-standing governance weaknesses. **Page 12**

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**The Mt. Kenya Times**  
 Daily ePAPER

**IEBC** Muturi questioned how such changes could occur without the voter's involvement, warning that the incident reflects deeper systemic flaws

# Muturi demands IEBC acting CEO to quit



## Moses Ledama Sunkuli

Leader of the Democratic Party of Kenya, Justin Muturi, has called for the immediate resignation of Moses Ledama Sunkuli, citing serious concerns over the integrity of the voter registration system managed by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). In a statement, Muturi raised alarm over what he described as unexplained alterations in voter records, pointing to a case involving his driver, Bernard Munene wa Gatama. According to Muturi, Gatama was initially registered at Kavengero Polling Station in 2012 but was later transferred to Newsite Kiambere in Mbeere South without his knowledge or consent. **Page 9**



DP party leader JB Muturi addressing a public meeting at Migwani in Kitui county yesterday. Photo | Courtesy.

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SCAN TO REGISTER

"ALL BUSINESSES ONE PLATFORM"

# Opposition leaders tour Kitui, intensify criticism of Ruto administration and vows to remain united

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

*Some of the moments as captured in pictures*

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua led a coalition of opposition figures under the United Alternative Government on a grassroots tour in Kitui County, engaging residents in Katutu, Tulia Market, and Migwani. The delegation used the forums to sharply criticise President William Ruto’s administration, accusing it of worsening the cost of living and straining public services.

Gachagua, now leader of the Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP), strongly faulted the government’s health reforms, particularly the transition to the Social Health Authority (SHA), claiming teachers still face barriers accessing medical care. He also criticised Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale, alleging misrepresentation of the situation on the ground.

On governance, he raised allegations of land grabbing involving figures he linked to government. He also repeated claims of attempts to privatise strategic assets like Safaricom.

Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka backed calls for nationwide demonstrations over economic hardship, while other leaders including Eugene Wamalwa and Justin Muturi joined the tour.

The opposition framed the engagement as part of a broader “Meet the People” campaign ahead of the 2027 elections, while the government maintained that its reforms are necessary for long-term stability and improved service delivery.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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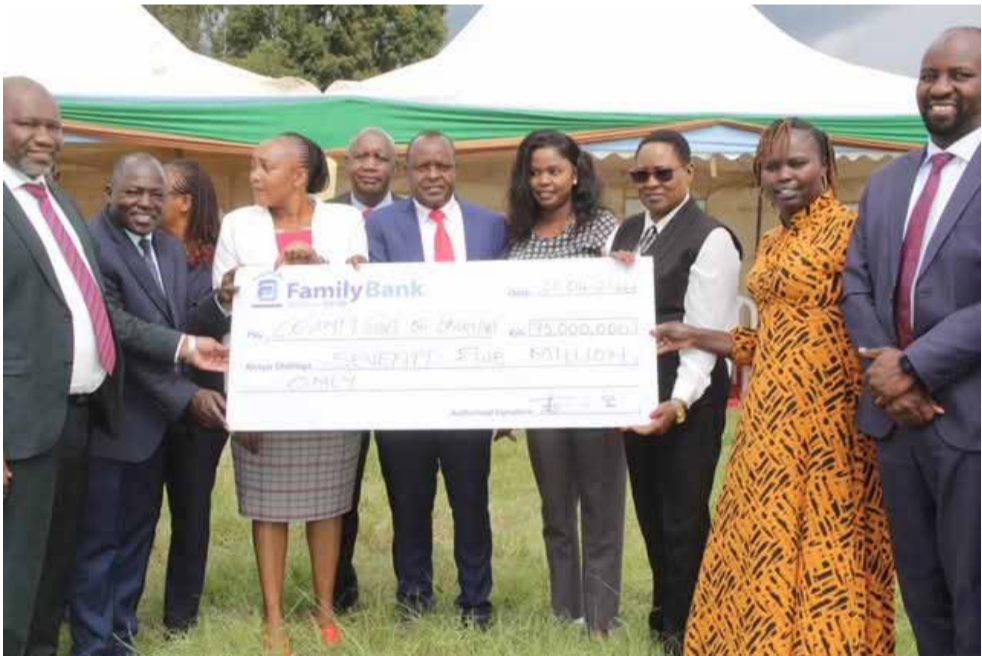


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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki yesterday met 10 aspirants seeking the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) ticket for the upcoming OI Kalou by-election following the death of David Kiaraho. He urged the candidates to consider consensus where possible, while assuring them of a free, fair and verifiable nominations process. Kindiki emphasized UDA's commitment to transparency and credible internal democracy, noting the party would uphold these standards during the exercise. The meeting was also attended by party officials including Chairperson Cecily Mbarire, Secretary General Hassan Omar, Elections Board Chair Anthony Mwaura, and ICT and Elections Director Brian Higgins Mbugua.



Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu, (2nd left), his deputy Reuben Kamuri (left) and some county officials display a dummy cheque worth KSh75 million, an amount to be disbursed as bursaries to 1500 bright and needy students from the county. The disbursement event was held in Nanyuki town, Laikipia county.



Governor Dr. Wilber Khasilwa Ottichilo receives a delegation from the Africa Urban Lab, led by Kenya Team Leader of the Urban Expansion Program, Dr. Joseph Akech (former Mayor of Nairobi), during a courtesy call at his office. The discussions focused on strategic urban expansion planning, strengthening urban governance, and exploring partnerships to promote sustainable economic growth and development in the County.

The Kenya National Highways Authority Upper Eastern Region team, led by Engineer Andrew Mesuy, in collaboration with the Materials Testing and Research Division (MTRD) Road Safety Section headed by Paul Ekai, has carried out trial road marking works along the Chiakariga-Meru (B65) Road. The exercise aims to improve lane visibility and enhance safety for motorists. To ensure compliance with standards, the team conducted reflectivity tests using a retroreflectometer and performed night-time inspections to confirm visibility levels. The initiative seeks to guarantee durable markings that support safe driving under both day and night conditions.



Francis Thoya joined leaders from Compassion International during a ceremony in Mombasa where the CORA Award was presented in recognition of church-led efforts to fight poverty and empower communities in the Coast region. Thoya praised the role of local churches in transforming lives through child-focused interventions, noting that supporting one child has a ripple effect on entire communities. He highlighted the organisation's partnership model as impactful in tackling poverty, saying the one-on-one support approach has contributed significantly to social and economic change in vulnerable households across the region.

The National Police Service Commission (NPSC) has been on a fact-finding mission in Nyanza region amid growing concern over rising mental health challenges among officers. The delegation, led by NPSC chairman Amani Yuda Komora, paid a courtesy call at the office of the Nyanza Regional Commissioner Flora Mworora before embarking on their mission. The visit was part of a familiarization exercise aimed at assessing working conditions and understanding challenges facing officers in the area. The tour follows amendments to the National Police Service Commission Act signed by President William Ruto in November 2025, which strengthened provisions for psychosocial support and counselling services within the police service. Dr. Komora said the Commission was responding to alarming reports from commanders indicating that a significant number of officers are grappling with mental health issues.



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**Politics** The DP said the crisis has been caused by the war in Iran that has disrupted the global oil sector

# Don't incite youth to engage in violent protests against fuel prices, DP warns opposition

BY DPCS

@themkenyatimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has asked opposition leaders to stop inciting youths to engage in violent demonstrations saying street protests are not a solution to the fuel crisis.

The DP said the crisis has been caused by the war in Iran that has disrupted the global oil sector resulting in higher importation costs.

"All countries in the world have been affected by the disruption and have reported higher fuel prices. Kenya is not an exception," he said.

Speaking yesterday at Torongo in Eldama Ravine Constituency, Baringo County after inspecting ongoing development projects, Prof. Kindiki said it is disingenuous for the opposition to apportion blame for a crisis that Kenya has no role in.

The DP inspected ongoing Esageri ESP Market and Torongo-Mosomboriet Road and commissioned Ibobor Last Mile Electricity Supply Project and later addressed residents at Torongo shopping centre in the constituency.

He said the government has acted swiftly by instituting several interventions to mitigate the situation and cushion Kenyans from higher prices.

"Nobody should incite the people of Kenya to break the law or destroy their country



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki interacting with Eldama Ravine residents at Torongo area yesterday.

because the solution to the fuel challenge is in the interventions which the government has already instituted," DP noted.

Among the measures are the reduction of the VAT on fuel from 16 percent to 8 percent and release of 6.2 billion shillings to stabilize the prices.

The Second in Command accused political opponents of latching on the crisis without providing any meaningful solution other than inciting young people to protest.

"We don't want people who have run out of ideas after squandering their time in office to incite young people to destroy their country. We

cannot allow lawlessness in our country," DP emphasized.

Further, he challenged the opposition figures to ensure their children are at the forefront of the protests instead of cajoling others.

"I am asking our young people not to fall prey to incitement by old people who are lying to you to engage in violent acts yet their children are not participating. Those calling for demonstrations must ensure their children are at the forefront," he said.

At the same time, the DP said ongoing development projects in Baringo are being hastened to ensure their completion on time.

The County has been allocated 32 billion shillings for construction of 854 kilometres of tarmac roads, including Timboroa-Eldama Ravine road, which has already commenced.

It has also received 22 billion shillings for modern markets, hostels and affordable houses. Electricity connection has been boosted with an allocation of 712 million shillings aimed at connecting 4,000 additional households.

"We are focused on development. We do not have time for useless engagements," DP said promising residents that the projects will be completed on time.

## Driver, conductor intercepted at Namanga for illegally transporting live snake



KWS, police and members of public viewing the snake at Namanga border.

BY Diana Meneto

@themkenyatimes

A bus driver and his conductor are in police custody after a live snake was discovered hidden inside a wooden box aboard a Kidia One Express bus at the Namanga border in Kajiado County.

According to Ferdinand Amaumo, a Customs officer at the Namanga border, the snake was found during a routine luggage inspection at the passenger bus conducted by members of a joint operations team comprising customs and police officers on Tuesday.

The luggage which had a sender and recipients telephone numbers had been labeled as motor vehicle spare parts, but upon a thorough search, a live snake was discovered concealed inside a wooden box.

The team contacted the Kenya Wildlife Service, which dispatched a trained snake handler who safely removed

the reptile from the box.

Confirming the incident, OCPD Oloilalei Namanga, Julius Munyagia, said efforts are underway to apprehend the main suspect believed to be the owner of the consignment, who was allegedly waiting to receive it within Kenya.

Munyagia cautioned individuals engaging in illegal activities along the border that they will be apprehended and face the full force of the law.

The incident comes barely three months after a bus from the same company was intercepted transporting cannabis worth KSh2.5 million to Nairobi, raising concerns over continued cases of illegal trafficking through the Namanga border.

The two suspects are currently being held at Namanga Police Station awaiting arraignment in court as investigations continue.

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**Law** Justice Mrima said the reforms are designed to address critical operational and legal challenges that have emerged since the court's establishment.

# Stakeholders back reforms to strengthen Small Claims Court operations

BY MKT correspondent

@themkenyatimes

The Small Claims Court Standing Committee has convened a public participation forum to review proposed amendments to the Small Claims Court legal framework, in a move aimed at improving efficiency and access to justice.

The forum, chaired by Anthony Mrima, a commissioner at the Judicial Service Commission, focused on proposed changes to the Small Claims Court Act, its Rules, and the Advocates Remuneration Order.

Justice Mrima said the reforms are designed to address critical operational and legal challenges that have emerged since the court's establishment. These include jurisdictional ambiguities, conflicting High Court interpretations on the court's mandate, procedural timelines, appeals, execution processes, and the handling of complex contracts filed



Stakeholders during one of the forums | Photo: courtesy.

before the court. He also noted inconsistencies between the Act and existing Rules that require harmon-

isation.

"The amendments are intended to reinforce the court's core objectives

of simplicity, accessibility, affordability, and the effective delivery of justice," he said.

The Small Claims Court was established to provide a faster and more affordable avenue for resolving civil disputes of relatively low monetary value, but stakeholders have raised concerns over gaps that have affected its effectiveness.

The public forum brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives from the Law Society of Kenya, the Office of the Attorney General, Association of Kenya Insurers, Kenya Private Sector Alliance, Kituo cha Sheria, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and the Kenya Law Reform Commission, alongside civil society groups, development partners and adjudicators.

Also present were the committee's Vice Chair Stella Mutuku and other members.

Participants discussed ways to streamline court processes, clarify jurisdictional limits, and enhance consistency in rulings, with many expressing support for reforms that would strengthen the court's role in delivering timely justice.

The committee is expected to continue similar stakeholder engagements in the Coastal, Western and Eastern regions later in the week as it seeks to gather more views before finalising the proposed amendments.

# Counterfeit goods worth KSh 3.8 million seized in Nyeri

BY KNA

@themkenyatimes

Authorities in Nyeri County are set to supervise the destruction of counterfeit goods worth KSh3.8 million that were seized in a renewed push by State agencies to end the sale of fake products.

The seized goods include 19,700 bottles of counterfeit alcohol packaged in various quantities. The counterfeited brands include Diamond ice, Jambo ice, Best, Blue ice, and Triger ice.

The enforcement teams also confiscated fake cosmetics, pesticides, car lubricants, motor vehicle accessories, stationery including geomet-

rical sets and an array of electronic items which were seized during various raids conducted within the county over the last nine months.

Speaking when he oversaw the release of the goods, yesterday to the Anti-Counterfeit Authority for destruction at their Athi River warehouse, Nyeri County Commissioner Josephat Biwott noted that the county had made significant progress in eliminating counterfeit and harmful products from the market.

He particularly singled out the significance of the anti-counterfeit raids in tackling the illicit brew and counterfeit alcohol menace in the county, noting that the efforts are beginning to bear fruits.

The commissioner acknowledged

that the fight against counterfeit alcohol had been particularly challenging, citing the proliferation of counterfeit liquor as a major obstacle.

"Our biggest challenge has been eradicating counterfeit alcohol," said Biwott.

He attributed earlier setbacks to weak coordination among the enforcement agencies involved in the fight but noted that collaboration has since improved, therefore strengthening enforcement efforts.

"There was a weak link but after our first meeting in January as the County Multi-agency Committee, we are going on very well and as we speak most of the counterfeit alcohol that has been seized has been submitted



Nyeri County Commissioner Josephat Biwott displays the counterfeit alcohol at the Anti-Counterfeit Authority offices in Nyeri on Tuesday.

to the relevant agencies for testing.

With cooperation from all the agencies, including the office of the Director of Public Prosecution and the Judiciary, one of the main suspects is in court and we are defending our case very well because everybody is involved to make sure that these things are done to their conclusion," said the County Administrator.

Biwott further disclosed that cases against suspects involved in the manufacture, sale and distribution of counterfeit alcohol will now be fast-

tracked with support from improved evidence collection by the Police and quicker laboratory timelines by the Government Chemist.

"We want to expedite the hearing and conclusion of court cases by proving the relevant requirements as per the ODPP and Judiciary's request to all the agencies involved in this fight to provide all the required evidence and support to make sure that the cases are concluded within a very short time," he said.

## IEBC

# IEBC warns politicians against hiring goons to attack opponents



IEBC chairman Erastus Ethekeon addressing the media in Turkana.

## BY MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

The Chairperson of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), Erastus Ethekeon, has warned politicians against hiring goons to attack their opponents.

Speaking during a tour of Turkana County, Ethekeon said those found culpable risk being disqualified from contesting.

He said the Commission witnessed election violence during the recent by-elections, citing Kasipul where those found guilty were fined KSh1 million.

The Chairperson affirmed that the Commission will fully and without exception enforce the election code of conduct.

“There is no way a person is looking for a job as they cause pain to innocent people. Look for a job by

talking to the voters, but do not use chaos,” said Ethekeon.

The Commission Vice Chairperson, Fahima Araphat, lauded the County residents who have so far been among the leading counties in the ongoing voter registration exercise.

Deputy Governor Dr John Erus asked the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission to extend the ongoing mass voter registration exercise by two more weeks.

He said many pastoralists from Turkana are currently out of the county in search of water and pasture for their livestock and risk being locked-out of registration.

The IEBC team paid a courtesy call to the County Commissioner before attending a stakeholder’s meeting at Moi Gardens Lodwar.



IG Douglas Kanja with other National Police Service senior officials at JKIA on Tuesday.

# Fourth batch of Kenyan police officers returns home from Haiti

BY MKT correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

The fourth contingent of officers from the National Police Service (NPS) has returned to Kenya after completing deployment under the Kenya-led Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission in Haiti.

The 150 officers arrived at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on Tuesday night, where they were received by Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja, alongside National Security Advisor Joseph Boinett and Deputy Inspector General of the Kenya Police Service Eliud Lagat.

Also present were senior police officials, including Deputy Inspector General of the Administration Police Service Gilbert Masengeli, General Service Unit Commandant Ranson Lolmoodoni, and NPS Spokesperson Muchiri Nyaga. The officers had earlier accompanied a high-level Kenyan delegation to Haiti for engagements with local authorities.

The returning personnel are part of a broader Kenyan contingent deployed to support the Haitian National Police in efforts to combat gang violence, restore public safety, and secure key infrastructure in the troubled Caribbean nation.

Speaking during the reception, In-



Some of the police officers with senior NPS officials and Kenya Airways staff after landing at JKIA. | Photo: Courtesy.

spector General Kanja praised the officers for their discipline, professionalism, and dedication during the mission. He also conveyed appreciation on behalf of President William Ruto, noting that their service had contributed significantly to restoring order and stability in Haiti.

National Security Advisor Joseph Boinett described the mission as historic, commending the officers for upholding Kenya’s reputation on the global stage through integrity and sacrifice. He said their contribution reflects Kenya’s growing role in international peace and security efforts.

Several senior officers also attended the reception, including Border Patrol Unit Commandant Davis Lomwatu, National Police College Embakasi ‘A’ Commandant Isaac Alimaa, APS Chief of Staff James Kamau, and APS Director of Operations Jackson Kangani.

Kenya has been leading the MSS Mission in Haiti, with its officers playing a key role in supporting local security forces amid ongoing instability. The return of the fourth contingent marks another milestone in the country’s continued contribution to international peace-keeping operations.

IEBC Muturi raised alarm over what he described as unexplained alterations in voter records, pointing to a case involving his driver, Bernard Munene wa Gatama

# Muturi demands resignation of IEBC acting CEO over voter register integrity concerns

BY WMW

@themkenyatimes

Leader of the Democratic Party of Kenya, Justin Muturi, has called for the immediate resignation of Moses Ledama Sunkuli, citing serious concerns over the integrity of the voter registration system managed by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).

In a statement, Muturi raised alarm over what he described as unexplained alterations in voter records, pointing to a case involving his driver, Bernard Munene wa Gatama. According to Muturi, Gatama was initially registered at Kavengero Polling Station in 2012 but was later transferred to Newsite Kiambere in Mbeere South without his knowledge or consent.

Muturi who has formerly served as the Speaker of the National Assembly, Attorney General and Cabinet Secretary repeated the claims during public meetings in Kitui county where he joined opposition leaders for citizens engagements.

The change reportedly rendered him ineligible to vote in the recent Mbeere North by-election.

Muturi questioned how such changes could occur without the voter's involvement, warning that the incident reflects deeper systemic flaws in vot-



DCP leader Rigathi Gachagua in Kitui yesterday.

er data management and transparency within the electoral body.

"This is not an isolated case but part of a broader pattern of discrepancies in voter records, including unexplained changes in polling station allocations," he said.

He noted that concerns over voter registration, data management, and transparency have been raised for over a year by political parties, civil society groups, and citizens, but accused the IEBC of failing to act decisively.

He argued that the earlier resignation of former IEBC Chief Executive Officer Marjan Hussein did not adequately address the underlying challenges facing the commission.

## Ultimatum and reform demands

Muturi issued a 14-day ultimatum to the IEBC to convene a National Electoral Consultative Forum bringing together key stakeholders, including political parties, religious leaders, civil society organisations, independent ICT experts, and the media, to address the concerns.

He also called for an independent audit of the voter register and the commission's digital systems, insisting that the process should include full public disclosure of safeguards governing voter registration kits.

Additionally, he urged the electoral body to establish a transparent and accessible mechanism that would allow citizens to verify and correct



Kalonzo Musyoka addressing the public yesterday.

their voter details, a move he said is critical in restoring public confidence.

"If the IEBC fails to act within the stipulated period, I will initiate lawful and constitutional measures to compel accountability," Muturi warned.

## Growing scrutiny on IEBC

The latest remarks add to mounting scrutiny facing the IEBC as Kenya prepares for future electoral processes. Analysts say the credibility of the voter register remains central to the integrity of elections and overall national stability.

Election observers have previously highlighted the need for continuous

audit and verification of voter data to prevent irregularities, particularly in an era of digital voter management systems.

While the IEBC has in the past maintained that its systems are secure and regularly updated, stakeholders continue to call for greater transparency and public participation in electoral processes.

Muturi emphasized that electoral credibility must not be compromised, warning that failure to address the issues could erode public trust in democratic institutions.

"The era of casual handling of electoral matters must come to an end," he said, underscoring the urgency of reforms ahead of the next electoral cycle.

# Bumula MP Jack Wamboka suspended over bribery allegations as Parliament orders probe

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

Bumula Member of Parliament Jack Wamboka was yesterday suspended from chairing the Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education following serious allegations of soliciting bribes from witnesses appearing before the committee.

The decision was communicated by National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula through Deputy Speaker Gladys Boss after mounting complaints were lodged with the Speaker's office and forwarded to the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Committee for investigation.

According to the complaints, witnesses who had appeared before the committee accused Wamboka of demanding bribes as a precondition for being granted audience or receiving favourable consideration during committee proceedings. The allegations were also echoed in a formal protest by the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), which cited what it termed as open hostility, harassment, and demeaning treatment of its officers when they appeared before the committee.

In response, the Speaker directed the Leader of Minority to nominate an interim chairperson by today, noting that the committee's vice chairperson is a newly sworn-in member

and therefore not fully positioned to take over leadership's immediately.

The Powers and Privileges Committee has been tasked with investigating the matter and is expected to table its report within 45 days. The committee's findings will determine whether further disciplinary action will be taken against the legislator.

The suspension marks a significant development in Parliament's ongoing efforts to enforce accountability and integrity within its committees, especially those handling public oversight and governance matters.

Meanwhile, Parliament has maintained that the probe will be conducted in accordance with due process,



MP Jack Wamboka

allowing all parties involved to present evidence and defend themselves before any final decision is made.

The allegations against Wamboka come at a time when Parliament has been under increasing scrutiny over ethics and conduct of lawmakers,

with calls for stricter enforcement of integrity standards in public service.

If the allegations are substantiated, the case could set a precedent for how misconduct within parliamentary committees is handled going forward.

**Agriculture** The MoU seeks to formalize collaboration between the two institutions and establish a framework for advancing agricultural research, innovation, and sustainability

# Nyeri to host key agriculture MoU signing between County government and KALRO

BY WMW

@themkenyatimes

Cabinet Secretaries Mutahi Kagwe and Wycliffe Oparanya are expected in Nyeri County today for the signing of a major Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at transforming agriculture and livestock development in the region.

The agreement will be signed between the County Government of Nyeri and the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), with Governor Mutahi Kahiga hosting the event.

## Background to the partnership

The collaboration stems from discussions held on October 13, last year, when the county hosted a KALRO delegation led by its board chairman Dr Thuo Mathenge. The meeting focused on strengthening co-operation in agricultural and livestock activities to improve livelihoods for residents.

As part of the agreement, Nyeri County has committed to allocating 20 acres of land at the Agriculture Machinery Station (AMS) in Narumoru for the establishment of a KALRO research centre. The land will be provided for an initial period of 20 years at a nominal cost.

## Key objectives

The MoU seeks to formalize collaboration between the two institutions and establish a framework for advancing agricultural research, innovation, and sustainability.

The proposed KALRO centre will serve as a hub for disseminating research-based technologies, innovations, and management practices to farmers in Nyeri and neigh-



CS Mutahi Kagwe

bouring counties.

The partnership will also focus on building capacity among farmers and agricultural officers through training, demonstrations, and extension services. Additionally, it aims to enhance productivity, promote sustainable farming practices, and improve access to both local and international markets.

## Areas of collaboration

Under the agreement, both parties will work together in several key areas, including research and development, resource mobilization, technology transfer, and policy advocacy. Joint research programmes will be developed to address local agricultural challenges, while validation

and testing of agricultural technologies will ensure their effectiveness and adaptability.

The collaboration will also support farmers in accessing broader markets and facilitate trade development. Training programmes will be rolled out to equip farmers with skills in modern farming practices, post-harvest management, and market systems.

## Roles and responsibilities

KALRO will be responsible for establishing and managing the research centre, conducting applied research, and implementing training and capacity-building programmes.

It will also mobilize resources and partnerships to sustain the initiative, as well as promote environmental conser-

vation through innovative projects.

On its part, the Nyeri County Government will provide the land, facilitate site development, and offer logistical and administrative support. The county will also help identify priority areas for research and coordinate with relevant departments to ensure effective implementation of the programme.

## Long-term Impact

The MoU will be valid for an initial 20-year period, with provisions for developing specific agreements for individual projects under the partnership.

Leaders say the initiative is expected to significantly boost agricultural productivity, enhance food security, and create economic opportunities



Governor Mutahi Kahiga

for farmers in Nyeri. By integrating research, innovation, and market access, the partnership aims to position the county as a leader in modern, sustainable agriculture.

The signing ceremony marks a major step in aligning county-level development with national agricultural transfor-

mation goals, with stakeholders expressing optimism that the collaboration will deliver long-term benefits to farmers and the broader economy.

After the signing ceremony, the team will head to Gachatha coffee factory where they will preside over giving out of coffee seedlings to farmers.



KALRO chairman Dr Thuo Mathenge



CS Wycliffe Oparanya



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# Mount Kigali University, JKUAT sign key academic collaboration agreement



Mount Kigali University Chancellor, Prof Egara Kabaji (centre) waters a newly planted tree as the institution's Founder, Prof Simon Gicharu (third left) and Victoria Wambui Ngumi (left) VC Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, and Martin Kimemia (right) VC Mount Kigali University look on during a tree-planting ceremony at the Karembure Happy Valley grounds in Kigali, Rwanda. | Photo: courtesy.

BY James Wakahiu

@themkenyatimes

Mount Kigali University (MKU), Rwanda, and Kenya's Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) have formalised a strategic academic partnership aimed at advancing applied research, innovation and regional higher education collaboration.

The partnership was sealed through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during an official ceremony held in Kigali. The agreement establishes a framework for joint academic programmes, collaborative research initiatives, and structured faculty and student exchange programmes between the two institutions.

The collaboration seeks to strengthen training in industrial and applied research while fostering cross-border knowledge sharing and innovation within the East African region.

By combining JKUAT's

strengths in science, technology and engineering with Mount Kigali University's growing academic and research portfolio, the partnership is expected to create new opportunities for students, researchers and faculty members in both countries.

The MoU was signed by Prof. Victoria Wambui Ngumi, Vice Chancellor of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and Dr. Martin Kimemia, Vice Chancellor of Mount Kigali University.

Speaking during the ceremony, Mount Kigali University Founder and Chairman, Prof. Simon Gicharu, said the collaboration reflects a shared commitment to excellence, innovation and regional development.

"This partnership demonstrates the power of collaboration in higher education. Institutions can achieve greater impact when they work together to advance knowledge, research and skills development for the region," he said.

Prof Gicharu noted that the

partnership reflects shared values of excellence, innovation and regional development. It also demonstrates a recognition that institutions can achieve far more when they work together than when they operate independently. Partnerships are not just agreements; they are commitments to grow together," he added.

As part of the event, the MKU Board of Directors also officially handed over the Karembure Happy Valley university grounds to Mount Kigali University administration.

The facility will support academic events, student recreational activities, and extracurricular programmes, contributing to holistic student development and enhanced campus life.

The grounds will serve both the university and the nearby Kigali Paramount Hotel for extracurricular and recreational activities. Prof. Gicharu said the land was acquired as a strategic investment intended to support the univer-

sity's long-term growth.

It will also provide a permanent venue for celebrating students' academic achievements and hosting recreational facilities.

Prof. Gicharu said the invest-

ment in expanded facilities underscores the university's long-term vision to create an enabling academic environment that supports teaching, research, innovation, and student well-being.

Members of the university community also took part in a tree-planting exercise at the grounds, symbolising growth, continuity and the institution's long-term vision.

The MKU-JKUAT partnership marks an important milestone in strengthening regional academic integration and positions both universities as key contributors to future-ready education, research

excellence and socio-economic development in East Africa.

Mount Kigali University is a fully-fledged institution of higher learning in Rwanda, committed to excellence in teaching, research, and innovation. The university offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes designed to meet regional and global workforce needs.

On its part, JKUAT is a leading public university in Kenya renowned for its focus on science, technology, engineering, agriculture, and applied research.



Mount Kigali University, Rwanda, Founder, Prof Simon Gicharu, waters a commemorative tree to celebrate the signing of an MoU between the institution and JKUAT (Kenya). With him is Prof. Victoria Wambui Ngumi, Vice Chancellor JKUAT (left); Dr Martin Kimemia, Vice Chancellor of Mount Kigali University (Right); and representatives of both universities.. | Photo: courtesy.



Prof. Victoria Wambui Ngumi, Vice Chancellor JKUAT (left) and Dr Martin Kimemia, Vice Chancellor of Mount Kigali University, display a document after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on academic collaboration on Tuesday. Looking on are officials from both institutions.

**Scrutiny** The reports paint a troubling picture of an institution struggling with insolvency risks and outdated legal frameworks

# Kenya Cultural Centre faces Parliamentary scrutiny on various issues

BY MKT Correspondent  
@themkenyatimes

The management of the Kenya Cultural Centre (KCC) came under intense scrutiny from the Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration and Agriculture (PICSSAA) following damning audit queries that exposed financial distress, unresolved land ownership issues, and long-standing governance weaknesses.

Appearing before the committee yesterday, KCC officials were grilled over reports by the Auditor General covering the financial years ending



PICSSAA vice-chair Caleb Amisi during yesterday's session.

June 2014 and June 2025.

The reports paint a troubling picture of an institution struggling with insolvency risks

and outdated legal frameworks.

The Auditor General warned that the institution is techni-

cally insolvent after recording a negative working capital of KSh14.3 million in the 2024/2025 financial year.

During the period, KCC posted expenditure of KSh402.7 million against revenues of KSh390.6 million, raising concerns about its long-term financial sustainability.

Appearing before the committee chaired by Vice Chairperson Caleb Amisi, manage-

**The Auditor General warned that the institution is technically insolvent after recording a negative working capital of KSh14.3 million in the 2024/2025 financial year.**

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Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina who a member of the PICSSAA committee making his contribution during yesterday's forum.

ment attributed the deficit to financial constraints and said discussions were ongoing with the National Treasury to secure additional funding to stabilize operations.

Lawmakers also raised serious concerns over the Centre's failure to provide ownership documents for its prime land and buildings, including the Kenya National Theatre and adjoining property valued at KSh333.9 million in the latest valuation.

The institution admitted it had not updated valuation reports, citing delays by the Ministry of Public Works.

A long-standing dispute with the Kenya Conservatoire of Music also resurfaced, with auditors noting unpaid rent amounting to KSh248,400 dating back to an 18-year period between 1960 and 1978 under a 1961 lease agreement. KCC management said it was seeking legal guidance from the Attorney General to resolve the matter.

The audit further flagged systemic governance weaknesses, noting that KCC continues to operate under the Kenya Cultural Centre Act of 1951, which has been described as outdated and redundant.

Although a new Bill has been drafted, its progress has stalled due to funding constraints for public participation.

Staffing shortages also emerged as a major operational challenge, with the Centre operating at only 45 percent capacity, employing 39 staff out of an approved 86.

Some departments reportedly rely on a single officer to handle multiple functions, raising concerns over internal control risks.

The committee directed KCC to develop a clear roadmap for financial recovery, operational efficiency, and legal reforms while urging continued engagement with the National Treasury for sustainable funding.

In the same session, PICSSAA also questioned the National Drought Management Authority over procurement irregularities, questionable allowances, and infrastructure projects undertaken without proper land agreements, signalling broader concerns over public sector governance and accountability.

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A Kenya Cultural Centre official taking oath before the PICSSAA team.

**Coffee** During the auction, a total of 10,848 bags of coffee; equivalent to 670,185 kilograms were traded, generating \$3.66 million (approximately KSh471 million).

# Coffee prices hold steady as Nairobi auction records KSh471 million in this week's trade



**BY Henry Kinyua**  
@themtkenyatimes

Coffee prices remained stable at the Tuesday auction held at the Nairobi Coffee Exchange, even as volumes declined in what analysts describe as a typical late-season trend.

During the auction, a total of 10,848 bags of coffee; equivalent to 670,185 kilograms were traded, generating \$3.66 million (approximately KSh471 million).

The auction posted an average price of \$272.73 per 50-kilogram bag, translating to about \$5.45 per kilogram of clean coffee.

Based on the standard 6.5:1 conversion ratio, the returns equate to roughly \$0.84 per kilogram of cherry, or about Sh108 per kilogram at

an exchange rate of 129, offering a useful benchmark for farmers tracking earnings at the farm gate.

## Lower grades dominate volumes

The sale was largely shaped by a strong presence of lower-grade coffees, particularly mbuni grades, which continued to weigh on overall prices.

Mbuni Heavy (MH) accounted for 2,730 bags at an average price of \$204, while Mbuni Light (ML) totaled 849 bags at \$132.

Together, mbuni grades made up about 33 percent of the total volume, meaning one in every three bags traded fell into this lower-grade category.

Other grades recorded stronger prices, with AB coffee registering 2,287 bags at an average of \$355, while AA fetched \$354 across 1,810 bags. Grade C coffee accounted for 956 bags at an average of \$298.

## Premium coffees attract strong bids

Despite the dominance of lower grades, high-quality coffees continued to command premium prices, with the top-performing lots coming mainly from Nyeri county factories.

Leading the sale was Kamoini Factory under Othaya Farmers Cooperative Society (FCS), whose AA grade fetched \$398 per bag. It was followed by Gaikundo Factory (Rumuki FCS) at \$393, Gatugi Factory (Othaya FCS) with AB at \$390, Ichamama Factory (Othaya FCS) at \$389, and Kiruga Factory (Othaya FCS) at \$388.

These premium lots were largely purchased by major buyers, including C. Dormans SEZ Ltd and Crowd Farm Africa Limited, highlighting sustained demand for top-quality Kenyan coffee.

## Late-season trends emerge

The auction reflected a clear late-season pattern, characterized by declining volumes, continued dominance of lower-grade coffee, and steady demand for premium grades. Market observers note that while



Sale 27 of Tuesday, April 21, 2025

GRADE	Bags offered	Weight offered	Min price	Max price	Value (USD)	Average price
AA	1,810	112,336	148.00	398.00	796,186.68	354.37
AB	2,287	139,609	197.00	390.00	989,980.26	354.81
C	956	59,371	139.00	339.00	353,856.60	297.68
E	52	3,296	295.00	323.00	20,407.62	309.58
HE	119	7,676	122.00	284.00	36,195.42	256.70
MH	2,730	166,469	105.00	247.00	679,454.72	204.00
ML	849	53,266	80.00	166.00	140,894.14	132.25
NH	82	5,121	154.00	256.00	20,438.44	199.56
NL	20	1,326	135.00	200.00	4,218.48	159.07
PB	457	29,737	295.00	377.00	204,093.80	343.35
SB	98	4,701	46.00	113.00	6,676.80	62.61
T	301	18,681	80.00	293.00	90,835.30	243.12
TT	139	8,934	278.00	341.00	53,809.80	301.15
UG	16	1,112	176.00	344.00	5,517.00	240.07
UG1	689	42,722	150.00	308.00	207,313.34	242.63
UG2	234	14,856	80.00	251.00	43,951.94	186.59
UG3	17	1,074	96.00	253.00	3,340.06	156.50
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>10,848</b>	<b>670,185</b>	<b>46.00</b>	<b>398.00</b>	<b>3,655,540.48</b>	<b>272.73</b>

Note: Prices are in USD per 50 Kg

the high share of mbuni coffee continues to drag down the overall average price, the resilience of AA and AB grades underscores the enduring value of quality in the market.

As the coffee season winds down, this week's sale demonstrates that

even with reduced supply and participation, strong-quality beans continue to attract competitive bidding, offering a measure of stability in an otherwise shifting market.

The Mt. Kenya Times



## Mr. Darcy`s Sunflower



The Dusky-  
Olive green emerges into pale yellow appearance  
thy baton dignify engagement to Lizzy`s  
emergence  
yellow, a pictogram of thy intellect, insights and  
joyousness  
beholder of polish grace, thou, her unspoken  
liveliness  
Shyness thy sweet ornament, eyes the doors to  
forgetfulness

O` Darcy,  
time cuddles thy wrist, fingers twist around the  
twig

Thy affection, her reflection, a melody, a mumbling  
click  
Small town boy, thou are, relishing elegance, thou  
live in  
And around where the birds sing and swing for  
thou, her twin  
She too, unheard and undeclared yet integral and  
transparent grin

Thy sunflower-  
Reminds the theory, one for others, forever and  
ever ahead  
Sipping sips from each lushness, compassion, a  
consistent tread  
Spring welcomes thy steps in, autumn forget his  
loss even  
Only thy persona, twinkles in her literary arena,  
she choosily given  
Thy speed is the speed of light, beyond her serene  
delight.

-Tajalla Qureshi

## Still, i rise within



I met my dreams on broken ground,  
Where hope was lost, not a sound—  
Plans I built with careful hands,  
Slipped away like shifting sands.

I stood there still, with heavy breath,  
Face to face with silent defeat,  
Every backup, every way,  
Faded into shades of grey.

The world felt louder in my fall,  
Yet I felt nothing at all—  
A quiet storm, a hidden cry,  
With tired wings that couldn't fly.

But somewhere deep beneath the pain,  
A whisper echoed through the rain—  
"Not every loss is meant to stay,

Some clear the path for a brighter day."

So I gathered strength from shattered pieces,  
From aching hearts and silent creases,  
And told myself, though torn apart,  
"There's still a fire within your heart."

For even nights that feel too long,  
Are shaping something fierce and strong,  
And though today may not feel kind,  
Tomorrow holds a gentler mind.

I may be bruised, I may bend low,  
But roots grow deeper when winds blow,  
And blessings walk a slower pace,  
Yet never truly lose their place.

So I'll stand tall in fragile light,  
Still believing in what's right,  
For one day soon, without a warning,  
My dark will bloom into a morning.

@Dr. Daksha Udhani  
Ahmedabad

## Spiritual awakening: A revolution within



In today's fast-paced world, centered on external achievements, a person often loses their true self. On the surface, they seem to be living, but underneath lies a hollow emptiness, an inexplicable restlessness, and a silent search for meaning. It is at this very point that spiritual awakening begins.

Spiritual awakening is not a simple change; it is the process of seeing oneself, one's life, and the world through a completely different lens. Things once considered vital lose their significance, while the inner voice grows louder. One begins to ask: "Who am I?", "Why am I living?", and "What truly makes me happy?"

Many imagine spiritual awakening to be a painless process. In reality, it often starts with an internal crisis. Old beliefs, fears, and limitations ingrained since childhood surface. A person

comes face-to-face with their own vulnerabilities.

This is not easy. Yet, this very pain is the beginning of growth.

A spiritually awakened person stops blaming the outside world. They take full responsibility for their life. Instead of seeking validation from others, they learn to rely on their own inner values. Gradually, they replace the inner voice that says "I am not enough" with the truth: "I am inherently worthy."

The most crucial step on this path is listening to oneself—not ignoring the body's signals, the flow of emotions, or inner needs. After all, spiritual awakening is a process that starts from within, not from without.

In today's society, being strong is not just about enduring. Real strength is the courage to understand oneself, to accept oneself, and to choose an authentic life.

Spiritual awakening is not the destination; it is the beginning of true living. The path is challenging, but it leads a person to their most authentic, powerful, and free self.

Author: Kholova Yulduz Erkinovna  
First-year student, Faculty of Social Sciences,  
Department of Psychology, Alfraganus University

## Forget your age. If you have goals to achieve, you are still young.



Age is just a number. It doesn't stop your goals.  
Goals make you younger and active.  
Thoughts lead you to achieve your goals.  
Physical appearance may change with age,

but your heart does not accept getting old.  
It still thinks young forever.  
When you forget your age, you can run to achieve your goals.

Therefore, age is not a matter for achievement.  
If you think your soul is young, you can reach your goals easily.

Forget the fear of age.  
Go forward with self-confidence.  
It will keep you young.

—G.YasminSirajudheen  
Secondary grade teacher  
Melmalayanur block  
Villupuram dt.

## My little daughter, my joy



Light scattered from the pages of my books,  
My flower, my companion on the paths of grace.  
Through you, my life's journey finds its bright  
looks,

You are my joy, my little daughter, in every space.  
Sometimes you cried while I faced the exam's  
test,

God is witness to the hardships we both knew.

Your presence is the shelter where I find my rest,  
You are my joy, my little daughter, through and  
through.

Born into the world, you embraced the river of  
lore,

Together we walked through paths both steep  
and wide.

Holding my happiness, your tiny heart gave more,  
You are my joy, my little daughter, by my side.

The weight of the lessons became our life's guide,  
Weariness faded, and joy began to dance.

In your gaze, my own vision is clarified,  
You are my world, my being, my only chance.  
May your eyes always shine with a brilliant glance.

Nigora Yo'ldasheva



If they don't see what you give,  
Don't keep giving more,  
If your effort feels unseen,  
Take a step back from the door.

You don't have to stay  
Where you're taken for granted,

Respect should come both ways,  
Not begged for or demanded.

It's okay to be quiet,  
To choose your own space,  
Not everyone deserves  
Your time or your grace.

Be kind, but be wise,  
Let your value be clear—  
If they don't appreciate you,  
You don't need to stay near.

R. SRIPRIYA  
BT ENGLISH GHSS KOLAPAKKAM  
KANCHIPURAM DISTRICT TAMILNADU  
INDIA

**Export** According to the CS, Kenya recorded a historic KSh1.1 trillion in exports in 2024, driven by horticulture, tea, apparel and manufacturing

# CS Kinyanjui: Middle East crisis threatens Kenya's export sector

BY Anita Kariuki  
@themkenyaintimes

Kenya's export sector is under pressure following ongoing tensions in the Middle East, which are disrupting key trade routes and threatening billions in foreign earnings. Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry, Lee Kinyanjui, noted that the instability could affect about KSh164.6 billion worth of annual exports to the region. According to the CS, Kenya recorded a historic KSh1.1 trillion in exports in 2024, driven by horticulture, tea, apparel and manufacturing. However, the Middle East, one of Kenya's fastest-growing markets, now faces uncer-

tainty. "The region is not only a major destination for our exports but also a key global logistics hub. Disruptions are affecting access to markets in Europe, Asia and North America," Kinyanjui explained in a press statement. Notably, restrictions along the Red Sea and Gulf corridors have increased transit times by 10 to 20 days, raised freight costs and caused air cargo delays of up to 48 hours. In addition, the delays are affecting perishable exports such as flowers and fresh produce, which depend on timely delivery. Further, high-value sectors including horticulture, meat, dairy and specialty coffee are already feeling the impact. Floriculture exporters are re-



CS Lee Kinyanjui

porting losses due to spoilage, while meat exports have dropped significantly in some markets.

Tea exports for instance, which account for up to 35 percent of shipments to the Middle East, are also facing reduced demand and declining prices.

Equally, rising global oil prices have further increased production and transport costs, with fuel accounting for nearly half of logistics expenses.

At the same time, the crisis could affect diaspora remittances, as more than 400,000 Kenyans working in the Gulf face uncertainties in sectors such as construction and hospitality.

In response, the government has introduced measures to cushion exporters and maintain trade flows as the CS announced that VAT on petroleum products has been temporarily reduced from 16 percent to 8 percent to ease fuel costs.

"We have activated a multi-agency team to monitor fuel prices, freight costs and supply chains, focusing on key sectors such as horticulture, tea, coffee, livestock and

manufacturing," he added.

Similarly, Kinyanjui disclosed that the government is also working with Kenya Airways and other logistics partners to secure alternative cargo routes and reduce delays.

"Efficiency at the Port of Mombasa and Lamu Port is being enhanced to improve cargo movement, while engagement with shipping lines continues to address rising freight and insurance costs," the CS elaborated, stressing that the situation highlights the need to diversify export routes and markets.

Likewise, Kinyanjui revealed that efforts are underway to expand trade in Asia, Europe and Latin America, while strengthening regional trade through frameworks such as the East African Community (EAC), COMESA and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

"The government remains committed to protecting exporters and ensuring continuity of trade while building long-term resilience," he assured.



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**Tech-farms** Today, those timelines have changed. Without reliable weather information, farmers are taking bigger risks - Daniel Nyambane

# How digital alerts are helping women farmers adapt to climate change

BY Elizabeth Angira

@themkenyatimes



**Grace Moraa tends sukuma wiki in her small garden. Once reliant on traditional knowledge to know when to plant or harvest, she is now happy that digital alerts have helped her adapt to climate change | Photo: Elizabeth Angira**

Fifty-two-year-old Grace Moraa walks slowly through her small farm, inspecting rows of tender maize plants pushing through the dark red soil.

The air is cool, but the clouds gathering above the rolling hills make her uneasy.

For decades, Moraa relied on instinct and traditional knowledge passed down from her mother to decide when to plant or harvest. The seasons once followed a predictable rhythm, with rains arriving in February, April, October, and sometimes December.

However, in recent years, that pattern has shifted.

“Sometimes the rains come late, sometimes they disappear completely,” Moraa says, bending to feel the moisture in the soil between her fingers. “You plant, hoping for rain, then the crops dry. Other times, floods destroy everything.”

Across Kisii and Nyamira counties, smallholder farmers—many of them women—face the same uncertainty. Climate change has made weather patterns harder to predict, threatening food security and household incomes.

## Shifting weather patterns

According to the Kenya Meteorological Department, rainfall in parts of western Kenya has become erratic over the past two decades, with longer dry spells and more intense storms.

Henry Sese, County Director of Meteorology for Kisii and Nyamira Counties, says rains that once arrived predictably in February, April, and October now come late, fall in short, intense bursts, or sometimes fail altogether.

“Farmers are now facing greater uncertainty,” he says.

According to Sese, rising global temperatures, deforestation, and increasing greenhouse gas emissions are some of the major drivers of climate change affecting the region.

Smallholder farmers like Moraa, who depend on rainfall, are highly vulnerable to the shifting weather

patterns, but many struggle to access timely climate information, modern farming technologies, and extension services.

“Farmers used to know exactly when to prepare their land,” says Daniel Nyambane, an agricultural extension officer working with

smallholder farmers in Kisii County. “Today, those timelines have changed. Without reliable weather information, farmers are taking bigger risks.”

The consequences are visible in shrinking harvests and rising food prices.

Now, a new ally is emerging. Farmers are turning to digital advisory platforms that combine satellite imagery, weather forecasts, and agricultural research to guide everyday decisions. Some of these tools also incorporate artificial intelligence (AI), using machine learning models to analyse large volumes of climate and soil data and generate localised recommendations.

Unlike traditional forecasts, which provide general updates across wide areas, these systems can offer more tailored guidance—such as when to plant, apply fertiliser, or prepare for extreme weather. However, not all platforms rely on AI.

“Digital weather advisory apps are very important because they translate complex weather data into simple alerts that help farmers prepare for droughts or heavy rains,” says Sese.

## The text message that changed everything

Last year, Moraa received an unusual message on her phone.

The alert warned farmers in her area that heavy rainfall was expected within two days and advised them to delay fertiliser application to prevent nutrients from being washed away.

At first, Moraa was sceptical. For years, she had relied on the sky and the behaviour of birds to read the weather.

Still, she decided to wait.

Two days later, a heavy downpour swept across Nyamira. Fertiliser applied on nearby farms was washed away.

“I realised the message was right,” she says with a quiet laugh. “If I had applied fertiliser that day, it would have been wasted.”

The alert came from FarmRise, a digital agriculture platform developed by Bayer. The platform analyses satellite imagery, weather forecasts, soil data, and farming practices to generate personalised recommendations on planting times, fertiliser application, pest control, and irrigation.

For farmers like Moraa, the advice arrives in simple language through SMS alerts or mobile apps.

“It feels like someone is watching the weather for you,” she says.

## Digital adoption

Thirty-eight-year-old Janet Nyanchama from Kisii County says climate information sent to her phone has transformed how she manages her vegetable farm.

Nyanchama grows tomatoes, sukuma wiki, and onions on a small plot behind her home. The produce supports her children’s education and household needs.

However, unpredictable weather often destroyed her crops.

“Sometimes the sun becomes too hot and the tomatoes dry,” she says. “Other times, too much rain brings diseases.”

Last season, she began receiving weekly climate advisories through a digital farming platform.

The messages helped her adjust planting dates and choose crop varieties suited to changing weather conditions.

“My harvest improved,” she says proudly. “Now I feel more confident because I know what to expect.”

## From complex data to simple advice

Experts say reliable climate information is one of the most powerful tools farmers can use to adapt to climate change.

“Digital tools help translate complex scientific data into practical advice farmers can use,” explains climate researcher Kelvin Getanda.

“Instead of receiving a general forecast for a whole county, farmers receive information specific to their location and crops,” he adds.

For farmers with limited access to extension services, these platforms bridge a long-standing information gap.

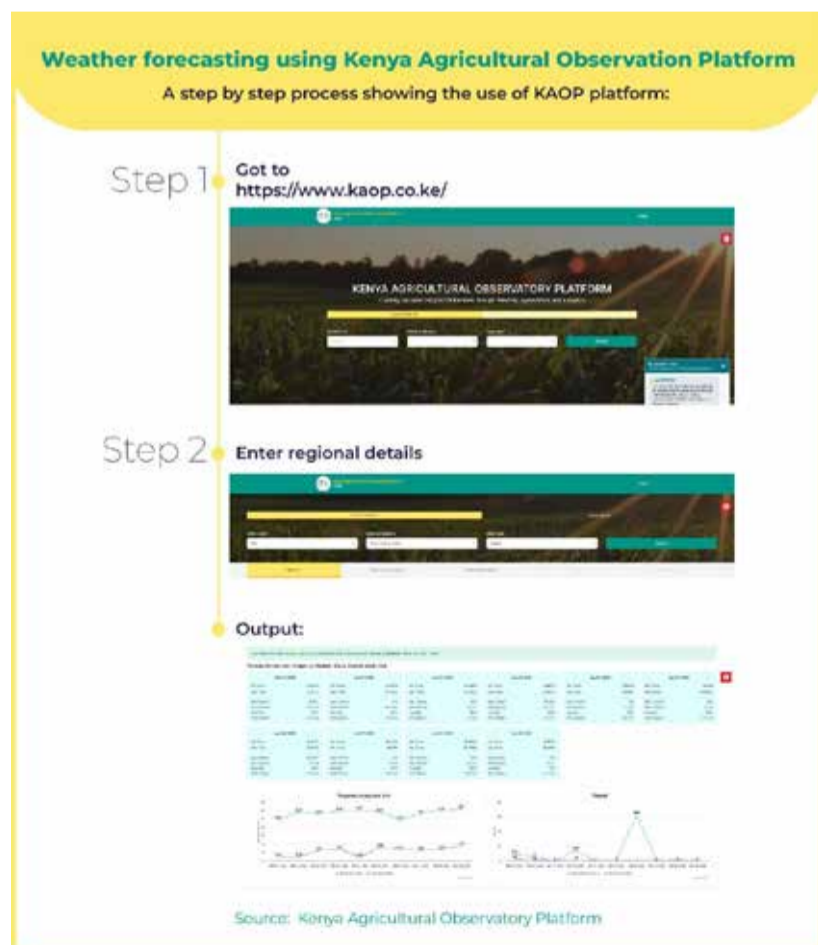
On another farm in Nyamira County, Rose Kemunto scrolls through her smartphone while sitting outside her kitchen.

A green icon labelled KAOP – the Kenya Agricultural Observation Platform – flashes open on the screen.

Developed by the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO), the platform combines satellite imagery, climate data, and agricultural research to provide farmers with localised weather forecasts and farming advice.

Kemunto discovered the app during a training session organised by agricultural officers.

“At first I thought it was something only big farmers could use,” she recalls. “But when they showed us how it works, I realised even someone like me could understand it.”



**Crime** Murkomen informed the House that the Inspector General of Police had directed the Internal Affairs Unit to take over the investigation

# CS Murkomen: Witima church attack still under active police probe

BY PSC

@themkenyatimes

Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration, Kipchumba Murkomen yesterday told the Senate that investigations into the alleged attack on former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua during a church service in Nyeri remain ongoing, with no final conclusions yet reached.

Appearing before the Senate plenary, Murkomen responded to questions raised by Kisumu Senator Tom Ojienda, who sought clarity on the deployment of police officers at Witima ACK St. Peter's Church, the chain of command behind any security operations, and whether police conduct complied with constitutional and professional standards.

Murkomen informed the House that the Inspector General of Police had



CS Kipchumba Murkomen

directed the Internal Affairs Unit to take over the investigation in order to guarantee independence and impartiality, especially amid concerns about possible involvement of police

officers.

He added that a preliminary report has already been submitted, though investigations are still ongoing.

The incident occurred on January

25, 2026, when unknown individuals allegedly threw teargas canisters into the church during a service attended by the former Deputy President and his delegation, disrupting the proceedings.

He further told senators that preliminary findings suggest the church leadership did not notify police or other authorities in advance of the high-profile visit. As a result, the Officer Commanding Police Station in Witima was reportedly unaware of the attendance of a prominent political figure, and no formal request for security had been made prior to the service.

Murkomen stated that police officers who responded to the scene did so after receiving reports of the incident, in line with their duty to maintain law and order. However, he noted that they faced resistance from members of the public who blocked access and accused them of being

involved.

He also told the Senate that early indications point to possible political rivalry as a contributing factor to the incident, though investigations are still determining the full circumstances.

On the legal framework, Murkomen cited provisions of the Public Order Act requiring organizers of public events to notify police in advance where security arrangements may be necessary. He emphasized that despite these requirements, police commanders have been directed to strengthen situational awareness and proactively monitor public and religious gatherings to assess potential risks, particularly where high-profile individuals may be present.

The Interior CS reaffirmed the government's commitment to professionalism and neutrality within the National Police Service, stating that any officer found to have acted outside the law or established procedures will face appropriate disciplinary and legal action once investigations are concluded.

The Senate is expected to continue oversight as the probe into the incident proceeds.

# How digital alerts are helping women farmers adapt to climate change

Contd from page 16

With a few taps, she can check rainfall predictions, temperature trends, and advisories on when to plant or apply fertiliser.

Last season, the app warned that the rains would be delayed.

"So I waited before planting my maize," she says. "My neighbour planted earlier and had to replant because the seeds dried in the soil."

For many women farmers, receiving this information directly on their phones is empowering.

"Many women manage farms but rarely attend agricultural training. When information comes to their phones, it allows them to make decisions independently," says Nathan Soire, Kisii County Director of Agriculture.



Even farmers without smartphones can still access information through extension officers, farmer groups, and SMS.

"This helps them access farming

information quickly without travelling long distances to look for extension services," says Bayer East Africa Customer Agronomist Barnabas Barare, who works with farmers

across Kisii, Nyamira, Kericho, and Transmara.

Bridging the gap

However, despite the promise of AI-enabled and digital agricultural tools, challenges remain. Experts say that while localised guidance can help farmers make more informed decisions, its effectiveness depends on the quality of the data behind it. Limited weather stations and gaps in historical data could affect the accuracy of predictions.

Many women farmers also face barriers such as limited access to smartphones, unreliable internet connectivity, and low digital literacy levels. Financial constraints also make it difficult for some households to afford smartphones or mobile data.

However, outreach programmes are bridging the gap. Extension officers and farmer groups are organising training sessions to support adop-

tion.

Back on her farm, Moraa blends traditional knowledge with digital tools. She watches the movement of birds, the flowering of trees, and the smell of soil before rain and also checks the alerts on her phone.

"The phone gives information," she says. "But the land also speaks."

Moraa kneels between rows of beans and gently pulls weeds from the soil. The clouds that worried her earlier have begun to clear, revealing a soft blue sky. Her phone buzzes with another alert: light rainfall expected later in the week.

She smiles.

"I never imagined farming could involve technology like this," she says. "But now I see it is helping us survive these changing seasons."

This article was produced as part of the Gender+AI Reporting Fellowship, with support from the Africa Women's Journalism Project (AWJP) in partnership with DW Akademie. The journalist used AI tools as research aids to review and summarise relevant policy and research documents and extract key statistics. All interviews, analysis, editorial decisions and final wording were done by the reporter, in line with Mt Kenya Times' editorial standards.

**Politics** Broad-based engagement between ODM and UDA suggested a pragmatic recalibration moment where historical rivals might find common ground in governance and national stability

# The Trailor without cargo: Kenya's fragile coalition politics and the illusion of transferable loyalty



BY Fredrick Chelimo  
@themkenyatimes

Political alliances or coalitions are cooperation agreements between entities, such as parties or groups with the aim of achieving a shared goal, like winning an election, pushing a specific agenda and forming a government. It is characterized by shared interests, strategic structure, and lasting for a period of election or for a government life.

In the fluid theatre of Kenyan politics, alliances are often announced with great spectacle, yet tested in the quiet, complex realities of loyalty, identity, and grassroots conviction. What is now unfolding between faction aligned to Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) and United Democratic Alliance (UDA), is compelling illustration of this enduring truth; political strength cannot be borrowed wholesale, nor can be transplanted without roots.

At first glance, the broad-based engagement between ODM and UDA suggested a pragmatic recalibration moment where historical rivals might find common ground in governance and national stability. For the UDA establishment, closely associated with Dr. William Ruto, the expectation appeared clear; that ODM would not merely extend a symbolic hand of cooperation, but would arrive in full, complete with its formidable grassroots machinery, regional loyalties, and electoral capital. In essence, they anticipated a fully loaded political trailer.

What has materialized instead is far less substantial. The leadership may have edged closer, but the mass-the living, breathing political base, has largely remained behind. The metaphor of "the trailer head without its forty-foot cargo" aptly captures the moment. It is a political alignment that looks structurally intact from a distance, yet reveals a striking absence upon closer inspection.

This disconnect speaks to a deeper



Broad-based engagement between ODM and UDA

misreading of ODM's internal dynamics. For decades, the party has not only been shaped by the towering influence of late Hon. Raila Odinga but also a resilient and ideologically anchored support base. That base is not easily swayed by elite negotiations or strategic accommodations. It is built on shared history, perceived struggle, and a collective sense of political identity that resists abrupt

redefinition.

The conspicuous silence or calculated distance of the faction association with Edwin Sifuna has only deepened this reality. Representing a strand of ODM that is more doctrinal, more assertive, and more attuned to the pulse of the grassroots. Sifuna's camp appears to have withheld the very substance that would have made the broad-based arrangement

viable. If the leadership represents the vehicle, then this faction retains the cargo- the numbers, the energy, and the ideological clarity.

For UDA, this presents an uncomfortable dilemma. A coalition without electoral transferability risks becoming hollow contract-politically visible, yet practically infective. The growing signal's that the party may be contemplating a solitary

path reflect both a recalibration and recognition that alliances, however well-intentioned, must ultimately translate into votes, legitimacy, and public trust.

Meanwhile, within ODM, the faction associated with Dr. Oburu Odinga and Governor Gladys Wanga finds itself navigating an increasingly narrow corridor. Positioned between cooperation and tradition, pragmatism and principle, this group faces defining moment. To remain within broad-based farmwork risks estrangement from party's ideological core; to retreat entirely may forfeit the strategic advantage that proximity to power can offer.

Their predicament is not merely political, it is existential. Should they attempt to hold the middle ground, they must find a way to translate elite alignment into a grassroots acceptance, a task that Kenyan politics has repeatedly shown to be fraught with difficulty. Alternatively, a return to the more orthodox ODM posture, often framed as "people-first or Linda Mwanji" ethos, would restore ideological clarity but potentially at the cost of immediate influence. The option of charting an independent course, while theoretically appealing, is constrained by realities of coalition-driven electoral success in Kenya.

When coalitions are built on fragile assumptions, the risk is not only political instability but also dilution of accountability and a weakening public trust. What emerges from this moment is a sobering reminder; that the political loyalty in Kenya is not a commodity to be transferred at will. It is cultivated over time. Sustained through shared purpose, and defended by communities that see themselves reflected in the political movements they support. Any attempts to bypass this reality, no matter how strategically framed. Will inevitably encounter resistance.

As the dust begin to settle, the choices made by both ODM and UDA will resonate far beyond their immediate political fortunes. They will speak to the maturity of Kenya's coalition culture, the balance between pragmatism and principle, and the extent to which political actors are willing to engage not just with each other, but with the people whose mandate they seek to carry.

In the end, a trailer without cargo may still move, but it cannot deliver.

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PWD

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**BOOKS & LITERATURE**  
**with Nayab Abid**  
 An M.phill Scholar from the University of Chenab, Gujrat

**Book Review:**

**Book Review:**  
**Author: Bapsi Sidhwa**  
**Book: The Pakistani Bride**  
**Reviewer: Nayab Abid**

**Men’s Words, Men’s Honor**

Well, I have read the Bapsi Sidhwa book, *The Pakistani Bride*. It was written in 1990. In this book, I see how men’s words are more important than a person’s life. How a father chooses to put her child under a bus just because he gave his word. I HAVE GIVEN MY WORD. These lines he kept saying to everyone. Words have more worth than life. How a husband cheats his wife with married women and tells her that if she were my own wife and had an illegitimate relation, then I might have killed you. and how a

husband beats his wife like an animal, just because she waves into an army truck. When she decides to leave him, she decides to go back to her father’s house. Her husband and his clan haunt her like an animal with guns. They literally haunted her for 10 days so they could kill her, and even while running, she was raped by some people. Yet her husband only cares about his honor, just wants to bury her with his own hands, so he can live in his society with his head held high. HOLO PRIDE, one thing always intrigues me, why men’s honor is carried by women. What kind of pride do they have, which is linked to

their women? “A woman’s body is not a battleground for male honor” – Bapsi Sidhwa

This book’s timeline is based on 1962. After 60 years, we still see honor killings in Pakistan. Still, fathers choose their so-called words over their child’s happiness. We see the child marry. Still, we see how a brother shoots his sister, a husband slaughters his wife, and a father kills

his daughter. And the most bizarre thing is that even when an honor killing case happened, our society, most educated people say that she might have deserved it, just like in the novel, Farukh said.

In the Motorway case, the police officer said why the mother of three was travelling alone at night. That woman was raped by two men in front of her children, but peo-

ple say what she was doing at that time. Even if she was raped, it’s seen as her own mistake; she shouldn’t drive at night. That shows how society is ingrained in people’s minds; whatever happens, it might be a woman’s mistake. “Why must a women carry the burden of honor alone?” – Fehmida Riaz

ular person, they kill them in the name of honor. When a girl ran away from their home, they dogged her and then killed her. Their main concern was WHAT WILL THEY SAY TO PEOPLE? HOW WILL THEY LIVE IN SOCIETY? Girls have been an emblem for honor killing in fickle society.

Our society sets different patterns for women and men. If men smoke, that’s normal in our society; if women smoke, they are considered bad women. Smoking affects the male lungs, but for women, it damages their character. We see people praying 5 times, and these same people arrange their daughter’s marriage without their consent, and when their women refuse to marry that partic-

In Islam, girls’ consent is so important. Islam didn’t say you have to beat your wife like an animal. In Islam, there is nowhere you have to kill your wife just because she doesn’t want to live with you anymore. Islam grants the right of Khula. How have we failed to educate girls about their basic rights? Still in a mostly rural area of Pakistan, women still don’t get an education. And those girls who do get an education, their only motive is marriage. After marriage, when they face violence and domestic abuse, their families tell them to compromise, and when their husbands give them (talaq) divorce, they commit suicide. Because after the divorce, how will they face society? Our society doesn’t accept divorced women.

In Pakistan, girls’ lives are so fragile, one of her leaked videos..... and she will be no more!

*NAYAB ABID:*  
 Nayab Abid, an MPhil student of English Literature at the University of Chenab, Gujrat.



are U.S.-Iran The United States takes actions that are in no way indicative of its seriousness in pursuing a diplomatic process, Baghaei said

# Where are U.S.-Iran talks headed following extension of ceasefire?

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes

U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he will extend the ceasefire with Iran at Pakistan's request, but did not specify an end date.

While the move is welcome, it has yet to generate momentum for dialogue. Iran has made it clear that it will not engage in a new round of talks unless Trump lifts his blockade on ships entering or exiting Iranian ports in the Strait of Hormuz. The contrast between a prolonged ceasefire and stalled diplomacy underscores the fragility of the current situation. Against this backdrop, several key questions arise: Why has Tehran refused to attend the talks? What is Washington's real intention in extending the ceasefire while maintaining pressure? And where might the situation head next?



**The U.S. decision to extend the ceasefire indefinitely has been widely interpreted as an attempt to preserve a diplomatic window, but analysts caution that it also serves broader strategic purposes. "Trump ... remains eager for a diplomatic solution to the war, wary of reviving an unpopular conflict he's claimed the United States already won," CNN reported Wednesday. However, the United States has not scaled back its military posture in the region. Multiple media outlets reported that U.S. naval deployments and surveillance activities in the Gulf have been maintained -- and even intensified -- during the ceasefire, suggesting continued pressure and retention of military options.**



U.S. President Donald Trump

## Why Iran refuses to negotiate?

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said Monday that Iran currently has no plan for the second round of peace negotiations with the United States. Tehran's attendance depends on Washington meeting preconditions, Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency reported, citing the U.S. naval blockade and "excessive demands" as key obstacles. Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said Monday that U.S. "provocative actions" and ceasefire violations are major obstacles to continuing peace negotiations between the two countries.

The United States takes actions that are in no way indicative of its seriousness in pursuing a diplomatic process, Baghaei said, noting that

since the ceasefire took effect on April 8, "we have been faced with the breaking of promises and nagging by the United States." He also noted an attack against an Iranian commercial ship earlier in the day, which he said is also considered a violation of the ceasefire. Baghaei said that under UN General Assembly resolutions, the blockade of a country's seas and ports is an act of aggression. He said Iran will carefully decide on how to proceed based on a single guiding principle: safeguarding the Iranian nation's interests. He said the issue of transferring Iran's enriched uranium has never been an option in any of the negotiations, stressing the importance for Iran to maintain its nuclear, industrial and scientific achievements.

## What's Washington's real intentions?

The U.S. decision to extend the ceasefire indefinitely has been widely interpreted as an attempt to preserve a diplomatic window, but analysts caution that it also serves broader strategic purposes. "Trump ... remains eager for a diplomatic solution to the war, wary of reviving an unpopular conflict he's claimed the United States already won," CNN reported Wednesday. However, the United States has not scaled back its military posture in the region. Multiple media outlets reported that U.S. naval deployments and surveillance activities in the Gulf have been maintained -- and even intensified -- during the ceasefire, suggesting continued pressure and

retention of military options. The United States is expected to deploy three aircraft carrier strike groups simultaneously in the Middle East in the coming days, NBC reported on Monday. The U.S. military will continue the blockade against Iran and "remain ready and able," Trump said Tuesday, although Pakistan's Army Chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, told him that the blockade of Iranian ports would remain a major obstacle to meaningful diplomatic progress. In this sense, the ceasefire extension is less a definitive step toward peace than a tactical maneuver to buy time for both negotiation and contingency planning.

## Where are US-Iran talks headed?

"Trump's ceasefire extension means nothing," said Mahdi Mohammadi, an adviser to Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, who led the Iranian negotiating delegation. "The losing side cannot dictate terms. The continuation of the siege is no different from bombardment and must be met with a military response," he added. Araghchi said Monday that Iran would decide whether to continue diplomacy based on "all aspects of the issue" and U.S. behavior, adding that Tehran would take steps to protect its interests and national security. "Honoring commitments is the basis of meaningful dialogue," Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian wrote in a post on X on Monday. He said deep mistrust of U.S. conduct persists in Iran, with "unconstructive and contradictory signals" from American officials suggesting they seek Iran's surrender. Despite significant hurdles, a U.S. official said there is still a chance that U.S. and Iranian negotiators will meet soon, though whether and when such talks might occur is far from certain, according to CNN reports. "The question now is not whether diplomacy has failed, but whether both sides are willing to keep trying despite that failure," said an analysis article published by Geojuristoday, a non-partisan think tank based in New Delhi.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Journalism in the age of everyone

Anyone with a smartphone is now a journalist. That is not entirely a bad thing — but it is an increasingly dangerous one.

Social media has dismantled the gatekeepers. Bloggers break stories before newsrooms do. TikTokers set the agenda. Influencers shape opinion through carefully curated posts. Platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and X have opened storytelling to voices once shut out of mainstream media, and universities have responded, retooling curricula to include digital storytelling, multimedia production, and audience engagement.

Yet democratisation has a dark side.

Many of today's content creators lack formal training and treat journalistic standards as optional. Virality trumps verification. Engagement outranks ethics. The result is a deluge of content that grabs attention but cannot be trusted — rumours dressed as reporting, graphic



footage shared without consent, suffering repurposed as entertainment.

Misinformation is the sharpest symptom. A single misleading post can reach millions within minutes, collapsing the boundary between fact and falsehood before any correction stands a chance.

For journalism students, the stakes could not be higher. Social media offers powerful tools — reach, immediacy, direct audience connection. But those tools demand greater ethical

discipline, not less. A platform is not a press card. Publishing is not the same as informing.

The question facing the next generation of journalists is not whether to embrace digital media — that debate is over. The question is whether they will wield it with the rigour the public deserves.

Speed built the information age. Responsibility must define it.

*By Oliver Ouma, Rongo University*

## Stranded between campus and home

For Kenya's university students, the road home is getting longer — and for many, it no longer leads anywhere at all.

Rising fuel prices have pushed public transport fares beyond what most students can afford. Bus companies and matatu operators have passed their higher operating costs directly onto passengers, and students — dependent on fixed, often meagre support from parents already stretched by the cost of living — are absorbing the hardest blow.

The consequences are immediate and visible. Students postpone trips home, spending holidays alone in hostels rather than with family. Others gamble on cheaper, overcrowded, or unreliable vehicles. A few simply stay put and hope the next semester brings better circumstances.

The toll is not only financial. Family contact is a critical anchor for student mental health.



When transport costs sever that connection, holidays that should offer rest and recovery instead bring isolation and anxiety. Important milestones — a sibling's graduation, a parent's illness, a funeral — are missed. The emotional debt compounds quietly.

There is also a structural injustice at work. Students from wealthier backgrounds travel without disruption. Those from low-income households cannot. The gap between them widens not just socially but academically: financial stress degrades concentration, pro-

ductivity, and ultimately, outcomes.

Solutions exist. The government could regulate fares during peak student travel periods or extend subsidies to vulnerable groups. Universities could negotiate bloc transport arrangements or expand flexible learning options around holidays.

The fare hike is a policy failure hiding in plain sight. Fix the road home — before an entire generation loses the way.

*By Adrine Odhiambo, Laikipia University*

## VIEWPOINT

## Zimbabwe's Democracy Under Siege: The CAB3 Scandal



Opposition MP Hon. Corban Madzivanyika

The recent allegations of vote-buying surrounding the Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 3 (CAB3) have sent shockwaves through the nation, with Opposition MP Hon. Corban Madzivanyika leading the charge against the government's proposed extension of President Mnangagwa's term. According to sources, MPs are set to receive over US\$110,000 each, with the first tranche reportedly paid out this month and the balance in May, fueling concerns about the integrity of the electoral process.

CAB3 seeks to extend the President's term by two years, citing the need for continuity in the country's development plans. However, critics argue that this move undermines the constitution and sets a dangerous precedent for future leaders.

Madzivanyika has slammed the move as a "clear attempt to sway lawmakers" and an "abuse of power". "Giving trinkets or promising in the face of a huge national debate on a matter of national interest is tantamount to vote-buying," he said in an interview. The MP's comments echo the sentiments of many Zimbabweans, who are demanding transparency and accountability from their elected represen-

tatives.

The government has denied allegations of vote-buying, stating that the funds are for constituency development and not intended to influence MPs' decisions. A ZANU-PF spokesperson said, "CAB3 is about extending President Mnangagwa's term to allow him to complete his vision for Zimbabwe's development."

Madzivanyika cited the country's crumbling healthcare system, decaying infrastructure, and rampant corruption as reasons why the President doesn't deserve an additional two years in office. "The past 8 years have been a nightmare; 2 more years would be disastrous," he said.

The Zimbabwe Law Society has also expressed concerns about the bill, stating that it undermines the rule of law and the constitution. Civil society organisations are planning protests against the bill, citing its potential impact on democracy and governance.

Women's rights groups are particularly concerned about the implications of CAB3, arguing that an extended term could lead to further marginalisation and erosion of women's rights. "This is a step backwards for women's empowerment," said a spokesperson

for the Zimbabwe Women's Coalition.

The allegations have sparked fears that Zimbabwe's democracy is under threat, with the opposition and civil society organisations calling for an investigation into the alleged bribery. The international community is also watching closely, with concerns about the implications for the country's economic recovery and relations with global partners.

In response to the allegations, Madzivanyika has called on President Mnangagwa to listen to the people, not voices of self-interest. "Zimbabwe deserves better than another term of misrule and corruption," he said, urging the President to step down and allow for a peaceful transition.

The outcome of CAB3 remains uncertain, but one thing is clear: Zimbabweans are no longer willing to be silenced. As the nation gears up for the vote, the people are demanding accountability, transparency, and a commitment to democracy. The world is watching, and the eyes of Zimbabwe are fixed on the outcome.

# SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS



**Sports >>** \*Chelsea head coach Liam Rosenior said his team's performance in their defeat by Brighton was both "indefensible" and "unacceptable" as he faced angry chants from his own supporters for the first time.

## Furious Rosenior Questions Chelsea's Desire

Chelsea head coach Liam Rosenior said his team's performance in their defeat by Brighton was both "indefensible" and "unacceptable" as he faced angry chants from his own supporters for the first time.

The chants began when Chelsea fell 1-0 behind at the Amex Stadium, with the visitors having barely registered an attempt on goal, and they eventually succumbed to a 3-0 defeat.

It was a worrying display and a further dip in performance given Chelsea did not have a shot on goal until the 40th minute and were error-prone defensively.

This was the Blues' fifth consecutive defeat without scoring – their worst such sequence since 1912.

"It was unacceptable in every aspect of the game, unacceptable in our attitude," said Rosenior.

"I keep coming out and defending the players – that's indefensible, that performance tonight.

"The manner of the goals we conceded, the amount of duels that we lost, the lack of intensity in the team. Something needs to change drastically right now.

"I think the players need to have a look in the mirror for what they put in. You can talk about tactics... tactics come after the basics.

"Having more courage to play, winning duels, winning headers, tackles, conceding terrible goals. That was an unacceptable performance tonight."

Chelsea's defeat played out in front of influential co-owner Behdad Eghbali and the club's sporting directors on the south coast, where Rosenior began his coaching career.

Questions will grow over whether the Englishman can continue in the dugout in the long term, with a last chance to save the season to come in the FA Cup semi-final at Wembley against Leeds on Sunday.

Seven points behind fifth-placed



Chelsea boss Liam Rosenior. PHOTO/LIGUE 1 ENGLISH.

Liverpool, having played a game more, Chelsea's Champions League hopes look in tatters and there are questions about whether the head coach, the players or the fans are on the same page.

### Rosenior's remarkable interview – the best quotes

"I don't feel there's a disconnect between me and the players.

"We work very closely with them in training, in individual meetings and team meetings. We are giving everything to the players.

"There is a lack of spirit and a lack of belief, which can create that perception. I can't argue with that at the moment because the run we're on is unacceptable and that performance definitely was as well.

"It's very soon after the game and I'm an emotional person, but that was unacceptable – unacceptable. We lost 80% of duels and didn't win a single header.

"Tonight was not [about] tactical. This was about desire, spirit, courage and I did not see enough of that tonight.

"It is accountability. I have defended the players at times when it was the correct thing, but I

can't defend that performance. It doesn't represent this football club, it doesn't represent anything I ask from the group and that has to change.

"I feel numb I'm so angry. Something needs to change drastically right now. The professionalism wasn't there.

"We need to look in the mirror. I need to look in the mirror. The general attitude, spirit, determination was lacking a part from maybe three or four of the 11. That is nowhere near enough for this club.

"Whether you're playing at this elite football club or any football club, to even be accused of throwing the towel in is unacceptable. That's all I'm going to say. I'm hurting.

"We need to make the right decisions for the team ahead of a massive game on Sunday and we'll do everything we can to turn it around."

### How bad is it for Chelsea?

Chelsea have lost five successive league games without scoring for the first time since November 1912.

Their overall five-game losing streak is their longest in the

Premier League since November 1993.

Across each team's past nine games in the Premier League, only Tottenham (two) have won fewer points than Chelsea's five.

Chelsea have just one win from their past nine matches.

The Blues are now without a clean sheet in any of their past 12 league games – it is only the second time they have had as long a run in the competition.

Chelsea's xG in the first half against Brighton (0.04) was lower than they had in any of Enzo Maresca's 114 halves of top-flight football as Chelsea boss.

It was also the longest they have gone into a league game this season before attempting their first shot (41st minute).

Only West Ham (15) have conceded more goals from corners than Chelsea (11) in the Premier League this season, with 11 the joint-most for the Blues in a campaign in the competition (level with 1994-95).

Can Rosenior survive as Blues boss?

What information do we collect

.....

Contd page 23

**Sports >>** \*Chelsea head coach Liam Rosenior said his team's performance in their defeat by Brighton was both "indefensible" and "unacceptable" as he faced angry chants from his own supporters for the first time.

# Furious Rosenior Questions Chelsea's Desire

Contd from page 22

from this quiz?

For much of the match, supporters directed their frustration towards the hierarchy, while also chanting for former owner Roman Abramovich.

Such songs have been a recurring feature of Chelsea's away support over the past 18 months and are increasingly being heard at Stamford Bridge.

However, this was the first occasion where Rosenior himself became the target of supporter anger, amid a growing sense that a sixth managerial change under the Clearlake Capital and Todd Boehly ownership group may be approaching.

Chelsea's stance has been that they will back Rosenior into next season with the intention to reserve judgement until the end of the next campaign.

The hierarchy increasingly accept they have made multiple managerial mistakes and are searching for stability.

In a rare interview earlier this month, influential co-owner Eghbali said: "I think we're behind Liam. Of course, it's a results business, but we think he can be successful long term."

However, two further defeats have worsened the situation and the fans have since turned, making it a more difficult decision to keep Rosenior than make a change.

Asked about fans turning on him, Rosenior said: "I understand the supporters' frustration. It's my job as head coach and manager – the buck stops with me. I have thick skin and I understand why the fans feel that way.

"I'm frustrated with the performances we're producing and I have to keep working hard with the staff and the players. But I also need to take a hard look at



Chelsea boss Liam Rosenior. PHOTO/LIGUE 1 ENGLISH.

how we approach games, the personnel we select and who I can trust in difficult moments, because not enough players showed that today."

Former Chelsea striker Chris Sutton told Sky Sports: "It's a team that look like they've never played together before. What's worse than that is it's been a really gutless display.

"The issue Liam Rosenior will have is people will look at this performance and say he has lost the dressing room, but Chelsea players need to take a hard look at themselves.

"Chelsea have been pathetic and

they are going backwards. You wonder what next for Chelsea and Rosenior."

'Painful' and 'disgusting' – what you said

Steve, London: Will Rosenior even make it to the end of the season? Might be gone sooner if they lose to Leeds in the FA Cup at the weekend. Never seen a manager more clearly out of his depth from the minute he walked into Stamford Bridge.

Stuart, London: Bring in an interim, the season is over. Cannot see this Chelsea team beating Leeds at the weekend.

June, Northern Ireland: Has that

taxi turned up for Rosenior?

Trevor, Essex: Disgusting! Wearing a gold World Champions badge! A Blue Peter badge would be too good for them at the moment!

Tim, Penzance: This is painful to watch as a Chelsea fan. There is no hunger from any Chelsea player currently on the pitch. Clearlake need to go, this is worse than the '80s.

BBC

# SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS  
SCORES  
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SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS





# From glamour to awakening: The extraordinary journey of Pia Isabel Rössle



By: Ayesha Talib

@themtkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

At twenty-two, Pia experienced a profound spiritual awakening that lasted nearly four months. It wasn't mystical noise — it was clarity. A deep, undeniable knowing that her life's purpose was to raise awareness of universal laws and help others access their own power. She studied business psychology, traveled through India, immersed herself in holistic healing, and in 2014, at thirty-four, founded Chez Zen — a retreat center nestled in the south of France.

Running Chez Zen as a single mother in rural Gascony was anything but easy. Local communities resisted her. Men struggled to be led by a young woman. Even her British landlord attempted to manipulate and push her out after she had invested significantly into the property. But Pia did not break. She leaned into forgiveness — not as weakness, but as a weapon of resilience.

There are people who change with the world, and then there are people who change the world by refusing to change who they are. Pia Isabel Rössle is unmistakably the latter.

Growing up in a home shaped by psychology — her father a prison psychologist who showed unconditional love even to the most hardened criminals — Pia developed an early fascination with the human mind and its capacity for transformation. By fourteen, she was exploring meditation and magic mushrooms. By sixteen, she had launched a modeling career that would take her across the globe. But it was a single moment, holding her first magazine cover in her hands, that changed everything. Nothing inside her had shifted. “Happiness is an inside job,” she realized — and that truth became the compass for everything that followed.

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Running Chez Zen as a single mother in rural Gascony was anything but easy. Local communities resisted her. Men struggled to be led by a young woman. Even her British landlord attempted to manipulate and push her out after she had invested significantly into the property. But Pia did not break. She leaned into forgiveness — not as weakness, but as a weapon of resilience. A Course in Miracles became her anchor. Justice became her conviction. Her daughter became her reason.

“Giving up on something I still believe in is simply not an option for me,” she says with quiet certainty.

When COVID brought that chapter to a close, Pia listened — truly listened — to what came next. During a gentle massage in Spain, her soul



Pia Isabel Rössle

spoke clearly. She moved to Mexico and co-founded Reality Upgrade alongside physician and author Dr. Stefan Frädriich. Today, Reality Upgrade is a team of forty-five professionals hosting psychedelic retreats in the Netherlands, Mexico, and the Caribbean — including on Sir Richard Branson's private island — and training the next generation of psychedelic coaches.

The work is bold, intentional, and deeply human. Pia and her team work with consciousness practices and substances like psilocybin, LSD, and MDMA in carefully held therapeutic settings. The results speak for themselves — suicidal individuals rediscovering joy, people releasing toxic relationships, professionals finding the courage to pursue their

true calling. “We witness transformations every single day,” Pia says. “The ones that move me most are when someone chooses life again.”

What sets Pia apart is not just what she does — it is how she leads. Her team operates without hierarchy, with rotating roles, open communication, and a shared commitment to personal evolution. Everyone is invited to show up whole. “Once you have to manage a team, you've already lost,” she says. “We work only with people who are genuinely on fire for the vision.”

For women walking bold, mission-driven paths, Pia's advice is direct and unfiltered: heal your relationships with other women. Reclaim your instincts. Release what your body has been carrying. “Fe-

male friendships have been the most powerful and transformative relationships in my life,” she reflects.

Pia Isabel Rössle has survived rejection, betrayal, and isolation — and emerged not bitter, but brighter. Her life is proof that the deepest transformations begin not with a retreat, but with a decision to never abandon yourself.