



Opposition intensifies pressure on Ruto government over health scheme, governance and accountability
 Opposition leaders under the United Alternative Government have escalated criticism of President William Ruto's administration, accusing it of poor governance, failure to deliver essential services. **Page 11**



Mudavadi calls for whole-of-society war on corruption amid rising bribery trends
 Mudavadi has called for a united, society-wide approach to combating corruption, warning that rising bribery levels and declining public trust threaten Kenya's governance, economic growth, and national cohesion. **Page 12**

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Voice of the People

The Mt. Kenya Times
 Daily ePAPER

Coalition A major outcome of the talks was the agreement to establish a Broad-Based Management Committee.

UDA, ODM in coalition push



ODM and UDA Form Broadbased Management Committee meeting

In a move that could significantly reshape Kenya's political landscape, the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) and the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) have announced plans to deepen cooperation, setting the stage for a potential formal coalition between the two traditionally rival parties.

The announcement followed a high-level consultative meeting held yesterday, bringing together the UDA Steering Committee and ODM's Central Management Committee.

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President William Ruto with ODM party leader Oburu Odinga. Photo | File

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Ruto pushes for African-led financing, industrialisation at Nairobi Infrastructure Summit

BY WMW
@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

President William Ruto has called for a shift toward African-driven financing and industrialisation, urging the continent to reduce reliance on external capital and instead harness its own resources to drive infrastructure development and economic growth. Speaking during the inaugural Africa We Build Summit in Nairobi, which he co-hosted with Africa Finance Corporation (AFC), President Ruto said Africa must mobilise internal financing and strengthen its financial institutions to achieve sustainable development. "Our ambitions will remain unrealised if we continue depending on external capital whose primary interest lies in profit rather than advancing our shared prosperity," he said. The summit, attended by regional leaders including Yoweri Museveni, also marked the launch of the Africa Infrastructure Report, a document expected to guide the continent's development agenda. Ruto commended AFC for choosing Nairobi as its regional headquarters, describing the move as a strong endorsement of Kenya's position as a leading

investment hub. Kenya further cemented its partnership with the institution by signing a Host Country Agreement and committing an additional \$25 million in share capital. In parallel, the President highlighted Kenya's deepening ties with the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), noting that a 2023 country programme has accelerated investments in industrialisation, special economic zones (SEZs), and infrastructure. Projects under collaboration with the bank include SEZ developments in Dongo Kundu, Sagana, Naivasha, Thika, Eldoret, and Nasewa, as well as the Vipingo SEZ in partnership with Kenya Commercial Bank. Ruto said Kenya had earlier boosted its shareholding in Afrximbank by \$50 million, underscoring confidence in African financial solutions. He emphasized that African institutions such as Afrximbank are better positioned to understand local challenges and provide home-grown solutions that support long-term development. The President also stressed



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Editor's Desk




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NEWS IN BRIEF

The 43rd edition of an international fruit and vegetable supply chain exhibition has been underway since Tuesday in Rimini, bringing together over 1,400 exhibitors and 800 global buyers across the fresh produce value chain. The event provides a platform for innovation, partnerships, and business opportunities from production to market. Kenya, through the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA), supported more than 12 local exhibitors to showcase their products. The delegation, led by AFA Board Chairman Cornelly Serem and HCD Director Christine Chesaro, engaged international partners and explored market trends. Kenya's horticulture exports to Italy rose from KSh2.1 billion in 2023 to KSh3.1 billion in 2025, driven mainly by fruit exports, which saw significant growth.



The Kenyan government is intensifying efforts to improve mental health services, focusing on community-level care and expanded access to treatment and rehabilitation. Public Health Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni announced plans to establish cessation centres in 10 counties to tackle drug and substance abuse, a key contributor to mental health conditions. She revealed that one in four patients seeking other medical services are diagnosed with mental health issues. Under Universal Health Coverage, mental health screening and care are now offered free at primary healthcare facilities to enhance early intervention. Speaking in Nanyuki, she reaffirmed government support for professionals and called for integrated, inclusive approaches to mental healthcare delivery nationwide. Her team was hosted by the county leadership led by governor Joshua Irungu.



The County Government of Turkana has initiated talks with Gulf Energy on revenue-sharing terms for planned oil exploration in the South Lokichar Basin. Deputy Governor John Erus said the county is pushing for transparent negotiations to ensure it benefits from local resources. A special committee has been formed to identify revenue streams, guided by legal frameworks including Finance Acts and the Field Development Plan. Discussions cover taxes, fees, environmental use, and services. Gulf Energy projects first oil exports by December 2026 and revenue by February 2027, with up to 43 wells planned in the first year.



Nyanza Regional Commissioner Flora Mworora has raised alarm over low voter registration in the region, revealing that more than 1.4 million residents with national identity cards have not enlisted. Mworora said the situation was compounded by a huge number of uncollected identification cards with over 80,000 cards lying at various registration offices and Hiduma Centres in the region's six counties. Speaking during a meeting with a team of engineers who have joined the drive to sensitise the community to register as voters, Mworora said even though her office has enlisted the support of chiefs and assistant chiefs to ensure that all the uncollected IDs are issued to the owners, the numbers continue to pile up.

Richard Atambo (centre), a farmer from Manga Sub-county in Nyamira county celebrates after he was presented with a motorcycle he won during the national anti-counterfeit seed campaign by Bayer East Africa Kenya at their offices in Kisii town, Kisii County yesterday.



Learners in Kajiado County have elected new leaders to the Kenya Children's Assembly (KCA) chapter in a bid to promote child participation in governance. The exercise, supported by the State Department for Children Services and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), involved 44 delegates from across the county. Positions filled included governor, speaker and clerk. Patrick Saruni was elected governor. Officials said the assembly equips learners with leadership skills and awareness on issues like FGM, early marriage and child labour. The elected leaders will represent the county at the national forum, advocating for children's rights and welfare.

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Coalition A major outcome of the talks was the agreement to establish a Broad-Based Management Committee.

UDA–ODM signal historic political shift with joint push toward coalition

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

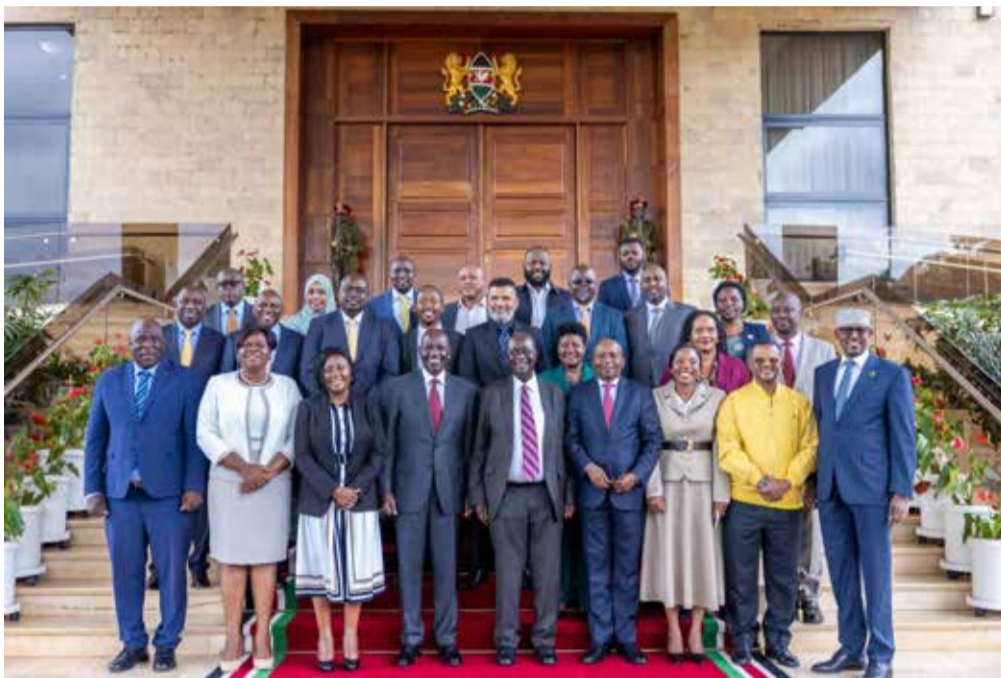
In a move that could significantly reshape Kenya's political landscape, the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) and the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) have announced plans to deepen cooperation, setting the stage for a potential formal coalition between the two traditionally rival parties.

The announcement followed a high-level consultative meeting held yesterday, bringing together the UDA Steering Committee and ODM's Central Management Committee.

The discussions centered on strengthening collaboration and identifying shared priorities, signaling a notable thaw in relations between the two political formations.

In a joint statement released after the meeting, both parties revealed that their respective chairpersons have been tasked with spearheading structured and continuous consultations across party organs. The goal, according to the statement, is to build consensus on key national issues and establish the groundwork for what was described as a "coalition of equals."

"This process will ensure sustained dialogue and alignment on matters of national importance," the statement read, underscoring a shared commitment to unity and co-



UDA and ODM teams in a group meeting. | Photo: courtesy.

operation.

A major outcome of the talks was the agreement to establish a Broad-Based Management Committee.

The proposed body will include party leaders, selected Cabinet Ministers, and both Majority and Minority Leaders in Parliament. Its mandate will be to coordinate legislative and executive priorities, ensuring a more synchronized approach to governance.

Political analysts say the formation of such a committee could enhance policy coherence while reducing friction between different arms of government—particularly in a political environment often marked by partisan divides.

The joint statement was

signed by President William Ruto, who also serves as UDA Party Leader, and Oburu Oginga, representing ODM.

Both leaders emphasized their commitment to constructive engagement, national unity, and inclusive development, themes that have increasingly dominated political discourse amid calls for broader cooperation across party lines.

While details of the proposed coalition remain under discussion, the announcement is already being viewed as a potentially transformative moment in Kenyan politics; one that could redefine alliances ahead of future electoral cycles.

If fully realized, the UDA–ODM partnership would mark a rare convergence of political forces that have historically competed for influence, raising expectations and questions about how such a coalition would operate in practice.

For now, both parties appear keen to maintain momentum, framing their collaboration as a necessary step toward delivering effective governance and addressing the country's pressing challenges.

Ruto pushes for African-led financing, industrialisation at Nairobi Infrastructure Summit



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He warned that continued reliance on raw exports has contributed to stagnation in manufacturing and loss of jobs.

"African governments and institutions must work together to ensure value addition happens within our borders," he said.

On the sidelines of the summit, Ruto held talks with AFC President and CEO Samaila Zubairu and Afreximbank President George Elombi to strengthen collaboration on infrastructure financing and industrial growth.

The President also met Nigerian industrialist

Aliko Dangote, founder of the Dangote Group, who announced plans to partner with Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania in building an oil refinery in Tanga, Tanzania. Ruto welcomed the proposal, describing it as a strategic regional project that would boost energy security, create jobs, and enhance value addition in the oil sector.

"African industrialists and entrepreneurs are key partners in transforming our economies through investment and innovation," he said.

The summit brought together policymakers, financiers, and business leaders to chart a path toward accelerated infrastructure development and industrialisation across Africa, with a strong emphasis on self-reliance, regional collaboration, and sustainable growth.

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NYERI

Othaya residents to receive thousands of fruit seedlings



Farmers from Karima ward with some of the Avocado fruit seedlings they received from their MP Wambugu Wainaina.

BY MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyatiimes

A tree-planting initiative aimed at boosting livelihoods and environmental conservation has been rolled out in Othaya Constituency, with 5,000 Hass avocado seedlings distributed to farmers in Chinga and Karima wards.

The exercise, led by area Member of Parliament, Wambugu Wainaina alias Kírīma through the Wambugu Wainaina Foundation, is part of efforts to promote agribusiness and enhance household incomes while supporting sustainable land use.

Speaking during the distribution, one of the MP's aide Macharia Joel said the initiative is designed to empower farmers economically by encouraging adoption of high-value crops such as Hass avocados, which have strong market demand locally and internationally.

He noted that beyond environmental benefits, the programme is intended to create long-term economic opportunities for residents by diversifying income sources and strengthening the local economy.

Speaking to this publication, the MP also reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring equitable distribution of development projects and

empowerment programmes across all wards in the constituency.

A similar exercise is scheduled to take place today in Iriaini and Mahiga wards as part of the ongoing rollout.

Farmers thanked the MP for his continued initiatives of empowering them.

A similar exercise was carried out last year where thousands of the constituents also benefitted.



Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina



Those who signed are; sitted from left, Lawrence Nyaguti Ochieng, Adan Duale and Mercy Mwangangi. Photo/courtesy.

Government moves to end health scheme disruptions for Civil servants

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatiimes

The government has announced sweeping measures to restore order and confidence in the delivery of healthcare services to civil servants under the Public Officers Medical Scheme Fund (POMSF), following mounting concerns over service disruptions and unlawful charges.

In a joint communiqué issued after a consultative meeting, the Ministry of Health Kenya, the Social Health Authority (SHA), and the Union of Kenya Civil Servants (UKCS) outlined a series of binding resolutions aimed at addressing operational challenges that have recently plagued the scheme.

The meeting comes in the wake of alarming reports that some civil servants had been detained in hospitals over unpaid bills, while others were subjected to unauthorized co-payments despite being covered under the scheme.

Leading the government delegation, Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale acknowledged the gravity of the situation, describing the incidents as unacceptable and contrary to the principles of universal and equitable healthcare access.

Among the key resolutions is a

firm reassurance that the government has not reduced medical benefits for civil servants.

Officials confirmed that outpatient cover exceeding KSh70,000 depending on job group alongside comprehensive dental and optical benefits, remains fully intact for over 120,000 principal members and their dependents.

To immediately ease pressure at health facilities, SHA announced the withdrawal of the controversial "tariff locking" system, which had been blamed for delays and confusion in service provision.

During the interim period, all contracted facilities have been expressly prohibited from charging civil servants any out-of-pocket expenses.

"This directive is anchored in the existing contractual obligations between SHA and healthcare providers," said SHA Chief Executive Officer Mercy Mwangangi, adding that strict compliance will be enforced to protect beneficiaries.

The communiqué further emphasized that enforcement of tariff provisions under existing contracts will remain suspended pending further review, signaling a shift toward a more flexible and responsive system.

In a move to enhance transparency and accessibility, SHA also committed to publishing a comprehensive list of all contracted POMSF facilities on its official platforms, enabling civil servants to make informed choices when seeking care.

At the same time, authorities underscored the need for fiscal discipline to safeguard the sustainability of the fund. Planned interventions include rigorous claims audits to detect fraud, quarterly utilization reviews, and continuous monitoring of loss ratios.

The agency will also streamline its provider network, retaining only facilities that meet clinical standards and adhere to agreed pricing structures.

Speaking on behalf of workers, UKCS Secretary General Lawrence Nyaguti Ochieng welcomed the resolutions, expressing cautious optimism that the measures would restore dignity and reliability in healthcare access for civil servants.

All parties reaffirmed their commitment to protecting the health and welfare of public officers, emphasizing that efficient healthcare delivery remains a cornerstone of a productive public service.

Health The opposition further accused the government of tolerating lawlessness, with Gachagua condemning the alleged use of hired groups

Opposition intensifies pressure on Ruto government over health scheme, governance and accountability

BY WMW

@themkenyentimes

Opposition leaders under the United Alternative Government have escalated criticism of President William Ruto's administration, accusing it of poor governance, failure to deliver essential services, and fostering a climate of impunity.

Speaking yesterday during the continued coalition's "Meet the People" tour in Kitui County, leaders led by Rigathi Gachagua faulted the government over the transition of teachers' health insurance to the Social Health Authority (SHA), claiming the system is not functioning effectively and is causing hardship among teachers.

Gachagua also alleged that teachers' unions had been compromised, leaving educators vulnerable amid ongoing challenges in accessing health-care services.

The opposition further accused the government of tolerating lawlessness, with Gachagua condemning the alleged use of hired groups to invade private property and intimidate citizens.

"These actions undermine the rule of law and expose ordinary Kenyans to insecurity," he said.

Echoing similar sentiments, former vice president Kalonzo Musyoka who hosted the opposition in his political backyard warned that continued tolerance of such actions could have serious international implications, including potential scrutiny by the International Criminal Court.

Addressing residents across various constituencies in Kitui, Musyoka thanked locals for their turnout, describing it as a sign of growing public dissatisfaction with the current administration.

"The people have spoken loudly. They are tired of unfulfilled promises and governance that does not prioritise their welfare," he said, adding that the opposition remains committed to what he termed a mission to "rescue the country."

Musyoka also acknowledged support from other opposition figures, including Eugene Wamalwa and Justin Muturi, as well as local leaders in Kitui, saying their unity reflects a broader movement for political

change.

Wamalwa, on his part, warned against granting the current administration another term, arguing that such a move would have far-reaching negative consequences for the country.

Meanwhile, Muturi raised fresh concerns over accountability within the ruling United Democratic Alliance (UDA), citing audit findings that allegedly revealed failure by party employees to remit statutory deductions, including contributions to SHA and the Housing Levy.

He claimed that more than KSh60 million remains unaccounted for, terming the situation a "blatant betrayal of public trust."

"Failure to remit statutory deductions is a criminal offence. Leadership must be held accountable," Muturi said, calling on UDA Secretary General Hassan Omar to respond to the allegations.

He further criticized what he described as double standards, accusing the government of enforcing strict compliance on citizens while allegedly failing to adhere to the same rules internally.

"You cannot demand sacrifice from Kenyans while shielding your own from the same obligations," he added.

The opposition leaders maintained that corruption, weak enforcement of policies, and lack of accountability

have eroded public confidence in government institutions.



Justin Muturi



Rigathi Gachagua

They pledged to continue engaging citizens across the country, with the "Meet the People" tour set to proceed to the Coast region.

The leaders said their campaign aims to mobilize public support while highlighting governance con-

cerns, positioning themselves as an alternative leadership ahead of future political contests.

The team is expected to embark on a similar forum in the coast region this weekend.



Kalonzo Musyoka

Coffee Leading the pack are Rung'eto Coffee Cooperative Society and Baragwi Coffee Cooperative Society, which recorded some of the highest returns

Kirinyaga coffee farmers reap record returns amid sector reforms

BY Mutai Kipng'etich
@themtkenyatimes

Coffee farmers in Kirinyaga County are celebrating a significant boost in earnings following the release of this season's coffee payment rates, with top performers earning up to Sh157 per kilogram of cherry.

The strong payouts have been widely attributed to improved management of cooperative societies and ongoing reforms in the coffee subsector.

Leading the pack are

Rung'eto Coffee Cooperative Society and Baragwi Coffee Cooperative Society, which recorded some of the highest returns, paying farmers KSh157 and KSh156 per kilogram respectively. Across the county, most cooperatives have already announced their payments, with the lowest rate standing at KSh120 per kilogram, still considered a notable improvement compared to previous years.

The payouts have sparked optimism among farmers, many of whom have endured years of unstable and often

low returns. Farmers expressed satisfaction with the current earnings, noting that their efforts in maintaining coffee farms are finally paying off. They credited cooperative leadership for promoting transparency, accountability, and efficient management, factors they say have played a key role in the improved returns.

Rung'eto chairlady Joyce Wanjiku confirmed that farmers under her society earned between KSh155 and KSh156 per kilogram. She described the rates as encouraging and

reflective of steady progress within the sector. According to her, the society handled approximately 5.5 million kilograms of coffee this season, translating to a total payout nearing KSh1 billion.

Wanjiku praised farmers for embracing coffee farming as a viable business venture rather than a subsistence activity. She noted that many have become more proactive in managing their farms, driven by the understanding that coffee can provide sustainable income.

She also highlighted the strong collaboration between farmers and cooperative management, which has ensured efficient service delivery.

At Baragwi, farmer Cecily Wanjiru echoed similar sentiments, saying the returns match the effort and investment farmers have put into their crops. She added that timely payments have come as a relief to many households, particularly as schools prepare to reopen.

Wanjiru also credited facto-



A coffee bush

ry directors and agronomists for offering training and extension services that have improved farming practices, yields, and coffee quality.

Similarly, Linus Muchira from Rung'eto noted that the favorable prices have renewed farmers' morale and are likely to boost production in future seasons.

Despite the positive outlook,

farmers cautioned against politicizing the coffee sector, warning that interference could undermine recent gains. They remain hopeful that sustained reforms and sound management will continue to enhance their earnings and secure the future of coffee farming in the region.

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Agriculture He accused brokers of exploiting farmers by buying nuts at as low as KSh30 per kilo and reselling to processors at higher regulated prices.

Kagwe cracks down on macadamia exploitation, launches coffee revival and secures Nyeri research hub

Agriculture and Livestock
BY WMW
@themkenyatimes

Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe yesterday issued a firm warning to macadamia processors, unveiled an ambitious coffee expansion programme, and announced sweeping reforms targeting mismanagement in cooperative societies, in a move aimed at boosting farmer incomes and strengthening Kenya's agricultural sector.

Speaking in Nyeri County yesterday, Kagwe directed processors to purchase all locally produced macadamia at the government-set minimum price of KSh100 per kilogram or risk the reopening of raw in-shell exports.

He accused brokers of exploiting farmers by buying nuts at as low as KSh30 per kilo and reselling to processors at higher regulated prices.

Kagwe said processors under the MacNuts Association of Kenya must absorb all local produce to sustain value addition, protect jobs, and ensure farmers receive fair returns.

He also urged farmers to form cooperatives to strengthen their bargaining power.

Tough measures to protect farmers

The Cabinet Secretary further condemned theft of high-value crops such as

coffee, avocados and macadamia, describing it as economic sabotage. He warned that such activities undermine livelihoods and threaten national food security.

On cooperative governance, Kagwe took a strong stance against reckless borrowing by tea and coffee factories, noting that some have developed a pattern of taking unsustainable loans and later seeking government bailouts without accountability.

"Government cannot continue writing off debts when there is no clear audit of how funds were used," he said, adding that new regulations will now require factories to present viable business plans before accessing loans.

He also challenged cooperative members to elect competent leaders capable of safeguarding farmer interests, emphasizing that poor leadership has contributed significantly to the collapse of some factories.

Coffee expansion and sector reforms

In a major boost to the coffee sector, Kagwe announced a nationwide recovery programme aimed at increasing production from 49,000 metric tonnes to 150,000 metric tonnes.

The plan includes distribution of one million coffee seedlings in Nyeri and an additional 10,000 seedlings to top-performing factories in

every county.

He said the initiative will also focus on rehabilitating old coffee trees and encouraging new planting, as improved prices renew farmer interest in the crop.

Among the beneficiaries is Gachatha Coffee Factory, which paid farmers KSh155 per kilo and received 200,000 seedlings worth over KSh12 million in recognition of its performance.

Kagwe noted that reforms under a new legal framework are underway, including the transition of the Coffee Directorate under the Agriculture

and Food Authority into the Coffee Board of Kenya.

The Coffee Research and Training Institute will operate under the new structure to enhance research and farmer advisory services.

Nyeri secures first agricultural research hub

In a significant development for the region, Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga allocated 20 acres of land to the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) for the establishment of the county's first agricultural research station.

KALRO board chairman Dr Thuo Mathenge said implementation will begin immediately, with the centre, situated near Naromoru town, along Nyeri-Nanyuki highway expected to focus on both crop and livestock innovation.

Kagwe said the research hub will play a key role in boosting productivity, particularly in semi-arid areas such as Kieni, by promoting modern farming techniques and innovation.

He emphasized that with limited land and a growing population, research and technology will be critical in increasing food production.

The county government has also set aside additional land for the Kenya School of Agriculture and the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), signaling deeper collaboration between national and county governments.

Kagwe said such partnerships are essential to transforming agriculture, increasing farmer incomes, creating jobs, and securing Kenya's long-term food security.

The CS was accompanied by several government and political leaders led by Nyeri Senator Wahome Wamatinga.



CS Mutahi Kagwe with other leaders outside Nyeri governor's office yesterday. | Photo: courtesy.



CS Mutahi Kagwe acknowledging greetings from Gachatha coffee farmers from Tetu constituency yesterday.

Bribery The average bribe also rose sharply from KSh4,878 in 2024 to KSh6,724 in 2025, a 38 per cent increase within a year.

Mudavadi calls for whole-of-society war on corruption amid rising bribery trends



PCS welcoming Uganda president Yoweri Museveni who attended the forum.

BY MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has called for a united, society-wide approach to combating corruption, warning that rising bribery levels and declining public trust threaten Kenya's governance, economic growth, and national cohesion.

Speaking yesterday during the 16th Eastern Africa Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (EAAACA) Annual General Meeting and Conference in Nairobi, Mudavadi cited findings from the 2025 Kenya National Gender and Corruption Survey that paint a troubling picture.

According to the report, 84.3 per cent of bribes in Kenya are paid before services are delivered, effectively turning corruption into a "gatekeeper" for access to public services.

Even more concerning, he noted, is that 98.6 per cent of those who paid bribes did not

report the incidents, signaling a deep crisis of trust in public institutions.

The average bribe also rose sharply from KSh4,878 in 2024 to KSh6,724 in 2025, a 38 per cent increase within a year.

Mudavadi highlighted generational disparities in corruption experiences, revealing that citizens aged 65 and above are often forced to pay bribes just to access services, while those aged between 18 and 64 typically pay to expedite processes.

He also pointed to corruption in employment, noting that the average bribe for securing a government job stands at Sh85,033, while promotion-related bribery averages Sh1,626.

"This is theft of merit, morale, and public confidence," Mudavadi said, warning that when effort is overshadowed by bribery, public service becomes compromised.

Despite these challenges, Mudavadi expressed cautious optimism, noting that 31.9 per

cent of citizens who refused to pay bribes did so on ethical grounds, demonstrating that integrity remains a strong value in society.

Strong legal framework, weak implementation

Mudavadi emphasized that Kenya has developed a robust legal and institutional framework to combat corruption. Key laws include the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act, which criminalizes corruption and economic crimes; the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission Act, which establishes the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC); and the Leadership and Integrity Act, which enforces ethical standards for public officers.

Other critical laws include the Anti-Bribery Act, the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act, and the 2023 Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Terrorism Financing Laws (Amendment) Act, which expanded disclosure requirements for



PCS Musalia Mudavadi addressing the forum

beneficial ownership, including foreign companies.

Mudavadi also cited amendments to the Companies Act and Beneficial Ownership Regulations, which require firms to disclose ownership structures, helping to curb illicit financial flows.

These frameworks are supported by institutions such as the Financial Reporting Centre, the Assets Recovery Agency, and the Central Bank of Kenya, all of which play key roles in monitoring, enforcement, and recovery of illicit assets.

Additional safeguards include the Witness Protection Act, which protects individuals involved in legal proceedings, and the Virtual Asset Service Providers Act, which regulates digital financial transactions to address emerging risks.

Mudavadi also highlighted the recently enacted Conflict of Interest Act, which introduces stricter disclosure requirements and tighter controls on public officers' private interests, as well as the Public Benefits Organisations Act, which modernizes oversight of non-profit entities and addresses corruption risks in donor funding and procurement.

Despite this extensive framework—comprising more than ten key laws—Mudavadi stressed that the main challenge lies in enforcement and implementation. He warned that some preventive measures, such as asset declarations by public officers, risk becoming mere compliance exercises without proper verification and enforcement mechanisms.

Progress and persistent gaps

Mudavadi pointed to progress made by the Ethics and

Anti-Corruption Commission, which in its 2024/2025 report forwarded 175 investigation files to the Director of Public Prosecutions, secured 33 convictions, traced Sh22.9 billion in unexplained assets, recovered Sh3.4 billion, and prevented the loss of Sh16.5 billion in public funds.

However, he warned that corruption is not confined to government institutions. It also exists in private corporations, civil society organizations, business networks, and even religious institutions, often facilitated by weak accountability systems and opaque financial flows.

Citing global trends, Mudavadi noted that corruption is increasingly transnational, with illicit funds moving across borders through complex financial systems. Kenya's efforts, he said, align with global standards set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), particularly in promoting transparency in beneficial ownership.

Globally, the scale of corruption is staggering. The World Bank estimates that over \$2.6 trillion—about 5 per cent of global GDP—is lost annually to corruption, while the United Nations puts the figure at \$3.6 trillion in bribes and stolen funds. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) estimates that organizations lose about 5 per cent of revenue to fraud each year, with up to 25 per cent of public investment lost through procurement fraud.

Regionally, Mudavadi referenced the 2025 Corruption Perceptions Index by Transparency International, noting that Seychelles ranks highest in Africa with a score of 68, while countries such as South Sudan and Somalia remain among the lowest performers.

A collective responsibility

Mudavadi stressed that fighting corruption requires participation from all sectors of society. He urged public servants to act with integrity, the private sector to reject bribery, civil society to maintain oversight, and the media to continue holding institutions accountable.

"Each of us either strengthens the culture of integrity or feeds the culture of impunity. There is no neutral ground," he said.

He called for practical reforms including real-time data sharing between agencies, stronger verification of beneficial ownership, faster asset recovery processes, protection for whistleblowers, improved procurement systems, and more rigorous audits.

At the regional level, he emphasized the importance of cooperation among anti-corruption agencies to enhance intelligence sharing and deny safe havens to criminals.

Mudavadi concluded by warning that corruption is not just a governance issue but a fundamental threat to development, democracy, and economic competitiveness.

He noted that in a rapidly evolving financial landscape, characterized by digital currencies and complex ownership structures corruption continues to adapt.

"Corruption thrives where anonymity survives," he said, adding that exposing hidden ownership structures is key to dismantling illicit networks and reclaiming stolen resources.

He emphasized that the fight against corruption is ultimately about nation-building, warning that failure to address it will erode public trust, reduce investment, and slow economic growth.

Environmentalist Kibiwot, a native of Elgeyo Marakwet County, achieved the milestone during a high intensity exercise at Kessup Forest Station.

Elgeyo Marakwet environmentalist Hillary Kiplagat plants 23,326 trees in 24 hour marathon

BY KNA
@themtkenyatimes

A 29 year old environmentalist, Hillary Kiplagat Kibiwot, has etched his name into global conservation history after planting 23,326 trees within 24 hours, surpassing the previous world record of 23,060 set in 2021 by Canadian planter Antoine Moses. Kibiwot, a native of Elgeyo Marakwet County, achieved the milestone during a high intensity exercise at Kessup Forest Station.

The attempt, which began on Wednesday, April 22, morning and concluded on Thursday, April 23, had initially targeted 24,000 seedlings within a single day.

The record breaking feat tested both physical endurance and environmental resolve, as Kibiwot worked continuously across expansive forest terrain under strict time constraints. "This is more than a Guinness World Records attempt. It is a pow-

erful signal of what we can achieve as a nation," forestry officials overseeing the exercise said, noting that the initiative reflects Kenya's growing leadership in grassroots climate action.

Although he narrowly missed his personal target, Kibiwot's tally exceeded the existing global benchmark, positioning him for official recognition by Guinness World Records pending verification.

The event organizers indicated that the exercise was supervised by the Kenya Forest Service in collaboration with local authorities to ensure compliance with international record verification standards, including documentation, independent witnesses and measurable outputs.

Governor Wisley Rotich, who flagged off the exercise, lauded the environmentalist's determination and the community's support.

"I want to appreciate our community for turning up and supporting our son as he makes history," the gover-

nor said, describing the achievement as a source of pride for the county.

Kibiwot, a co founder of the Green Earth Ambassadors Foundation, has been actively involved in conservation initiatives. His record attempt covered more than 30 hectares of forest land and has been widely viewed as a demonstration of resilience and climate action leadership.

Forestry experts have linked the achievement to Kenya's ambitious national target of planting 15 billion trees by 2032, a strategy aimed at restoring degraded ecosystems, enhancing biodiversity and mitigating climate change impacts.

"This effort reflects the scale of action required to address climate change," Wesley observed, adding that individual led initiatives are increasingly playing a critical role in achieving national and global environmental goals.

For the record to be formally ratified, Guinness World Records requires that the feat meet strict



Environmentalist, Hillary Kiplagat Kibiwot

criteria, including measurability, verifiability and replicability under similar conditions.

If confirmed, Kibiwot's accomplishment will not only set a new global

benchmark but also position Kenya as a hub for innovative and community driven environmental solutions.

The Mt. Kenya Times



When silence breaks too loud



I tried to hold it all inside,
A storm I learned so well to hide,
But hearts aren't built of endless stone,
They crack when left to ache alone.

The weight grew heavy, breath by breath,
A quiet war that tasted like death,
Each tear I fought, each word unsaid,
Turned into echoes in my head.

"I'm not enough" ... it whispers deep,
A cruel lullaby that steals my sleep,
It wraps around my fragile chest,
And tells me I have failed the test.

I scream inside, but no one hears,
My voice is drowned in silent tears,
A fragile soul, worn thin, undone,
Still chasing light, still outrun.

How much can one heart truly take?
Before it bends... before it breaks?
I gave my all, yet stand here still,
An empty ache I cannot fill.

And yet... beneath this shattered view,
A trembling truth still fights its way through—
Maybe the pain that makes me fall,
Is proof I've felt... I've given my all.

@Dr. Daksha Udhani
Ahmedabad

My Sirdarya



My Sirdarya, shall I call you my mother,
Or my father, my sister, my home?
Even before I was born, you embraced me,
Shall I call you my kind one, my only one?
With you, I found my place in life,
In my heart, the sun shines bright.
I recall my days of sorrow,
Turning life's pages, one by one.
In you remain the footprints of the great,
The brave who shielded you with their chests.
Your sons and daughters have now grown,
Their sweet voices will praise your name.
From sacred waters you held in your palms,

Let me drink deeply of your healing streams.
In your warmth lives a mother's love,
Let me sew garments for you with my love.
Across your lands stretch gardens wide,
Your flowers spread their fragrant grace.
The more I look, the more I admire you,
Your nightingales sing melodies of beauty.
In your embrace grew many heroes,
Among your poets — To'ra Sulaymon.
In your cradle rests Alpomish,
My Sirdarya, bloom and flourish forever.
May no evil eye ever touch you,
Let me hang an amulet upon your neck.
May *чужие* gazes never bend your pride,
In hard times, you held me close to your heart.
You are my Sirdarya, my mysterious river,
If only I could be a carpet beneath your feet.
Poetry is not a profession, just a simple passion,
Let me be known as your poet — that is enough.
Republic of Uzbekistan
Sirdaryo Region
👉 Bobonova Zulfiya

Memories of the village



Awoke the deep mercy within her chest.

"Run! It's a 'sin' to leave her; the thought is too
grim,
Drag her by the stakes, don't let her hope dim.
Don't let the ginger heifer freeze in the cold,"
She said, sowing kindness in hearts young and
bold.

Together with sister, through the rain we did race,
Covered in mud, we reached the right place.
Rescuing that ginger soul from the fray,
We felt we had conquered the world on that day.

It's raining again... that day's memory nears,
My grandmother's voice rings soft in my ears.
The school that once taught me what "uvol"
means—

Was that ginger creature, and mercy's bright
scenes.

Gulchehra Abdurasuljon qizi Umrzaqova 3rd-year
student of "Psychology,"
Faculty of Social Sciences,
"Alfraganus University"

Thoughts never dismount, they race back in time,
Rain finds the old aches, a rhythm and rhyme.
In the empty yard of the unfinished school,
My ginger heifer lows, gentle and cool.

Her mother was sold, she was small and alone,
A kind, secret friend we called our own.
With husks or with hay, in the yard's quiet light,
We'd hurry to tell her our stories at night.

It poured just like today—a heavy, wild rain,
The flood swept the corners, a rushing refrain.
My late grandmother, worried and stressed,

Only one earth



Earth is our home
To live in as a blessed kingdom
It comforts us with food, water & air
As our Mother's care.

Let us maintain the green & blue
To lead a colourful life to pursue
So don't pollute our natural resource
Protecting from green house source.
Gift the earth to our children
As our ancestors were given
To live as in heaven
With a sign of gratitude to our divine.
We have only one earth
So place your heart to the earth
As heart forms first in womb & dooms
first on the earth.

G. Sarala.

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



Everyday is a new day.
It's a new born day.
Birthday is to remember our age.
Keep in mind it is a figure..
Don't overshadow with the age.
it will decrease your energy.
Age is not a matter for achieving goal.

Fixing our goal is our necessary.
So travel with energy to achieve goal
If your mind is sound you are young.
It doesn't matter what is the age?
If you are having lot of goals
It will make you feel still young.
Life without goal is like stagnant water in a deep
well.

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

True Wisdom

To err is human,
So let us not criticize alone.

We all live under one roof,
Yet our opinions differ in view.
Even our fingers are not the same,
So how can our thoughts be alike
too?

Blaming others comes very easily,
While knowing ourselves is rare.
Managing others is always hard,
But self-control shows true care.

Those who accept their own

mistakes,
With courage, humble and strong,
They are the real superheroes
Who quietly right their wrongs.

So don't enjoy the faults of others;
Instead, learn, accept, and forgive.
Realization is true wisdom
That's the best way to live.

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

Child



I am delighted by the loving
look you give me,
A tender look, that touches
my heart so deeply.
I am thrilled by the beautiful
smile you give me,
A radiant beam, that
brightens up my day.

When you hug me and kiss
me, my eyes fill with tears,
Overflowing with joy, and love
that appears.

Your look is your sweetness, your kiss is pure
delight,
I am completely lost, in the love you bring to me

Who are you, my little one, so precious and so
sweet?
Oh, aren't you my child's child, a treasure to me.

God bless you, my dear, may you always shine so
bright,
A blessing of love, that fills my heart with delight.

Your tiny hands, hold mine so tight,
Your little voice, is melody so sweet and bright.
You bring me joy, with every look
A happiness that's pure, and fills my heart

Your laughter is contagious, your tears are my
pain,
I'm grateful for you, my little one, again and again.
May you grow well with love and care,
A precious gift, that's beyond comparison

P. R. Helen
Social Teacher
GHS Melpattampakkam
Cuddalore dist
Tamilnadu India

Aviation Kenya's aviation sector contributes approximately Kenya shillings 425 billion annually to the economy accounting for about 3.1% of GDP

Kenya's aviation ambition: From curriculum reform to a future beyond the skies



BY Fredrick Chelimo
@themkenyatimes

Kenya's ambition to integrate aviation into the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) is a strategic and forward-looking move that extends far beyond education. It signals an understanding that aviation is a critical driver of economic growth, technological advancement, and global connectivity. However, while the intention is clear, the country's aviation ecosystem remains in a transitional phase marked by strong potential but constrained by structural, industrial and labour market limitations.

Currently, Kenya's aviation sector contributes approximately Kenya shillings 425 billion annually to the economy accounting for about 3.1% of GDP and supporting over 460,000 jobs. This places Kenya among the leading aviation hubs in East Africa. The structure of this contribution however reveals an imbalance. The large portion of these jobs are indirect, largely concentrated on tourism, logistics, and support services, while relatively few exist in high skill, high value technical fields such as aerospace engineering, avionics, and advanced aviation systems. As a result, the sector is economically significant but not yet deeply industrialized.

When compared to developed aviation economies in regions such as North America, Europe and Asia, Kenya's gap becomes more evident. Mature aviation systems are characterized by strong integration between education,



Kenya's aviation sector

industry and innovation. They have well established pathways that move students seamlessly from training institutions into employment, supported by robust manufacturing bases, advanced research capabilities and continuous technological innovation. In contrast, Kenya's aviation ecosystem remains fragmented, with limited alignment between training institutions and industry needs. This disconnect often results in graduates who are qualified on paper but struggle to secure meaningful employment within the sector. Despite the challenges, the future outlook for the aviation industry in Kenya remains promising. The African aviation market is projected to grow steadily at an average rate of about 3.7% annually, driven by increasing demand for passenger travel, expansion in cargo logistics, and regional integration initiatives. Kenya, with its strategic geographical location and existing infrastructure, is well

positioned to benefit from this growth. Emerging areas such as drone technology, unmanned aerial systems and smart aviation logistics further expand the scope of opportunity. However, realizing this potential will depend on the country's ability to align its human capital development with industry expansion. It is within this broader context that the inclusion of aviation in the CBC takes on deeper significance. This reform is not merely about introducing a new subject; it is a deliberate effort to prepare a future workforce capable of participating in a rapidly evolving global industry. It reflects a shift towards competency-based, skill-oriented education that prioritizes practical knowledge, innovation and adaptability. At the same time, it signals an intention to reduce reliance on foreign expertise by building local capacity in aviation related discipline.

Curriculum reform only is

a nation framework. Conducting a comprehensive national aviation skill audit would provide a clear picture of the available human capital and highlight existing gaps.

Building on this, the establishment of a centralized National Aviation Skills Registry (NASR) would enable the country to capture, organize, and utilize this information as a baseline in establishing a robust aviation training, utilization and employment database. It will assist in supporting workforce planning, policy development, and job matching. Complementing this would be a standardized certification framework that recognizes both formal training and prior learning. This would allow experienced and uncertified personnel to gain formal recognition, thereby strengthening the overall quality and credibility of workforce.

The long-term goal is to create an integrated national aviation knowledge base that connects education, industry and regulation. The system would facilitate research, innovation and continuous professional development while positioning Kenya as a regional hub for aviation expertise. Beyond the immediate challenges and opportunities within the aviation sector, a broader shift in global and local mobility must also be considered. The persistent traffic congestion experienced in urban centers and main highways is a clear indication that traditional ground transport systems are reaching their limits. As cities expand and demand for mobility increases, the world is increasingly exploring alternative transport solutions that move beyond conventional infrastructure.

This reality points towards a gradual shift to advanced aerial transport systems and, eventually, space-linked mobility. Technologies such as drones, air taxis, and vertical take-off-aircraft are already being developed and tested in various parts of the world. Looking further ahead, space-based transport systems have the potential to revolutionize long-distance travel by significantly reducing travel time. While these developments may appear futuristic, their trajectory suggests that

they will become increasingly relevant within the coming decades.

This presents a strategic imperative for Kenya. The challenges currently based from the ground should not only be addressed through infrastructure expansion, but also through forward looking investments in emerging transport technologies. The inclusion of aviation in the CBC should therefore be broadened to incorporate areas such as unmanned systems, aerospace engineering, and foundational space science. Preparing for this future requires not only policy direction but also a mindset shift towards innovation and long-term planning.

Finally, Kenya's aviation sector stands at a critical juncture. With significant economic contribution, strong growth potential, and a reforming education system, the foundations of transformation are already in place. However, unlocking this potential will require deliberate alignment between curriculum, industry and workforce development. By formalizing and strengthening its human capital, investing in industry capacity, and anticipating future trends in mobility, Kenya can move beyond being a regional aviation hub to becoming a leaders in next-generation transport system.

In that trajectory, aviation will evolve from a subject in classroom into a central pillar of national development – driving economic growth, creating high-value employment, and positioning Kenya not only in the skies, but at the forefront of future mobility.

Mr. Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo PWD
Email: skipchelimo@yahoo.com

Insurance We aim to provoke thought and help people understand that insurance is no longer an option; it is a need that offers protection - Joanne

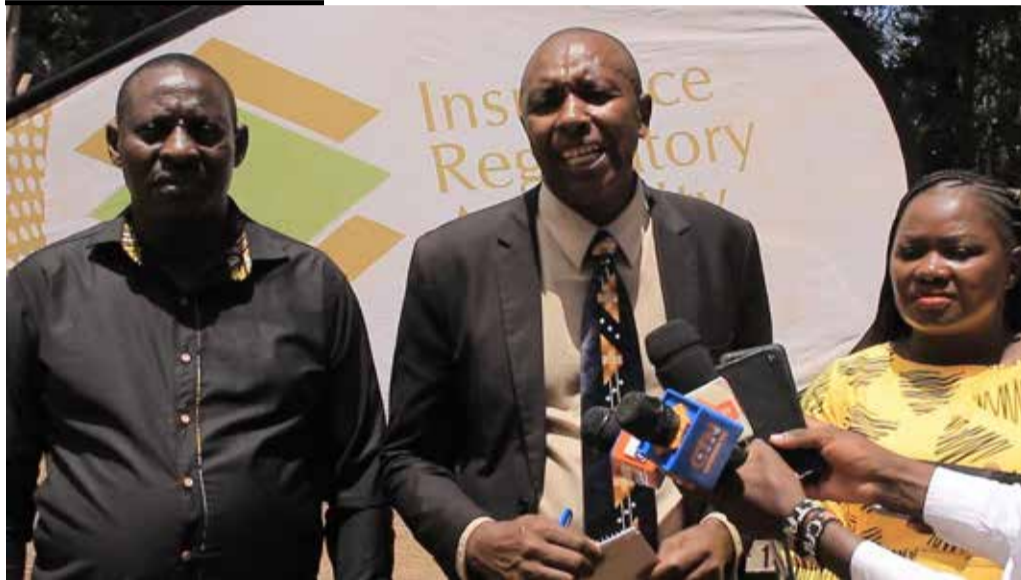
Low insurance uptake linked to limited public awareness, kenyans urged to embrace cover

Kenya's insurance industry continues to demonstrate strong growth and resilience.

The sector recorded gross written premiums of KES 464.72 billion in Quarter 4 of 2025,

representing a growth of 17.6% from KES 395.30 billion in Q4 2024. This growth reflects increasing public confidence in insurance both as a financial protection tool and

a long-term savings vehicle.



Joanne Wanjala, Deputy Director for Corporate Communication and Public Relations at IRA (Right), Kisii Deputy County Commissioner Joseph Maina (Middle), IRA Corporate Communications and Public Relations Officer Evans Kibagendi (Left), addressing the press during the Bima Mashinani program | Photo: Elizabeth Angira

BY Elizabeth Angira
@themkenyatimes

Many Kenyans still have limited understanding of insurance, contributing to low uptake in many counties, and have been urged to embrace insurance.

Speaking during the Bima Mashinani public awareness campaign in Kisii County, Joanne Wanjala, Deputy Director for Corporate Communication and Public Relations at IRA, said that, the Bima Mashinani programme has been created to bridge that gap by helping people understand how insurance can protect their livelihoods, businesses, health, and savings.

She emphasized that insurance is no longer a luxury but a necessity in today's uncertain economic environment.

"We aim to provoke thought and help people understand that insurance is no longer an option; it is a need that offers protection, care and peace of mind in difficult times," said Wanjala.

She added that, the informed consumers are better placed, to make, sound financial de-

isions and called on participants to become ambassadors of insurance awareness within their communities.

She said more than 320 stakeholders from different groups participated in the Kisii sessions and expressed hope that those trained would become ambassadors of insurance awareness within their communities.

Wanjala emphasized that insurance plays a key role in protecting businesses, livelihoods, and individuals from unexpected risks, adding that greater public participation in insurance would help strengthen Kenya's economy and social security.

She thanked the national government, the County Commissioner's office, and the county government for supporting the initiative and helping mobilize participants throughout the week.

Kisii Deputy County Commissioner Joseph Maina said the program had helped educate various sectors of the local economy on the importance of insurance.

He noted that boda boda riders and matatu operators had been sensitized on mandatory motor vehicle insurance and

other forms of general insurance that can protect them from everyday risks.

Maina added that IRA had also partnered with teachers' unions, the business community, civil servants, and officers from the Ministry of Interior to ensure insurance information reaches residents at the grassroots level.

IRA Corporate Communications and Public Relations Officer Evans Kibagendi urged members of the public to verify whether insurance companies, brokers, agents, and service providers are licensed before engaging them.

He warned that some unlicensed individuals and entities continue to operate illegally in the sector.

"Any organization offering insurance services must be licensed by IRA in accordance with the Insurance Act," he said.

He called on wananchi and the media to report suspicious operators to the Authority for investigation.

He added that IRA has an Insurance Fraud Investigation Unit staffed by officers seconded from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) to investigate fraud cases and

take action against offenders. The main purpose of the Bima Mashinani forum is to

enhance insurance awareness to the grassroots and improve access in the end.



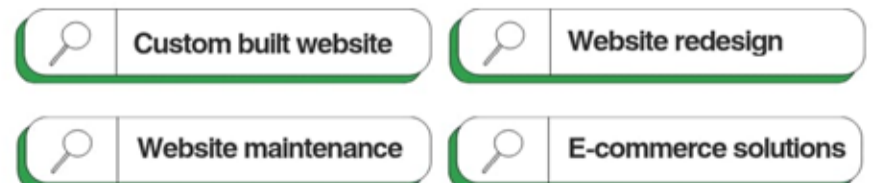
IRA Bima Mashinani program Group photo | Photo: Elizabeth Angira



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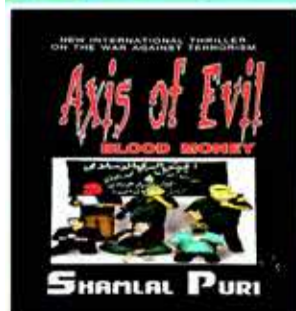
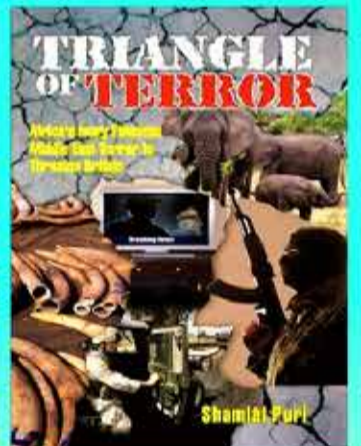
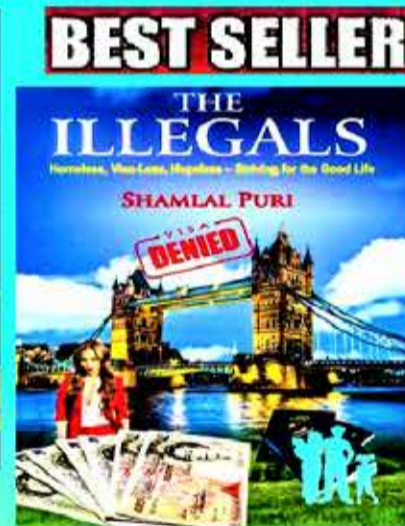
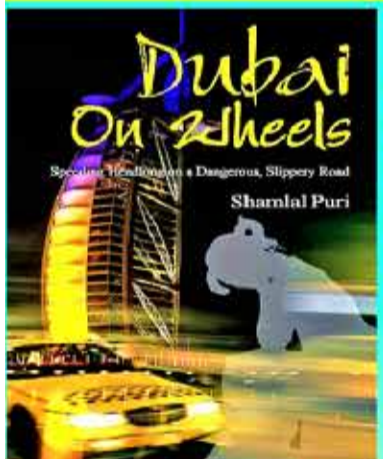
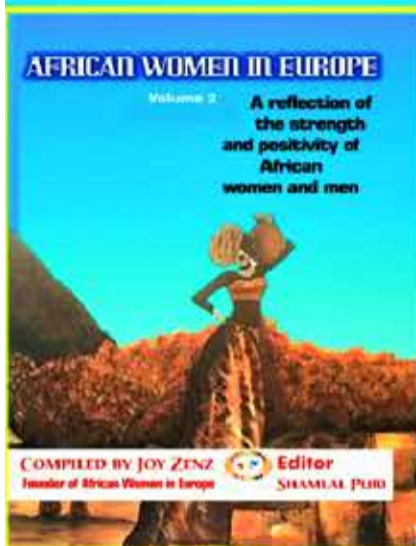
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Digital era

A million witnesses and none to call: the agony of spilling our pain digitally



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
mukphix@gmail.com

We live in the age of the open wound. A job loss, a diagnosis, a betrayal — before the tears are dry, the camera is on. Captions written with shaking hands: “I didn’t want to post this, but...” And then the feed becomes a courtroom, a chapel, and a clinic all at once.

The question is not whether people are allowed to share their pain publicly. The question is whether it is wise — and whether, in the long arc of a life, the algorithm heals or inflicts a second injury.

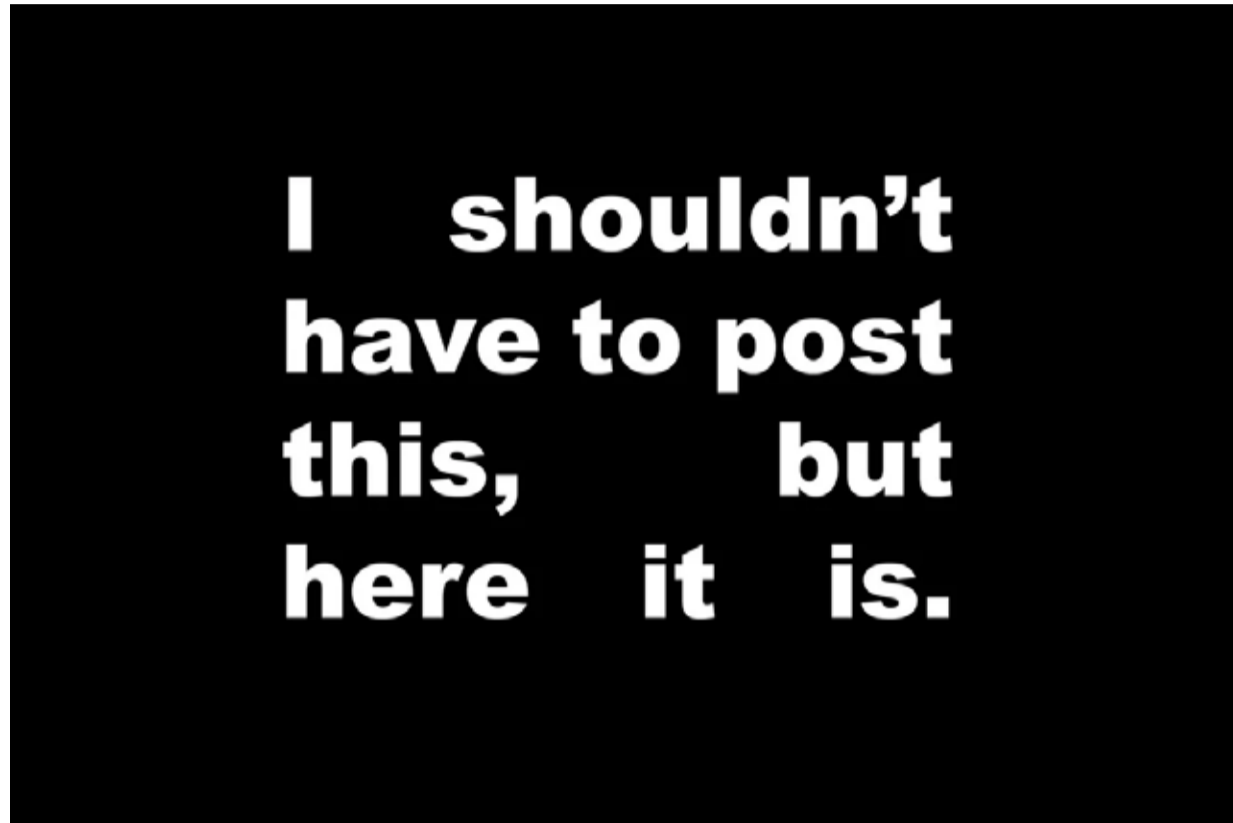
Why the wounded speak to strangers first

Pain used to knock on a friend’s door. Now it knocks on a billion doors simultaneously. That shift didn’t happen by accident. It happened because the old doors stopped opening.

Therapy is expensive, overbooked, or stigmatized. Family is distant, judgmental, or complicit. The church says “pray harder.” The workplace calls itself a family — until you actually need one. Social media, for all its flaws, is immediate. It answers. It answers with hearts, comments, “DM me sis,” and the intoxicating feeling of being seen. When the analog world goes mute, people will always gravitate toward the audience that responds.

Then there is the economics of empathy. A post about your promotion gets a handful of likes. A post about your panic attack gets far more. The platform didn’t invent this dynamic — humans have always gathered around fire and crisis — but it optimized it ruthlessly. Vulnerability drives engagement. Engagement drives reach. And reach, for some, becomes income, brand partnerships, and community. The wound becomes a business model. We shouldn’t be shocked. We built the incentives.

There is also the collapse of private language. We are the first generation raised to narrate ourselves



in real time. Our breakups have soundtracks. Our grief has hashtags. Many young people simply don’t know how to process pain without performing it, because no one modeled a private way. If you were taught that “pics or it didn’t happen” applies to joy, you will assume it applies to despair too.

What social media actually gives the hurting

Dismissing every public confession as oversharing misunderstands what these platforms genuinely get right. For many people, it is the only ambulance that arrives.

It names things. A teenager who posts “I think I’m dissociating” and learns the word for the first time in the comments has crossed from chaos into language — and language is the beginning of agency. It finds the tribe. The rare illness, the taboo grief, the niche abuse — there may be only a handful of people in your town who understand, but thousands online. Discovering you are not alone can pull someone back from the psychological ledge. Sometimes a stranger’s “me too” is the only rope available. It also shifts power. Institutions fear screenshots. Abusers fear exposure. A manager who ignores HR might respond swiftly to a viral thread. Public disclosure is a crude instrument, but for the powerless, crude is far better than nothing. So yes — sometimes posting is not

vanity. It is survival. It is a flare fired into the sky because every other line of communication is dead.

What the feed takes while you’re bleeding

But every rescue carries a ransom. And the costs of public pain are rarely billed upfront. They arrive later, with interest.

Permanence. The internet has no grief window — only archives. The post you wrote at your lowest point will one day be read by a future employer, a future partner, a future child. You cannot unburn a letter once thousands have read it. Time heals; screenshots do not age.

Performance creep. The first post is catharsis. The second builds community. By the third, fourth, and fifth, you are a character in your own tragedy. Likes become a metric for how hurt you appear to be. You begin framing pain for consumption — editing the breakdown, withholding the unglamorous parts of recovery because they don’t trend. Slowly, you become a curator of your own suffering. And curators can never leave the gallery.

The fickle empathy economy. The same crowd that carries you today will dissect you tomorrow. “You’re so strong” becomes, a week later, “why is she still talking about this?” The crowd is not a therapist. It has no duty of care, no follow-up, no confidentiality. It will love you in-

tensely and briefly — then scroll. If your stability depends on that love, you will crash when it moves on.

Context collapse. Your mother, your ex, your boss, and a stranger on another continent all read the same post. You wrote it for one of them. It was delivered to all. Relationships that needed a private conversation receive a public verdict instead. Some bridges, once burned on the timeline, don’t rebuild.

A test of three questions

There is no universal answer — only discernment. Before posting pain, interrogate the impulse honestly.

What do you actually need? If you need resources, witnesses, or to warn others about an abuser, going public can be strategic. If you need comfort, time, or simply to understand what happened, public is probably premature. The feed is a microphone, not a blanket. Don’t reach for it when what you need is warmth.

Can you live with this years from now? Read your draft as though your future self is in the room. Will she thank you for your courage, or resent you for the permanence? If the pain is raw, wait a few days. If it still feels true and necessary after the adrenaline fades, it may be worth the cost. Most posts won’t survive that wait. That is precisely the point.

Who benefits if this goes viral? If the answer is only you, proceed

carefully. If the answer is others — silent, suffering, unseen people in the same situation — the risk may be worth it. The difference between confession and activism is whether the story stops at you, or walks past you to help someone else.

Post from the scar, not the wound

The healthiest people online are not those who never share pain. They are those who sequence it — doing the private work first. They call the friend, see the therapist, write the journal entry no one will read. Then, if something remains that might illuminate the road for someone else, they share the scar, not the wound.

A wound asks: Help me. A scar says: Here’s how I survived. One creates voyeurs. The other creates survivors. The timeline can hold scars. It cannot triage wounds.

Before you address the crowd, curate your circle. Have a few people who receive the text before the post. If they say “don’t,” listen. You are not being censored. You are being protected from a version of yourself too hurt to see tomorrow.

And leave some doors closed. Mystery is not dishonesty. You are allowed to heal off-camera. The most powerful sentence available to you on the internet is: “That’s not something I’ll share here.” It teaches the world — quietly, firmly — that not all pain is content.

The return to the quiet room

Social media is not evil for holding our grief. It is indifferent. It will amplify whatever you give it — wisdom or wreckage — with the same neutral algorithm. The responsibility, therefore, is yours.

Post when the house is on fire. Post when the system fails you. Post when your voice can free someone still trapped in silence. But if you are posting because silence feels like death, remember: there is a profound difference between being seen and being held.

The feed can see you. It cannot hold you. Only people can.

And the people who can hold you best are usually not in the comments. They are in your phone, waiting for you to call before you type.

Post if you must. But first, make sure you have somewhere to go when the likes stop and the night is still long.

Because healing was never meant to be a livestream. It was meant to be a life — reclaimed one quiet, private, unposted morning at a time.



BOOKS & LITERATURE with MARYAM SAGHEER

An M.Phil. in English Literature at Chenab University Gujrat.

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Book Review:

Author: Mohsin Hamid

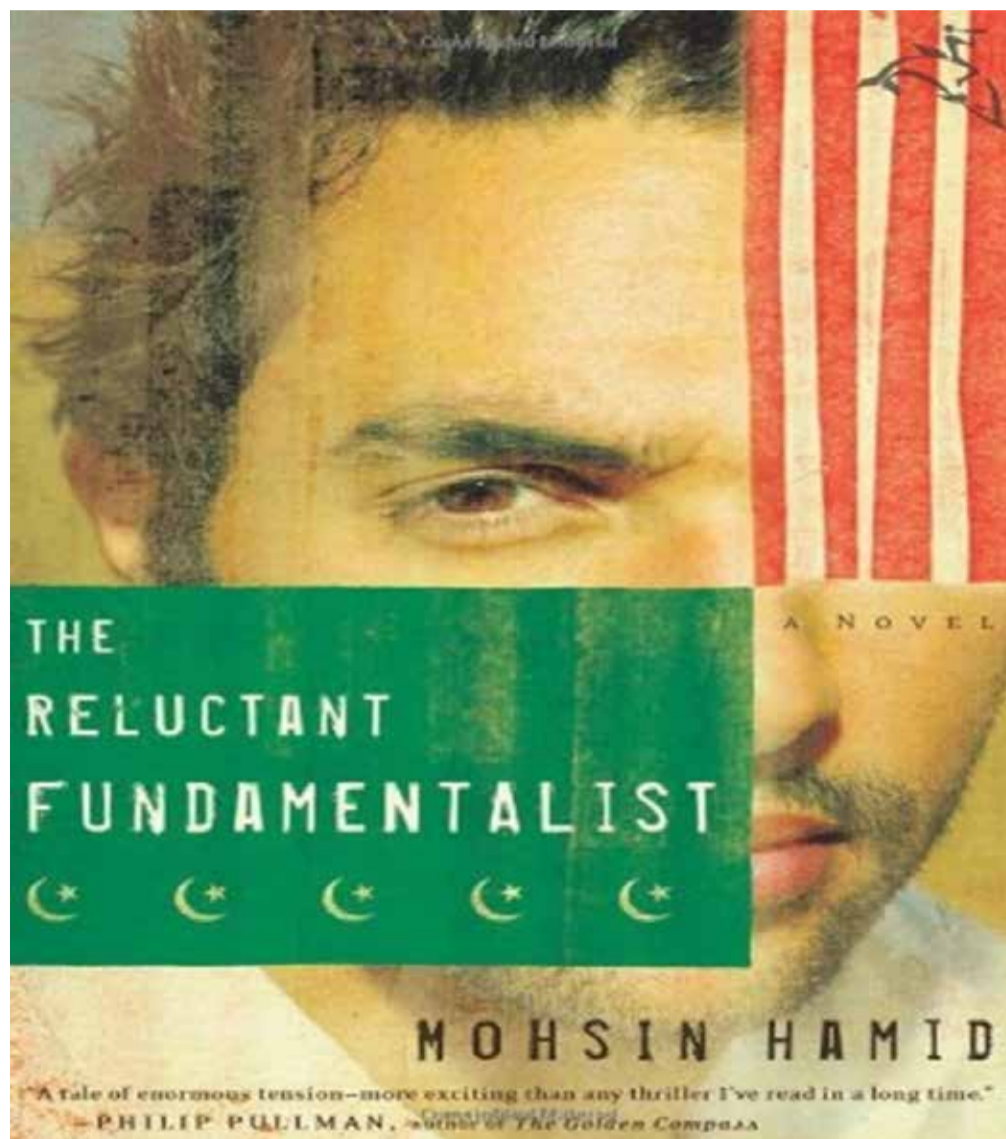
Book: The Reluctant Fundamentalist

Reviewer: MARYAM SAGHEER

Reluctant Fundamentalist is a Novel written by MOHSIN HAMID. It is a very interesting novel. This novel does not talk only about the story of young Pakistani man named Changez but also based on real life incident of September 9/11. Changez is the main character of this novel who goes to America for higher studies. After completing his study, he gets a good job in a famous company of America. In beginning, his life in America is happy. He appreciates American's lifestyle. He enjoys success, wealth and love. He was spending his life in America without any fear, confusion and tension. But sudden change came in his life, which changed everything in his life. He has to face such circumstances which he never expected. It was September 9/11 attack. This attack brought a serious change in his life. Basically, it was a big and horrible terrorist attack in America. This attack changed Muslim's life in America. After this attack, many Americans became afraid and angry. They blamed Muslims in America for this attack. They started to say that Muslims are the responsible of this attack. But small group of terrorists was responsible. Osama Bin Laden led this group. This was a terrorist group, not all Muslims. Muslims were blamed because many people in America didn't have knowledge between Islam (Religion) and terrorism. Changez was Muslim that's why people of America started to change their behaviour with him.

He became victim of suspicion and distrust by hand of Americans. So, Changez's life became confused, unhappy and difficult. It's very difficult for him to spend more life in America. Basically, America was only looking for its own benefit that's why America gave greed of scholarship for students and took talented students from different countries and used them for its own purpose and benefit. Changez was one of them. As America used Changez by giving him job in American's company. But America did not have any trust on Changez. Due to attack of 9/11, America changed their behavior with Changez. At time of work, people behaved with him differently. People started to consider him a spy. He had to face inner conflict that who is he in reality. He realized that he should come back to Pakistan. He started to think about his own culture and values. He lost his interest in American's life.

This part tells us how society and big events can change a person's life within minutes. As a student, I found this novel very meaningful because it talks about real problems that many people face in different countries. Changez is a hardworking and intelligent person, but he became victim of prejudice and misunderstanding. I learned that Identity is very important because Changez had to be judged by Religion or Nationality. A person can be confused or hurt if society does not accept them while reading this novel, I realized about human



feelings and problems which people face in foreign countries. If we think that it's a very easy for people to live in foreign countries, so it is wrong. They have to face many problems and may be judged on the base of Identity,

Religion and Nationality. Basically here, we see that Life is unpredictable, no one knows what is going to be happen. As in novel, we see how society and big events like 9/11 can deeply affect a person's life. We can say that

A minor mistake can change our whole life. Changez who lived in America and served America but in return America gave him problem, pain, loneliness, confusions, and sufferings. America uses Muslims for its own political purpose.

After 9/11, the government and some leaders blamed all Muslims for terrorism. This

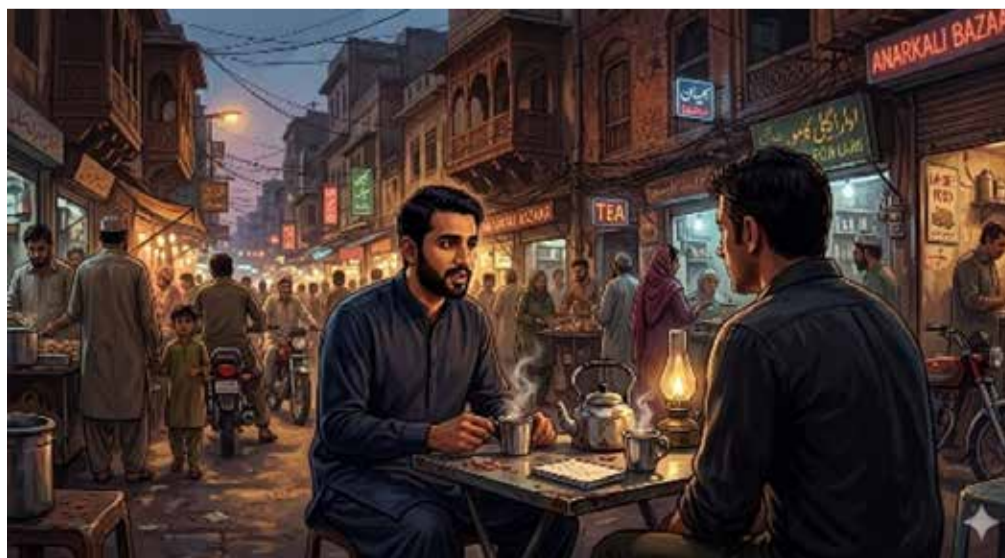
novel shows cultural differences. Changez realizes that foreign countries don't accept foreigners. This shows how misunderstandings between cultures can create problems. From my point of view, people and societies should not judge others on the base of Religion, Nationality and culture. I personally enjoyed this novel. It's very easy to read and emotional. I felt connected with character Changez because his problems and feelings were real. The story is meaningful because it is based on real life situations that happened after 9/11.

It tells us about struggles of people living between 2 cultures. Writing style of this novel is amazing because it is written like a conversation between Changez and an American stranger in Lahore. We don't know what the stranger is thinking. I personally liked this style because this style made the story different from other novels. I liked that part where Changez talks about his love for Erica. In foreign country, we see that life can have both happiness and pain together. As a student, I realize that Money and Success can not always make a person happy if society treats them unfairly. As a student, I think this novel is very useful because it helps us to understand real-life problems, cultural misunderstandings and effects of politics on ordinary people. In my opinion, this novel is very powerful and gives a strong message about identity, culture and society. It teaches us that judging people on the base of religion and Nationality is wrong. We should respect all cultures and understand human feelings. I really recommend this novel to students because it is simple, emotional and full of important messages.

AUTHOR:

MARYAM SAGHEER—PAKISTAN

Maryam Sagheer is a dedicated scholar currently pursuing an M.Phil. in English Literature at Chenab University Gujrat. Belonging to Sohdra, Wazirabad, Pakistan, she possesses a profound interest in academic research, reading, and writing.



South Africa SAP HR Connect brought together a community of HR leaders to discuss how digital technologies are helping organisations reduce compliance risk

Industry leaders meet to discuss impact of compliance pressures on HR priorities in South Africa

BY African Media Agency (AMA)

@themkenyatimes

Business leaders, HR professionals and technology experts gathered in Johannesburg yesterday to explore how organisations can navigate rising regulatory complexity while building more connected, high-performing workforces.

SAP HR Connect brought together a community of HR leaders to discuss how digital technologies are helping organisations reduce compliance risk, streamline operations, and unlock more strategic value from their people functions.

“

Nazia Pillay, Managing Director for Southern Africa at SAP, says the South African employment landscape is at a critical point. “Public and private sector companies are racing to unlock the power of AI and cloud technologies to improve their competitiveness and build capacity for future innovation. Every organisation needs an active, motivated and fully enabled workforce to realise full value from business transformation initiatives. At a time when demand for certain skills is at an all-time high, companies are increasingly leveraging powerful human capital management technologies to attract, retain and empower their employees.”



Nazia Pillay, Managing Director for Southern Africa at SAP.

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South Africa’s employment landscape is undergoing significant change, with new and proposed legislation introducing greater com-

plexity into HR operations. Recent developments include the overhaul of parental leave following a landmark Constitutional Court ruling, proposed increases to statutory severance pay, and new regulations governing unpredictable and on-call work.

Together, these changes are increasing the administrative burden on HR teams and raising the stakes for compliance. Organisations must now manage more complex policies, maintain accurate and defensible records, and ensure consistent application of rules across increasingly diverse and dynamic workforces.

“HR teams are operating in a fundamentally different environment today,” said Manishwar Tiwary, Head of SAP HCM for MEA South. “Compliance is no longer a periodic exercise but a continuous, data-driv-

en discipline. Organisations that continue to rely on spreadsheets and fragmented systems without leveraging the power of AI-driven innovations are exposing themselves to unnecessary risk and inefficiency.”

Many organisations continue to rely on manual processes such as spreadsheets and disconnected systems to manage HR activities. However, these approaches are increasingly unsustainable in a fast-changing regulatory environment.

Tiwary says manual systems make it difficult to maintain accurate, up-to-date employee records, track compliance requirements, and produce reliable audit trails. “They also consume a significant portion of HR capacity, limiting the ability of teams to focus on higher-value activities such as talent development, workforce planning, and employee

experience. As compliance requirements grow more complex, the need for integrated, digital HR systems is becoming more urgent.”

A 2025 PwC global study found that 82% of companies are planning to invest more in technology to drive compliance activities in a clear signal that the limitations of manual approaches have reached a tipping point. The study identified faster identification of compliance issues (53%), better risk visibility (64%), and increased productivity (43%) as the leading drivers of compliance technology adoption.

Ravika Bandyopadhyay, Group Human Capital: Chief Operating Officer, Sanlam, said: “We have adopted an ambidextrous strategy for our digital and data transformation journey, simultaneously exploiting operational excellence, proficiency and efficiency in our current landscape while exploring incremental innovation that enhances and elevates the user experience while driving the longer-term transformation journey focused on leveraging intelligent, transformative technology to drive business value.”

By digitising HR processes and documents, organisations can create a single source of truth for employee and organisational data; including positions, time tracking, and cost centres, ensuring information is accurate, consistent, and always up to date.

Kammy Sing, Chief Operating Officer Discovery People, Discovery Ltd, noted that shared services is a catalyst for reinvention. “When data, technology, and people are fully integrated, organisations don’t just scale but evolve, creating platforms for growth, innovation, and long-term impact.”

Integrated capabilities across recruiting, onboarding, payroll, and time management further streamline processes and support compliance from hire to retire. In addition, continuous performance management, learning, compensation, and succession planning capabilities help organisations not only remain compliant but also build more engaged and resilient workforces.

“Digitisation should go beyond efficiency to enable HR to play a more strategic role in the business,” says Tiwary. “When compliance is embedded into systems and processes, HR teams are freed up to focus on developing talent, strengthening culture, and driving long-term organisational performance.”

Distributed by African Media Agency (AMA) on behalf of SAP, a global leader in enterprise applications and business AI



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Kenya to Saudi Arabia: the human cost of labor export

They leave chasing dignity. Too many arrive into bondage. Every year, thousands of young Kenyans — predominantly women — travel to Saudi Arabia seeking economic escape. Recruitment agencies promise professional work and life-changing wages. What many find instead is deception, confinement, and abuse.



The pattern is well-documented. Workers arrive expecting decent employment, only to be forced into domestic servitude. Passports are confiscated. Wages are withheld. Reports of physical violence, verbal degradation, and sexual assault are consistent and credible, corroborated by Amnesty International and multiple human rights organisations. By any legal definition, these conditions frequently constitute forced labour and human trafficking.

Central to the crisis is Saudi Arabia's kafala sponsorship system, which legally ties a worker's residency status to

their employer. The arrangement is structurally coercive — workers cannot change jobs or leave the country without employer consent, creating conditions ripe for exploitation with virtually no exit.

Both governments bear responsibility. Kenya has promoted labour export aggressively while exercising minimal oversight of recruitment agencies and offering inadequate consular protection to workers in distress. Saudi Arabia, despite announcing reforms, continues to exclude domestic workers from core labour protections — the

very category most vulnerable to abuse.

Remittances matter to Kenyan families. But a development model built on exported vulnerability is not progress — it is a transaction paid for in human suffering.

Until Kenya regulates its recruiters and Saudi Arabia dismantles kafala, these workers remain commodities, not people.

The reforms are known. The political will is not.

By Oliver Ouma, Rongo University

Rising heat, falling harvests: farmers on the frontline of climate change

Kenya's farmers didn't cause the climate crisis. They are paying for it anyway.

Agriculture supports the majority of Kenya's rural livelihoods and remains a cornerstone of the national economy. Yet erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, and rising temperatures are systematically dismantling that foundation. Food production is falling. The cost of living is rising. And farming households are absorbing the damage with little protection.

The structural vulnerability is stark. Kenya's agriculture is overwhelmingly rain-fed, meaning that when rainfall becomes unreliable, everything unravels. Research confirms that temperature increases harm crop yields more severely than rainfall variability — even modest warming measurably reduces productivity. Deforestation, overgrazing, and poor land management compound the crisis, leaving



soils increasingly depleted and farmland less resilient.

The human consequences are already visible. Staple crops — maize, beans, sorghum — are failing with greater frequency. Drought has triggered total harvest losses across multiple counties, decimated livestock productivity, and created acute water scarcity. Families are selling animals at distressed prices or abandoning farming altogether. Poverty deepens. Food insecurity spreads.

Solutions exist and are within reach. Climate-smart agriculture — drought-resistant seed varieties, small-scale

irrigation, soil conservation, water harvesting systems, and improved early-warning forecasting — can meaningfully reduce losses. Stronger agricultural extension services and targeted government investment are not optional extras; they are necessities.

Kenya cannot afford a future where its farmers become climate refugees in their own country.

The tools for change are available. What's missing is the urgency to deploy them.

By Collins Kibet, Koitalel University

Nadia Mukami's "Side Chick Saga" storm

A song about infidelity has exposed the fault lines in a very real marriage.

Kenyan artist Nadia Mukami is at the centre of a growing public debate following the release of Side Chick Saga, a collaboration with Dufla Diligon that explores themes of betrayal and emotional deception. The song has done more than rack up streams — it has reportedly strained her marriage to fellow artist Arrow Bwoy, who is said to be uncomfortable with its message and implications.

Discussions reportedly emerged about pulling the song from streaming platforms. Dufla Diligon swiftly complicated that prospect, publicly stating he would require financial compensation if the track were removed — a reminder that creative work carries contractual weight that personal disagreements cannot simply override.

Nadia has pushed back against



what she describes as disrespect, noting that she is not only an artist but a woman who recently gave birth and deserves both understanding and space to create. Her position cuts to a tension many female artists know well: the pressure to sanitise their art once they become wives and mothers, as though marriage revokes creative licence.

Arrow Bwoy's discomfort is understandable. So is Nadia's

defiance. But the real story here is not the song — it is the unresolved question of how much creative freedom a woman forfeits the moment she says "I do."

Side Chick Saga may yet be taken down. The conversation it has opened, however, is not going anywhere.

By Diana Thyaka, Laikipia University

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Sports >> *The second edition of the Professional Golfers of Kenya (PGK) Equator Tour officially teed off yesterday at the Par 72 Vet Lab Sports Club in Nairobi.

The PGK Equator Tour returns for the second edition at Vet Lab



The second edition of the Professional Golfers of Kenya (PGK) Equator Tour officially teed off yesterday at the Par 72 Vet Lab Sports Club in Nairobi.

The opening leg of the second edition, running to Sunday 26th, will feature over 50 professional golfers, including four Safaricom-sponsored players: Samuel Njoroge, Mutahi Kibugu, Matthew Wahome, and Mohit Mediratta.

“Last year was a successful season for our team, and we are delighted to have lifted the shield after finishing top overall. That victory was a proud moment for us and gave the team great confidence heading into the new season. We are excited for this year’s edition and look forward

to competing strongly once again as we aim to defend our title,” said Mutahi Kibugu.

In the first edition, the four Safaricom-sponsored golfers topped the overall standings with 8,555 points, following a series of strong performances throughout the season.

Out of the four, three players, Mutahi Kibugu, Samuel Njoroge, and Mohit M. Mediratta, went on to qualify for and compete in the 2026 Magical Kenya Open held at Karen Country Club in March.

“We are truly pleased to see the impact this series is having on our young players, shaping them and preparing them to compete at the highest level on global stages such as the Magi-

cal Kenya Open. We are proud to continue backing these four golfers as they build on their experience and rise to even higher levels of competition. Last year, they made us proud by topping the corporate standings, and we are confident they will carry that same momentum into this season. We wish them the very best,” said Peter Ndegwa, CEO of Safaricom.

“Last year was not really good for me, but every day in golf is a learning opportunity. This new season, I am ready together with my team. I have been putting in the work, sharpening my game, and I am confident things will turn around,” said Matthew Wahome.

This year’s edition of the PGK

Equator Tour is expected to run from April 2026 through February 2027, culminating in a grand finale ahead of the 2027 Magical Kenya Open.

Last year, Safaricom, through the Professional Golfers of Kenya (PGK), announced a three-year sponsorship deal worth KES 3 million to support the four golfers. The sponsorship underscores Safaricom’s commitment to sports development and its continued investment in creating opportunities for young talent in golf.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Manchester City continued their charge towards the Premier League title with victory at Turf Moor to move Pep Guardiola's side top of the table and relegate Burnley back to the Championship.

Haaland Scores As Man City Relegates Burnley To Go Top Of EPL



Manchester City continued their charge towards the Premier League title with victory at Turf Moor to move Pep Guardiola's side top of the table and relegate Burnley back to the Championship.

City have hit form at the right time and are looking in ominous mood, clawing back nine points on Arsenal in less than two weeks to narrowly climb to the summit on goals scored.

Guardiola's men had not been in the number one spot since the opening week of the campaign, but an 11-game unbeaten streak has led to them overtaking the Gunners with five games left.

Top scorer Erling Haaland grabbed the opener after just five minutes, running clear following Jeremy Doku's pass and dinking a delightful finish over the advancing Martin Dubravka, and he struck the post in the second half.

The visitors could have scored moments before but the excellent Rayan Cherki's thumping effort was brilliantly tipped on to the crossbar by Dubravka.

City were being wasteful in

front of goal, knowing goal difference could play a factor come May, with Nico O'Reilly's header being batted out by Dubravka and Rayan Ait-Nouri blazing over after a fine team move.

The Clarets, meanwhile, had their chances to prolong an inevitable ending to the season – Jaidon Anthony cutting inside and curling a shot at goal which was pushed away by Gianluigi Donnarumma, while Zian Fleming dragged wide from a promising position.

But the loss means Scott Parker's side will join bottom club Wolves in the second tier next season, dropping down into the Championship for the second time in three years.

Man City analysis: Guardiola's men back on top

This season may well be decided by the finest of margins and Wednesday's result at Turf Moor provided an indication of that as City moved top on the third tie-breaking metric, behind points and goal difference.

City possess the experience of getting over the line during a tight title race and know that

victory in all their remaining five games might still not be enough – if Arsenal manage to do the same and outscore them.

But Guardiola's troops are marching towards a seventh crown in nine years as they are now unbeaten in their past 11 top-flight games – last suffering defeat against rivals Manchester United in January – and winning three in a row.

Norway striker Haaland enjoys facing Burnley and scored his eighth goal in five games against the Clarets with an early strike which had an air of inevitability about it once he ran through on goal.

The away side did survive a couple of scares but are now unbeaten in their past 30 Premier League games against promoted teams and will now look to Saturday's FA Cup semi-final against Championship side Southampton in their search for a domestic treble.

Burnley analysis: Clarets down and out

One year and one day ago, Burnley beat Sheffield United to celebrate automatic promotion

back to the Premier League.

But that delight turned to despair as their long expected relegation was confirmed against City, lying 13 points adrift of 17th-placed West Ham with only four games left to play.

Captain Kyle Walker enjoyed lifting 17 trophies while at City but his spell at Burnley has been a miserable one, as the full-back and his team-mates bowed out with a whimper.

Boss Parker has guided his side to just four wins all season, with just one of those coming in their past 25 league games – dating back to the start of November.

The Englishman's own record against City is dismal, losing all six meetings, while his Burnley side have now suffered defeat in 12 consecutive games against them.

Parker is a specialist at taking teams up to the Premier League, having done so three times during his managerial career, but it remains to be seen whether he will be given the opportunity to do so again next season.

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A Journey from silence to self



By: Anila Bukhari
@themtkenyatimes

Barbara Marie Minney lived much of her life behind a truth she could not yet speak, carrying within her a quiet identity that would take decades to fully emerge. Born and raised in West Virginia, she is a seventh-generation Appalachian whose roots run deep in the culture, traditions, and storytelling heritage of the region. Her life reflects both the weight of that legacy and the courage it took to reshape her place within it. Today, she is known as a Christian transgender woman, an award-winning poet and writer, a speaker, teaching artist, guest editor, and a quiet yet powerful activist whose work centers on authenticity, resilience, and belonging.

For over sixty years, Barbara lived in a reality that did not fully align with who she truly was. Like many individuals raised in environments where identity is shaped by rigid expectations, she learned to suppress her truth in order to survive and function within societal norms. However, that silence did not erase her inner voice—it only deepened her emotional landscape. At the age of 63, she made the life-altering decision to begin her transition and live authentically as the woman she had always known herself to be. This moment marked not just a personal transformation, but a profound rebirth rooted in courage, faith, and self-acceptance.

Barbara's writing became the bridge between her internal world and the outside reality. Through poetry, she found a language that allowed her to process decades of suppressed identity, emotional struggle, spiritual reflection, and personal awakening. Her work is deeply personal, often raw and unfiltered, capturing the complexity of living between iden-

ties and the liberation that comes with embracing truth. She writes not only to express herself but also to create space for others who may feel unseen or unheard.

Her literary contributions have earned her recognition across multiple platforms. Barbara is the author of four poetry collections, each representing different stages of her journey. Her book *If There's No Heaven* received the 2020 Poetry Is Life Book Award and was named one of the Akron Beacon Journal's Best Northeast Ohio Books of the year. This collection reflects themes of faith, doubt, identity, and longing, resonating with readers who find comfort in its honesty. She followed this with *Poetic Memoir* Chapbook Challenge in 2021, further exploring her lived experiences through poetic storytelling.

In 2023, she released *Dance Naked With God*, a bold and spiritually reflective work that blends vulnerability with a deep sense of divine connection. Her most recent collection, *A Woman in Progress*, has been widely celebrated, winning the 2024 American Fiction Award for Poetry Chapbook, becoming a finalist for the Eric Hoffer DaVinci Eye Award, and earning recognition as a runner-up at the San Francisco Book Festival. This collection symbolizes her ongoing evolution, embracing the idea that identity is not fixed but continuously unfolding.

Beyond her books, Barbara's poetry and essays have reached a broader audience through publication in respected platforms such as *Politico*, *The Buckeye Flame*, *Gargoyle*, and the *National and International Goddess Anthology*. Her work has also been translated into Spanish, expanding its impact across linguistic and cultural boundaries. Each piece she writes contributes to a larger narrative—one that reclaims Appalachian identity while simultaneously redefining what it means to be queer within that space.

Barbara is also a compelling performer. She has traveled across the country presenting her poetry and a multimedia performance piece titled "Queer in the Holler: An Ap-

palachian Journey of Perseverance." This work combines storytelling, spoken word, and visual elements to illustrate her journey of identity, struggle, and resilience within a traditionally conservative cultural backdrop. Her performances are not just artistic expressions; they are acts of visibility and advocacy.

Her presence extends into literary and academic communities as well. She has participated in readings, panels, and conferences including the Association of Writers & Publishers Writing Programs Conference, the Appalachian Studies Association Conference, Literary Cleveland's Inkubator Conference, and Literary Youngstown's Fall Conference, among others. These platforms have allowed her to engage in meaningful dialogue about identity, literature, and representation.

As a teaching artist, Barbara has shared her knowledge and experience through workshops with organizations such as West Virginia Writers, Words in the Hills, Literary Cleveland, the Flamingo Writers Guild, and the Meditation Studio. Her teaching style reflects her personal journey—encouraging honesty, emotional exploration, and fearless storytelling. She has also delivered keynote speeches, including at the EDEN Festival in Michigan, where she combined inspiration with practical guidance for aspiring writers.

Her contributions go beyond writing and teaching. Barbara has served on the Board of Directors for Literary Youngstown and the AIDS Network/Akron Pride Initiative, demonstrating her commitment to community building and advocacy. She has also been involved in organizational roles with West Virginia Writers, contributing to both budget and nominating committees. These roles highlight her dedication not only to art but also to the structures that support creative and marginalized communities.

Barbara's voice has reached audiences through various media appearances, including podcasts and radio programs such as *Life With JEM*, *Mothman in the Bible Belt*, Ohio



Barbara Marie Minney

Poetry Association Poetry Spotlight, Transpositive Radio, and the West Virginia Author television program. Through these platforms, she continues to share her story, offering insight, encouragement, and representation.

Her personal life is equally meaningful. She has been married to her wife, Marilyn, for over 44 years. Their relationship stands as a testament to love, growth, and mutual understanding. They were first married in 1981 and later remarried in 2018 as two women, marking a beautiful continuation of their shared journey. Together, they live

in Northeast Ohio, surrounded by a whimsical collection of stuffed animals that reflects a sense of warmth, comfort, and individuality.

Barbara Marie Minney's life is a story of transformation—not sudden, but gradual, layered, and deeply human. She embodies the idea that it is never too late to become who you truly are. Through her words, her voice, and her presence, she continues to carve out space for herself and others, reclaiming identity, honoring heritage, and proving that authenticity, no matter when it arrives, is always worth the wait.