



**Kindiki: You will have no power to vote if you don't register**  
Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has called on unregistered Kenyans to turn up in large numbers and get enrolled in the voters' roll before the registration window closes. **Page 8**



**Mudavadi: We want a decisive victory for Ruto**  
Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has said the campaign team for President William Ruto's re-election bid is working on increasing his margin of victory come 2027. **Page 16**

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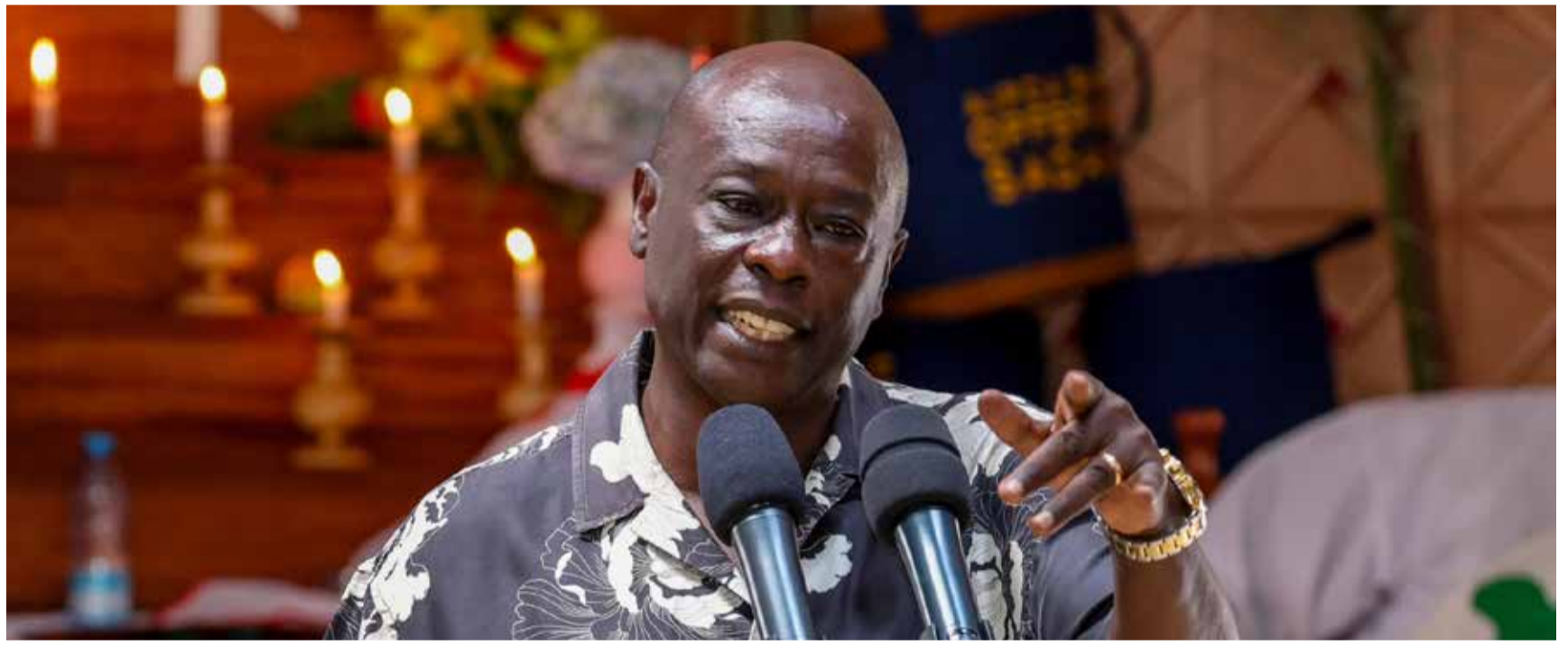
**Graft** Gachagua argued the probe is less about accountability than a power struggle over fuel imports

# Gachagua cries foul



**4**

Key officials in oil scandal; Energy Principal Secretary Mohammed Liban, Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) Director-General Daniel Kiptoo, a senior official identified as Sang, and Joseph Wafula (Deputy Director Petroleum)



Former Deputy President and Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP) leader Rigathi Gachagua. Photo | Rigathi X

Former Deputy President and Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP) leader Rigathi Gachagua has intensified his criticism of the government over the ongoing petroleum sector scandal, describing the controversy as a business dispute rooted in a controversial government-to-government (G-to-G) oil import deal. Speaking amid rising public concern over the arrests of senior energy officials, Gachagua claimed the unfolding probe is less about accountability and more about a fallout among powerful actors competing for control of lucrative fuel import arrangements. **Page 9**

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# Gachagua and allies blame oil deal dispute for corruption, warn of fuel price surge

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

*Some of the moments as captured in pictures*

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has described Kenya's ongoing oil deal scandal as a business dispute rather than pure corruption. Speaking at a church service during an Easter Sunday service at AIPCA Gakoe, Gatundu North in Kiambu County, Gachagua said the arrests of three senior Energy officials stemmed from their defiance of a government-to-government (G-to-G) oil agreement.

PS Mohammed, EPRA CEO Kiptoo, and Sang were reportedly compelled to resign, and funds found in their homes have mysteriously disappeared.

At the church service and later during public engagements at Gakoe and Kamwangi areas, Gachagua alleged that the President acts as a proxy in the controversial G-to-G deal and warned that ongoing disagreements could push fuel prices up by KSh40 per litre, affecting the cost of goods nationwide.

He also accused authorities of discriminating against opposition areas in the registration of persons and issuance of identity cards, cautioning that continued bias could trigger demonstrations in Nairobi. Regarding the fresh registration of elderly voters by IEBC, he confirmed that the United Alternative Government will meet to deliberate and release a formal position.

During his address, Gachagua emphasized that Kenya has been looted to "suprahistoric high dictates," urging residents of Kamwangi and the nation to remain vigilant. He concluded with Easter blessings, invoking divine protection over Kenya's resources and citizens.

He was accompanied by scores of former, current, and aspiring political leaders from various parts of the country.



**Editor's Desk**

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# NEWS IN BRIEF



Embu Deputy Governor Kinyua Mugo and Director, Nutrition and Dietetics Services at the Ministry of Health Veronica Kirogo cut the tape to officially launch County Food and Nutrition Security Policy to combat malnutrition among young children in the county.



The County Government of Turkana County has received 51.269 metric tonnes of certified seeds worth KSh6 million from Kenya Seed Company to support farmers during the rainy season. The seeds will benefit over 10,000 households, including many female-headed families, and support cultivation across thousands of acres. Officials said the programme will boost food production in key sub-counties. The county plans to increase funding for seeds and farm tools to Sh40 million next year. The consignment includes cereals, legumes, and vegetables, expected to mature within three months and improve food security.



Some of the goats that were vaccinated against Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) during a joint Kenya-Tanzania cross-border vaccination exercise implemented under the EU-PLACE Project by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD).

The programme was carried out in collaboration with the Directorate of Veterinary Services (Kenya) and the

Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (Tanzania) with support from the County Government of Kajiado.



Nairobi politician cum philanthropist Dennis Waweru over the Easter holiday engaged residents of Kabiria in Waitihaka during a voter registration drive held at Agape Children's Home, urging them; particularly young people to register and participate in upcoming elections. He emphasized the importance of civic engagement in shaping leadership and ensuring community interests are represented. The exercise concluded with a shared lunch that fostered a warm and inclusive environment, allowing

Waweru to interact closely with residents. Discussions focused on unity, development priorities and the role of collective responsibility in driving progress within Dagoretti South and the wider Nairobi, with residents expressing optimism about increased participation.



James Torome, Secretary General of the Kenya Union of Special Needs Education Teachers, has urged communities in Narok County to abandon harmful cultural practices that hinder education. Speaking at a funeral in Nairegia Enkare, he identified Female Genital Mutilation, early marriage and moranism as key barriers, especially for girls, leading to school dropouts. He encouraged parents to prioritize education and urged young men to avoid crime and drugs, instead pursuing productive activities like farming and business. Torome called on elders and youth to help eliminate FGM and support equal education opportunities.

Mombasa Governor Abdulsamad Nassir briefs the media at his private office in Kizingo, condoling with the family of Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) Managing Director Capt. William Ruto, who was involved in a tragic accident on the night of April 3rd, 2026, in Taita Taveta County.

Governor Nassir said, alongside his Taita Taveta counterpart Andrew Mwadime, they oversaw rescue efforts that facilitated the transfer of Capt. William Ruto's family members to Moi County Referral Hospital before they were later moved to Mombasa Hospital for further treatment.

Tragically, one of Capt Ruto's daughters has since succumbed to her injuries, while he and three other family members remain in stable condition.



A woman from the Oloitokitok community plants a tree at Oloitokitok Forest in Kajiado County. The State Department for Wildlife has intensified efforts to restore ecosystems through sustained tree-growing initiatives, with the latest exercise carried out in the forest. Through these initiatives, the department continues to promote human-wildlife coexistence by restoring habitats, reducing conflict, and enhancing sustainable livelihoods for communities living adjacent to key ecosystems.



Residents of Tinderet Sub-County in Nandi County are facing severe disruption following weeks of heavy rainfall that has damaged roads, farms and homes, while raising fears of landslides in the hilly region. Key access roads in Kabiye, Kapsimatwo, Chemeli and Songhor have become nearly impassable due to deep gullies, washed-away culverts and eroded murrum surfaces. Transport and economic activities have been significantly affected, with public service vehicles suspending operations and boda boda riders struggling to operate. Residents say the situation has disrupted trade and milk delivery, leading to daily income losses and growing hardship across the sub-county.



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**Human Rights** So far, the Commission has compiled a list of 1,244 victims.

# KNCHR urged to extend deadline for submission of documents by human rights violation victims

BY KNA

@themkenyatimes

The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) has been requested to extend the deadline for victims of human rights violations to submit documents for verification, which was to expire on Friday.

On March 6, 2026, the Head of State, through a Gazette Notice, directed KNCHR to submit a report containing the Reparations Framework within 60 days. The Commission has already developed the framework and is finalising a list of human rights violation cases, currently undergoing verification before submission to the Head of State.

So far, the Commission has compiled a list of 1,244 victims. The list, now under verification, includes victims of extrajudicial killings, torture, abductions and enforced disappearances, evictions, sexual and gender-based violence, as well as loss of property and livelihoods.

Coast Civil Society Network for Human Rights (CCSNHR) Chairman Zedekiah Adika said the time allocated to compile the list is too short, noting it covers victims from the 2017 post-election violence to date.



KNCHR officials addressing the media.

“The time must be extended so that all Kenyans can benefit from that fund, especially those affected by post-election violence,” said Adika.

He added that many victims of politically linked violence, including recent Gen Z protests, were subjected to intimidation and, in some cases, did not seek medical attention.

“The violence related to political actions, including the Gen Z protests, came with a lot of intimidation. Many people did not even go to the hospital. The level of documentation required may also discourage some victims,” he said.

Adika further urged KNCHR to conduct countrywide outreach programmes to educate the public about its mandate. However, the Commission,

in a statement released on Wednesday, cited a lack of budgetary allocation for such outreaches. It has appealed to the National Treasury to release funds allocated by Parliament to enable it to fully discharge its mandate.

“The government needs to allocate more funds to the Commission. We have heard them complain about inadequate resources to reach communities. They must be properly facilitated so that victims can be compensated,” he stated.

The CCSNHR Chairman also called for accountability for both action and inaction by state actors to prevent recurring violations.

He warned against normalising extrajudicial killings during election cycles, saying

compensation alone should not replace justice.

“We do not want a situation where killings become routine. The state killed people, others were shot, and now compensation is being discussed. In the next election, we risk falling into the same pattern,” he said.

“As civil society, we are pushing for a process that will identify and hold accountable those still in service who were involved in violations against Kenyans.”

The organisation is now calling for the establishment of an independent inquiry, similar to South Africa’s Madlanga Commission, to investigate police officers who may have used excessive force while handling protesters and to ensure accountability.

## Repeat offender accused of stabbing matatu conductor to death in Dandora



BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

The Dandora Phase 2 community is reeling after the fatal stabbing of Joseph Mwangi, a 21-year-old matatu conductor killed just 100 metres from his home. He was carrying two packets of milk and a cake for supper when he was attacked.

His death triggered an immediate and visible protest. Matatu drivers and conductors abandoned their vehicles and marched on foot to Buruburu Police Station, demanding justice and accusing local authorities of failing to keep their route safe.

“We walked all the way from Dandora. This man has been doing these things for a long time, and the local office has been unable to act. The boy died a painful death — you cannot stab someone in the heart and neck, leave their money, and walk away with just a phone,” said conductor Kabiru Kariuki.

Police confirmed they have identified the suspect — a recently released convict. “He is a jailbird. We are told he left jail three days ago. That is not someone who should be in the community. We are looking for him,” said Buruburu OCPD Boniface Lomuk.

Community leaders say the pattern is not new. “He has been arrested and released repeatedly. We reported to Dandora Police Station and they say they are investigating, but it seems he is too much for them,” said Charles Ngatia, chairman of the Dandora Matatu Association.

For Mwangi’s family, grief has given way to a simple plea. “The only thing I ask is for justice to be served,” said his father, John Mwangi.

His sister Jackline Njoki struggled to process the loss. “On Wednesday I was still with him. Today I was told by strangers that my brother is gone — and he had just been out working to make a living.”

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## NAIROBI

## EPRA board assures stability as Oketch takes over as acting Director General



Dr Joseph Oketch

## BY MKT REPORTER

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

The Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority has appointed Dr Joseph Oketch as acting director general following the resignation of Daniel Kiptoo Bargoria, the regulator's board announced on Sunday.

In a press briefing on April 5, the EPRA board said it received Bargoria's resignation on Saturday afternoon, thanked him for his service, and wished him well.

The board said Oketch's appointment reflects the critical nature of EPRA's mandate as Kenya's energy sector regulator — a role that includes setting electricity and petroleum tariffs, licensing industry players, enforcing safety standards, and protecting consumers.

Oketch currently heads EPRA's Electricity and Renewable Energy Directorate, where he oversees the development and monitoring of regulations, standards, and codes for the electrical and renewable en-

ergy sub-sectors.

He brings more than 25 years of experience in the energy sector, having previously held senior positions at Kenya Power and the Rural Electrification Authority before joining EPRA a decade ago.

Academically, Oketch holds a BSc in Electrical Engineering and a Postgraduate Diploma in Project Planning and Management, both from the University of Nairobi, as well as an MBA and a PhD in Strategic Management from Kenyatta University. He is a registered professional engineer with the Engineers Board of Kenya and a member of both the Institute of Engineers of Kenya and the Kenya Institute of Management.

Board chairperson Adan Haji Ali said the authority remains confident in Oketch's ability to lead effectively in the interim. "We assure the country and stakeholders of the stability of the Authority and that it remains steady in effectively and sustainably regulating the energy sector," he said.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki addressing Irunduni residents yesterday.

## Kindiki: You will have no power to vote if you don't register

## BY DPCS

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has called on unregistered Kenyans to turn up in large numbers and get enrolled in the voters' roll before the registration window closes.

The DP said they will lack the power to pick leaders of their choice in the next elections if they fail to get enlisted to vote.

"I am asking all eligible Kenyans who have not registered to vote to do so. With a vote, you will have power to choose whoever you wish at the ballot," he noted.

The Second in Command spoke yesterday at home in Irunduni, Tharaka Nithi County where he hosted thousands of residents for Easter celebrations.

"Without a vote, you will just make noise but you will not enjoy any right to vote," DP stated.

The Deputy President shared an Easter meal with the jubilant residents and briefed them on the huge development projects the government is undertaking in the County as well as across the country.

He also beseeched Kenyans not to fall prey to those keen to divide

them across partisan lines.

"As we celebrate Easter, let's remember to love our neighbours, love our country and love all Kenyans as created by God," he added.

Prof. Kindiki assured residents that they will benefit from the administration's extensive development agenda that targets hundreds



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of kilometres of tarmac roads for every county, extension of electricity to thousands of homes, construction of modern markets, water projects among others.

"We have many projects going on in Tharaka Nithi and I will make sure they are completed on time. We have tendered for many more projects which will start in the coming weeks," he added.

The DP noted that no part of the country will be discriminated against as the government rolls out development aimed at improving the lives of all Kenyans.

"We are developing every part of the country because it is not right for one section of the country to develop and others to lag behind. Every part of this country will be developed," he assured.

Earlier, the Deputy President attended an interdenominational church service in honour of the late Ol Kalou MP David Kiaraho at his home in Gacwe village in Nyan-darua County.

**Graft** Gachagua claimed the unfolding probe is less about accountability and more about a fallout among powerful actors competing for control of lucrative fuel import arrangements

# Storm over oil deal deepens as Gachagua claims business rivalry while DCI stands firm

**Government officials have continued to defend the G-to-G fuel import deal, arguing that it was introduced to stabilize supply, ease pressure on foreign exchange reserves and cushion the country from global oil price shocks. However, some industry players have raised concerns about reduced competitiveness and transparency under the arrangement.**

**BY MKT Correspondents**

@themkenyatimes

Former Deputy President and Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP) leader Rigathi Gachagua has intensified his criticism of the government over the ongoing petroleum sector scandal, describing the controversy as a business dispute rooted in a controversial government-to-government (G-to-G) oil import deal.

Speaking amid rising public concern over the arrests of senior energy officials, Gachagua claimed the unfolding probe is less about accountability and more about a fallout among powerful actors competing for control of lucrative fuel import arrangements.

According to him, the arrest of three senior officers linked to the petroleum sector stems from their alleged defiance of the G-to-G fuel import framework, after they reportedly opted to procure fuel through alternative channels.

He further alleged that the G-to-G deal itself was structured to facilitate corrupt practices within state institutions, adding that senior figures were using proxies to benefit from the arrangement.

The DCP leader also raised concerns over the abrupt exits of key officials, including Energy Principal Secretary Mohammed Liban, Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) Director-General Daniel Kiptoo, and a senior official identified as Sang.

He questioned the circumstances surrounding their resignations and alleged that large sums of money reportedly recovered during investigations had "mysteriously disappeared."

Gachagua warned that the insta-

bility surrounding the oil import framework could have far-reaching economic consequences, including a possible increase in fuel prices by up to KSh40 per litre, a development that would inevitably push up the cost of living.

In response, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) defended its actions, dismissing claims that the probe is politically motivated or linked to business rivalries. The agency maintained that the arrests were based on credible evidence of procurement irregularities, abuse of office, and suspected economic crimes tied to the petroleum import system.

The DCI said investigations are ongoing and are being conducted in collaboration with oversight bodies, including the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, stressing that the inquiry is focused on safeguarding public resources and ensuring transparency in the energy sector.



**According to him, the arrest of three senior officers linked to the petroleum sector stems from their alleged defiance of the G-to-G fuel import framework, after they reportedly opted to procure fuel through alternative channels. He further alleged that the G-to-G deal itself was structured to facilitate corrupt practices within state institutions, adding that senior figures were using proxies to benefit from the arrangement.**



It also dismissed allegations that funds recovered during the operation had gone missing, terming the

**Rigathi Gachagua arriving for the Easter service yesterday.**

claims unfounded.

Government officials have continued to defend the G-to-G fuel import deal, arguing that it was introduced to stabilize supply, ease pressure on foreign exchange reserves and cushion the country from global oil price shocks. However, some industry players have raised concerns about reduced competitiveness and transparency under the arrangement.

Beyond the oil dispute, Gachagua also accused state authorities of discriminating against opposition

strongholds in the issuance of national identity cards, calling on the registrar of persons to ensure fairness or risk public protests in Nairobi.

On electoral matters, he indicated that opposition leaders under the United Alternative Government coalition will soon meet to deliberate on proposals by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission

(IEBC) regarding fresh voter registration for elderly citizens, promising a comprehensive position after

the consultations.

As investigations gather pace and political tensions rise, the oil deal saga continues to expose deep divisions within government and the energy sector, with far-reaching implications for both governance and the economy.

**Investigation** We appeal to the public to be patient and allow investigative agencies to undertake their work independently and conclude the matters in question conclusively

# Energy ministry launches internal review to strengthen fuel supply chain oversight amid ongoing probe

**BY Correspondent**

@themtkenyaintimes

The Ministry of Energy and Petroleum has launched a comprehensive internal review of petroleum management systems and processes aimed at improving transparency, safeguarding fuel quality, and strengthening oversight within the country's fuel supply chain.

In a statement, Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi stated that the review is part of broader efforts to reinforce accountability and ensure the integrity of petroleum importation, storage, and distribu-

tion systems across Kenya.

He noted that the initiative will focus on identifying gaps in current procedures and enhancing regulatory and operational controls within the sector.

"The government wishes to assure the public that the situation is under control. When full information about the fuel shipment that is the subject of investigations emerged, we stopped the delivery of a second cargo under similar circumstances, thus protecting and securing public interest," he stated.

At the same time, he urged Kenyans to be patient as investigations continue, urging

Kenyans to allow relevant agencies to complete their work independently and professionally.

"We appeal to the public to be patient and allow investigative agencies to undertake their work independently and conclude the matters in question conclusively," he said.

He emphasized that the Ministry is working closely with other government agencies to ensure stability in fuel supply while maintaining oversight of ongoing reforms in the petroleum sector.

The announcement comes as scrutiny intensifies in the energy industry, with authorities reviewing procurement

processes, fuel importation systems, and internal reporting structures as part of wider investigations into recent developments in the sector.

Petroleum Principal Secretary Mohamed Liban and Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) Managing Director Joe Sang and the Energy Petroleum and Regulatory Authority (EPRA) resigned after they were arrested in the ongoing probe, where they are accused of manipulating national fuel stock data to create an artificial sense of shortage.

Head of Public Service Felix Koskei said preliminary findings indicate that the officials are suspected of falsifying in-country fuel stock levels,



Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi

allegedly creating panic and an impression of an impending fuel supply crisis.

According to Koskei, the manipulated data was then used to justify emergency fuel procurement outside the established Government-to-Government (G2G) framework, resulting in a shipment allegedly overpriced and of substandard quality.

"The emergency shipment was procured in blatant breach of the G2G framework, in complete disregard of established emergency procurement procedures,"

Koskei said.

He added that the alleged scheme took advantage of rising global oil prices and heightened public concern, influencing urgent procurement decisions that bypassed normal accountability safeguards.

Investigations into the matter are ongoing, with authorities expected to review procurement processes, fuel import documentation, and internal data reporting systems across key energy agencies.

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**AI** The innovative project seeks to improve access to affordable diagnostic technology by leveraging artificial intelligence to detect diseases such as cancer and malaria

# Varsity students win prestigious artificial intelligence hackathon competition

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

The National Intelligence Research University (NIRU) has crowned three students from Meru University of Science and Technology as the overall winners of the 2025 National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Hackathon, highlighting Kenya's growing pipeline of digital innovators developing solutions aimed at addressing national challenges and driving economic growth.

Caroline Gakii, Daniel Maitethia and Ezekiel Otieno emerged top in the national competition after presenting their project titled "A Low-Cost AI-Powered Digital Microscope for Accessible Cancer and Malaria Diagnosis in Kenya".

The trio was awarded the grand prize of KSh2 million during the final showcase and awards ceremony held in Nairobi.

The innovative project seeks to improve access to affordable diagnostic technology by leveraging artificial intelligence to detect diseases such as cancer and malaria, particularly in resource-constrained environments.

Organisers noted that the solution demonstrates the potential of locally developed technologies to strengthen Kenya's healthcare system.

Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen lauded the young innovators for demonstrating the country's growing leadership in digital transformation.

"The diversity and quality of solutions presented here demonstrate that Kenya has the talent and creativity to compete globally. These innovations have the potential not only to solve local challenges but also to create jobs and drive economic growth," Murkomen said.

Chairman of the NIRU Board of Trustees and Director General of the National Intelligence Service, Nordin Hajji,



The best performers celebrating

said the hackathon forms part of a broader national strategy to strengthen Kenya's technological independence.

"By nurturing AI innovation locally, we are building the capacity to develop solutions that respond to our socio-economic realities while strengthening national security and economic resilience," Hajji stated.

Joshua Radula from Strathmore University secured the first runner-up position, earning Sh750,000 for his project dubbed "Word 2 Sign". The AI-powered innovation translates spoken or written words into sign language, improving communication accessibility for the deaf community.

Kelvin Mulama took third place with "Veritas AI", a solution designed to detect financial fraud and enhance national financial integrity using autonomous intelligence systems. His project received Sh500,000 in prize money.

The nationwide hackathon attracted more than 5,600 registrations and generated over 2,500 AI solution submissions, reflecting the expanding scale of Kenya's digital innovation ecosystem and

**Caroline Gakii, Daniel Maitethia and Ezekiel Otieno emerged top in the national competition after presenting their project titled "A Low-Cost AI-Powered Digital Microscope for Accessible Cancer and Malaria Diagnosis in Kenya".**

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the growing interest among young technologists in applying artificial intelligence to solve societal challenges.

NIRU Vice Chancellor Dr. James Kibon said the initiative aims to transform innovative ideas into deployable technologies capable of addressing national priorities.

"What we are building is not just a competition but a pipeline of deployable AI solutions. The quality of innovations we have seen demonstrates Kenya's capacity to develop technologies that directly address our national priorities, from security and agriculture to public service delivery," said Kibon.

According to the organisers, the programme was implemented in partnership with stakeholders across government, academia and industry.

Selected innovators underwent a structured incubation programme that provided technical mentorship, product development support, ethical AI guidance and commercialisation training.

The incubation process enabled participants to refine their ideas into market-ready technologies capa-

ble of real-world deployment, strengthening the country's digital innovation pipeline.

Organisers indicated that the winning projects were selected through a rigorous evaluation process that assessed national relevance, scalability, technical feasibility, originality and measurable impact.

The innovations showcased during the hackathon covered a wide range of sectors, including security and intelligence, agriculture, cybersecurity, public service delivery and digital infrastructure, demonstrating the increasing role of artificial intelligence as a driver of national development.

Chief Judge of the hackathon Ali Hussein Kassim, who also chairs the FinTech Alliance Kenya, said the winning solutions stood out for their readiness for practical deployment.

"The winning solutions were recognised for their industry readiness and potential for real-world deployment across key sectors, including security, intelligence, agriculture, public service delivery, cybersecurity and digital transformation," Kassim noted.

He added that the initiative

plays a critical role in bridging the gap between emerging digital talent and industry by ensuring promising ideas receive the support needed to scale into sustainable solutions.

The judging panel comprised experts drawn from academia, industry and the technology ecosystem, including Juliana Rotich, co-founder of Ushahidi; Dr. John Olukuru of the Strathmore University Business School; technology expert Joseph Mathenge; AI researcher Dr. Simon K. Nyambura; engineering specialist Eng. Ruth Kirui; and Oscar Otieno, Senior Deputy Data Commissioner at the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner.

Analysts say initiatives such as the NIRU AI Hackathon are increasingly positioning Kenya as a regional hub for digital innovation while nurturing home-grown solutions capable of addressing socio-economic challenges and strengthening the country's technology-driven future.

**The innovative project seeks to improve access to affordable diagnostic technology by leveraging artificial intelligence to detect diseases such as cancer and malaria, particularly in resource-constrained environments.**

**Organisers noted that the solution demonstrates the potential of locally developed technologies to strengthen Kenya's healthcare system. Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen lauded the young innovators for demonstrating the country's growing leadership in digital transformation.**



**Politics** Atandi said any move to remove the governor from office would be unnecessary and politically wasteful, given that the next elections are only about a year away.

# Atandi urges Siaya MCAs to halt Orengo impeachment ahead of 2027 elections

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Alego Usonga Member of Parliament Samuel Atandi has urged members of the Siaya County Assembly to abandon efforts to impeach Governor James Orengo, arguing that voters should be allowed to decide his political fate in the next general elections rather than through impeachment proceedings at this stage.

Atandi said any move to remove the governor from of-

fice would be unnecessary and politically wasteful, given that the next elections are only about a year away.

"If there is anybody in Siaya planning to impeach Orengo, I want to persuade him not to do it," Atandi said during a press briefing at his South East Alego rural home in Siaya.

His remarks come amid growing political tension in the county, with a section of leaders pushing for accountability measures against the governor, while others insist the focus should remain on

service delivery and upcoming elections.

Atandi also said that as leaders, they had already identified a preferred candidate who would succeed Governor Orengo after the next polls, adding that preparations for succession politics were already underway.

"We have a candidate as people of Siaya, somebody who will work with the people of Siaya, consult them, and ensure that Siaya is a progressive county," he said.

The legislator, who also chairs the National Assembly



Governor James Orengo

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Budget and Appropriations Committee, further accused Governor Orengo of hiding behind the "Linda Mwananchi" initiative, claiming it was being used to deflect criticism over alleged poor governance. He cited concerns over alleged financial mismanagement in the county government, including claims that the governor's office had experienced utility disruptions due to unpaid electricity bills. Atandi also alleged that weak administration had contributed to a recruitment scandal in the health sector, where hundreds of young people were reportedly misled in a fake employment scheme. "More than 500 young people were employed for nine months after parting with bribes only to be sacked," he claimed.

However, a group of youths from Siaya defended Governor Orengo, praising his leadership and democratic credentials while dismissing calls for his impeachment.

Addressing journalists in Ugunja town, youth representatives led by Kenneth Otieno, Fidel Omondi Oyuka, and Babu Victor said they fully support the governor and believe he deserves a bigger

national role.

They even proposed that Orengo should consider vying for both the ODM party leadership and the presidency in the 2027 general election, citing his long political experience and loyalty to former Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

"As youth, we feel that James Aggrey Bob Orengo should vie for the presidency," said Otieno, adding that the governor's record and experience make him suitable for higher office.

The youth group also said they are actively mobilizing voter registration efforts to ensure they participate in the next elections, which they said would be used to "install" leaders of their choice.

As political divisions deepen in Siaya County, attention now shifts to whether impeachment efforts will gain traction or be overtaken by early campaigns for the 2027 general election

**Politics** The leaders described the sensitisation forums as part of a broader regional tour aimed at consolidating grassroots support along the Coast

# UDA leaders endorse Jumwa's push for open nominations

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyetimes

Coastal leaders allied to the United Democratic Alliance held their fourth consecutive day of political mobilisation in Ganze, Kilifi County on Saturday, rallying residents behind President William Ruto and the party's development agenda.

The leaders described the sensitisation forums as part of a broader regional tour aimed at consolidating grassroots support along the Coast while showcasing what they termed the government's economic achievements.

UDA Secretary General Hassan Omar urged residents to register as party members, saying the party remains focused on addressing long-standing social and economic

challenges in the region. He also argued that the Coast has become more stable compared to previous periods marked by insecurity and tension.

Youth Affairs Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya said the region now commands a stronger voice in national governance, pointing to Coast representation in government as evidence that the area sits at the centre of national decision-making.

Senate Speaker Amason Kingi echoed President Ruto's earlier pledge that support from the Coast would not go unreciprocated, reaffirming the national government's commitment to closing historical development gaps in the region.

UDA deputy party leader Issa Timamy said Coast leaders are increasingly united behind the government's agenda and determined to ensure the region benefits from national programmes.



UDA Secretary General Hassan Omar

The leaders also declared support for UDA gubernatorial aspirant Aisha Jumwa, calling on residents to

join the party and demanding an open, competitive nomination process free from zoning restrictions.

The mobilisation tour is set to continue in Kwale County as leaders enter their fifth day of engagements.

The Mt. Kenya Times



## Where silence feels like home



We met as strangers, nothing to hold,  
No promises made, no stories told.  
Just passing moments, unaware,  
That fate was quietly building something rare.

Years went by, yet something stayed,  
In every silence, a bond was laid.  
No constant talks, no loud display,  
Still, you never truly went away.

Your eyes would speak what lips denied,  
And somehow, my heart replied.  
No need for words, no need to explain,  
You felt my calm, you knew my pain.

It wasn't sudden, it didn't start loud,  
It grew in silence, away from the crowd.  
Like roots beneath we couldn't see,  
Still holding on, so naturally.

And now it feels, so deep, so true,  
Like I've always belonged with you.  
A stranger once, yet somehow known,  
You didn't arrive... you felt like home.

©Dr. Daksha Udhani  
Ahmedabad

## My strength did not come from lifting weights, My strength came from myself when I was knocked down



I learnt many things from my experiences.  
Humiliation, obstacles, cheating,  
disappointments, backstabbing,  
made me a strong person.

I learnt many things from my pains  
They mould me to achieve many, grains.  
The hammer on the chisel makes  
a stone into a beautiful idol.

Burning candles makes us feel light.  
A caterpillar accepts its pains in pupa

And become a beautiful butterfly.  
Without pain no-one gets to gain.

Burning candles makes us feel light.  
A caterpillar accepts its pains in pupa  
And become a beautiful butterfly.  
Without pain no-one gets to gain.

Rajesh Kanna B N

RAJESH KANNA .B N  
M.Sc.,M.A.,M.A., B.Ed.,  
PGDG&C, CELT.,  
BT Asst  
GMHSCHOOL,  
TIRUR.  
TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT.  
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## The essence of my life



As long as my parents dwell in health and grace,  
My heart finds peace, my soul its quiet place.

They are the light that guides my way,  
A tender joy that in my heart will stay.  
Beside my father, lost in thought I sit,  
Recalling childhood—each precious bit.  
His gentle words, "my child," I hear,  
And listen close, with love sincere.  
O mother mine, without you I am undone,  
No dreams remain, no rising sun.  
Your love has bloomed within my chest,  
And turned each moment into blessed rest.  
They say in life two treasures shine—

One is joy, and wealth the other divine.  
Yet there exists a greater art,  
A priceless gem—the parents' heart.  
No light can weigh it, no jewel compare,  
It warms the world with boundless care.

About the Author  
Islamova Malikabonu Baxodurovna,  
Born in the ancient city of Samarkand,  
From childhood, driven by a thirst for knowledge  
And a spirit of tireless determination,  
She was honored with the "Support of the  
Nation" badge.  
Now a first-year student  
At Samarkand State University,  
In the field of Biochemistry,  
She continues her path of learning and discovery.  
Today, her light shines even brighter—  
As the author of the book "The Everlasting  
Shining Light,"  
A reflection of her heart, her thoughts,  
And a flame that will glow through time.

## Mouth can lie, "Eyes can't"



People will forget "karma will not  
Mouth can lies  
But your eyes will not lie

People forget about all  
But karma will not forget  
You do all things as good

You will have good karma  
You do all things bad  
You have bad karma.

S.P.Ambuja  
John Dewey Matric Higher secondary school  
panruti

## Hope



Even in darkness, there is a glimmer of hope,  
It can never be crushed, it is an endless rope.  
It might flicker, but never fades,  
It only grows stronger through the shades.  
Instead, it rises, becoming brighter,  
A silent strength, a guiding light forever.

Rakshanaa S  
8B Shraddha Children's Academy, Padur

## Bukhara – Pride of Medicine



The roots of medicine first found their start,  
Afshona-born Ibn Sina, healer of art.  
Bukhara holds the "Karvon-Dehqon" bazaar,  
Where Uzbek, Turkmen, Tajik youths are.  
Its name through history will never depart,  
Bukhara Medical Institute stands proud at heart.

A shining beacon of knowledge and light,  
Bukhara Medical Institute guides with might.  
Muslima, Gulnoza, Muhayyo, Laylo —  
Show the students the path, let their spirits  
grow.

Every nation learns within this hall,  
Every young heart dreams, big and small.  
I vow to be like teachers I see,  
A pledge to their virtues, forever in me.

Rakhmonova Gulzoda  
Uzbekistan

Bukhara boasts its minarets so high,  
A plane tree that makes all hearts sigh.

## Friendship is a precious Gift



In quiet day, I stood alone,  
Till your kind heart became my home.  
A simple smile, a caring word,  
Was all it took for me to be heard.

We laughed together, shared our pain,  
Through sunshine bright and pouring rain.  
Some moments fade, but you still stay,  
Guiding my heart along the way.  
In every tear and joy we blend,  
Life feels complete with a true friend.

S.Sahana,  
Grade 7,  
GHSS kandigai,  
Chengalpattu district.



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**Politics** Mudavadi said he is not worried about President Ruto's re-election but focus is on widening the voter margin by which Ruto will defeat his opponents.

# Mudavadi: We want a decisive victory for Ruto

BY OPCS PS  
@themkenyatimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has said the campaign team for President William Ruto's re-election bid is working on increasing his margin of victory come 2027.

Mudavadi said he is not worried about President Ruto's re-election but focus is on widening the voter margin by which Ruto will defeat his opponents.

"As we focus the debate on President Ruto's win we should move the debate beyond two-term. The debate Kenyans should be having is what is going to be the margin of victory between President Ruto as our candidate na wale wengine," said Mudavadi.

Mudavadi said the team that will spearhead Ruto's campaign will make sure Kenyans turn out in large numbers to give Ruto a decisive win.

He said he will actively mobilise support in Ruto's 2027 re-election bid.

"We want a resounding and decisive victory for President Ruto. A victory that cannot be disputed, one that speaks once, speaks loud and clear,"



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and President William Ruto

said Mudavadi.

He was speaking in Kilgoris, Narok County where he led a fundraiser for the local churches in the region during a thanksgiving service that was organized by the Principal Secretary for Tourism John Ololuaa.

He emphasized on the need for peace in the country ahead of the 2027 polls saying Kenyans should keenly appreciate the economic value of peace.

He described as disheartening the situation which is currently happening in the Mid-

dle East and other regions that are experiencing conflicts.

"As the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, I have first-hand experience from the tours I make around the world.

What other countries are going through in the absence of peace is heartbreaking," Mudavadi warned.

Mudavadi said the conflicts have resulted in significant loss of life, and widespread displacement of populations impacting negatively on key

infrastructure including airports.

"When we focus on development but disregard peace then the infrastructure will mean nothing.

Mudavadi revealed that Kenya's economy continues to stabilize under President Ruto's administration saying a survey by the African Union shows 29 countries in Africa whose currency has depreciated against the world major currencies and those countries are now undergoing economic resurgence.

"I am happy to report that Kenya is not among those 29 countries, meaning we are safe within the current economic parameters, thanks to

the leadership of President Ruto and his administration," said Mudavadi.

"When President Ruto took power, we had challenges within the energy sector especially the high oil prices that made the cost of living to skyrocket, affecting our manufacturing and transport sectors. But now after Kenya's government-to-government (G-to-G) oil deal we are experiencing a steady flow of fuel and at reasonably fair market prices," Mudavadi said.

Mudavadi said agriculture has also stabilized to due favourable fertilizer prices that have helped farmers get more yields after the government subsidized production instead of subsidizing consumption.

The Prime CS also echoed President Ruto's sentiments at the event on ensuring accountability within government and decisively dealing with cartels in the energy, health, agriculture and other sectors that support the economy of the country.



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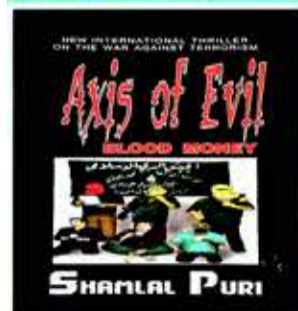
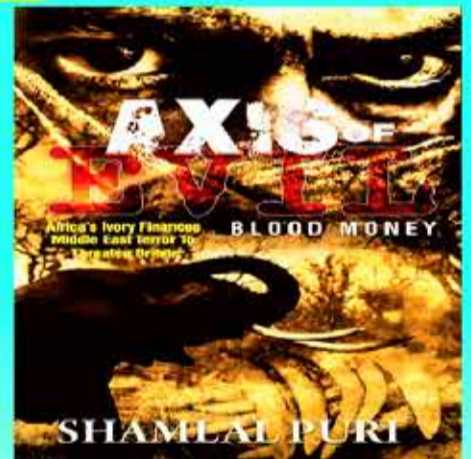
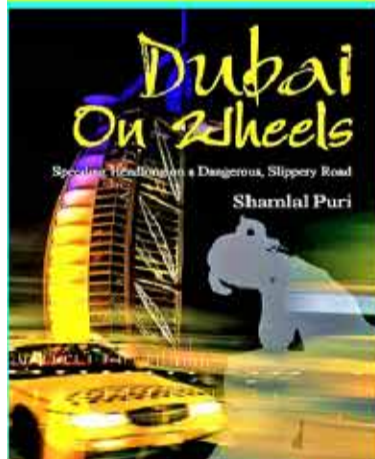
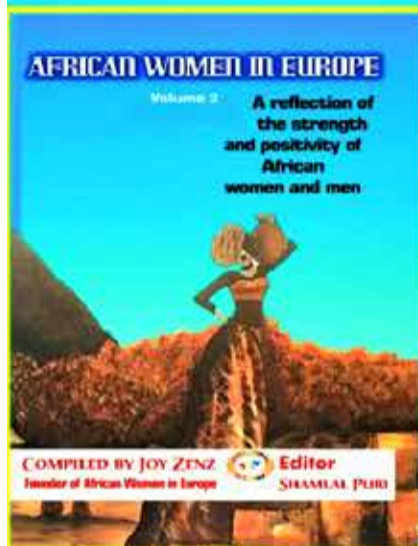
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**PWDs** The 2.2% has given the government and policy makers a false sense of justification and comfort. It has allowed them to justify the minimal allocation of resources

# A Call for accurate representation and equitable resource allocation for persons with disabilities in Kenya



**BY Fredrick Chelimo**  
@themkenyatimes



Persons with disabilities (PWDs)

Kenya disability official statistics based on 2019 census, is approximately 2.2%. The World Health Organization (WHO) suggests over 8 million Kenyans live with disabilities, which is roughly 16% of the population pointing to a massive undercount. Various excuses have been advanced from methodological limitation, stigma and reporting, definition variations and data exclusion among others. These data variations have exacerbated the already existing marginalization and exclusion of persons with disabilities.

Global discourse as is nationally on national planning including issues of disability has always been one where numbers matter. These numbers determine the policies that guide the magnitude of resource allocation, the programmes that are created, the attention from the political class and, ultimately, the way societies respond to the needs of persons with disabilities (PWDs). Globally, the prevalence of disability is estimated at 15-16%, this statistic is widely recognized, with some regions, particularly in the global South, reporting even higher numbers. The move by Kenya to place this figure at 2.2% is not only a statistical anomaly, but a move that has far reaching consequences to the current and future of persons with disabilities in Kenya.

Kenya aligns most of its issues with global standards including salaries, resources, but on issue disabilities their fate is cast on stone to await every ten-year cycles. Even within the ten years, key issues remain neglected and any meaningful things remain in paper work for publicity and international relations. The consequences of under reporting goes beyond under representation and underfunding, but becomes deeply entrenched in the social, political and economic exclusion of persons with disabilities.

The 2.2% has given the government and policy makers a false sense of justification and comfort. It has allowed them to justify the minimal allocation of resources, representation and recognition as a significant part of the Kenyan society. These figures serve to explain the easy convenient way explaining why disability programs are perpetually underfunded, representation is limited, healthcare, education and employment receive attention equivalent to the figures. The reality of relying on these outdated and inaccurate data figures has resulted in government perpetuating a situation where disability community is marginalized and ignored.

This discrepancy in data results in insufficient resource allocation to meet the ever-growing number of persons with disabilities attributed to biological, illnesses, accidents and old age. Without proper data acquisition, analysis and utilization, proper funding for PWDs will remain a mirage and accessibility, and barriers to social and political participation will continue to exclude millions from what is their rightful, just and fair entitlement in the society.

Political representation of persons with disabilities has been deeply flawed based in data which introduces underrepresentation and secondly the form of representation which is pegged on tokenism. The affirmative action seats that reserve seats for PWDs in the political and non-political offices is well meaning, but the execution leaves much to be desired.

Political leaders rather than advocate rights for persons with disabilities, often choose representatives not on their understanding of disability issues but on their political loyalty. These individuals are nominated to represent PWDs in political offices, but once nominated rarely do they mention anything disability in their entire political careers. Disability championed, proposed or elected individuals who owe and remain answerable to PWDs remain a more viable option than is the case now.

This approach of tokenism approach to disability representation reveals a fundamental flaw in how PWDs are perceived in the political landscape. The political class view PWDs as numerically insignificant, not as an influential constituency that warrant attention. For many, disability seats are seen as a sympathetic reward for loyalty, fulfill legal and constitutional requirements and not as a responsible seat to advocate for the needs of the disability community including these we are raising. This leads to a dynamic situation where disability issues are sidelined, and PWDs are denied true representation. Nominated representatives through this tokenistic model change tune, singing his or her masters voice further deepening the exclusion of these vulnerable significant members of the society.

While PWDs may not be present at political rallies due to the hostile environment of our politics and the unique challenges of persons with

disabilities to shout slogans or pronounce our allegiance, we possess the card to vote and the influence from relatives and conscious members of the society. It is time that persons with disabilities recognition as a serious electoral constituency is recognized and above all the right to elect our own representatives. The leaders who truly understand our struggle and our needs, leaders who will advocate for us to improve our situation and with serious commitment to improving lives of persons with disabilities.

The financial exclusion of persons with disabilities in Kenya is a direct consequence of misrepresented data. By using the 2.2% figure, the government has justified the allocation of resources that are insufficient to meet the needs of the global average of 15%. Based on this figure and the global average, we are actually receiving 14.6% of what should be allocated in terms of resources and opportunities not to mention the social and political consequences. This impacts every area of life for persons with disabilities including development of critical services such as education, healthcare, training and support systems access

The inadequacy of financial support is not just a matter of numbers, but a matter of human dignity and human rights. Persons with disabilities are among the most vulnerable in society, and without proper allocation, their access to basic rights is severely limited. It is time to recognize

these challenges faced by PWDs in Kenya are not isolated or temporary but systemic and require long term sustainable solutions not within the decade but immediately. The solutions should be based on accurate data that reflects the true number of PWDs in the country.

For true inclusion to be realized, persons with disabilities must be given the opportunity to elect their own representative in the correct proportionality of their true numerical strengths. This ensures that disability issues are no longer sidelined by political leaders who do more for allegiance to political masters rather than the constituency they were elected, selected or nominated under. The leaders should be true articulators, advocates and emphatic to the lived experiences of persons with disabilities.

When persons with disabilities are allowed to elect their leaders who share their vision for a more inclusive, equitable and just society, the political landscape will change. Political parties will be forced to address the needs of PWDs, knowing that they can no longer this growing constituency. This change will empower the disability community, enabling us to have a voice that is not tokenized but heard, loud and clear. This is needed much now than ever before.

This data anomaly that places the PWDs at 2.2% far beyond any internationally known, recognized and utilised data is mind boggling and leaves some of use wondering why Kenya subscribes to so many international standards but fail only in matters disability. This figure must be revisited and corrected as the endurance, resilience and suffering endured by PWDs due to this error is unimaginable, unfair, unjust and against any norms.

Persons with disabilities rights have been achieved through demonstrations and painful struggles. This time round, let us fight this war in forms and tactics relevant, legal and current to our society. Disability is not a curse as all human beings remain potential candidates of disability. We must acknowledge as a society what it potent and rise up to the occasion and address the challenges that have persisted. No one can tell the lived story than the one living with it and so is the fight for its eluviation. PWDs must fight this war and fight gallantly.

*Mr. Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo*  
PWD  
Chairperson, Jiamini Disability network Community Based organization  
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ICM The petitioners cited a recent Supreme Court ruling that allowed government agents to stop and question civilians about their immigration status

# ICM dispute signals shifting global confidence in U.S. academic environment

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes

More than 2,000 mathematicians have signed a petition urging the International Mathematical Union (IMU) to move the 2026 International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) out of the United States over safety concerns, visa restrictions for many countries, and U.S. geopolitical actions. Thus, what began as a dispute over the July meeting in Philadelphia evolved into a wider debate over whether the United States remained a secure and welcoming venue for global academic exchange.



**Since mid-March, the petition has spread rapidly through the mathematics community, with some of the world's most prominent mathematicians saying they would not take part if the congress went ahead in the United States. The petition advanced two main arguments. The first concerned the risks of traveling to the United States. "The current American government has demonstrated in no uncertain terms its unbridled hatred of immigrants," the petition said. It argued that visa restrictions, border enforcement practices and detention cases had increased the uncertainty and danger facing international scholars seeking to enter the country.**



U.S. President Donald Trump

## GROWING COLLECTIVE REFUSAL

Since mid-March, the petition has spread rapidly through the mathematics community, with some of the world's most prominent mathematicians saying they would not take part if the congress went ahead in the United States. The petition advanced two main arguments. The first concerned the risks of traveling to the United States. "The current American government has demonstrated in no uncertain terms its unbridled hatred of immigrants," the petition said. It argued that visa restrictions, border enforcement practices and detention cases had increased the uncertainty and danger facing international scholars seeking to enter the country.

The petitioners cited a recent Supreme Court ruling that allowed government agents to stop and question civilians about their immigration status based solely on "racial appearance or what language they speak." It also pointed to multiple cases in which U.S. citizens were detained, abused or killed after being caught up in enforcement actions. "The IMU is inviting mathematicians from all over the world to come to the United States as people who may not look to an ICE agent as though they 'belong,'" the petition said, warning that they could there-

fore be subject to "indiscriminate harassment and physical violence."

The petition's second line of criticism concerned U.S. foreign policy. It argued that recent U.S. military and diplomatic actions were destabilizing the world, citing, among other examples, the "illegal kidnapping" of Venezuela's leader, continued extrajudicial killings in the Caribbean, a "brazen and thoughtless war on Iran," and what it described as an attempt to colonize Greenland. These actions, the petition said, showed a "flagrant disregard of basic humanity all around the world." "If the goal of the ICM is to encourage a sense of international unity among mathematicians, the IMU would completely fail on its own terms were it to go through with its plans to host the conference in the United States," it said.

## TWO CONGRESSES, DOUBLE STANDARDS

The ICM is the premier global gathering for mathematics and one of the field's most symbolic events. Established in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1897 and held every four years, the congress serves as both a hub for academic exchange and the stage for the Fields Medal -- often hailed as the "Nobel Prize of Mathematics." The 2026 meeting will mark the event's first return to U.S. soil in

four decades.

In a statement issued on March 30, the Berlin-based IMU acknowledged widespread anxieties regarding U.S. entry and the ability of scholars to feel "safe and welcome" in Philadelphia. Despite these concerns, the Union maintained its stance and confirmed it would not reconsider the venue. "At a time when international collaboration and science face serious challenges, we strongly believe that holding the ICM in person in Philadelphia is especially important," the statement said. Petitioners, however, saw this persistence as a glaring inconsistency. They pointed to the important precedent set in 2022, when the IMU moved the congress online to avoid holding it in Russia following the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The petition argued that the safety risks in the United States were now equally, if not more, severe: "There is simply no sound argument one could make that claims international participants are safer at this iteration of the ICM than they would have been in Russia in 2022." "Holding the ICM in the United States, after it started two illegal wars, represents a double standard," Michael Harris, a mathematician at Columbia University, said.

## PHILADELPHIA PARADOX

The backlash had already gained institutional weight. As early as January, the French Mathematical Society (SMF) announced its withdrawal from all activities related to the 2026 congress in Philadelphia. It cited uncertainty over U.S. visa issuance, concerns about domestic security in the United States, and what it saw as an erosion of scientific values and academic freedom. The statement also made special mention of Benjamin Franklin, one of Philadelphia's most enduring historical symbols. "The SMF remains fundamentally attached to the legacy of Benjamin Franklin, inseparable from rational thought, and condemns distrust of science and any infringement on academic freedoms," it said.

The Brazilian Mathematical Society also joined the protest. In a statement in February, it said recent U.S. measures had "hampered global scientific cooperation and violated the basic principles of freedom of movement and international collaboration," and announced that it would not organize official activities at this year's congress. Anxiety over the U.S. academic environment was no longer confined to the world of mathematics. The International Studies Association (ISA) listed "Is it safe to travel to the U.S. for ISA 2026?" among its frequently asked questions and answers: "It depends." The association said there was greater uncertainty than in past years because of unpredictable policy changes and increased discretion by immigration officers.

Other scientific bodies issued similar warnings. The American Chemical Society advised international participants to verify travel bans and entry restrictions before traveling to the United States, while a conference hosted by Dartmouth College warned that the final decision on admission rested with border officials and that, in "very rare cases," travelers might even be asked to withdraw their application for admission. "In today's America, internationalism is seen as threatening and isolationism seems to be the trajectory the U.S. is on," wrote Martina Kohl, a public diplomacy specialist and former U.S. Embassy official in Germany, warning that exchanges of ideas and serious research led by U.S. institutions would thus face growing obstacles.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Nairobi in April: A city navigating a turbulent world

When global markets sneeze, Nairobi catches a cold — and April 2026 has delivered both.

Geopolitical tensions involving Iran have rattled international markets, sending oil prices into volatile swings. Tentative signs of de-escalation have offered brief relief, but the ripple effects are already washing ashore in Kenya's capital. Fuel prices are up. The cost of essential goods has climbed. At Gikomba and Toi markets, bargain-hunters crowd the stalls while traders quietly absorb losses they can no longer pass on.

The city's infrastructure strains are equally unrelenting. Gridlock along Thika and Mombasa roads remains a daily tax on commuters' time and patience. Transport reforms have been proposed — as they often are — but Nairobians have learned to wait for results, not promises.

Yet the city refuses to stagnate.



Westlands, Kilimani, and Ruaka are rising skyward, drawing investment and young talent. Innovation hubs like iHub continue to incubate fintech and artificial intelligence startups, reinforcing Nairobi's standing as East Africa's digital capital. Confidence, it seems, is still building — even if the roads are not.

Climate pressures add another layer of urgency. Erratic and heavier rainfall is pushing already-vulnerable areas near the

Nairobi River closer to crisis, exposing the gap between urban growth and environmental preparedness.

Nairobi has always been a city of contradictions — thriving and struggling in the same breath. In April 2026, it holds up a mirror to the world, and the reflection is complicated.

By Belinda Oloo, Laikipia University

## Kenya's boxing renaissance: Majembe's victory and the future of sport

When Majembe landed the final blow at Kasarani Indoor Arena on April 4th, he did not just defeat Mbatia the Destroyer — he announced that Kenyan boxing has arrived.

Vurugu Fight Night delivered everything a sport hungry for mainstream attention could ask for. The drama began before the first bell: a fiery weigh-in confrontation, and Mbatia's mother fasting and praying ringside, lending the bout a cultural weight that no promoter could script. When the crowd roared, it was not merely for two fighters — it was for the possibility of something bigger.

Boxing in Kenya has long been overshadowed by athletics and football. Yet this fight trended nationwide, drawing commentary from estates far beyond Nairobi. For young



athletes in urban areas where street boxing quietly thrives, Majembe's triumph was tangible proof that the sport can offer a legitimate path to recognition and income.

The economics are equally compelling. Packed stands at Kasarani signal a market hungry for organized, high-stakes competition. Promoters, broadcasters, and sponsors are paying attention. Boxing, it turns out, can generate revenue — and sustain careers.

However, momentum without infrastructure is just noise. Training facilities remain scarce, structured leagues are

thin, and regulatory frameworks to protect fighters are overdue. Without these foundations, the excitement risks evaporating as quickly as it ignited.

The path forward is clear: invest in grassroots clubs, strengthen federations, and protect athletes. Majembe handed Kenya a rare opportunity.

The only question is whether those in power will answer the bell.

By Jeremiah Kingamu, Laikipia University

## Social media and youth: Navigating influence in the digital age

A teenager in Nairobi can now build a business, spark a movement, or spiral into anxiety — all before breakfast. That is the double-edged reality of social media in 2026.

Platforms like TikTok and Instagram have fundamentally rewired how young people communicate, create, and define themselves. In Kenya, this shift carries real economic weight. Content creation is no longer a hobby — it is a career path, with influencers monetising personal brands and reaching audiences that traditional media could never access.

But the algorithm that rewards creativity also demands a toll. The relentless exposure to curated, aspirational lifestyles breeds comparison, and comparison breeds inadequacy. Anxiety and low self-esteem are rising among young users who measure their worth



in likes and follower counts. Meanwhile, the endless scroll quietly devours hours that students can ill afford to lose.

Misinformation compounds the problem. False narratives travel faster than corrections, and young users — still developing critical thinking skills — are among the most vulnerable to misleading content. The consequences extend beyond personal belief; they shape public opinion and, at times, public safety.

None of this makes social media inherently destructive. Used

with intention, these platforms amplify education, connection, and civic voice in ways previously unimaginable. The tool is not the problem — the absence of guidance is.

Schools, families, and policymakers must treat digital literacy as urgently as they treat mathematics. Teaching young people to navigate the internet critically is no longer optional.

The digital age will not slow down. Neither can we.

By Geoffrey Mutuku, Laikipia University

## Choosing leaders, not politicians: A citizen's responsibility

Every election season, citizens hand over their futures to strangers — and spend the next five years wondering why.

The cycle is familiar: grand promises, generous handouts, emotional rallies. Then silence. The difference between a politician and a leader is not always visible on a campaign poster, but it becomes painfully clear in the years that follow. Politicians chase power; leaders pursue purpose. One performs during elections — the other works despite them.

Breaking this cycle begins with an informed electorate. Voters must look beyond the rhetoric and examine the record. What has this candidate actually built, fixed, or changed? Charisma is not a manifesto. A compelling speech is not a development plan. Background, accountability, and demonstrated integrity matter far more than



any promise made at a rally.

Planning is equally critical. Elections are not single-day events — they are long-term decisions that shape schools, hospitals, roads, and livelihoods. Citizens who engage with manifestos, attend public forums, and vote on reason rather than ethnicity or emotion are exercising genuine democratic power.

Vote-buying remains one of democracy's most corrosive threats. Accepting a bribe at the ballot box is not a small

transaction — it is a surrender of power. Leaders who purchase votes return to office with a debt to recover, not a mandate to serve.

And accountability must not end at the polling station. An elected leader left unwatched is a leader left unchecked.

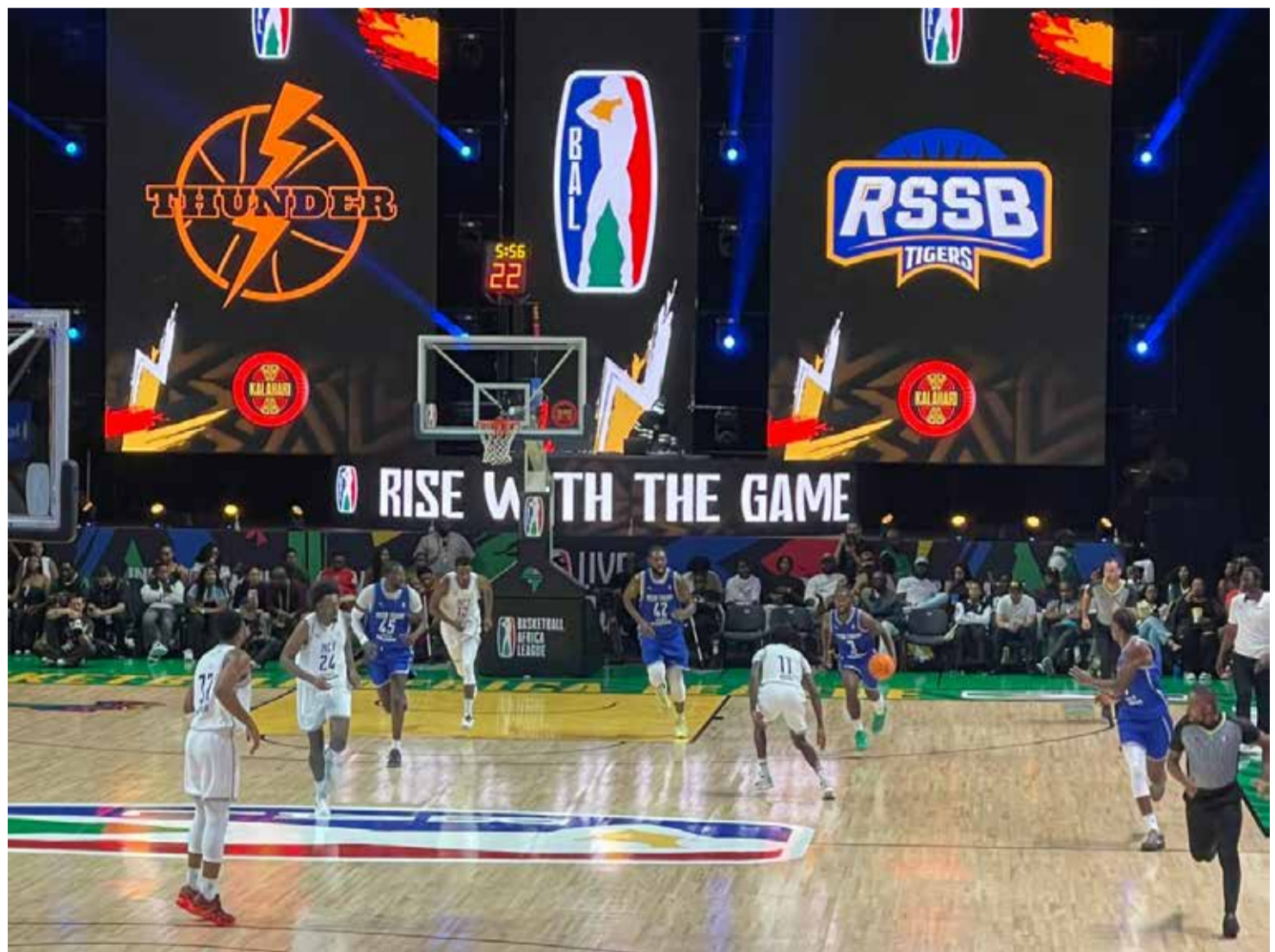
The ballot is the most powerful document an ordinary citizen holds. Use it like you mean it.

By Dolphine Kwamboka, Laikipia University

SPORTS  
NEWSPHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS

**Sports >>** \*Derrick Ogechi scored a high of 22 points to inspire Nairobi City Thunder to wrap up their BAL season six Kalahari Conference on a high after condemning Rwanda's RSSB Tigers

## Nairobi City Thunder Ends RSSB Tigers Unbeaten Run To Finish Strong At BAL Kalahari Conference



Derrick Ogechi scored a high of 22 points to inspire Nairobi City Thunder to wrap up their Basketball Africa League (BAL) season six Kalahari Conference on a high after condemning Rwanda's RSSB Tigers to their first defeat of the tournament on Sunday at a sold-out SunBet Arena.

City Thunder, who finished with two wins and three losses, beat the Tigers 101-92.

Entering the clash, Thunder had already been eliminated, while the Tigers were the first to secure a spot in the play-offs, slated for Kigali in May.

Thunder dominated the first half with three players hitting the double digits, led by captain Tylor Ogwae, who recorded 14, Nigerian Joshua Nzeakor scored 13, and Lance Thomas scored 10.

Returning for the last half, Ogechi was the stand-out player, managing to score 14 points, adding to the nine that he had recorded in the opening two quarters.

Joining the double-digit squad is Garang Diing, who had 14, while Ogwae wrapped the game with a total of 17, Thomas with 14, and Nzeakor, who had 8 re-

bounds, finishing with 21.

Eugene Adera contributed the most assists to the Thunder with 8.

Speaking to Capital Sport after the game, Thunder head coach Brad Ibs was delighted with the team's performance, vowing to come back stronger next season.

"We have played some good basketball in this tournament. Despite not qualifying for the play-offs, we have improved on last year's performance. We will work on our mistakes, and we will be a solid team," Ibs said.

On the other hand, the Tigers' head coach, Henry Mwinuka,

said he had to rotate his squad after seeing some of his players suffer injury.

"We played a hard game yesterday, and some of my players, like Ntore Habimana, got injured in the third quarter," Mwinuka underscored.

Craig Randall, who set two BAL records yesterday in their 104-92 win over Dar City, also sat out.

*Capital sport*

# GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*Gor Mahia head coach Charles Akonnor has dismissed links with a potential return to Ghana to coach the country's national team at this summer's World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico

## Gor coach Akonnor clarifies future at league giants amid link to Ghana national team job



Gor Mahia head coach Charles Akonnor. PHOTO/GOR MAHIA FC

Gor Mahia head coach Charles Akonnor has dismissed links with a potential return to Ghana to coach the country's national team at this summer's World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The Ghanaian says his foreseeable future is at K'Ogalo and is singularly focused on winning the Kenya Premier League title, this season.

"I am with Gor Mahia...I am very happy and we are doing well. We are fighting for the title and that is where my focus is. Nothing else comes before that," Akonnor said.

The gaffer further said the rumours do not astound him considering he has coached the team before and is a Ghanaian at heart. "I was once the coach of the Ghanaian national football team so if there are links, there is nothing negative about. I am a

Ghanaian and I love my country. I will support them at the World Cup and that'll be it. For now, my focus is on Gor Mahia," he said.

The Black Stars are scouting for a new coach to lead the team at the global competition after relieving Otto Addo of his duties in the past week.

The German-born Addo was under fire following Ghana's 5-1 thrashing by Austria, almost a fortnight ago, before falling 2-1 to Germany on Tuesday.

Akonnor was at the helm of the Black Stars in 2020/21 after which he came away with a 40 percentage win, including four wins, two draws and four losses.

His greatest success was to guide the team to the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations, which was held in Cameroon.

His stint with the national team came on the back of a domestic

cup triumph with Asante Kotoko in 2018/2019, which earned them a slot in the Caf Confederations Cup group stage for the first time in more than a decade.

Another league fight Fast forward to eight years later and Akonnor is on the verge of achieving success with another traditional giant, Gor Mahia.

Having finished 2024/25 season trophyless, the Ghanaian was appointed at the start of this season to lead a revamped technical bench to reawaken the sleeping giant.

They sit atop the log with 57 points, four ahead of archrivals AFC Leopards.

A goalless draw with Kariobangi Sharks on Saturday served to heighten the pressure of Akonnor, whose charges still have matches to come against Ingwe and Tusker FC in the race for the

title. The Ghanaian admitted that the match could have swung either way, pointing to the number of clear cut chances created by the opponents.

"We didn't really play the way we wanted to play. We didn't come in as we ought to come in the game. We were not really in the game and it really disturbed us. Of course, the opponent is also a good team who know how to play well from the back. They really disturbed us, which is very unfortunate for us," he said.

K'Ogalo will be hoping for a much better outcome in the next fixture against Bandari on April 19.

*Capital sport*

# SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
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BREAKING NEWS



# SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



# A Voice of Hope Empowering Afghan Girls Through Education and Storytelling



By: Anila Bukhari  
@themtkenyatimes

Zahra Rahimi is an Afghan American student, filmmaker, and community leader whose journey reflects resilience, vision, and an unwavering commitment to social impact. Born in Afghanistan and raised in Alexandria, Virginia, she has transformed her lived experiences into a powerful force for change, dedicating her work to uplifting underserved communities, particularly refugees, immigrants, Afghan women, and youth. Her story is one of purpose and determination, shaped by identity, displacement, and a deep belief in the transformative power of education and storytelling.

As a sophomore at the College of William and Mary, Zahra studies Political Science and Film as a Posse Scholar, an achievement that highlights both her academic excellence and leadership potential. As a first-generation college student, she carries not only her personal ambitions but also the hopes of her community. Her academic pursuits are not separate from her mission; rather, they serve as tools through which she continues to advocate for equity, representation, and access to opportunity.

Zahra is the founder of the Musawwa Institute, formerly known as Zahra Insight Academy, an initiative dedicated to addressing one of the most urgent issues facing Afghan girls today: the denial of access to formal education. Through this organization, she has created safe and inclusive learning environments where girls can continue their education despite systemic barriers. The Institute offers in-person classes, mentorship programs, and community-based initiatives designed to foster both academic growth and personal development. It is more

than an educational platform; it is a space of empowerment, healing, and hope.

The work of the Musawwa Institute is deeply rooted in cultural understanding and direct engagement. Zahra ensures that the programs are accessible and responsive to the unique needs of the communities they serve. By prioritizing safe spaces and meaningful connections, the Institute enables students to regain confidence in their abilities and envision a future beyond limitation. In addition to education, the Institute actively engages in advocacy and storytelling, using media and creative expression to amplify the voices of Afghan women and girls. Through these efforts, Zahra challenges global narratives and brings attention to both the struggles and resilience of her community.

Before beginning her journey at university, Zahra was already making a significant impact in her local community in Alexandria, Virginia. She played a key role in supporting Afghan refugee families, particularly in the area of education. Recognizing the challenges faced by newly arrived students, she contributed to the development of English literacy programs and provided tutoring to help them adapt to new academic systems. Her efforts were instrumental in creating a smoother transition for many students navigating unfamiliar environments.

Zahra also demonstrated exceptional leadership by creating student-centered spaces that fostered inclusion and belonging. These initiatives provided Afghan and immigrant youth with platforms to connect, share their experiences, and support one another. Her work emphasized the importance of community, ensuring that young people felt seen, heard, and valued. Her dedication to advocacy extended to her role as a student representative to the Alexandria City School Board, where she worked to address systemic challenges faced by international students. In this position, she advocated for increased resources, inclusive policies, and equitable opportunities, using her voice to influ-



Zahra Rahimi

ence meaningful change within the education system.

Her leadership and impact have been recognized at both local and national levels. Zahra was honored at the White House as one of the Girls Leading Change, where she was recognized by First Lady Jill Biden for her contributions to her community. This recognition not only celebrated her achievements but also highlighted the importance of youth leadership in driving social progress. In addition, she has been recognized by the Virginia House of Delegates and named a youth honoree in Alexandria's 40 Under 40, further affirming her role as a changemaker.

In addition to her advocacy and leadership work, Zahra is a passionate filmmaker who uses storytelling as a tool for social impact. Her documentary, *Desperate*, explores the experiences of Afghan girls, particularly in the context of displacement and limited access to education. The film sheds light on deeply personal and

often overlooked stories, offering audiences a glimpse into the realities faced by many young girls. It was selected for the All American High School Film Festival in New York City, a testament to both its artistic merit and its powerful message.

Through her filmmaking, Zahra continues to amplify underrepresented voices and bring attention to critical issues affecting her community. She understands that storytelling has the power to create empathy, challenge perceptions, and inspire action. By combining her passion for film with her commitment to advocacy, she creates narratives that resonate on both emotional and intellectual levels.

Across all aspects of her work, Zahra Rahimi is driven by a belief in the transformative power of education and storytelling. She recognizes that access to knowledge can change lives and that representation can reshape narratives. Her efforts are centered on creating opportunities,

building community, and ensuring that the voices of Afghan women and girls are not only heard but valued.

Zahra's journey is a testament to the impact that one individual can have when guided by purpose and compassion. She continues to break barriers, uplift others, and create pathways for future generations. Through her work with the Musawwa Institute, her advocacy in education, and her storytelling through film, she is shaping a more inclusive and equitable world.

Her story is not just about personal success; it is about collective empowerment. Zahra Rahimi stands as a symbol of hope and possibility, demonstrating that even in the face of adversity, change is possible when driven by courage, vision, and a commitment to justice.