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**The Mt. Kenya Times**  
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**Impeachment** Parliament removed Rigathi Gachagua from office rewrote constitutional history — and left a trail of legal questions that courts are still untangling

# How parliament dismantled DP's position in 72 hours

The Kenyan Senate voted on the night of October 17, 2024, to remove Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua from office, making him the first holder of that position to be impeached and ousted under Kenya's 2010 Constitution — a verdict delivered in the absence of the man it destroyed.

What unfolded across three electric days in October 2024 was unlike anything Kenya's post-2010 constitutional order had produced. It was part trial, part political theatre, part legal storm — and it ended not with a defendant in the dock but with a man allegedly lying in a hospital bed at Karen Hospital, his lawyers pleading in vain for a two-day adjournment while senators voted in a late-night session that sealed his fate. To understand how the country arrived at that moment, one must go back to where the drama properly began: not in the Senate chamber, but on the floor of the National Assembly, nine days earlier.

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Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

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SCAN TO REGISTER

# Leaders call for unity and political tolerance at burial of Kanini Kega's mother

BY WMW

@themtkenyatimes

*Some of the moments as captured in pictures*

Political leaders from across the divide yesterday joined EALA MP, Kanini Kega and his family during the burial of his mother, Mama Annah Nyatoro Ndung'u, in Kieni Constituency, Nyeri County.

The emotional ceremony attracted senior politicians allied to both the government and opposition, with many eulogizing the late matriarch as a humble, hardworking and deeply religious woman who played a significant role in shaping the former Kieni MP's political and personal life.

Among them were former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, ODM Secretary General Edwin Sifuna, Democratic Party of Kenya leader, Justin Muturi, and several MPs and MCAs from the Mt Kenya region and beyond.

Dozens of aspiring political leaders and several former MPs and MCAs also attended the ceremony, whose service was led by PCEA clergy.

During the burial, leaders used the occasion to preach unity and political tolerance amid the country's heightened political temperatures ahead of the 2027 General Election.



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The Mt. Kenya Times

Editor's Desk



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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority yesterday announced a sharp increase in fuel prices, with the cost of Super Petrol rising by KSh16.65 per litre and Diesel by KSh46.29 per litre, while Kerosene prices remain unchanged. In Nairobi, Super Petrol, Diesel and Kerosene will now retail at KSh214.25, KSh242.92 and KSh152.78 per litre respectively for the next 30 days effective last midnight. The latest review is expected to increase the cost of transport, electricity production and consumer goods, piling pressure on households and businesses already struggling with the high cost of living. Public transport operators are also expected to review fares upwards following the steep rise in diesel prices. Kenya has recently faced fluctuating global oil prices and a weakening shilling, factors that continue to influence local fuel costs.



The Government has launched a pilot biometric “Proof of Life” verification exercise for Inua Jamii beneficiaries in Ilbisis, Kajiado County, targeting older persons and caregivers under the Persons with Severe Disabilities Cash Transfer programme. The initiative requires beneficiaries to undergo fingerprint and facial recognition registration to confirm identity and continued eligibility for cash transfers. Principal Secretary for Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs Joseph Motari said the system will help eliminate fraud and prevent continued payments to deceased beneficiaries, which previously led to losses of public funds. He added that the pilot will guide a nationwide rollout planned for June–July 2026. The exercise is free and mandatory, with beneficiaries required to present national IDs at designated centres. Participants welcomed the move, saying the cash transfers have significantly improved livelihoods, supported vulnerable families, and enhanced access to basic needs and healthcare.



Security officers in Nanyuki have destroyed more than 2,000 litres of illicit brews seized over the last four months, including 12 crates of expired beer confiscated from bars. Patrick Muli warned revellers to be cautious when buying alcohol, noting that some traders continue selling expired drinks that pose health risks. He announced an intensified crackdown on illicit brew dealers who have allegedly shifted operations to neighbouring counties of Nyeri County and Meru County. Security officials also praised the judiciary for imposing tough penalties on offenders to help curb the illegal alcohol trade.



Narok Central Subcounty Police Commander Benson Pamba has urged livestock owners to keep animals away from major roads to reduce accidents along highways. He also advised motorists to remain vigilant and observe traffic rules, especially in areas prone to livestock crossings. His remarks followed an accident along the Narok–Suswa Road near Enkare Restaurant where an Isuzu lorry hit a herd of cattle crossing the highway. Two cows died on the spot while four others were injured. The driver, identified as Peter Too, escaped unhurt. Police and veterinary officers visited the scene, recorded statements, treated the injured animals and restored traffic flow after temporary disruption. Investigations are ongoing.

Kenya and Italy have strengthened cooperation on environmental conservation through the Cherangani Forest Ecosystem Restoration Project, aimed at protecting one of Kenya’s key water towers. Environment and Climate Change Principal Secretary Dr. Eng. Festus Ng’eno, alongside Italian Embassy Deputy Head of Mission Marco Scoppa, co-chaired the project’s inaugural steering committee meeting in Nairobi. Ng’eno highlighted threats facing the forest, including deforestation, encroachment, charcoal burning, and climate change impacts. He said the initiative aligns with Kenya’s restoration strategy, the 15 billion tree growing programme, and global climate goals. The project, supported by Italy and AICS Nairobi, will emphasize community participation, transparency, and accountability. Interior CS Kipchumba Murkomen is expected to launch a 10-year restoration plan in May 2026, reinforcing long-term efforts to restore the ecosystem and enhance climate resilience.

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**Politics** Dr Kinity said disputes arising from the electoral process should instead be resolved through constitutional and legal mechanisms rather than confrontational politics

# Dr Kinity: Kenyan youths unfairly labelled violent, politically exploited over joblessness

**BY MKT Correspondent**  
@themkenyatimes

Counsellor and human rights activist Dr Isaac Newton Kinity has warned political leaders against exploiting unemployed and economically vulnerable youths to advance political battles ahead of the 2027 General Election, saying many young people are often manipulated into dangerous confrontations while political elites remain shielded from the consequences.

Dr Kinity said Kenyan youths should not be portrayed as inherently violent, arguing that many demonstrations organised by young people have historically begun peacefully before turning chaotic following heavy-handed responses by security agencies or infiltration by politically sponsored groups seeking to discredit legitimate protests.

He said unemployed youths are frequently targeted by politicians and powerful individuals who take advantage of widespread economic hardship to recruit them into counter-protests, intimidation campaigns and acts of destruction designed to shift public perception against peaceful demonstrators.

"The youth should refuse to be used by politicians to fight political wars that do not improve their lives. Those leaders remain protected together with their families while poor young people are left exposed to violence, arrests, injuries and even death," Dr Kinity said.

His remarks come amid growing debate over the treatment of protesters in Kenya and the increasing involvement of unemployed youths in politically charged activities during demonstrations and election periods.

Recent protests against the Finance Bill and the high cost of living, including the widely known "sufuria protests," were largely driven by young Kenyans demanding economic relief, accountability and better governance. Human rights groups, religious leaders and sections of civil society maintained that many of the demonstrations started peacefully before clashes erupted following police intervention, infiltration by organised groups and confrontations in urban centres.

During anti-government demonstrations in Nairobi in March 2023 and subsequent protests in 2024, opposition leaders and rights organisations accused authorities of using excessive force against demonstrators. There were also repeated allegations that some criminal groups and politically mobilised youths were deployed to loot businesses and cause destruction in order to portray peaceful protesters as violent and justify crackdowns on demonstrations.

Critics have argued that such tactics unfairly stigmatise Kenyan youths, many of whom participate in demonstrations to express frustration over unemployment, economic hardship and governance concerns rather than to en-

gage in violence.

Dr Kinity said disputes arising from the electoral process should instead be resolved through constitutional and legal mechanisms rather than confrontational politics that place ordinary youths at risk. "Youths should ask politicians who persuade them to demonstrate to accompany them during those demonstrations instead of remaining in safe places while their supporters face danger," he added.

He warned that inflammatory political rhetoric and premature campaign hostilities ahead of the 2027 elections could deepen political tensions and expose vulnerable youths to further manipulation.

According to Dr Kinity, disputed elections across East Africa have increasingly reflected broader concerns about political intolerance, weak democratic institutions and shrinking space for dissent.

He referenced concerns raised after recent elections in countries including Uganda and Tanzania, where opposition groups, civil society organisations and election observers questioned electoral transparency and the handling of dissent by state authorities.

Civil society organisations and religious leaders in Kenya have repeatedly appealed for peaceful political engagement and responsible leadership, warning that divisive rhetoric and economic frustration among unemployed youths could increase vulnerability



**Dr Isaac Newton Kinity**

to political exploitation.

Kenya's history of post-election violence has continued to shape calls for civic education, institutional reforms and stronger electoral safeguards aimed at strengthening public confidence in democratic processes.

Dr Kinity, who is also seeking the presidency in 2027 un-

der the National Vision Party, criticised what he described as weak regional accountability systems for addressing electoral disputes and protecting democratic standards across East Africa.

Separately, officials from the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission have defended reforms intro-

duced after previous disputed elections, including electronic voter identification and digital results transmission systems intended to improve transparency, accountability and credibility in future polls.

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**Politics** Former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i ranked third with 14 percent, while Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna came fourth with 10 percent.

# TIFA: Ruto leads 2027 race as support for Broad-Based Government declines

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

A new opinion poll by Trends and Insights For Africa (TIFA) has placed President William Ruto ahead in the race for the 2027 General Election even as public support for the broad-based government continues to decline.

According to the survey, President Ruto enjoys 24 percent support in the presidential contest, followed closely by Kalonzo Musyoka at 19

percent.

Former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i ranked third with 14 percent, while Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna came fourth with 10 percent.

The findings come amid growing political realignments and increasing opposition activity as the country edges closer to the 2027 elections.

The poll also indicates a significant drop in support for the broad-based government arrangement between President Ruto and opposition

leader Raila Odinga.

Support for the arrangement fell from 44 percent in November 2025 to 30 percent in May 2026, while those identifying with the opposition rose to 56 percent.

Analysts say the decline could reflect growing public concerns over the high cost of living, taxation, unemployment, and dissatisfaction with the pace of economic recovery despite government assurances that reforms are beginning to bear fruit.

In party popularity rankings,

Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) emerged as the most popular political party with 18 percent support, narrowly ahead of United Democratic Alliance (UDA) at 17 percent. Democratic Congress Party (DCP) ranked third with 16 percent, underlining the shifting political landscape.

The survey further revealed growing influence for Senator Edwin Sifuna's Linda Mwananchi Movement, which reportedly enjoys 73 percent grassroots support among ODM supporters, compared to 23 percent for the Linda Ground Movement associated with Oburu Odinga.

Within the Kenya Kwanza camp, Deputy President Kithure Kindiki remains the most preferred running mate for President Ruto heading into 2027, attracting 59 percent support. Gladys Wanga followed at 12 percent, while Oburu Odinga and Mining Cabinet Secretary Hassan Joho registered 3 percent and 1 percent respectively.

The poll also identified a



President William Ruto

possible Kalonzo Musyoka–Edwin Sifuna alliance as one of the most preferred opposition tickets ahead of the next General Election, signaling a potential shift in opposition politics should the two leaders formalize cooperation.

The latest findings are expected to intensify political activity across the country,

with both government and opposition camps likely to recalibrate their strategies as early campaigns and coalition-building efforts gather momentum.

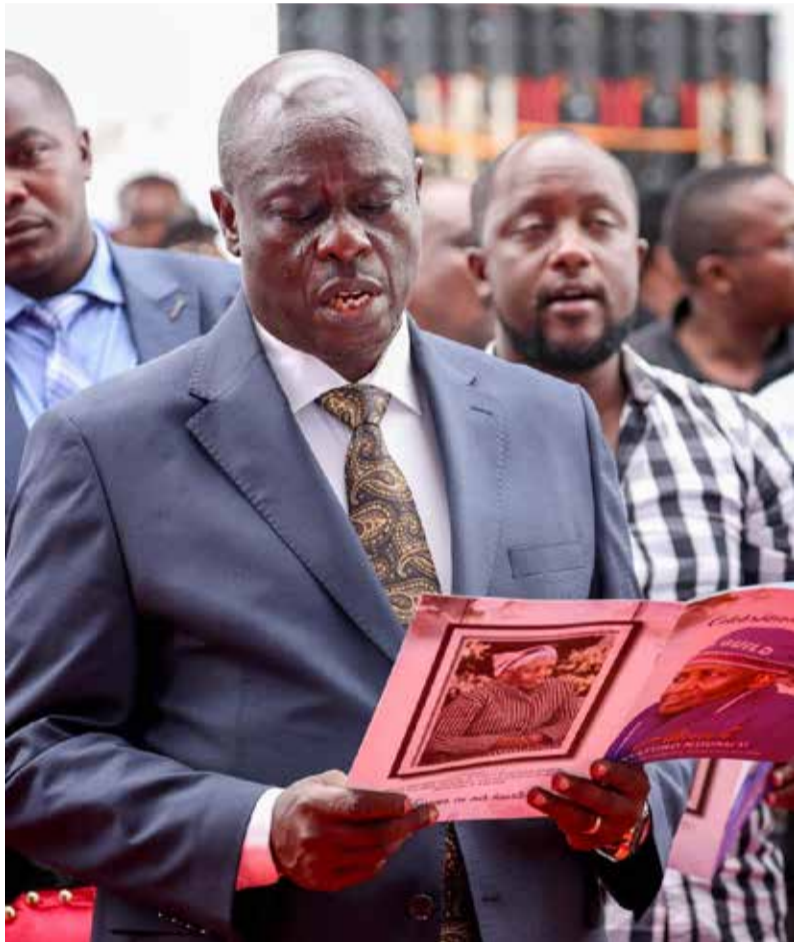
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# Leaders call for unity and political tolerance at burial of Kanini Kega's mother



DCP Party leader Rigathi Gachagua

Contd from page 2

Rigathi Gachagua described the late Mama Annah as a strong family matriarch who invested heavily in the education and wellbeing of her children and community. He urged leaders to remain united and supportive of one another during difficult moments, saying the loss of a mother was one of the most painful experiences anyone could endure.

The DCP leader took through the mourners how he saved Kega from loosing EALA seat in a plot that was hatched to also deny the mountain region any representative to the regional assembly that is based in Arusha, Tanzania. Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna who was warmly welcomed by

mourners called for unity among opposition leaders, saying the country needed a strong and united political front ahead of the next election cycle.

He urged leaders to put aside past political differences and work together for the sake of the country. In an emotional tribute, Kanini Kega recounted his final moments with his mother before travelling abroad, saying her death came as a shock to the family. He described her as the pillar of the family whose guidance and prayers kept the family together.

The burial ceremony was marked by emotional tributes, prayers and calls for leaders to embrace civility and focus on issues affecting ordinary Kenyans rather than divisive politics.



Kiambu Woman Representative Ann Wamuratha addressing some of the beneficiaries.

## Kiambu MP Ann Wamuratha disburses KSh5.1 million as she raises alarm over mental health crisis

BY Felix Njenga  
@themkenyatimes

Kiambu Woman Representative Ann Wamuratha has disbursed a total of KSh5.1 million in scholarships and empowerment grants while calling for urgent intervention to address the growing mental health crisis in Kiambu County.

Speaking at her office in Kirigiti, Kiambu Town, the legislator issued a strong warning to beneficiaries of the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) scholarship program, urging them to maintain good academic performance or risk losing funding. Wamuratha said the limited resources available must benefit students who are committed to transforming their lives through education.

During the event, held alongside the global observance of Mental Health Awareness Month, she distributed Sh4 million in scholarship cheques to 105 vulnerable students in secondary schools and universities. She noted that many needy students remain on the waiting list, making accountability and performance essential for continued support.

The Woman Representative also allocated Sh1.1 million in non-refundable grants to ten self-help groups drawn from Kiambu constituencies. The beneficiaries included eight women's groups and two youth groups, among them a bodaboda association, with the funds aimed at supporting local start-ups and economic empowerment. Wamuratha challenged men in the county to organize themselves into registered community

groups so they can access government empowerment funds and improve their livelihoods.

At the same time, the legislator expressed concern over increasing cases of murder and suicide in Kiambu, which she said is leading nationally according to data from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations. She noted that men are especially affected, often suffering silently and viewing suicide as an escape from life pressures.

To address the crisis, Wamuratha announced plans for a countywide mental health and debriefing program targeting clergy, chiefs, police officers, and other frontline workers exposed to traumatic situations. She emphasized the need to treat mental illness openly and encourage residents to seek professional help.

**Impeachment** The three days that removed Rigathi Gachagua from office rewrote constitutional history — and left a trail of legal questions that courts are still untangling

# How Kenya's parliament dismantled a deputy presidency in 72 hours

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyaintimes

The Kenyan Senate voted on the night of October 17, 2024, to remove Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua from office, making him the first holder of that position to be impeached and ousted under Kenya's 2010 Constitution — a verdict delivered in the absence of the man it destroyed.

What unfolded across three electric days in October 2024 was unlike anything Kenya's post-2010 constitutional order had produced. It was part trial, part political theatre, part legal storm — and it ended not with a defendant in the dock but with a man allegedly lying in a hospital bed at Karen Hospital, his lawyers pleading in vain for a two-day adjournment while senators voted in a late-night session that sealed his fate. To understand how the country arrived at that moment, one must go back to where the drama properly began: not in the Senate chamber, but on the floor of the National Assembly, nine days earlier.

On October 8, 2024, Members of the National Assembly voted to impeach Deputy President Gachagua in a sitting where 281 MPs supported the ouster motion sponsored by Kibwezi West MP Mwengi Mutuse, with only 44 lawmakers opposing the motion and one abstaining. Only 233 MPs were needed to meet the two-thirds constitutional threshold. The margin was not just sufficient — it was emphatic. National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula declared the motion carried and notified the Senate of the resolution within the constitutionally required two days, setting in motion the clock that would govern everything that followed.

The motion, which had been initiated by Mutuse, accused Gachagua of gross misconduct and violations of the Constitution, with the accusations stemming from alleged gross violations of constitutional provisions including Articles 10, 27, 73, 75, 129, 147, and 152, that provide for the National Values and Principles of Governance and others that govern the integrity of leadership. The charges were sweeping in both scope and ambition. They included insubordination to the president, inciting ethnic violence, corruption, undermining government, and money laundering, among others —

charges Gachagua rejected as politically motivated.

The Senate trial opened on Wednesday, October 16, with Senate Speaker Amason Kingi presiding over a chamber whose every word was being watched by a nation holding its breath. Appearing before the Senate that morning, Gachagua pleaded not guilty to each of the charges as they were read aloud by Senate Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye. "Not guilty," he said, again and again, with a deliberateness that seemed intended as much for history as for the senators in the room.

From the outset, the legal battle was fiercely contested. Gachagua's legal team, led by Senior Counsel Paul Muite, filed a preliminary objection seeking to have Senior Counsel James Orengo barred from representing the National Assembly, arguing that Orengo, as a full-time state officer, should not be permitted to take part in the impeachment process. "It would be prejudicial to our client if this House will allow Senior Counsel James Orengo to represent the National Assembly in this process," they submitted. The objection was dismissed by Speaker Kingi, who ruled that Orengo's appearance did not constitute gainful employment. It was the first of many procedural skirmishes that would define the proceedings.

Speaker Kingi gave direction allocating the National Assembly three hours to present its case, supported by evidence and witnesses, with an additional two hours reserved for cross-examination and re-examination, and one hour for senators to ask questions, request clarifications, and summarise the first day of proceedings. The National Assembly's prosecution was methodical. Three witnesses were called: Mutuse himself, as the mover of the motion in the National Assembly; Dr Andrew Mulwa, who had served as acting Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya Medical Supplies Agency; and Ahmed Abdi, the deputy CEO of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission.

Mutuse, appearing before the Senate he had helped place under the national spotlight, was characteristically blunt about his intentions. He told the House that his purpose was not to prove criminal or civil culpability, but to hold the country's second-in-command to political accountability. The day ended with the National Assembly having called

only two of its four witnesses, and Speaker Kingi adjourned proceedings to the following morning.

Day two, Thursday October 17, was supposed to be Gachagua's moment. According to the schedule set by Speaker Kingi, Gachagua's legal team, led by Muite, was to present their defence including witness testimonies and cross-examination between 10:35 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., with both sides allocated two hours each for re-examination and cross-examination thereafter. The afternoon was to be given over to senators' questions and closing statements, followed by a closed session and then the debate on the charges. It was an orderly, almost textbook constitutional process — until it was not.

By midday, the plan had shattered. Gachagua did not take the witness stand. His lawyers told the Senate he had fallen ill with intense chest pains and had been taken to hospital. Muite rose to address the House and pleaded with senators to grant his client five additional days — until Tuesday, October 22 — so that Gachagua could appear and defend himself against the 11 allegations. The Senate's response was swift and unsparing. When the matter was put to the vote, the House rejected the proposal after a brief debate, choosing instead to continue with the trial.

That decision — to proceed without the accused — would become the most legally explosive aspect of the entire episode. The Senate later upheld five charges in a late-night vote on October 17, 2024, and at the time the senators were voting, Gachagua was admitted to hospital and was unable to defend himself from the charges. Gachagua and his legal team have argued, in court proceedings that have continued well into 2025 and 2026, that this constituted a fundamental violation of his right to a fair hearing under Articles 47 and 50 of the Constitution.

The 67 lawmakers of the Senate found the Deputy President guilty on five grounds but absolved him on six charges. A total of 54 senators upheld the first count on gross violation of national values and governance principles. The five upheld charges centred on inflaming ethnic tensions through divisive speeches, promoting ethnic discrimination, violating his oath of office, and publicly attacking the National Intelligence Service. As a result, the verdict of the Senate confirmed the impeach-



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

ment, and he ceased to hold office. President William Ruto subsequently nominated then Interior Cabinet Secretary Professor Kithure Kindiki as his replacement, though Kindiki's swearing-in was briefly delayed by conservatory court orders before he was eventually inaugurated on November 1, 2024.

The legal battle ignited by those three days has since taken on a life of its own. Gachagua and more than 40 co-petitioners have argued that the legislature violated his constitutional right to a fair hearing by proceeding with the impeachment while he was allegedly unwell. At the centre of the dispute is a cardiologist's affidavit. Renowned cardiologist Dr Daniel Gikonyo of The Karen Hospital stated in his affidavit that Gachagua had been admitted to the hospital after suffering severe chest pain consistent with a possible cardiac event, rushed to Karen Hospital on October 17 at about 3 p.m., and was advised to remain admitted for close monitoring for between 48 and 72 hours.

The Senate has mounted a fierce challenge to that account. The system-generated hospital report attached to the affidavit appears to contradict the explanation, indicating that Gachagua was admitted on October 17, 2024, at 4:18 p.m. and discharged on November 20, 2024, at 1:36 p.m. — meaning, if accurate, he remained hospitalised for 31 days, a duration the Senate argues is wholly incompatible with the constitutional timelines governing the impeachment process.

Parliament's lawyers have defended the process robustly. National Assembly lawyer Tom Ojienda told the three-judge bench hearing Gachagua's appeal that the former deputy president had sufficient time between the reading of charges on October 9

and the Senate trial on October 16 and 17 to prepare his case. "As we submit, my lord, the petitioner was afforded every opportunity and was substantively heard by the Senate before it arrived at the decision to impeach," he said.

The constitutional stakes of the High Court petition have also introduced an almost surreal dilemma. The court heard that quashing Gachagua's impeachment could trigger a two-Deputy Presidents crisis, with advocates pointing to a potential constitutional power crisis over who lawfully occupies the office. Gachagua himself, having initially sought reinstatement, later dropped that demand and instead sought financial compensation for his removal — a pivot that spoke volumes about the political realities he now faces.

What those three October days ultimately revealed was the extraordinary speed at which constitutional machinery can be weaponised — or, depending on one's vantage point, legitimately deployed — against an individual who falls foul of the executive. The charges were sweeping, the process was compressed, the legal fights were fierce, and the final act was conducted without the principal player in the room. Whether that amounts to constitutional justice or constitutional failure is now a question Kenya's courts must answer.

The man who once stood alongside President Ruto to win the 2022 election has announced he intends to challenge Ruto for the presidency in 2027. The courtroom battles will likely shape whether that ambition survives. For now, Kenya's constitution has been tested in ways its drafters may not have fully anticipated — and the full verdict on those three days in October is still being written.

**Madaraka day** The inspection covered the main celebration venue, infrastructure projects, parade rehearsals and supporting facilities

# Preparations for Madaraka day fete in Wajir almost completed

**BY Hamdi Butbul**  
@themtkenyatimes

Preparations for the 2026 Madaraka Day national celebrations set for Wajir County is almost 84 per cent complete, with the Government expressing confidence that all critical works will be finalised ahead of the national event, scheduled for June 1.

The Principal Secretary for Internal Security and National Administration, Raymond Omollo, said the remaining works were expected to be

substantially finalised between May 20 and May 25, to allow adequate time for testing, rehearsals and subsequent coordination activities.

Speaking after an inspection tour of key facilities and ongoing works in Wajir, Omollo said the Government was satisfied with the progress achieved so far.

“We are pleased with the progress made so far. The preparations currently stand at 84 per cent and we expect that by between the 20th and 25th of this month, most of the key works will have been

completed,” said the PS.

The inspection covered the main celebration venue, infrastructure projects, parade rehearsals and supporting facilities being prepared for the national event.

Rehearsals and coordination activities are already underway, including parade training involving various security and ceremonial teams expected to participate during the celebrations.

As part of the preparations, the Government will hold a thematic week from May 25th to 31st at Jawhar Prima-



PS Raymond Omollo briefing journalists in Wajir..

ry School focusing on education, skills and the future, in line with this year’s Madaraka Day theme.

Omollo said William Ruto will also host a State luncheon for invited guests during the celebrations.

He noted that hosting the national celebrations in Wajir demonstrates the Government’s commitment to inclusive development, national integration and equitable dis-

tribution of national events across the country.

Omollo urged members of the public to observe the official programme schedule, noting that the arrangements had taken into consideration mid-day prayers observed in the region.

“We encourage all attendees to be seated by 8:00 a.m. as the celebrations will begin promptly to ensure smooth flow of the programme,” he

stated.

The Government has invited Kenyans from across the country to join residents of Wajir in marking this year’s Madaraka Day celebrations.

The PS was accompanied by the Principal Secretary for Culture and Heritage, Umami Bashir, Ahmed Abdullahi and officials from various ministries, departments and agencies coordinating the event.

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**Business** The traders now want the government to introduce incentives including lowering tariffs on most of the export products whose cost of production has been soaring.

# Exporters decry high cost of production, call for reduction of tariffs to boost trade

By John Kamau

@themkenyatimes

A cross-section of Kenyan manufacturers and exporters have decried the high cost of production which they say drains their earnings.

The traders now want the government to introduce incentives including lowering tariffs on most of the export products whose cost of production has been soaring.

They spoke during the 'Exporters Round Table' talks attended by industrialists and business people from Thika, Kiambu County and hosted by the Kenya Export Promotion and Branding Agency (Keproba).

David Kimani of Kevian Kenya which makes and exports fruit juices and other food products talked of high electricity tariffs and other lev-



Kenya Export Promotion and Branding Agency (Keproba) CEO Flice Mukabana speaking to the press after their forum on Wednesday.

ies which he said must be reduced for manufacturers to stay afloat.

He also ed that agriculture-based companies are also adversely affected by duty on imported machinery

for processing their products, despite supporting farmers through provision of seed and other inputs.

At the same time, Kimani expressed concerns over the declining land for

agricultural use within Kiambu and the adjacent region as a result of real estate growth.

"All the farming land around Thika and the neighbourhood is fast dis-

appearing and all we see around are buildings coming up. Whereas housing is good, people also need to grow food," said the manufacturer.

Srinivas Garikipatis, head of exports at Mjengo Ltd who are manufacturers of Nuvita biscuits, concurred and added that Kenyan manufacturers of these finished products are getting stiff but unfair competition from countries like India and China whose products are low priced.

"All growing economies around the world are giving their manufacturers incentives to produce more. Kenya needs to go that route," said Srinivas adding that here they are paying upto 30 percent in local tariffs.

The exporters, he added, should be allowed to find markets within the African continent to avoid incurring losses through international conflicts like the war in the Middle East and the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

The Keproba Chief Executive Flice Mukabana said the agency is working with exporters in a bid to diversify the export market and find ways of sustaining Kenya's high quality products in the international market.

She said the collaboration will also address the challenges faced by players and come up with solutions to the various bottlenecks.

**AFCON** The stakeholders are expected to form the core Safety and Security Committee within the AFCON 2027 LOC structure.

# Kenya strengthens security preparations ahead of AFCON 2027

BY MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

Kenya has intensified preparations to strengthen safety and security measures ahead of the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), with government officials and football stakeholders emphasizing that security will be central to the successful hosting of the continental tournament.

Principal Secretary for Sports Elijah Mwangi and Football Kenya Federation President Hussein Mohammed officially opened the AFCON 2027 Local Organising Committee (LOC) Safety and Security Workshop at the Moi International Sports Centre Kasarani.

The two-day workshop, facilitated by Confederation of African Football Head of Safety and Security



Some of the stakeholders who attended the forum.

Christian Emeruwa, brought together senior security officials and key stakeholders involved in organizing the tournament.

Among those attending were LOC Chairman Nicholas Musonye, offi-

cial from the Ministry of Interior, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Kenya Police Service, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, the Kenya Defence Forces, the National Anti-Terrorism

Centre, and the National Disaster Operations Centre.

The stakeholders are expected to form the core Safety and Security Committee within the AFCON 2027 LOC structure.

Speaking during the opening session, PS Mwangi said the workshop was essential in ensuring Kenya meets CAF security requirements for hosting a world-class football event. Discussions are focusing on operational procedures and protocols needed to guarantee safety for players, officials, fans, and visiting delegations.

Key issues under review include crowd management, traffic control, cross-border coordination, airport and port security, venue protection, emergency response systems, and VIP security arrangements. Participants are also reviewing lessons learned from preparations for the 2025 African Nations Championship.

FKF President Hussein Mohammed stressed the importance of capacity building and coordination among agencies to ensure a memorable tournament experience for fans across Africa.

Kenya will co-host the 2027 AFCON alongside Uganda and Tanzania under the Pamoja bid, with the government affirming that infrastructure upgrades and construction of match venues are progressing steadily to meet CAF standards.

**Health** Access to essential services also improved substantially, with nearly one billion people gaining access to safe drinking water

# WHO: Global health goals off-track despite progress in key areas

BY Wangari Ndirangu  
@themtkenyatimes

The world is falling behind on major global health targets, with progress slowing or reversing, according to the latest World Health Statistics 2026 Report.

Released by the World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday, the Report highlights significant gains made over the past decade, including declines in HIV infections, tobacco use, alcohol

consumption, and neglected tropical diseases.

However, the Agency has warned that persistent inequalities, rising environmental risks, and weak health systems are preventing the world from meeting health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

According to the Report, new HIV infections dropped by 40 percent between 2010 and 2024, while the number of people requiring interventions for neglected tropical diseases fell by 36 percent during the

same period.

Access to essential services also improved substantially, with nearly one billion people gaining access to safe drinking water and over 1.4 billion obtaining clean cooking solutions between 2015 and 2024.

The WHO African Region recorded faster-than-global reductions in HIV infections and tuberculosis, while the South-East Asia region remains on track to meet its malaria reduction milestone for 2025.

Despite these improvements,



## Global health

### Childhood overweight rates reached 5.5 percent in 2024



the WHO, in the Report, says that several health challenges continue to worsen. Global malaria incidence has risen by 8.5 percent since 2015, and anaemia still affects nearly one-third of women of reproductive age.

Childhood overweight rates reached 5.5 percent in 2024, while violence against women remains widespread, with one in four women experiencing intimate partner violence globally.

WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said that many people, especially women, children, and underserved communities, are still denied the basic conditions for a healthy life.

“These data tell a story of both progress and persistent inequality,” he noted

The Report also noted that progress toward Universal Health Coverage has slowed significantly, with the global service coverage index rising only slightly between 2015 and 2023, and nearly 1.6 billion people pushed into poverty due to out-of-pocket health spending in 2022.

WHO has warned that maternal mortality remains nearly three times higher than the 2030 target, despite a 40 percent decline since 2000, and that progress in reducing deaths from noncommunicable diseases has also slowed.

Environmental and behavioural risks continue to contribute heavily to poor health outcomes. Air pollution caused an estimated 6.6 million deaths in 2021, while inadequate water, sanitation,

and hygiene were linked to 1.4 million deaths in 2019.

Dr Yukiko Nakatani, WHO Assistant Director-General for Health Systems, said “These trends reflect too many deaths that could have been avoided and called for urgent investment in primary healthcare, prevention, and sustainable health financing.”

WHO also raised concerns over poor health data collection worldwide, noting that as of the end of 2025, only 18 percent of countries were reporting mortality data to WHO within one year, while nearly one-third had never submitted cause-of-death data.

Dr Alain Labrique, Director for the Department of Data, Digital Health, Analytics, and Artificial Intelligence, said weak data systems limit a country’s ability to monitor health trends and respond effectively to crises.

“Country efforts to invest in stronger systems, digitalization and improved reporting standards are encouraging and should be sustained; they are essential to enable countries to collect, integrate, analyze and use health data for better decisions,” said Labrique.

While progress has been made, global health gains remain fragile, WHO has urged countries to strengthen health systems, improve data collection, and accelerate action to get back on track toward achieving the 2030 health goals.

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**Tree planting** The Foundation's Field Director, Elsey Mukami, led the caravan that visited several institutions including Naifarm, Amani and Andersen comprehensive schools

# Dedan Kimathi Foundation intensifies tree-growing drive in public institutions

BY WMW

@themkenyatimes

The Dedan Kimathi Foundation has intensified environmental conservation efforts through a week-long tree-growing campaign targeting schools and public institutions in Trans Nzoia County as part of the national push to increase forest cover.

The initiative, conducted in partnership with the Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS), Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) and Kenya Seed Company, seeks to distribute thousands of tree seedlings while promoting environmental education among learners and communities.

The Foundation's Field Director,

Elsey Mukami, led the caravan that visited several institutions including Naifarm, Amani and Andersen comprehensive schools, as well as Miti Mbili GSU Camp and Endeless Police Station.

During the exercise, beneficiaries received assorted high-quality tree seedlings alongside training on proper tree planting methods, after-care practices and the environmental and economic benefits associated with trees and forests.

According to the organizers, the programme targets more than 40 comprehensive schools, Miti Mbili GSU Camp, Endeless Health Centre and Endeless Police Station, with each institution expected to receive an average of 500 seedlings.

The Foundation said the campaign is aligned with Kenya's broader environmental agenda aimed at achiev-

ing at least 30 percent national tree cover by 2032 under the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry.

Organizers noted that the success of the initiative will depend not only on planting trees but also ensuring their long-term survival through active participation by learners, teachers and local communities.

The Foundation expressed optimism that involving pupils and students in adopting and nurturing the trees will help guarantee sustained growth and strengthen environmental responsibility among young people.

The programme also seeks to encourage wider public participation in conservation efforts as the country continues responding to the effects of climate change, environmental degradation and declining forest cover.



Ms Elsey Mukami with some pupils.

The Dedan Kimathi Foundation said it remains committed to advancing its "DKF Green Legacy" initiative by supporting sustainable tree-growing activities across the country.

**Fraud** In this arrangement, Githiari, who also identified himself as a contractor, was responsible for both selling the land and constructing the residence.

# Former Mathioya MP arrested over Ngong land fraud

BY DCI

@themkenyatimes

Detectives from the DCI Headquarters Land Fraud Investigation Unit (LFIU) have apprehended Francis Njakwe Githiari, a former Member of Parliament representing Mathioya, for allegedly defrauding an unsuspecting couple of KSh6.4 million in a land fraud scheme.

The couple entered into an agreement with Githiari for the purchase of a parcel of land in Ngong, which was to be developed into a double-storey house.

In this arrangement, Githiari, who also identified himself as a contractor, was responsible for both selling the land and constructing the residence.

The total cost for the land and construction was set at KSh40 million, payable in instalments. The couple promptly deposited KSh6.4 million into Githiari's account as part of the payment.

However, during routine visits to the construction site, the couple overheard disturbing news: claims of ownership issues regarding the land had emerged, with other parties reportedly filing a case to assert their ownership. This revelation raised serious red flags, prompting the couple to halt any further payments.

A thorough investigation ensued, during which detectives unearthed compelling evidence that Githiari had indeed fraudulently obtained the funds.

Subsequently, a duplicate police case file was forwarded to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP).

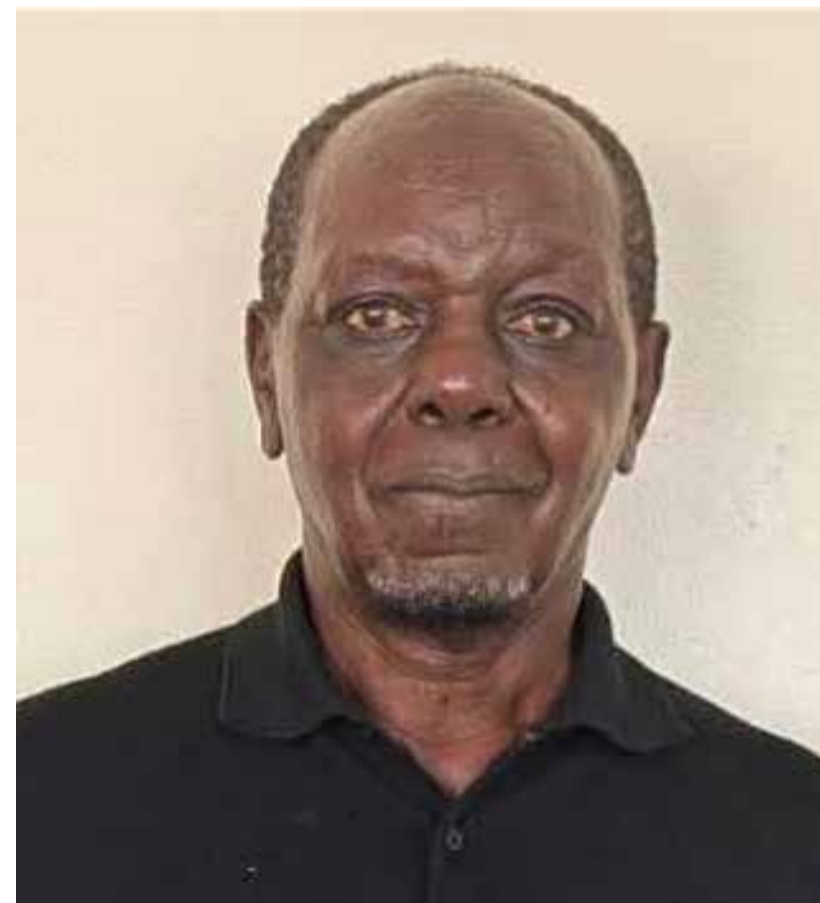
Upon review, the ODPP agreed with the investigating officer's recommendation to charge Githiari with the offence of obtaining money by false pretences, contrary to Section 313 of the Penal Code.

Yesterday, justice took its course as Githiari was arrested at his residence in Karen.

Last evening, the former MP was

undergoing processing and is expected to be arraigned before the Milimani Law Courts today.

Report Land Fraud and other Crimes Anonymously: #FichuaK-waDCI. Call 0800 722 203 (Toll-free) or WhatsApp at 0709 570 000 to report.



Francis Njakwe Githiari

## River of time



As rivers flow and never turn,  
To the sea where they cease to yearn,  
Let go the echoes of lost cries,  
And dreams that vanished from your eyes.  
In the current, find your way,  
Step by step, embrace today.

The past is gone; the future's shy,  
Don't let burdens make you sigh.

Morning breaks through night's retreat,  
Bringing warmth to cold defeat.  
For every shadow left behind,  
A spark of light you're sure to find.

Like rivers shaping rock and sand,  
Hold each moment in your hand.  
Release the grip of fear's tight shade,  
Move ahead, don't be afraid.  
No anchors hold, no chains confine,  
The open sea is now your sign.

Rise like the tide with gentle grace,  
Feel the breeze upon your face.  
Time won't wait, nor shall you pause,  
New horizons without flaws.  
No more past to weigh you down,  
In each dawn, a golden crown.

By Keith Onyango  
Rongo university

## Doctor



My dream is to become a doctor  
In childhood, I dressed up as a doctor.  
My mom gifted me a doctor set.

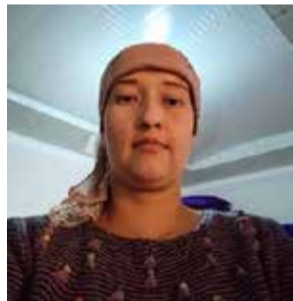
I took the stethoscope and checked my mom.  
She felt very happy.

At that moment, I decided  
I want to become a doctor.

I will serve sick people  
and I don't want to get money for them.

A. Poornima  
Eighth standard  
PUMS Konganancherry  
Chengalpattu district  
Motivated by V. JAYANTHI

## In front of your grave



The paths of Olmazor cemetery are narrow,  
Between the graves there is gratitude in the sky.  
Even the road that leads to your grave feels  
sorrowful,

My heart itself is longing for gratitude.  
When I reach the place of your grave, my heart  
turns dim,

My eyes never stop shedding tears, not for a  
moment.

My heart suffers and torments me in pain,  
My dear girl, I miss you so deeply.  
For me, this world is a world of sorrow,  
My heart keeps crying as if endlessly so.  
My eyes weep without stopping, without rest,  
I had taken things, not knowing of your passing.  
In an ocean my heart broke, my soul cried,  
Now without you, who could ever need me?  
My heart suffers and torments me in pain,  
My dear girl, I miss you so deeply.

Author: Xolova Shoxsanam Mirsaid daughter  
gxolova628@gmail.com

## You just have to keep pushing yourself



You just have to keep pushing yourself,  
No one else can do it for you,  
Through silent storms and unseen trials,  
You rise by what you choose to do.

Life takes you up and life brings you down,  
A cycle fierce, yet deeply true,  
To rise again, to wear your crown,  
The strength must always come from you.

Life is a battle, hard and crude,  
With moments harsh and paths unclear,  
Push yourself, oh my dear dude,

Let courage silence every fear.

Up along the way you refine,  
Through every fall, through every climb,  
You shape your soul, your will, your spine,  
In life's own turbulent design.

Up you go and down you come,  
Yet don't let your spirit slide,  
Stand again, refuse to succumb,  
And keep yourself within the stride.

Push, push yourself to make you shine,  
Through darkest nights, through steepest climb,  
Keep moving forward, line by line,  
And greatness will be yours in time.

Nandini AnandKumar

## The Value of our convenience



One secret of life is our  
Conscious. One who listen and follow our  
consciousness we no need to worry about  
anything.

You have to fear to your convenience don't try to  
Convince to your thought  
Because your thought always pure for first so  
keep up your good things to your convenience

When you know your valuable of your convenience

You no need to worry  
No need to cry  
You balance your life wisely  
Ups and down the life  
You realized  
The real meaning of life is  
To share your love and Kindness and smile always  
You lead a beautiful life

V. JAYANTHI  
Graduate teacher  
Creative Writer  
PUMS Konganancherry  
Chengalpattu district  
Tamil Nadu India

## Your choice - your future



Our life is a dangerous game  
Not all the days are same  
It may gives you fame  
Or will push you into the shadow of shame.

There are so many characters  
Your choice of choosing that matters  
You are the only designer of yourself

Be careful when you pick one for yourself.

The role of yourself is important  
That will shape your characters confident  
Wide your visionary without any dependent  
You can see you are future bright and clear.

We all know the famous poem, "The Road Not  
Taken"

Which describe the choice of life as token  
To one's future which constructs the building  
Of your future strong and majestic with clear  
vision.

N DEEPALAKSHMI,  
Creative Writer,  
GHSS-SATHUVACHARI,  
VELLORE DISTRICT,  
TAMILNADU,  
INDIA

**Health** Dr Gura said the hospital management remains committed to creating an environment where nurses can grow both professionally and personally.

# Nurses urged to pursue further studies to enhance Healthcare delivery

BY John Kamau  
@themkenyatimes



Kenyatta University Teaching Referral and Research Hospital

Leaders in the healthcare sector have called on nurses to enroll in further studies to improve their professional skills and strengthen healthcare delivery across the country.

Speaking during celebrations themed “Empowered Nurses Save Lives” at Kenyatta University Teaching Referral and Research Hospital, the hospital’s Director of Nursing Services, Pamleila Nkirote, challenged the facility’s 800 nurses to take advantage of opportunities for higher education and specialized training.

Dr Nkirote revealed that only 23 percent of nurses at the hospital have enrolled for advanced studies despite an

annual opportunity that allows up to 30 percent of the workforce to undertake further training. She emphasized the need for nurses to continuously improve their skills to meet the growing demands of modern healthcare services.

The hospital’s Chief Executive Officer, Zeinab Gura, in a speech delivered by acting CEO Anthony Kamau, praised nurses for their dedication and described them as the backbone of healthcare systems.

Dr Gura said the hospital management remains committed to creating an environment where nurses can grow both professionally and personally. She noted that KUTRRH has invested in staff welfare and professional development through mentorship programs, coaching initiatives, emotional support systems, and training opportunities aimed at improving service delivery.

The CEO added that the hospital has improved access to clinical tools, equipment, and essential resources to help nurses provide efficient and responsive patient care. She also highlighted ongoing digitization efforts designed to strengthen transparency, communication, continuous learn-

ing, and quality improvement within nursing services.

To address staffing shortages and workload pressures, the hospital has also introduced internal locum programs to improve continuity of care and enhance nurse-patient ratios in critical departments.

Meanwhile, the chief guest, Kawira Gitonga of Chuka University, emphasized the need to recognize and appreciate nurses and midwives as frontline healthcare workers. She called on the government to improve nurses’ remuneration and create more opportunities for career advancement through higher education and skills development.

Dr Gitonga said empowering nurses goes beyond providing tools and resources, stressing that education, competency, and supportive working environments are key to improving healthcare outcomes.

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**Coffee** The season recorded an average auction price of USD 339 per 50kg bag, the highest among the last five seasons reviewed.

# Nairobi Coffee Exchange hit record KSh32 Billion in strongest season in five years as it heads to recess

It also confirms that many farmers are now receiving some of the strongest coffee returns witnessed in recent years.

The 2025/2026 season also saw continued dominance of the AA (24%) and AB (38%) grades at the exchange, with international demand remaining firm throughout most of the season.

Major buyers such as Ibero Kenya, C. Dormans, Sasini, Louis Dreyfus and Taylor Winch remained active across the auction cycle.

As the exchange now takes its traditional mid-year recess until July, attention shifts to cooperative payment announcements and annual general meetings, where farmers will evaluate how much of the improved auction performance translates into final cherry payments.

Still, one thing is already clear: the 2025/2026 season has firmly established itself as Kenya's highest-value coffee auction season in recent years.

226 per 50kg bag and farmer equivalents rose to around KSh72 per kilogram.

However, the real turnaround came in the last two seasons.

In 2024/2025, stronger international prices lifted the average auction price to USD 333 per bag and total earnings to nearly KSh28 billion, translating to an estimated KSh106 per kilogram after deductions.

The ongoing 2025/2026 season has now surpassed all previous seasons in value, with 36.93 million kilograms traded worth KSh32.25 billion and an average auction price of USD 339 per bag.

Based on prevailing conversion ratios, this season translates to an estimated gross

cherry equivalent of KSh134 per kilogram, or about KSh107 after a standard 20 percent deduction for cooperative and marketing expenses.

However, the national averages only tell part of the story. Across many coffee-growing counties, several cooperatives that have already announced payments are reporting cherry rates of as high as KSh150 per kilogram, significantly above the national average equivalent.

This indicates that many factories managed to outperform the overall market through stronger grade quality, efficient operations, lower deductions, certification premiums and better market timing.

**NAIROBI COFFEE EXCHANGE**  
**5 SEASONS IN NUMBERS**  
 SALE 1 TO SALE 29 COMPARISON  
*Markets Pause, Performance Speaks!*

The Nairobi Coffee Exchange has completed 29 auction sales in the 2025/2026 coffee season (1st October 2025 – 13th May 2026) trading a total of **36.93 million kilograms** of clean coffee worth **USD 250.03 million (KSh 32.25 billion)** at an average price of **USD 339** per 50kg bag.

SEASON	KILOGRAMS TRADED	TOTAL VALUE USD	TOTAL VALUE KSH	AVERAGE PRICE USD PER 50KG BAG	AVG CHERRY PRICE (GROSS)	AVG CHERRY PRICE LESS 20% EXPENSES
2021/2022	33,757,759 (33.76 Million)	202,848,179 (202.85 Million)	23,327,540,528 (23.33 Billion)	300	KSh 106	KSh 85
2022/2023	38,002,098 (38.00 Million)	145,620,794 (145.62 Million)	19,658,807,228 (19.66 Billion)	192	KSh 80	KSh 64
2023/2024	28,866,342 (28.87 Million)	130,571,726 (130.57 Million)	16,974,324,357 (16.97 Billion)	226	KSh 90	KSh 72
2024/2025	32,490,000 (32.49 Million)	216,126,822 (216.13 Million)	27,880,360,084 (27.88 Billion)	333	KSh 132	KSh 106
2025/2026 (Sale 1 – 29)	36,928,714 (36.93 Million)	250,025,270 (250.03 Million)	32,253,259,838 (32.25 Billion)	339	KSh 134	KSh 107

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**  
 2025/2026 records the **SECOND-HIGHEST** volume and **HIGHEST** value among the last five seasons.  
 First season to cross **USD 250 MILLION (KSh 32.25B)** in value by Sale 29.  
 Average price of **USD 339** per 50kg bag is the **HIGHEST** in the last five seasons.  
 Stronger volumes and prices point to healthier returns across the coffee value chain.

**WHAT THIS MEANS FOR FARMERS**  
**USD 339** PER 50KG BAG  
 = **USD 6.78** PER KILOGRAM OF CLEAN COFFEE  
**KSh 134** PER KILOGRAM OF CHERRY (GROSS EQUIVALENT)  
**KSh 107** PER KILOGRAM OF CHERRY (AFTER 20% EXPENSES)  
 Calculations based on exchange rate of KSh 129/USD and standard 6.5:1 cherry to clean coffee conversion.

**LOOKING AHEAD**  
 As the Exchange heads into recess until July 2026, attention now shifts to factory final payments and cooperative AGMs, where farmers will assess how much of this strong performance translates into income at farm level.  
*Stronger Markets, Better Returns!*

Quality Kenyan Coffee. Always in Demand. *Henry Kinyua* WATERMARK  
 Data Source: Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) www.nce.co.ke



BY Henry Kinyua  
 @themkenyatimes

The Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) has officially gone on recess until July after completing 29 auction sales in the ongoing 2025/2026 coffee season that began on 1st October 2025.

As trading pauses, the latest figures confirm that the current season has emerged as one of the strongest auction seasons in Kenya's recent coffee history.

By the close of Sale 29 on Tuesday, the exchange had traded 36.93 million kilograms of clean coffee, generating a total market value of approximately USD 250 million (about KSh 32.25 billion).

The season recorded an average auction price of USD 339 per 50kg bag, the highest among the last five seasons reviewed.

A comparison of the last five seasons shows that although the 2022/2023 season still holds the highest traded volume at 38 million kilograms, the ongoing 2025/2026 season has delivered the strongest overall earnings due to significantly improved prices.

The five-year comparison

clearly shows the dramatic recovery of Kenya's coffee market.

In the 2021/2022 season, the Nairobi Coffee Exchange traded 33.76 million kilograms valued at KSh23.3 billion, with farmers earning an estimated net equivalent of about KSh85 per kilogram of cherry after deductions.

The following 2022/2023 season recorded the highest traded volume at 38 million kilograms, but weak global coffee prices pushed total earnings down to KSh19.7 billion and reduced farmer equivalent earnings to only about KSh64 per kilogram of cherry.

The market started recovering in 2023/2024 when average prices improved to USD

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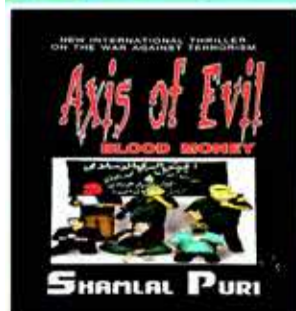
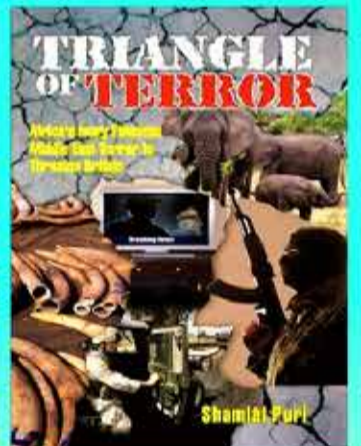
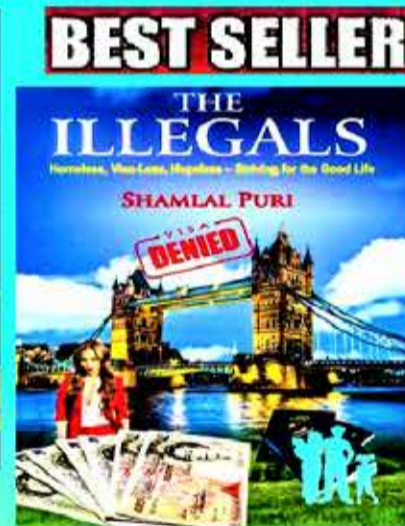
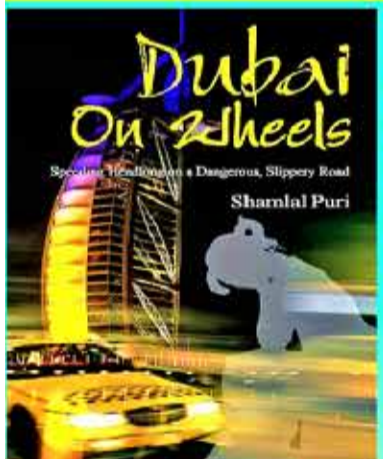
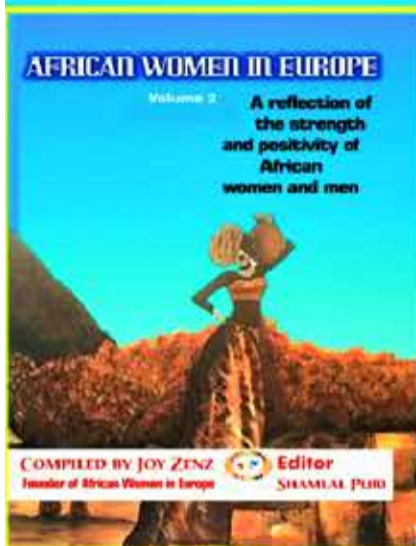
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**Parenting** How career control, digital neglect, and delegated parenting are quietly raising a generation of strangers in their own homes

# We locked our bedroom doors and lost our children



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza  
mukphix@gmail.com

We have become experts at securing the wrong things and surrendering the ones that actually matter — and we call it responsible adulthood.

In the name of modern life, we have built homes that are architecturally sound but emotionally hollow. The Wi-Fi reaches every corner, but a father's voice barely carries to the dining table. A mother's Instagram is curated to perfection while her child's tears go unseen. The bedroom door is fitted with the strongest lock on the street, but the child's heart has been left open for strangers to enter and shape.

This is the quiet tragedy of parenting in the digital age — a tragedy that does not announce itself with sirens, but with the slow, daily erosion of connection, identity, and purpose in the lives of the very children we claim to love more than anything.

From the earliest years, we begin drafting blueprints for our children's lives without consulting the architects of those lives themselves. We decide they will be doctors because of the prestige, engineers because of the salary, lawyers because of the respect — and we wrap this control in the language of protection and provision. We forget that a child is not a second attempt at our own un-lived dreams. They are a first and only chance at becoming themselves.

When we force a child who feels music in their fingertips to sit through organic chemistry they despise, we are not securing their future. We are mortgaging their soul for a title that will earn them money but never peace. The boy who sketches characters in the margins of his maths book will grow into a man who checks out mentally at thirty, who dreads Mondays, who drinks to forget the life he was pushed into — and he will resent you not because you wanted the best for him, but because you never asked what "best" meant to him. Passion is not a luxury reserved for the wealthy or the irresponsible. It is the oxygen of a meaningful life, and to suffocate



Parenting

it in the name of stability is to raise a living adult who feels dead inside.

Alongside this career hijacking runs another silent betrayal: the delegation of childhood to paid strangers while we guard our privacy as though it is holier than our own offspring. We leave a four-year-old with a house help we barely know for twelve hours a day — a woman who is herself exhausted, underpaid, and emotionally depleted — and then we change the lock on our bedroom door if that same woman gets too close to our personal space. We tell ourselves it is about boundaries and safety. But the truth is we have inverted our values entirely. We have decided that the sanctity of our mattress outweighs the sanctity of the soul being formed in the next room.

The bedroom did not carry that child for nine months. The bedroom did not sit up at 2 a.m. nursing a fever. The bedroom will not be there at twenty-five when that child wonders why their parents were always present at work but absent at home. We have outsourced the most sacred, non-delegable task of shaping a human being — and then acted shocked when that human being feels closer to the nanny than to us, when they share their secrets with

the house help and their silence with their parents. This is not parenting. It is biological reproduction followed by emotional abandonment, and no school fees or designer clothes can buy back the years lost to that absence.

The digital age has only amplified the neglect, handing us a tool capable of connecting us to the entire world while quietly disconnecting us from the child sitting across the table. We hand a toddler a tablet to keep them quiet and call it smart parenting. We let algorithms raise our children on endless streams of dopamine, then wonder why they cannot sit still, why they cannot hold a conversation, why they unravel the moment a screen is taken away. A screen can entertain, but it cannot model how to fail gracefully. It cannot hug a child after a bad day. It cannot look into their eyes and say: I see you, and you are enough.

We have replaced presence with provision — convinced that buying the latest phone, the best school uniform, or the fanciest birthday party fulfils our duty — while the child sits across from us starving for a conversation that is not interrupted by a notification. We work late. We travel for business. We say we are doing it

for the family. But the family does not need another salary more than it needs the person behind it. A child does not remember your overtime. They remember whether you were there when they lost their first tooth, when they needed to talk and you were too tired to listen.

We also confuse discipline with emotional neglect — shouting at children until they are afraid to speak, punishing them into silence and calling it respect, teaching them that their voice is only welcome when it agrees with ours. A child who is never allowed to explain grows into an adult who cannot communicate, cannot apologise, and cannot build healthy relationships, because they learnt early that vulnerability is punished. We weaponise comparison, asking why they cannot be more like the cousin who scored higher or the neighbour's child who won the scholarship — and in doing so we teach them that love is earned through performance, not given through belonging.

We protect our reputation more fiercely than we protect our children's wellbeing, worrying more about what the congregation will say if our daughter makes a mistake than

about whether she feels safe coming to us when she is frightened. And so we raise children who become experts at hiding, lying, and performing for approval, because home never felt like a safe place to be honest.

Effective parenting in this era demands a quiet rebellion against all of this. It requires putting the phone face down when your child walks into the room. It requires asking what they love before asking what will make them money. It requires being present enough to know their friends, their fears, their favourite song, and the thing they are too ashamed to tell anyone else. It requires admitting that you do not have all the answers — and being willing to learn alongside them, to model humility, to show that making mistakes does not make you unlovable.

The digital age is not the enemy. Distraction is — and distraction is a choice we make every time we choose a screen over eye contact, a meeting over a bedtime story, our comfort over their need.

Children are not projects to be managed toward a socially acceptable outcome. They are human beings entrusted to us for a brief season, to be loved, guided, and released into their own calling — even if that calling looks nothing like the life we envisioned for them. If you guard your bedroom more jealously than your child's heart, do not be surprised when they grow up and lock you out of both. Do not be surprised when they call you on public holidays out of obligation, not longing.

The world does not need more professionals created by force. It needs more whole human beings raised by parents who were present enough to notice the fire before it went out — parents who chose relationship over reputation, presence over provision, purpose over prestige.

The cemetery is full of people who lived the lives their parents chose for them. Do not let your child be buried there while still breathing.

Parenthood is not a contract to produce a successful adult. It is a covenant to walk with a soul until it learns to walk on its own — and if you miss that, no salary, no title, and no locked bedroom door will ever give it back to you.



## BOOKS & LITERATURE

with Huma Saleem

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

### Book Review:

**Book Review:**

**Author: Girish Karnad**

**Book: Tughlaq**

**Reviewer: Huma Saleem**

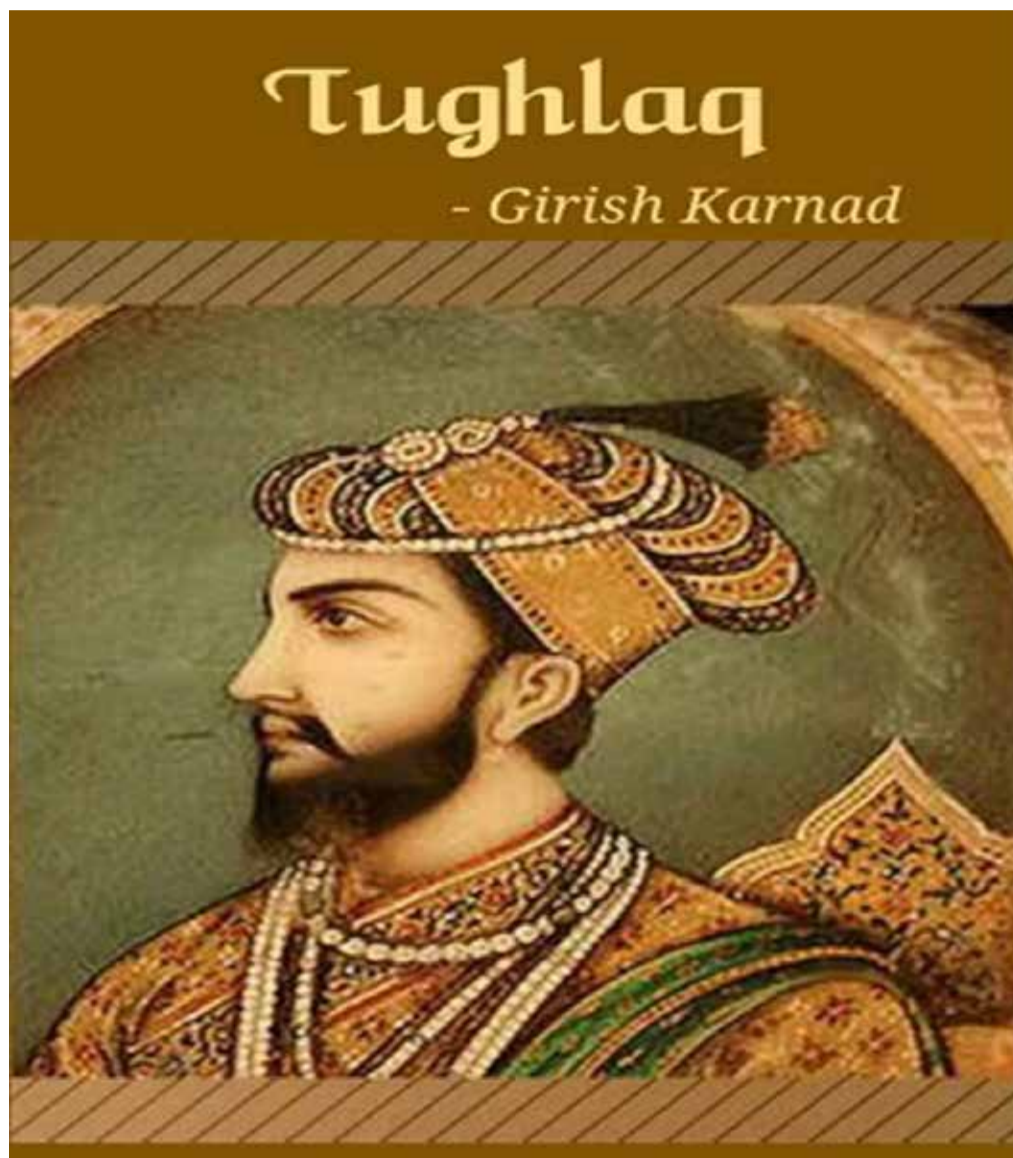
Girish Karnad was a famous Indian playwright, actor, and writer. He was born in 1938. He played an important role in making Indian theater modern and meaningful. Karnad often combined history, mythology, and politics in his play. Through which his writing becomes deeper and thought-provoking. His most famous plays are Tughlaq and Hayavandana. His writing style is considered very

unique and powerful.

Tughlaq is a famous Indian historical play written by Girish Karnad in 1964. It is one of the most important works in modern Indian theater. It is a historical political drama set in 14th-century India. This play is about the life of Mohammed bin Tughlaq, who was a brilliant and intelligent but controversial ruler of the Delhi Sultanate. He has a command on different schools

of thought like philosophy, mathematics, and poetry. But unfortunately he failed to rule effectively. Through Tughlaq's story, Karnad tries to tell us that personal intentions are not enough to lead personal thoughts; a good end cannot justify wrong meaning. When things are in a rush, they collapse, as we have seen in Tughlaq's character. Karnad's Tughlaq is a powerful historical play that not only reflects the reign of Tughlaq but also represents political idealism and its downfall deeply. This story is presented in the Middle Ages of India.

Tughlaq made big decisions in his reign. He considered Hindus and Muslims equal and didn't make any difference between religions. Moreover, it was a good decision. But then he convert-



ed the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad, and thousands of people were killed. As Girish Karnad stated "I have decided to move my capital from Delhi to Daulatabad... Daulatabad is in the center of my empire, and it is only right that the heart of the empire should beat in the center." He introduced the copper coins that became the cause of destruction. As Girish Karnad says,

"I want to build a new world, Barani. A world where a man's religion won't decide whether he lives or dies... and Daulatabad is where that dream must take root." He punished the people. His intentions were good, but they gave bad results. Karnad wanted to implement his personal decisions, and inaccurate techniques can be the

cause of destruction.

Tughlaq himself is a character that is not completely satisfied. He had psychological issues. Aziz was a dual and layered character. He tried to take advantage. He highlighted that corruption was not only in the kings but also in the ordinary people. Barani was a loyal advisor who slowly lost hope over time. Shahab was a true friend of Tughlaq, whom Tughlaq himself ordered to be killed because after becoming powerful he became suspicious, cruel, and isolated. These characters together create a complete and vivid picture.

This play contains very profound themes but is easy to understand. Firstly, power made a man lonely. Tughlaq had everything, but in the end, he had not a loyal friend.

Secondly, the mixing of religion and politics was dangerous. Thirdly, when a ruler did not understand the public, it created space. The play was written in 1964, but its ideas are still applicable.

She is Huma Saleem. She is an M.Phil. Scholar of English Literature from The University of Chenab, Gujrat. She enjoys exploring literature from different cultures and perspectives. She has a strong background and is particularly engaged in areas such as drama, feminism and literary theory. Her reviews reflect her passions for books and her growing expertise as a literary scholar.

**China-US** I have agreed with President Trump on a new vision of building a constructive China-U.S. relationship

# Xi holds talks with Trump in Beijing

Xi revealed that the economic and trade teams of the two countries produced "generally balanced and positive outcomes"

BY Xinhua News Agency  
@themtkenyatimes

Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with visiting U.S. President Donald Trump at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday.

Transformation not seen in a century is accelerating across the globe, and the international situation is fluid and turbulent, said Xi. "Can China and the United States overcome the Thucydides Trap and create a new paradigm of major-country relations?"

Can we meet global challenges together and provide greater stability for the world? Can we build a bright future together for our bilateral relations in the interest of the well-being of the two peoples and the future of humanity? These are the questions vital to history, to the world and to the people," said Xi.

They are the questions of the times that the leaders of major countries need to answer together, he added. "I look forward to working together with you to set the course and steer the giant ship of China-U.S. relations, so as to make 2026 a historic, landmark year that opens up a new chapter in China-U.S. relations," he said.

I have agreed with President Trump on a new vision of building a constructive China-U.S. relationship of strategic stability," Xi said.

The new vision will provide strategic guidance for bilateral relations over the next three years and beyond, and should be welcomed by the people of both countries as well as the international community, he said.

The "constructive strategic stability" should be a positive stability with cooperation as the mainstay, a



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds a welcome ceremony for U.S. President Donald Trump, who is on a state visit to China, outside the Great Hall of the People prior to their talks in Beijing, capital of China yesterday. | Photo: Xinhua/Zhai Jianlan.

sound stability with moderate competition, a constant stability with manageable differences, and an enduring stability with promises of peace, Xi said.

The building of a constructive China-U.S. relationship of strategic stability should not be a mere slogan, but concrete action taken by both sides toward the same goal, he added. China-U.S. economic ties are mutually beneficial and win-win in nature, said Xi. "Where disagreements and frictions exist, equal-footed consultation is the only right choice," he said.

Xi revealed that the economic and trade teams of the two countries produced "generally balanced and positive outcomes" in the latest round of bilateral trade talks on Wednesday.

This is good news for the people of the two countries and the world," he said, calling on the two sides to

sustain the good momentum that they have worked hard to create.

Noting that China will only open its door wider, Xi said American companies are deeply involved in China's reform and opening up, and the U.S. side is welcome to enhance mutually beneficial cooperation."

The two sides should implement the important consensus we have reached, and make better use of communication channels in the political, diplomatic and military-to-military fields," Xi said.

The two countries should also expand exchanges and cooperation in areas such as the economy and trade, health, agriculture, tourism, people-to-people ties and law enforcement, he added. Regarding the Taiwan question, Xi stressed that it is the most important issue in China-U.S. relations.

If it is handled properly, the

bilateral relationship will enjoy overall stability.

Otherwise, the two countries will have clashes and even conflicts, putting the entire relationship in great jeopardy, Xi said, urging the U.S. side to exercise extra caution in handling the Taiwan question.

Safeguarding cross-strait peace and stability is the biggest common denominator between China and the United States, Xi said, emphasizing that "Taiwan independence" and cross-strait peace are as irreconcilable as fire and water.

Trump said it was a great honor to pay a state visit to China, calling Xi a great leader and China a great country.

"I have tremendous respect for President Xi and the Chinese people," Trump said.

Trump expressed his willingness to work with Xi to strengthen communication

and cooperation, properly handle differences, make bilateral relations better than ever before and embrace a fantastic future. The United States and China are the most important and most powerful countries in the world, and the two presidents can "do a lot of big and good things for the two countries and the world," he said.

Trump encouraged representatives of the U.S. business community to expand cooperation with China.

The two presidents exchanged views on major international and regional issues, such as the Middle East situation, the Ukraine crisis, and the Korean Peninsula. They also agreed to support each other in hosting a successful APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting and G20 Summit this year.

## Xi, Trump visit Temple of Heaven

Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump visited the Temple of Heaven yesterday in Beijing.

Xi greeted Trump outside the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests. The leaders had a photo taken in front of the Hall and took a tour of the Hall. During their visit, Xi explained to Trump that in ancient times, state rituals were held at the Temple of Heaven, where then Chinese rulers prayed for national prosperity, social harmony, and favorable weather for good harvests.

"It reflects the traditional Chinese concept that the people are the foundation of a state and only when the foundation is solid will the state be stable," Xi said.

The Communist Party of China has inherited and carried forward this people-centered philosophy rooted in the Chinese civilization, Xi said.

By upholding its fundamental commitment to serving the people wholeheartedly, the Party has earned the firm support of the Chinese people, he added. Trump said he was impressed by the more than 600-year-old Temple of Heaven.

He said the United States and China are both great countries, and that both peoples are wise and great. He added that the two countries should deepen mutual understanding and strengthen friendship between their peoples.

BY Xinhua News Agency  
@themtkenyatimes



Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump have a photo taken in front of the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests while visiting the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, capital of China, yesterday. | Photo: Xinhua/Shen Hong

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## No suits, no offices, just money

By Oliver Ogutu

The corner office no longer holds the allure it once did. Across the country, a growing number of young people are walking away from formal employment — not out of laziness, but out of calculation.

Gen Z has made its priorities clear: financial freedom over a fixed salary. With job opportunities shrinking and graduate unemployment rising, the traditional path — degree, suit, desk — no longer guarantees the life it once promised.

“Success is no longer defined by where you sit, but by whether you can pay your bills.”

Side hustles, freelancing, content creation, and digital marketing have filled the void. Social media has accelerated the shift — young people watch influencers and online entrepreneurs earn real income from a phone and a decent Wi-Fi connection, no boardroom required.

Critics call it impatience. They warn of a generation seduced



by quick wealth and allergic to hard work. But that reading is too convenient. Many young people are not rejecting ambition — they are rejecting a system that promised stability and delivered precarity.

The debate has merit on both sides. Informal income streams are volatile. Not every side hustle scales. Financial literacy remains dangerously low among young earners chasing independence without a safety net.

Yet the underlying demand is legitimate. Gen Z wants income, autonomy, and relevance — not a cubicle and a pension promise from an employer who may restructure next quarter.

The suit was never the point. The money always was. It just took a generation with nothing to lose to say so out loud.

## Madina Mirzayeva a promising and talented young creator



Madina Mirzayeva is an 8th-grade student at School No. 16 “Jasorat” in Kasbi district, Kashkadarya region. From an early age, she has shown a

strong passion for creativity, reading, and journalism, and is recognized as an active, curious, and dedicated student.

She began her creative journey by launching her personal blog on the Telegram social network, where she shares her thoughts on various topics and develops her communication skills.

Madina successfully completed the “Efirdamiz” training course, further improving her knowledge and practical skills in media and broadcasting. She has been invited several times to the “Fayzli Kun” program on Kashkadarya Television, where her creative works and appearances were presented to viewers. Her activities have also been featured on the “Madaniyat va Ma’rifat” television channel.

Her creative works have been published on both local and international platforms and journals. In particular, her writ-

ings have been featured on the ATUNIS POETRY international literary platform. She has also participated in international anthologies such as “Voices Without Borders” published in the United States, as well as the “Ziyo Izidan” anthology.

Madina is a holder of several international certificates and has actively participated in various competitions, earning cash prizes, books, and commemorative gifts.

She has been recognized as a talented student by journalist Nigora Tog’ayeva and continues her creative development in collaboration with international organizations.

Despite her young age, Madina Mirzayeva is a promising and talented young creator striving to build her future in journalism, media, and creative writing.

## “EFIRDAMIZ” – A modern journalism course developing young talents



By Nigora Togayeva

In today’s information age, journalism has become one of the most influential fields in society. The growing interest of young people in journalism, public speaking, and creative expression highlights the importance of providing them with quality educational opportunities. In this regard, “EFIRDAMIZ,” an abtropical journalism course created by Nigora Togayeva, serves as an outstanding initiative aimed at nurturing young talents and preparing them for future success.

“EFIRDAMIZ” is a modern journalism course designed to help young participants improve their communication skills, develop self-confidence, and gain practical experience in journalism. The course combines theoretical knowledge with practical training, allowing students to explore their abilities and discover their potential.

During the course, participants learn the fundamentals of journalism, interviewing techniques, public speaking, stage

performance, and audience engagement. They are trained to express their thoughts clearly and confidently while mastering the principles of effective communication.

One of the most valuable aspects of the course is its practical approach. Students are given opportunities to participate in television programs, interviews, public events, and stage performances. Such activities provide them with real-life experience and prepare them for professional challenges in the field of journalism.

The course also focuses on helping students overcome stage fear, improve voice control, enhance speech techniques, and develop expressive reading skills. Within a short period, participants demonstrate noticeable improvement in confidence, communication, and performance abilities.

Another remarkable feature of “EFIRDAMIZ” is the mentorship sessions conducted by experienced journalists, poets, and writers. These masterclasses allow students to learn directly from professionals, gain inspiration, and better

understand the demands of the journalism profession.

Moreover, the course offers exceptional opportunities for creative growth. The best creative works of participants are published in book form, and talented students are supported in publishing their first books. This unique opportunity encourages young people to continue developing their writing and creative skills.

“EFIRDAMIZ” is more than just a journalism course; it is a transformative educational experience that empowers young people to find their voice, strengthen their abilities, and step confidently toward their dreams.

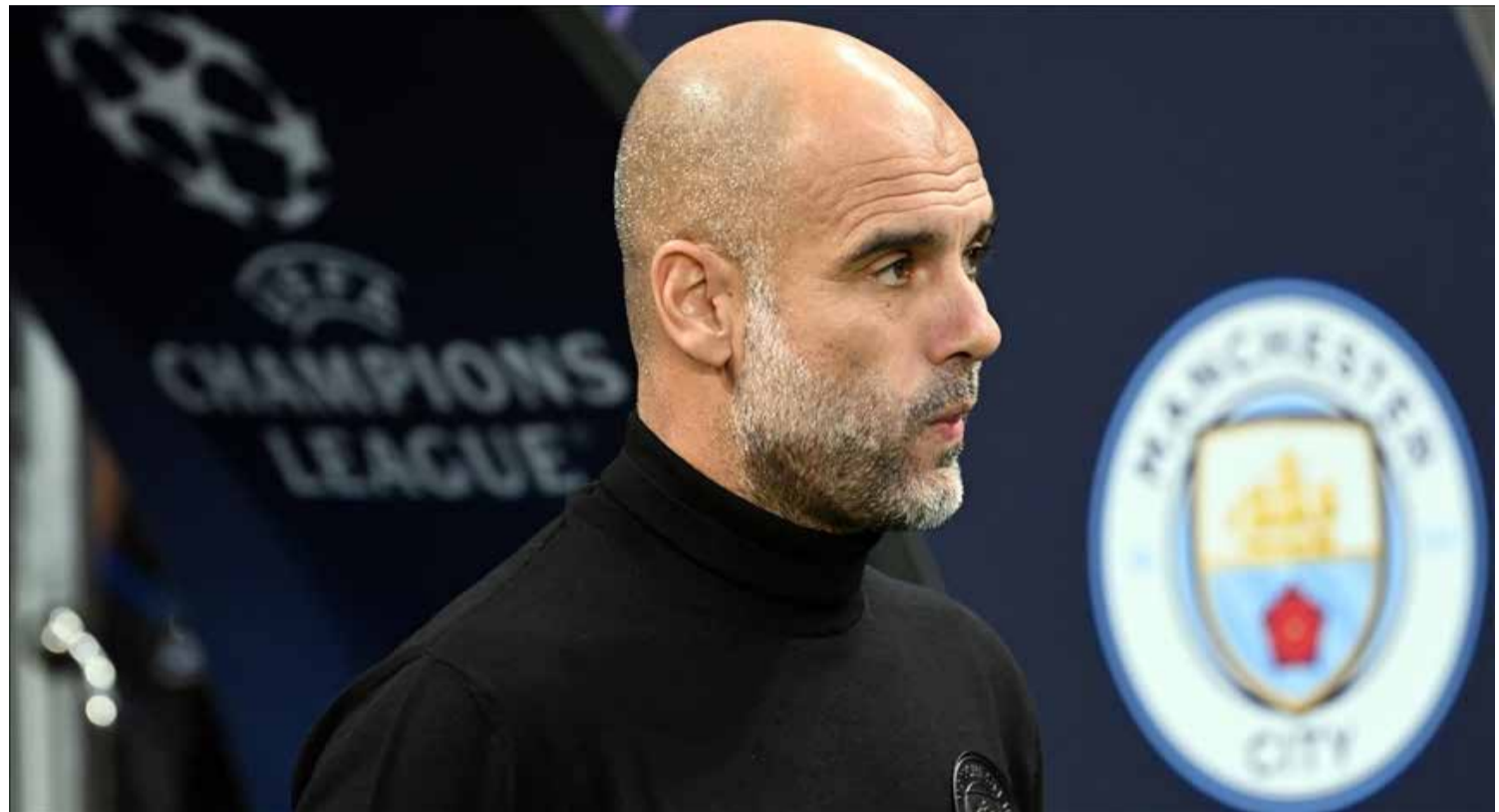
Without doubt, Nigora Togayeva’s “EFIRDAMIZ” journalism course is playing a significant role in shaping future journalists, presenters, and creative leaders. It stands as an inspiring example of modern journalism education, opening new opportunities for young talents and guiding them toward professional and personal growth.



SPORTS  
NEWSPHOTOS  
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BREAKING NEWS

Sports &gt;&gt; \*Pep Guardiola concedes title destiny rests with the Gunners after City down Palace 3-0

## City still alive but need Arsenal to slip, says Guardiola



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola

By **Martin Weche**

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola admitted his side can only wait and hope after a 3-0 victory over Crystal Palace at the Etihad Stadium on Wednesday night left them two points adrift of Premier League leaders Arsenal with two games remaining for each club.

Goals from Antoine Semenyo and Omar Marmoush — both set up by the increasingly influential Phil Foden — put City firmly in control before the first half was out, and Savinho completed the rout with a late third to briefly reignite what had seemed a fading title challenge. Yet for all the comfort of the scoreline, Guardiola was refreshingly candid about the limits of his team's agency. The title, he acknowledged plainly, belongs to Arsenal to either claim or surrender. "Depends on them," Guardiola told the BBC after the final

whistle. "If they win two games, nothing to do, nothing to talk. All we can be is in there just in case. The last two games are tough."

It was a rare moment of public restraint from one of football's most tactically combative minds. Mikel Arteta's Arsenal, chasing their first league title since the Invincibles season of 2003-04, face relegated Burnley on Monday. Should they take three points at Turf Moor, City must defeat a Bournemouth side fighting for Champions League qualification the following day — or surrender the title without a final say. The mathematics are unforgiving. City's fate is not their own.

Guardiola made multiple changes to his starting lineup on Wednesday, a calculated rotation ahead of Saturday's FA Cup final at Wembley against Chelsea. Palace, who acquitted themselves well before eventually being undone, arrive at

next month's UEFA Conference League final against Rayo Vallecano with their heads held high despite the defeat. Against a City side with one eye already on Wembley, they were competitive until the goals came.

It is at Wembley, then, that Guardiola will seek the consolation — or perhaps the foundation — that defines City's season. The club lifted the League Cup earlier this campaign, and a domestic cup double now sits within reach. But Guardiola knows recent history at the national stadium has not been kind. City lost the last two FA Cup finals, a record that visibly stings the Catalan.

"The FA Cup, incredible respect," he said. "We lost the last two times because we were not good enough. We are going to go there to win. We have to be ready physically and mentally against a team who are not in the best season, but the quality

is there. Of course, they will do their best, and we have to do our best to try to win."

Chelsea, despite a difficult campaign by their own lofty expectations, are not a team to be taken lightly at a neutral venue. Guardiola knows this. His preparation, as ever, will be meticulous. For now, though, the drill is discipline. Guardiola told Sky Sports that focus must pivot entirely to the cup, leaving the Premier League race to resolve itself on its own terms. "We try to be alive until the next game, which is Bournemouth," he said. "Now focus on the final." A seventh league title in nine years remains theoretically possible. A cup double is practically at the door. For Manchester City — and for Guardiola — both outcomes hinge on whether they can win the battles they still control, and quietly pray on the one they cannot.

# GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*Head coach Julien Mette Thursday told his players to keep calm as Tusker gear up for a crucial FKF Cup semi-final showdown against KCB on Saturday at Nyayo Stadium.

## Magumeni Completes Fourth Consecutive ZiTS Title, Opens Up On His Athletics Journey

By Pierre Makusha

HARARE — Bindura University of Science and Education (BUSE) sprinter Martin Magumeni won the men's 400m at the Zimbabwe Tertiary Sports Games (ZiTS) for a fourth consecutive year, extending his dominance in the event at the national tertiary level. Formerly known as ZTISU, now ZiTS, this year's annual tertiary sporting extravaganza took place in Harare from May 6-9.

Magumeni crossed the line in 47.40 seconds at the University of Zimbabwe Athletics Track, securing a result that places him among the most consistent performers in the history of the ZiTS Games.

Speaking after the race, 25-year-old Magumeni credited his support system at BUSE for sustaining his form. "For this victory I'm really grateful for the opportunity that BUSE gives me, and for the wonderful coaches I have working with me so that I get good results," he said.

He gave a straightforward account of the race. "As for this race it went out all well in the first 60m, then after that the next 50m became heavy, but all the way I tried to finish strongly," Magumeni said.

From Youth International to Tertiary Champion

Magumeni's career extends beyond the ZiTS circuit. He has represented Zimbabwe at the Confederation of Southern African Schools Association Games as a youth athlete, at the All Africa Junior Championships as a junior, and at the Coalition of Universities and Colleges Association Games in 2024.

That experience has shaped his outlook as he prepares for the next stage. "The CUCSA Games will have stiff competition. The athletes from countries like Botswana and South Africa bring tough challenges," he said.

### Where 47.40 Seconds Stands Internationally

Magumeni's winning time of 47.40s is competitive at tertiary and regional level, but sits outside current international qualifying marks. The Confederation of African Athletics has set the standard for the 2026 African Championships at 46.50s for men's 400m, meaning Magumeni is 0.90s off qualification for the continental showpiece in Accra.

The Olympic qualifying standard for Paris 2024 was 45.00s, while the 2026 World Athletics Indoor Championships set the entry standard at 45.80s. At World Championships level, the slowest qualifier in 2025 ran 45.71s.

The time shows Magumeni is on the right path for CUCSA and African Championships contention, but will need to drop into the low 45-second range to challenge at World and Olympic level.

### Balancing Study and Sport

For Magumeni, the main challenge is managing academics alongside elite training. He said finding that balance has been the hardest part of his university career.

"The biggest challenge has been managing school as a student-athlete. Finding that balance is a big challenge," he said. Financial constraints add to the difficulty. Access to proper diet, recovery and medical treatment requires resources he often lacks, and international travel to qualify for bigger meets depends on a strong financial base.

"Financially it's a big struggle. Getting proper diet, recovery, treatment, all this requires money. Travelling for international meets to try to qualify for bigger meets, all that needs a strong financial base, and it's really been a struggle," he said.



Martin Magumeni .

**Eyes on the International Stage**  
Despite the obstacles, Magumeni believes he is closing the gap on international competitors. He said his recent progression gives him confidence he can compete at a higher level with more work. "Comparing to international athletes, I feel like with the progression I've been having, I will soon be in a position to go toe to toe and bring heat against the giants. But there is need to put in a lot of work," he said.

Magumeni thanked his support network for sustaining him through difficult periods. "My family, the National Sport Academy, and the University have

played a big role in supporting me, even when it's difficult for them sometimes and they fall short. I really appreciate the efforts," he said.

Following the ZiTS crown in Harare, Magumeni now shifts focus to the Coalition of Universities and Colleges Association Games (CUCSA) scheduled for Botswana from 28 June to 5 July, where he will face stronger regional opposition as he seeks to extend his dominance beyond Zimbabwe's borders.

# SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS  
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BREAKING NEWS





# Physical and chemical properties of indene, electron cloud and charge distribution in the indene molecule



By: Davlataliyeva Qizlaroy  
@themkenyatimes

**Abstract.** This article examines the physical and chemical properties of indene, closely related to its electron cloud and charge distribution. Quantum chemical analysis is important for a thorough understanding of the electronic nature of the indene molecule, its reactivity, and the creation of new organic and polymeric materials. One of the main goals of studying the quantum chemistry of indene-1-carboxylic acid and assessing its biological activity is to study its molecular structure, geometry, atomic charge distribution, and other quantum chemical properties using a semiempirical method.

**Key words.** Indene, carboxylic acid, quantum chemistry, molecule, charge distribution, electronic structure, benzene.

With the rapid development of the global oil and gas industry, scientific research is being carried out to develop the theoretical foundations for processing secondary products formed as a result of this development, and to recommend methods for obtaining new products based on them. In particular, indene is an aromatic hydrocarbon, and its molecule consists of one benzene ring and one cyclopentadiene ring. These two rings are fused and share two common carbon atoms. Therefore, it is considered a polycyclic aromatic compound. It naturally exists in coal tar and crude oil, and indene is also released when fossil fuels and similar materials are not completely combusted. Indene was discovered in 1890 by "Kraemer" from coal tar. Indene is a colorless or light yellow liquid; in its pure state it is colorless, but it may slightly change color during storage. Odor: it has a

strong, characteristic aromatic smell. Molecular formula:  $C_9H_8$ . Molecular mass: 116.16 g/mol, melting point:  $-5^\circ\text{C}$ , boiling point:  $181-182^\circ\text{C}$  (at normal pressure), density (at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ ): approximately  $0.996\text{ g/cm}^3$ , solubility in water: very low (practically insoluble), solubility in organic solvents: dissolves well in ether, ethanol, benzene, and other organic solvents. The chemical properties of indene: indene molecules contain highly reactive olefinic compounds and are prone to polymerization or addition reactions. Indene can be polymerized at room temperature, upon heating, or in the presence of acidic catalysts, which significantly increases the rate of polymerization. Indene polymerizes at ambient temperature and in the dark, and depending on conditions, it easily forms polymers. In research work, the physicochemical properties of indene have scientific and practical importance [1]. Therefore, it is important to correctly analyze the composition of the physical and chemical properties of indene. At present, research methods based on computer programs are also gaining great importance in chemistry. This makes it easier for students and researchers to understand the properties of the molecule. It is not only theoretical chemistry, but also one of the most advanced directions of science and technology. It reduces experimental time, decreases risk, makes results more accurate, and opens the way to new scientific discoveries [2,3]. Using quantum chemical calculations, the indene molecule allows theoretical justification of chemical reaction mechanisms, visualization of electron density, orbitals, and geometry of the molecule in 3D format, finding the energy minimum through software, determining charge distribution and reactive centers, using safe methods that replace experiments, predicting experimental results, assisting in the creation of new substances, promoting interdisciplinary integration, evaluating the reactivity of the compound, reducing experimental work and errors, and during the study of its geometric electronic structure, it makes it easier for students and researchers

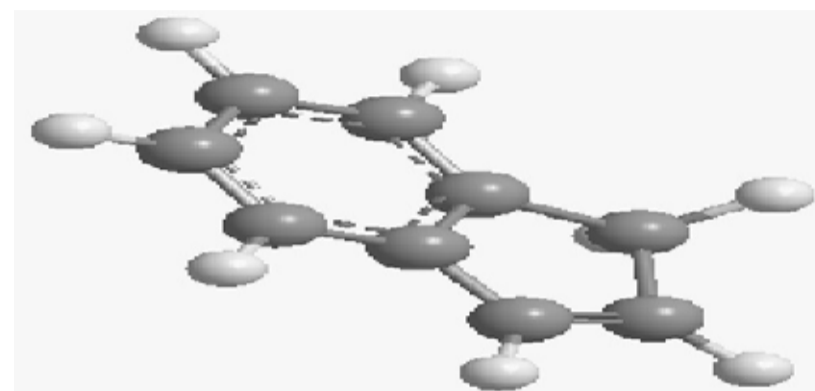
to understand the properties of the molecule [4,5,6].

Quantum-chemical calculations were carried out using a semi-empirical method. In Figure 1, a 3D model of the indene molecule obtained from molecular-mechanical optimization is presented, in which the orderly arrangement of atoms is shown [7,8,9]. As can be seen from the figure, steric changes are present in the molecule, and the carboxyl group is oriented perpendicular to the plane of indene [10,11,12].

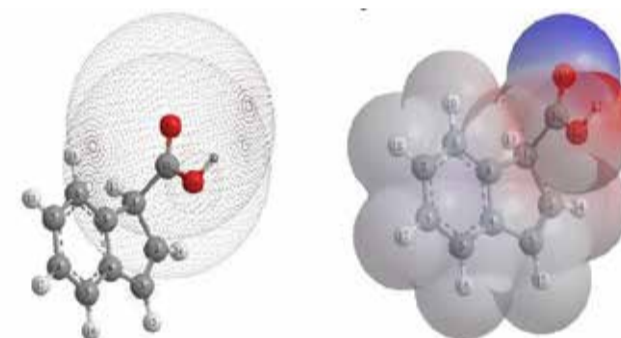
It allows the distribution of the total charge density of the molecule (picture 3) as well as the electrostatic potential within this group. The calculation results describing the geometric parameters of the molecule, such as bond lengths and valence angles, are presented below.

The energetic parameters of the atoms in the molecule were calculated in units of charge and are presented in Table 2.

In summary, the following conclusions can be drawn from the research results. A correct analysis of the physical and chemical properties of indene, as well as the quantum-chemical study of the indene molecule, makes it possible to predict its reactivity in advance, create stable modifications, and use it in



3D structure of the indene molecule. Such a structure of the molecule facilitates the movement of electrons in the carboxyl group along the carbon and oxygen atoms, and this can be observed in the overall charge density (picture 2) as well as in the electrostatic potential.



Distribution diagram of the total charge density.

the synthesis of new materials. Using quantum chemistry methods, the structure of indene-1-carboxylic acid was investigated. It was found that the molecular framework is

planar, while steric distortions are present in the carboxyl group. As a result, a non-uniform distribution of total charge density and electrostatic potential was observed. Bond lengths, bond angles, and atomic charges were determined through computational methods.

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Table 1. Calculated bond lengths and valence angle values in the indene molecule

Atoms	Bond length $\text{\AA}$	Atom	Bond angle grad	Atom	Dihedral angle grad	
4C						
9C	C(4)	1.3941				
1C	C(9)	1.5227	C(4)	109.1543		
8C	C(9)	1.3737	C(1)	129.8258	C(4)	120.9903
3C	C(4)	1.4784	C(9)	108.1452	C(1)	0.8818
5C	C(4)	1.3782	C(3)	131.2942	C(9)	120.5585
6C	C(5)	1.3888	C(4)	118.5612	C(3)	-179.4707
7C	C(8)	1.3914	C(9)	118.5459	C(1)	178.5070
2C	C(1)	1.5258	C(9)	101.6839	C(4)	-1.3584
10C	C(1)	1.5044	C(2)	111.8187	C(9)	111.3844
12O	C(10)	1.3506	C(1)	112.2719	C(2)	-55.9773
11O	C(10)	1.2038	C(1)	125.3525	O(12)	122.3755
14H	C(2)	1.06833	C(1)	122.1697	C(3)	126.6719
15H	C(3)	1.0692	C(2)	126.1202	C(4)	124.0304
16H	C(5)	1.0727	C(4)	120.9862	C(6)	120.4525
17H	C(6)	1.0721	C(5)	119.5943	C(7)	119.5988
18H	C(7)	1.0711	C(6)	119.8061	C(8)	119.6596
19H	C(8)	1.0724	C(7)	120.2932	C(9)	121.1607
13H	C(1)	1.0810	C(2)	112.2702	C(9)	112.2132
20H	O(12)	0.9689	C(10)	111.7573	C(1)	-178.1882

Table 2. Calculated atomic charge values in the indene molecule

Atom	Charge value, atomic units	Atom	Charge value, atomic units
[C1]	-0.008	[O12]	-0.030
[C2]	0.006	[O12]	-0.178
[C3]	-0.009	[H13]	0.007
[C4]	0.027	[H14]	0.020
[C5]	-0.002	[H15]	0.029
[C6]	-0.004	[H16]	0.029
[C7]	-0.006	[H17]	0.029
[C8]	-0.008	[H18]	0.029
[C9]	0.004	[H19]	0.029
[C10]	0.020	[H20]	0.208