



Wanjigi Intensifies political campaign, targets debt burden and expands party support base
Safina party and presidential candidate Jimi Wanjigi has stepped up his political engagements, calling for grassroots empowerment and sweeping economic reforms **Page 6**



Ruto courts Azerbaijan investments in Energy, Housing and Trade
President William Ruto yesterday held bilateral talks with Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev aimed at strengthening diplomatic and economic ties between Kenya and Azerbaijan. **Page 11**

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The Mt. Kenya Times
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Corruption Kiambu governor faces suit seeking recovery of KSh813 million alleged to be proceeds of corruption

Governors, MCA, senior officials in court over graft



The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission has lined up a busy week of hearings, rulings and mentions in corruption, unexplained wealth and public land recovery cases across courts in the country.
Among the most prominent matters is the hearing of a case involving Bomet governor Hillary Barchok and two others at the Milimani Anti-Corruption Court today and tomorrow.
Barchok is charged with conflict of interest, acquisition of proceeds of crime, use of proceeds of crime and money laundering. The Commission alleges that he received KSh2.7 million from companies that traded with his government to the tune of KSh152.3 million between 2019 and 2025. **Page 9**



Governor Kimani Wamatangi

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Gachagua engages UK diaspora, promises renewed reform agenda for Kenya

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

Rigathi Gachagua has urged Kenyans living in the United Kingdom to remain actively engaged in national affairs, pledging renewed efforts toward political and economic reforms through his Democratic Change Party (DCP).

Speaking during a diaspora engagement meeting in the UK on Saturday night, Gachagua reported progress in strengthening the party's structures, including the launch of the UK DCP Chapter, which he said will connect Kenyans abroad with reform efforts at home.

He raised concerns echoed by diaspora participants over corruption, weakened rule of law, and policy gaps in key sectors such as healthcare, education, social security, and agriculture. He encouraged continued vigilance and advocacy for accountability and transparency in governance.

The meeting was attended by several leaders, including Nyandarua Senator John Methu and MP Edward Muriu, alongside party aspirants and supporters.

Gachagua who arrived in UK on Saturday morning, accompanied by his spouse Reverend Dorcas, said the diaspora remains a crucial partner in shaping Kenya's future, reiterating his commitment to what he described as "restoring integrity and development focus" in national leadership.



Editor's Desk




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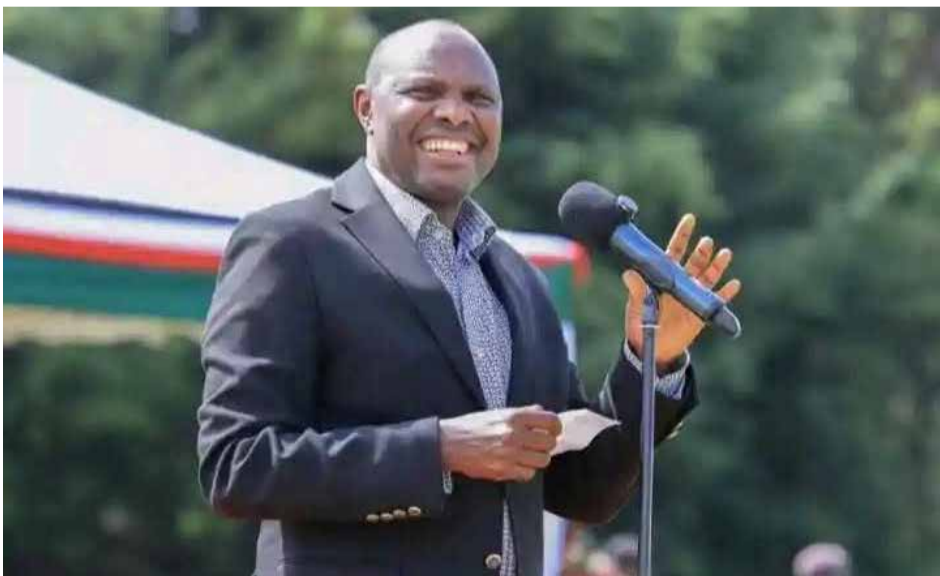
NEWS IN BRIEF



KANU Chairman Gideon Moi, speaking during a church service at the African Inland Church (AIC) Eldama Ravine in Baringo County, hinted at revealing details of his talks with President William Ruto. He described the matters as sensitive and weighty, noting that they directly affect the Kalenjin community, and promised to address the public at an appropriate time.



More than 2,000 cases of teenage pregnancies were recorded in Kajiado County between January and March this year, Governor Joseph Ole Lenku has revealed. The statistics, released by the County Department of Health, show that girls aged between 10 and 19 years became pregnant during the period, a trend the Governor described as alarming and a threat to the future of the girl-child.



The Head of Public Service, Felix Koskei, has called on residents of Uasin Gishu County to register as voters and actively participate in elections, saying leadership directly influences development. Koskei called on Kenyans, especially the youth, to acquire national identity cards and register as voters ahead of the next General Election, so they can take part in shaping the country's leadership. He said citizens who fail to participate in elections should not complain about poor leadership, noting that voting remains a key democratic tool for determining the country's development path.



The ICT Authority has reaffirmed its commitment to safe, efficient and environmentally sustainable disposal of electronic waste through a sensitization meeting held at the County Commissioner's office in Kiambu Town. The forum brought together public servants and representatives from various government agencies, including the County Commissioner's office, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), National Government Administrative Officers and county officials. According to the ICT Authority, the world generates about 62 metric tonnes of e-waste annually, with only 17 per cent recycled, while Kenya produces around 51 million kilograms every year. Experts warned that e-waste contains hazardous metals such as lead, mercury and cadmium, which pose serious health risks, especially to children.

Principal Secretary, State Department for Economic Planning Bonface Makokha leads leaders including Busia Governor Paul Otuoma, Principal Administrative Secretary in the Executive Office of the President Arthur Osiya, Nambale Member of Parliament Geoffrey Mulanya, Butula Member of Parliament Joseph Oyula, Budalang'i Member of Parliament Raphael Wanjala and Teso North Member of Parliament Oku Kaunya during the launch of the ACK Diocese of Nambale Education Foundation at ACK St Thomas Cathedral Nambale in Busia County last Thursday. The foundation aims to support education for vulnerable children in the community.



North Eastern Regional Commissioner John Otieno has said hosting this year's Madaraka Day celebrations in Wajir reflects the region's transformation from an insecurity-prone area to a centre of development, trade and national integration. Speaking in Wajir, Otieno said the county was now among the safest in the country due to government investment in security and infrastructure. He noted that preparations for the celebrations were at an advanced stage, with Wajir Stadium 84 per cent complete. Otieno highlighted the Isiolo-Modogashe-Wajir-Mandera road project as a key economic and security boost for the region. He added that new boreholes, roads and public infrastructure projects would benefit residents beyond the celebrations, while adequate security measures had been put in place.



Residents of Meru County have welcomed the government's plan to establish a police training camp along the Isiolo border, saying it will help improve security and curb cattle rustling. Meru Governor Isaac Mutuma said the county had allocated 600 acres for a police training college and field training school. He noted that over 11,000 cattle had been stolen in attacks along the Isiolo, Laikipia and Samburu borders over the past three years. Igembe North MP Julius Taitumu said the project would boost infrastructure development and restore peace. Residents said improved security would help families resume normal life.



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Tech The teaching profession and the world have changed fundamentally - CS Kagwe

CS Kagwe urges schools to embrace AI, emerging technologies

BY WMW

@themkenyatimes

Education institutions must urgently integrate artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies into learning to prepare students for a rapidly changing world, Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has said.

Speaking during Students' Day celebrations at Kagumo High School, Kagwe noted that technological advancement had fundamentally transformed education, employment and communication, making digital literacy an essential skill for learners and teachers alike.

"The teaching profession and the world have changed fundamentally. The age of Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things is here," Kagwe said. "Teachers and students alike must invest more time learning from on-line sources, embracing innovation and keeping abreast of developments in their respective fields."

The CS challenged schools to move beyond conventional teaching methods and equip learners with practical technological skills that can help them compete globally.

He said the government was keen on ensuring young people actively participate in shaping Kenya's economic future, particularly in agriculture, which he described as one of the sectors with vast

untapped opportunities for innovation.

Kagwe observed that technology-driven farming was becoming increasingly attractive to the youth and could help address food insecurity while creating employment opportunities.

"Agriculture is no longer a poor man's venture. It is profitable and offers numerous opportunities to those who embrace technology," he said.

The CS pointed to the use of drones in pest and disease surveillance, precision farming and crop monitoring as some of the innovations the government intends to scale up to improve productivity and reduce losses.

He said digital technologies could help farmers detect crop diseases early, manage outbreaks more efficiently and improve yields, ultimately strengthening household incomes and national food security.

Kagwe was accompanied by among others Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) chairman Dr Thuo Mathenge, school board members and education officials who also expressed the need for schools to align learning with current technological trends.

They noted that there was growing interest among students in technology-related subjects, particularly robotics, coding and digital agriculture, but noted that insti-



CS Mutahi Kagwe at Kagumo High School last Friday.

tutions still faced challenges such as limited infrastructure and inadequate access to digital learning tools.

The CS and other speakers encouraged students to remain disciplined, hardworking and adaptable, saying future careers would increasingly depend on innovation, creativity and the ability to leverage technology to solve

societal problems.

Their remarks come at a time when the government is pushing for greater adoption of digital learning and technology integration in schools under ongoing education reforms aimed at preparing learners for the modern job market.



CS Mutahi Kagwe interacting with Kagumo High School students last Friday | Photo: Courtesy.

Wanjigi intensifies political campaign, targets debt burden and expands party support base



Jimmi Wanjigi addressing Safina party delegates in Nakuru last Saturday.

BY WMW

@themkenyatimes

Safina party and presidential candidate Jimi Wanjigi has stepped up his political engagements, calling for grassroots empowerment and sweeping economic reforms as he continues to position himself for the country's top seat.

Speaking in Nakuru on Saturday during a meeting with Safina Party delegates, Wanjigi emphasized what he termed the need for "economic liberation" and inclusive governance.

He said Kenya's national vision must centre on empowering ordinary citizens to actively participate in shaping the country's political and economic future.

"My only mission is to serve the people of Kenya and I will do it fearlessly as your President," he said, adding that he considers himself the best

candidate to lead the country and is ready to challenge the current administration.

Wanjigi sharply criticized the government's economic management, particularly the rising public debt, warning that Kenya risks long-term economic stagnation if urgent action is not taken.

He claimed that billions are spent annually on debt servicing, which he described as unsustainable and harmful to national development, calling for decisive steps to address what he termed "odious debt."

In addition to his remarks in Nakuru, Wanjigi has recently intensified his political mobilization across different regions.

In Murang'a County, he held talks with local delegates in a meeting that reportedly attracted grassroots political figures, including several former MCAs who joined his party

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Education The Kenyan institution also partners with a Chinese school to train students in drone simulation for security and journalism

MKU signs landmark trilateral cooperation deal with Chinese college and ICT company

BY James Wakahiu

@themkenyatimes

Mount Kenya University (MKU) has taken a major step in expanding its international academic and industry footprint following the signing of a transformative trilateral cooperation agreement with a telecommunications institution and an information technology corporation of China.

The Kenyan institution signed the deal with Zhejiang Post and Telecommunication College (ZPTC) and Nanjing Zhongxing Xinyada Information Technology Co., Ltd. (Xinyada) in China.

The high-level signing ceremony, held at Zhejiang Post and Telecommunication College marked a new era of collaboration focused on digital education, vocational excellence, industry-academia integration and China-Africa sustainable development.

The event brought together distinguished academic leaders, corporate executives and institutional representatives from the three organizations, underscoring a shared commitment to shaping globally competitive digital talent.

Speaking during the ceremony, MKU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Deogratius Jaganyi emphasised the significance of the partnership in advancing digital transformation, innovation and sustainable growth across Africa.

The Vice Chancellor said the collaboration builds upon the strong foundation established in September 2024, when Xinyada first partnered with MKU.

The friendship has since evolved into a broader consortium involving multiple higher education institutions in China.

“What began as a partnership between two institutions has rapidly grown into a consortium of global partners committed to driving digital growth, skills development, and innovation across Africa,” said, Prof Jaganyi.

He added that the partnership aligns with MKU’s strategic role as the United Nations Academic Impact Hub Chair for Sustainable Development Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) for the period 2025–2030.

Under the newly signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the

three institutions will collaborate in several strategic areas, including development of international professional and vocational standards as well as digital curriculum and resource development.

The agreement opens doors for joint talent training programmes, student and staff exchange opportunities, internship and employment pathways and cloud computing platform development. It also creates opportunities for the promotion of the China-Africa Skills Supermarket project as well as joint advancement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These initiatives are designed to strengthen digital capacity, bridge skills gaps, and prepare future-ready professionals capable of thriving in an increasingly technology-driven global economy.

A major milestone of the partnership includes Xinyada’s establishment of a Cloud Computing Facility at the university which is expected to significantly enhance MKU’s technological infrastructure while positioning the institution as a leading hub for digital innovation, cloud technology training and advanced ICT capacity building in Africa.

The trilateral partnership represents a model framework for integrating education with industry needs, ensuring that graduates are equipped with practical competencies that respond to emerging global technological demands.

The ceremony concluded with optimism and renewed commitment from all parties to foster long-term cooperation that will yield measurable educational, economic and social benefits.

Through this strategic alliance, MKU continues to demonstrate its dedication to internationalisation, academic excellence, and transformative partnerships that contribute meaningfully to Africa’s digital future. The landmark agreement not only reinforces MKU’s global standing but also affirms its commitment to empowering communities through education, innovation, and strategic international partnerships.

Drone simulation for security and media use

Meanwhile, MKU has signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Suzhou Higher Vocational and Technical School,



MKU vice Chancellor, Prof Deogratius Jaganyi (left) with Prof. Zhang Leitong, Vice Chancellor - Zhejiang Post and Telecommunication College of China, during the signing of a collaboration agreement between the two institutions. | Photo: Courtesy.

marking a significant expansion of its growing consortium of Chinese partners.

The agreement, signed during the MKU delegation’s visit to China in earlier this month, will see the two institutions collaborate on cutting-edge digital skills training, with a focus on drone simulation technology as a tool for reskilling learners across multiple sectors, including security, journalism, agriculture and disaster management, among others. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Professor Jaganyi reaffirmed the university’s commitment to industry-academia partnerships as catalysts for national and continental development.

He said the new collaboration also aligns with MKU’s role as the United Nations Academic Impact Hub Chair for SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) for the 2025–2030 period.

Vice President Zhang Ying of Nanjing Zhongxing XinYaDa Information Technology Co., LTD, a key facilitator of the consortium, also attended the ceremony, highlighting the growing synergy between Chinese vocational institutions and African universities.

The drone simulation programme is expected to equip Kenyan students and professionals with practical, job-

ready skills that respond to emerging labour market demands.

Areas of application include aerial security surveillance, drone-assisted journalism, precision agriculture, and emergency response.

Prof Jaganyi emphasized MKU’s commitment to the principle of “leaving no one behind” in Africa’s digital transformation journey, adding that the partnership will also support staff and student exchanges, joint promotion of Sustainable Development Goals, and the establishment of cloud computing infrastructure at MKU.

The MoU adds to MKU’s expanding network of Chinese partners, which includes Nanjing Zhongxing XinYaDa, Hebei Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Technology, and Nanjing Vocational College of Information Technology, all part of a growing China-Africa skills consortium.

“We believe this collaboration will create the necessary synergy to bring about digital growth across the African continent,” said the MKU Vice Chancellor.



A group photo of Chinese and MKU institutions that took part in the signing ceremony.

Eng. Wangai Ndirangu banks on agriculture, urban renewal and sports in Nyeri governor bid

BY MWM

@themkenyatimes

Former Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) chairman and Nyeri gubernatorial aspirant Eng. Wangai Ndirangu is positioning sports development, agricultural reforms and urban planning at the centre of his 2027 campaign agenda, as he seeks to rally residents around what he describes as a plan to restore Nyeri's lost greatness.

In a series of policy statements and campaign messages, the engineer and former public official has outlined proposals aimed at reviving Nyeri's sporting heritage, modernising agriculture, reorganising urban centres and building a more diversified county economy.

Beyond sports, Wangai is also making agriculture a central pillar of his campaign, arguing that Nyeri farmers continue to suffer exploitation despite the county's strong production of coffee, tea, dairy and horticultural products.

He has proposed expanding use of the Warehouse Receipt System (WRS), a mechanism that allows farmers to store produce in certified warehouses and use warehouse receipts to access financing while waiting for better mar-



Eng. Wangai Ndirangu

ket prices.

The aspirant says the system would help eliminate distress selling and strengthen farmers' bargaining power.

"I am one of the architects of the Warehouse Receipt System in Kenya. Now I am bringing it home to modernise Nyeri's agriculture and end exploitation of our farmers," he said.

He also advocates adopting cooperative principles similar to those used by the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA), where farmers aggregate production, processing and marketing collectively to maximise returns.

Agriculture experts have increasingly supported warehouse receipt systems in Kenya as part of broader reforms

aimed at reducing post-harvest losses and improving market access for small-scale farmers.

Wangai's campaign also focuses heavily on urban renewal and planning, citing congestion, disorganised markets and inadequate infrastructure in major towns across the county.

His proposals include development of modern zoning plans, construction of organised parking bays and transport stages, modernisation of markets, relocation of roadside traders into structured trading spaces and upgrading drainage systems, roads, lighting and pedestrian walkways.

He has also pledged to digitalise county service delivery

systems to improve accountability and ensure residents receive value for taxes paid.

At the broader economic level, Wangai says Nyeri must move from being primarily a producer of raw agricultural commodities to a county that processes, packages and brands its products locally.

He argues that value addition industries would create jobs, increase household incomes and keep more economic benefits within the county.

At the heart of his message is a strong appeal to Nyeri's rich athletics history, which he says has not received the recognition or investment it deserves.

"People talk about Iten and Eldoret, but let the record show what Nyeri has produced," Wangai said while highlighting some of Kenya's most celebrated athletes who hail from the county.

Among them is marathon legend Catherine Ndereba, popularly known as "Catherine the Great," who won four Boston Marathon titles, two World Championship gold medals and two Olympic silver medals. Wangai also cited former world 10,000 metres champion Charles Kamathi, who famously defeated Ethiopian icon Haile Gebrselassie at the 2001 World Championships.

Other athletes mentioned include Commonwealth Games



Eng. Wangai Ndirangu addressing a public meeting in the past. |

Photo: Courtesy.

gold medalist Lucy Wangui Kabuu, pioneer Olympian Mary Wacera Wanjiku, Joseph Gikonyo and Berlin Marathon winner Joseph Ngolepus.

Wangai argues that despite producing elite athletes and national volleyball players over the years, Nyeri has not fully invested in sports infrastructure and talent development systems comparable to those in the Rift Valley region.

To address this, he proposes establishing a "Nyeri Talents Academy" to identify and nurture sporting talent from grassroots levels across constituencies including Mukurweini, Mathira, Kieni, Tetu, Othaya and Nyeri Town.

The proposed programme would focus on early talent identification, mentorship, high-altitude training and structured athlete development pathways linked to schools and professional sports networks.

Sports analysts note that Kenya's athletics success has traditionally been concentrated in regions with organised talent development systems, training camps and strong institutional support, particularly in Iten and Eldoret.

As political activity gradually intensifies across Nyeri County, the emerging contest is expected to revolve around economic transformation, service delivery and leadership style, with aspirants increasingly unveiling issue-based campaigns targeting farmers, youth and urban voters.

Eng. Wangai is expected to battle it with among others, former Othaya MP Gichuki Mugambi, KALRO chairman Dr Thuo Mathenge, Gachara Kamanga, Nyeri Deputy Governor David Kinaniri Warui, businessman Kinyua Wanjohi Usikamake, Nyeri senator Wahome Wamatinga and Ambassador Peter Munyiri.

Wanjigi intensifies political campaign, targets debt burden and expands party support base

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during the engagement.

The meeting was framed as part of his broader effort to strengthen his political base ahead of next year's General Election.

He reiterated that his movement is focused on building a people-driven political structure anchored on economic justice, accountability, and inclusivity, insisting that

Kenya's future depends on breaking what he described as cycles of mismanagement and unsustainable borrowing.

Wanjigi maintained that his campaign will continue to expand nationwide through engagement with delegates, youth groups, and local leaders, as he seeks to build momentum for his presidential bid.

He has been in several parts of the country where he has been popularizing his agenda to Kenyans.

Safina party presidential candidate Jimi Wanjigi addressing his supporters in Nakuru. | Photo:

Courtesy.



Graft Another mention tomorrow involves businessman Joseph Chege Gikonyo and others over alleged unexplained wealth amounting to KSh615 million.

Governors, MCA, senior officials in court over graft

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyaintimes

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission has lined up a busy week of hearings, rulings and mentions in corruption, unexplained wealth and public land recovery cases across courts in the country.

Among the most prominent matters is the hearing of a case involving Bomet governor Hillary Barchok and two others at the Milimani Anti-Corruption Court today and tomorrow.

Barchok is charged with conflict of interest, acquisition of proceeds of crime, use of proceeds of crime and money laundering. The Commission alleges that he received KSh2.7 million from companies that traded with his government to the tune of KSh152.3 million between 2019 and 2025.

At the same court today, there will be a mention of a suit seeking recovery of KSh813 million alleged to be proceeds of corruption involving Kiambu governor Kimani Wamantangi and others.

Tomorrow, the court is expected to issue a ruling in a suit filed against Filtronic International Limited and others seeking recovery of KSh63.7 million allegedly paid by the Kiambu County Government through fraudulent and illegal contracts.

The Milimani Anti-Corruption Court will also hear a suit involving Drescoll Limited and nine others on Wednesday over the recovery of KSh58 million paid by the Isiolo County Government for the purchase of a fire engine.

The EACC alleges the contract was awarded contrary to procurement laws and is alternatively seeking recovery of KSh33 million allegedly paid above market value.

A hearing is also scheduled from today to Wednesday in a suit against David Isika Kinyae and others involving alleged unexplained wealth amounting to KSh180 million.

On Wednesday, the same court will mention a suit against former Kenya Rural Roads Authority Coast Regional Manager Benson Muteti Masila and six others over alleged unexplained wealth worth KSh744 million.

Another mention tomorrow involves businessman Joseph Chege Gikonyo and others over alleged

unexplained wealth amounting to KSh615 million.

The Commission is also pursuing several public land recovery suits in different parts of the country.

Tomorrow, the Thika Environment and Land Court will issue a ruling in a case involving Kahawa Sukari Limited and two others over recovery of land parcel Ruiru/Kiu Block 3/1372 allegedly irregularly registered to private individuals.

At the Mombasa Anti-Corruption Court today, Maywood Limited will face a hearing over alleged illegal acquisition of Kenya Ports Authority land, namely LR No. MN/VI/2588, valued at Sh85 million.

The Nyeri Environment and Land Court will today hear a suit against Gervas O. Oketch over recovery of public land parcel Nyeri Municipality Block 1/1082.

The same court will also hear a case involving John Peter Kamau Ruhangi and seven others over recovery of Nyeri Municipality Block 1/1105, allegedly hived off government houses MG 6A and 6B.

In Isiolo, the Environment and Land Court will hear cases involving Karamoh Impex and Transport Limited and others, as well as Fresh N Nice Limited and others, over alleged illegal acquisition of government prison land identified as LR No. 7918/736 and LR No. 7918/735 respectively.

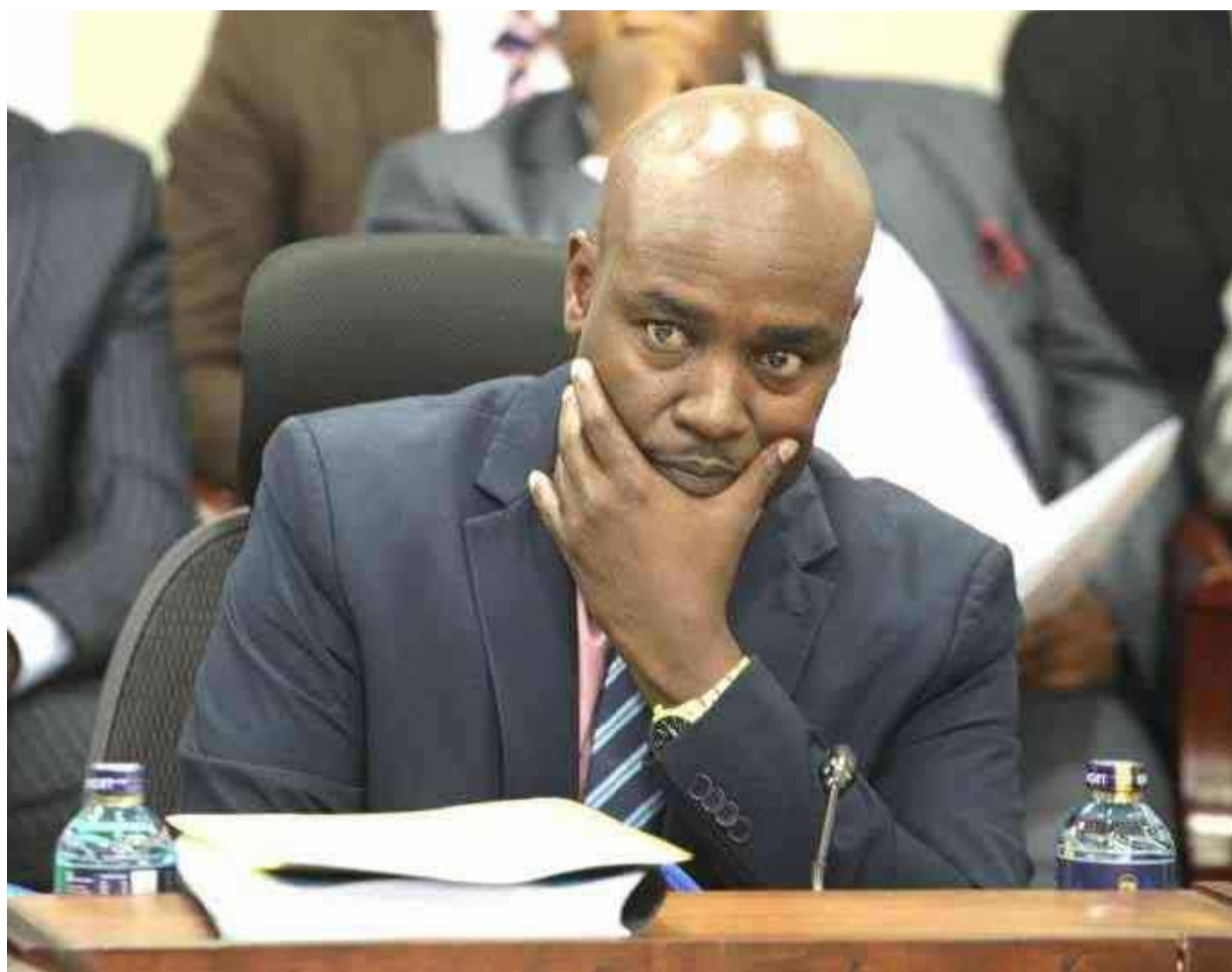
At the Kabarnet Environment and Land Court tomorrow, the Commission will mention a case against Grace Chelagat and 23 others involving alleged illegal acquisition of land reserved for the Emunyar water catchment area serving schools and residents of Kabarnet Town.

The anti-graft agency is also prosecuting several public officials accused of bribery, abuse of office, procurement irregularities and forgery.

At the Milimani Anti-Corruption Court today and Wednesday, Huruuma ward MCA, Peter Owera Oluoch will appear on charges of providing false information to a public body, forgery and false declaration.

EACC alleges that he falsely claimed to possess a diploma certificate from Kenya Polytechnic and embossed a forged stamp on a self-declaration form.

Former Director for Strategy, Planning and Coordination at the Micro and Small Enterprises Authority, Francis Njiruh Mfundi, will appear



Governor Hillary Barchok

before the Milimani Anti-Corruption Court tomorrow facing charges of fraudulent acquisition of public property amounting to KSh1.1 million and uttering false documents.

Prosecutors allege he secured employment using forged academic certificates, including a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics, academic transcripts and an SLDP certificate.

At the Isiolo Anti-Corruption Court on Thursday and Friday, former Samburu East District Education Officer Joel Kaunda Ontoya and three others will face charges of abuse of office linked to alleged embezzlement of public funds between 2015 and 2017.

In Kitui, Robert Meme Inyingi will appear before the Chief Magistrate's Court today facing charges of receiving a KSh20,000 bribe.

At the Mombasa Anti-Corruption Court today, Thomas Nahashon Kibet Minai will face charges of receiving a bribe, requesting an advance and concealing evidence.

The allegations relate to demands for KSh20,000 from a complainant in exchange for influencing investigations involving a defamation case.

Also in Kitui on Thursday, Richard Muthoka and five others will appear before the Anti-Corruption Court facing charges of wilful failure to comply with procurement laws involving the irregular supply of 10 digital and mobile machines to the Kitui County Government that allegedly failed to meet tender specifications.

At the Lodwar Law Courts today, Elias Tirop Tomno will face charges of conspiracy to commit corruption and fraudulent acquisition of public property.

The Milimani Anti-Corruption Court will also mention several major recovery suits today. One involves Ahmedidle Adam Abdi and four others over alleged illegal receipt of KSh253.3 million from the Garissa County Government disguised as procurement payments despite no procurement process, goods or services.

Another case involves Abdi Ibrahim Daar over alleged illegal receipt of KSh51.5 million from Garissa County through similar fraudulent procurement claims.

The court will also mention a suit

against Stephen Ndung'u Kinuthia and 16 others over recovery of KSh47 million allegedly lost through a fraudulent transaction involving purchase of audit vault software by the Office of the Auditor General.

Another mention involves Jecinter Adoyo Hezron, who is accused of fraudulently earning KSh15.2 million in salaries after allegedly securing employment at the Commission on Revenue Allocation as a senior analyst and personal assistant to the chairperson using forged academic certificates.

Further, the court will mention the CHAN II-Auditel matter involving Kirimi Peter Kaberia and 12 others over recovery of KSh330.5 million allegedly unlawfully paid to Auditel Kenya as advance payment for a tender.

The EACC says the cases demonstrate its continued efforts to fight corruption, recover public assets and enhance accountability in public service and management of public resources.

Health According to the advisory, 246 suspected cases and 65 deaths had been recorded in the affected region by May 15, including four deaths among confirmed cases.

Kenya heightens Ebola surveillance after DRC outbreak

BY MKT Correspondent
@themkenyaintimes

The Ministry of Health has heightened disease surveillance and preparedness measures following an outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Ituri Province in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In a public health advisory issued by Director General for Health Patrick Amoth, the ministry said laboratory tests had confirmed Ebola virus in 13 out of 20 samples tested in the DRC, with preliminary findings indicating a non-Zaire ebolavirus strain.

According to the advisory, 246 suspected cases and 65 deaths had been recorded in the affected region by May 15, including four deaths among confirmed cases.

The ministry noted that the affected areas are located in eastern DRC, a region characterized by significant cross-border movement through neighbouring countries such as Uganda and South Sudan, with onward travel connections across East Africa, including Kenya.

However, the ministry assured Kenyans that no Ebola case had been reported in the country as of May 16.

“While the overall risk to the

Kenyan public remains low, there is a moderate risk of importation into the country due to regional travel, trade and population movement,” the ministry said.

Ebola Virus Disease is a severe and often fatal illness spread through direct contact with blood or body fluids of an infected person, contaminated materials or infected animals.

Health officials warned that symptoms can appear suddenly and include fever, severe weakness, headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach pain and unexplained bleeding in severe cases.

The ministry said the govern-



Director General for Health Patrick Amoth

ment had activated enhanced preparedness and response measures to prevent possible importation and spread of the disease.

Among the measures undertaken are the formation of a National Ebola Preparedness

Team, activation of the National Public Health Emergency Operations Centre for real-time monitoring, enhanced screening at airports and border points, strengthening laboratory diagnostic capacity and increased surveillance for

viral haemorrhagic fevers.

The government has also intensified training and sensitization of healthcare workers as well as public awareness campaigns.

Kenya is further coordinating closely with the World Health Organization, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and other international public health agencies.

The ministry urged the public to remain calm but vigilant, maintain high standards of hygiene, avoid contact with bodily fluids of sick persons and seek immediate medical attention if they develop symptoms associated with Ebola, especially after travel to affected regions.

Kenyans were also advised to rely only on official communication from the Ministry of Health and avoid spreading unverified information that could cause panic.

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Politics Ruto yesterday held bilateral talks with Azerbaijan President Aliyev

Ruto courts Azerbaijan investments in Energy, Housing and Trade



During the bilateral talks.

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto yesterday held bilateral talks with Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev aimed at strengthening diplomatic and economic ties between Kenya and the oil-rich Eurasian nation.

The meeting took place at the Baku Olympic Stadium on the sidelines of the 13th Session of the World Urban Forum currently underway in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The discussions focused on expanding cooperation in the oil and gas sector, renewable energy development, affordable housing and trade.

“We are exploring strategic areas of partnership to unlock the vast potential for cooperation between our two nations and expand opportunities for our people,” Ruto said after the meeting.

The President said Azerbaijan had expressed interest in Kenya’s proposed oil refinery project intended to serve the East African region, a move expected to strengthen regional energy security and attract foreign investment.

The two leaders also discussed partnerships in renewable energy as Kenya seeks to achieve its target of generating 10,000 megawatts of electricity through clean energy sources.

Ruto further sought support for the government’s afford-

able housing programme, which Kenya has continued to market internationally as one of its flagship economic and urban transformation projects.

Trade and market access for Kenyan exports also featured prominently during the talks, with the leaders exploring opportunities for Kenyan tea, horticultural products and other agricultural exports to access new markets in Azerbaijan and neighbouring regions.

President Ruto arrived in Baku earlier accompanied by First Lady Rachel Ruto and several senior government officials led by Prime Cabinet Secretary and Foreign Affairs CS Musalia Mudavadi.

They were received by Azerbaijan’s Minister of Defence Industry Vuqar Mustafayev and the country’s Ambassador to Kenya Sultan Hajjiyev.

Kenya was invited to par-

ticipate in the World Urban Forum in recognition of its efforts in affordable housing and sustainable urban development.

The forum, convened under the auspices of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, brings together global leaders, investors, policymakers and urban development experts to discuss sustainable cities and future urban planning.

On the sidelines of the conference, President Ruto is also expected to hold additional meetings with investors and foreign leaders as Kenya seeks partnerships in infrastructure development, ICT, energy and trade.

The visit comes as Kenya continues to pursue broader economic diplomacy aimed at attracting foreign investment and expanding export markets for local products.



President William Ruto with his Azerbaijan counterpart Ilham Aliyev.

Politics Gachagua said the diaspora remained a critical pillar of Kenya’s economy

Gachagua rallies UK diaspora behind DCP agenda



DCP leader Rigathi Gachagua addressing Kenyans in UK on Saturday night. | Photo: Courtesy.

BY WMW

@themtkenyatimes

Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP) leader and former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has intensified his push to consolidate support among Kenyans living abroad, urging the diaspora to remain actively engaged in the country’s political and governance affairs ahead of the next General Election.

Speaking during an engagement with Kenyans living and working in the United Kingdom, Gachagua said the country was facing growing challenges, including corruption, weak governance structures and declining public confidence in key institutions.

The former Deputy President told the gathering that his newly launched DCP party was positioning itself as an alternative political movement focused on accountability, economic empowerment and restoration of public trust in government.

“It is our responsibility as leaders and citizens to rebuild a Kenya where every voice matters and where truth and development are not hidden behind political deception,” Gachagua said during the meeting.

The event also marked the launch of the DCP United Kingdom Diaspora Chapter, which party officials said would help mobilise Kenyans abroad and strengthen engagement with supporters outside the country.

Gachagua said the diaspora remained a critical pillar of Kenya’s economy through remittances and investment and should therefore play a greater role in shaping national discourse and governance reforms.

According to recent data from the Central Bank of Kenya, diaspora remittances continue to rank among the country’s leading foreign exchange earners, underscoring the growing influence of Kenyans living abroad.

During the discussions, participants reportedly raised concerns over the rising cost of living, unemployment, healthcare challenges, agricultural policies and what they described as increasing cases of abuse of the rule of law.

Gachagua urged Kenyans in the diaspora to remain connected with developments back home and continue advocating for transparency and better leadership.

The former Deputy Pres-

ident has in recent months stepped up political activities across the country following his fallout with President William Ruto and subsequent impeachment from office in 2024. Since leaving government, he has positioned himself as a key opposition figure seeking to rally support from the Mt Kenya region and other parts of the country.

Political analysts view the formation of DCP and the establishment of diaspora chapters as part of wider efforts to build a national political network ahead of the 2027 elections.

Gachagua was accompanied during the UK tour by his spouse Pastor Dorcas Rigathi, Nyandarua Senator John Methu, MP Edward Muriu, Nyeri Woman Representative aspirant Anita Thumbi, Fanya Mambo Kinuthia and Njenga Mabati, among other leaders allied to the party.

The leaders called on Kenyans abroad to support ongoing efforts aimed at what they termed as “liberating the country” and promoting inclusive development.

PBO The Public Benefits Organizations Authority said the move is intended to facilitate smooth automatic transition of organisations into the new legal regime.

Government extends NGO transition to Public Benefits Organisations framework by one year

BY WMW
@themkenyatimes

The government has extended by one year the transition period for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to register under Kenya's new Public Benefits Organisations (PBO) legal framework.

In a special gazette notice dated May 14, 2026, Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Government Coordination Kipchumba Murkomen announced that existing NGOs will now have until May 14, 2027 to complete their transition to the framework established under the Public Benefits Organizations Act, 2013.

The extension was issued pursuant to paragraph 5(2) of



CS Kipchumba Murkomen

the Fifth Schedule of the Act. The Public Benefits Organizations Authority said the move is intended to facilitate smooth automatic transition of organisations into the new legal regime.

"The Authority is committed to facilitating all organisations to automatically transit to the new framework," the regulator which is headed by Dr. Laxmana Peter Kiptoo said in a statement to stakeholders.

The PBO Act was enacted in 2013 to replace the older NGO Coordination Act and provide a broader legal framework governing charitable, religious, humanitarian and civil society organisations operating in Kenya.

The law seeks to modernise



Dr. Laxmana Peter Kiptoo

regulation of the sector by recognising organisations as Public Benefits Organisations rather than NGOs, while also enhancing accountability, transparency and operational independence.

Although the Act was passed more than a decade ago, implementation delays and concerns raised by civil society groups over operational regulations slowed its full transition for several years.

The PBO framework officially came into force in 2024 following sustained pressure from civil society organisations and development partners who argued that the older NGO law was restrictive and outdated.

Under the new law, organisations previously registered as NGOs are required to transition automatically into PBOs while aligning their governance structures and operations with the new legal requirements.

Stakeholders in the sector have welcomed the latest extension, saying many organisations still require additional time to harmonise registration

details, governance documents and compliance systems.

Civil society groups have also argued that the transition is significant because the PBO Act provides stronger legal protections for non-profit organisations, including safeguards against arbitrary deregistration and greater clarity on tax incentives and public benefit activities.

Kenya hosts thousands of NGOs and charitable organisations involved in humanitarian assistance, governance, health, education, human rights advocacy and environmental conservation.

The sector remains a major contributor to employment, social development and donor-funded programmes across the country.

The Interior Ministry said the extension will ensure orderly compliance while avoiding disruptions to the operations of organisations serving vulnerable communities and implementing public interest programmes.

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Public Benefits Organisations (PBO)

Dumpsites Officials said a total of 1,000 phytoremediation trees were planted across the two dumpsites as part of efforts to address the effects of waste decomposition

Nyeri County turns to nature to heal its dumpsites

BY WMW
@themtkenyatimes

Nyeri County has launched a tree planting initiative at major dumpsites in an effort to reduce environmental pollution and restore degraded ecosystems through natural solutions.

The exercise, spearheaded by the county's Department of Public Service and Solid Waste Management, was carried out at Gikeu dumpsite in Othaya and Konyu dumpsite in Mathira.

County Executive Committee Member for Public Service and Solid Waste Management Peter Macharia led the exercise alongside Chief Officer for Public Service Joseph Kanyi, Chief Officer for Solid Waste Management George Mwangi Box,

Director of Solid Waste Management Violet Koigi and representatives from the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI).

Officials said a total of 1,000 phytoremediation trees were planted across the two dumpsites as part of efforts to address the effects of waste decomposition on surrounding communities and the environment.

The specialised trees are expected to absorb toxins released from decomposing waste, helping improve air and soil quality around the disposal sites. County officials noted that the initiative forms part of broader efforts to promote sustainable waste management and environmental conservation.

The exercise also involved staff working at the two dumpsites, with county leaders encouraging residents to support tree planting efforts

as part of collective environmental stewardship.

County officials said restoring green cover remains critical in combating climate change, reducing pollution and protecting public health, especially in areas surrounding waste disposal sites.

Nyeri County has in recent years intensified environmental conservation campaigns, including afforestation programmes and improved waste management systems, amid growing concerns over environmental degradation and the shrinking forest cover in parts of the region.

The county government said it plans to expand similar green initiatives to other dumpsites and public spaces as part of its long-term sustainability agenda.

Officials further challenged residents to embrace tree planting and



Some of the stakeholders who took part in the exercise. | Photo: Courtesy.

environmental conservation, saying restoring lost green spaces requires collective responsibility and sustained action from both government and the public.

The Mt. Kenya Times



Born to win



They said I can't, they said "stop there,"
They filled my path with doubt and fear.
But deep within, a fire grew,
A voice kept saying, "Fight it through."
Education is a mountain high,
Yet I refuse to pass it by.

Step by step, through pain and strain,
I rise each time, again and again.
The journey's tough, the road is long,

But every challenge makes me strong.

I yearn for knowledge, seek the light,
And chase my dreams with all my might.
I want to climb each level still,
With faith, hard work, and iron will.

Yes, I can — my story's begun,
I am a winner, born to win.

No matter how hard the storms may be,
Greatness is waiting ahead for me.

For I believe, and I know within,
I was born a winner... born to win.

Eddy Achieng
Rongo university

Strength in scars



Life does not always arrive
With garlands of joy and gentle rain;
Sometimes it storms through fragile hearts
And leaves behind a trail of pain.

Some wounds are silent, unseen by eyes,
Like splinters buried deep within;
Some nights are oceans without a shore,
Where broken souls learn how to swim.

Yet light slips softly through the cracks,
Like a rainbow after heavy rain;
And every scar the world once carved
Becomes a guide that leads to light.

The tree that faced the fiercest storm
Grows roots no tempest can destroy;
The heart that walked through fire and grief
Learns strength beyond mere fleeting joy.

Damaged people carry storms within,
But still they rise, they still endure;
For pain became their teacher wise,
And survival made their spirit pure.

They know the language of despair,
The taste of tears, the ache of loss;
Yet even with trembling hands they stand,
Turning every wound into a staff.

Not every battle leaves us weak,
Not every fall is meant to end;
Sometimes the cracks in shattered souls
Are where the bravest lights descend.

The damage was not there to break,
Nor crush the hope within your chest;
It came to forge a fearless heart,
A soul that would outlive the test.

So never pity wounded hearts
That walked through darkness all alone;
For those who learned how to survive
Carry a strength the world has never known.

Nandini AnandKumar
Educator, Writer, Motivator and Freelancer
No 18, Kamarajar Street
Neravy, Karaikal

Damaged people are strong



Damaged and broken people are strong,
Because they know how to survive in this
universe.

They are truly great.

They faced problems alone with courage.
They rise after every fall with determination.
They ignored the people
Who discouraged them.

They lived with a powerful goal,
And they know how to smile even in the hardest
moments.

So, they know how to survive in this world,
Because they already know
How the world can be.

V. S. NITHIYASRI
VIII
JOHN DEWEY MATRIC HIGHER SECO

It's ok



Means it's not ok
But it's ok.

'OK' means all correct.
It's accepted.
'It's OK' means partially accepted.

That means it's not Ok.
For some favor it's agreed.
Don't want to talk more.
It's an act of empathy.
Saying 'OK' is a sweet to you.
But it's not good to the accepter.
Anyway its an understanding.
Not a rule of the session.

N. SELVARANI
B. T. ASST.
GHS SAKKARAKKOTTAI
RAMANATHAPURAM
TAMILNADU
INDIA.

A happy soul



A happy soul is the finest way to live in this world,
A calm and composed nature protects you from
evil.

Remember these four truths of life—
Anger, sadness, fear, and happiness
Are all part of surviving in this world.
Let anger step back,

Let sadness slowly fade,
Let fear awaken awareness,
But let happiness always stay within you.
What you experience today will never come again,
So live in the moment for the sake of your soul.
Do not carry the weight of the past,
And do not fear a future yet to arrive.
A happy soul needs peaceful space to bloom,
No matter how cruel the world may become,
Your happiness can be the shield
That protects everything around you.**

BY ZAHETHA R
BT ASST ENGLISH
GHS PAPPANTHANGAL
TVM DIST

Childhood will never come back



Oh my! childhood memories
Makes me spring up as spring season
Mind blooming memories
Visiting Grandpa's house-another heaven
Enjoying the circus & exhibition with cousins,
And Grandma's delicious food world.
But once we children alone
Were lost in the exhibition & we were weeping
Police announced in mike.

After a long time- saw
Grandpa in the crowd ran & hugged him.
(Fully white painted hair)
Unnoticed my Parent's who came running before
him.
Often played as Parent's;
With a bath towel as a saree
And cooked with toys Humorous memories!
Yearned for elderhood-
Regretting now for it.
In this advanced technological world-
Childhood cannot be regained.
So enjoy each moment to be
tomorrow's middle age memories!!!

G.Sarala.

The sacrifices of a mother



She wakes before the morning light
While the whole house is still asleep,
Tying her tired hair in silence,
Carrying worries she never speaks.
She saves the sweetest fruit for us,
And says she is no longer hungry,
Even when her own plate stays half full
And her body begs for rest.
Her hands grow rough with endless work,

Yet they still feel soft on our forehead
Whenever fever, fear, or failure
Leaves us broken in bed.
She hides her tears in the kitchen smoke,
Smiles through days that feel too long,
And somehow turns every hardship
Into courage for her children.
A mother slowly forgets herself
While teaching her children how to live.
The world may call it sacrifice,
But to her, it is simply love.

Sangeeta Khattar
TGT English
DAY Public School
NH-3, NIT ,Faridabad

Court The suit has been filed in support of advocacy efforts by Friends of Nairobi National Park and other conservation stakeholders opposed to continued encroachment

Activists move to court to stop hiving off of Nairobi National Park land

BY WMW
@themtkenyatimes

Kituo Cha Sheria and civil society group JustAct have moved to the Environment and Land Court seeking to stop the proposed excision of more than 31 hectares from Nairobi National Park.

In Environment and Land Court Petition No. 19 of 2026 filed in Nairobi, the petitioners are challenging a decision by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) to approve plans by the Kenya Wildlife Service and Bomas of Kenya to carve out part of the protected parkland.

According to the petitioners, the proposed project is being presented as an upgrade, expansion and relocation of the Nairobi Animal Orphanage,



but is in reality a commercial venture that threatens the integrity of the national park.

The suit has been filed in support of advocacy efforts by Friends of Nairobi National Park and other conservation stakeholders opposed to continued encroachment into the park.

The petition raises concerns over environmental conservation, protection of public land, constitutional accountability and the adequacy of public participation in approving projects affecting protected

ecosystems. “Kituo Cha Sheria remains steadfast in promoting accountability, transparency and constitutional compliance in all development processes affecting public resources and environmental conservation,” the organisation said in a statement.

The petitioners argue that Nairobi National Park, the only wildlife park located within a capital city globally, remains ecologically sensitive and increasingly vulnerable to pressure from infrastruc-

ture and commercial developments.

Over the years, conservationists have raised alarm over shrinking wildlife corridors around the park following construction of roads, residential developments and industrial expansion around Nairobi.

Environmental groups say further reduction of protected land could threaten biodiversity and disrupt migratory routes used by wildlife moving between the park and sur-



rounding ecosystems in Kajiado County.

The petition also questions whether the approval process complied with constitutional provisions on environmental protection and access to information.

Under Article 42 of the Constitution, every Kenyan has the right to a clean and healthy environment, while Article 69 obligates the State to protect ecologically sensitive areas and ensure sustainable exploitation of natural resources.

The case now places renewed scrutiny on how public agencies balance conservation with infrastructure and tourism development.

During a court appearance, Justice Oscar Angote directed Bomas of Kenya to file its response to the application be-

fore the matter comes up for hearing on June 30, 2026.

The dispute is expected to attract significant public interest, given Nairobi National Park’s importance as a conservation, tourism and ecological asset.

Kituo Cha Sheria said it would continue pursuing legal and people-centred interventions aimed at defending constitutional values and protecting public resources for present and future generations.

The case adds to a growing list of legal battles involving conservation areas in Kenya, where courts have increasingly become key arenas in disputes over land use, environmental governance and public participations.

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Sport MKU's outstanding organization and sportsmanship was recognized through several prestigious awards, including the best private university, the best host university

MKU roars to top honours in Nairobi North conference league

BY James Wakahiu
@themkenyatimes

Mount Kenya University (MKU) has once again demonstrated its sporting excellence, emerging as one of the best performing institutions at the Kenya Universities Sports Federation (KUSF) Nairobi North Conference League.

In what has been widely regarded as one of the most competitive editions of the university league in recent years, MKU delivered an impressive performance following seven months of intensive preparation marked by discipline, resilience, and unwavering determination.

MKU's outstanding organization and sportsmanship was recognized through several prestigious awards, including the best private university, the best host university, most punctual university and the first runners-up overall winning university.

Speaking after the competition, Mr. William Luta, Head of Sports, Creative and Performing Arts at MKU and Secretary of the Nairobi North Conference, lauded the athletes for their dedication. "This was a highly competitive league. Seven months of hard work, determination, sacrifice, and relentless effort have finally paid off. Congratulations to Mount Kenya University and all the awardees," he said.

He said MKU's overall performance reflects consistent competitive dominance across events. "This places MKU among the most successful institutions in the league, demonstrating both depth and consistency across individual and team sports," he added.

Other universities also recorded notable performances, with Kenyatta University declared overall winners. Third overall was Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), with the most improved institution



Mount Kenya University dean of students, sports head, coaches and captains pose for photo with trophies won at the Kenya University sports federation Nairobi North conference awards ceremony.

| Photo: Courtesy.

being Mama Ngina University College. The most disciplined university team award went to JKUAT while St. Paul's university won the best fair play award.

The seven-month league, which brought together some of the country's top universities, tested athletes' discipline, consistency, teamwork and determination across a



Grace Matanu and Mark Junior, MKU captains pose with trophies won at the Kenya University sports federation Nairobi North conference awards ceremony.

wide range of sporting disciplines.

MKU showcased its athletic depth by clinching championship titles across multiple sporting categories. They were declared champions in the three by three (3x3) basketball (both men and women) as well as topping woodball for both gender. MKU also took top position in taekwondo (women); table tennis (women); karate (men); darts (men) and badminton, both men and women teams.

MKU also delivered strong performances with second-place finishes in eight sports. These were basketball (men), athletics for both sexes, karate (women), swimming (men and women), table tennis (men) and also in tennis for women.

Additionally, the university

secured third-place finishes nine other sports. These include basketball (women), football (women), hockey (men), netball (women) volleyball (men), chess (men), darts (women) and scrabble for both men and women teams.

MKU Dean of Students, Dr. Emmanuel Owour, expressed immense pride in the students' achievements and reiterated the institution's commitment to nurturing talent. "These results affirm our commitment to supporting sports development as an integral part of student growth and excellence," he noted.

Beyond podium finishes, the KUSF Nairobi North Conference League celebrated the resilience, teamwork, and rising competitive standards of university sports in Kenya. As Mr. Luta asserts, the league was not just about victories, but about "the spirit of perseverance and unity that continues to shape the future of university sports."




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Corruption It is within this definition of corruption that some unholy acts seem to be more glorified, heroic and gratified than it should actually be.

The re-emerging theory of corruption: From administrative misconduct to organized societal violence



BY Fredrick Chelimo
@themkenyaintimes



Some demonize or christen what is in the detail. But more popular is the saying that Satan is in the detail. This has not been truer than in the definition of corruption and related consequences. The narrow definition of corruption typically limits the definition to abuse of public office for direct personal financial gain, focusing primarily on bribery and embezzlement, restricts interpretation and omits systemic issues like patronage, nepotism, state capture, and private sector misconduct, critically hindering anticorruption scope and consequently the efforts. The focus on individual “bad apples” that ignores broader deeply embedded networks of patronage and state capture that shape the entire political systems, overlooks how corruption manifests as a structural denial of rights, justice and environmental resources.

Anti-corruption initiatives based on such narrow definitions rely on increasing penalties, strengthening police enforcement or tightening bureaucratic audits. Treating corruption as an individual’s moral failings or transactional leads to superficial reforms that fail to yield structural change. Such narrow definitions leave loop holes for non-financial benefits, power consolidation, and concealed conflicts of interest. Because of these noted shortfalls, progressive institutions are increasingly adopting multi-level definitions. These modern frameworks emphasize that corruption any abuse of entrusted power, whether in public or private sector that results in financial or non-financial gains.

It is within this definition of corruption that some unholy acts seem to be more glorified, heroic and gratified than it should actually be. For many decades, corruption has been defined narrowly through legal, administrative, and political lenses.

While this definition has guided international anti-corruption discourse for decades, the modern realities of governance, economics, politics, and institutional collapse increasingly reveal that this understanding is no longer sufficient to explain the true scale, structure, and consequences of corruption in contemporary society.

A new and more urgent understanding is beginning to emerge globally — one that no longer views corruption merely as bribery, abuse of office, or ethical misconduct, but as a deeply organized system of societal violence capable of destroying nations internally while maintaining an outward appearance of legality and governance.

This re-emerging theory challenges the traditional assumptions upon which anti-corruption institutions, laws, and enforcement frameworks were built. It argues that corruption is not simply a governance defect. It is a parallel system of power.

Under this evolving concept, corruption is increasingly understood as the deliberate manipulation, capture, diversion, or weaponization of public and private systems for elite benefit at the expense of collective societal survival, justice, dignity, and development.

This shift in understanding is important because traditional definitions unintentionally reduced corruption into a procedural or technical offence. The language of conflict of interest, or abuse of office psychologically softening the crime. Corruption became associated with paperwork, tenders, procurement disputes, ethics violations, and bureaucratic breaches rather than human suffering and national destruction. Yet the consequences tell a different story. When billions are looted people die in healthcare, citizen perish in preventable acci-

dents, hunger spreads for lack of agricultural inputs, disability support diminishes, vulnerable populations sink deeper into poverty and exclusion, generations lose opportunities from manipulated education funds and much more.

The emerging theory therefore argues that corruption should no longer be viewed as a financial theft, but as a societal sabotage. This evolving theory or concept may for better understanding be called the ‘societal catastrophic corruption theory’ This theory rests on several central propositions. Firstly, corruption is cumulative violence rather than isolated misconduct. Unlike conventional crimes, that produces immediate visible victims, corruption operates diffusely and structurally. Its victims are often invisible, delayed and socially dispersed. A corruption act committed today may produce suffering years later through collapsed infrastructure, weakened institutions, poor health care systems, unemployment, insecurity, or generational poverty.

Secondly, corruption survives because it embeds itself institutionally rather than individually. Traditional anti-corruption frameworks focused exclusively on bad individuals, while ignoring the larger ecosystem that reward, protect, normalize, and reproduce corruption. Modern corruption is often sustained by interconnected networks involving political actors, bureaucratic systems, private sector cartels, legal loopholes, weak enforcement institutions, and compromised oversight structures. Corruption therefore behaves less like isolated criminality and more like organized systemic capture.

Thirdly, the theory recognizes corruption as adaptive power rather than accidental weakness. In many societies today, corruption is not simply

a tolerated dysfunction. It increasingly functions as an informal governance mechanism through which political loyalty, economic influence, electoral financing, patronage systems, and institutional control is maintained. This explains why corruption persists even where anti-corruption laws appear strong on paper. The system sometimes protects corruption because corruption itself has become structurally useful to political and economic survival.

Fourthly, the re-emerging theory identifies moral normalization as corruption’s most dangerous evolution. Once citizens repeatedly witness impunity, selective justice, and institutional hypocrisy, corruption gradually loses its social stigma. Society begins adopting psychologically. Bribery becomes survival. Nepotism becomes strategy. Thefts become leadership privilege. Integrity becomes weakness. At that stage, corruption transitions from criminal behaviour to cultural logic. Once corruption becomes a culture, laws alone become insufficient.

The theory further introduces the concept of “silent structural violence” which argues that corruption kills more people indirectly than many conventional forms of violence, yet receives significantly lower moral condemnation because its destruction is administratively concealed. A failed hospital project rarely generates the same outrage as violent attack, yet both may ultimately produce death. Stolen food security programme may kill more citizens through hunger than armed conflict. A compromised public infrastructure project may destroy thousands of lives over time through accidents and economic stagnation.

The emerging school of thought therefore challenges societies to morally reclassify corruption and argues that corruption should increasingly be viewed not merely as economic crime but as an assault on collective human survival. This theoretical shift also exposes weaknesses in current anti-corruption approaches. Most anti-corruption institutions remain heavily procedural focusing on audits, procurement compliance, declarations, investigations and persecutions while often neglecting the deeper political, social, economic

and psychological ecosystems that sustain.

In many countries, anti-corruption has itself become politicized theatre. Governments establish commissions. Leaders make speeches. High profile arrests dominate headlines. Committees are formed, reports published and little fundamentally change because the system is always designed to manage public anger rather than dismantle entrenched corruption networks. The re-emergence theory therefore calls for radical shift from reactive enforcement to societal reconstruction. It proposes that fighting corruption requires rebuilding institutional morality, strengthening public ethics, protecting economic justice, eliminating extreme inequalities, digitizing vulnerable systems transparently, insulating oversight institutions from political capture, reforming political financing, and restoring civic trust.

Most importantly, the theory warns that societies which fail to confront corruption structurally eventually risks democratic hollowing. In such societies, elections continue occurring, courts continue operating, budgets continue being passed, and institutions continue existing outwardly – yet internally the state becomes progressively captured by networks of extraction rather than public service.

From this perspective, corruption is no longer a governance challenge, but an existential threat to national stability and human civilization itself. The emerging concept therefore demands a new moral, scholarly and political change. Scholars must revisit outdated definitions that sanitized corruption into technical misconduct. Lawmakers must stop creating selective enforcement systems that Punish the weak while protecting elite networks. Institutions must shift from symbolic anti-corruption performance towards structural transformation.

Finally, societies must themselves stop normalizing corruption as inevitable, because perhaps the greatest danger humanity faces is not corruption alone, but the gradual acceptance of corruption as an ordinary condition of public life. History has repeatedly shown that nations rarely collapse suddenly. Most collapse slowly through institutional betrayal normalized over generations until corruption stops appearing as crime and begins masquerading as governance itself.

Mr. Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo
PWD

Chairperson, Jiamini Disability network Community Based organization

Email: jiamini.network@gmail.com

Zimbabwe Constitutional reform means little while economic collapse, institutional decay and broken service delivery hollow out the state from within

Beyond CAB3: the structural failures eroding Zimbabwe's politics

BY Norman Mwale

@themkenyatimes

The debate around Constitutional Amendment Bill 3 has understandably consumed public discourse in Zimbabwe, with opposition MPs such as Mbizo's Hon. Corban Madzivanyika among those leading efforts in Parliament to block its passage. Yet to focus solely on CAB3 is to mistake the symptom for the disease. The more urgent challenge facing Zimbabwean politics is the progressive erosion of state capacity, accountability and public trust — a condition that leaves constitutional reform at risk of being little more than words on paper. As one political scientist put it recently, Zimbabwe does not lack constitutions; it lacks the will to honour them.

“When the state cannot deliver water and refuse collection, its claim to legitimacy becomes purely procedural,” says Dr Eldred Masunungure, whose observation cuts to the heart of Zimbabwe's governing crisis with uncomfortable precision. It is a sentiment that resonates far beyond academic circles, heard in the queues outside Harare's water collection points and in the WhatsApp groups where diaspora Zimbabweans track events back home with a mixture of love, frustration and weary familiarity.

At the centre of this erosion lies the persistent failure of economic governance. For over two decades, Zimbabwe has cycled through currency reforms with the regularity of a country that has not yet accepted why each previous attempt failed. Inflation and exchange rate volatility remain entrenched features of daily life rather than temporary discomforts to be managed through policy. The Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency has repeatedly recorded triple-digit inflation in recent years, a reality that corrodes wages, savings and long-term investment with equal indifference to who bears the cost. As economist Dr Prosper Chitambara noted in a 2025 ZIMCODD briefing, “policy inconsistency has created a two-tier economy where access to foreign currency determines survival.” Without credible monetary and fiscal discipline, even the most progressive constitutional provisions risk becoming irrelevant to the ordinary citizen who cannot afford bread from one week to the next. A



Mbizo's MP Corban Madzivanyika

constitution that cannot put food on the table will not long command the loyalty of a hungry population.

This economic dysfunction feeds directly into the visible collapse of service delivery, and here the evidence is not anecdotal — it is audited. In Harare, Bulawayo and smaller urban centres, water shortages, uncollected refuse and potholed roads have shifted from temporary inconvenience to systemic condition, accepted by residents with the grim resignation of people who have stopped expecting better. The Auditor-General's report on local authorities for the year ended 31 December 2024, tabled before Parliament on 6 September 2025 by Acting Auditor-General Rheah Kujinga, revealed that 66 of 92 local authorities had failed to submit financial statements for 2024. The 497-page audit described “rampant financial mismanagement with goods procured three years ago yet to be delivered, and missing documents for transactions running into millions of dollars.” Central government attributes the crisis to underfunding and sanctions. Local authorities cite centralised control and

political interference. The citizen caught in the middle continues paying rates and taxes for services that never arrive, and draws the obvious conclusion about where accountability ends.

Compounding this is the yawning weakness of enforcement mechanisms. Zimbabwe's Auditor-General produces detailed annual reports exposing financial mismanagement across ministries, parastatals and councils, yet the gap between exposure and consequence remains vast enough to drive a fleet of undelivered government vehicles through. Parliamentary portfolio committees hold hearings and issue recommendations, but enforcement is sporadic and prosecutions rare enough to function as the exception rather than the rule. The Public Accounts Committee's 2023 report on the Command Agriculture programme documented US\$2.9 billion in unaccounted expenditure, with the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Fisheries and Rural Resettlement admitting it had “no idea” how the disbursed funds had been utilised. Former Auditor-General Mildred Chiri

remarked in a 2024 interview that “accountability will remain elusive until there is political will to act on findings.” When impunity persists at that scale, the message to citizens is unmistakable: rules apply selectively, and the powerful know it.

Equally pressing is the systematic marginalisation of youth and the diaspora from meaningful political participation. Over 60 per cent of Zimbabweans are under 35, according to the 2022 Census, yet political structures remain dominated by a narrow, ageing elite whose policy instincts were shaped by a very different Zimbabwe. Decision-making rarely reflects the realities confronting young people facing unemployment rates above 20 per cent, or the estimated 4.5 million Zimbabweans living abroad who collectively sustain the country through remittances. The World Bank estimates those remittances at over US\$1.5 billion annually — a figure that dwarfs many line items in the national budget — yet formal channels for diaspora political participation remain severely limited. “You cannot expect the diaspora to fund a country while being

excluded from shaping its direction,” said Sibongile Ncube, chair of the Zimbabwe Diaspora Forum UK, speaking at a 2025 policy dialogue in London. It is a point that carries both moral and practical weight: a country cannot indefinitely draw on the loyalty of people it refuses to include.

The politicisation of public institutions completes this troubling picture. When bodies such as the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, ZINARA and urban councils are widely perceived as extensions of ruling party machinery rather than independent servants of the public, compliance erodes and cynicism deepens in equal measure. The 2023 Harmonised Elections were marked by disputes over voter rolls and media access, with African Union and SADC observer missions noting the need for greater institutional independence. As constitutional lawyer Alex Magaisa wrote in his widely read Big Saturday Read column, “institutions cannot be both referees and players.” The observation is simple, but its implications are profound: without independent, professionalised institutions, elections, taxation and service provision all become suspect enterprises, and public trust — once lost — is extraordinarily difficult to rebuild.

Constitutional amendments may reshape the architecture of power, but they cannot substitute for the harder, slower work of competent governance. Zimbabwe requires a political settlement that genuinely prioritises economic stability, consistent service delivery, institutional integrity and inclusive participation across generations and borders. For the diaspora, the stake in that settlement is both deeply personal and unmistakably national. Zimbabweans abroad sustain families, fund community projects and invest in a country's future they still believe in, even from a distance. What is owed in return is a politics that matches that enduring commitment with responsibility, transparency and results.

If Zimbabwe is to move forward, the national conversation must shift decisively from procedural battles over constitutional amendments to the substantive work of governance reform. Without that shift, even the most carefully and conscientiously drafted constitution will remain precisely what too many Zimbabwean documents have become before it — a statement of admirable intentions that the state lacks either the capacity or the will to honour.

Norman Mwale is a southern Africa political correspondent reporting for The Mt Kenya Times.

ICC Omari had argued that Justice Ndung'u's ICC nomination could face challenges even before voting begins due to alleged procedural gaps

Beyond the ICC nomination debate: There is an urgent need for proper public participation policy bill



BY Paul Kinyanjui
@themkenyaintimes



The entrance to ICC

Concurring with concerns raised by lawyer Danstan Omari regarding the nomination of Njoki Ndung'u to the International Criminal Court (ICC), there is a growing feeling that Kenya urgently needs a comprehensive Public Participation Policy Framework Bill to strengthen transparency, accountability, and public trust in governance and public appointments.

Omari had argued that Justice Ndung'u's ICC nomination could face challenges even before voting begins due to alleged procedural gaps, including inadequate public participation, lack of transparency, and insufficient civic awareness surrounding the nomination process. While the debate has largely centered on one nomination, it has also sparked wider constitutional and governance concerns touching on legitimacy, accountability, and citizens' confidence in public institutions.

The issue highlights what many now view as a critical missing link in Kenya's governance architecture: the absence of a comprehensive and enforceable framework governing public participation. According to the argument, one of the clearest ways to distinguish fair and credible nominations or appointments from questionable ones is by assessing whether there was proper prior public awareness, openness, civic education, meaningful citizen engagement, and transparent consultation throughout the process.

The call for a Public Participation Policy Framework Bill stems from the belief that Kenya's current approach to public participation remains inconsistent, fragmented, and at times symbolic rather than substantive. Although the Constitution of Kenya 2010 firmly entrenches public participation as a national value and governance principle, implementation across institutions varies significantly.

In some government processes, public participation is well-organized, inclusive, and consultative. In others, forums are rushed, poorly publicized, inaccessible, or conducted in a manner that creates the perception that decisions had already been made before public input was sought. Critics argue that such inconsistency risks reducing public participation into a procedural formality instead of a genuine democratic safeguard.

The proposed Public Participation Policy Framework Bill would seek to standardize how participation is conducted across national and county governments and state institutions. It would establish clear minimum standards on who should be consulted, how consultations should be carried out, timelines to be followed, and how public feedback should be documented and incorporated into final decisions.

Advocates of the proposal

argue that such a framework would institutionalize transparency, meritocracy, inclusivity, and accountability in appointments to both local and international positions. They maintain that only through a transparent and credible participation process can appointments genuinely be viewed as merit-based rather than influenced by favoritism, elite networks, or political convenience.

The debate also reflects a broader "merit versus favour" dilemma increasingly emerging in public discourse. Citizens continue to question whether their views genuinely shape outcomes or whether participation merely serves to legitimize decisions already made behind closed doors.

Supporters of the framework argue that in a strong and credible public participation system, decisions would be shaped by structured and transparent consultations where public feedback is visibly considered in final outcomes. In contrast, weak systems encourage selective engagement, symbolic consultations, and perceptions of predetermined outcomes, ultimately eroding trust in public institutions.

The proposed framework would also emphasize civic education as a central pillar of effective participation. Meaningful engagement, proponents argue, depends on

citizens being adequately informed about governance processes and their constitutional rights. Without sustained civic awareness, participation risks being dominated by a small number of vocal groups while excluding ordinary citizens, especially those in marginalized or rural areas.

The proposal draws constitutional backing from several provisions of the Constitution of Kenya, including Articles 1, 10, 35, 73, 118, 174, 196, 201, and 232, which collectively emphasize public participation, transparency, accountability, access to information, good governance, and integrity in public service.

At the same time, the debate acknowledges Kenya's growing role in international legal and judicial affairs. Appre-

ciation has been extended to Justice Njoki Ndung'u for her nomination to the ICC, which is viewed as recognition of her professional standing and Kenya's contribution to international jurisprudence and rule-of-law institutions.

However, the argument remains that even commendable nominations should undergo transparent and credible public processes in order to strengthen legitimacy and public confidence.

Proponents of the Public Participation Policy Framework Bill believe the legislation would not replace constitutional provisions but rather operationalize and strengthen them. The framework would also help protect public participation from tokenism by establishing enforceable

standards and accountability mechanisms.

There are growing concerns that when citizens lose trust in governance systems and public institutions, including the Executive, Legislature, and Judiciary, democratic legitimacy itself becomes vulnerable. Kenya's democratic maturity, it is argued, depends not merely on holding elections, but on ensuring citizens are consistently involved in governance through predictable, trusted, and meaningful participation systems.

Ultimately, the debate raises a fundamental question about the kind of democracy Kenya seeks to build: one where public participation is treated as a mere procedural requirement, or one where it serves as a genuine foundation of governance and public accountability.

Paul Kinyanjui is Freelance Researcher, Analyst, Critic, Writer on Emerging Issues and Trends to Create Awareness, Educate, Enlighten, Empower, and Inspire. E-Mail: KinyanjuiPaul2030@gmail.com

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DR Congo A total of 336 cases, including both suspected and confirmed infections, and 87 deaths have been reported in the latest outbreak in Ituri Province in eastern DRC

DR Congo Ebola death toll hits 87 as outbreak strain lacks vaccine, poses high risk



An Ebola patient being taken to hospital.

BY Xinhua News Agency
@themkenyatimes

The death toll from the latest Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has risen to 87, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said Saturday, warning that the outbreak is driven by the Bundibugyo strain, for which no strain-specific vaccine is currently available, and that it carries a high risk of regional spread.

A strain that has no vaccine

A total of 336 cases, including both suspected and confirmed infections, and 87 deaths have been reported in the latest outbreak in Ituri Province in eastern DRC -- the country's 17th Ebola outbreak since 1976, said Jean Kaseya, director general of Africa CDC, during an online press briefing. "During the Ebola outbreak,

we cannot confirm all cases," Kaseya said, noting that the outbreak is caused by the Bundibugyo strain, only the third time it has been identified in history. The strain was first detected in western Uganda in 2007 and "has no confirmed strain-specific vaccine."

DRC Health Minister Roger Kamba earlier told a press briefing in Kinshasa that the strain has "a very high lethality rate which can reach 50 percent." Ngashi Ngongo, principal advisor for program management at Africa CDC, said the Bundibugyo strain was not new, noting that previous outbreaks were recorded in Uganda in 2007 and in the DRC in 2012. However, he said the long absence of Bundibugyo outbreaks had left research less advanced than for the Zaire strain, which has caused many more outbreaks and the development of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics. He described the re-emergence of Bundibugyo as "a wake-up call," adding that research



A total of 336 cases, including both suspected and confirmed infections, and 87 deaths have been reported in the latest outbreak in Ituri Province in eastern DRC -- the country's 17th Ebola outbreak since 1976, said Jean Kaseya, director general of Africa CDC, during an online press briefing. "During the Ebola outbreak, we cannot confirm all cases," Kaseya said, noting that the outbreak is caused by the Bundibugyo strain, only the third time it has been identified in history. The strain was first detected in western Uganda in 2007 and "has no confirmed strain-specific vaccine."

teams had already begun planning studies to support the response. Shanelle Hall, principal advisor to the Africa CDC director general for management and operations, said some vaccine candidates were being considered for study, with protocols still being developed, but cautioned that the process was "early stage right now." Kamba said the Bundibugyo strain differs from the Zaire strain in some symptoms. It often begins with fever, while hemorrhagic signs appear later. Health authorities have urged residents to promptly report any suspected case involving symptoms such as fever, vomiting, fatigue, or bleeding. According to authorities in Kinshasa, the presumed index case, a nurse in the Rwampara health zone, died after developing symptoms. However, Kaseya said the true index case has not yet been identified. "This outbreak started in April. So far, we don't know the index case. It means we don't know how far the magnitude of this out-

break is, said Kaseya.

High regional risk

The outbreak has raised regional alarm after Uganda reported an imported Bundibugyo case from the DRC, while Africa CDC warned that cross-border movement, mining-related mobility, and weak surveillance could hamper containment. Uganda confirmed an imported case involving a 59-year-old Congolese man who died in Kampala on Thursday and tested positive for the Bundibugyo strain. "This is an imported case from the DRC. The country is yet to confirm a local case," said Diana Atwine, permanent secretary at Uganda's health ministry. Africa CDC rated the latest Ebola outbreak at Grade 3, with the risk assessed as very high in the DRC, high for eastern Africa, and moderate for the continent. It cited a four-week detection delay, active community transmission in a peri-urban mining hub, weak contact tracing, infection-control gaps, and multiple health-care worker deaths.

Kamba said health teams had been deployed to trace contacts of confirmed cases and contain the disease in Ituri, neighboring provinces, and border areas. "This is a disease transmitted from human to human. The affected health zone of Mongwalu is a commercial area marked by intense mobility, exposing North Kivu, Tshopo, Uganda, and South Sudan," he said. Ngongo said it was too early to determine how fast the outbreak was spreading or multiplying, citing weak surveillance and contact tracing. "Once we get good surveillance data," he said, health authorities would be able to calculate the rate at which cases were increasing and the outbreak's doubling time. "For now, we are not recommending countries to have tougher measures in place," Kaseya said, adding that Africa CDC was instead urging countries to strengthen public health measures such as surveillance, contact tracing, infection prevention and control, risk communication, and cross-border coordination. The Ebola virus is highly contagious and can cause symptoms including fever, vomiting, diarrhea, generalized pain or malaise, and, in severe cases, internal and external bleeding. According to the World Health Organization, Ebola fatality rates vary, depending on the viral subtype.



BOOKS & LITERATURE

with **Shagufta Mansha**

M .phill scholar at The University of Chenab, HOD of language and literature department in Elite college of Management sciences

Book Review:

Book Review:

Author: Mohsin Hamid

Book: The Last White Man

Reviewer: Shagufta Mansha

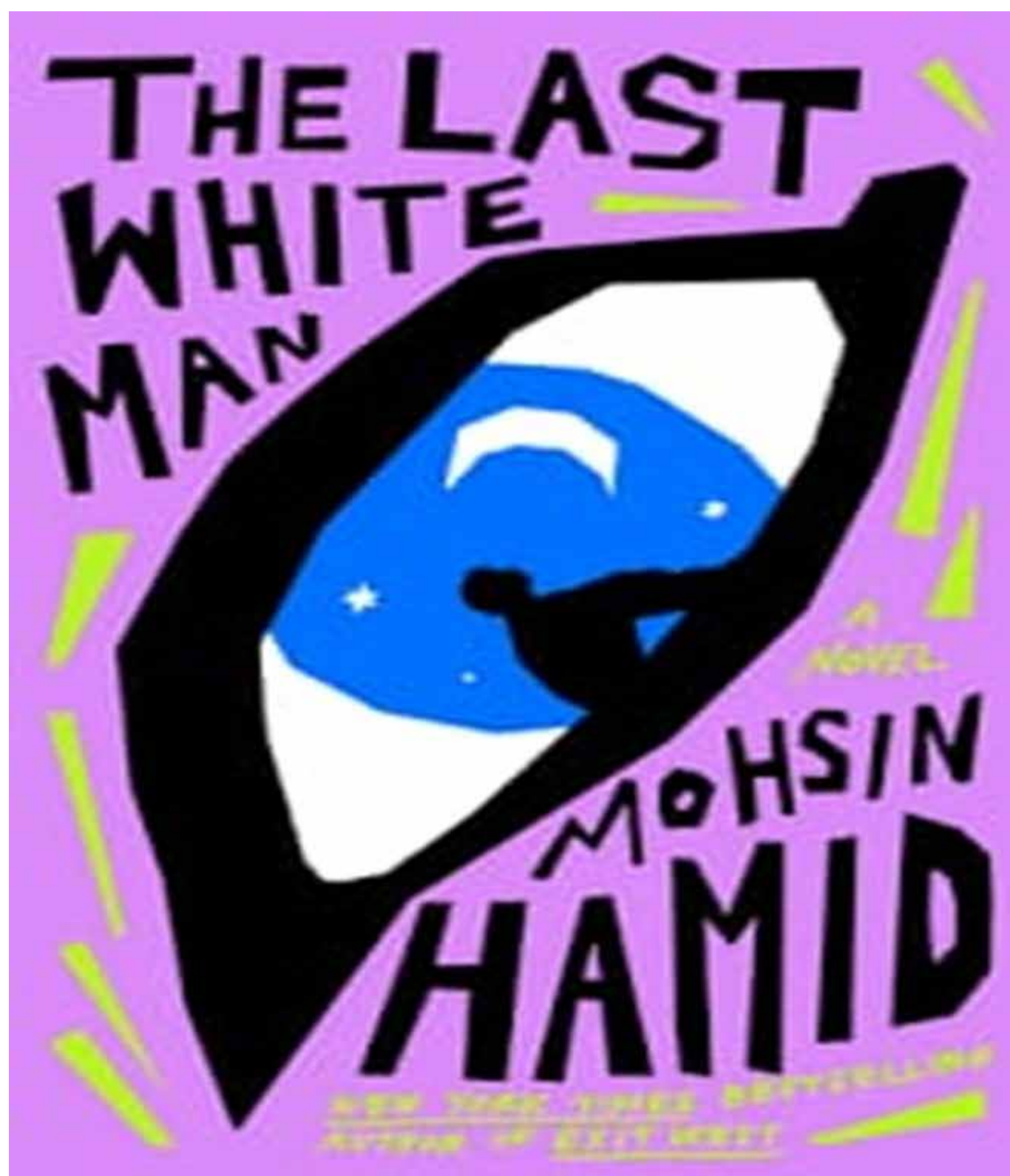
“Her complexion is black. I want someone who looks as bright as the moon of the 14th night. A wish by all of us irrespective of gender but comes true for a few. A colored person has no right to happiness, enjoyment, liberty, or peace in the world. Are they half human beings? Why are we irritated by them? What happens if we transform to dark complexions? Complexion has become the complex of the modern age. The beauty industry, with all its innovative procedures and medications for fairness, has failed to transform black into white, except for a few. This very complex has deprived unnumbered girls in the world from the bliss of wedlock. This is a pity! Pity for all those who seek beauty in a white complexion and ruin the peace of their lives.

Andres and Oona are the happiest couple in the city after the transformation of their complexion from white to black. They have a daughter who never wants to know about the past of her parents when they were white. She is happy with what she is! The Last White Man is the story of Andres, who gets transformed into a Black one morning. It was a deadly shock to him, as he for a long time did not accept his change in color. The patience of Job encourages him to go out and take part in life. To his surprise, his father took long to recognize and accept him. He feels as if his wife had died now, as Andres resembles his mother, who died long ago. His business place, his gym,

his beloved Oona, the marketplace, the road movement, and the grocery shop all took him as a stranger and abhorred him being black. Life became a drudgery and bane for him, which was a luxury and boon for him. It was only because of a change in complexion, complexion, and complexion only! It is true! A fact of life that can't be denied: if he is forced to live a life of misery, racism, inferiority, savagery, and alienation in his own land, with his own family, with his own natives, not to speak of the hatred, abhorrence, alienation, and otherness of the colored Black race, which is victimized by the white in their own land.

Oona and Andres are representative of all those who give importance to white complexion and also later on show acceptance of Black. Mohsin Hamid, a modern Pakistani novelist, who pens down the alternate reality for the white western world. It is a moment to focus, to penetrate, and to know complexion can never be above humanity, kindness, and empathy. Racism should be discouraged; globalization should be encouraged. The greatest religion, language, and race is love and only love for humanity, a feeling of sameness, a feeling of oneness, a feeling of unity. Love, tolerance, caring, and sharing should be the yardstick of all communication in any field of life.

Think of all those Pakistanis, Malaysians, Africans, or any colored people from any part of the world who have to go



to the West for work, for business, and for education; how difficult would life be for them! How would they be bearing the challenges of their daily drudgery beside the inhumane and degraded treatment that they receive from the white? It is the message for them never to test the dignity of human beings on

color complexion; rather, the merit lies in the piety and piousness of their hearts. Dark complexion should not be considered a taboo, an abuse, or a stigma. They should be accepted, accepted wholeheartedly, as the “crown of creation.” They should be given equal rights, freedom to live, freedom to move, and

above all freedom to speak.

“What’s in a name?”

That which we call a rose By any other word would smell as sweet.”

Romeo and Juliet (Act 2, scene 2).

The message of humanity, which can never fade away!

Reviewer

Shagufta Mansha

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HOD of language and literature department
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SPORTS
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Sports >> * Brentford and Crystal Palace played out a dramatic 2-2 draw at the Gtech Community Stadium on yesterday evening, with Dango Ouattara's brace for the Bees cancelling out goals from Ismaila Sarr and Adam Wharton

Brentford Twice Come from Behind to Draw 2-2 with Crystal Palace in Added Time Thriller



Sports Reporter: Norman Mwale

Goal Timeline

6' Ismaila Sarr (Crystal Palace, pen)

40' Dango Ouattara (Brentford)

40' Own Goal – Dango Ouattara (Brentford OG)

52' Adam Wharton (Crystal Palace)

88' Dango Ouattara (Brentford)

Brentford and Crystal Palace played out a dramatic 2-2 draw at the Gtech Community Stadium on yesterday evening, with Dango Ouattara's brace for the Bees cancelling out goals from Ismaila Sarr and Adam Wharton in a contest that stretched beyond the 90 minutes thanks to 10 minutes of added time.

The match began with Palace

taking an early grip. Ismaila Sarr opened the scoring from the penalty spot in the 6th minute, giving the visitors a foothold and forcing Brentford to chase the game from the outset. The home side responded with intent, and their pressure told just before the interval when Dango Ouattara found the net in the 40th minute to level matters. However, the forward's night took a bizarre turn moments later as a Palace cross deflected off him and into his own goal, handing the visitors a 2-1 lead at the break.

Crystal Palace extended their advantage early in the second half through Adam Wharton, who struck in the 52nd minute to make it 3-1 on the night and put Oliver Glasner's side in command. Yet Brentford refused to fold. With European qualification still a motivation, the Bees pressed forward and

were rewarded in the 88th minute when Ouattara rose again to head home, completing his double and rescuing a point for the hosts.

The fourth official had signalled 10 minutes of added time, and the extended period brought further tension as both sides pushed for a winner. Palace looked to close out the contest with their Conference League final preparations in mind, while Brentford, still harbouring European hopes of their own, searched for a dramatic late winner. Neither could find it, and the final whistle confirmed a share of the points in a match full of twists.

For Brentford, Ouattara's performance will dominate the headlines — a rare feat of scoring at both ends in the same fixture. Keith Andrews' side will be frustrated to have twice led and twice been pegged back, but the

resilience shown to fight back twice against a Palace side heading for European competition will provide encouragement. For Crystal Palace, Sarr and Wharton's goals underlined their attacking threat, though conceding late will feel like a missed opportunity to build momentum ahead of their upcoming final.

The draw leaves both clubs locked in mid-table with little separating them in the London derby standings. On this evidence, neither side lacked attacking quality, and supporters will hope for similar drama as the 2025/26 Premier League season draws to a close.

Match details: Brentford 2-2 Crystal Palace, Premier League, Gtech Community Stadium, 17 May 2026. Attendance: 17,250.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Defending champions Kenya Police traded punches with bitter rivals Kenya Defence Forces as the opening leg of the Kenya National Boxing League before packed Nakuru crowds.

Police, KDF go punch for punch in Nakuru boxing showdown

By Suleiman Mbatiah

Defending champions Kenya Police traded punches with bitter rivals Kenya Defence Forces as the opening leg of the Kenya National Boxing League before packed Nakuru crowds.

The two heavyweight institutions finished locked on 22 points after three bruising days at the Old Town Hall, setting up a high-stakes rematch in Mombasa from July 9-11.

Sombea Boxing Club punched above its weight to clinch third place with 10 points, edging Nairobi County on nine in a fiercely contested battle for supremacy.

Prisons and Nakuru ABC both finished with seven points while Kasarani Youth collected six, underlining the growing depth and rising competitiveness within Kenya's domestic boxing ranks.

Beyond the standings, the Nakuru tournament delivered massive shocks as seasoned medalists were rocked by fearless young fighters eager to force their way into national team conversations.

KDF boxer Samuel Njau endured a punishing comeback after nearly two years away from local competition, suffering a brutal stoppage defeat against Kasarani Youth lightweight Ben Juma.

Juma dominated the exchanges from the opening bell before the referee waved off the contest in round three after Njau sustained a nasty cut above his right eye.

Police minimumweight Silas Onyango, the reigning IBA Africa Zone Three champion, also hit the canvas emotionally after dropping a narrow 4-3 points decision against Nakuru southpaw Joseph Moses.

Nakuru ABC flyweight James Tachia emerged among the tournament's sharpest punchers, dazzling supporters with slick movement, lightning combinations and ring intelligence throughout the explosive three-day championship.



Kenya Defence Forces puncher Chris Ochanda (right) keeps a tight high guard as he trades heavy blows with National Police Service boxer Humphrey Ochieng during their explosive Cruiserweight - 86kg category showdown at the Old Town Hall in Nakuru. Photo/Suleiman Mbatiah

Tachia first outboxed KDF's Emmanuel Chondo in the semi-finals before producing another polished performance to defeat Police boxer Abdullah Juma and capture the flyweight spotlight.

His dazzling performances further intensified the battle for dominance in the stacked flyweight division as Africa Military Games champion Kelvin "Young" Maina watched ring-side proceedings carefully.

Another notable flyweight contender, Diouf "Bashday" Muimi, missed the Nakuru fireworks altogether as the talented boxer continues military training duties away from the domestic boxing spotlight in Eldoret.

Backed by a roaring home crowd, Sombea Boxing Club continued throwing powerful statements across the local scene while cementing its reputation as Nakuru's rapidly rising boxing powerhouse.

Boxing Federation of Kenya president Anthony "Jamal" Otieno attended the semi-finals before later posing for photographs alongside Sombea founder Martin Luther and boxing figure Ayub Waweru.

Attention now shifts to Mombasa where another bruising chapter awaits as fighters return to the gym sharpening combinations, tightening defence and preparing for another fierce showdown.

Njau is expected to come back

hungrier after his painful defeat while Kenya Open champion Emmanuel Omollo could dramatically reshape the lightweight division after missing the Nakuru action.

The brewing rivalry involving Njau, Ben Juma and Omollo is already shaping into one of Kenyan boxing's most anticipated battles heading into the explosive coastal showdown in July.

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Ramaphosa holds firm as impeachment call tests South Africa's GNU

By: Norman Mwale
@themtkenyatimes

President Cyril Ramaphosa has ruled out resignation after the Constitutional Court revived parliamentary impeachment proceedings against him over the Phala Phala farm scandal, declaring in a nationally televised address that stepping down would betray both his office and the constitution.

Speaking on 11 May 2026, Ramaphosa was unequivocal. "I therefore respectfully want to make it clear that I will not resign," he told the nation, arguing that the court's ruling addressed parliamentary procedure rather than personal guilt, and that a voluntary departure would "give credence to a flawed report" while abandoning his constitutional mandate.

The case stems from the 2020 theft of US\$580,000 in cash concealed inside furniture at Ramaphosa's Phala Phala game farm in Limpopo — a disclosure that has trailed his presidency ever since. A Section 89 independent panel found prima facie evidence of possible misconduct, though Ramaphosa maintains the funds derived from a lawful buffalo sale. The Constitutional Court ruled on 8 May that Parliament had acted unconstitutionally in 2022 when it moved to block a formal inquiry, clearing the path for a new and potentially more consequential process.

The African National Congress has responded by closing ranks around its leader. Secretary-General Fikile Mbalula, speaking to journalists in Johannesburg, confirmed that the party's National Executive Committee had unanimously resolved that Ramaphosa should serve out his full term — both as ANC president and as head of the Government of National Unity. "The exercise of constitutional rights by a citizen of the Republic, including a citizen who holds the Office of President, is not an evasion of accountability," Mbalula said, pushing back against critics who have framed Ramapho-



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa

sa's legal strategy as an attempt to run down the clock. ANC chairperson Gwede Mantashe went further, telling Newzroom Afrika that resignation would be "devastating" for the party at this juncture.

The opposition is less patient. The Economic Freedom Fighters and the Inkatha Freedom Party have called on Parliament to move swiftly, while the South African Communist Party — a long-standing ANC alliance partner — welcomed the judgment but struck a note of urgency. SACP general secretary Solly Mapaila warned that prolonged delay risked further asset disposal and what he characterised as a new iteration of state capture, a phrase that still carries enormous political charge in post-Zuma South Africa.

Public sentiment reflects the wider political fracture. Many South Africans view the reopened inquiry as a meaningful stress test for accountability within the GNU, a coalition already navigating significant policy tensions among its constituent parties. Others fear the process will consume political bandwidth that the country can ill afford. Analysts observe that while Ramaphosa retains solid majority backing inside the ANC, a bruising and public parliamentary hearing could erode his standing ahead of the November 2026 local government elections — a contest the party cannot approach

from a position of weakness.

The economic dimension is impossible to ignore. Mbalula has cautioned that removing Ramaphosa would unsettle financial markets and damage investor confidence at a moment when South Africa can least absorb the shock. Critics counter that it is the underlying scandal, not the constitutional response to it, that corrodes credibility. With unemployment stubbornly above 32 per cent and growth anaemic, institutional investors and ratings agencies are monitoring whether the GNU can sustain stability while the process plays out. Ramaphosa's legal team is reported to be preparing an interdict to pause proceedings pending a formal review of the panel's report — a manoeuvre that, if granted, could push the matter well past year's end.

For now, South Africa's president is staking his political survival on due process and party solidarity. Whether that calculation holds will be decided in Parliament's programme committee when it reconvenes later this month — and ultimately, in the court of public opinion long before any formal verdict is reached.

Chasing the shine while the future burns



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
mukphix@gmail.com

Young people today are not lazy. They wake up early, scroll late, and carry the weight of a world that told them they could be anything if they worked hard enough. But somewhere between the promise and the paycheck, something broke. The dream shifted — from owning a home, building a business and securing a future, to simply looking like you already have all three. We are watching a generation trade compound interest for compound likes, and call it progress.

The truth stares back every time we open Instagram or TikTok. A 23-year-old will spend 400,000 shillings on a designer bag, a haircut and a club table, and call it self-care. Ask them about a retirement plan, an SACCO or a piece of land, and the answer is silence — or worse, a laugh. Luxury has become a language, and not speaking it feels like failure.

This is not simply about bad choices. It is about a culture that sells visibility as value. Social media rewards the appearance of success far more reliably than its substance. A photo in a rented Range Rover draws more admiration than the plot you just cleared. Your peers will not applaud the money you saved quietly over six months, but they will erupt

for the bottle you pop in one night. The brain learns quickly: visibility pays faster than patience.

There is also the trauma of waiting. Many young people watched their parents sacrifice for decades, only to retire into poverty and hospital bills that erased everything. The lesson they absorbed was not "invest more" — it was "what if I wait and never get to enjoy it?" When you grow up where jobs are scarce and money loses value overnight, delayed gratification stops feeling virtuous and starts feeling foolish.

But here is the cost nobody posts about. That two million spent on a weekend does not come back. That loan taken to rent a dress builds no equity. The lifestyle funded on credit becomes a cage, tightening every month when the bills arrive. Meanwhile, the friend who quietly bought a plot, started a small business and saved consistently is not posting. They are building. In five years, the gap between those two lives becomes impossible to ignore.

Real luxury is profoundly boring. It is a paid-up plot, a business that runs without you, and sleeping soundly knowing your rent is covered for six months. It does not photograph well, so it gets ignored — until crisis arrives.

Do you want to look rich, or do you want to be free? The answer determines whether you are building a life or decorating a cage.

Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza is a commentator on youth culture and personal finance. He can be reached at mukphix@gmail.com