



**Jubilee faults government over fuel crisis**  
 The Jubilee Party has sharply criticised the government over the rising cost of living, escalating fuel prices, and what it termed as growing governance failures, warning that the country is facing a deepening economic and political crisis. **Page 8**



**Nyoro: Parliament begins fuel price review**  
 Parliament has formally begun processing proposals by Kiharu Member of Parliament Ndindi Nyoro seeking to lower fuel prices through tax and levy reductions, in a move that contributed to the suspension of nationwide protests. **Page 12**

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 Daily ePAPER

**Ethnic profiling** Malala claimed that the Kenya Kwanza administration was orchestrating a narrative targeting members of the Kikuyu community

# Malala accuses UDA of ethnic profiling



Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) Deputy Party leader Cleophas Malala yesterday accused the government of promoting ethnic profiling and divisive politics amid growing public anger over the high cost of living and rising fuel prices. In a statement, Malala claimed that the Kenya Kwanza administration was orchestrating a narrative targeting members of the Kikuyu community ahead of the 2027 General Election. He alleged that senior government officials, including Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen and UDA Secretary General Hassan Omar, were fueling ethnic rhetoric instead of addressing the country's economic and security challenges. **Page 6**



Cleophas Malala

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# Kindiki attends Kiraitu daughter's requiem, calls for peace

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

*Some of the moments as captured in pictures*

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has appealed for peace, unity and stability in the country amid rising tensions linked to recent protests over the high cost of living and fuel prices. Speaking yesterday during a requiem mass for Anita Kendi, daughter of former Meru Governor Kiraitu Murungi, in Karen, Nairobi, Kindiki urged Kenyans to work together regardless of political differences to safeguard the country's peace and security.

The Deputy President described the loss of a child as the most painful experience for any parent and conveyed his condolences to Murungi and his family, saying no amount of consolation could ease such grief.

Kindiki, however, used the occasion to condemn incidents of violence, arson, robberies and deaths reported during recent demonstrations, saying criminal elements had taken advantage of otherwise legitimate expressions of grievances to cause destruction.

"The despicable acts of arson, robberies, and even deaths occasioned by opportunistic criminals taking advantage of otherwise legitimate expression of grievances should jolt us to condemn all those who threaten our country's future," he said.

His remarks come amid growing national debate over the rising cost of fuel and living expenses, which have triggered protests and disruptions in parts of the country. Leaders across the political divide have continued to call for calm while urging the government to address the economic challenges facing Kenyans. Scores of leaders from all political divide, heads of corporate world, business community and farmers attended the ceremony.



**Editor's Desk**

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



The Tea Board of Kenya, led by CEO Willy Mutai, hosted a technical training session on orthodox tea processing in partnership with GEM Machinery as part of International Tea Day activities. The session brought together tea producers and factory managers to enhance skills in modern orthodox tea processing technologies. Participants received practical training on value addition, factory automation, and continuous withering systems aimed at improving efficiency, tea quality, and Kenya's competitiveness in the global tea market. The collaboration sought to equip stakeholders with advanced innovations to strengthen and modernize Kenya's orthodox tea sector for future growth.



The government has expressed concern over the rising cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), femicide and child abuse in the country, warning that the trend has become a national crisis requiring urgent and coordinated intervention. Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children's Services Cabinet Secretary Hannah Cheptumo said recent incidents of violence against women and children underscore the urgent need for stronger protection systems and collective action from all sectors of society. Cheptumo, accompanied by the Culture and Heritage PS, Ummi Bashir and her Children Welfare Services counterpart, Carren Achieng Ageng'o, reaffirmed the government's commitment to safeguarding vulnerable persons and strengthening child protection mechanisms across the country.



Fishing communities along the shores of Lake Victoria are facing frequent conflicts linked to declining fish catches, threatening livelihoods and the sustainability of the sector. Suba South Beach Management Unit Chairperson William Onditi said fights among fishermen have disrupted operations and weakened cooperation within the community. He attributed the crisis to illegal fishing practices and environmental degradation that have destroyed fishing grounds. Homa Bay County Beach Management Unit Chairperson Edward Oremo warned that overreliance on fishing for food and income has increased pressure on lake resources. He also cited unemployment and cross-border disputes with fishermen from neighbouring countries as key challenges fueling insecurity and overfishing.

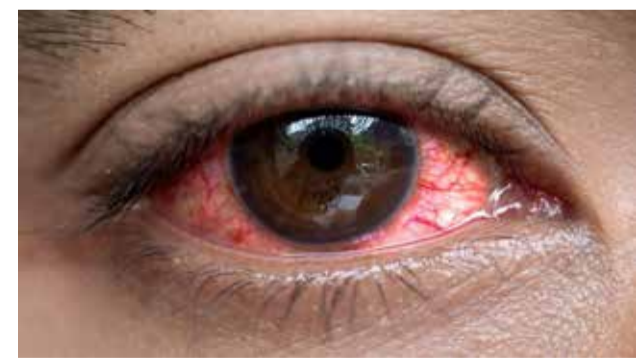


At least 1,000 households displaced by recent floods in Garissa have received assorted non-food items from the Kenya Red Cross Society to support families living in internally displaced persons camps. The beneficiaries are drawn from Bulla Punda, Bulla Kamor, Bulla Sheikh, Bakuyu and Ziواني villages and are sheltering at FTC, Hyuga and Police Training Centre camps. Garissa Red Cross coordinator Ahmed Daud said the donations include blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, water purifiers, soaps and jerricans. He urged residents to maintain hygiene and use treated mosquito nets amid a dengue fever outbreak and fears of waterborne diseases such as cholera. Beneficiaries welcomed the support and appealed for more assistance.



Many adolescent mothers in Baringo County are unable to access critical Social Health Authority services due to lack of identification documents required for registration. County SHA official Robert Malel said the authority has introduced temporary IDs issued at health facilities to help affected teenagers access healthcare services. The temporary documents will be valid for one year, during which beneficiaries are expected to acquire national identity cards. Malel noted that the young mothers must also be removed from their parents' medical covers where they are listed as dependents. He added that SHA registration in Baringo currently stands at 53.1 percent, below neighbouring Elgeyo Marakwet's 71.7 percent.

The County Government of Nakuru is prioritizing eye care within its health care system in a move aimed at ensuring that access to clear vision becomes a basic service rather than a privilege. Director for Medical Services Dr Daniel Wainaina said that eye health was not just a medical issue but central to education outcomes, work productivity, road safety, and the country's economic resilience and emphasized the importance of integrating eye health into the broader health system to achieve universal health coverage. To achieve universal health coverage, the Director explained that eye health should be fully integrated into the health system, ensuring equitable access for all, especially the most vulnerable populations. "Eye health plays a very critical role in Kenya's socioeconomic development," Dr Wainaina added. Speaking during deliberations with a delegation from the Eye & U Kenya team towards strengthening ophthalmic care services in the 11 Sub-Counties, the Director indicated that low access to eye care services reflected a major gap in Kenya's health system that required urgent and coordinated intervention.



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**Politics** Cleopas Malala yesterday accused the government of promoting ethnic profiling and divisive politics

# Cleopas Malala accuses UDA of ethnic profiling

BY WMW

@themtkenyatimes

Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) Deputy Party leader

Cleopas Malala yesterday accused the government of promoting ethnic profiling and divisive politics amid growing public anger over the high cost of living and rising fuel prices.

In a statement, Malala claimed that the Kenya Kwanza administration was orchestrating a narrative targeting members of the Kikuyu community ahead of the 2027 General Election.

He alleged that senior government officials, including Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen and UDA Secretary General Hassan Omar, were fueling ethnic rhetoric instead of addressing the country's economic and security challenges.

He warned against what he termed a return to the divisive "41 against 1" political narrative associated with the 2007 post-election violence that left more than 1,300 people dead and displaced thousands.

"The suffering Kenyans are going through is not about ethnicity. It is about the high cost of living, excessive taxation, poor governance, bad roads and failed policies," Malala said.

The former Kakamega senator criticised the government over rising fuel prices, arguing that the crisis affects all Kenyans including farmers, traders, manufacturers, civil servants, and transport oper-



Cleopas Malala

ators.

He dismissed claims that opposition to the government was being driven by ethnic considerations, saying wanaichi were simply reacting to economic hardships, including high fuel costs, heavy taxation, challenges in the education sector, and concerns surrounding the Social Health Authority (SHA).

Malala also faulted the Interior Ministry over insecurity in parts of the country, citing cattle rustling in Meru and insecurity along the Kenya-Somalia border involving Jubaland forces.

He urged Murkomen to focus on national security

rather than political debates surrounding fuel prices and ethnic politics.

At the same time, Malala criticised the government's handling of the ongoing fuel crisis, accusing it of failing to provide comprehensive solutions despite widespread public concern.

He argued that the impact of soaring fuel prices extends beyond the transport sector and warned against attempts to limit discussions to matatu operators alone.

The DCP deputy leader further claimed that ongoing political debates and ethnic narratives were intended to divert public attention from

the anticipated Finance Bill 2026/2027, which he suggested could introduce additional punitive taxes.

Malala also cautioned matatu operators against increasing fares following recent negotiations with the government over fuel prices, saying ordinary Kenyans should not bear additional economic burdens.

The statement comes amid heightened political tension and nationwide debate over fuel prices, taxation, and the rising cost of living, which recently triggered protests and transport disruptions in several parts of the country.

# DP Kindiki calls for peace and stability in the country



DP Kithure Kindiki condoling the parents of the late Anita Kendi Murungi yesterday.

BY DPCS

@themtkenyatimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki yesterday called on Kenyans of all walks of life to embrace peace and strive towards the stability of the country as well as guard the two jealously.

Speaking following the transport sector strike where death, destruction and violence was witnessed in some parts of the country, Kindiki said without peace and stability the nation cannot make any progress on all the fronts of development.

The Deputy President also appealed to Kenyans to use

peaceful means in handling the challenges that the nation encounter and love Kenya even when our beliefs and persuasions diverge.

DP Kindiki was speaking when he addressed mourners during the requiem mass of Anita Kendi Murungi, the daughter of former Meru Governor Kiraitu Murungi that was held at St. John The Evangelist Catholic Church, Karen, Nairobi where he also delivered the condolences of President William Ruto.

Scores of former, current and aspiring political and corporate leaders attended the ceremony.

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## Orengo's Guard Gone



Siaya Governor James Orengo

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyaintimes

Siaya Governor James Orengo has fired off a strongly worded protest letter to Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja, demanding an urgent explanation for what he describes as the abrupt and unlawful withdrawal of his security detail and officers stationed at his Nairobi residence.

In the letter, dated 20 May 2026, Orengo pulled no punches, calling the move “abrupt and unprocedural.” Security personnel, he said, were withdrawn on Tuesday evening without prior notice, formal communication, or suitable replacements being put in place — leaving one of Kenya’s most senior elected officials effectively unprotected overnight.

The timing has raised eyebrows. Orengo, a seasoned lawyer and long-serving opposition figure, is no stranger to political pressure. His close association with Raila Odinga and his vocal criticism of the government have made him a prominent target of political friction over the years. Whether the security withdrawal is administrative or politically motivated remains publicly unanswered, but the manner in which it was carried out has done little to dispel suspicion.

“As a State Officer under the Constitution of Kenya, the provision of

security is not a privilege or a discretionary favour; it is a statutory entitlement designed to facilitate the execution of official mandates without fear of compromise or harm,” Orengo wrote, making clear he viewed the withdrawal not merely as an administrative lapse but as a potential constitutional breach.

The governor did not stop at protest. He demanded a formal explanation from the police service detailing the grounds on which the withdrawal was authorised, and called for the immediate reinstatement or replacement of his security detail at all designated stations, including his Nairobi home.

Legal observers note that the withdrawal of security from a sitting governor without due process could constitute a violation of constitutional protections afforded to state officers — a point Orengo himself was careful to underscore in his letter.

“I look forward to your prompt response and rectification of this situation,” the letter concludes — measured words from a man who, by all accounts, expects them to be taken seriously.

No response from the Inspector General’s office had been made public at the time of publication.



Jubilee party official during yesterday’s press briefing.

## Jubilee faults government over fuel crisis

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyaintimes

The Jubilee Party has sharply criticised the government over the rising cost of living, escalating fuel prices, and what it termed as growing governance failures, warning that the country is facing a deepening economic and political crisis.

In a statement issued yesterday after an executive meeting attended by senior party officials led by deputy party leader and presidential candidate Fred Matiang’i, the party accused President William Ruto’s administration of failing to address the economic hardships affecting millions of Kenyans.

The statement, signed by Secretary General Moitalel Ole Kenta, linked the ongoing nationwide transport disruptions and protests to the sharp increase in fuel prices, saying the situation reflected a government that had “lost its grip on economic management.”

Jubilee accused the current leadership of deflecting attention from economic challenges by allegedly launching attacks against former President Uhuru Kenyatta and his

family instead of focusing on governance.

“President Uhuru served his term, upheld the Constitution, and handed over power peacefully. The current leadership must now find a way to govern instead of hiding behind his name every time their failures are exposed,” the statement read.

The party also expressed concern over what it described as rising ethnic rhetoric from senior government officials and leaders within the ruling party, warning that attempts to politicise ethnicity could undermine national cohesion.

Jubilee further claimed that Kenyans across all communities were equally affected by the high cost of living and economic hardships, dismissing suggestions that criticism against the government was coming from one region or community. The party questioned the government’s handling of fuel pricing, alleging that the Road Maintenance Levy had been securitised to secure “opaque and unexplained loans.”

It demanded full disclosure on the fuel pricing formula, including all levies and how the funds are being

utilised.

Among its key demands, Jubilee called for the immediate recall of Parliament from recess to deliberate on the economic crisis and develop relief measures for Kenyans.

The party also sought a government statement on rising insecurity in several parts of the country, including reported killings during protests and insecurity in areas such as the Meru-Isiolo border and the Kitui-Garissa corridor.

“We urge this government to level with the people. If structural challenges exist, explain them truthfully. But do not insult the intelligence of Kenyans with excuses and distractions,” the statement added.

Jubilee further sent condolences to families of those killed during recent protests and sympathised with traders and business owners affected by violence and vandalism during demonstrations.

The party reaffirmed its commitment to accountability, national unity, and what it termed as people-centred leadership amid growing public frustration over the state of the economy.

**Milk** “Milk hawking must stop. It is dangerous, it is a health issue and it destroys the ability to create value-added dairy products,” Kagwe said.

# Government cracks down on milk hawking

BY WMW

@themkenyatimes

The government has intensified efforts to regulate Kenya's dairy sector, announcing a nationwide crackdown on milk hawking alongside sweeping reforms aimed at improving food safety, boosting farmer incomes, and transforming the country into a globally competitive dairy producer.

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe warned that the unregulated sale of raw milk poses serious public health risks and undermines the development of the formal dairy value chain.

Speaking yesterday during the flagging off of 25 bulk milk coolers at Uhuru Park in Nairobi, Kagwe said milk hawking must be phased out because it exposes consumers, especially children, to



CS Mutahi Kagwe and other officials at Uhuru Park, Nairobi yesterday.

unsafe and untraceable milk products.

“Milk hawking must stop. It is dangerous, it is a health issue and it destroys the ability to create value-added dairy products,” he said.

He added that millions of Kenyans consume milk that cannot be tested or traced, increasing risks of contamination and disease while also

denying farmers better earnings through structured processing systems such as yogurt, cheese, and milk powder production.

The CS accused informal milk brokers and hawkers of weakening cooperatives and processors by bypassing quality control systems and selling raw milk directly to consumers.

As part of the reforms, the ministry is rolling out 230 milk coolers countrywide under a Sh1.43 billion dairy support programme. The coolers are intended to reduce spoilage, stabilize prices, and encourage farmers to supply milk through organized collection centers rather than informal markets.

So far, 95 coolers have al-

ready been deployed, with the rest expected to be distributed to dairy cooperatives in phases across the country.

The government says the reforms will strengthen traceability systems, requiring processors and cooperatives to identify milk sources, farmers, and production volumes to enhance accountability and food safety.

County officials and dairy sector stakeholders have supported the reforms, noting that informal milk trade has weakened formal supply chains and made quality control difficult.

The reforms also form part of a broader strategy to modernize the dairy industry through improved genetics, feed production, and market stabilization measures. The government is rolling out subsidized sexed semen programmes aimed at increasing high-yield dairy cattle, with costs reduced significantly from Sh9,000 to Sh1,000.

At the same time, farmers are being encouraged to grow animal feed crops such as yellow maize and soya beans locally to reduce production costs and dependency on imports.

The ministry further criticized poor animal welfare practices in some farms, urging farmers to improve cow housing and care standards to enhance productivity.

Kagwe said the reforms are designed to stabilize milk prices throughout seasonal fluctuations, ensuring farmers are protected from market shocks during periods of high or low production.

He added that Kenya is targeting long-term transformation of the dairy sector into a major export industry while creating jobs across milk collection, transport, veterinary services, and processing value chains.

The government maintains that the crackdown on milk hawking is not merely punitive, but part of a wider restructuring of the dairy economy toward safety, efficiency, and increased farmer profitability.

**Children** “Payment will commence on Wednesday, 20th May 2026 through the contracted Payment Service Provider,” the statement said.

# Government releases KSh1.7 billion for vulnerable children

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

The government has disbursed KSh1.72 billion to more than 430,000 households under the Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CT-OVC) programme as part of the broader Inua Jamii social protection initiative.

In a statement, the State Department for Children Services under the Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services said the funds will benefit 430,998 households

caring for orphans and vulnerable children across the country.

Principal Secretary CPA Caren Ageng'o said the payment covers both April and May 2026, with each beneficiary household receiving Sh4,000 as a double payment.

“Payment will commence on Wednesday, 20th May 2026 through the contracted Payment Service Provider,” the statement said.

The CT-OVC programme seeks to support households caring for orphaned and vulnerable children by improving

access to education, healthcare, nutrition, food security, and child protection services.

According to the State Department for Children Services, the programme was launched in 2004 as a pilot project targeting only 500 households in Kwale, Garissa, and Nairobi following the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on families and children.

Over the years, the programme has expanded significantly and now supports more than 440,000 vulnerable households across all counties



PS Caren Ageng'o

and constituencies in Kenya. Government records indicate that billions of shillings have been disbursed through the programme since its inception, making it one of Kenya's largest and longest-running social safety net initiatives targeting children.

Officials say the programme has contributed to improved school enrolment, better nutrition outcomes, enhanced household stability, and reduced vulnerability among children living in poverty.

The latest disbursement comes amid continued government efforts to strengthen social protection systems through digitisation and data verification measures aimed at enhancing transparency and reducing fraud.

Authorities have in recent months intensified data cleanup exercises and beneficiary verification processes following concerns that some deceased beneficiaries were still listed in the payment system.

The government has increas-

ingly adopted digital payment systems linked to the eCitizen platform and mobile money services to improve accountability and ease of access for beneficiaries.

Officials say future reforms will include enhanced biometric validation, regular beneficiary audits, and closer integration of government databases to eliminate ghost beneficiaries and ensure funds reach deserving households.

The State Department for Children Services has also indicated plans to continue expanding and strengthening the programme in response to growing economic challenges affecting vulnerable families.

The government says the CT-OVC programme remains central to Kenya's social protection framework and broader efforts to safeguard the welfare and rights of children living in vulnerable conditions.

**Fuel** The lawmaker further called for additional fuel stabilization support amounting to KSh2.5 billion per month for the next 90 days

# Tetu MP writes to Parliament on fuel tax reduction proposal

Tetu Member of Parliament  
**BY WMW**  
 @themkenyatimes

Geoffrey Wandeto has proposed a series of emergency fiscal measures aimed at reducing fuel prices and cushioning Kenyans from the rising cost of living. In a memorandum submitted to National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula, Wandeto called for urgent interventions to stabilize fuel prices and protect the economy from growing inflationary pressure. The MP noted that diesel and petrol prices in Nairobi had

risen to about KSh242.92 and KSh214.25 per litre respectively, warning that the continued increase was driving up transport, food, manufacturing, and construction costs. Among the proposals, Wandeto wants the government to suspend the KSh4 Import Declaration Fee (IDF) on diesel cargo and zero-rate excise duty on diesel currently charged at KSh11.37 per litre. He also proposed removal of the current eight percent Value Added Tax (VAT) on diesel and petrol, arguing that the measure would lower diesel prices by about KSh17.99 and petrol by KSh15.60 per litre.

The lawmaker further called for additional fuel stabilization support amounting to KSh2.5 billion per month for the next 90 days to subsidize diesel consumption estimated at 200 million litres monthly. According to the memorandum dated May 18, the combined measures would reduce diesel prices by approximately KSh45.86 per litre, lowering the cost from KSh242.92 to about KSh197.06. Petrol prices would fall from KSh214.25 to approximately KSh198.65 per litre. Wandeto argued that diesel remains central to Kenya's economy as it powers trans-



MP Godfrey Wandeto

port, agriculture, manufacturing, and construction sectors. "Without urgent intervention, the country risks deeper inflationary pressure, slower

economic growth, reduced purchasing power and further strain on households and businesses," he stated. The MP also proposed tem-

porarily opening bulk fuel importation outside the Government-to-Government fuel importation framework to increase competition and potentially lower fuel costs. Additionally, he urged the National Treasury to prepare budgetary cost-cutting measures to offset reduced fuel tax revenues arising from the proposed interventions. Wandeto acknowledged that the measures could create short-term fiscal strain but maintained they were necessary to protect livelihoods, sustain businesses, and prevent further economic hardship. The proposals come amid growing pressure on Parliament and the government to review fuel taxes and levies following nationwide protests and public outrage over soaring fuel prices and the rising cost of living.

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**Politics** “The government cannot continue blaming foreign conflicts while ignoring its own fiscal excesses and policy failures,” Muturi said.

# Democratic Party of Kenya blames government for fuel crisis

BY WMW

@themkenyatimes

The Democratic Party of Kenya (DP) yesterday accused the government of misleading Kenyans by attributing rising fuel prices and the high cost of living solely to tensions in the Middle East and disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz.

In a statement, party leader Justin Muturi said the current economic hardships facing Kenyans are largely the result of poor fiscal management, excessive taxation, opaque borrowing, and the securitization of fuel levy revenues.

The party argued that while international oil market disruptions may have some impact on global fuel prices, the biggest burden on Kenyan consumers is “homegrown.”

“The government cannot continue blaming foreign conflicts while ignoring its own fiscal excesses and policy failures,” Muturi said.



Justin Muturi

The party raised concern over the Road Maintenance Levy Fund (RMLF), which currently stands at KSh25 per litre of fuel, alleging that KSh12 from the levy has already been committed to secure infrastructure bonds and financing arrangements through Special Purpose Ve-

hicles (SPVs).

According to the statement, the arrangements have enabled the government to raise nearly KSh300 billion upfront while effectively mortgaging future fuel levy collections.

The Democratic Party claimed the borrowing structure lacks adequate

transparency and public participation, warning that it conceals the country’s true debt exposure and undermines constitutional principles on prudent public finance management.

The party also criticised continued funding of road agencies such as the Kenya Rural Roads Authority and the Kenya Urban Roads Authority despite worsening economic conditions.

Muturi argued that road functions are largely devolved and that Members of Parliament already receive substantial allocations through the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) that can support local infrastructure projects.

“Instead of streamlining expenditure and cushioning struggling citizens, the government continues expanding bureaucratic road financing structures while millions of Kenyans cannot afford food, transport, or basic necessities,” the statement said.

The party compared the current economic situation to the COVID-19 pandemic period, saying the crisis requires urgent intervention and sacrifice from government.

Among the proposals put forward by the party are the immediate suspension and parliamentary review of all fuel levy securitization arrangements, full public disclosure of infrastructure bonds and SPV agreements tied to fuel levy collections, and a 50 percent reduction in the budgets of KeRRA and KURA until the economy stabilises.

The party also called for reprioritisation of public spending toward food security, healthcare, job creation, and direct household relief measures, alongside a comprehensive audit of pending road contracts and contractor payments under the two agencies.

“Kenyans are overtaxed, overburdened, and increasingly excluded from the economic priorities of their own government,” Muturi said.

The statement comes amid growing public anger over rising fuel prices that recently triggered nationwide protests, transport disruptions, and calls for Parliament to review taxes and levies imposed on petroleum products.

**Justice** Mwamuye specifically found that applying Sections 8, 9, 11, and 43 of the Sexual Offences Act to adolescents engaged in consensual peer relationships was unconstitutional

# Court ends blanket teenage defilement charges

The High Court has issued a landmark ruling declaring unconstitutional the blanket criminalisation of consensual sexual relationships between adolescents, in a decision expected to significantly reshape the enforcement of Kenya’s Sexual Offences Act.

BY MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

mark ruling declaring unconstitutional the blanket criminalisation of consensual sexual relationships between adolescents, in a decision expected to significantly reshape the enforcement of Kenya’s Sexual Offences Act.

In Constitutional Petition No. E490 of 2025, Justice Bahati Mwamuye ruled that the automatic application of defilement laws against teenagers involved in consensual, non-coercive relationships violates several constitutional rights.

The judge directed the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, led by Renson Ingonga, to immediately revise prosecutorial guidelines to prevent teenagers in close-age relationships from being indiscriminately charged with defilement.

Justice Mwamuye specifically found that applying Sections 8, 9, 11,

and 43 of the Sexual Offences Act to adolescents engaged in consensual peer relationships was unconstitutional where there was no coercion, exploitation, or abuse of authority.

The court held that law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and judicial officers must clearly distinguish between predatory sexual offences and consensual peer-to-peer adolescent conduct, commonly referred to internationally as “Romeo and Juliet” scenarios.

According to the judgment, the practice of blanket arrests and mandatory prosecution of teenagers in consensual relationships infringes on constitutional protections including equality, human dignity, privacy, healthcare rights, and the best interests of children as guaranteed under Articles 27, 28, 31, 43, and 53 of the Constitution.

The petition challenging the law had been supported by civil society organisations including Katiba Institute and focused on concerns over the historical enforcement of the

Sexual Offences Act against minors engaged in mutual adolescent relationships.

The petitioners argued that while children require protection from abuse and exploitation, consensual adolescent behaviour should not automatically attract harsh criminal sanctions that expose minors to detention, imprisonment, and lifelong criminal records.

The court agreed that adolescents involved in consensual exploration require guidance, protection, counselling, and access to reproductive health services rather than punitive treatment under strict liability criminal provisions.

Justice Mwamuye also noted that criminalising consensual teenage relationships had contributed to overcrowding in juvenile and adult correctional facilities and discouraged young people from seeking healthcare and child protection services for fear of prosecution.

The ruling now compels the ODPP to develop a new prosecutorial



Justice Bahati Mwamuye

framework that considers factors such as age proximity, consent, absence of coercion, and power imbalance before approving defilement charges involving adolescents.

Legal analysts say the decision places pressure on Parliament to amend the Sexual Offences Act to align it with constitutional principles and evolving realities affecting adolescents.

However, the court clarified that the ruling does not legalise sexual exploitation of minors or weaken protections against predatory offenders. Cases involving coercion, abuse of authority, violence, trafficking, or

significant age disparities will still attract full criminal prosecution under existing laws.

Children rights advocates and legal experts have described the ruling as a major shift in Kenya’s criminal justice system, balancing child protection with constitutional safeguards and adolescent welfare.

The decision is expected to trigger national debate on child protection laws, adolescent rights, reproductive health policy, and the role of criminal justice in addressing teenage relationships in Kenya.

**Politics** According to Nyoro, the combined measures could reduce the price of diesel by approximately KSh54 per litre.

# Nyoro: Parliament begins fuel price review

BY WMW  
@themkenyatimes

Parliament has formally begun processing proposals by Kiharu Member of Parliament Ndindi Nyoro seeking to lower fuel prices through tax and levy reductions, in a move that contributed to the suspension of nationwide protests and a transport sector strike that had paralysed parts of the country.

The proposals come amid mounting public anger over soaring fuel prices that triggered demonstrations, stay-away protests, and disruptions in public transport operations

across several regions.

In a statement, Nyoro confirmed that the parliamentary process had officially commenced following submissions to the National Assembly aimed at reducing the cost of petroleum products.

“Following the proposals to Parliament with the intention to lower various taxes and levies to reduce fuel prices, I’m glad Parliament has responded and the process has taken off,” Nyoro said.

He added that he is expected to appear before relevant parliamentary committees next week as part of the review process.

The lawmaker noted that

while the fuel crisis had significantly affected the transport sector, the rising prices were impacting all Kenyans directly and indirectly through increased costs of food, transport, and essential commodities.

Nyoro’s proposals include reducing Value Added Tax (VAT) on petroleum products from the current eight percent to zero by making the products VAT exempt.

He has also proposed reducing the Road Maintenance Levy Fund (RMLF) by KSh7 per litre, reversing an increment introduced in 2024 that pushed the levy to KSh25 per litre.



MP Ndindi Nyoro

“Following the proposals to Parliament with the intention to lower various taxes and levies to reduce fuel prices, I’m glad Parliament has responded and the process has taken off,” Nyoro said.



Under the proposal, the levy would drop from KSh25 to KSh18 per litre.

The MP further suggested reducing profit margins for importers and distributors, as well as providing an additional KSh5 billion subsidy for petroleum products.

According to Nyoro, the combined measures could reduce the price of diesel by approximately KSh54 per litre.

In a formal letter dated May 15, 2026, addressed to the Clerk of the National Assembly, Nyoro argued that the proposed amendments were necessary short-term interventions to cushion Kenyans from inflationary pressures and the economic impact of rising fuel costs.

The letter proposed amendments to the VAT Act and the revocation of the 2024 Road Maintenance Levy increment.

The National Assembly has since acknowledged receipt of the proposals and confirmed that the process is underway.

In a response dated May 19, 2026, the Parliamentary Budget Office, through Director Dr Martin Masinde on behalf of the Clerk of the National Assembly, stated that the proposals had been forwarded to the relevant House committees for consideration.

Parliament informed Nyoro that the amendments would be processed in accordance with Article 114 of the Constitution and the Standing Orders of the National Assembly.

The communication further indicated that the Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Departmental Com-

mittee on Finance and National Planning would require the MP to explain the implications of the proposed changes on the approved 2025/2026 Budget, the 2026/2027 budget estimates, and existing contractual obligations linked to proceeds from the Road Maintenance Levy Fund.

The developments came as pressure mounted on the government to address rising fuel costs blamed for increased transport fares, food prices, and general economic hardship.

The nationwide fuel crisis sparked protests and a temporary matatu strike that disrupted transport services in several towns and cities before being called off after Parliament agreed to begin considering possible interventions.

Leaders across the political divide, transport operators, civil society groups, and business associations have in recent days called for urgent review of fuel taxes and levies, arguing that the current pricing structure is unsustainable for ordinary Kenyans and businesses.

The parliamentary process is now expected to shape the next phase of debate on possible fuel price relief measures as the country grapples with rising living costs and growing economic pressure on households and industries.

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**IEBC** “Credible elections require coordinated action, strong voter education and sustained public trust-building,” Ethekeon said.

# IEBC outlines 2027 General Election preparations

**BY MKT REPORTER**

@themtkenyatimes

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission has intensified preparations for the 2027 General Election, outlining plans aimed at strengthening electoral integrity, expanding voter registration, and addressing emerging digital threats.

Speaking during a meeting with a delegation from the European Union and the EU Council Africa Working Party (COAFR), IEBC Chairperson Erastus Ethekeon said the commission had already registered significant progress ahead of the polls.

Ethekeon noted that the commission has conducted more than 30 by-elections since the current team assumed office, helping improve operational preparedness in areas such as logistics and voter engagement.

He revealed that the commission has so far registered 2.6 million new voters, increasing the national voter register to 24.7 million. The IEBC is

targeting 28.5 million registered voters by the time Kenyans head to the polls in 2027.

According to the chairperson, the commission is finalising an Election Operation Plan (EOP), which will provide the roadmap for preparations leading to the General Election.

He also underscored the growing challenge posed by misinformation, disinformation, political polarization, and artificial intelligence-driven digital manipulation, warning that such threats could undermine public trust in elections if not effectively addressed.

“Credible elections require coordinated action, strong voter education and sustained public trust-building,” Ethekeon said.

IEBC Vice Chairperson Fahima Abdallah Araphat highlighted plans to expand diaspora voter registration beyond Kenyan embassies to an additional 17 countries as part of efforts to increase participation among Kenyans living abroad.

Commissioner Ann Nderitu said the



IEBC and EU officials after yesterday's meeting.

commission was also implementing reforms aimed at improving gender inclusion, disability accessibility, and participation of special interest groups in the electoral process.

The European Union delegation, led by EU COAFR Chair Alexandre Polack, reaffirmed the bloc's support for Kenya's democratic processes and peaceful elections.

Polack described Kenya as a key

democratic partner and said the EU remained committed to supporting credible, transparent, and inclusive elections.

The delegation also expressed interest in strengthening cooperation with Kenya on civic space, media freedom, human rights, and inclusion of youth, women, and marginalized communities in democratic processes.

The meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming their commitment to ensuring that the 2027 General Election is peaceful, credible, inclusive, and trusted.

The discussions come as the country gradually shifts focus toward the next General Election amid increasing public debate on electoral reforms, voter confidence, and the role of technology in future elections.

The Mt. Kenya Times



## Motherland



Since time immemorial, your majestic mountains  
Have taught my spirit how to stand upright and  
proud.  
Whenever I breathe far away from your affection,  
Even my pen refuses to console my soul.  
But when, for a fleeting moment, I inhale within  
your embrace,  
My humble hut transforms into a paradise divine.  
Within your enchanting magic, it was you who  
guided  
Little poets toward the boundless realm of great  
art.  
Your playful streams flow in shimmering delight,  
May my laughter forever dwell along their banks.  
The rivulets, overflowing with your tenderness,  
surge like storms,  
And the songs of your birds steal away my heart.  
From your love rise mountains and endless hills —  
Are you the remedy for wounded hearts?  
For those who conquered the heavens step by  
step,  
Are you the ladder immortalized within history

itself?  
Could it truly be that your warmth burns so  
deeply  
That poets entrusted even birds with their  
sorrows?  
Even your great Babur, crowned a king in distant  
lands,  
Wept for you in the silence of the night.  
From the epics sung in honor of your glory,  
Even Venus in the heavens longs for your beauty.  
At times, the Seven Wonders themselves stand  
astounded  
By the wondrous dance of your changing seasons.  
Your Registan stands in solemn grandeur,  
Whispering stories from the depths of ancient  
ages.  
Your Bukhara gazes beyond the deserts,  
Murmuring the sacred echoes of Naqshbandi  
sages.  
Your emerald valleys — graceful and unparalleled  
—  
Bestowed wings of inspiration upon Muqimiy.  
To the blossoms blooming in the garden of  
creation,  
They gifted a glorious name like “Sayohatnoma.”  
Whenever I yearn for the scent of your soil,  
Even bread and morsels fail to pass my throat.  
You are the cradle of undying geniuses —  
My Uzbekistan, unequaled upon this earth.

Mehriniso Ergashova  
Uzbekistan

## Fuel prices hiking again



A Cry of the Common Citizen

Prices are hiking again and again,  
Like ruthless storms that pour endless pain,  
The poor bend low beneath heavy chains,  
While leaders speak words that never remain.

In the markets today, sorrow is sold,  
Mothers count coins with trembling hold,  
Children sleep hungry in nights so cold,  
As dreams of tomorrow slowly grow old.

Fuel burns higher than mountains can rise,  
And suffering hides in wananchi eyes,  
Matatus increase fares without compromise,  
While hope disappears beneath cloudy skies.

Every sunrise awakens new fear,  
Another hard burden, another hard year,  
The cries of the people grow louder and clear,  
Yet those in authority refuse to hear.

Schools have fallen silent in despair,  
Books gather dust instead of care,  
Teachers protest for a rightful share,  
But justice walks past as if none are there.

Drivers park vehicles by roadside stones,

Workers return to empty homes,  
The streets are crowded with hopeless tones,  
And pain now speaks in human groans.

Kenya, my mother, beautiful yet wounded,  
Your children are tired, crushed and surrounded,  
By promises broken and hopes confounded,  
While the voices of truth remain unfounded.

We are tired of surviving instead of living,  
Tired of struggling while endlessly giving,  
Tired of leaders forever deceiving,  
As citizens drown while still believing.

But still we rise though the days are bitter,  
Still we dream though our candles flicker,  
Still we stand though our strength grows weaker,  
For silence has never made chains grow thinner.

Government, hear the cry of the land,  
Power is safest in a caring hand,  
Lift these burdens crushing the land,  
And remember the poor who helplessly stand.

For a nation is not built by wealth alone,  
Nor by mighty seats and polished thrones,  
But by citizens carrying pain unknown,  
Yet watering the future with tears they own.

And though today may wound the soul,  
And hardship may rise beyond control,  
Hope shall return and heal the whole,  
For even broken hearts can become gold.

Obiero Carlos Mutavania  
School Teacher: Mwonje Junior,  
Meru South.

## Everything is fine when you don't care



Pouring our peace into empty cups  
With trembling, tired hands.

But age arrives—a silent sage,  
With silver in its tone,  
Teaching softly, leaf by leaf,  
“You are not meant to carry all alone.”

You learn not every fallen tear  
Was placed within your care,  
Not every burden in the world  
Is yours alone to bear.

And slowly, like a river freed,  
Your anxious heart grows light,  
The fog begins to drift away,  
The dark gives way to sight.

You stop collecting needless weights,  
Stop drowning in despair,  
For every soul must walk its road  
Their journey, not your share.

Then peace returns like morning dew,  
Gentle, bright, and rare,  
And life begins to bloom again...

Everything is fine  
When you don't care.

Nandini AnandKumar  
Educator, Writer, Motivator, Freelancer

Birth is one,  
This fragile life is one—  
A fleeting flame beneath the wind,  
A song half-sung, then gone.

We walk with duties on our backs,  
Like mountains tied with thread,  
Trying to carry every storm  
Inside our weary head.

Sometimes the skies are painted gold,  
Sometimes they thunder gray,  
Success may bloom like springtime flowers,  
Failure may fade the day.

Yet parents hope, and loved ones dream,  
Spouses and children too,  
They build their castles out of us  
And expect the skies stay blue.

So often we bend like brittle branches,  
Breaking to meet demands,

## A Little Kindness



A Little Kindness  
Behind many smiles,  
there are struggles we never see.  
That is why kindness matters.  
A gentle word,  
a warm smile,

or simply listening to someone  
can lighten a heavy heart.  
We may come from different places  
and speak different languages,  
but kindness is understood everywhere.

In the end,  
people may forget many things,  
but they never forget  
how someone made them feel.

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

## Following your own Heart is a brave thing



When the world is loud and wide,  
And doubts walk by your side,  
Listen close, deep inside—  
Your heart knows where to guide.

It may not choose the easy way,  
Or paths that others see,  
But quiet dreams begin to say,

“This is where you're meant to be.”

Like a fish in endless night,  
Swimming free among the stars,  
Courage turns the dark to light,  
And carries you afar.

So trust the voice you feel within,  
Though fear may play a part—  
The bravest step you'll ever take  
Is following your heart.

R. SRIPRIYA  
BT ENGLISH  
GHSS KOLAPAKKAM KANCHIPURAM DISTRICT  
TAMILNADU  
INDIA

**Politics** We must strike a balance between the need for us to manage the cost of living and funding infrastructural development - Kindiki

# Kindiki: Balance fuel costs and essential services needed

BY DPCS  
@themkenyatimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki says the government is looking into ways to reduce the cost of fuel without disrupting other key sectors of the economy.

The DP said a balance must be achieved between managing fuel prices and delivery of other critical services key to the nation's development and stability.

"We must strike a balance between the need for us to manage the cost of living and funding infrastructural development and other economic enablers that will make our country grow," DP stated.

Speaking yesterday when he inspected the ongoing construction of Miseleni-Mwala Road in Mwala Constituency, Machakos County, Prof. Kindiki urged Kenyans to bear with the government as it seeks a suitable solution to



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki when he toured Miseleni- Mwala Road in Mwala Constituency.

the fuel crisis occasioned by the Iran war.

"The taxes you pay are for

funding roads, water, electricity connection, school capitation but we will work hard to

make necessary adjustments to protect mwananchi from tougher economic times," DP

assured.

The Second in Command said the administration has reduced VAT on fuel from 16 percent to 8 percent and released billions of shillings to manage the fuel costs revealing that it would have been worse without the measures.

"The government is doing everything possible to ensure we manage the fuel prices. We have already reduced the VAT on fuel. We have released 13 billion shillings to reduce the costs. If we had not implemented these measures the prices would have gone beyond 300 shillings per litre," DP noted.

The Deputy President warned against criminalities like witnessed during the fuel protests saying such are unacceptable

**"The taxes you pay are for funding roads, water, electricity connection, school capitation but we will work hard to make necessary adjustments to protect mwananchi from tougher economic times," DP assured.**



and would not solve anything. "You can disagree with the government but do it peacefully. Looting and property destruction will not bring the prices down. This is only possible through negotiations and implementation of measures as we have already done," he said.

On development, Prof. Kindiki said the government is hastening completion of development projects in Ukambani region.

He said the 10km Miseleni-Mwala Road, costing KSh622 million is progressing as planned as is the 21km Kivandini-Miseleni Road being done at KSh1.2 billion.

Kangundo-Mwala Road is also underway and has been allocated KSh1.4 billion.

The construction of Mwala Bulk Water project that will benefit thousands of residents in Matungulu and Mwala constituencies is being speeded up after it was allocated KSh1.7 billion.

"We do not just come here for idle talk like our opponents. We are rolling out development projects and we will do more because we are keen to develop every part of the country," DP said.

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**Agribusiness** Mr Ng'ang'a said that the blueberry expansion is well underway, marking the transition from an experimental crop to a key contributor

# Shareholder value: Kakuzi steps up global marketing and growth strategy, affirms avocado viability



**Kakuzi Chairman Nicholas Ng'ang'a (left) joins the firm's Director Pamela Ager (centre) and Managing Director Chris Flowers (right) in skimming through the firm's 2025 Annual Report and Financial Statements at the firm's 98th Annual General Meeting. | Photo: Courtesy.**

## BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

Nairobi Security Exchange listed agribusiness and superfoods producer, Kakuzi PLC has acknowledged the growing international market risks facing the firm and Kenyan export agriculture, necessitating strategic diversification of products and markets.

Speaking at the firm's 98th Annual General Meeting (AGM), Chairman Mr Nicholas Ng'ang'a, said agribusiness firms globally are facing contemporary operating risks, further compounded by unrest in the Middle East.

To mitigate risks, he noted that the firm is pursuing further diversification across products and markets, as well as actively exploring income streams from non-agricultural enterprises.

Mr Ng'ang'a said that the blueberry expansion is well

underway, marking the transition from an experimental crop to a key contributor to the Company's long-term growth, expanding our revenue streams, strengthening resilience, and positioning Kakuzi to lead East Africa in superfood production.

**Mr Ng'ang'a said that the blueberry expansion is well underway, marking the transition from an experimental crop to a key contributor to the Company's long-term growth, expanding our revenue streams, strengthening resilience, and positioning Kakuzi to lead East Africa in superfood production.**



As part of its product diversification strategy, Kakuzi is also exploring export opportunities for avocado products, including long-life avocado, frozen avocado pulp and crude avocado oil, to extend shelf life and capture new value streams.

While dismissing concerns that avocado exports are not sustainable, Kakuzi Managing Director Mr Chris Flowers explained that the firm had maintained a growth trajectory with production rising by 23%, and 525 containers exported last year, up from 446 the previous year.

"The fact is, the business is challenging, but exporting fresh avocados remains viable as long as we produce quality fruit," Mr Flowers said.

He added, "We believe growth must be deliberate, purposeful, prudent and asset-preserving. We are not just farmers; we are builders of our economic develop-

ment."

During the AGM, Kakuzi shareholders approved the payment of a first and final dividend of KSh16.00 per ordinary share for the Financial Year ended 31 December 2025, up from the KSh8.00 payout the previous year.

Last year, Kakuzi's avocado profit nearly doubled to KSh709 million in 2025, up from KSh361 million in 2024.

Kakuzi Macadamia business posted better profits, closing at KSh365 million, up from KSh69 million the previous year. Demand for macadamia, Mr Flowers said, continues to recover, with increased sales volumes and improved prices.

"However, to maintain sus-

tainable demand, the product needs to expand the opportunities for how consumers can experience quality macadamia kernels," he said.

The Kakuzi Blueberry operation recovered to a KSh5 million profit, up from a KSh19 million loss the previous year. Production volumes also increased to 90 tons, up from 53 tons.

To preserve shareholder value, the Kakuzi Board of Directors assured investors that the firm intends to maximise the potential of its land holdings and would resist efforts by unscrupulous persons to acquire its land irregularly.

"Kakuzi's land is not for sale, and neither are we giving it away. It is the bedrock of our future, the source of our strength, and an investment inheritance we are safeguarding for generations to come," the listed firm's officials assured.

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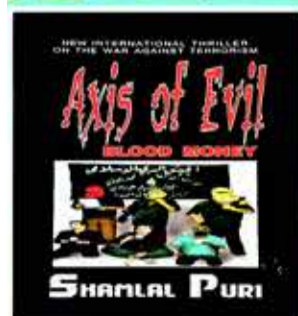
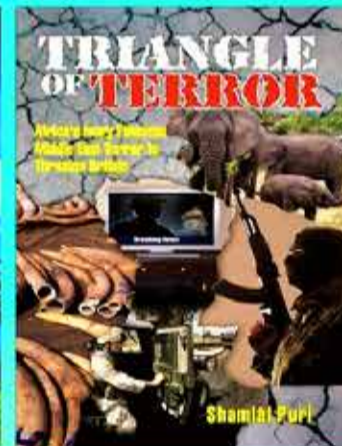
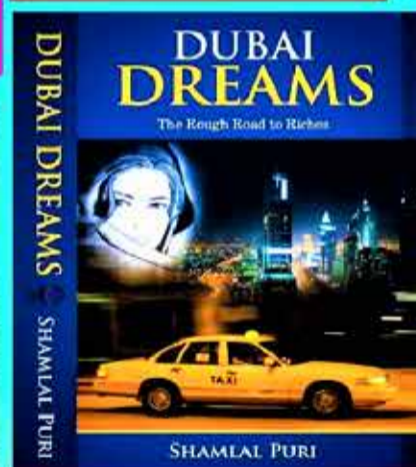
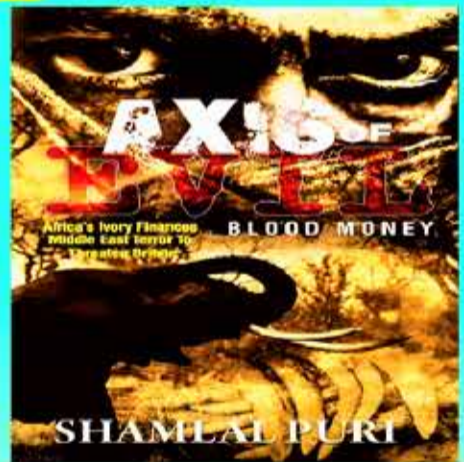
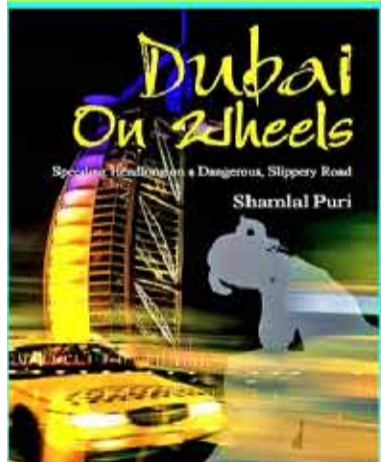
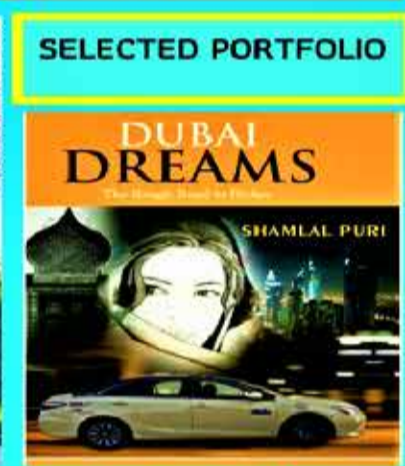
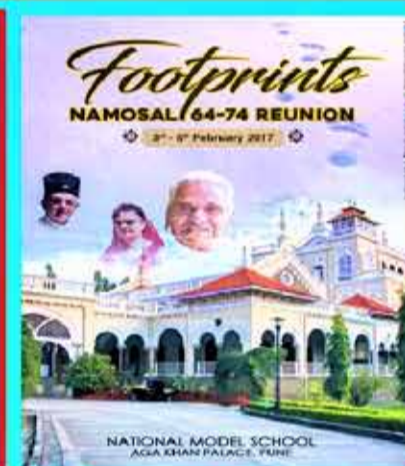
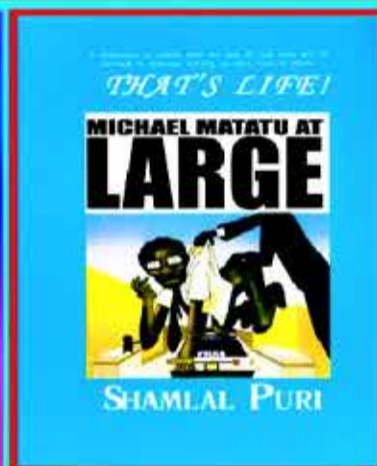
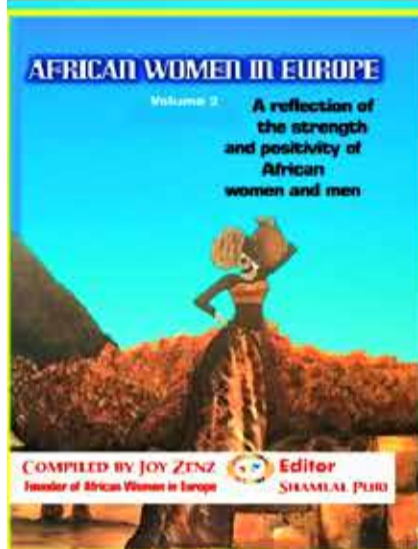
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NTSA Best global practices transport systems are increasingly moving away from expensive manual enforcement structures towards integrated efficient

# Digitizing extortion? How NTSA can save lives without punishing Kenyans



BY Fredrick Chelimo

@themtkenyatimes

There is a growing tendency by the National Transport Safety Authority (NTSA) to respond to operational challenges through fee increment rather than innovations. This reflects an outdated regulatory mindset that risks overburdening citizens while delivering minimal improvements in road safety outcomes. Kenya at the moment does not suffer from any shortage of transport regulations, but glaringly suffers from a shortage of intelligent, technology-driven and citizen-centered road safety management.

Best global practices transport systems are increasingly moving away from expensive manual enforcement structures towards integrated efficient, transparent and citizen friendly digital ecosystems that lower operational costs, reduces corruption, improves compliance and strengthens public trust. The truth is that technology today makes road safety management cheaper, faster and more efficient than ever before. Yet Kenyan motorists and operators are being presented regularly with escalating charges as though safety can only be achieved through higher taxation.

Kenya can improve significantly road safety without increasing fee if the country adopts strategic technology-led model that focuses on efficiency, automation, predictive monitoring, and institutional integration. One of the most cost-effective interventions would be the creation of fully integrated national intelligent transport management platform that links NTSA, police, insurance firms, the judiciary, county governments, driving schools and emergency responders through real time management systems. Instead of maintaining fragmented enforcement structures with repetitive manual inspections and expensive physical



the National Transport Safety Authority (NTSA)

compliance procedures, data integration with Artificial Intelligence (AI) could drastically reduce operational and administrative costs while improving accountability.

For example, modern artificial intelligence-powered camera systems placed along major highways and accident-prone zones can automatically detect speeding, lane indiscipline, dangerous overtaking, distracted driving, expired insurance, missing inspections and unroadworthy vehicles without deploying hundreds of officers on road daily. Such systems reduce chances of corruption opportunities, lower enforcement costs, and generate real time evidence for compliance action.

Countries such as United Kingdom, Estonia and United Arab Emirates have successfully leveraged intelligent traffic surveillance systems to improve compliance while reducing operational and administrative costs for citizens. Kenya can replicate scaled versions of these systems at far lower long-term costs than maintaining expensive manual enforcement networks.

Another major area of waste lies in repetitive physical inspections and paperwork-heavy compliance

systems. Kenya can transition to predictive digital inspection models where vehicle service histories, insurance claims, telematics data, and automated diagnostics determine risk categories. Vehicles with strong digital maintenance records and low-risk profiles would require fewer physical inspections, reducing congestion, staffing requirements, and compliance costs

School buses and public service vehicles (PSV) can also be equipped with low-cost telematics systems connected directly to centralized monitoring centers. These systems can monitor speeds, driver behaviour, fatigue indicators and route compliance in real time. Instead of waiting for accidents to happen before reacting, authorities would proactively identify dangerous patterns before lives are lost.

In addition, digitizing driver behaviour management through smart driving score systems could revolutionize road discipline. Drivers maintaining safe behaviour records could receive insurance discounts, tax incentive or compliance fast-tracking, encouraging voluntary compliance rather than relying solely on punitive enforcement. Safety

should be incentivized, not merely criminalized.

Kenya must also embrace mobile-based compliance ecosystem. Today nearly every transport operator and motorists possesses a smartphone. Rather than building expensive physical compliance infrastructure, NTSA can deploy advanced mobile applications allowing users to renew license, verify compliance, report dangerous drivers, access emergency services, receive safety alerts, and monitor inspection schedules digitally. This would reduce administrative overhead while improving service accessibility

Road engineering analytics also remains an underutilized technology frontier. Data mapping systems can identify accident hotspots using historical crash patterns, weather data, road design flaws, and traffic behaviour analytics. Instead of endlessly penalizing motorists while ignoring infrastructural weaknesses, Kenya can deploy targeted engineering interventions that can prevent accidents before they occur.

Equally important is the reduction of corruption leakage through blockchain-enabled transaction system and automated payment verification.

One of the hidden costs within road safety management is institutional inefficiency caused by revenue leakages, bribery and duplicated enforcement functions. Technology can close these loopholes far more effectively than burdening citizens with higher fees.

Most significantly, Kenya must shift from punitive road safety governance toward preventive and behavioral safety culture. Massive investment in digital public awareness campaigns, simulator – based driver training, virtual compliance education, and AI powered learner systems would cost significantly less over time than managing the economic and human consequences of road carnage.

The obsession with increasing fees often ignores the reality that efficiency – not lack of money – is frequently the greatest problem within public institutions. A truly modern road safety authority should therefore pursue what may be called “intelligence safety governance” a governance model where technology reduces operational and management expenses, minimizing citizen burden, enhancing predictive safety capability, strengthening institutional transparency and making road safety a worthy venture. Under this approach, the role of technology is not to create new revenue streams, but to eliminate inefficiencies that make systems expensive in the first place. This is the future Kenya should be pursuing on road safety.

The country has one of Africa’s strongest and robust digital ecosystems, high skilled technology talent, advanced mobile payment system and growing innovation capacity. There is no rational justification for relying excessively on punitive fee increases when smarter and cheaper alternatives already in existence globally.

Road safety should therefore never become an economic punishment for citizens trying to survive. If technology cannot reduce the cost of governance for ordinary Kenyans, then the problem is not lack of resources, but lack of imagination, innovation and institutional will.

“The smartest road systems in the world do not punish citizens into compliance; they use technology to make safety affordable, automatic and unavoidable”

Mr. Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo  
PWD

Chairperson, Jiamini Disability network Community Based organization

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**Zimbabwe** The bill directly attacks the democratic principle of ‘one man, one vote,’ says Lovemore Madhuku, president of the National Constitutional Assembly.

# Zimbabwe's Constitutional Amendment Bill

## No. 3: A Recipe for Democratic Erosion?

BY Norman Mwale

@themkenyatimes

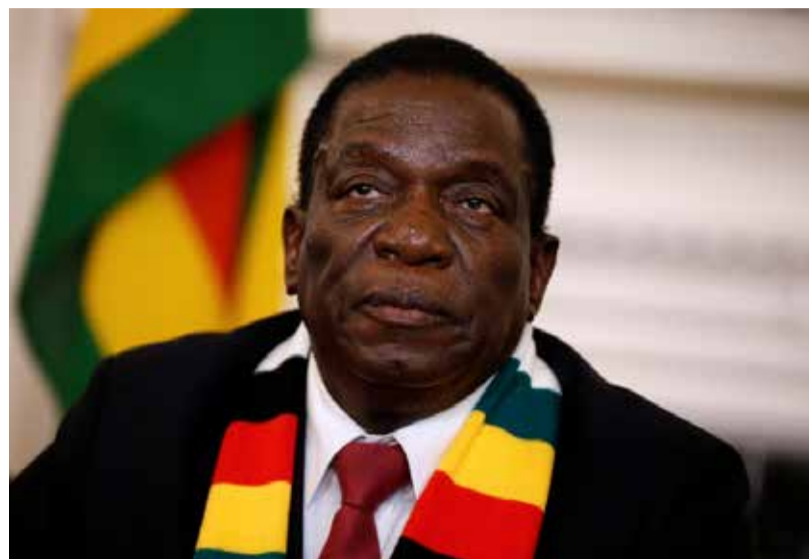
Zimbabwe's Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 3 has ignited fierce debate, with critics arguing it consolidates executive power and undermines hard-won democratic gains. The bill proposes to extend presidential and parliamentary terms from five to seven years, replace direct presidential elections with parliamentary selection, and abolish independent commissions — moves that have sparked widespread opposition from civil society, legal bodies, and ordinary citizens alike.

“The bill directly attacks the democratic principle of ‘one man, one vote,’” says Lovemore Madhuku, president of the National Constitutional Assembly. Douglas Mwonzora, leader of an MDC faction, is equally alarmed, warning that the amendment threatens Zimbabwe's democratic foundations. “This is not routine legislation,” he said. “This is

an assault on the very foundation of our constitutional democracy.”

While the government maintains that the bill promotes stability, critics argue it prioritises elite interests over citizens' rights. Madhuku is dismissive of the government's outreach efforts: “The consultations are meaningless. There are no consultations taking place from Parliament.” The Zimbabwe Law Society shares these concerns, warning that the bill concentrates power within the executive, limits public participation, and weakens representative democracy. Also under threat is the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission's independence, with key electoral functions reportedly being transferred to executive-controlled entities.

The bill is currently in the public consultation phase, with formal legislative processes expected to begin on or after 16 May 2026. Vice President Dominic Chiwenga's position on the bill has not been made publicly available, though the government has been actively mobilising



Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa

traditional leaders and chiefs to endorse it — a move that has raised serious concerns about impartiality. On the streets, citizens have not been silent. Protests have erupted in Harare and Bulawayo, with demonstrators denouncing the bill as a blatant “power grab.” The Southern African

Development Community has also weighed in, expressing concern over the bill's potential impact on regional stability.

The economic implications could be equally damaging. Critics warn the amendments may deter foreign investment, raise sovereign risk,

and suppress economic growth. Rural communities, they say, stand to be disproportionately affected, with poverty and inequality likely to deepen. Supporters of the bill, however, insist it reinforces constitutional governance. Opposition groups, including the Citizens Coalition for Change, have vowed to resist its passage. As tensions continue to mount, Zimbabweans are left asking a pointed question: will their government choose power over democracy?

The United Zimbabwe Alliance argues the bill disenfranchises citizens and serves narrow partisan interests. President Mnangagwa's administration, for its part, has justified the changes as necessary for long-term stability and economic growth. International organisations, including the European Union, have expressed concern about what the bill means for democratic governance in the country. The stakes, all sides agree, could not be higher.

Critics are calling for alternatives — among them, inclusive national dialogue and constitutional reforms that genuinely centre citizen participation. The outcome remains uncertain, with Zimbabweans anxiously watching to see what comes next in the legislative process.

**Climate** As African cities race to build climate resilience, the urban poor are being quietly priced out of their own neighbourhoods.

# The Unseen Cost of Climate Adaptation in African Cities

BY Norman Mwale

@themkenyatimes

As African cities rush to build resilience against the ravages of climate change, a quiet crisis brews in the shadows. The push for greener, more sustainable urban environments is inadvertently pricing out the poor, forcing them to the fringes of society. This phenomenon, known as “climate gentrification,” is playing out across the continent, from the shores of the Mediterranean to the savannas of Southern Africa.

“Climate adaptation must integrate social housing and community engagement.” — Dr Fatou Ndoye, Urban Planner

In Nairobi's Kibera slum, residents face a double threat: floods that drown homes and climate policies that raise rents. “We're caught between rising waters and rising costs,” says Amina, a single mother of three.



Her story echoes across African cities, where green infrastructure and climate resilience often mean displacement. The Kenyan government's Nairobi Integrated Urban Development Masterplan aims to make the city “climate-smart” by 2030, but critics argue that it overlooks the needs of informal settlements.

“Cities are adapting, but for whom?” asks Dr Fatou Ndoye, an urban planner at the University of Cape Town. “We must balance en-

vironmental protection with social justice.” According to the African Development Bank, climate adaptation efforts in Africa require \$40 billion annually, but the focus on sustainability often overshadows equity concerns. In Zimbabwe, the government's climate resilience initiatives in Harare's high-density suburbs are lauded for reducing flood risks but raise concerns about displacement.

In Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, mangrove restoration along Msasani

Bay protects coastlines but gentrifies neighbourhoods. “We need policies that prioritise people, not just profits,” says Juma Mwakalobo, an activist with the Tanzania Urban Forum. Similar trends are seen in Accra, Ghana, where climate-resilient housing projects displace informal settlements. The Ghanaian government's National Climate Change Policy aims to address these issues, but implementation remains a challenge.

The paradox of climate adaptation is stark. In South Africa, the City of Cape Town's Green Infrastructure Plan aims to mitigate flooding but raises concerns about gentrification in areas like Langedoc. “Climate justice means equitable access to resources,” says Greenpeace Africa's Njeri Mukungu. In Uganda, the Kampala Capital City Authority's climate-smart urbanisation plans face criticism for neglecting vulnerable communities.

In Lagos, Nigeria, coastal erosion and flooding threaten livelihoods while climate adaptation efforts struggle to keep pace. Ethiopia's Addis Ababa is pushing for green city status, but social housing challenges persist. Rwanda's Kigali is

reshaping its urban landscape with climate-smart initiatives, but critics argue that rapid modernisation displaces low-income communities. “We prioritise green spaces and resilience,” says Mayor Yster Lihoreye, “but balancing growth and equity remains a challenge.”

Across Africa, droughts in the Horn of Africa — spanning Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia — floods in Nigeria and Mozambique, and cyclones battering Mozambique and Zimbabwe underscore the urgent need for climate action. The African Union's Agenda 2063 and countries' Nationally Determined Contributions outline ambitious goals, but implementation hurdles persist.

Experts advocate for inclusive policies. Community-led projects, such as Senegal's mangrove restoration, offer genuine hope. Innovative financing and South-South cooperation can bolster resilience, and UN-Habitat's Africa Urban Agenda echoes this vision, emphasising people-centred climate action.

As Africa's cities grow, so does the climate challenge. The question is: can they adapt without excluding their poorest residents?

**Ebola** The outbreak has emerged in an area already strained by conflict, displacement and weak healthcare capacity.

# DR Congo races to contain Ebola as death toll hits 136

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themkenyatimes

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is racing to contain its latest Ebola outbreak, after it was declared on May 15 in the eastern province of Ituri.

During a media briefing on Tuesday, DRC Health Minister Roger Kamba said that 543 suspected cases were recorded, including 32 laboratory-confirmed cases, while the death toll reached 136. Kamba said the deaths are probable cases suspected to be linked to Ebola, with investigations underway to determine those directly attributable to the virus.

In Bunia, capital of Ituri province, World Health Organization official Adelheid Marschang Anicia said on Tuesday that health authorities had not yet identified “patient zero.” “What we know for now is that on May 5, there was ... a person who died in Bunia,” she said, adding that the body was later brought to Mongbwalu, where funeral-related exposure may have contributed to transmission. Earlier, Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) Director General Jean Kaseya said the true index case had 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 outbreak is,” Kaseya said on May 16. According to Kamba, sequencing results suggested the currently circulating virus “came from the forest,” describing it as a new forest-origin contamination rather than the resurgence of an older viral chain. The DRC minister also acknowledged community resistance in some affected areas, as some families initially believed the illness was caused by a “curse” or “mystical force” rather than a virus, delaying alerts and contributing to the spread of the disease. Such rumors have declined since the government officially declared the outbreak and held public briefings, said Kamba.

## Vaccine gap

The outbreak is caused by the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola virus, a less common strain first identified in Uganda in 2007, and then caused an outbreak in DRC’s Isiro region in 2012. According to Jean-Jacques



Local residents wash hands under the instruction of medical workers in Goma, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), on Tuesday. | Photo: (Str/Xinhua)

Muyembe, director general of the National Institute of Biomedical Research, genome sequencing showed that the virus currently circulating is a variant of the Bundibugyo Ebola virus, distinct from the variants detected in Uganda in 2007 and in the DRC in 2012. Kamba said the lack of a specific vaccine and treatment is a source of concern, but the DRC has extensive experience in fighting Ebola. He said the response would focus on rapid detection, patient isolation, protection of health workers and safe burials. A WHO technical advisory group was scheduled to meet on Tuesday for discussions on potential vaccine candidates. Anicia said that Ervebo, a vaccine against the Zaire Ebola virus, is under consideration, but it could take about two months before it becomes available. Meanwhile, speaking in Kinshasa on Tuesday, Africa CDC’s Kaseya specified that three candidate vaccines were under review, including Ervebo. For now, Ervebo might provide a degree of “cross-protection” against the Bundibugyo strain, but further studies are needed to confirm its effectiveness, said Muyembe. He said some vaccine candidates were already in the research pipeline, but their development would take time. “By the time the epidemic is over, we may find a vaccine,” he added.

## Fragile setting

The outbreak has emerged in an area already strained by conflict, displacement and weak healthcare capacity. The United Nations Refugee Agency said Tuesday that

11,000 South Sudanese refugees in Ituri require preventive assistance, while more than 2,000 Rwandan and Burundian refugees in Goma need sanitary supplies. Confirmed cases have been registered in Butembo and Goma in North Kivu province. Goma is one of the largest urban centers in eastern DRC and a key border city with Rwanda, which has remained under the control of the March 23 Movement (M23) rebel group since early 2025.

Government spokesperson Patrick Muyaya said Tuesday that the rebel group’s control of Goma, home to one of the country’s best-equipped

laboratories, is hampering epidemiological surveillance, contact tracing and the transport of samples. Uganda has also confirmed two imported cases in Kampala, including one death, according to the World Health Organization. On Sunday, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus declared the outbreak in the DRC and Uganda a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, citing concern over the “scale and speed” of the epidemic. The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention later declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security,

saying the move would strengthen regional coordination and speed up resource mobilization. Neighboring countries, including Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania, have stepped up surveillance, border screening and emergency preparedness measures. Rwanda has suspended movement through key crossings linking Goma and the Rwandan border city of Gisenyi, allowing only nationals returning to their respective countries to cross, according to local sources.

## Response under pressure

Kamba said emergency supplies are being sent to affected areas to set up treatment centers in Mungbwalu, Rwampara and Bunia, epicenters of the outbreak, and the government is expanding a nationwide laboratory network to detect viruses more quickly. He said he had visited the field on Sunday with the WHO, which had already delivered about five tonnes of supplies. UNICEF, he added, was unloading several tonnes of equipment at Bunia airport as the briefing was taking place. The minister acknowledged that declining international health funding is hampering the response, saying an outbreak of this scale required significant support. He called on the international community to help strengthen the Congolese health system. The DRC has faced repeated Ebola outbreaks since the virus was first identified near the Ebola River in 1976. Its largest outbreak, caused by the Zaire strain, hit eastern DRC from 2018 to 2020, killing more than 2,200 people



A medical worker checks the temperature of a local resident as part of Ebola screening in Goma, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), on Tuesday. | Photo: (Str/Xinhua)

**Dream** How handing your wedding over to society, family, and peer pressure is the fastest way to spend a lifetime choking on someone else's choice.

# Stop marrying their dream and start marrying your reality



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza  
mukphix@gmail.com

Marriage has been stolen from you. It was stolen the moment you were born into a world that decided your wedding belongs to everyone except the two people who will actually live it. From the time you are old enough to understand the word, people start writing your love story without asking you for the pen. Your mother has a timeline. Your father has a checklist. Your aunt has a son's friend who is "settled" and "respectable." Your friends have a deadline they expect you to meet so they don't feel behind. Society has a script, and it expects you to recite it word for word, on cue, with a smile. And if you dare step off that script, they don't call it courage. They call it rebellion. They call it selfish. They call it a phase you will grow out of.

But here is the truth they will never tell you at the engagement party: you are the one who will wake up in that bed every morning. Not your mother. Not your father. Not the relatives who clapped the loudest and then went home to live their own lives. You are the one who will lie there at 2 a.m. when the romance is gone, the bills are due, and the person beside you feels like a stranger. You are the one who will carry the weight of that choice when the music stops, the photos are posted, and the real, unglamorous work of marriage begins. So why would you let people who will never live that life make the decision for you?

We have convinced ourselves that marrying on someone else's schedule is maturity. We call it responsibility. We call it honouring our parents. We call it being realistic. But strip away the language and what is it, really? It is fear. Fear of being left behind while everyone else posts wedding photos. Fear of disappointing people who spent years telling you what your life should look like. Fear of sitting alone at thirty-seven while your friends talk about schools and mortgages. And so you rush. You say yes to a proposal that feels



Dream vs Reality

safe. You say yes to a person your family approves of, even though your gut is screaming that something is off. You say yes because saying no would mean explaining yourself to a room full of people who have never had to live with the consequences of your choices.

The bill for that choice does not arrive on the wedding day. It comes years later, in quiet moments you never anticipated — when you feel more like a business partner managing logistics than a lover building a life. It comes when you sit across the dinner table and wonder what would have happened if you had waited. It comes when you avoid certain conversations because you already know the answer will shatter the illusion you have been carefully maintaining. And the cruelest part? The people who pressured you into it are long gone by then. They attended the ceremony, gave the speech, and moved on. You are the one left cleaning up the aftermath.

Marrying when you want and who you want is not selfish. It is the most honest thing you can do — for your-

self and for the person you will marry. It is refusing to let other people's anxiety and timelines dictate the most intimate chapter of your story. Love is not a deadline to meet, and a partner is not a box to tick before you turn thirty. Love is a choice you make when you are ready, with a person who makes you feel more alive, not more trapped.

Yes, choosing this path can be lonely. Saying no to a relationship your family adores can feel like betrayal. Choosing someone your circle does not understand can feel like you are making your life harder on purpose. You will be called picky, difficult, unrealistic. But loneliness fades. Disapproval fades. What does not fade is waking up every day next to a person you did not truly choose, quietly wondering how you ended up there.

When you marry for yourself, you gain something no amount of approval can buy: alignment. You wake up knowing that this person, at this time, is a choice you made with your eyes wide open. You are not performing a role or living out your

mother's unfulfilled dream. You are living your life. And that alignment is what carries you through the seasons when everything else falls apart. When you know you chose this, you fight for it differently.

Choosing on your own terms also means accepting that not everyone will applaud you. Your parents might be disappointed. Your community might whisper. Let them. The people who truly love you will adjust. Those who don't were never going to be happy for you anyway — their approval was always conditional on you living the life they wrote for you. That is not love. That is ownership.

Life is not a race. Forcing yourself into marriage because the season feels late is how you end up married to the wrong person, at the wrong time, for the wrong reasons. A late marriage to the right person will always beat an early marriage to the wrong one. One gives you a life. The other gives you a sentence.

The strongest marriages are not the ones that look perfect from the outside. They are built by two people who chose each other freely —

without coercion, without deadlines, without the crushing weight of other people's expectations. They fight. They struggle. But underneath it all is a foundation that says, "We chose this." And that foundation holds when everything else shakes.

So marry when you want. Marry who you want. Marry the person who makes you feel more like yourself, not less. Marry the person you would choose again on a quiet Tuesday with no guests, no gifts, and no applause.

Because the day the music stops, it is just you and them. And that is the only audience that matters.

*Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza is a writer and social commentator based in Uganda, exploring love, identity, and the pressures of modern relationships.*

SPORTS  
NEWSPHOTOS  
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**Sports >>** \*As far as elite sports go, few are as unique or as captivating as curling. In Kenya, the sport is barely six years old, yet it has already carved a niche for itself on the continent.

## How Kenya went from obscurity to Africa's rising curling contender

As far as elite sports go, few are as unique or as captivating as curling. In Kenya, the sport is barely six years old, yet it has already carved a niche for itself on the continent.

Curling was first introduced in the country in 2020, when Laventa Oguta, then president of the Kenya Curling Federation (KCF), became inspired after watching the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea.

Oguta, driven by a vision to bring the sport to Kenya, secured a curling center in Nairobi and launched initiatives to engage schools and local organizations.

This grassroots strategy laid the foundation for the sport's growth, giving Kenyan athletes a platform to practice, compete, and develop their skills.

By 2021, the Kenya Curling Federation had received official recognition from the World Curling Federation, making Kenya only the second African nation after Nigeria to join the international curling community. Since then, Kenya has participated in six international competitions, including the 2025 World Junior Mixed Doubles Curling Championship, the 2024 World Mixed Curling Championship, and the 2024 Pan Continental Curling Championships.

Despite limited resources, the sport has grown steadily, fueled by public demonstrations, school outreach programs, social media campaigns, and regular practice sessions.

"We are continuously training both current and new athletes, as well as officials," says Peter Owino, CEO of the KCF.

"Our goal is to maximize the number of Kenyan athletes competing internationally and to spark local interest in curling."

Kenya's curling stars include Kyra Sheri Kemu and Hassnein Ali Shah, both of whom have represented the nation at multi-



ple global events.

As the sport gains traction, Kenya is positioning itself as a continental ambassador, helping raise curling's profile across Africa.

"Through our participation in international events, we contribute to growing visibility and interest in curling across the continent," Owino explains.

On the competitive front, Kenya has already begun to make a mark. While Nigeria was the first African nation to enter the World Curling Federation, Kenya has quickly closed the gap.

"The Nigerian team represented Africa first, but we have undoubtedly overtaken them based on recent performances," KCF President Robert Mutai declares.

In terms of results, the men's B-Division team secured a notable win in 2022 against Nigeria.

The women's team has achieved two international wins and earned a bronze medal, while the mixed and mixed doubles teams are still seeking their first victories.

Most recently, Kenya competed in the World Junior Curling Championships in Edmonton, Canada, which concluded on May 11, and the federation eagerly awaits the next set of competitions from the World Curling Federation.

Despite these successes, the federation faces several challenges. Funding remains a persistent is-

sue, with athletes, coaches, and families often contributing out-of-pocket to support travel and competition expenses.

Mutai emphasizes, "We sometimes fundraise ourselves, parents chip in, and players do their best. We survive on patronage and resilience."

Training facilities are another major hurdle. Kenya's only ice rink at Panari was designed for recreational use and is unsuitable for intensive professional training.

"We lack a proper facility for heavy, consistent training, which limits our ability to compete at the highest level," Mutai notes.

Geopolitical conflicts around the world also pose scheduling risks, with events in certain regions uncertain due to ongoing conflicts, such as the war in Iran.

Nevertheless, the federation remains optimistic about the future. With more investment in early development, infrastructure, and funding, Kenya has the potential to cement its position as a leading curling nation in Africa and perhaps influence world rankings.

The federation's approach blends grassroots growth with high-performance ambitions, aiming to produce skilled athletes while expanding public interest in the sport.

Curling's rise in Kenya is as much about perseverance as it

is about sport. It's a story of vision, resilience, and community support.

From its introduction by a passionate group of pioneers to international representation, Kenya has steadily built a competitive presence on the global curling scene.

Mutai reflects on the federation's journey: "Six years ago, curling in Kenya was barely known. Today, we have athletes competing internationally, raising Africa's profile in this unique sport."

Our focus is to grow, train, and compete, showing that with determination, even less-known sports can thrive here."

For those seeking a new sport to watch or participate in, Kenyan curling offers excitement, strategy, and a growing community.

It's a testament to what can be achieved with dedication and vision, even in a sport that seems far removed from Kenya's traditional athletic pursuits.

"Don't know me? You better get to know me," Mutai says, reflecting the federation's spirit and ambition.

As Kenyan curling continues to expand, both on the ice and in public imagination, it is clear that the country is carving a unique place for itself in the sport, one stone at a time.

*Citizen sport*

# GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*Iran has jailed a former goalkeeper for the national men's football team after he published earlier this year a post deeply critical of then-supreme leader Ali Khamenei, his wife said.

## Iran jails ex-national team goalkeeper after anti-Khamenei post: wife



A woman holds a placard with photos of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei and his predecessor and late father Ayatollah Ali Khamenei during an anti-US and Israel protest at the Haft-e Tir Square in Tehran on May 17, 2026. President Donald Trump issued a fresh warning to Iran on May 17, saying it had to move quickly towards a peace deal or "there won't be anything left of them." Washington, locked in conflict with Tehran since US and Israeli forces launched major strikes on the Islamic republic beginning February 28, has struggled to break an impasse and make any progress toward ending a war that has shaken the Middle East and sent energy prices climbing.

Iran has jailed a former goalkeeper for the national men's football team after he published earlier this year a post deeply critical of then-supreme leader Ali Khamenei, his wife said.

The Mizan news agency of the Iranian judiciary confirmed that Mohammad Rashid Mazaheri was under arrest but said he had been detained after seeking to illegally cross the border.

Mazaheri won a handful of caps for his country and was in the Iranian squad for the 2018 World Cup in Russia, but spent most of his international career in the shadow of Iran's undisputed number one goalie in the last years, Alireza Beiranvand. The player, who also kept goal

for top domestic teams, had in February published a since-deleted Instagram post in which he described longstanding supreme leader Khamenei as "only a dark and passing chapter" in Iran's history.

The post came after January mass protests but before the start of the US-Israeli war against Iran, in which Ali Khamenei was killed in on the first day.

The Persian-language news site IranWire, which is based outside Iran, said Mazaheri's home had been raided on February 25.

His wife Maryam Abdollahi wrote on Instagram on Tuesday that her husband was now being held "in very harsh solitary confinement" in Urmia in northwest-

ern Iran.

"Rashid always stood up for what he believed was right, and now he is paying the price for that courage with imprisonment in solitary confinement," she said.

Mizan on Wednesday reported he was being held in a "general prison ward", without saying where.

It said Mazaheri was arrested "after attempting to leave the country illegally through Iran's western borders by altering his appearance and bribing border officers".

The football scene in Iran is under intense scrutiny, with the Iranian men's team due to play in the World Cup in the United

States in June.

Iranian authorities earlier this month announced the seizure of assets linked to the former captain of the national football team, Ali Karimi, who now lives in exile and is a vehement critic of the Islamic republic.

Voria Ghafouri, a former national team player, was arrested during anti-government protests in 2022 during the last World Cup in Qatar. A member of Iran's Kurdish minority, he had bitterly condemned a crackdown on protesters.

AFP

# SPORTS NEWS



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BREAKING NEWS



# SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



## A visionary voice in global health and women's empowerment



By: Anila Bukhari  
@themtkenyatimes



### Worth Noting:

- Dr. Chipato earned her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree from Gannan Medical University in China and a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from the University of Science and Technology Houari Boumediene (USTHB) in Algeria. She is pursuing a Master of Public Health specializing in Maternal and Child Health at the James Lind Institute in Switzerland and a Master of Global Management with a concentration in Healthcare Delivery at Thunderbird School of Global Management, Arizona State University.
- Beyond medicine and academia, Dr. Chipato is passionate about personal growth, faith-based leadership, and mentorship. She completed Pastoral Studies at Charis Bible College, became a Professional Certified Life Coach through the International Coaching & Mentoring Foundation, and holds certification in Family and Marriage Counseling from TIMFA Christian University.

Dr. Mejury Chipato is a distinguished medical doctor, microbiologist, global health leader, entrepreneur, author, and humanitarian whose life journey reflects resilience, excellence, and unwavering dedication to transforming communities around the world. Rising from humble beginnings in rural Zimbabwe, she has become an internationally recognized advocate for healthcare advancement, women's empowerment, and sustainable leadership.

Her story is one of courage and perseverance. Growing up in Zimbabwe, Dr. Chipato developed a deep understanding of the challenges faced by underserved communities, particularly in healthcare access, education, and economic opportunity. These experiences shaped her passion for medicine and humanitarian work.

Dr. Chipato earned her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree from Gannan Medical University in China and a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from the University of Science and Technology Houari Boumediene (USTHB) in Algeria. She is pursuing a Master of Public Health specializing in Maternal and Child Health at the James Lind Institute in Switzerland and a Master of Global Management with a concentration in Healthcare Delivery at Thunderbird School of Global Management, Arizona State University.

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She is the author of *I Am in Charge of My Narrative*, a powerful memoir that shares her journey of overcoming adversity, pursuing purpose, and inspiring others to take ownership of their stories.

As a visionary leader, Dr. Chipato is the Founder and President of W.I.F.E. — Women of Influence, Faith & Ex-



*Dr. Mejury Chipato.*

cellence — an international platform dedicated to empowering women through mentorship, leadership development, networking, and storytelling. Through W.I.F.E. Magazine, she celebrates extraordinary women from around the world.

She is also the Founder of the Patience of Hope Foundation, a non-profit organization supporting underprivileged children and underserved communities through educational assistance, charitable outreach, and community-based initiatives. In healthcare, she serves as the Director of Greenride Health Group, an emerging healthcare initiative focused on improving access to quality

healthcare services and strengthening healthcare delivery systems.

Her humanitarian influence extends globally through her role as a Procurement Ambassador for Project C.U.R.E. – Phoenix, where she contributes to efforts that deliver medical supplies and equipment to communities facing critical shortages.

Dr. Chipato's leadership and service have earned her several awards and recognitions, including the "40 Under 40 Most Influential Young Business Leaders in Zimbabwe" by the Institute of Corporate Directors Zimbabwe, the Icons of Africa Award as a Medical Doctor and Philanthropist, the Community Builder Awards

in Africa, recognition at the African Women in Healthcare Awards, the Outstanding Medical Entrepreneur Award, the Health Entrepreneur Award at the SheMillionaire African Business Awards, the Inspirational Coach of the Year Award, Philanthropist of the Year, and the Phoenix Publishing Book Award.

Today, Dr. Mejury Chipato stands as a symbol of excellence, resilience, and visionary leadership. Through medicine, humanitarian outreach, women's empowerment, entrepreneurship, and global health advocacy, she continues to shape a future driven by compassion, innovation, and purpose.