



**Gachagua escalates war with Ruto, questions his security**  
Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday intensified his political attacks against President William Ruto, raising concerns over the President's security, accusing the government of using intimidation in by-elections

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**Wantam or Tutam: The then what next?**  
We are facing economic turmoil. Suffocating high fuel prices are only a symptom of economy in tatters. Sloganeering politics are good for emotions and excitement. They offer nothing beyond.

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Tuesday, May 26 2026

No. 01555 KSh 60 (TSh 1,700 : USh 2,700 : RFr 900)

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# The Mt. Kenya Times

Daily ePAPER

**Politics** Uhuru blasts tribal politics and Ruto's blame games at fiery Kiambu Jubilee meeting, as 2027 war drums grow louder

## Uhuru draws the line



Former president Uhuru Kenyatta has launched a stinging broadside against what he termed rising tribal politics and political escapism by President William Ruto's administration, warning that Kenya stands at a dangerous crossroads ahead of the 2027 general election.

Speaking during a Jubilee Party delegates' meeting in Kiambu County, Uhuru cautioned politicians against promoting tribal tensions, warning that such rhetoric could push the country back toward past instability. His remarks were pointed and personal. The former head of state singled out UDA secretary general Hassan Omar Hassan by name, accusing him and other senior government-aligned leaders of fuelling divisive ethnic narratives while failing to publicly denounce tribal sentiments — allowing such language to gain dangerous ground.

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Former President Uhuru Kenyatta

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# Mudavadi lauds gains in fight against jigger infestation

BY WMW

@themtkenyatimes

*Some of the moments as captured in pictures*

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi yesterday hailed Kenya's progress in the fight against jigger infestation, describing it as a major milestone in restoring dignity and improving public health in vulnerable communities.

Mudavadi spoke during the launch of the Ahadi Kenya Trust Jigger Archive and Community Resourceful Centre in Mukuyu, Kiharu Constituency, Murang'a County.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary said the facility symbolises resilience, hope and social transformation after years of community-driven efforts to eliminate the menace that once affected millions of Kenyans, particularly children and elderly people in poor rural areas.

"The occasion celebrated the tremendous progress made in the fight against jigger infestation while honouring survivors and families whose courage inspired a nationwide movement for healing, hygiene and restoration of dignity," Mudavadi said. He noted that two decades ago, many families silently suffered from the effects of jigger infestation, which affected education, health and livelihoods in rural communities.

Mudavadi commended Ahadi Kenya Trust Founder and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Stanley Kamau, alongside partners and volunteers, for sustaining the anti-jigger campaign for the last 19 years.

He said the newly launched archive and resource centre would serve as a national hub for research, education and preservation of Kenya's public health history for future generations.

The government official emphasized that the success recorded in the anti-jigger campaign demonstrates the power of collective responsibility, public awareness and community action in transforming lives.



Editor's Desk

## The Mt. Kenya Times



The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative. It is published by **Exponential International Limited**, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



A 47-year-old woman has been charged before an Eldoret court for allegedly torturing her 11-year-old niece while the child was under her care in Kapsoya estate, Uasin Gishu County. Benadine Jepkemoi Cherotich denied charges of cruelty to a child before Senior Resident Magistrate Keyne Gweno. Court documents state that between November 2025 and May 2026, she allegedly beat the minor, identified as P.J., using a copper wire, causing severe injuries and swelling on her back and thighs. The girl reportedly informed her teachers about the abuse, prompting intervention by child protection officers. Teachers discovered the injuries and noted the guardian had not sought medical treatment for the child. The court granted Cherotich a Sh100,000 bond or Sh50,000 cash bail, but ordered she remain in custody until the victim testifies.



Thousands of residents in Nyandarua County are set to benefit from a Sh1.6 billion rural electrification programme under the government's Last-Mile connectivity initiative. Energy PS Alex Wachira said the project aims to connect remote and previously underserved villages to the national power grid. Speaking during the launch of the Marewa Village Electrification Project in Ol Kalou Constituency, Wachira announced that Ol Kalou would receive Sh204 million, enabling more than 1,700 households to access electricity. The Marewa project alone will connect 106 households. The PS urged residents to use electricity to improve businesses, education and living standards.



Women groups involved in basket weaving and palm-reed products in Tharaka Nithi County have received support from Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) to improve skills and access better markets. Members of the Rwakinanga and Makomango community-based organizations in Marimanti Ward said low demand and poor earnings have discouraged many artisans despite the labour-intensive work. Chairlady Mercy Kawira John said some women earn as little as Sh50 after hours of weaving baskets, mats and brooms using traditional methods and raw materials collected from forests. KEFRI Research Officer Albert Ruvanda said the institution will offer training on value addition, modern designs and market access to improve product competitiveness locally and internationally.



Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary (CS) Rebecca Miano (center) accompanied by Uasin Gishu Senator Jackson Mandago (left) and Baringo Senator Vincent Chemitei (far left) during the minority cultural festival in Rumuruti, Laikipia county. Miano said she will ensure minorities will not be neglected as they had been in the past. "I want to vow and pledge that we will walk together, through the Tourism Fund, the Bomas of Kenya, KWS, and other sectors within my ministry," she said.



ODM leaders from the Luo Nyanza region have criticised James Orendo over what they termed attempts to divide the party and create confusion in its leadership. Speaking during a community empowerment event in Rarieda, Gladys Wanga said ODM would not tolerate individuals undermining party structures. Wanga accused Orendo of contradicting an earlier endorsement of Oburu Oginga as acting party leader following the death of Raila Odinga last year. She claimed Orendo's later declaration of himself as party leader was driven by jealousy and intended to divide the party. Wanga urged the Luo community to remain united behind Oburu's leadership, saying unity remained the community's greatest strength and key to political influence within the broad-based government.



Media Council of Kenya (MCK) has intensified nationwide efforts to promote media and digital literacy among students through Journalism Clubs Expos aimed at curbing misinformation and nurturing future content creators. Speaking at the Nyanza Region expo held at Homa Bay Boys Senior School, MCK Director of Media Training and Development Victor Bwire said the programme equips learners with skills to responsibly produce and consume media content. The initiative, already conducted in Kisii and Busia, targets secondary school journalism clubs. Students are trained to detect fake news, understand media operations, and navigate online spaces safely while avoiding harmful content such as hate speech and radicalisation. The programme also encourages youth to pursue careers in digital content creation and the wider digital economy.

**Politics** Gachagua claimed President Ruto's administration had become increasingly unpopular and could only survive politically through "money, guns and goons."

# Gachagua escalates war with Ruto, questions his security

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday intensified his political attacks against President William Ruto, raising concerns over the President's security, accusing the government of using intimidation in by-elections, and unveiling major changes within his Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) as the 2027 political battle gathers momentum.

Speaking after a meeting of the DCP National Executive Council in Nairobi, Gachagua claimed President Ruto's administration had become increasingly unpopular and could only survive politically through "money, guns and goons."

The former deputy president, who has emerged as one of Ruto's fiercest critics since his impeachment in 2024, said his party had performed strongly in the recent Emurua Dikirr by-election despite allegedly facing voter bribery and intimidation.

DCP candidate Vincent Rotich finished second with 10,760 votes in the Narok County contest, which Gachagua described as a moral victory in what he called a political stronghold of President Ruto.

"We knew of victory. We already got it. But voter bribery and intimidation on the night of the election by Mr William Ruto and his wheelbarrow party brought in a shade of darkness," Gachagua said.

He accused the President of using public resources to influence elections.

"It is clear Mr William Ruto and his lost brigade cannot get a vote anywhere in Kenya without paying heavily and using guns and goons," he claimed.

Gachagua's remarks came as DCP announced what it described as growing political support in Rift Valley counties traditionally seen as Ruto strongholds.

The party said it had received increased interest from aspirants in North Rift and South Rift seeking to contest various elective seats on the DCP ticket ahead of the 2027 General Election.

The former deputy president used the meeting to restructure his party leadership, appointing Nyandarua



Rigathi Gachagua during the media briefing yesterday.

Senator John Methu as Secretary General designate and party spokesperson.

Methu will work alongside outgoing Secretary General Hezron Obaga, who now assumes the role of party Executive Director.

Gachagua also named several new officials drawn from different regions in what appeared to be an attempt to project DCP as a national political outfit.

Among those appointed were Edgar Busiega from Kakamega as Secretary for Information and Technology, Leonard Cheruyoit from Narok as Secretary for Agriculture, Abdi Noor Mohamed from Wajir as chairperson of County Coordinating Committees and Wilson Kanyago Ndung'u as head of the Students' caucus.

The NEC further tasked Senator Methu and Kipipiri MP Wanjiku Muhia with leading DCP campaigns in the upcoming Ol Kalou by-election.

According to Gachagua, DCP currently has more than 4.5 million registered members internally, alongside thousands of aspirants seeking party tickets for gubernatorial, parliamentary, senate, and MCA positions.

He also accused the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties of frustrating defections from the ruling United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

to DCP.

However, it was Gachagua's comments on presidential security that triggered the sharpest political reactions.

While insisting he wanted President Ruto removed through the ballot in 2027 rather than violence, Gachagua claimed the President's security arrangements had significantly weakened under Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen.

"We are deeply concerned on the security of Mr William Ruto as the President of Kenya," he said.

Gachagua accused Murkomen of lacking the experience and seriousness required to manage national security, branding him "naïve, juvenile and childish."

"The man only smiles when he has a new belt, a new gold watch or excessive attire. He cannot sit down and work or even coordinate a security meeting," he claimed.

The former deputy president alleged that professional security officers had been sidelined and replaced by individuals selected along ethnic lines.

He further claimed that presidential security officers had gone for months without allowances, affecting morale within the security apparatus.

Gachagua referenced several recent incidents in which objects were allegedly hurled at President Ruto

during public events in Migori, Ki-

bra, Mombasa, and Wajir, saying the attacks pointed to worrying vulnerabilities around the Head of State.

He compared the situation to the 1994 assassination of Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana, whose plane crash triggered the Rwanda genocide.

"If anything happens to him, our nation could be destabilized," Gachagua warned. The remarks are likely to deepen tensions between Gachagua and the Kenya Kwanza administration, which has repeatedly accused the former deputy president of promoting divisive politics and ethnic mobilisation.

Since launching DCP last year, Gachagua has intensified opposition mobilisation efforts against Ruto's government while working alongside other opposition figures including Kalonzo Musyoka, Martha Karua, and former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i in talks aimed at forming a united opposition front ahead of 2027.

The DCP leader has in recent months mounted aggressive criticism of the government over taxation, cost of living, insecurity, and alleged political intimidation.



Nyandarua Senator John Methu

**Business** The financial support was facilitated through the County Government Emergency Fund

# Murang'a government gives financial support to traders affected by fuel protests

BY Bernard Munyao

@themtkenyatimes

The Murang'a County government has issued cheques worth KSh440,000 as a support to traders whose businesses were destroyed during the recent protests against high fuel prices.

The move by the devolved administration is an effort aimed at helping the business people recover, rebuild their enterprises and restore livelihoods disrupted by the unrest.

The financial support, which was facilitated through the County Government Emergency Fund, benefited 21 businesses drawn from different parts of the town who suffered varying levels of destruction during the protests.

Speaking during the issuance of the cheques on Sunday at the county headquarters, Governor Irungu Kang'ata said the county administration recognizes the critical role played by the private sector in driving economic growth, creating employment and generating revenue through taxes.

Kang'ata noted that traders form the backbone of the county's economy and therefore deserved support whenever emergencies and disasters disrupt their businesses.

"Our county strongly depends on the private sector and therefore we have a re-



**Murang'a governor Irungu Kang'ata issues a cheque to one of local traders whose business was vandalized during recent protests against high fuel prices.** | Photo: Bernard Munyao.

sponsibility as a government to support traders whenever emergencies occur because they are the people who pay taxes and sustain our economy," said the governor.

He explained that the amount awarded to each beneficiary was determined after an assessment exercise conducted by a county team, with the support being issued according to the extent of damage incurred by every business.

The governor said the compensation may not fully cover all the losses suffered by the traders but emphasized that the intervention was meant to offer relief and demonstrate solidarity with affected business owners as they work towards recovery.

"This may not fully compensate for all the losses incurred but it is one way of the government showing support and helping traders rise again

after such unfortunate incidents," he stated.

Kang'ata further clarified that the County Emergency Fund is not designed to address individual personal emergencies but is specifically meant to cater for damages and losses resulting from disasters, public emergencies and natural calamities affecting communities and businesses.

He assured traders that the county government would continue putting in place measures aimed at protecting businesses and ensuring a stable environment that supports investment and economic growth.

The governor affirmed that the devolved government remains committed to cushioning residents and businesses against unexpected disasters through emergency response programmes and recovery in-

terventions.

Kang'ata noted that his administration will continue to support traders, safeguard businesses and promote a safe and conducive environment for economic growth and investment across the county.

He called the security team led by the county commissioner to protect business premises especially during demonstrations.

"Police have a mandate to protect people's lives and their property. We don't want to engage people to take law into their hands. Let police, among other security agencies, do their work in protecting locals and their investments." He added.

On his part, Murang'a Township MCA Charles Machigo lauded the county government for the support to those who lost their merchandise during the protests.

Machigo called for investigations observing that there could be some individuals who could have used the protests to perpetuate business rivalries.

"Murang'a is a peaceful county, but we were shocked by a group of goons who turned peaceful demonstrations to destroy, invade and rob our traders. This should not happen again." Stated the MCA.

## Kenya's missing children crisis



**Former chief justice David Maraga**

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Former chief justice David Maraga has raised urgent alarm over a sharp rise in missing, abducted, and trafficked children in Kenya, warning that the crisis demands immediate national intervention.

Citing figures from the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS), Maraga said more than 10,500 child protection cases were reported between January 2025 and March 2026, among them 1,952 abductions and 1,636 missing children cases. The numbers mark a troubling climb from over 8,800 cases recorded in 2024 alone — roughly 17 to 18 children vanishing every single day.

"These are not statistics. These are our sons and daughters who leave home for school, errands, or play and never return," Maraga said, describing the pattern as evidence of deep institutional failure and weak accountability.

Recovery rates paint an equally grim picture. In

2022/2023, just 1.2 percent of nearly 7,000 reported cases ended in family reunification, according to government data. Nairobi, Nakuru, Kakamega, Homa Bay, and Kiambu were flagged as high-risk counties requiring sustained law enforcement operations.

Maraga also warned of growing online dangers, noting that more than 70 percent of children aged 10 to 18 regularly use the internet. "Online spaces have become a new frontier of risk for children, and we must strengthen cyber protection frameworks to respond effectively," he said. He urged stronger resourcing of the national child helpline 116 and called on the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, the Ministry of Gender and county governments to treat missing child cases with the urgency afforded to serious crimes.

With disappearances continuing to rise and recovery rates stubbornly low, Kenya's child protection system is running out of time to act.

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**Cohesion** The programme comes as youths continue to be engaged as advocates of peace and national cohesion as the country heads towards the 2027 general elections

# Students using arts to promote cohesion, address challenges facing communities

BY John Kamau

@themkenyatimes

Creative arts and expression has been taunted as the surest way to handle and tackle challenges facing communities as well as promote peace in the country by the young generation.

Youths in the country and especially students in secondary, tertiary and higher learning institutions have been spotted as the main agents of social cohesion among communities through creative arts and storytelling, tools that have proven to be effective in bridging societal and communal gaps that often cause disunity among regions and communities.

This was revealed during the culmination of a 9-month programme, by a non-governmental organisation dubbed, Narrative-4, designed to foster social cohesion and tolerance among Kenyan youth through storytelling and creative expression.

The programme that was unveiled in 40 secondary schools in Nairobi and Mombasa in September last year, has seen over 800 secondary school students equipped with skills to become compassionate leaders in their communities.

The programme comes as youths continue to be engaged as advocates of peace and national cohesion as the country heads towards the 2027 general elections.

Narrative 4 Director of Africa Operations Buchi Onyegbule said that

the programme is designed to arm youngsters with crucial skills that will enable them provide solutions to challenges facing their communities as well as building bridges among communities in the country which will further promote peace and tranquil interrelations.

The Director noted that beneficiaries of the programme are using creative arts and storytelling to understand one another and build stronger communities adding that when students' voices are heard, they have power to change the world. "A new generation is shaping a more united and compassionate Kenya," he said.

He noted that the young generation plays a pivotal role in the socio-economic of their communities and the country at large adding that preparing them to be agents of peaceful coexistence and compassionate leadership will safeguard the country's future.

Buchi at the same time reiterated that the organisation will partner with the government, upon success of the pilot project, to expand the program's scope to more schools across the country.

Ishmael Beah, an international author renowned for his books including *A Long Way Gone* and *Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, who was the chief guest at the event, noted that storytelling has a unifying power which can be exploited to build strong peaceful bonds among communities. "Stories allow people to walk in each others shoes and see each other's



Ishmael Beah, an international author renowned for his books including *A Long Way Gone* and *Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* speaking during the event.

ers humanity-to acknowledge and recognise each others differences in a deeper way. This is what is missing in our communities, countries and the entire world," he said.

Narrative 4 works in six countries in Africa including Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia and South Africa. Some 42,808 students took part in Narrative 4 programmes across the continent in 2025. The organisation works in schools and universities, engaging young people in initiatives to make positive changes in their communities.

The project is supported by Cre-

ative Visions and Students Rebuild through Unique & United, a global year-long initiative inviting youth aged 5-20 around the world to use creative expression as a force for unity and positive community impact.

"Through mentorship and guided creative programming, the young people will continue developing their creative leadership skills in the coming months. Students in the 40 participating schools are set to join Narrative 4's continent-wide Cities School Challenge, aiming to build creative solutions to local challenges

and create stronger communities," Buchi said.

Kenyan students Shammah Zulema of Kongoni secondary school and Timon Gitau of The Nairobi School, welcomed the programme saying that it's playing a crucial role in changing their mindset and moulding them into peace-builders and change-makers in the society.

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## NTSA to roll out digital eLogbook system in major shift from paper certificates

BY MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes



A logbook

The National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) has announced plans to fully digitise motor vehicle registration certificates through the introduction of an electronic logbook system aimed at improving efficiency, reducing fraud, and cutting delays in service delivery.

The new electronic motor vehicle registration certificate, commonly referred to as the eLogbook, will officially go live on June 10, 2026, marking a major transition from the current paper-based logbooks.

In a public notice issued by the authority, NTSA said the digital platform forms part of its broader road transport modernization and digital transformation agenda intended to create faster, transparent, and citizen-centred services.

The authority has already begun sensitisation sessions for stakeholders to prepare users for the transition.

According to NTSA Director General Nashon Kondiwa, the eLogbook will be integrated into all motor vehicle registration services, including new vehicle registration, transfer of ownership, inspection processes, and change of vehicle particulars.

Vehicle owners will access, download, view, and verify their digital logbooks through their eCitizen accounts.

NTSA said the new system is expected to significantly reduce administrative bottlenecks that have traditionally delayed registration services for days, weeks, or even months.

“Ultimately, all NTSA service delivery timelines will be reduced from an average of three to seven days to same-day or instant service,” the authority said.

The agency cited enhanced security as one of the key advantages of the digital platform, noting that the eLogbook will reduce risks associated with document forgery, tampering, or loss through advanced digital safeguards.

The authority also said the platform would improve data management by enabling real-time and accurate records that can support

traffic enforcement, insurance verification, and road safety initiatives.

Other expected beneficiaries include insurance companies, banks, legal firms, transport operators, driving schools, and government agencies that regularly rely on vehicle ownership records.

To ensure smooth implementation, NTSA has scheduled a series of virtual sensitisation and training sessions targeting different stakeholder groups.

The sessions began yesterday with assemblers, vehicle body builders, motor vehicle dealers, and motorcycle dealers.

Financial institutions will be trained today while the diplomatic community will participate tomorrow.

Additional sessions tomorrow will involve transport network companies, insurance firms, legal practitioners, driving schools, heavy commercial vehicle operators, school transport operators, taxi associations, tour operators, and public service vehicle saccos.

On Thursday, the authority will engage ministries, county governments, investigative agencies, and other government institutions.

Members of the public will participate in virtual sensitisation sessions between June 2 and June 4.

NTSA has urged all stakeholders to register for the sessions through its official website.

The authority said the digital shift is expected to reduce unnecessary physical visits to NTSA offices, improve transparency, minimise opportunities for corruption, and enhance user experience for motorists and other road users across the country.

## NCIC warns politicians over rising hate speech and ethnic incitement

BY WMW

@themtkenyatimes

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission has issued a stern warning to politicians, their supporters, and social media users over what it described as escalating political intolerance, ethnic incitement, hate speech, and violent rhetoric threatening national unity and democratic stability.

In its first major statement since the swearing in of its new chairperson and commissioners, the commission said Kenya was entering a dangerous phase marked by divisive politics, inflammatory public discourse, and coordinated online attacks targeting individuals based on political opinion and ethnicity.

Led by Chairman Bishop Dr. Kepha Nyamweya Omae, the commission declared itself “fully constituted and ready to serve,” pledging to firmly enforce laws against hate speech and ethnic contempt without fear or favour.

“The Commission assumes its mandate at a critical juncture defined by escalating political intolerance, hate speech, ethnic contempt, and violent rhetoric that have become disturbingly prevalent in Kenya’s public discourse,” the statement said.

The agency expressed concern over recent incidents involving disruption of political meetings, inflammatory remarks by political actors, and what it termed systematic demonisation of people holding differing political views.

According to the commission, several of the incidents being witnessed across the country amount to criminal offences under the Constitution and the National Cohesion and Integration Act.

The commission cautioned political leaders against exploiting ethnic divisions for political gain, saying such conduct risks undermining peace and democracy.

“Kenya cannot afford to travel that path,” the commission warned, adding that democracy thrives on tolerance, peaceful engagement, and respect for differing opinions.

The statement extensively cited Article 33 of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of ex-



NCIC chairman Dr Kepha Nyamweya Omae addressing journalists as commissioners looks on. Photo/Courtesy.

pression but limits speech amounting to incitement, hate speech, ethnic vilification, or advocacy of violence and discrimination.

The commission emphasised that constitutional freedoms do not provide cover for inflammatory speech or incitement.

It also raised alarm over the increasing misuse of digital platforms to spread divisive content, coordinate harassment campaigns, and amplify inflammatory material. “Online hate speech carries the same legal consequences as utterances made in public,” the commission said, warning that individuals hiding behind anonymous social media accounts would still face accountability.

The anti-hate agency disclosed that it is actively monitoring political discourse on social media, mainstream media, public rallies, and formal political proceedings, and vowed to pursue prosecutions where evidence warrants.

“No one is above the law. Political influence does not confer immunity from accountability,” the commission stated.

The agency further warned political parties against tolerating toxic rhetoric among members and supporters, saying parties bear institutional responsibility for the conduct of their officials and candidates.

It urged leaders to publicly denounce hate speech and incitement within their own political formations, arguing that silence in the face of intolerance amounts to endorsement.

The commission also directed its appeal to young people, cautioning them against being manipulated into violence or political intolerance.

“Youth are at the forefront of this nation’s political energy and immense potential,” the statement said. “That future is best secured through peaceful, constructive and lawful engagement, not through violence or harassment.”

The commission called on citizens to exercise responsibility both online and offline by verifying information before sharing content that could fuel hostility or ethnic division.

As the country navigates heightened political activity ahead of future electoral contests, the commission urged leaders and citizens alike to embrace issue-based politics centred on governance, policy, and development instead of ethnicity and fear.

“Kenya deserves better than the politics of hatred. Kenyans are better than the rhetoric of contempt,” Bishop Omae said.

The commission said it remains ready to work with political parties, religious institutions, civil society groups, the media, and the public in promoting national cohesion and peaceful coexistence.

It also appealed to Kenyans to resolve political grievances through constitutional means, including dialogue, the courts, and democratic participation rather than violence or hate speech.

“The protection of peace, national unity, and democratic values is a collective responsibility,” the commission said. “Let us disagree without destroying one another. Let us compete without dehumanising one another.”

# Uhuru draws the line

*Former president blasts tribal politics and Ruto's blame games at fiery Kiambu Jubilee meeting, as 2027 war drums grow louder*

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyaintimes

Former president Uhuru Kenyatta has launched a stinging broadside against what he termed rising tribal politics and political escapism by President William Ruto's administration, warning that Kenya stands at a dangerous crossroads ahead of the 2027 general election.

Speaking during a Jubilee Party delegates' meeting in Kiambu County, Uhuru cautioned politicians against promoting tribal tensions, warning that such rhetoric could push the country back toward past instability. His remarks were pointed and personal. The former head of state singled out UDA secretary general Hassan Omar Hassan by name, accusing him and other senior government-aligned leaders of fuelling divisive ethnic narratives while failing to publicly denounce tribal sentiments — allowing such language to gain dangerous ground.

Uhuru referenced the 2007 post-election violence, warning that similar patterns of divisive language preceded that unrest — a chilling reminder of the 1,500 lives lost and 600,000 people displaced in Kenya's darkest democratic chapter, according to Human Rights Watch records. That history, he made clear, must never be repeated.

The rebuke of Ruto's administration was equally unsparing. "Do not talk about tribalism and other things. If you want us to help solve the problem, then reach out; we solve, but blaming others will not work. Let us sit together and solve. When the country has a problem, it involves all of us," he said. It was a direct and deliberate challenge to a government that has frequently pointed fingers at its predecessors for the country's economic woes.

Turning to the cost of living, Uhuru urged the current administration to urgently address rising fuel prices and transport costs, which he described as key drivers of economic strain on Kenyan households. He illustrated the burden facing low-income earners, noting that households earning around Sh20,000 spend nearly half of that on transport costs alone, with a further significant

portion consumed by rent. "Kenyans will not eat words, education, or build roads with just talking. It does not have tribalism or anything else; it needs all Kenyans," he said.

The meeting at Kiambu Golf Club drew significant political attention, not least because of what Uhuru's re-emergence signals. He reminded residents of Kiambu and the wider Mt Kenya region of his 2022 warnings against electing the current administration. "I warned you in 2022, but you didn't listen. Now you are crying," he said, urging voters to prioritise leaders guided by facts, performance, and long-term impact rather than political rhetoric.

Despite the charged atmosphere, Uhuru insisted his involvement in Jubilee remains largely administrative and advisory, dismissing suggestions of a political comeback or plans to position himself for future political battles. Few in Kenya's political establishment appear fully persuaded. Analysts at The Elephant describe the current moment as a rematch in the making — a second-season confrontation between Uhuru and Ruto, both men driven by a desire to control the levers of the state come 2027.

The response from Ruto's allies was swift. Jubilee leaders in Nakuru had already hit back at Hassan Omar days earlier, accusing him of reviving tribal rhetoric and dragging Uhuru into unnecessary partisan exchanges. Nakuru Jubilee chairperson Charles Mburu described Omar's remarks as reckless and poorly timed. "We are aware that some in government are anxious about the impact Uhuru Kenyatta may have on the 2027 political landscape," he said.

That anxiety is not without basis. According to the Daily Nation, Uhuru continues to attract significant political attention, hosting allies at his Ichaweri home in Gatundu South and reportedly pulling strings behind the scenes to reposition protégés ahead of the next polls. His Azimio la Umoja coalition — which he chairs as patron — controls 173 of 349 National Assembly seats, 33 of 67 Senate seats, and 22 of 47 governorships, a parliamentary weight that no government seeking a second term can afford to ignore.

Meanwhile, the broader political



Former President Uhuru Kenyatta

environment is darkening. The Ruto administration has been accused of fostering political intolerance and targeting perceived critics, while matatu operators have launched a nationwide strike over fuel costs, deepening public anger at a government struggling to manage economic expectations ahead of a bruising election cycle. Mombasa Jubilee chairman Richard Barake warned that if

the current administration fails to meet public expectations, voters will act accordingly at the ballot.

Uhuru's message at Kiambu was ultimately as much a warning as a political declaration — to a government he believes is governing through division, and to a nation he fears may be sleepwalking back toward the ethnic fault lines that have defined, and at times devastated,

Kenya's political history. With 2027 drawing ever closer, his voice — however much he insists it is merely advisory — is growing harder to ignore.

Kenya has heard the drums before. The question now is whether its leaders have the courage, and the conscience, to silence them.



UDA Secretary General Hassan Omar Hassan

**Youth** “Africa is not rising — it has already risen. What remains is the full realization of its destiny,” he said.

# Pan-African leader calls for unity, youth empowerment and economic transformation

BY WMW

@themkenyatimes

African leaders have been urged to strengthen continental unity, invest in young people and accelerate economic transformation to secure Africa's future in an increasingly competitive global environment.

Speaking during an interview on the sidelines of the Africa Liberation Day celebrations at the Edge Convention Centre in Nairobi, Ambassador Eugene Kavune Nzabonimba said Africa possesses enormous potential but must overcome division, conflict and dependency to fully realise its destiny.

Nzabonimba, founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Union for Peace and



From left; Ambassador Eugene Kavune Nzabonimba, Ambassador Mary Wahogo and CDE Samora at The Edge Convention Centre yesterday. | Photo: Courtesy.

Development (GUPD), described Africa as a continent defined by strength rather than weakness.

He said the continent is endowed with abundant natural resources, rich cultural and spiritual heritage, intellectual capacity, technological potential and the world's youngest population.

“Africa is not rising — it has already risen. What remains is the full realization of its destiny,” he said.

The Pan-African leader, however, acknowledged that the continent continues to face serious challenges, including armed conflicts, political instability, corruption, youth unemployment, poverty, weak institutions and dependency on external systems.

“These challenges are not signs of failure. They are calls for transformation,” he said,

adding that African governments and institutions must strengthen accountability, governance and inclusive development mechanisms.

Nzabonimba stressed that no African nation could fully succeed in isolation, calling for stronger continental integration, regional cooperation and expanded intra-African trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area framework.

“A divided Africa is vulnerable. A united Africa is unstoppable,” he said.

He urged African leaders to move away from fragmentation and dependency and instead embrace collaboration, shared security frameworks and collective economic strength.

On peace and security, Nzabonimba called for stronger African-led conflict prevention systems, peacekeeping operations, mediation initiatives and post-conflict rehabilitation programmes.

He noted that lasting development could only thrive in peaceful and stable societies. “Where there is peace, development follows. Where there is war, progress collapses,” he said.

The GUPD founder who was accompanied by among other, the organization Programs director Ambassador Mary Wahogo also placed strong emphasis on youth empowerment, describing young people as Africa's greatest resource.

He called for increased investment in education, digital transformation, technical and vocational training, entrepreneurship and leadership development programmes to

unlock the continent's human capital.

“If we fail our youth, we fail Africa's future. If we empower them, we secure Africa's destiny,” he said.

He further urged African governments to empower women, protect children and place human dignity at the centre of development policies.

On economic transformation, Nzabonimba challenged African countries to shift from exporting raw materials to building value-driven economies through industrialisation, agricultural modernisation, renewable energy development and digital innovation.

He also called for strategic investment partnerships that prioritise African interests and sustainable development.

As part of its commitment to continental development, Nzabonimba said GUPD would continue supporting peacebuilding, humanitarian response, youth leadership, education, human rights advocacy, diplomacy and sustainable investment initiatives across Africa.

He concluded by urging African leaders and citizens to reject corruption, hatred, violence and complacency while embracing unity, integrity, justice, innovation and cooperation.

“The destiny of Africa is in African hands, and history is calling us to rise to our highest responsibility,” he said.

The Africa Liberation Day celebrations brought together diplomats, civil society actors, youth leaders and Pan-African advocates to reflect on Africa's progress and future direction.

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**Africa** Participants lamented that Africa has for decades exported its talent while remaining dependent on external systems and aid.

# Pan-African leaders call for borderless Africa and urgent continental unity

BY WMW

@themtkenyaintimes

Calls for a united, self-reliant and economically integrated Africa dominated discussions at the Africa Liberation Day meeting held at the Edge Convention Centre in Nairobi, where diplomats, scholars, governance experts and Pan-African thinkers urged Africans to move from rhetoric to action in addressing the continent's challenges.

The gathering brought together prominent African voices who challenged leaders and citizens alike to embrace continental unity, strengthen regional cooperation and unlock Africa's immense human and natural resources.

In a strongly worded closing statement, delegates said Africa could no longer afford division, dependency and political fragmentation in a rapidly changing global order.

"Africa does not need another generation of spectators. Africa needs builders — bridge builders, policy builders, peace builders, institution builders and hope builders," the statement read.

Participants lamented that Africa has for decades exported its talent while remaining dependent on external systems and aid.

"For far too long, our borders have been stronger than our brotherhood," the declaration stated.

"For far too long, Africa has been introduced to the world

by her pain instead of her potential."

The meeting, held to mark Africa Liberation Day, drew participants from across the continent, including senior officials from the African Union and leading Pan-African advocates.

Among the keynote speakers was PLO Lumumba, the Kenyan lawyer and renowned Pan-African intellectual, who electrified delegates with an impassioned appeal for a borderless Africa.

Prof Lumumba argued that African nations must dismantle restrictive barriers that hinder movement, trade and collaboration among Africans.

He said existing national borders should largely remain for administrative purposes while Africans should be allowed to move, trade and work freely across the continent.

"Africa must trade with Africa, believe in Africa and invest in Africa," he said, adding that continental unity was no longer optional but necessary for economic and political survival.

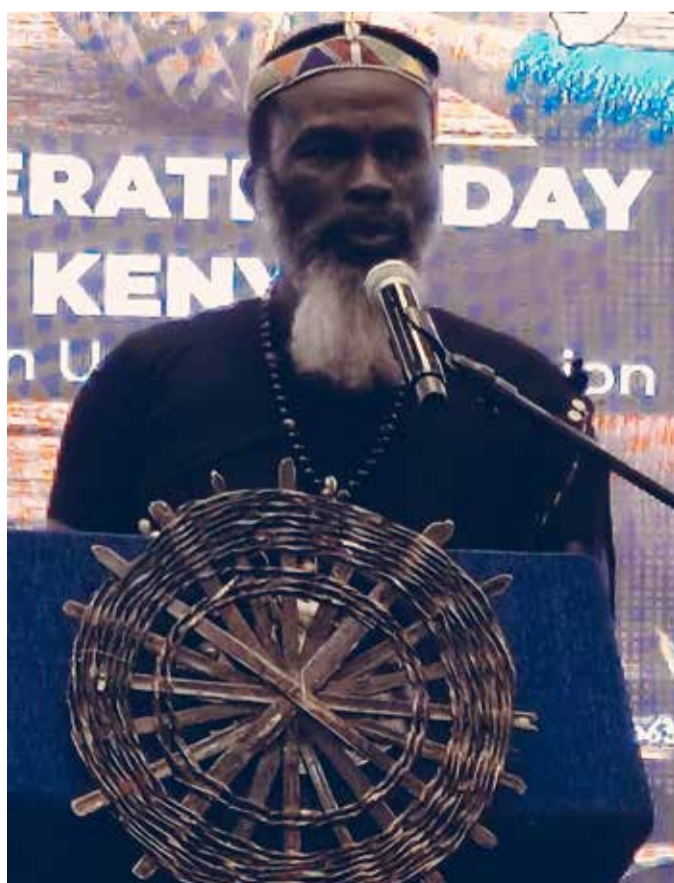
Lumumba further argued that Africa's future prosperity depended on collective solutions to shared challenges including poverty, underdevelopment, conflict and economic dependency.

Also addressing the gathering was Ambassador Salah Hammed, head of the African Governance Architecture and African Peace and Security Architecture (APA-APSA) at the African Union Secretariat.

Ambassador Hammed called on African leaders to strengthen unity and make better use of the continent's vast resources, particularly its youthful population, which he said accounts for nearly 65



Ambassador Salah Hammed in Nairobi yesterday. | Photo: Courtesy.



Joshua Maponga addressing the forum yesterday.

percent of Africa's people.

He noted that many of the crises affecting the continent, including civil wars, drought, famine and instability could be addressed more effectively through stronger continental cooperation and political cohesion.

"If Africa is united, many of the problems ravaging the continent can be solved internally," he said.

Other prominent participants included Joshua Maponga, Zimbabwean philosopher and public intellectual known for advocating African cultural identity and self-determination; Felix Achibiri, chairperson of the AU PPP Steering Committee for the 2026 Summit and Investment Forum; Mozambique's CDE Samora, Ambassador Frederic Ngoga Gateretse, a Rwandan peace and security expert with the African Union as well as Ambassador Eugene Kavune Nz-

abonimba who is the founder and CEO of Global Union of Peace and Development (GUPD).

Delegates repeatedly emphasised the need for African-led solutions to African problems, increased intra-African trade, investment in innovation and stronger regional institutions.

The conference also highlighted the role of Africa's diaspora, with speakers urging Africans living abroad to contribute not only remittances but also skills, investments and leadership toward the continent's transformation.

Reading the meeting summary, Ogenna Walter Ekwubiri from Nigeria challenged Africans to "walk the talk" and move beyond symbolic declarations toward concrete implementation of Pan-African ideals.

The event concluded with a renewed call for African unity, peace and self-belief as

delegates urged leaders and citizens to embrace a shared continental destiny.

Quoting the late South African leader Nelson Mandela, participants reminded attendees that "it always seems impossible until it is done."

As delegates departed Nairobi, one message echoed throughout the convention hall: "Africa must unite not tomorrow, but now."

In an interview at the sidelines of the forum, Ambassador Nzabonimba called on African Union leaders to strengthen unity, peace, governance, and economic transformation.

Nzabonimba described Africa as a continent defined not by weakness but by strength, citing its abundant natural resources, rich cultural and spiritual heritage, intellectual capacity, technological potential, and youthful population.

**Politics** Hustler economy was a hoax orchestrated by Mr. William Ruto. It was a well choreographed political lie. It was a meticulous long con game based on false promises

# Wantam or Tutam: The then what next?



BY Jimi Wanjigi  
@themtkenyentimes

We are facing economic turmoil. Suffocating high fuel prices are only a symptom of economy in tatters.

Sloganeering politics are good for emotions and excitement. They offer nothing beyond.

This is moment for deep reflection and asking hard questions.

Our problem is our economy. It is not about our ethnic identity. Ethnic tactic of divide and conquer ended. The fiscal justice democratic uprising by Gen Z shifted the politics.

The dangerous ethnic dog whistle politics that some people are trying to introduce are a distraction from our collective problem.

Hustler economy was a hoax orchestrated by Mr. William Ruto. It was a well choreographed political lie. It was a meticulous long con game based on false promises.

Kenya has very hardworking, industrious, and entrepreneurial people. They don't give up easily. They turn turbulence into resilience. Theirs is not just hope and faith. It is faith in action. This is what makes the country remain vibrant even under difficult circumstances.

I want to assure all Kenyans, our better days are around the corner. We must come together and secure our economic security. This is our collective mission.

Today, our problem is the extraction Mbeberu economy. This 120 years extraction must see fundamental structural change. It started with land grabbing, then introduced taxes, forced labour and now debt slavery.

In the Bible, God sent the

great floods to judge the world because humanity had become overwhelmingly wicked, corrupt, and violent. Floods were a judgement. They were to clean up the sin and restore humanity discipline. Noah's Ark was the Restart of new order.

Safina Party is telling Kenyans that our floods are here. The economic plague we are facing today. The economic pain you are going through is the floods.

Every Kenyan and each household is facing an economic plague. This plague is finishing all of us. It doesn't know which tribe or region you come from. We are all suffering same economic pain.

As we defend our democracy and freedoms, it is not yet uhuru because our political freedoms are meaningless without economic progress. Our economic security is foundation of our dignity, opportunity and hope for the future.

We have been aggressively building our democracy. We must now come together and build our economy. This is about our lives. This is our hour of need. We must come together today not tomorrow.

We are facing an enormous challenge: The economic security of our people and the country. We stand at a pivotal moment where our choices now will define the future and prosperity of our children and the dignity of our nation.

We must bask in both political freedom and economic prosperity. We must kill this Mbeberu extraction economy. It is finishing our people. It is sinking us all.

My presidency will be consequential with your electoral mandate. It will be new direction and path for the country. It will be economic revolution underpinned by strong rule of law and clean governance. Ours will the constitutional economic order.

We are willing to work with those who share our agenda. Ours is not sloganeering politics. It is people's issues.

We believe in hard decisions. What we say is assurance. We won't be drawn into empty sloganeering political contests. We are focused on the ball.

Our economic security is crucial national assignment. A prosperous, united, and sovereign nation is within our grasp, but it requires us to move together.

The path to our true economic freedom is not easy. It demands bold, and painful, decisions. It requires us to move from a culture of consumption to one of production, transforming our country from a net importer to a net exporter.

We must create an environment for competition and producing more cheaply. Our strength must come from production. An economy that stops producing cannot survive. A producing nation becomes rich. Money remains inside, creates jobs and drive technological innovation for production.

With your mandate, I want to see all Kenyans with equal rights and opportunities in our entire sovereign republic. Each of us must be well rewarded for their sweat and respected for the hard work you do. I want to see prosperous farmers, businesses and a people who grow rich from their labours. That's why we have Safina- PESA FIST Agenda.

Our PESA FIST Agenda will end debt colonialism. It will liberate Kenyans from being financial slaves. Our agenda will guarantee healthy, educated and skilled population. It will stop government domestic markets borrowing and open floodgates for access to cheap credit. Our tax will be simple, predicable and set at sales tax of 5% not 16%.

We will cut off regulatory bureaucracy to accelerate innovation and investments. And our agenda will build industrial scale manufacturing and high value added agricultural industry powered by reliable and cheap energy. Kenyans will have direct say in their security affairs.



Safina party leader and it's presidential candidate Jimi Wanjigi (in glasses) engaging Kenyans in one of the many forums he convenes to seek their support. | Photo: Courtesy.

It will be joyous to meet and see prosperous people from all communities of Kenya. I do not want to hear that one is condemned for being industrious because he or she is of different ethnic community. All I want to know is that he or she is a Kenyan and is working for the success of Kenya.

It is us coming together to ensure that we build industries working at full capacity, feeding our people, educating our children, providing good healthcare and improving quality of life for every Kenyan. I want to see that our

workers receive fair treatment and just wages for their services to Kenyans.

Politics of divide and rule Kenyans are over. Politics of regional kingpins and ethnic blocks were dismantled by Gen Z revolution. All Kenyans are united for their economic and financial security. They are firmly together for their lives and interests.

Kenyans are not aiming to survive. They are aiming to thrive. The journey is long, and the path ahead demand collective effort and sacrifice. Our bold economic indepen-

dence is necessary to secure our sovereignty, create millions of jobs, and ensure high quality of life for every Kenyan.

Let us turn Kenya into a beacon of economic prosperity and innovation. Let us all arise together for our Economic Freedom with Safina Party, the Ark for Economic Revolution.

*Jimi Wanjigi  
Presidential Candidate 2027  
and Safina Party Leader*

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**Education** “We are investing heavily in education because it remains the strongest foundation for equality, opportunity and national transformation,” Prof Kindiki said.

# Kindiki highlights education gains as State pledges more investment

BY DPCS  
@themkenyaintimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki yesterday led leaders in commissioning Geturi School in Mosoch, Kitutu Chache North Constituency, Kisii County.

At the event, the leader outlined Government efforts to reform and strengthen the education sector.

Prof Kindiki said the Kenya Kwanza administration had significantly increased funding to education as part of its plan to improve access, quality and relevance of learning across the country.

He said the education budget had risen from KSh500 billion in 2022 to MSh702 billion in the current financial year and would increase further to a historic KSh765 billion in the 2026/2027 financial year starting July 1.

The Deputy President said the Government had undertaken major policy interventions, including reforms under the Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) system, recruitment of teachers and expansion of learning infrastructure.

“We are investing heavily in education because it remains the strongest foundation for equality, opportunity and national transformation,” Prof Kindiki said.

He noted that the Government had recruited a record 100,000 teachers over the last four years, constructed 23,000 classrooms and built 1,600 laboratories to improve learning conditions in schools.

At the tertiary level, Prof Kindiki said reforms in technical and vocational education had led to increased enrollment and improved training opportunities for young people.

The Government, he said, was constructing and equipping at least one

technical training institute in every constituency while implementing reforms such as modular-based learning, recognition of prior learning and the dual training policy.

He added that the reduction of annual fees in technical institutions from KSh105,000 to KSh87,000 had helped increase enrollment from 297,000 students in 2022 to 718,000 currently.

Prof Kindiki also defended the new student-centred university funding model, saying it was designed to ensure no student misses university education due to lack of fees while helping stabilise public universities facing financial challenges.

He pledged continued investment in education infrastructure, teacher recruitment and student support programmes, saying the Government was determined to ensure every child accesses quality and relevant education.



DP Kithure Kindiki launching as other stakeholders look on.

The school was built through the National Government Constituency Development Fund under the patronage of Kitutu Chache North MP Japhet Nyakundi.

Other leaders present included Kisii Deputy Governor Elijah Obebo, MPs, MCAs, parents, teachers and students.

Other leaders present included Ki-

The Mt. Kenya Times



## Regret

In a narrow room filled with regrets and scars.

Inside this room there is no peace,  
No laughter, no joy that will increase.  
Everyone here suffers the same despair,  
Thinking of their mistakes with endless care.

Again and again they weep and pray,  
Saying "Repentance" through tears each day.

I am Nozima Abdivali qizi Aliqulova, born  
on February 14, 2006. After graduating  
from school, I enrolled at Shahrizabz State  
Pedagogical Institute.

Writing poetry has been my passion since  
childhood, and the poem I am sharing with you  
today is one of my original works.



My mother said, "Do not sin,"  
Yet I answered her with lies within.  
But today my faults are many,  
And from her I seek my refuge dearly.

Now I know all things are vain,  
Though I ask forgiveness again and again.  
Endlessly, a thousand apologies I send,  
Yet peace no longer to me descends.

For my sins are deep and endless,  
That is why my life feels helpless.  
I am living like confined behind bars,

## Too much attention makes a donkey think he is a lion



Too much attention can change the mind,  
Making people forget to stay kind.  
A donkey praised again and again  
May start thinking he is a lion then.

Attention is given with love and care,  
Not for pride or showing off everywhere.  
Respect the people who stand by you,  
And value the love they give to you.

Too much spotlight can feed the ego,  
Making humility slowly go.  
A donkey hearing endless cheers  
May roar like a lion to waiting ears.

The tree with fruits bends low and still,  
While empty ones stand high with will.  
So when attention comes your way,  
Stay grounded every single day.

No borrowed praise can change what's true,  
Character always shines through.  
For borrowed glory fades too soon,  
Like morning mist beneath the moon.

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

## When the Universe Learned to Love



The stars may fade, the skies may weep,  
The planets wander, vast and deep,  
Yet love, like space, its vow will keep,  
In silent echoes while we sleep.

The universe knows no end or start,  
It holds each world within its heart,  
And so does love—its greatest art,  
Binding two souls though miles apart

For when I look at skies above,  
At constellations woven of love,  
I see a truth sent from above—  
The universe was made of love.

And if one day the stars should fall,  
And time grows weary of it all,  
My heart would answer heaven's call,  
To love you still, beyond it all. 🌟❤️🌙

©Dr. Daksha Udhani  
Ahmedabad

Before the stars were stitched in light,  
Before the moon adorned the night,  
Before the galaxies took their flight,  
Love existed, pure and bright.

The sun still waits for dawn each day,  
Though darkness often blocks its way,  
Just as my heart will always stay,  
No matter how far you may stray.

The moon embraces every tide,  
Though oceans keep the two aside,  
Like souls in love who gently hide,  
A thousand feelings deep inside.

## Exams



Whole year we say,  
"Exams are still far away."  
Then suddenly timetable comes  
like a horror movie entry.

One night before exam,  
every student becomes a philosopher,  
scientist, and prayer master together.

Important lessons never enter the brain,  
but random song lyrics stay forever.

Friends call and ask,  
"Did you study?"  
Both are lying confidently.

Hall ticket in hand,  
fear in heart,

fake confidence on face.

Question paper comes slowly,  
and first reaction is always:  
"From which planet is this?"

During exams,  
even the silent students  
start looking at fans, walls, and windows  
for answers.

After exam ends,  
everyone becomes teacher outside the hall.  
"Bro, what did you write for Question 5?"  
That one question destroys peace completely.

But somehow,  
between stress, fear, and sleepy nights,  
these exam memories also become  
funny stories one day.

V. S. NITHIYASRI  
VIII  
JOHN DEWEY MATRIC HIGHER SECONDARY  
SCHOOL, PANRUTI, TAMILNADU

## Life through a mobile screen



The morning breeze, the sunset sky,  
Pass unnoticed gently by.

A simple meal feels poor and small,  
A tiny house worth none at all.  
Dreams begin to fade away  
By what the screens and strangers say.

Yet phones can never fully show  
The hidden tears no one will know.  
Behind bright smiles and shining light  
Many souls still lose their fight.

Real life breathes in moments small  
A caring hand, a sudden call,  
A mother waiting at the door,  
A friend who stays through every storm.

So lift your eyes from glowing light,  
The world still waits beyond the night.  
For life is more than what is shown  
Inside a little mobile phone.

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

Through glowing screens we scroll each day,  
Watching countless lives display.  
Smiling faces, perfect skies,  
Carefully framed in filtered lies.

We compare our silent pain  
With someone dancing in the rain.  
Their joyful posts, their shining art,  
Slowly wound the weary heart.

Because of phones we drift apart,  
Though once we shared a single heart.  
Friends who laughed till evenings late  
Now speak through screens and silent wait.

Relationships grow weak and thin,  
While strangers slowly wander in.  
Families sit in the same room near,  
Yet no one truly seems to hear

.We lost our time to endless scrolls,  
Forgotten dreams and quiet goals.

## People on a path to purpose don't have time for drama



Setting goals in life  
Helps us choose the path we take.  
Where to go and what to do in life  
Purely depends on the choices we make.

There are some people who try to cross us  
Even when we are moving toward our goals.  
Sometimes we may get stuck because of such  
evil souls  
Who try to distract us from our chosen path.

We can overcome every obstacle  
By having deep conversations with ourselves  
Let them wear their cheap spectacles;  
We must do our best to create miracles.

What happens if we give importance to such  
drama?  
It only leaves painful wounds and hidden trauma.  
Try to make your life a beautiful melodrama;  
Stay focused on your path, and never become a  
clown in their drama.

N.DEEPALAKSHMI  
B.T. ASST IN ENGLISH  
CREATIVE WRITER  
GHSS-SATHUVACHARI  
VELLORE DISTRICT  
TAMILNADU  
INDIA

Jiggers, Mudavadi said the country has made significant progress in reducing a disease that once affected more than three million people

# Mudavadi hails Kenya's gains in fight against jigger infestation

BY PCS  
@themkenyatimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi yesterday praised Kenya's progress in the long-running fight against jigger infestation, describing it as one of the country's most impactful grassroots public health campaigns.

Speaking in Murang'a County during the unveiling of the Ahadi Kenya Trust Jigger Archive and Community Resource Centre, Mudavadi said the country has made significant progress in reducing a disease that once affected more than three million people, particularly children and elderly persons in impoverished rural communities.

He said the establishment of the archive marks an important milestone in preserving the history of the struggle



PCS Musalia Mudavadi with Dr. Stanley Kamau in Murang'a yesterday.

against jiggers, including lessons learned, survivor testimonies, and the transformation achieved through sustained interventions.

"We are here to archive the painful chapter of the long fight against jigger infesta-

tion," Mudavadi said, noting that affected communities once faced stigma, school absenteeism, suffering, and social exclusion.

He recalled that in severely affected areas, children were unable to attend school, fam-

ilies lived in shame and isolation, and some victims suffered permanent disability or death due to untreated infestations linked to poverty and poor hygiene.

Mudavadi commended Ahadi Kenya Trust and its

partners for spearheading community-based interventions that have restored dignity and improved livelihoods in affected regions. He noted that the anti-jigger campaign, which began in Murang'a in 2007, has since expanded to multiple counties including Central, Coast, Eastern, Rift Valley and Western Kenya.

According to him, collaboration between government agencies, health workers, volunteers, county governments and communities has created a strong public health movement focused on sanitation, preventive healthcare and dignity restoration.

Mudavadi further said that thousands of children who were previously affected have been able to return to school following treatment and awareness campaigns.

He added that the government has supported the initiative through policy frameworks and awareness programmes such as the annual National Jigger Awareness Day marked on March 3, as well as the "Epuka Uchafu Afya Nyumbani" sanitation campaign launched in 2006.

The newly launched archive centre will preserve historical records of the campaign, including preserved jiggers

and fleas, treatment tools, audio-visual materials, research documents, newspaper reports and survivor testimonies. Organisers said the facility will also serve as a national learning and research hub for schools, universities and public health institutions.

Ahadi Kenya Trust founder and CEO Stanley Kamau said the centre represents a symbol of hope and resilience, aimed at promoting awareness, prevention and community-led solutions to public health challenges.

Mudavadi emphasized that documenting the history of the campaign is essential in showing how collective action between communities, government, media and development partners can overcome neglected health crises.

He urged continued vigilance in promoting hygiene, sanitation and decent housing to prevent the resurgence of jiggers and other poverty-related diseases.

"For years, jigger infestation was hidden behind shame and silence," he said, adding that sustaining the campaign is critical to ensuring no Kenyan child or family suffers such indignity again.

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**Tax** Treasury emphasized that the Finance Bill, 2026 is intended to streamline taxation and improve clarity in emerging digital and financial sectors.

# Treasury clarifies Finance Bill 2026 tax proposals

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyaintimes

The National Treasury has moved to clarify public debate surrounding the Finance Bill, 2026, dismissing what it termed misinformation and misinterpretation of key tax proposals, including the widely discussed plan affecting mobile phones, digital payments, and virtual asset transactions.

In a press statement issued by Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi, the government said public participation on fiscal policy was welcome and part of Kenya's constitutional legislative process, but cautioned that some commentary had mixed current proposals with earlier withdrawn measures and inaccurate interpretations.

Treasury emphasized that the Finance Bill, 2026 is intended to streamline taxation and improve clarity in emerging digital and financial sectors.

A key focus of public concern has been the proposed 25% excise duty on mobile phones. Treasury clarified that the proposal does not introduce a new tax but rather consolidates multiple existing taxes into a simplified structure.

Currently, mobile phones are subject to several levies during importation and distribution, including 16% VAT, 10% excise duty, 25% import duty, 2.5% Import Declaration Fee, and a 2% Railway Development Levy. Treasury said these combined create an effective tax burden of about 55.5%.

Under the proposed framework, these multiple charges would be replaced with a single 25% excise duty collected upon activation of the device. If implemented, VAT, the import declaration fee, and the railway development levy would be removed, along with the import duty.

Treasury said the aim was to simplify compliance, im-



CS John Mbadi

prove efficiency, and reduce fragmentation in taxation, rather than restrict access to mobile phones, which it acknowledged are essential for communication, education, financial services, and digital livelihoods.

The Finance Bill also proposes new reporting requirements for virtual asset service providers through amendments to the Tax Procedures Act. Treasury said digital and virtual asset transactions have grown rapidly but lack clear reporting frameworks, creating gaps in tax administration.

The proposed reforms would align virtual asset transactions with established accounting and reporting standards already applied to traditional financial systems, improving transparency, ownership tracking, and compliance.

The Bill further seeks to clarify taxation of fees charged by digital payment platforms and card networks. Treasury noted that rapid growth in mobile money, fintech platforms, and card payment systems has created uncertainty over whether such fees should be treated as exempt financial services or taxable commercial services.

The amendments are intended to standardize treatment

of digital transaction fees and provide legal clarity, especially following recent court rulings that exposed gaps in the taxation framework.

Treasury also denied reports suggesting the introduction of a 5% withholding tax on digital content monetisation, stating that no such proposal exists in the Finance Bill, 2026.

It further clarified that several debated proposals linked to the withdrawn Finance Bill, 2024—such as VAT on bread, motor vehicle circulation tax, access to mobile money data, and an eco levy on phones—are not part of the current Bill.

The statement also addressed concerns over taxation of digital money transfers through platforms such as M-Pesa and other payment service providers. Treasury said existing VAT law does not adequately address modern ICT-based financial intermediaries, creating uncertainty in taxation.

It clarified that the focus is on digital services and intermediaries rather than traditional financial services such as cash deposits, withdrawals, or forex exchange. Treasury also noted that discussions had been held with Safaricom, emphasizing that mobile money operators are not the

primary target of the proposed measures.

The Bill also seeks to address gaps in taxation of card payment systems, including Visa interchange fees and payments to card companies. Treasury said a recent court ruling had excluded such fees from withholding tax, creating a loophole in revenue collection.

To address this, the Bill proposes expanding definitions of management, professional, and royalty fees to include such payments, ensuring consistency and improved tax compliance.

Treasury further clarified that proposals to reduce Pay As You Earn (PAYE) tax rates, including a possible exemption of the first KSh 30,000

of income, are still under technical review and have not been included in the current Finance Bill.

The National Treasury reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining a balanced fiscal framework that supports revenue generation, economic growth, innovation, and long-term sustainability while responding to public concerns.

It urged continued public participation as the Finance Bill moves through Parliament, emphasizing that stakeholder engagement remains central to Kenya's budget and legislative process.

**EACC** The case involving Kyaloka Property Development Company pLtd and four others will be heard on Friday at the Environment and Land Court in Milimani

# EACC lines up KSh11.5 billion graft and public land cases in courts this week

BY WMW

@themkenyatimes

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) is this week prosecuting and pursuing recovery of more than KSh11.5 billion in alleged corruption proceeds, irregular procurement deals, money laundering schemes, and illegally acquired public land in courts across the country.

The matters, scheduled for hearing and mention between yesterday and Friday, involve senior public officials, governors, a Member of Parliament, former county executives, businesspeople, and private companies accused of fraud, abuse of office, conflict of interest, and embezzlement of public funds.

Among the most prominent cases is a suit seeking recovery of public land valued at KSh1.255 billion in Karen, Nairobi, allegedly belonging to the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation.

The case involving Kyaloka Property Development Company Ltd and four others will be heard on Friday at the Environment and Land Court in Milimani.

Former Kiambu governor Ferdinand Waititu, his wife Susan Wangari, Testimony Enterprises Ltd and six others will appear before the Milimani Anti-Corruption Court tomorrow in a KSh147 million graft case linked to an allegedly irregular road construction tender awarded during his tenure as Kiambu governor.

In Homa Bay, former County Assembly Clerk Otieno Bob Kephphas and five others are facing charges related to the alleged embezzlement of Sh85.2 million from the County Assembly. Prosecutors claim the accused conspired with county officials, a businessman, and a senior commercial bank officer to siphon public funds. The matter will be heard on Friday.

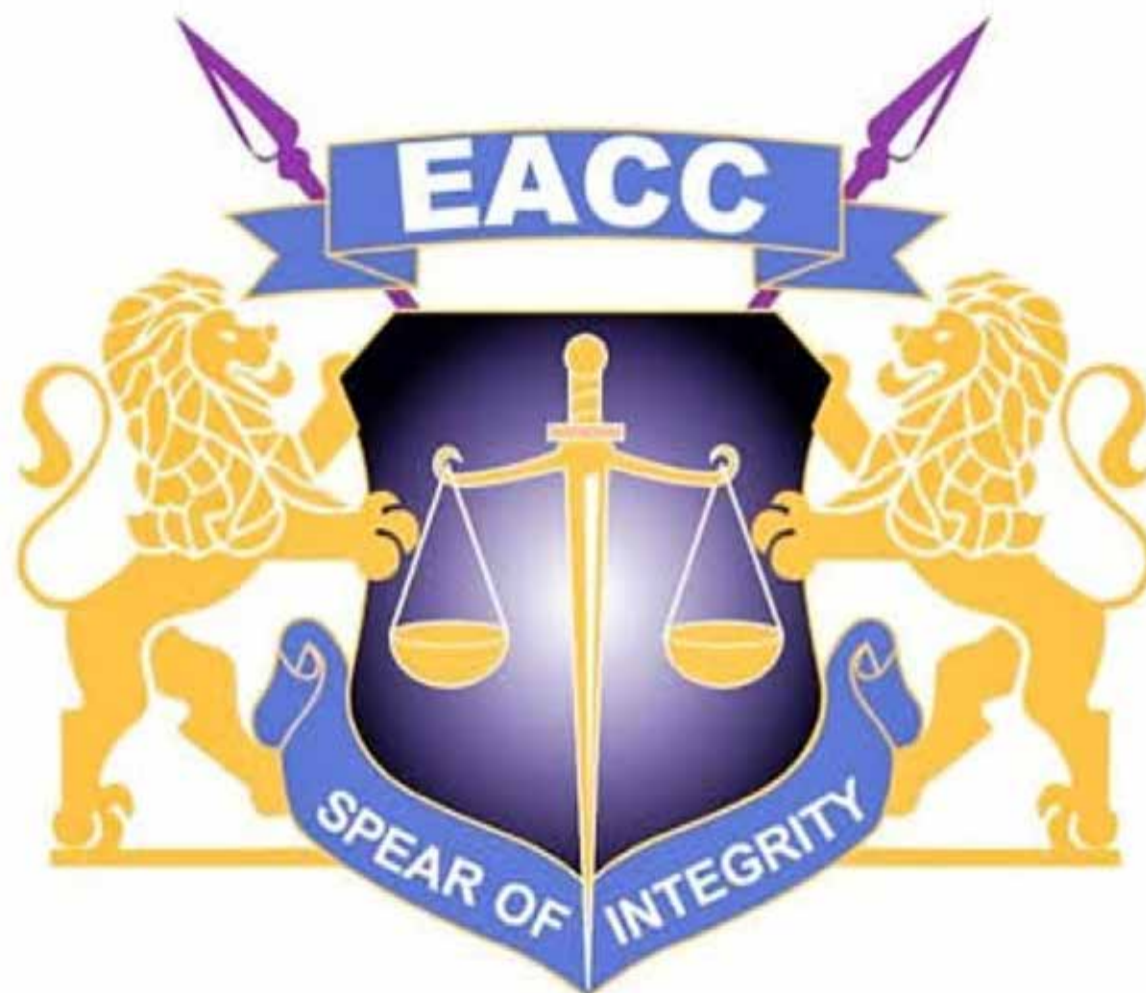
At the Anti-Corruption Court in Machakos, former County Executive Committee Member for Urban Planning Urbanus Wambua Musyoka and six others are expected in court today over alleged procurement irregularities involving KSh45.4 million meant for construction of non-moto-

rised transport facilities and parking bays.

Another hearing slated for Thursday at the Milimani Anti-Corruption Court involves John Mburu Mwangi and six others accused of conspiracy to commit corruption offences, conflict of interest, and unlawful acquisition of public property in relation to the alleged theft of KSh27.2 million from the Lari National Government Constituency Development Fund.

The anti-graft agency will also proceed with hearings against Gondi Achiro Nobert, trading as Firmline Company, and others over alleged embezzlement of public funds belonging to the Kenya School of Law disguised as payments for goods and services. The matter will be heard today at the Milimani Anti-Corruption Court.

Bomet Governor Hillary Kipng'eno Barchok and two others will face the court today and tomorrow over alle-



Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC)



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gations of conflict of interest, money laundering, and acquisition of proceeds of crime.

The EACC alleges the governor received KSh2.7 million from companies that conducted business worth KSh152.3 million with the county government between 2019 and 2025.

In Kajiado, Esther Chege, an employee of the Kenya Rural Roads Authority, and six others are accused of using proxies and relatives to trade with the authority through Reswan Enterprises Ltd.

The hearing is scheduled for Thursday.

Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi and others are also expected in court today in a case seeking recovery of KSh813 million alleged to be proceeds of corruption.

In a related matter, King Construction and five others will appear before the Milimani Anti-Corruption Court on Tuesday in a suit seeking preservation of KSh700 mil-

lion allegedly illegally acquired by the Kiambu governor and others between 2017 and 2022 when he served in the Senate Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing.

Former Kenya Pipeline Company MD Dr. Shem Ochuodho and two others will appear in court on Friday over allegations linked to the irregular refinancing of a KSh2 billion debt facility involving Triple A Capital Ltd and the Kenya Pipeline Company.

The EACC says the transaction caused the parastatal losses exceeding KSh286 million.

The Environment and Land Court in Milimani yesterday mentioned a case involving Olerai Investments and three others over the alleged illegal acquisition of public land worth KSh70 million in Buruburu Phase Five that had been reserved as an open space and nursery school.

Also mentioned yesterday is a case involving Embakasi North MP James Mwangi Gakuya and nine others accused of conflict of interest over allocation of KSh39.8 million by the Embakasi North National Government Constituency Fund Committee for roads already constructed by the Kenya Rural Roads Authority.

Meanwhile, Lorna Karamuta Mubichi and Kenneth Muriithi Ndubi will appear before the Milimani Anti-Corruption Court yesterday in a suit seeking preservation of KSh6.5 million allegedly irregularly acquired by a Nakuru County Government public officer and invested in a Co-op Unit Trust account.

The cases collectively involve approximately KSh11.53 billion in alleged corrupt proceeds, disputed procurement contracts, public land, and unexplained wealth currently under investigation and recovery proceedings by the EACC.

The hearings are expected to intensify public scrutiny on accountability in county governments and state agencies as the anti-graft commission continues to pursue high-profile corruption cases in courts nationwide.

**Zimbabwe** The lack of accountability is perpetuating a culture of violence, said opposition leader, Mr. Nelson Chamisa.

# Breaking the cycle of violence: A call for accountability

BY Norman Mwale

@themkenyatimes



Zimbabwean opposition leader Mr. Nelson Chamisa

Zimbabwe has a long history of violence, from the liberation struggle to the present day. However, the recent spate of violent incidents, including state-sponsored attacks on opposition supporters, has sparked widespread concern and calls for accountability.

“The culture of impunity must end,” said Human Rights Watch researcher, Ms. Tiseke Kasambala. “The government must take concrete steps to investigate and prosecute those responsible for violence, regardless of their political affiliation.” The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) has documented numerous cases of violence perpetrated by state agents, including the military and police. “We have received reports of widespread violence and intimidation, particularly in rural areas,” said ZHRC Chairperson, Mr. Elphas Mukonoweshuro.

The lack of accountability is perpetuating a culture of violence, said op-

position leader, Mr. Nelson Chamisa. “We need justice and reform, not just words of condemnation.” The Catholic Church has also weighed in, calling for an end to violence and impunity. “We must break the cycle

of violence and build a culture of peace and respect for human rights,” said Archbishop Robert Ndzengu.

The international community has expressed concern, with the European Union calling for an indepen-

dent investigation into human rights abuses. “The EU is committed to supporting Zimbabwe’s democratic transition, but this requires accountability for past abuses,” said EU Ambassador, Mr. Tim Turner. Zimba-

bwean civil society organisations are also pushing for change. “It’s time for the government to take responsibility for its actions,” said Ms. Abigail Majorekwa, Executive Director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project.

However, the government has a different perspective. “We are committed to maintaining law and order, and those who break the law will face consequences,” said Minister of Information, Mr. Jonathan Moyo. “The opposition is trying to destabilise the country, and we won’t allow it.”

The police also defended their actions. “We are doing our best to maintain order, but we need cooperation from all stakeholders,” said Police Spokesperson, Mr. Paul Nyathi.

As Zimbabwe looks to move forward, it’s clear that accountability is key. “We must acknowledge the past and take concrete steps to prevent future violence,” said Ms. Kasambala. “Only then can we truly break the cycle of violence.” The road to accountability will be long and difficult, but it’s a necessary step towards healing and reconciliation.

“We owe it to ourselves, our children, and future generations to create a Zimbabwe where violence is not tolerated,” said Archbishop Ndzengu. The question is, will the government listen?

**Sudan** Millions of lives are at risk,” says Ramesh Rajasingham, UN Humanitarian Chief for Sudan. “We need immediate access, funding, and an end to the violence

# Sudan’s forgotten crisis: A nation on the brink of collapse

BY Norman Mwale

@themkenyatimes



The conflict in Sudan

In Sudan, a devastating conflict has pushed 25 million people to the edge of starvation, with millions displaced and living in fear. The world barely blinks.

The conflict, sparked by a power struggle between the military and civilian leaders, has plunged the country into chaos. In the dusty streets of Khartoum, Abdallah Mohamed, 35, clings desperately to his destroyed home, searching for scraps to feed his family. “We have nothing left,” he says, his eyes hollow with desperation. “No food, no water, no hope.”

Sudan’s humanitarian crisis is one of the worst in the world, with 25 million people - half the population -

facing extreme hunger. The conflict, now in its second year, has displaced over 12.4 million people, including

3.3 million refugees in neighboring countries.

The numbers are staggering: 5

million children and mothers suffering acute malnutrition, 14 out of 17 million school-aged children out

of school, and health facilities collapsed. The UN warns that without urgent action, the situation will only worsen.

“Millions of lives are at risk,” says Ramesh Rajasingham, UN Humanitarian Chief for Sudan. “We need immediate access, funding, and an end to the violence.”

The Red Cross and Médecins Sans Frontières are among the organisations working tirelessly to provide aid, but their efforts are hampered by insecurity and restricted access.

In a Chad refugee camp, Fatima Adam, 28, cradles her malnourished child, praying for a miracle. “We fled violence, but hunger is killing us,” she whispers.

Despite the dire situation, there are glimmers of hope. In a makeshift school in a refugee camp, children laugh and learn, their futures uncertain but their spirits unbroken.

As Sudan’s crisis deepens, the world watches – but for how long?

**Opinion** The signs are there from the very beginning. A child might show extraordinary artistic brilliance with almost nothing to work with

# They starved the seed, then demanded the forest



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza  
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There is a quiet but deeply rooted cruelty embedded in many of our societies — one so normalized that we often mistake it for culture, or shrug it off as simply the way things are. This cruelty shows up in the way we systematically neglect potential, dismiss dreams, and slowly suffocate talent. And then, almost without irony, we turn around and wonder why people aren't rising, innovating, or excelling. We have built environments that applaud outcomes while refusing to nurture the very processes that make those outcomes possible. In essence, we have become societies that demand harvests from seeds we never bothered to water.

The signs are there from the very beginning. A child might show extraordinary artistic brilliance with almost nothing to work with. Another might have a natural gift for music, only to be steered away from it. Still others light up with curiosity and ingenuity, until rigid expectations quietly put that light out. Rather than being nurtured, these early sparks of potential are too often ignored, minimized, or actively discouraged. Without mentorship, encouragement, or opportunity, dreams don't stand much of a chance. And they rarely disappear in one dramatic moment — they simply fade, slowly and quietly, under the weight of neglect, self-doubt, and the pressure to conform.

The contradiction becomes impossible to ignore when success does eventually emerge — usually against all odds, or in a completely different environment that actually offered the support that was missing at home. Sud-



Illustration

denly, society is surprised. Proud, even. And then comes the inevitable question: Why don't we produce more people like this? Statements like "Why aren't our youth more creative?" or "Where are our innovators?" reveal a troubling blind spot. The problem is almost never a shortage of talent. It is a shortage of investment. A society that neglects its human potential cannot reasonably turn around and expect to benefit from it.

There is also a profound emotional cost to all of this that we don't talk about enough. People who pursue their dreams without support often do so in near-total isolation, wrestling with self-doubt and pushing against constant resistance. When they finally succeed, some of those same voices that once questioned or dismissed their ambitions will try to share in the glory. It happens all the time, and while it is deeply human, it also points to something troubling: recognition tends to show up when it's convenient, not when it's actually needed. And by then, the acknowledgment — however warm — does little to heal the wounds from the journey.

At the heart of this problem is our obsession with results over process. We demand excellence but overlook the conditions required to achieve it. We celebrate innovation but routinely stifle creativity. We

admire talent but rarely do the work of cultivating it. This approach ignores something fundamental: skills are built, not born fully formed; dreams need support, not skepticism; and talent only truly flourishes in environments that welcome growth, allow for experimentation, and make room for failure.

The consequences of getting this wrong are serious and far-reaching. Societies that fail to invest in their people lose something they can never fully account for — artists who might have shaped culture, innovators who might have solved urgent problems, leaders who might have inspired real change. In their absence, those same societies often end up looking outward, importing creativity and expertise that could have been grown right at home. Perhaps most sobering of all is what this does to the next generation, who quietly begin to conclude that dreaming is naive and ambition is a luxury they cannot afford.

Turning this around requires more than good intentions — it demands a deliberate shift in both mindset and action. Parents, teachers, policymakers, and community leaders all have a role to play. Encouragement cannot be something we save for moments of visible success; it has to show up during the messy, uncertain, often discouraging stretch of

road that comes before it. Opportunities need to be created. Resources need to be allocated. And failure needs to be understood for what it truly is

— not a reason to give up on someone, but an essential part of how anyone becomes great.

Ultimately, the progress of any society is inseparable

from how it treats its people — especially its dreamers. It is neither fair nor sustainable to demand excellence from people we were never willing to invest in. If we fail to support a dream at its beginning, we give up the right to celebrate it at its end. The responsibility doesn't rest on individuals alone. It rests, just as heavily, on the environments that shape who those individuals become.

The challenge before us is both practical and deeply moral. We must move beyond applauding achievements in isolation and start investing meaningfully in the journeys that lead to them. Only then will we stop being societies that merely demand success — and start being societies that genuinely grow it.

*Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza is a writer and commentator on society, youth, and human potential.*

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**Hong Kong** At the University of Hong Kong (HKU), nearly 50 teachers and students gathered to cheer for their alumna Lai

# Local pride surges as Hong Kong astronaut undertakes maiden national space mission

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes

China's Shenzhou-23 crewed spaceship, carried by a Long March-2F carrier rocket, lifted off smoothly from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in north-west China at 11:08 p.m. Sunday.

Thousands of kilometers away in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), cheers erupted across university campuses, dormitories and community venues, with national and regional flags forming a striking red sea. The astronaut lineup was unveiled one day prior. Li Jiaying, known as Lai Ka-ying in Cantonese, a Hong Kong local, is aboard the mission. She has made history as the first member of China's fourth batch of astronauts to take on an in-orbit mission, as well as the first female payload specialist from the HKSAR and the Macao SAR to join a national manned space program. As launch time drew near, crowds of students gathered at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). MUSICO, short for Multi-Spectral Imaging Carbon Observatory, a compact high-precision carbon dioxide and methane point-source detector jointly developed by the university, arrived at China's Tiangong space station aboard Tianzhou-10 cargo craft earlier this month. Lai is expected to conduct on-orbit operations with this Hong Kong-developed scientific instrument. "This marks Hong Kong's first scientific payload operating aboard the Tiangong station," said Su Hui, chair professor in the department of civil and environmental engineering at HKUST. "It serves as a milestone, fully testifying to the central government's support and recognition of Hong Kong's participation in space exploration." "The country lays a solid foundation for us, enabling Hong Kong to contribute its wisdom and



China's spaceship

strength," said Pan Fei, a doctoral student at the university.

At the University of Hong Kong (HKU), nearly 50 teachers and students gathered to cheer for their alumna Lai. Her doctoral supervisor, Chow Kam-pui, honorary associate professor at HKU, watched the historic lift-off via live broadcast. "Lai sets an inspiring role model for us," said a biology undergraduate surnamed Yeung. The breakthrough inspires her to apply professional knowledge to medical research. "Her journey into space makes the country's space and innovation dreams concrete and attainable." A psychology freshman surnamed Wong shared the prevailing excitement in the city. "Astronauts once seemed distant figures on screen. Seeing a Hong Kong native head into space fills us with tremendous pride. The motherland offers far broader platforms than we could ever imagine." Celebrations have been unfolding across lo-

cal communities. Members of the Federation of Hong Kong Guangdong Community Organizations assembled to watch the launch. Born in Shunde, Guangdong, Lai resonates deeply with local Shunde compatriots. Warm applause and cheers burst out the moment the spaceship entered its designated orbit. "Lai is an outstanding role model and a fine embodiment of the close bond between Guangdong and Hong Kong," said George Lung Chee-ming, executive vice chairman of the federation, noting that her space voyage embodies Hong Kong's deep integration into national development.

Nearly 100 people gathered at the base of the Hong Kong Federation of Fujian Associations, chanting encouraging slogans for the Hong Kong astronaut. "This historic feat belongs to the whole nation and brings glory to Hong Kong," said Sze Ching-lau, a member of the National Committee of

the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and chairman of the federation. He stated that national backing empowers young talents in Hong Kong, and Lai's mission will encourage more young people to uphold patriotism and pursue scientific innovation. Hong Kong stands as a witness, active participant and devoted contributor to China's aerospace cause. As many young Hong Kong residents watching the live broadcast put it, "Lai is our pride. If she can reach space, we can do the same someday."

## Wadagni sworn in as Benin's president

Romuald Wadagni, who was elected president of Benin in the April 12 election, was sworn in on Sunday at the Congress Palace in Cotonou, the country's economic capital.

The ceremony brought together more than 6,000 guests, including heads of state institutions, members of constitutional bodies, former presidents Nicephore Soglo and Thomas Boni Yayi, as well as members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Benin. Before Dorothe Sossa, president of the Constitutional Court, the new head of state pledged to serve and defend Benin during his seven-year constitutional term. Wadagni, Benin's fifth president since the advent of democratic renewal in February 1990, swore to respect and defend the Constitution, faithfully discharge the high duties entrusted to him by the nation, and devote all his efforts to promoting the common good, peace and national unity. He also pledged to safeguard the country's territorial integrity and to conduct himself at all times as a faithful and loyal servant of the people.

Under Benin's Constitution, the president of the republic holds executive power and, as head of government, determines and conducts the nation's policies while exercising regulatory authority. The president oversees the administration and the armed forces and is responsible for national defense. Following consultation with the National Assembly, the president appoints members of the government, defines their responsibilities and may dismiss them from office. Wadagni, 49, previously worked at Deloitte before entering government after Patrice Talon's election in 2016. He has since served as minister of economy and finance, was reappointed in 2021, and later promoted to senior minister, playing a central role in implementing Talon's economic policies.

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes



President Romuald Wadagni.

**Celebrations** With 120+ books in hand, Creative Writers proved that consistency, encouragement, and love for the word can bloom into a garden of stories.

# Creative Writers Mark 7th Year with 120+ Book Releases

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyetimes

In Trichy, on 23 May 2026 – The Creative Writers family turned 7 today, and it came bearing 120+ new books. At Rajeswari Mini Hall, Oorvashi Theatre Complex, the group celebrated literature, community, and the courage to keep writing through and beyond Covid.

Founded by poet and teacher Mrs. D. Brinda, Creative Writers has grown from a handful of writers into a vibrant network of voices. The 7th book release function honored that journey. Chief Guest Dr. V. Jeyakumar, Joint Director (Vocational), Directorate of School Education, Tamil Nadu, released the books in the presence of Guests of Honour including Dr. A. Loganathan, Padmashree awardee Mr. M. Subburaman, and Dr. R. Manoharan.

The day recognized writers who completed 365 days of writing, celebrated reviewers, and felicitated the pillars who hold the group together. Results of the online poetry competition were announced, and authors of the 120+ titles took the stage as their works were launched. A birthday cake cut marked CW's 7th anniversary,

For many members meeting in person for the first time, the event felt like a literary homecoming. With 120+ books in hand, Creative Writers proved that consistency, encouragement, and love for the word can bloom into a garden of stories.

Honoured the members participated in Mt Kenya international newspaper, Chennai City fm radio program, Then Tamil international website, creative writers bi monthly e magazine, online poetry competition

Creative Writers is a WhatsApp group that was started during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 with a small group of students and teachers from Tamil Nadu. The group is vibrant from 7 pm to 10 pm every day, rest of the time it is closed.

Every day, a new poetry topic is posted with a relevant background, and members are encouraged to write creatively and share their work within the given timeframe. They are free to think creatively, long or short. One of the unique aspects of this group is that members have the privilege of reviewing each other's posts, fostering a sense of community and constructive feedback.

The best reviewers are recognized with cash rewards and e-certificates signed by dignitaries. Regular writers are encouraged with e-certificates every month. If they write a minimum of 20 days.

The group celebrates its annual award function in May, where members release their own books and anthologies, they participate in online poetry competitions, and engage in monthly open mic sessions to enhance their presentation and pronunciation skills. Creative Writers also publishes a bi-monthly e-magazine, where members can contribute and receive e certificates for their participation.

Throughout the year, the group organizes various activities, including honoring 365-day writers with Santa Claus gifts during half yearly vacation, arranging short trips during quarterly holidays. To date, over 500 members have released solo books and 7 anthologies are published. Creative writers poems have been published in national and international magazines and newspapers like Mt. Kenya international newspaper from South Africa,

Creative writers regular participation in Chennai City FM radio programs and other events further amplifies the group's reach and impact.

All the poems are carefully preserved in creative writers you tube channel.

Behind the scenes, five dedicated teams work together to ensure the group's success:

1. Attendance Team
2. Certificate Creating Team
3. Background and Topic Selection Team
4. Magazine Editing Team
5. Reviewers Team

The group does not have hard and fast rules. It creates a nurturing environment for creative expression.

Creative writers write letter to the soldiers of the nation. And an anthology was also released names guardian Angels of the nation; the founder got an opportunity to represent India in Japan Kumamoto for Tsunami awareness summit. There an anthology was released named we shall over come. A group photo was taken and the National Anthem was sung. The program ended successfully.



Creative Writers 7TH celebrations photo

# SPORTS NEWS

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**Sports >>** \*Arsenal lifted the Premier League trophy after celebrating their first game as champions with a 2-1 win against Crystal Palace on Sunday.

## Arsenal lift Premier League trophy after beating Palace



*Arsenal's Italian defender #33 Riccardo Calafiori lifts the Premier League trophy at a presentation ceremony on the pitch after the English Premier League football match between Crystal Palace and Arsenal at Selhurst Park in south London*

**A**rsenal lifted the Premier League trophy after celebrating their first game as champions with a 2-1 win against Crystal Palace on Sunday.

Mikel Arteta's side clinched their first English title for 22 years on Tuesday when second-placed Manchester City drew at Bournemouth.

In action for the first time since the celebrations of their long-awaited triumph, the Gunners took the lead through Gabriel Jesus late in the first half at Selhurst Park.

Noni Madueke scored Arsenal's second goal after the interval to ensure the champions ended the league campaign with 26 wins from 38 games.

Since losing at City on April 19 in a game that appeared to have tilted the balance of power in their rivals' favour, Arsenal have reeled off five successive league

victories to finish seven points above Pep Guardiola's team.

Once the match was over, the main event could take place as Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard got his hands on the trophy after medals were presented to Arteta and his squad.

Red confetti and fireworks exploded into the air as he hoisted the silverware, while Arsenal's stars sprayed champagne in front of thousands of Gunners fans in the Arthur Wait Stand.

Arteta was tossed into the air by his players, while Arsenal's United States-based owner, Stan Kroenke and his son Josh had carried the trophy onto the pitch for the presentation ceremony.

Those ecstatic supporters kept the party going, singing songs of praise for the champions, waving inflatable replicas of the trophy and joining the players in a rendition of club anthem 'North London forever'.

Raising the trophy away from the Emirates Stadium couldn't detract from the glorious moment for Arteta and his players, who will display the silverware to many more of their adoring fans at a parade in north London on May 31.

Now Arteta's men will turn their attention to their bid to win the Champions League for the first time in the final against Paris Saint-Germain on May 30.

Winning the title was good enough, but bringing home the Champions League as well would make this Arsenal's greatest season.

Arteta made a host of changes ahead of the final in Budapest, leaving Bukayo Saka, Declan Rice, Gabriel Magalhaes, Eberechi Eze, David Raya and Viktor Gyokeres on the bench.

Arsenal forward Max Dowman became the youngest ever player to start a Premier League match

at 16 years and 144 days, surpassing the previous record set by Jose Baxter, aged 16 years and 198 days old, in 2008.

Palace boss Oliver Glasner also rested several of his key players before Wednesday's UEFA Conference League final against Rayo Vallecano.

Arsenal were given a guard of honour by Palace's players as they emerged onto the pitch, before responding to Arteta's demand that they play to "new standards" befitting their status as champions.

On a blazing hot afternoon in south London, Jesus hit the post in the fifth minute and shot straight at Palace keeper Dean Henderson from a good position soon afterwards.

Jesus broke the deadlock in the 42nd minute, converting the trickiest of his three chances.

Gabriel Martinelli slipped a deft pass towards Jesus, and the striker drilled a low drive past Henderson at his near post.

Madueke bagged Arsenal's second goal in the 48th minute, and fittingly, it came from a corner.

Arsenal's set-piece prowess has been the calling card of their campaign, and once again, they crafted a perfect dead-ball goal as Kai Havertz headed back to Madueke, who volleyed home from just inside the area.

Jean-Philippe Mateta reduced the deficit with an 89th-minute header, but Arsenal's celebrations were all that mattered.

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*Pep Guardiola bid an emotional farewell to Manchester City as a 2-1 defeat by Aston Villa yesterday brought down the curtain on a glittering decade under the Catalan.

## Guardiola goodbye spoiled by Man City loss to Aston Villa



Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola

**P**ep Guardiola bid an emotional farewell to Manchester City as a 2-1 defeat by Aston Villa yesterday brought down the curtain on a glittering decade under the Catalan.

The 55-year-old announced Friday that he is set to depart after winning 20 trophies in 10 seasons that made City the dominant force of English football.

Guardiola made his entrance to a rousing reception alongside a giant banner bearing his face and the message "Game changer. History maker. City forever."

Catalan flags were unfurled behind one goal, while at the other end, the newly named and expanded Pep Guardiola Stand was in operation for the first time.

The former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss won six Premier League titles and City's only Champions League among his haul of 17 major pieces of silverware.

"In the next years, if you see me in the streets in the (Unit-

ed) States or Europe or somewhere and you are a Man City fan, come to me and hug me. I will need it!" Guardiola said in a post-match address to the crowd.

Bernardo Silva and John Stones were part of the squads that won all of those trophies and also received a fitting send-off in their final game for the club after a combined 19 seasons of service.

Silva was in tears even before kick-off as he led City out as captain for the day.

But there was little on the line for both sides on the field.

City fell short in their quest to chase down Arsenal at the top of the table as a 1-1 draw at Bournemouth on Tuesday saw the Gunners crowned champions.

Villa were still in celebratory mood after winning their first trophy for 30 years on Wednesday by claiming the Europa League.

But victory for Unai Emery's men ensured they finished in fourth ahead of Liverpool.

Guardiola made nine chang-

es from the side that started at Bournemouth, with Erling Haaland among those not even to make the bench.

Antoine Semenyo was one of the few City regulars to start, and he put the home side in front with a clever finish from a corner.

Decked in a resplendent white t-shirt and khaki trousers for the uncharacteristically searing temperatures in England's northwest, Guardiola remained an animated figure on the touchline despite the dead rubber nature of the contest.

However, he suffered a rare home defeat after Ollie Watkins struck twice in the second half to further justify his inclusion in Thomas Tuchel's England squad for the World Cup.

Watkins pounced on a poor header by England team-mate Stones to prod home from a corner.

Both sides then stopped to make a guard of honour for Silva as he was substituted, prompting more tears from the Portugal interna-

tional and Guardiola.

"The love I got from this club, from you guys, I doubt I will get it again," said Siva. "All the memories we have together, with my brothers, with you, the staff, this is a family. It will forever be my family and I am really grateful."

Villa took advantage as City struggled to compose themselves moments later, Watkins surging clear and producing a classy finish for his 21st goal of the season.

The testimonial nature of the afternoon continued as play was stopped once more for Stones to this time receive a guard of honour and appreciation from the City support.

City thought they had salvaged at least a point when Phil Foden crashed in off the underside of the crossbar.

But a controversial VAR review deemed Foden was offside despite inconclusive evidence.

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## Where compassion, creativity, and education unite



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Born and raised in Türkiye, Gülbin Özdemir built her life around a profound belief that education is not limited to textbooks, classrooms, or examinations. For her, teaching has always represented something far greater — a way of inspiring young minds, connecting cultures, and empowering individuals to discover their unique voices and abilities. Over the years, she became recognized not only as an accomplished English as a Foreign Language (EFL) teacher, but also as an international project coordinator, speaker, mentor, and advocate for innovative and inclusive education. Her journey reflects the story of a woman who transformed teaching into a mission of hope, creativity, and social impact.

From the earliest stages of her professional career, Gülbin demonstrated a strong passion for language learning and intercultural communication. She viewed language as more than a tool for communication; she saw it as a bridge capable of bringing people together across borders, cultures, and experiences. This perspective shaped the foundation of her teaching philosophy and inspired her commitment to helping students become confident, globally aware individuals prepared to engage meaningfully with the world.

As an educator, she devoted herself to creating learning environments where students felt encouraged, respected, and inspired. Rather than relying solely on traditional teaching methods, she embraced student-centered and research-based approaches that prioritized creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. She believed every learner possessed untapped potential and that education should nurture not only academic achievement but also emotional intelligence, confidence, and curiosity.

Her dedication became especially evident through her work with

gifted and talented students in Türkiye. Gülbin recognized that these learners often required more than standard academic instruction. She believed they needed opportunities to explore ideas deeply, express creativity freely, and develop a broader understanding of the world around them. Through innovative lessons and meaningful projects, she encouraged her students to think independently, communicate confidently, and embrace their individuality.

As her experience and vision expanded, Gülbin became increasingly involved in international educational initiatives, particularly within Erasmus+ and European youth programs. This involvement marked a turning point in her career and allowed her to combine her passion for education with her belief in intercultural exchange. She understood the transformative power of bringing people from different backgrounds together and creating spaces where dialogue, understanding, and collaboration could flourish.

Throughout the years, she designed, coordinated, and participated in numerous international projects focused on youth empowerment, inclusion, environmental awareness, cultural understanding, non-violence, arts, sports, migration awareness, and social integration. Her projects consistently reflected her belief that education should extend beyond classroom walls and connect learners to real-world experiences and global perspectives.

One of the most significant milestones in her journey was her role in initiating and coordinating the Erasmus+ youth mobility project “Melody of Special Acts – An Intuitive Choir (MOSAIC),” developed in collaboration with partners from Denmark, Norway, and Serbia. The project represented her dedication to inclusive education and demonstrated how music, creativity, and intercultural communication could unite young people from diverse backgrounds. Through this initiative, she promoted empathy, cooperation, and shared human experiences while encouraging participants to discover the strength found in diversity.

Her earlier international projects also reflected her commitment to meaningful social change. In 2010, she successfully coordinated the

youth exchange project “Crack the Barriers through Photography” in Mersin, Türkiye. This initiative brought together participants from different countries and used photography as a powerful medium for intercultural dialogue and artistic expression. The project encouraged young people to challenge stereotypes, communicate beyond language barriers, and explore social issues through creativity.

In the years that followed, Gülbin became actively involved in many additional European youth exchanges and collaborative programs across countries such as Greece, Poland, Croatia, Slovakia, Montenegro, and the Netherlands. These projects focused on themes including healthy lifestyles, environmental sustainability, marine conservation, migration awareness, youth participation, and peacebuilding. Her ability to coordinate diverse teams and create impactful educational experiences earned her growing respect within international educational communities.

Alongside her international work, Gülbin continued strengthening her role as an educational leader and advocate for modern teaching practices. She actively participated in conferences, webinars, podcasts, workshops, and panel discussions centered on the future of education and language teaching. Her contributions reflected both practical classroom expertise and a forward-thinking vision of how education must evolve to meet the needs of future generations.

One of the most meaningful recognitions of her professional journey came when she was honored as “The Most Inspiring Teacher of 2022 in Turkey” by INGED. The award celebrated not only her accomplishments as a language educator but also her broader influence as a mentor, innovator, and changemaker within educational communities. Despite receiving recognition, Gülbin remained grounded in her belief that teaching is ultimately about service, compassion, and responsibility toward others.

Her passion for innovation later led her toward the growing field of artificial intelligence in education. Recognizing the changing landscape of learning, she became involved in



Gülbin Özdemir

discussions and initiatives exploring how AI could support language education and personalized learning experiences. Rather than viewing technology as a replacement for educators, she advocated for responsible integration that enhances creativity, accessibility, and student engagement while preserving the essential human connection at the heart of teaching.

Colleagues, students, and collaborators often describe Gülbin as compassionate, energetic, visionary, and deeply collaborative. She became known for building supportive environments where people felt heard, valued, and empowered to grow. Her leadership style consistently reflected emotional intelligence alongside professional excellence, allowing her to connect authentically with individuals from diverse backgrounds and experiences.

Another defining aspect of her journey has been her commitment to lifelong learning. Whether attending international workshops, participating in educational exchanges, mentoring fellow educators, or exploring emerging technologies, she continuously sought opportunities for personal and professional growth. She viewed education as an evolving

mission that requires adaptability, curiosity, and openness to change.

Beyond awards, titles, and professional achievements, Gülbin Özdemir’s story is ultimately one of connection — connection between cultures, between education and social transformation, and between people who seek to create a more compassionate and collaborative world. Through classrooms, conferences, Erasmus+ projects, and international partnerships, she demonstrated how one dedicated teacher can inspire meaningful change far beyond the boundaries of a single school or community.

Today, her work continues to inspire educators, students, and young leaders across different countries and cultures. As a teacher, mentor, project leader, and advocate for transformative education, Gülbin Özdemir represents a generation of educators redefining the true purpose of teaching in the modern world. Her journey serves as a powerful reminder that education is not only about knowledge — it is also about empathy, creativity, courage, and the ability to inspire others to believe in their own potential.