



Ahadi Kenya Trust closes chapter on jigger campaign with historic archive
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 Four years ago, the current administration swept into power on one of the most powerful, emotionally resonant populist promises in Kenya's democratic history

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The Mt. Kenya Times
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Ebola Donald Trump administration is developing a medical monitoring and treatment arrangement in Kenya

Ebola centre puzzle

The United States of America government is reportedly planning to send American citizens exposed to the Ebola virus to Kenya for monitoring and possible treatment, in a move that could significantly shift how Washington handles future infectious disease outbreaks involving its citizens abroad.

According to reports, the Donald Trump administration is developing a medical monitoring and treatment arrangement in Kenya instead of repatriating exposed Americans to specialised medical facilities in the United States, as has happened during previous Ebola outbreaks.

The reports cite officials familiar with the plans, saying the initiative would involve cooperation between the U.S. State Department, Department of Defense, and Department of Health and Human Services.



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Presidents US Donald Trump and William Ruto

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Muslims mark Eid-ul-Adha with prayers and charity

BY WMW

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

Muslim faithful across Kenya gathered in mosques, prayer grounds and community centres yesterday to mark Eid-ul-Adha, one of the most significant festivals in the Islamic calendar, with prayers, acts of charity and sharing meals with the less fortunate. The festival, also known as the Feast of Sacrifice, commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's devotion and willingness to sacrifice in obedience to God.

Across major towns, worshippers attended early morning prayers and later joined family and community celebrations marked by the slaughtering and sharing of animals.

In Mombasa, businessman and philanthropist Said Abdallah, through the Said Abdallah Foundation, spearheaded the slaughter of 100 cows to benefit hundreds of needy families in Nyali Sub-County. The exercise aimed at ensuring vulnerable families also took part in the celebrations through food donations and community support initiatives.

Other Muslim and non-Muslim leaders also took part in the charity work in different parts of the country.

Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs Hassan Ali Joho called on Kenyans to embrace unity, peaceful coexistence and compassion during the celebrations.

Joho urged citizens to support vulnerable members of society and uphold the values of sacrifice, generosity and harmony associated with Eid-ul-Adha. Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja distributed 700 goats to Muslim families across the city for the celebrations.

Religious leaders across the country also used the occasion to preach peace, tolerance and national cohesion, urging Kenyans to remain united despite social and political differences.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, in partnership with GIZ and AKADEMIYA2063, has launched the Financing Agri-Food Systems Sustainably (FINAS) programme to transform Kenya's agricultural sector. Speaking during a national sensitization workshop, Agriculture Principal Secretary Paul Kiprono Rono said the National Agri-food Systems Investment Plan (NASIP) 2025–2029 aims to mobilize over Sh1 trillion in investments to modernize agriculture, strengthen climate resilience, promote digital farming, and empower youth and women. The plan aligns with the Kampala CAADP Declaration and Kenya's Vision 2030. Rono said agriculture remains key to Kenya's economy despite challenges such as low productivity, climate shocks, and weak value chains. The programme seeks to boost food security, value addition, private investment, and sustainable livelihoods through coordinated partnerships and innovative financing.



The Fisheries Department in Homa Bay County has intensified efforts to curb illegal fishing amid concerns over declining fish stocks in Lake Victoria. County Director of Fisheries Michael Omondi said banned fishing nets and destruction of breeding areas continue to threaten the sector. Speaking after the destruction of impounded illegal fishing gear, Omondi said authorities had increased patrols and enforcement of fishing regulations. The government is also regulating the number of fishermen, restricting illegal gear, and designating fishing zones to reduce overfishing and allow fish populations to recover. Fish traders were urged to support conservation by trading only recommended fish sizes.



The government has assured religious groups and civil society organisations of continued support in protecting freedom of religion and belief amid concerns over the proposed Religious Organisations Bill 2024. Speaking during a dialogue forum in Nairobi, Nairobi North Deputy County Commissioner Simon Osumba said the State remains committed to safeguarding constitutional freedoms while ensuring religious activities are conducted lawfully and safely. Civil society groups, including Search for Common Ground, MUHURI and KECOSCE, raised concerns that the proposed law could introduce restrictive regulations and exclude minority faith groups. Osumba emphasized that freedom of worship is constitutionally protected but warned against exploitation and radicalisation under religious activities.



Said Abdallah Foundation chairperson and Mombasa businessman Said Abdallah (third from right) during a slaughtering exercise of 100 cows to reach hundreds of less fortunate families in Nyali Sub-County in commemoration of the Eid-ul-Adha festival on 27 May 2026. The special Islamic fete is dedicated to sacrifice and prayers, observed by Muslim faithful across the world.



The State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action in Kiambu County has intensified efforts to fight Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and femicide through a multi-agency approach involving government agencies, civil society, faith-based organizations and community groups. Speaking during a Gender Sector Working Group meeting, Kiambu Deputy County Commissioner Titus Macharia said the county recorded 203 GBV cases between January and March this year, prompting enhanced collaboration and awareness campaigns. Officials directed local administrators to conduct regular public forums on GBV prevention. Stakeholders also reviewed programmes on women empowerment, male inclusion and anti-SGBV interventions. Representatives emphasized integrating gender concerns into agriculture, climate change and governance to address emerging social and economic challenges affecting families and communities.

Civil society organisations and religious rights advocates have called for a constitutional review of the proposed Religious Organisations Bill 2024, warning that some provisions could undermine freedom of religion and belief. Speaking during a forum in Nairobi, representatives from Search for Common Ground, KESHO Alliance, MUHURI and KECOSCE said the Bill introduces restrictive regulations and duplicates existing laws. Wallid Kassim, Executive Director of MUHURI, warned that the proposed law risks excluding minority faith groups, including African Traditional Religions, Kaya elders and Rastafarian communities. The groups argued that registration requirements and the proposed Religious Organisations Commission could create unnecessary barriers and duplicate the mandate of the Registrar of Societies, urging the government to strengthen existing laws instead.



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Health When hospitals remain at Level 3, residents are forced to incur extra costs for services

Murang'a county plans to upgrade select hospitals for improved services

BY Bernard Munyao and Catherine Kamunyo

@themtkenyatimes

Murang'a County Government has announced plans to upgrade more public health facilities to Level Four hospitals, in a move aimed at improving healthcare services and reducing the financial burden on residents seeking treatment.

In a public notice issued by Governor Irungu Kang'ata, the county government said Murang'a currently operates eight public hospitals, but only three are classified as Level Four facilities and above, namely Murang'a County Referral Hospital, Maragua Level Four Hospital and Kirwara Level Four Hospital.

According to the notice, hospitals operating at Level Three face limitations in service delivery, since some services, including X-ray and imaging, are not recognized by the Social Health Authority (SHA), forcing patients to pay out of pocket.

Kang'ata indicated that the county administration was working closely with the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council (KMPDC) to ensure more hospitals attain Level Four status in line with national health facility classification standards.

The governor noted that the upgrade process would involve expansion of critical



A Murang'a hospital

services such as X-ray and imaging departments as well as mortuary facilities to improve access to affordable and dignified healthcare services across the county.

"When hospitals remain at Level 3, residents are forced to incur extra costs for services that are not covered under SHA.

By upgrading these facilities, we want to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure and ensure wananchi receive quality healthcare closer to their homes," he explained.

The public notice further announced that construction of the Kandara Hospital mortuary would commence immediately and is expected to be completed and fully opera-

tional within eight months.

Kang'ata also revealed that Kigumo Hospital mortuary would officially begin operations on June 3, 2026, describing the project as a major milestone in improving healthcare infrastructure in the region.

"Our goal is to ensure residents access comprehensive healthcare services without travelling long distances or struggling with high medical costs. Expanding mortuary and imaging services is part of restoring dignity to families and strengthening healthcare delivery in Murang'a," he added.

The county government stated that once the new services become operational, the pro-

cess of upgrading Kandara and Kigumo hospitals to Level Four status would significantly accelerate.

Residents are expected to benefit from improved diagnostic services, reduced transportation and storage costs for bereaved families and enhanced healthcare access once the projects are completed.

The county administration expressed that the upgrades form part of its broader plan to strengthen healthcare systems and fulfil its commitment to providing affordable, comprehensive and dignified healthcare services to all residents of Murang'a County.

First Lady calls Kenya to prayer



First Lady Rachel Ruto

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

First Lady Rachel Ruto has called on Kenyans to dedicate June and July to intensive prayer and fasting for national unity, peace, and spiritual renewal. Speaking at the 3rd Women's Convocation Prayer Breakfast, Mrs Ruto set aside her prepared remarks, telling the gathering she felt spiritually compelled to speak from the heart. "I consulted my office and Chief of Staff before deciding not to read my speech," she said, adding that she believed the event carried a deeper significance than a formal address could capture. Drawing on Jeremiah 29:7 — a biblical exhortation to pray for the peace of the land — she urged citizens,

church leaders, and intercessors across the country to seek wisdom in leadership, reconciliation over division, and hope for future generations. She described the women's prayer convocation as "a God idea" destined to grow, sharing personal testimonies of transformation from previous gatherings as evidence of what collective faith could accomplish.

Mrs Ruto extended the call beyond Kenya's borders, inviting the wider East African region to join in morning and evening prayers for both national and global peace, framing the two-month period not as a religious exercise alone but as a civic act of collective healing at a moment the country badly needs it.

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Maara cultural festival set to boost heritage and unity in Tharaka Nithi County



Stakeholders briefing journalists. | Photo: Courtesy

BY KNA

@themtkenyaintimes

Preparations for the much-awaited Maara cultural celebrations set to begin tomorrow are complete, with stakeholders urging residents to embrace the rich traditions of the Muthambi and Mwimbi communities.

Speaking during a site visit at Muga grounds, Maara Cultural Ambassadors Chairperson and Community-Based Organization (CBO) leader Kimathi Ntomiru said the event will play a key role in reviving and promoting the cultural identity of the people of Maara Constituency.

He noted that the partnership between the Tharaka Nithi County Government and the Maara cultural stakeholders aims to ensure that no community is left behind in matters of culture and heritage preservation.

Ntomiru appealed to residents to maintain peace and unity during the two-day event, saying the celebrations are meant to bring people together and strengthen social cohesion among communities.

“We want this cultural festival to unite our people and remind the younger generation about the importance of preserving our traditions,” he said.

Speaking during the inspection visit, Chief Officer for Education and Culture Mwitini Munoo said the county government had partnered with the Maara CBO to ensure the

event became successful and impactful.

He said the county leadership was keen on ensuring all preparations were in place ahead of the celebrations, adding that the festival is purely cultural and not political.

“We are calling upon everyone to come and celebrate the culture of the people of Maara. This event is not about politics but about embracing our identity and heritage,” he said.

Mwitini added that cultural events provide an important platform for communities to reconnect with their roots while promoting unity and understanding among different generations.

Chief of Staff Wilson Murithi reaffirmed the county government’s commitment to supporting cultural activities across the county.

Murithi called upon leaders at both the national and county levels, as well as residents, to attend the celebrations in large numbers and support efforts aimed at preserving local traditions.

He said cultural festivals also help children and young people learn more about their heritage and values, ensuring that traditions are passed from one generation to another.

The Maara cultural celebrations are expected to attract residents, leaders, cultural groups, and visitors from different parts of the county as communities gather to showcase traditional dances, songs, attire, and customs.



CS Aden Duale

Kenya assures public on Ebola preparedness

BY MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyaintimes

The Government has assured Kenyans that the country remains fully prepared to respond to any Ebola outbreak amid reports of ongoing discussions with the United States and other international partners on global health security cooperation.

In a statement, Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale said Kenya’s health system has developed strong surveillance and emergency response mechanisms over the years, positioning the country as a key regional partner in disease prevention and outbreak management.

The statement comes amid growing international attention following reports that the United States is considering establishing a facility in Kenya to monitor and possibly treat American citizens exposed to Ebola and other emerging infectious diseases.

Duale said Kenya welcomes partnerships aimed at strengthening global health security but stressed that any international cooperation would strictly comply with Kenya’s laws, public health regulations and biosafety standards.

“Protection of Kenyan citizens, frontline health workers and communities remains paramount,” the Health CS said.

He noted that Kenya has invested heavily in public health systems, disease surveillance, laboratory capacity and workforce development, enabling the country to respond effectively to major disease outbreaks in the region.

According to the Ministry of Health, Kenya has already activated its national Incident Management System in response to the ongoing Ebola Virus Disease outbreak within the region.

The government has also intensified surveillance at border entry points, strengthened coordination between national and county governments, and designated laboratories for Ebola testing.

Duale revealed that more than 55,000 travelers have so far been screened at various ports of entry, while ten suspected cases tested in the country have all returned negative results.

Kenya previously played a critical role during the 2014–2016 West Africa Ebola outbreak by supporting regional response efforts and strengthening emergency prepared-

ness systems.

The Health Ministry said ongoing preparedness measures are being implemented in collaboration with counties, regional institutions and international health partners.

The government further emphasized that Kenya’s longstanding partnership with the United States and other global agencies has contributed significantly to strengthening surveillance systems, emergency preparedness and health infrastructure across the country.

Duale reiterated that Kenya remains committed to advancing both regional and global health security through science-based approaches, collaboration and responsible public health management.

“Kenya is ready. Kenya is capable. Kenya will continue to act responsibly in safeguarding both national and global health security,” he said.

The Ministry pledged to continue providing regular updates as preparedness efforts continue amid heightened regional surveillance over Ebola and other emerging health threats.

Health Several Public Health Service officers are currently being trained for possible deployment to Kenya to provide medical care and emergency support.

United States Ebola center puzzle

The US plan to monitor Ebola-exposed citizens in Kenya raises questions

BY MKT Correspondents

@themkenyatimes

The United States of America government is reportedly planning to send American citizens exposed to the Ebola virus to Kenya for monitoring and possible treatment, in a move that could significantly shift how Washington handles future infectious disease outbreaks involving its citizens abroad.

According to a reports, the Donald Trump administration is developing a medical monitoring and treatment arrangement in Kenya instead of repatriating exposed Americans to specialised medical facilities in the United States, as has happened during previous Ebola outbreaks.

The reports cite officials familiar with the plans, saying the initiative would involve cooperation between the U.S. State Department, Department of Defense, and Department of Health and Human Services.

Yesterday, Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale could not confirm or deny the reports, but choose to feign ignorance, just saying the country would welcome any initiative aimed at enhancing control of such pandemics.

Under the arrangement, reports indicate that a facility would reportedly be established in Kenya to quarantine, monitor and potentially treat American citizens considered at high risk of developing Ebola after exposure in affected regions.

Several Public Health Service officers are currently being trained for possible deployment to Kenya to provide medical care and emergency support.

Initially, the plan reportedly involved monitoring exposed Americans in Kenya before transferring anyone who developed symptoms to Europe for treatment.

However, the strategy has now evolved to include treatment capabilities within Kenya itself.

The report comes amid heightened Ebola surveillance following outbreaks in parts of Central and East Africa, particularly in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), countries that have experienced repeated Ebola flare-ups over the past decade.



A health worker attending to an Ebola patient. | Photo: Courtesy.

The Trump administration has also reportedly invoked public health restrictions under Title 42 to limit entry into the United States for immigrants and permanent residents who have recently travelled through Ebola-affected countries including Uganda, South Sudan and the DRC.

Health experts say the decision signals a major departure from previous U.S. outbreak responses. During earlier Ebola emergencies, American health workers and citizens exposed to the virus were often flown back to highly specialised bio-containment units in the United States for monitoring and treatment.

The U.S. has several advanced high-level isolation units, including facilities at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta and the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center in Maryland, which have historically handled Ebola cases.

Experts quoted by the reports questioned whether a newly established facility in Kenya would match the capabilities and biosecurity standards available in the United States.

Ebola is a severe and often fatal viral disease transmitted through direct

contact with bodily fluids of infected persons or contaminated materials. Symptoms include fever, vomiting, diarrhea, bleeding and organ failure. Fatality rates vary depending on the virus strain and access to early treatment.

Although no major Ebola outbreak has ever originated in Kenya, the country has repeatedly faced heightened surveillance risks because of its regional connectivity and proximity to outbreak-prone nations.

Kenya has previously strengthened border screening and emergency preparedness during Ebola outbreaks in neighbouring Uganda and the DRC, particularly due to heavy cross-border movement and Nairobi's role as a major regional transport hub.

The country has over the years invested in disease surveillance systems, isolation facilities and rapid response mechanisms through partnerships with the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other international health agencies.

In 2014, during the West African Ebola epidemic that killed more than

11,000 people, Kenya heightened airport screening and public health preparedness to prevent possible importation of the virus. The outbreak mainly affected Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and remains the deadliest Ebola outbreak in history.

The United States also played a major role during that crisis by deploying medical teams, funding treatment programs and supporting vaccine research.

In recent years, advances in vaccines and antiviral treatments have improved survival rates for Ebola patients, especially where cases are detected early and managed in specialised treatment centres.

Still, public health experts warn that Ebola remains one of the world's most dangerous infectious diseases due to its rapid spread and high mortality risk.

Kenya's selection as a possible monitoring and treatment location for exposed American citizens may reflect growing confidence in the country's strategic health infrastructure and regional medical capacity. However, the plan is also likely to trigger debate over preparedness, safety standards and the broader geopolitical implications of shifting disease containment operations outside the United States.

The report is expected to spark fresh scrutiny over international health security policies and cross-border epidemic management strategies.



Presidents US Donald Trump and William Ruto. | File photo

OI Kalou The DCP candidate, Sammy Kamau Ngotho, presented his papers on Monday while being escorted by a host of MPs.

Nine cleared by IEBC for OI Kalou MP's seat

BY KNA
@themkenyatimes

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), on Tuesday, concluded clearing of contestants for OI-Kalou Parliamentary seat, where nine candidates were cleared.

Among them are very new faces in politics, who have been cleared by IEBC to vie for the seat for the first time.

Four of the candidates were cleared on Monday, and the rest were given a nod on Tuesday in a process that was calm and seamless.

Rachel Wangui Njoroge is the only female candidate who is vying for People's Democratic Party.

The DCP candidate, Sammy Kamau Ngotho, presented his

papers on Monday while being escorted by a host of MPs. Ngotho was franked by the new Secretary General of the Party, John Methu and Deputy Party Leader, Cleophas Malala.

UDA candidate, Samuel Muchina, presented papers, Monday, was escorted by MPs Nyandarua Woman Rep., Faith Gitau, EALA MP Maina Karobia and Leo Wamuthende (Mbere North)

Wilson Kigwa, who is a candidate contesting on former ruling party Jubilee's ticket, was escorted by the deputy party leader, Jeremiah Kioni and the party's Nyandarua County Chairman, Sambigi Mukuria.

The Returning Officer for the OI-Kalou By-election, Muhia Njiraini, conducted the clear-

ance process at the PCEA Church in OI-Kalou town.

Njiraini termed the clearance process as smooth while telling those cleared that they were now free to campaign in the Constituency until July 13, when the campaign period will officially end.

Abdifatah Hussein of Federal Party of Kenya is among the new faces and is little known.

Another new face is the youthful People's Renaissance Movement candidate, Timothy Kariuki, who rode a donkey as he went for clearance as a way of protesting the high cost of fuel.

"I'm happy to be first Gen-Z to vie for a seat in the country since we demonstrated all over," Kariuki noted.

"I arrived on a donkey because fuel has become very



expensive; for a farmer like me, I could not afford it," he added.

Edward Mathenge, a nephew of the late MP, David Kiaraho, who is also an ICT expert of Kenya Moja Movement, was the fourth aspirant to present his papers in the afternoon.

"My decision to vie has been informed by the need

to empower youth and farmers in the Constituency," said Mathenge after being cleared.

The candidates said their desire and aim, is to emulate late Kiaraho in development of schools, roads and electricity.

Another new candidate is Stephen Wanyoike Waitaha, contesting on National Liberal Party ticket, while PNU is

fielding a newcomer, Edwin Kariiri Muchiri.

The OI-Kalou seat fell vacant after death of David Kiaraho, who was serving his third term on jubilee ticket.

Kiaraho passed on in March this year and was laid to rest in Tigoni, Limuru in Kiambu County.

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Jiggers The Ahadi Kenya Trust CEO Dr. Stanley Kamau said the organization had achieved over 90 percent success in eradicating the menace

Ahadi Kenya Trust closes chapter on jigger campaign with historic archive

BY Florence Kinyua and Purity Mugo

@themtkenyatimes

After nearly two decades of fighting one of Kenya's most neglected public health challenges, the Ahadi Kenya Trust has officially closed its anti-jigger campaign operations, marking the milestone with the launch of a Jigger Archive and Resource Centre in the heart of Murang'a.

The archive documents the organization's 19-year journey in combating jigger infestation across the country, while preserving records, testimonies, photographs and milestones from a campaign that transformed thousands of lives.

Speaking during the event, the Ahadi Kenya Trust CEO Dr. Stanley Kamau said the organization had achieved over 90 percent success in eradicating the menace, with fewer than 300 people currently affected by jiggers nationwide.

"When we started the campaign in 2007, over two million people were infested with jiggers, but today lives have been transformed and the menace greatly reduced. We can now confidently place jiggers where they belong, that is in the archives," he said.

Dr. Kamau noted that the centre will serve as a historical resource for future generations to understand the journey Kenya has undertaken in restoring dignity to vulnerable communities.

The CEO reiterated that the archive stands not only as a celebration of victory against jiggers, but also as a reminder of the resilience, dignity and hope restored to thousands of Kenyan families.

"We have been documenting

the anti-jigger journey over the years and this archive holds all that history.

He noted that generations to come will be able to learn and see where we came from as a country.

Reflecting on the nearly two decades long anti jigger journey he says, "Awareness through drives sustained the campaign as it was funds intensive. Corporates, schools and communities came together to support the anti-jigger movement through sports events, drives and mobilization of national support."

Dr. Kamau observes that the interventions included treatment campaigns for wound care hygiene education, fumigation, sanitation drives, shoes distribution and community sensitization.

The 19-year long campaign also focused on long term solutions that helped families move beyond infestation. "Livelihood projects such as farming, poultry keeping, beekeeping, irrigation water provision and small businesses were initiated for survivors and victims, so as to improve their living conditions and reduce the risk of re-infestation."

A section in the archives explains the life cycle of the jigger causing flea and how infestation spreads.

"The female flea burrows into the skin, feeds on blood and lays eggs, the eggs fall into dusty environments where they hatch and continue the cycle within homes and communities' explains 'Wandutu,' the Kikuyu vernacular name for jiggers, a name he cheekily says he's considering adding to his official names).

And because many people suffering from jiggers would

hide due to shame and stigma, Wandutu reveals that through schools, local leaders, health workers and community outreach, Ahadi Kenya Trust helped locate the victims and connect them to treatment, rehabilitation and care.

The emotional event, attended by the Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, was marked by moving testimonies from former victims, whose lives were changed through the initiative.

One of the most emotional moments came from 25-year-old Peter Okeka from Busia County, who narrated his painful childhood battle with jiggers and how the organisation restored his hope.

"I was in Class Five when I got jiggers. We were very poor, and poverty and jiggers often go hand in hand," he recalled.

Okeka said the infestation left his feet severely wounded, forcing his mother to buy razor blades daily in an attempt to remove the parasites. "The pain was unbearable. Instead of relief, I was left with deep wounds on my feet. I missed school many times because I could barely walk," he said.

He narrated how both he and his brother suffered immensely, spending sleepless nights scratching their feet against wooden beds in search of temporary relief.

"At night I cried not only because of my pain, but also from seeing my younger brother suffer the same way," he said.

According to Okeka, stigma from villagers worsened their suffering, with some accusing the family of being bewitched.

Despite the hardships, he excelled in his studies and



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi with Ahadi Trust CEO Stanley Kamau during the opening of the archive on Monday.



Jigger survivor Peter Okeka speaks during the launch of jigger archive and resource center in Murang'a in Murang'a county.



A picture in the Jigger Archive Resource Centre showing some body parts of survivors of jigger infestation. | Photo: Florence Kinyua.

scored 401 marks in his primary school examinations.

Through well-wishers, he was later connected to Ahadi Kenya Trust, placed under treatment and eventually joined Mang'u High School

before proceeding to Technical University of Mombasa, where he completed a degree in Communication and Media Studies in 2023.

"You chose compassion over discrimination, action over si-

lence and service to humanity," he said in gratitude to the organization.

Tax By removing VAT exemptions on digital financial services, payment platforms like PayPal, digital wallets, and peer-to-peer networks will be hit with a crushing 16% VAT

Tax first, think later: How the Finance Bill 2026 abandons the hustler and strangles survival



By: Gitile Naituli
@themkenyatimes



The National Treasury

Four years ago, the current administration swept into power on one of the most powerful, emotionally resonant populist promises in Kenya's democratic history: the elevation of the "Hustler." The political rhetoric was masterful, painting a future where the state would actively dismantle corporate cartels, formalize the informal sector, create millions of jobs for youth, and protect the small-scale trader from state predation.

Today, that grand promise has collapsed into a grim,

unvarnished reality. The publication of the proposed Finance Bill 2026 marks the definitive end of the "Hustler Nation" illusion. We have officially transitioned from a government that promised to create jobs to a predatory state that aggressively taxes sheer survival. Driven by a reckless fiscal philosophy of

"Tax First, Think Later," the political elite around President William Ruto has drafted a document that does not foster economic growth, but rather treats the resilience of ordinary Kenyans as a bottomless reservoir for revenue extraction. The state has literally declared war on the informal safety net.

To understand the sheer detachment of our policy makers, one must examine Clause 35 of the new bill, which targets the mitumba (second-hand clothes and footwear) sector. Having completely failed to provide the formal employment promised to millions of university graduates and single mothers, the state is now raiding their fallback nest.

The bill introduces a punitive 1.5% Customs Levy on imported second-hand clothing and textiles. This is a brutal upfront charge levied at the point of importation, drastically shrinking the tiny profit margins of traders in markets like Gikomba long before they make a single sale.

Ultimately, this cost will be passed down to ordinary consumers. Millions of Kenyan families rely entirely on mitumba to clothe their children. Imposing this levy will price basic clothing out of reach for millions. But how could the architects of this bill understand such pain? When public officials indulge in luxury designer wear and multi-million-shilling watches on the taxpayer's dime, they become completely blind to the economic struggles of the streets. Equally cynical is the backdoor raid on content creators, online freelancers, and the tech ecosystem under Clause 8 and Clauses 18–23. In an act of supreme irony, the govern-

ment is moving to heavily tax digital spaces it took absolutely no part in building.

By removing VAT exemptions on digital financial services, payment platforms like PayPal, digital wallets, and peer-to-peer networks will be hit with a crushing 16% VAT on transaction fees. Simultaneously, Clause 8 expands the definition of "royalties" and "professional fees" to squeeze withholding taxes out of card interchange systems (Visa, MasterCard) and software distribution networks.

In 2024, the state tried to tax young creatives directly and faced a furious backlash. In 2026, they have returned through the plumbing of the internet, taxing the very gateways and software young Kenyans use to earn a living globally. Forcing a 16% VAT onto digital payments will destroy digital inclusion, punish innovation, and actively push local merchants back into cash-only operations. To make matters worse, these platforms will be legally obligated to hand over full user transaction histories to the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), turning financial systems into tools of state surveillance.

Beyond the rates, the bill introduces administrative mechanisms that resemble financial hostage-taking. Clauses 3–7 compress the annual tax filing window from six months down to four, dragging the absolute deadline forward to April 30. The government is fully aware that KRA's iTax and eTIMS platforms routinely crash under heavy traffic. This compression is not designed to improve compliance; it is a deliberate penalty trap structured to catch small family businesses off-guard so the state can collect automated fines.

Worse still is Clause 55, which empowers the KRA to freeze bank accounts and mobile money wallets before a taxpayer's appeal process is fully concluded in court. This upends the constitutional principle of fair administrative action, moving the taxman from a revenue collector to an unchecked financial predator. It creates a terrifying loophole that can easily be abused to silence independent activists, political opponents, and business owners who dare

to critique state policy.

The most heartless dimension of the Finance Bill 2026 is the lethal reclassification of essential goods from "Zero-Rated" to "Exempt" status. By shifting life-saving prescription drugs, cancer treatments, diabetes medications, and basic medical supplies into the exempt category, local pharmaceutical manufacturers can no longer claim input VAT. This drives up production and distribution costs, which will be passed directly to chronically ill patients at a time when the Social Health Authority (SHA) framework is already in a state of total collapse.

The exact same reclassification trick is being applied to animal feeds, fertilizers, and critical farming inputs. Local feed factories will see their costs skyrocket, making local production completely non-competitive against cheaper imports from neighboring Uganda and Tanzania. This will drive up food inflation, making milk, eggs, and meat unaffordable for the average consumer, while forcing local factories to close down or relocate their headquarters outside our borders.

The fundamental flaw of the Ruto administration's economic strategy is the belief that you can tax a nation into prosperity. By targeting gross turnover instead of net profit, punishing local manufacturers, and aggressively squeezing the informal sector, this bill is systematically slaughtering the golden goose.

We are witnessing a systemic betrayal of the very people who put this regime in power. If the Finance Bill 2026 passes in its current form, it will not stabilize the economy, it will accelerate the flight of capital, deepen the unemployment crisis, and push millions of struggling Kenyans into absolute destitution.

Members of Parliament must remember that their primary allegiance belongs to the citizens, not to the executive. They must stand up and reject these punitive clauses. You cannot build a stable nation on the economic ruin of its own people.

The writer comments on various topical issues

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Politics Gitonga has in recent years increased his visibility in Othaya through community empowerment programmes focused on health, environmental conservation and youth

Antony Gitonga Foundation to hold free medical camp in Othaya constituency

BY WMW
@themtkenyatimes

Residents of Othaya Constituency in Nyeri County are set to benefit from a free medical camp this Saturday as the Antony Gitonga Foundation partners with Blue Star Hospital to expand access to healthcare services in the area.

The one-day medical outreach programme will be held at the Othaya Approved grounds is expected to attract hundreds of residents seeking specialized and general medical services.

According to the organizers, patients will receive free consultations and treatment in various fields, including urology, oncology, pediatrics, gynecology, neurosurgery and general physician services. Free medication will also be provided during the exercise.

The event will additionally feature a children's play area to accommodate families attending the camp.

The initiative is being spearheaded by businessman and philanthropist Antony Gitonga (Antogito), who is also positioning himself as a contender for the Othaya parliamentary seat under the Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) ahead of the 2027 General Election.

Gitonga has in recent years increased his visibility in Othaya through community empowerment programmes focused on health, environmental conservation and youth support initiatives.

Through his foundation, he has previously participated in tree planting campaigns, community clean-up exercises and support programmes targeting vulnerable families and schools within Nyeri County.

His growing community engage-

ments have increasingly shaped local political conversations in Othaya, a constituency historically associated with influential national political figures.

Organizers of the medical camp say the initiative seeks to bridge healthcare access gaps affecting many residents, particularly those unable to afford specialized treatment and consultations.

The programme comes at a time when demand for affordable healthcare services continues to rise amid increasing pressure on public health facilities across the country.

Health experts have consistently emphasized the importance of medical outreach programmes in early disease detection, awareness creation and improving access to preventive healthcare services at the grassroots.

Residents attending the camp are

expected to receive medical screening, professional consultations and referrals where necessary.

The Antony Gitonga Foundation said the partnership with Blue Star Hospital reflects a broader commitment to improving community welfare and supporting preventive healthcare efforts in Othaya and surrounding areas.



Antony Gitonga gifting a pupil in the past. | Photo: Courtesy

The Mt. Kenya Times



Conflict of Conscience vs Ambition



By Asha S

In the silence of night, a battle rose within my mind,
Conscience spoke softly, while ambition stood firm behind.
On one side flickered the lamp of virtue and truth,
On the other shone a golden throne, dazzling in youth.

Conscience gently whispered and called out to me,
"Walk the path of truth, let greed and temptation flee."
Ambition laughed and said, "How foolish you seem,
Rejecting opportunity for a poor man's dream."
One showed the face of a hungry child in despair,
The other displayed grand palaces standing there.

Conscience said, "Be the support of the weak and small,"
Ambition replied, "Rise and become the master of all."

Sleep disappeared amid this battle of values inside,
Like a thorn piercing flowers in a beautiful countryside.
For a moment I thought of surrendering before desire,
The next, my inner soul screamed through sacrifice and fire.

Ambition promised a name that would forever remain,
Conscience asked, "At what cost will you earn such gain?"
Power, wealth, and fame are illusions that fade away,
Peace, contentment, and sleep—conscience wins the day.

Now I have decided to maintain a balanced way,
I will dream big but never let my values stray.
True victory is where the soul never loses its role,
And conscience sings, while purpose nurtures the soul.

Motivate yourself



Proof you dared, proof you stand.
The one who falls and tries once more
Will reach the long-awaited shore.

Do not wilt when people see
Only flaws, not possibility.
Flowers bloom through storm and rain,
Strength is often born from pain.

Lift your spirit, hold your flame,
Do not surrender to fear or shame.
Keep your vision vast and wide,
Let determination be your guide.

For mountains bow to hearts that try,
And dreams take wings that touch the sky.
So cheer yourself through all you do,
The greatest believer must be you.

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

Self motivation is the spark within,
A silent fire beneath the skin.
It does not rest on a dusty book shelf,
The strongest push comes from yourself.

Life is not carved in flawless frame,
Every journey has thorns of blame.
When you dare to rise and try,
Some will mock and criticize.

Fault-finding tongues may loudly croak,
Throwing arrows wrapped in jokes.
But be the deaf frog climbing high,
Unshaken by the noisy sky.

Mistakes are footprints on the sand,

The journey within



A stronger version of you survived.

Walk with your shadows, don't run away,
They too have stories they wish to say.
For healing begins when you gently see,
That every broken piece is still worthy.

In the silence between each passing day,
Your inner soul still whispers its way.
Not through the noise, not through the race,
But in the calm of your own embrace.

Hold your own hand when the world feels cold,
Speak to your heart with words of gold.
For the love you seek in distant skies,
Has lived within you your whole life.

The mirror once reflected doubt and fear,
Yet the truest reflection was always near.
Beneath the scars, beneath the pain,
A heart still danced in the pouring rain.

And when at last your soul you meet,
You'll find its rhythm steady and sweet.
A quiet truth, forever true—
The home you've been searching for is you. ✨🌸

So sit with yourself beneath the sky,
Ask your weary spirit softly, "Why?"
The answers bloom like flowers in spring,
Teaching your soul again to sing.

"To meet your inner soul is not to become
someone new, but to remember who you were
before the world told you otherwise."

© Dr. Daksha Udhani
Ahmedabad

Love yourself through the highs and lows,
Like the moon that wanes yet always glows.
For every tear that your eyes have cried,

Some problems are meant to fix us



Always worrying without doing anything,
May lead to anxiety.
We can't fix our damages soon,
But delayed results are truly seen.

Patiently bear the pain,
To wear the crown.
God is in control: some problems fix us; don't
escape
Till you reach the desired shape.

Jael Beulah,
CW Group,
Graduate Teacher,
GHSS, KILPALUR,
Tiruvannamalai,
Tamil Nadu.

Sometimes, we face problems in life.
Worry not for the troubles in life,
Storms shape us and prune us.
Struggles strengthen us and make us
courageous.

Whose sacrifice is greater??



Fell in kindness on seeing others pains as ours
Igniting their minds to sacrifice for the sake of
others

Countless chances and offers to recover
Ensuring satisfaction, by giving them the best .

Rajesh Kanna B N

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Educationist.

Serving to others is serving to God
Acquiring the mind of helping for the sake of
others
Cherishing, by fulfilling others needs in time
Refreshing ourselves by doing great things for
others
Illuminating others life by giving chances to
realise themselves

Loyalty is very expensive



Stay loyal to everyone,
and do not lose loyal people from your life. Loyal
people are very valuable,
so don't miss them. Some lies may seem to win
at first,
but in the end,
truth gets the crown. So, be loyal and stay with
loyal people.

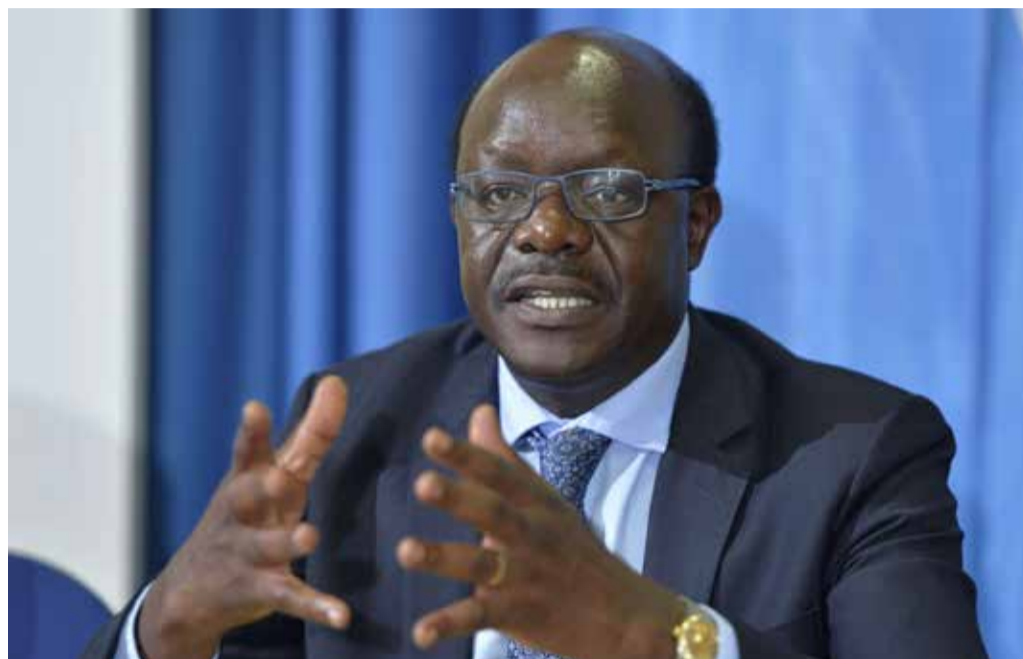
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Not everyone can afford it.
Loyalty is a unique quality.
Loyal people are rare and valuable.
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you will stay in everyone's heart in a special way.
It shows your good character and brings respect
to you.

Politics Former UN trade chief warns that ethnic counter-attacks will cost the opposition its credibility and Kenya its cohesion

Kituyi to opposition: don't take President Ruto's bait

BY MKT REPORTER
@themkenyatimes



Former Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Mukhisa Kituyi

Former UNCTAD secretary-general Mukhisa Kituyi has warned opposition leaders against responding to President William Ruto's political attacks with ethnic counter-rhetoric, urging them instead to present themselves as a unified, solution-driven force ahead of the 2027 general election.

Speaking on Citizen TV's JKLive, Kituyi was direct and unsparing in his counsel. "Let's not fall into Ruto's trap by answering ethnic bigotry with ethnic bigotry," he said. "We should be a reassuring force." The warning came from a man with both standing and skin in the game. Kituyi was elected spokesperson and head of secretariat for the United Opposition coalition in September 2025, a role that places him at the centre of

efforts to forge a credible political alternative before Kenyans return to the polls. His central argument was simple but pointed: an opposition that gets drawn into tit-for-tat ethnic politics does not

just damage itself — it does the government's work for it. Every moment spent trading barbs along communal lines is a moment not spent building the policy platform and public trust that any serious

challenger to the incumbency must have. Kituyi argued that the opposition's greatest asset heading into 2027 is the disillusionment of ordinary Kenyans with the current political and economic environment

— and that asset is squandered the moment opposition leaders allow themselves to be pulled into the gutter.

On the question of coalition cohesion, he was equally firm. "There's growing public pressure that nobody should walk away from the table," he said. "There are sufficient mechanisms for keeping everyone at the table." He called for a public declaration of commitment to collective purpose, arguing that ego and individual ambition had to be consciously set aside. "Going forward, the public declaration of commitment to being on one team and everyone saying they should not be the one responsible for the failure to keep the hope that Kenyans have is going to discipline people to purposefully sacrifice their ego and be ready to be part of a leadership." It was a frank acknowledgement that the opposition's internal discipline remains its most pressing vulnerability.

Kituyi also turned his attention to economic policy, delivering a sharp critique of the government's development philosophy. He argued that Kenya has fallen into the trap of treating the state as the primary engine of growth — raising taxes, collecting

revenue, and redistributing it as development — rather than creating the conditions in which private enterprise and individual initiative can thrive. "The essence of economic growth is creating possibilities, access to credit for entrepreneurs to grow wealth, create opportunities, and make them competitive," he said. "Instead of seeing business as a driver of economic growth, we've seen government as a driver of growth. This thinking is ill-advised."

He urged a fundamental shift in policy mindset — away from extraction and redistribution, toward enablement and competitiveness. And he made a particular point of calling on the opposition to actively engage Gen Z, arguing that young Kenyans must be brought into shaping the country's political and economic agenda rather than treated as a constituency to be managed.

The opposition, Kituyi concluded, carries a momentous responsibility. Whether it has the discipline to honour it remains the defining question of Kenya's political moment.



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Rhino charge The event is being staged in the rugged landscapes surrounding the Mathews Range, an area characterized by steep valleys

Rhino Ark: All is set for Samburu Rhino Charge showdown

BY MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

Final preparations are underway in Samburu County ahead of the 37th edition of the Rhino Charge, Kenya's iconic off-road motorsport and conservation fundraising event scheduled for this weekend at Ngilai Conservancy beneath the scenic Mathews Range.

The annual event, organized by Rhino Ark, has already transformed the remote wilderness into a bustling temporary settlement as competitors, logistics teams, sponsors, officials and spectators stream into the area ahead of the competition day on Saturday.

Organisers say extensive preparations have been ongoing for days to establish critical infrastructure, including medical facilities, emergency response units, security posts, water systems, sanitation facilities, camping areas and command centres to safely host thousands of visitors expected at the event.

An estimated 4,000 participants and spectators are expected to attend this year's Rhino Charge, which is internationally renowned for testing drivers and vehicles against some of Kenya's toughest terrain while raising funds for conservation projects.

The event is being staged in the rugged landscapes surrounding the Mathews Range, an area characterized by steep valleys, seasonal rivers, thorny bushland and rocky terrain that have made Rhino Charge one of Africa's most demanding off-road competitions.

Organisers have also introduced improved spectator facilities this year, including designated viewing zones, clearer navigation signage, rest areas, food and water stations, and a mobile application providing real-time competition updates.

Environmental sustainability remains a major focus of the



Rhino Charge



Rhino Ark

event, with strict "leave no trace" guidelines being enforced throughout the competition grounds.

Measures include controlled vehicle access, responsible camping, waste sorting and recycling, water conservation initiatives and carbon offsetting programmes aimed at minimizing the event's environmental footprint.

This year's edition also carries global significance after the United Nations designated 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, placing attention on sustainable land use and pastoralist livelihoods.

In a historic first for Rhino Charge, the 2026 event features three all-female teams alongside three international teams from Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, highlighting the competition's growing international appeal and expanding inclusivity in off-road motorsport.

Samburu Governor Jonathan Lati Lelelit welcomed the return of the event, saying Rhino Charge continues to deliver substantial economic and tourism benefits to the county through hospitality services, local employment, transport

and campsite operations.

"It is a privilege to host this extraordinary event for the seventh time. With every return, our bond grows stronger," the governor said.

He noted that the event not only promotes conservation but also markets Samburu globally as a destination for adventure tourism, wildlife conservation and cultural heritage.

Lelelit added that local communities continue to benefit through employment opportunities for youth working as guides, rangers, logistics staff and hospitality personnel during the event.

The governor also encouraged visitors to explore Samburu's tourist attractions, including its famous "Special Five" wildlife species, dramatic landscapes and cultural experiences.

The Rhino Charge serves as the flagship fundraising initiative for Rhino Ark, a conservation organization that supports protection of Kenya's mountain ecosystems, water towers and wildlife habitats through electric fencing projects, habitat conservation and community partnerships.

This year's event schedule begins with vehicle inspection and scrutineering on Friday, followed by the main competition on Saturday and a prize-giving ceremony on Sunday.

Sunday.

As anticipation builds across the camp, organisers say this year's edition will once again combine adventure, conservation, engineering and community spirit in one of Kenya's most unique wilderness settings.

tion and scrutineering on Friday, followed by the main competition on Saturday and a prize-giving ceremony on

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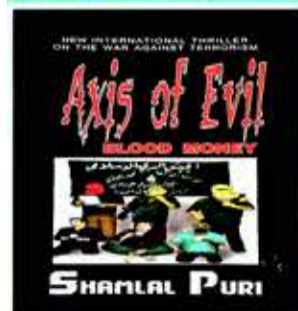
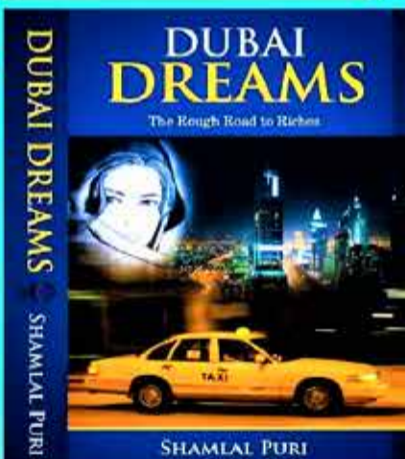
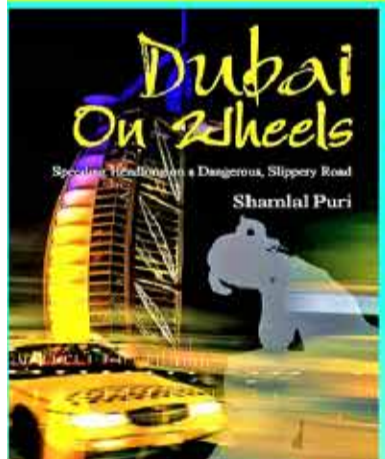
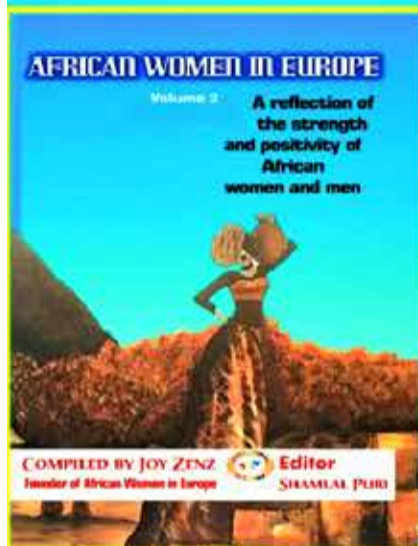
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Financing As the burden on the citizens grows heavier, so too does the confusion surrounding the country's economic direction.

The price of progress – Are Kenyans financing development or feeding a fiscal black hole?



BY Fredrick Chelimo
@themtkenyatimes

Securitization is a financial strategy where the government pledges predictable future revenue streams, such as fuel or railway levies or road tolls as collateral. The terminology as gained ground as a creative way of funding mega projects in Kenya, without raising taxes or taking on traditional high interest loans. While this provides immediate liquidity, securitization is not free money. If the underlying revenue streams underperform, due to an economic downturn, the government is still obligated to make up the shortfall, which can impact on funds for critical societal services. In short, it is investing in projects today based on predictable future incomes from known national sources.

Beneath this new found language of transformation lies restless population increasingly asking one uncomfortable question; where exactly is all the money going? For years, the Kenyan citizen has been called upon to sacrifice in the name of national development. Taxes have risen steadily, new levies have emerged, subsidies have been removed, fuel prices remain volatile and unpredictable and cost of living continue to strain families already struggling under stagnant incomes and unemployment. At every turn the government seem to justify these painful measures as necessary medicine for a nation burdened by debt and determined to secure its future. Yet with all these justifications, the government has not explained how it has closed the vulnerability that created the debt we are in.

As the burden on the citizens grows heavier, so too does the confusion surrounding the country's economic direction. The government is now pursuing one of the most aggressive fiscal restructuring models in Ken-



Securitization

ya's post-independence history – a hybrid financial strategy that combines increased taxation, multilateral borrowing, privatization of state assets, and private-sector-led infrastructure financing through a newly proposed National Infrastructure Fund. In theory, the approach seeks to shift Kenya away from dangerous sovereign borrowing toward a more self-sustaining model where infrastructure is financed through strategic investments and monetization of public assets.

From an economic perspective, the idea is not without merit. Other nations have utilized similar models with notable success while reducing pressure on public debt. If properly managed, such systems can unlock growth, modernize economies, and reduce dependency on foreign creditors. The greatest challenge, however, is not the sophistication of the model itself, but the environment within which the model is introduced. When public confidence erodes, even good policies begin to appear dangerous. Kenya currently is suffering from severe erosion of institutional trust.

Ordinary Kenyans no longer merely question government priorities; they increasingly question the integrity of the entire governance architecture. Repeated reports from the Office of Auditor General highlighting unex-

plained expenditures, unsupported procurement process, undisclosed collections, pending bills, and weak accountability systems have deepened national anxiety. The public has watched scandal after scandal emerge with little or no consequences. That is why divestiture of such key and strategic institutions like Kenya Pipeline Company national assets intertwined with energy security, regional competitiveness, and economic sovereignty raises more questions than answers.

Their privatization raises fundamental questions about ownership, national control, and intergenerational responsibility. The public fears poorly managed privatization programs that have historically enriched political elites, created monopolistic private interests, weakening public accountability, and transferred strategic national wealth away from citizens without delivering broad economic benefits. Kenya carries a painful historical memory of opaque privatization, politically connected acquisitions, and state capture hidden beneath the language of reform.

The role of parliament becomes critically important not merely to process legislation, but to protect the Republic from excesses of power, financial recklessness, and constitutional erosion. They are entrusted

with the sacred responsibility of interrogating policy, defending public resources, and ensuring that national decisions reflect the immediate, medium- and long-term public interests not temporary political expediences. It is expected to serve as the final institutional firewall between executive ambition and public vulnerability.

Increasingly, Kenyans are developing a perception that parliament has abandoned much of this constitutional vigilance. Complex fiscal proposals, far-reaching legislative amendments, and controversial financial frameworks now appear to move through the legislative process with extraordinary speeds and limited scrutiny. Laws are amended almost immediately whenever legal obstacles emerge against executive initiatives. Public participations are becoming ceremonial. Oversight hearings generate headlines, but rarely produce systemic accountability, resulting in public perception that legislative independence is weakened under the weight of political convenience. This is the deepest anxiety surrounding Kenya's current trajectory.

The country is pursuing ambitious economic transformation faster than it is strengthening necessary institutions to manage such transformations responsibly. Government

contradiction is visible; it argues that privatization and infrastructure funds are necessary because debt servicing has become unsustainable and at the same time citizens are witnessing aggressive taxation, expanded borrowing discussions, recurrent budget deficits, and recurring audit concerns.

At the perspective of the citizens, the state increasingly appears to be searching money from every possible direction at once without sufficiently demonstrating fiscal discipline within the existing structures. The contradiction fuels the growing perception that Kenya may not merely be financing development, but potentially feeding an expanding fiscal black hole whose true depth becomes unclear even to policy makers themselves.

Despite all these fears, Kenya has the potential of strong private sector, banking system, energetic youthful entrepreneurship, strong digital infrastructure, geographical location and all the ingredients necessary for long-term economic success.

Kenya does not require more ambitious projects, but stronger institutional integrity. Roads, railways, ports and industrial parks become meaningful only when supported by transparent governance, accountable institutions, sound project design, prudent borrowing, and equitable economic participation. The National Infrastructure Fund could become a transformative model of reducing debt dependency and accelerating development if shielded from political interference, subjected to rigorous parliamentary oversight, independently audited, transparently managed, and anchored within constitutional accountability.

Future generations may not judge this era solely by how many roads were built or how many infrastructure projects were launched, but whether parliament was courageous enough in defending constitutional oversight or it surrendered its independence at the very moment the Republic needed most. Kenya's future depends on its ability to restore trust between the government and the governed, for no society can sustainably prosper when citizens increasingly suspect that the sacrifice demanded of them by the government is not secured by a corresponding accountability.

"A nation is not destroyed when it borrows beyond its means; it is destroyed when its institutions lose the courage to ask where the money went, who benefited, and where the sacrifice demanded from the citizens truly served the public good"

Security Their story is frequently told as one of resilience, intelligence, and vision. But there is another version — one that lingers in the margins

The walls they built, the fear they inherited



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
mukphix@gmail.com

In every society, there exists a self-appointed class of people who have decided, quietly but firmly, that they are different. Not just in what they own or where they live, but in how they see the world and, more tellingly, in how they see everyone else. They carry themselves with the calm certainty of those who believe opportunity was always meant for them — that their elevation is natural, their distinction necessary, and their comfort a birthright rather than a circumstance. They speak differently, move differently, and above all, measure human worth through a lens so polished by privilege that it has long ceased to reflect reality.

Yet beneath the carefully maintained surface of this identity lies a narrative that is rarely spoken aloud but is deeply felt by those who exist outside its gates. It is a story of silent exclusion, subtle humiliation, and calculated distance — one that has, over time, hardened into an invisible wall more powerful than any physical structure ever erected. Because this class did not rise in isolation. It ascended through systems that often required others to remain grounded, that rewarded a few while quietly disempowering many, and in doing so created a divide that is both visible and unacknowledged, justified and ignored, all at once.

Their story is frequently told as one of resilience, intelligence, and vision. But there is another version — one that lingers in the margins — that speaks of overlooked talent, suppressed voices, and opportunities that were never equally distributed. A version that dares to ask whether their greatness was entirely earned,



The walls they built, the fear they inherited

or whether it was partially built on the foundations of those who were never given the same chance to rise. It is within this uncomfortable truth that the real tension begins to take shape, because what one group frames as excellence, another experiences as exclusion. What is celebrated as success in one telling is mourned as lost potential in another.

And yet, despite this tension, the so-called elite continue to reinforce their identity — not only through reputation but through the physical symbols of their dominance. Grand mansions and gleaming condominiums stretch across landscapes like declarations of victory, adorned with the finest materials and surrounded by meticulously curated environments that project order, beauty, and control. These are not merely spaces designed for living. They are spaces designed for signalling — for announcing, to anyone within sight, that they have arrived and intend to stay.

But here is the contradiction that cannot be ignored. For all their openness of design, their celebration of light and space, these magnificent structures are almost always

enclosed. They hide behind towering walls high enough to block not just intrusion but visibility — walls lined with electric wire, surveilled by cameras, and guarded by men whose sole purpose is to keep the outside world out. And so the question becomes unavoidable: if these spaces are truly symbols of achievement, why must they be so heavily protected? If success is something to celebrate, why must it be hidden? Why do those who claim to have reached the summit of society live in environments that resemble fortresses more than homes?

The answer, though rarely admitted, lies not in the strength of their walls but in the fragility of their peace. What they have built externally reflects what they carry internally — a deep-seated unease that traces back to the very systems that elevated them. There is a quiet awareness, seldom voiced, that the imbalance they benefited from has not disappeared but merely shifted. A lingering fear that those who were left behind may one day question, challenge, or disrupt the order that has long served the few. And so, in an attempt to preserve their comfort, they re-

treat into controlled environments where unpredictability is minimised and human interaction is filtered. In doing so, they create distance — not just from others, but from reality itself.

Because life beyond those walls continues. Struggles they may never witness. Resilience they may never appreciate. Humanity they may never truly encounter. Their world grows smaller even as their homes grow larger. Their relationships fewer even as their resources multiply. And their sense of security more brittle even as their defences grow stronger. This is the paradox at the heart of their existence: in trying to protect themselves from a perceived threat, they have confined themselves within a space that quietly limits their own freedom. A space where trust is scarce, relationships are often transactional, and the outside world is viewed not as a community to belong to but as a danger to be managed.

In such an environment, even joy becomes cautious. Even celebration becomes guarded. And even success begins to feel incomplete — because what is the value of achievement if it must be constantly

defended? What is the meaning of wealth if it cannot co-exist with peace? What is the purpose of status if it generates more distance than connection?

As generations pass, this mindset is inherited. Children raised within these walls grow up with a limited understanding of the world beyond them, quietly taught to be selective, careful, and wary. They internalise the same fears that led to the construction of those barriers in the first place, and so the cycle perpetuates itself — privilege breeding fear, and fear justifying isolation. All the while, the narrative remains inverted, because the very people who have been excluded are consistently labelled as the source of danger. Their struggles are misread as threats. Their frustrations dismissed as hostility. Their presence framed as something to be managed rather than understood.

This inversion raises a question that echoes through the silence of gated communities and the noise of the world outside them alike: who is truly responsible for the insecurity that now defines this relationship? Is it the individual who was denied access, overlooked, and underestimated? Or is it the system that created such disparities — and the people who chose to benefit from it without ever seeking to address its consequences? Who, in the end, is fooling whom? Are the privileged convincing themselves that their walls are a sign of strength, or are they unknowingly revealing their deepest vulnerabilities?

The truth is that no amount of concrete, steel, or surveillance can substitute for genuine social cohesion. No perimeter wall can replace mutual respect. No security system can eliminate the consequences of sustained inequality. History has demonstrated, with painful consistency, that societies built on division eventually confront the weight of that division — that exclusion, when left unaddressed, does

not dissolve but evolves, and that true stability cannot be achieved through isolation but only through inclusion, through systems that recognise the inherent worth of every individual and work to create opportunities not limited by class or circumstance.

Until such a shift occurs, the mansions will remain impressive but incomplete. The condominiums will remain luxurious but lacking. And the lives within them will continue to be shaped not only by comfort but by a quiet, persistent fear that no wall can fully contain.

Because in the end, the greatest illusion is not the belief in superiority — it is the assumption that superiority comes without consequence. And the greatest tragedy is not the existence of wealth, but the absence of empathy that so often accompanies it. So the question remains, offered not as an accusation but as an invitation to reflect: what kind of society are we building when success requires separation, when beauty must be hidden, when comfort depends on exclusion, and when those who have the most feel the most compelled to protect themselves from everyone else?

Until that question is answered with honesty and courage, the walls will continue to rise, the distance between classes will continue to widen, and the illusion of security will continue to mask a deeper, more unsettling truth — that those who appear to have everything may, in fact, be living in the most carefully constructed prison of all. One built not with bricks and boundaries alone, but with fear, perception, and the unresolved consequences of a divided world.

Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza is a social commentator and political analyst writing on inequality, class, and the architecture of power in modern society.

Politics UDA lawmakers from Central Kenya reject the party secretary general's apology and demand his unconditional resignation ahead of the 2027 general election

Mt Kenya region MPs demand resignation of UDA SG Hassan Omar

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

A group of United Democratic Alliance Members of Parliament from the Mt Kenya region yesterday publicly rejected Hassan Omar Hassan's apology over controversial remarks made in Mombasa and demanded his immediate and unconditional resignation as UDA secretary general, warning they would quit the party if President William Ruto fails to act.

Speaking with what they described as "one clear and unequivocal voice" at a joint press briefing, Laikipia County women's representative Jane Kagiri, Kiambaa MP John Njuguna Kawanjiku, Thika Town MP Alice Wambui Ng'ang'a and Nyandarua Women Rep Faith Gitau mounted the most direct and unambiguous challenge yet to Hassan Omar's position, accusing him of ethnic profiling against the Kikuyu community and declaring that his conduct had irreparably undermined their confidence in his leadership. The message was stripped of the diplomatic cushioning that typically softens such moments in Kenyan politics. They were not asking. They were demanding.

"An apology cannot erase or excuse calculated ethnic profiling," the MPs said in a joint statement. "The inflammatory remarks made by honourable Omar in Mombasa were targeted, vilifying and scapegoated the Kikuyu community under the guise of addressing historical land injustices." They dismissed the clarification Hassan Omar issued on Sunday — in which he insisted his words had been misinterpreted and taken out of context — as insufficient and insincere. "We do not want explanations. We have rejected the half-hearted apology. We demand nothing less than the immediate and unconditional resignation of honourable Hassan Omar as secretary general of the UDA party."

The controversy traces back to remarks Hassan Omar made during President Ruto's recent tour of Kilifi County on the Coast, where he appeared to frame political opposition from the Mt Kenya region as ethnic arrogance, linking protests and land grievances to former President Uhuru Kenyatta and the Kikuyu com-



A group of United Democratic Alliance Members of Parliament from the Mt Kenya region

munity in terms that leaders from Central Kenya interpreted as direct targeting of their people. Omar had dismissed talk of Ruto serving only one term, saying: "We have been struggling while you oppressed us as we watched. We have no problem with anyone, but you can't always show us arrogance and pride." The words ignited immediate fury across Central Kenya, and the four MPs made clear yesterday that the fury had not cooled.

Their statement was as much a constitutional argument as a political one. Kenya's founding law guarantees every citizen the right to live, work, own property, and conduct business in any of the country's 47 counties without fear of intimidation or discrimination — and the MPs argued that Hassan Omar's remarks struck at the very heart of that guarantee. "We will not sit back and watch anyone profiling people from the Kikuyu community or any other community in this country," they declared. "Kenya is a constitutional democracy where every citizen has the right to live, work, own property, and do business anywhere across the 47 counties without fear of being targeted." In framing their demand

in constitutional rather than purely political terms, the four lawmakers sought to elevate the stakes of the standoff beyond intra-party squabbling and into the realm of national principle.

The ultimatum carried a consequence that could not be ignored. The MPs warned directly that if Hassan Omar does not resign, they would reconsider their continued membership in UDA — and called on President Ruto to personally intervene before the dispute deepens. "If Omar doesn't resign, we cannot continue to be members of UDA," they said. "We must petition the president so that at least he can action." It was a remarkable public statement from elected legislators who arrived in parliament on UDA tickets, and it placed Ruto in an uncomfortable position: act against his own secretary general, or risk watching a visible and vocal section of his Central Kenya political base walk away from his party with less than eighteen months to the 2027 general election.

The four MPs also invoked precedent, noting that similar instances of ethnic profiling by public officials had previously resulted in resignations, and arguing that the same

standard of accountability must apply within the ruling party's own leadership. Their confidence in Hassan Omar, they said, was gone entirely. "We are not comfortable as you continue sitting as our secretary general," they said bluntly. "Enough is enough. Pack your things, leave our party. We have other competent people who can take us to the next level." The electoral dimension was equally explicit. "As we approach

the 2027 elections, we cannot have you as our secretary general. You don't even know how to conduct yourself."

Analysts have warned that President Ruto's continued silence on the matter has compounded the damage, arguing that as party leader and head of state he had both the authority and the responsibility to intervene. "The president is the father of the nation, the chief conciliator. He should have called Hassan Omar, told him that is not how to speak," former National Cohesion and Integration Commission commissioner Gitile Naituli said. "He could have convened a party National Delegates Conference to remove Omar as secretary general. That would have sent a message, but the president did not comment on the matter."

The episode has laid bare, with uncomfortable clarity, the fault lines running through the Kenya Kwanza coalition. Mt Kenya remains the single most electorally decisive region in Kenyan national politics, and the four MPs who took to that podium yesterday represent constituencies that delivered the votes that put Ruto in State House. Their willingness to threaten a public break with the party they helped build reflects a depth of grievance that goes beyond one ill-judged speech at the Coast. It speaks to a broader feeling among Central Kenya's elected leadership that loyalty delivered at the ballot box has not been met with corresponding respect — and that the patience underwriting that loyalty has limits.

Hassan Omar has not yet responded to the MPs' latest demands. The presidency has remained silent. But in Kenyan politics, silence from the top is rarely neutral — and the four lawmakers from Mt Kenya appear to have run out of patience waiting for it to mean something different.



Hassan Omar Hassan

Xenophobia Ghana evacuates 300 citizens as west African nations demand action over recurring attacks on foreign nationals

Ghanaians flee south Africa amid rising xenophobic violence

BY Norman Mwale

@themkenyatimes

Ghana has launched an emergency evacuation of its citizens from South Africa after a fresh and deadly wave of xenophobic violence swept through major South African cities, forcing thousands of African immigrants to abandon their homes, livelihoods, and businesses in fear for their lives.

President John Mahama granted approval for the immediate evacuation of an initial 300 Ghanaian nationals, following renewed xenophobic attacks in the country. The decision, announced by Foreign Affairs Minister Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, was swift and unambiguous — a signal from Accra that its patience with Pretoria's handling of a crisis that has claimed foreign lives for decades has finally run out. Within days, the number of Ghanaians registering for evacuation surpassed 800, overwhelming initial logistical arrangements and forcing authorities to postpone the first departure date to allow for mandatory passenger screening, flight permits, and other legal requirements under South African law. The government has confirmed it will cover all costs of the repatriation and provide financial assistance and psychosocial support to those returning home.

The immediate trigger for the evacuations was a series of violent attacks organised in April and May 2026 by a citizen-led movement known as March and March, which advocates stricter immigration enforcement and staged demonstrations against undocumented migrants in Pretoria, Johannesburg, and Durban, with violent and sometimes fatal results. Among the specific flashpoints was a 21-day ultimatum issued to undocumented Ghanaians and other foreign nationals to vacate Estcourt, a town in the KwaZulu-Natal province. Reports from the ground described foreign-owned shops being looted and burned, residents fleeing in the night, and in several cases, people being attacked in their own homes. A 43-year-old Cameroonian shop owner in Durban, who had lived in South Africa for nearly 20 years, recounted how approximately ten men broke down his door during the protests, targeting him and his business simply because he was foreign.



Ghanaians flee south Africa amid rising xenophobic violence

Human Rights Watch condemned the attacks, noting that vigilantes had carried out violent assaults on African and Asian foreign nationals with little or insufficient response from police and other authorities. On April 27, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres also expressed concern over the reported xenophobic harassment, discrimination, and attacks in South Africa — an intervention that underscored how far the crisis had travelled beyond South Africa's borders and into the arena of international diplomatic concern.

The regional response was equally sharp. The Economic Community of West African States condemned what it described as the “barbaric, criminal and xenophobic murder” of African immigrants in South Africa and demanded that Pretoria act immediately. Nigerian President Bola Tinubu summoned South Africa's envoy to lodge a formal protest over attacks targeting Nigerians. The African Union Commission Chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat, called for immediate steps to protect lives and property, and insisted that all perpetrators be brought to account. Ghana's Foreign Affairs Minister Ablakwa went further, calling on African leaders collectively to con-

demn the attacks and push for lasting structural change. Ghana has since formally requested a debate at the African Union Mid-Year Coordination Summit in Cairo on the matter, a move that forced the South African government to issue a formal response defending its record and reaffirming its constitutional commitment to the protection of all people within its borders.



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Pretoria's response has been to condemn the violence while stopping short of the structural overhaul that critics argue is urgently needed. South Africa's government directed all law enforcement agencies to take necessary actions to guarantee the safety of citizens, residents, and visitors, and invoked the country's debt to the rest of the continent — noting that African nations sheltered South Africa's liberation fighters and kept its struggle alive during the apartheid years. The moral weight of that history is not lost on anyone. But for analysts, symbolic language has repeatedly proven insufficient.

Mpho Makhubela of the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa argued that vigilante groups feed off the country's socioeconomic frustrations, including unemployment and the failure to address equity gaps, noting that the country has been faced with the enormous task of addressing the legacies of apartheid. Professor Loren Landau, a senior migration researcher at the University of the Witwatersrand's African Centre for Migration and Society, was more direct, warning that “the scapegoating and demonisation of migrants merely draws people's attention away from the true source of South Africa's problems, and erodes

democracy while putting the welfare of many people — both citizens and foreigners — at risk.” South Africa's unemployment crisis remains catastrophic, and some political formations, including the uMkhonto weSizwe Party, have explicitly embraced xenophobic nationalism, with its 2025 manifesto pledging to prioritise South African workers over foreign nationals in all sectors — a posture that critics say lends political legitimacy to violence on the streets.

The current wave of violence is not an aberration. It is the latest chapter in a long and bloody pattern that includes the 2008 nationwide attacks in which over 60 people were killed, 1,700 injured, and 100,000 displaced, the 2015 violence that required military intervention, and ongoing incidents through the 2020s linked to groups such as Operation Dudula, which in 2025 was found to have systematically blocked migrants from accessing public health facilities in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. Documented xenophobic killings in South Africa range from 20 to 50 deaths annually, and two Nigerians were among those killed in April 2026 alone. Each cycle follows a familiar arc: violence erupts, condemnations pour in, promises are made, and the underlying conditions that breed hostility remain untouched.

For the Ghanaians now waiting to board evacuation flights home, the statistics offer cold comfort. These are people who built lives, raised families, and ran businesses in South Africa — often for years, sometimes for decades — only to find themselves packing what they could carry and leaving the rest behind. Ghana's High Commissioner to South Africa, Benjamin Quashie, has confirmed that his office is working closely with South African authorities to ensure all departures proceed safely and with dignity. Minister Ablakwa has assured the nation that no Ghanaian will be left behind.

Whether this evacuation marks a genuine turning point — in west African diplomatic solidarity, in South Africa's long-deferred reckoning with its own prejudices, or in the continent's willingness to hold one of its most powerful economies to account — remains an open and urgent question. What is no longer in question is the human cost of delay.

Norman Mwale is a foreign affairs correspondent with experience covering migration, human rights, and African geopolitics.

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Sports >> *World number one brushes aside French wildcard in straight sets to extend remarkable winning streak to 30 matches

Sinner storms into Roland Garros second round



World number one Jannik Sinner swept past French wildcard Clément Tabur

By Norman Mwale

World number one Jannik Sinner swept past French wildcard Clément Tabur 6-1, 6-3, 6-4 on Court Philippe Chatrier on Tuesday to advance to the second round of the French Open in Paris.

The 23-year-old Italian was imperious from the first ball, striking 40 winners across the match without facing a single break point — a performance that underlined why he arrives at Roland Garros as the overwhelming favourite to lift the Coupe des Mousquetaires for the first time. The victory extended his winning streak to 30 consecutive matches, placing him in the company of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic among the Open Era's most dominant run-builders.

"I'm very happy to be back here," Sinner said courtside af-

ter the match. "It's a very, very special place." His words were measured, as they tend to be, but the tennis spoke at a different volume altogether.

The win is Sinner's 18th consecutive victory on clay this season, a run that has swept through all three clay-court Masters 1000 events — Monte Carlo, Madrid and Rome — in the lead-up to Roland Garros. No man alive is playing better tennis on the surface right now, and the draw has done nothing to diminish his prospects. Two-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz withdrew before the tournament began with injury, leaving Sinner as the unchallenged top seed and the man every other player in the draw must eventually find a way past.

That, by most accounts, is an unenviable task. Russian third seed Daniil Medvedev, who has faced Sinner more times than

almost anyone on tour, offered a frank assessment of what it takes. "The only way to beat him, you need to be at your best for all four, five sets," Medvedev said. "You need to run, be strong, to serve well, to return well. Everything needs to be on the top level." Coming from a player of Medvedev's calibre, the remark reads less like praise and more like a warning to the rest of the field.

Sinner's next test comes in the form of Argentine left-hander Juan Manuel Cerundolo, who defeated Scotland's Jacob Fearnley in straight sets in the first round. Cerundolo is a capable clay-court operator, but the gulf in class between the two men, judged on current form, is considerable. Sinner has not dropped a set in his past five matches and has shown little appetite for letting opponents back into contests.

There is, of course, history pressing gently on his shoulders. Despite his dominance on clay this season and across the tour more broadly, Sinner has never won a Grand Slam on the surface. His two major titles — the 2024 Australian Open and the 2024 US Open — arrived on hard courts. Roland Garros remains the one frontier. He is 24 years old, ranked first in the world, and arriving here in the form of his life. The stars, as much as they ever align in sport, appear to be aligned.

Whether Sinner can convert that promise into the championship the tennis world is increasingly expecting of him will unfold over the fortnight ahead. For now, he has done what was required — efficiently, ruthlessly, and without drama.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *South Africa's beloved Brazilians claim the continent's most coveted football crown

Mamelodi storm to African glory



South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns FC

By Norman Mwale

South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns FC, affectionately known as The Brazilians, have been crowned Champions of Africa — and the celebrations in Pretoria and beyond have been nothing short of electric. The team's commanding victory in the CAF Champions League final has sent waves of excitement rippling across the continent, with officials and players alike hailing the triumph as a true testament to South African football's growing power.

In a gripping two-legged final against FAR Rabat, Sundowns secured a 2-1 aggregate win. Goals from Aubrey Modiba (37th minute, first leg) and Teboho Mokoena (45th minute, second leg) did the heavy lifting, while goalkeeper Ronwen Williams produced a stunning save

to deny Mohamed Hrimat's late penalty — a moment that well and truly sealed Sundowns' second CAF Champions League title.

"The whole of Mamelodi is buzzing — the whole of South Africa is alive with euphoria," said Mamelodi Sundowns FC chairman Patrice Motsepe in an interview with the South African Broadcasting Corporation. "This is a historic moment for our club and our country. We have worked tirelessly to bring this trophy home, and it's a proud moment for all of us."

Head coach Rhulani Mokwena echoed Motsepe's sentiments, praising his players for their unwavering dedication and skill. "Our team showed tremendous character and resilience throughout this tournament," Mokwena said. "We always believed we had the talent and the drive to

win it, and it's fantastic to see that hard work pay off."

Star player Percy Tau was equally ecstatic, dedicating the victory to the team's loyal supporters. "This one's for the fans — they're the best in Africa," Tau declared in a post-match interview. "We worked so hard for this, and it's a dream come true. We are the champions of Africa!"

The victory marks a remarkable milestone for Mamelodi Sundowns FC, firmly cementing their place among the continent's elite clubs. Beyond the trophy itself, the triumph is expected to carry far-reaching implications for South African football — including a welcome morale boost for the national team, Bafana Bafana, who stand to benefit from the momentum and renewed confidence this success brings.

As news of the victory spread, fans flooded social media to share their pride and joy, with #MamelodiSundowns trending across the continent. More than a football result, this is a powerful reminder of what African football is capable of — and a signal to the rest of the world that the continent's talent is ready and waiting for its moment on the global stage.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The theory of generations and its interpretation in the digital age



By: Kamilla Dilshodovna
Kuralbaeva

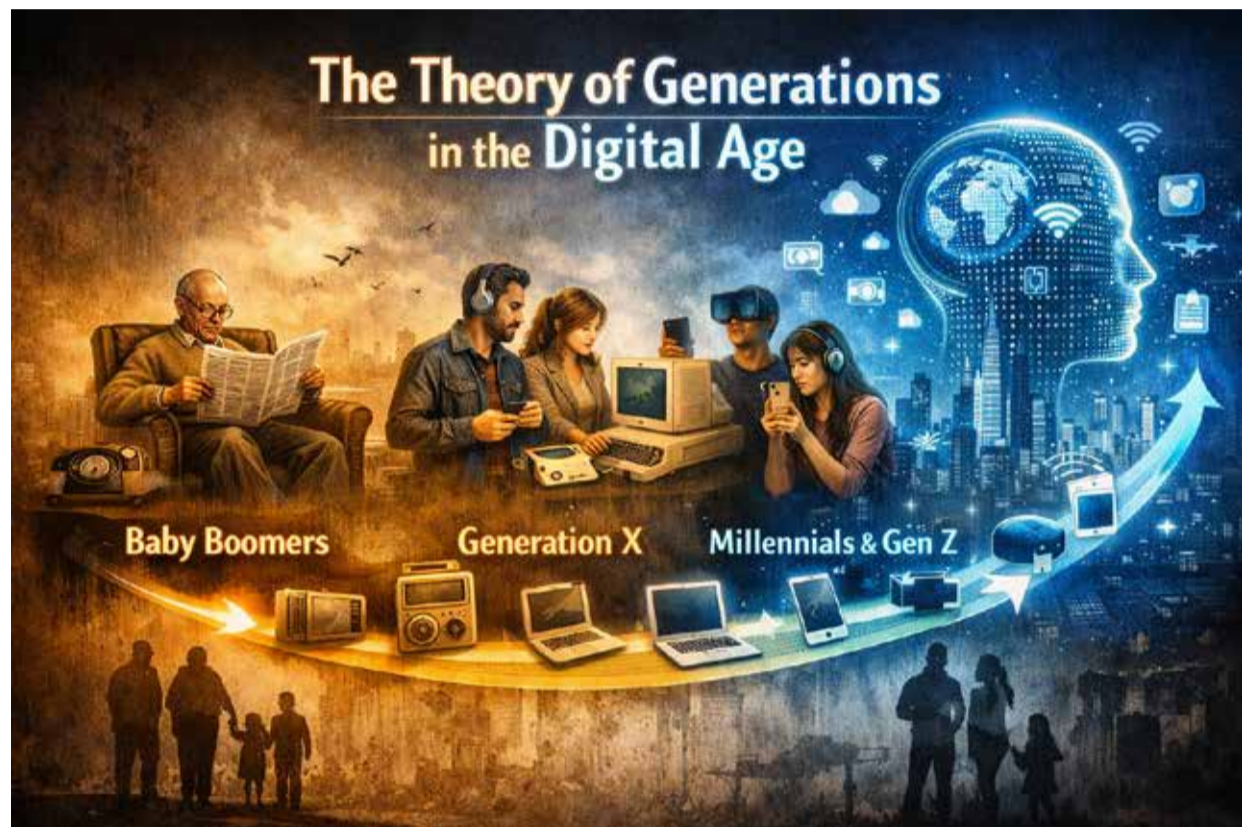
@themkenyatimes

In the context of rapid technological development and the transformation of social communication, the study of the characteristics of different generations has become particularly relevant. Modern society is characterized by the coexistence of people belonging to various generational groups, each of which was formed under specific historical, cultural, and technological conditions. These differences influence value orientations, ways of perceiving information, communication models, and forms of interaction with the surrounding world.

One of the most well-known concepts explaining the characteristics of generational differences is the Theory of Generations, developed by the American researchers William Strauss and Neil Howe. This theory suggests that approximately every 20–25 years a new generation emerges, possessing specific social attitudes, behavioral patterns, and perceptions of the world. These differences have become the subject of active academic discussion in various fields, including sociology, pedagogy, cultural studies, and media studies.

During the seminar held on February 12–13, special attention was paid to the analysis of the main characteristics of modern generations and their role in social processes. Generation Alpha is already being formed in a world where artificial intelligence is becoming an everyday tool for learning and communication. The seminar clearly emphasized that the differences between generations are manifested not only in the level of technological literacy, but also in value orientations. Older generations tend to view AI as an auxiliary tool, whereas young people perceive it as a full-fledged participant in the educational and creative process.

Particular interest was generated by the discussion on the influence of artificial intelligence on culture and professional activity. In the humanities, AI is used for text analysis, the creation of digital archives, the reconstruction of historical objects, and even the restoration of works of art. However, along with the ex-



The theory of generations and its interpretation in the digital age

pansion of opportunities, concerns are also increasing. During the discussion, it was emphasized that AI reflects the values and attitudes of those who create it. Therefore, responsibility for the results of its work lies with people. This is precisely why intergenerational communication is so important: older generations transmit professional and ethical traditions, while younger generations contribute technological adaptability. The seminar demonstrated that AI can become not only a factor of communication, but also a tool for uniting generations. With a грамотный approach, it promotes the exchange of knowledge, accelerates scientific research, and opens new forms of collaboration. The older generation focused attention on the risks of technological dependence, the decline of independent thinking, and the need for regulatory frameworks. Young people, in turn, emphasized the potential of AI as a means of expanding opportunities and accelerating professional growth. Thus, the seminar

became a space for constructive dialogue, where each position received well-reasoned justification.

For me, participation in this seminar became an important professional and personal experience. First of all, I had the opportunity to represent our institute on an intellectual platform and exchange opinions with representatives of other educational institutions. Secondly, the discussion of the topic of generations allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of my own position as a representative of the younger generation actively using digital tools. I came to the conclusion that artificial intelligence is not an alternative to humans, but rather an extension of human capabilities. However, the effectiveness of its application directly depends on the level of critical thinking, responsibility, and professional competence of the user. Moreover, the seminar demonstrated that the future of education and science is impossible without taking technological trends into account. It is important not to oppose generations to one

another, but to create conditions for their cooperation.

The seminar devoted to the topic of generations and artificial intelligence demonstrated the high relevance and interdisciplinary nature of the issues under discussion. Artificial intelligence is becoming an important factor in the transformation of society, while generational differences determine the specific ways in which it is perceived and applied. The main conclusion that can be drawn from participation in the event is the following: the harmonious development of a digital society is possible only through maintaining a balance between technological progress and humanistic values. Artificial intelligence should serve as a tool for development rather than replace human thinking and responsibility.

*Third-year student of the Kamolidin Behzod
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Worth Noting:

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