



The 2026/27 Budget Estimates are unconstitutional
Every year by April 30, the National Treasury is required by law to submit to the National Parliament the Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure for the following financial Year as provided under Article 220(1)(a) read with Article 221 **Page 8**



Senators put government on the spot over Kenyans trapped in foreign wars, scam networks
The gov't came under pressure yesterday over the growing number of Kenyans falling victim to trafficking syndicates, cybercrime rings and foreign military recruitment schemes **Page 12**

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Voice of the People

The Mt. Kenya Times

Daily ePAPER

Courts Gachagua's legal team told the court that Parliament acted as "prosecutor, judge and executioner," denying him a fair hearing

Gachagua case turns on evidence and procedure

Impeachment case

The High Court yesterday resumed hearing a consolidated petition challenging the impeachment of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, with lawyers on both sides locked in a fierce dispute over constitutional procedure, admissibility of evidence, and the legality of Parliament's actions.

The proceedings before a three-judge bench comprising Justices Eric Ogola, Freda Mugambi and Anthony Mrima have attracted significant public and political attention, given the case's implications for Kenya's constitutional democracy and the limits of parliamentary power in removing a sitting deputy president.

Gachagua, who was impeached by the Senate on October 17, 2024, continues to argue that his removal from office was unlawful, politically motivated, and conducted in violation of constitutional safeguards.

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Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

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SCAN TO REGISTER

Ruto highlights education reforms, calls for talks on school costs

BY MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

President William Ruto has defended his administration's education reforms, saying the government has significantly increased investment in the sector to improve access, quality and inclusion across the country. Speaking during the opening of the Second National Education Conference in Naivasha, Nakuru County, Ruto said the education budget has risen from about KSh500 billion in 2022 to more than KSh702 billion in the current financial year.

The President said the increased funding demonstrates the government's commitment to transforming education into a key driver of economic growth and national development. According to Ruto, the government has recruited 100,000 teachers since 2022, constructed 23,000 classrooms nationwide and launched the building of 1,600 laboratories in secondary and senior schools to improve the learning environment and reduce congestion in schools. He also said the Competency-Based Education system had undergone a comprehensive review to address implementation challenges and align it with the country's needs and aspirations.

In higher education, Ruto defended the student-centred funding model, saying it is intended to enhance equity and ensure financially disadvantaged students are not locked out of university education.

The President also called for a national conversation on the high cost of school uniforms, efficient bursary distribution and the establishment of comprehensive schools from early childhood to senior school level.

The forum is being attended by various stakeholders in the education sector.



The Mt. Kenya Times

Editor's Desk



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Jubilee Deputy party leader and presidential candidate Dr. Fred Matiang'i yesterday met with the Jubilee Party Students' caucus during the Council of Jubilee Student Leaders meeting held at the party headquarters. The engagement focused on empowering young people and strengthening their role in shaping the party's future and the country's development agenda. The Jubilee Party reaffirmed its commitment to creating opportunities for youth leadership, innovation, and active participation in national affairs. Party leaders emphasized the importance of involving young people in decision-making processes and building a future founded on opportunity, dignity, and hope for all generations. The meeting highlighted the party's vision of working together with the youth to transform and rebuild the country.



Standard Group writers were yesterday barred from covering the 2nd National Education Conference that was graced by William Ruto at Lake Naivasha Resort. The presidential communications team blocked the journalists, particularly those from The Standard newspaper, from accessing the venue, alleging biased reporting.



Secondary schools in Mathioya Sub-county have received laptops, books and revision materials to promote digital literacy and support learning under the Competency-Based Education framework. The initiative targets all secondary schools in the area, with 300 laptops expected to be distributed within the next four to five months. Speaking during the launch at Karunge Secondary School, parliamentary aspirant Kenneth Kabue Kihunyo said the programme aims to equip students

with digital skills needed in the modern job market. He noted that learners will gain exposure to emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, online marketing and other digital opportunities. Kihunyo added that strengthening computer laboratories will enhance learning, talent development and access to global employment opportunities.



The government has assured Charitable Children Institutions (CCIs) that they will continue operating despite ongoing reforms aimed at transitioning vulnerable children from institutional care to family and community-based care systems. Nyeri County Children Coordinator Joseph Mburu during an interview at his office on Wednesday assured CCI that they will continue operating as the government rolls out reforms transitioning children from institutional care to family-based care.

The Kenyan government plans to increase charges for services accessed through the e-Citizen platform under a new Treasury proposal aimed at generating more revenue from digital transactions. Under the proposed structure, services valued above Sh100,000 will attract a fee of up to Sh100, while those costing between Sh10,000 and Sh99,999 will incur a Sh70 charge. Services priced between Sh500 and Sh9,999 will attract Sh50, while transactions ranging from Sh100 to Sh499 will cost Sh5. Services below Sh99 will remain free. The revised fees are expected to affect millions of Kenyans who rely on e-Citizen for services such as passport applications, business registration, driving licence renewals, and permits. Treasury officials say the changes will help support and expand digital government infrastructure as more public services move online amid concerns over rising living costs.



Police in Maralal town have arrested a man who fired an AK 47 rifle indiscriminately in Shabaa village on Wednesday morning.

Area administrator Zablon Lekangu confirmed that five gunshots were fired, leading police to respond. The suspect was accosted and arrested opposite a bank in Maralal town.

Budget Parliament said the hearings are aimed at strengthening public participation in line with Articles 118 and 221 of the Constitution

Budget: Public participation to take place next week in 16 counties

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyaintimes

The National Assembly has set nationwide public hearings on the proposed 2026/27 budget estimates, opening a critical phase in Kenya's budget-making process and giving citizens an opportunity to directly influence how public funds will be spent in the next financial year.

In a notice issued by Clerk of the National Assembly Samuel Njoroge, Parliament said the hearings are aimed at strengthening public participation in line with Articles 118 and 221 of the Constitution, which require Parliament to involve citizens in legislative and budget-making processes.

The Budget Estimates for the 2026/27 financial year were submitted to Parliament on April 30 and referred to the Budget and Appropriations Committee for scrutiny before debate and approval by the House.

The proposed budget is expected to rise to approximately KSh4.78 trillion in the 2026/27 financial year, up from about KSh4.3 trillion in the current 2025/26 financial year budget approved by Parliament. The increase reflects additional spending on debt servicing, education, health-care, security, infrastructure and implementation of the government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Recent supplementary estimates approved by the National Assembly pushed the current 2025/26 budget closer to KSh4.6 trillion after MPs approved additional expenditure targeting pending bills and recurrent obligations in key sectors such as education, health and security.

According to Parliament, the 2026/27 Budget Estimates seek to prioritize sectors capable of creating jobs, increasing household incomes, expanding business opportunities and accelerating economic growth amid mounting fiscal pressure and rising public debt obligations.

"The Committee has resolved to hold Public Hearings on the Estimates in the Counties," the notice states.

The public participation exercise will be conducted in three days across 16 counties with residents ex-

pected to submit oral presentations and memoranda directly to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

The hearings will begin on Thursday next week in Kitui County at the Kitui Multi-purpose Hall, Garissa County at the Garissa Library, Homa Bay County at Orero Boys National School Hall, Nyandarua County at the Ol Joro Orok CDF Hall, and Nairobi County at the Utawala Deputy County Commissioner's office.

On Friday, the hearings will move to Busia County, Kirinyaga County, Taita Taveta County, Tana River County and Marsabit County at venues identified by Parliament for public participation exercises.

The final phase on Saturday where it will cover Kajiado County, Meru County, Kisii County, Kakamega County, Turkana County and Kilifi County, with residents and stakeholders also expected to present their views on the proposed budget estimates.

Parliament said the hearings will be conducted in public halls, schools and administrative offices to ensure accessibility and wider citizen engagement across the selected counties.

The Budget and Appropriations Committee has also invited Kenyans, civil society organizations, professional bodies, businesses and other stakeholders to submit written memoranda on the proposed estimates by May 25, 2026, through the Office of the Clerk or via email.

The hearings come at a time when the government is under pressure to balance growing expenditure demands with fiscal consolidation efforts.

Treasury projections indicate that debt servicing will continue taking a significant share of government revenue in the coming financial year even as the State seeks to fund development projects and social programs.

Economists say the public hearings will provide Kenyans with an important constitutional platform to influence spending priorities before the budget is finalized ahead of the June budget presentation in Parliament.

The government maintains that the proposed budget is designed to stimulate economic recovery and support



Public Participation In The 2024/25 Budget Making Process

implementation of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda through investments in agriculture, affordable housing, MSMEs, health-

care, digital transformation and infrastructure.

The National Assembly says the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure

are available at Parliament Buildings and on the Parliamentary website for public review before the hearings commence.



Prisons MPs argued that the prison department requires a more specialized administrative structure similar to the period when it operated under the Office of the Vice President

MPs push for prisons overhaul amid overcrowding, funding crisis

BY MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Members of Parliament have called for a major administrative overhaul of Kenya's correctional services, saying the current structure under the Ministry of Interior and National Administration has slowed implementation of critical prison reforms.

The National Assembly Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee (CIOC), during an inspection tour of Naivasha Maximum, Medium and Women's prisons in Nakuru County, said the prison system is facing severe overcrowding, poor infrastructure, underfunding and staffing challenges that threaten effective rehabilitation and security.

Led by Committee Chairperson Benjamin Gathiru Mejjadonk who is the MP for Embakasi Central, the MPs argued that the prison department requires a more specialized administrative structure similar to the period when it operated under the Office of the Vice President.

"You will recall that when former Vice President Moody Awori initiated prison reforms, there was a visible change in attitude among both inmates and prison officers. Those reforms would have been sustained had the administration remained in an office capable of providing that level of attention," said Gathiru.

Kibwezi East MP Jessica Mbalu said the Interior Ministry is overwhelmed by broader national security responsibilities, making it difficult to prioritize prison reforms.

The lawmakers painted a grim picture of the state of the facilities.

Naivasha Maximum Prison, built in 1969 to hold 1,590 inmates, currently houses more than 2,300 inmates, while Naivasha Medium Prison, designed for 300 inmates, is holding 926 prisoners.

Prison officials told the committee that only a third of installed CCTV cameras are operational, while sewer systems and roofing structures are failing due to pressure from the rising inmate population.

The Prison officers also cited lack of communication equipment, obsolete vehicles, inadequate housing and insufficient funding for medical care and daily operations.

At the Women's Prison, MPs heard that despite its upgrade to a full facility in 2019, it still lacks a dispensary, perimeter wall, mother-baby unit and transport vehicle for emergencies.

The committee was further told that implementation of the Social Health Authority (SHA) programme for inmates has stalled because many prisoners lack national identity cards required for registration.

Concerns were also raised over the welfare and men-



Embakasi Central MP Mejjadonk Benjamin Gathiru briefing journalists after visiting Naivasha prison.

tal health of prison officers, who reportedly work without counselling services despite the psychological strain associated with prison operations.

Inmates who addressed the committee complained of limited access to legal aid and difficulties maintaining contact with families due to lack of airtime and communication facilities.

They also called for amendments to the Kenya Prisons Act and the Sexual Offences Act, including introduction

of a parole system similar to South Africa's model where life sentences are reviewed after 25 years.

The MPs said they will table a comprehensive report in Parliament aimed at aligning Kenya's correctional system with constitutional standards and international best practices.



Parliamentary and prison officials at the Naivasha facility.

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Politics The former Kipipiri Member of Parliament, who served the constituency from 2002 to 2022, said he was satisfied with his contribution to national development and public service

Kimunya exits politics after two decades in public service

BY WMW

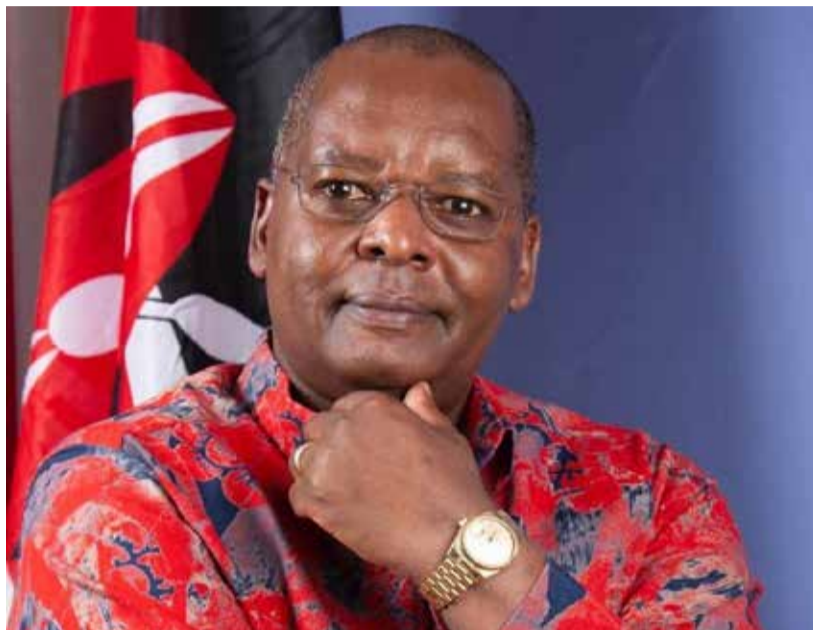
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Former Finance Minister Amos Kimunya has announced his retirement from active politics, drawing the curtain on a public career that spanned more than two decades and placed him at the centre of Kenya's economic and political landscape.

Kimunya said he would now shift his focus to teaching, mentorship and professional engagements following his acquittal in the long-running 25-acre Nyandarua land case, where he had faced allegations related to abuse of office and conflict of interest.

The former Kipipiri Member of Parliament, who served the constituency from 2002 to 2022, said he was satisfied with his contribution to national development and public service.

"I believe I have played my part in public life and it is now time to pursue other interests, including mentoring young professionals and contributing through academia," he



Amos Kimunya

said.

A trained accountant, Kimunya rose to prominence during the administration of former President Mwai Kibaki, becoming one of the key figures in the government's economic management team.

He first served as Minister for Lands before being appointed Finance Minister, a position he held during one of the country's most turbulent economic and political periods.

As Finance Minister, Kimunya oversaw fiscal policy during the af-

termath of the disputed 2007 General Election and the subsequent post-election violence that shook the country and disrupted economic activity.

He was credited with helping stabilize the economy and supporting reforms aimed at restoring investor confidence, improving trade and strengthening governance structures.

He later served in several other Cabinet portfolios, including Transport and Trade, before becoming Majority Leader in the National Assembly during President Uhuru Kenyatta's administration.

Despite his long public service career, Kimunya's tenure in government was not without controversy.

He was linked to the 2008 Grand Regency scandal involving the controversial sale of the luxury Grand Regency Hotel; later called Laico Regency (recently renamed Iconic plaza hotel) to Libyan investors under circumstances that attracted intense public scrutiny and political pressure.

The scandal forced him to tempo-

rarily step aside as Finance Minister, although he later returned to Cabinet after being cleared of wrongdoing.

Kimunya also faced legal battles related to the allocation of public land in Nyandarua, a case that remained in court for about 12 years before his eventual acquittal yesterday.

The ruling effectively removed one of the final legal hurdles hanging over his political legacy.

Outside politics, Kimunya maintained strong ties with the accounting profession. He previously served as chairman of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK), where he played a role in advancing professional standards within the sector.

In 2019, he earned a PhD in Business Administration from the United States International University-Africa (USIU-Africa), graduating at the top of his class; an achievement he described as one of his proudest personal milestones.

Political analysts say Kimunya leaves behind a mixed but significant legacy marked by economic reforms, political influence, resilience in public office and controversies that reflected the complexities of Kenya's governance landscape.

Addressing journalists after his acquittal, Kimunya said he could not have utilized his doctorate studies with a criminal case hanging over his head.

Media It is alarming that instead of engaging criticism with facts and accountability, there appears to be increasing resort to exclusion, intimidation and public attacks

Editors Guild condemns media exclusion at State event

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyaintimes

The Kenya Editors Guild has strongly condemned the exclusion of journalists from Standard Media Group and Mediamax from covering a recent presidential function, describing the move as a worrying escalation in hostility towards the media and a direct violation of constitutional press freedoms.

In a statement issued yesterday, Guild President Zubeidah Kananu said the decision to bar the journalists, coupled with what she termed as derogatory remarks directed at media ownership, reflects growing intolerance toward independent journalism and critical reporting in the country.

Kananu noted that the incident occurred just days after Kenya marked World Press Freedom Day, arguing

that it exposes a contradiction between public declarations of support for media freedom and the treatment of journalists on the ground.

She emphasized that the media is not an extension of government communication or a public relations arm of those in power, but an independent institution mandated to question, investigate and hold authority accountable on behalf of citizens.

"It is alarming that instead of engaging criticism with facts and accountability, there appears to be increasing resort to exclusion, intimidation and public attacks on media houses whose coverage is perceived as unfavourable," the statement read.

The Guild further criticized what it termed as the use of inflammatory language against media ownership, warning that such rhetoric contributes to a hostile environment that endangers journalists and undermines

public discourse.

According to the statement, barring journalists based on editorial stance or perceived criticism amounts to a violation of Article 34 of the Constitution, which guarantees media freedom and independence, as well as the public's right to access diverse sources of information.

The Editors Guild warned that history shows that the erosion of democratic freedoms often begins with subtle attacks on the press, including the branding of critical journalism as adversarial and attempts to isolate independent media voices.

"We must ask whether the State is becoming increasingly intolerant of scrutiny to the extent that it now views independent media as an enemy rather than a constitutional partner in accountability," Kananu said.

The Guild cautioned that Kenya must resist any trajectory that nor-



Editors Guild President Zubeidah Kananu addressing an event in the past.

malizes hostility toward journalists, stressing that criticism should not be mistaken for sabotage and scrutiny should not be treated as hostility.

It urged all public officials, including the President, to reaffirm their commitment to press freedom not only in public statements during commemorative events but also through consistent respect for independent journalism in practice.

"A confident government does not fear scrutiny. Only insecure power fears questions," the statement concluded.

The Editors Guild reaffirmed its commitment to defending media freedom and called on stakeholders to uphold constitutional principles that protect journalism as a cornerstone of democracy and accountability in Kenya.

Embu CAIP ready for occupation as final touches near completion



Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina (2nd left) and other leaders while in Embu

BY PSC

@themkenyatimes

The County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) in Embu County is now ready for occupation, with the contractor finalizing minor details ahead of the facility's official handover and commissioning.

This was revealed during an inspection tour by the National Assembly sub-committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives led by Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina.

During the visit, the committee was informed that construction of the modern facility had reached 99 percent completion, with booking of operational spaces already underway.

Members of the committee toured various sections of the project, including one of the fully installed and operational cold rooms expected to play a key role in preserving perishable farm produce.

The facility has several cold storage units aimed at helping farmers reduce post-harvest losses, especially for products with a short

shelf life.

The site manager further told the legislators that critical supporting infrastructure such as water and electricity had already been put in place.

A borehole has been drilled to ensure reliable water supply, while a transformer has been installed on site to stabilize electricity supply for the facility's operations.

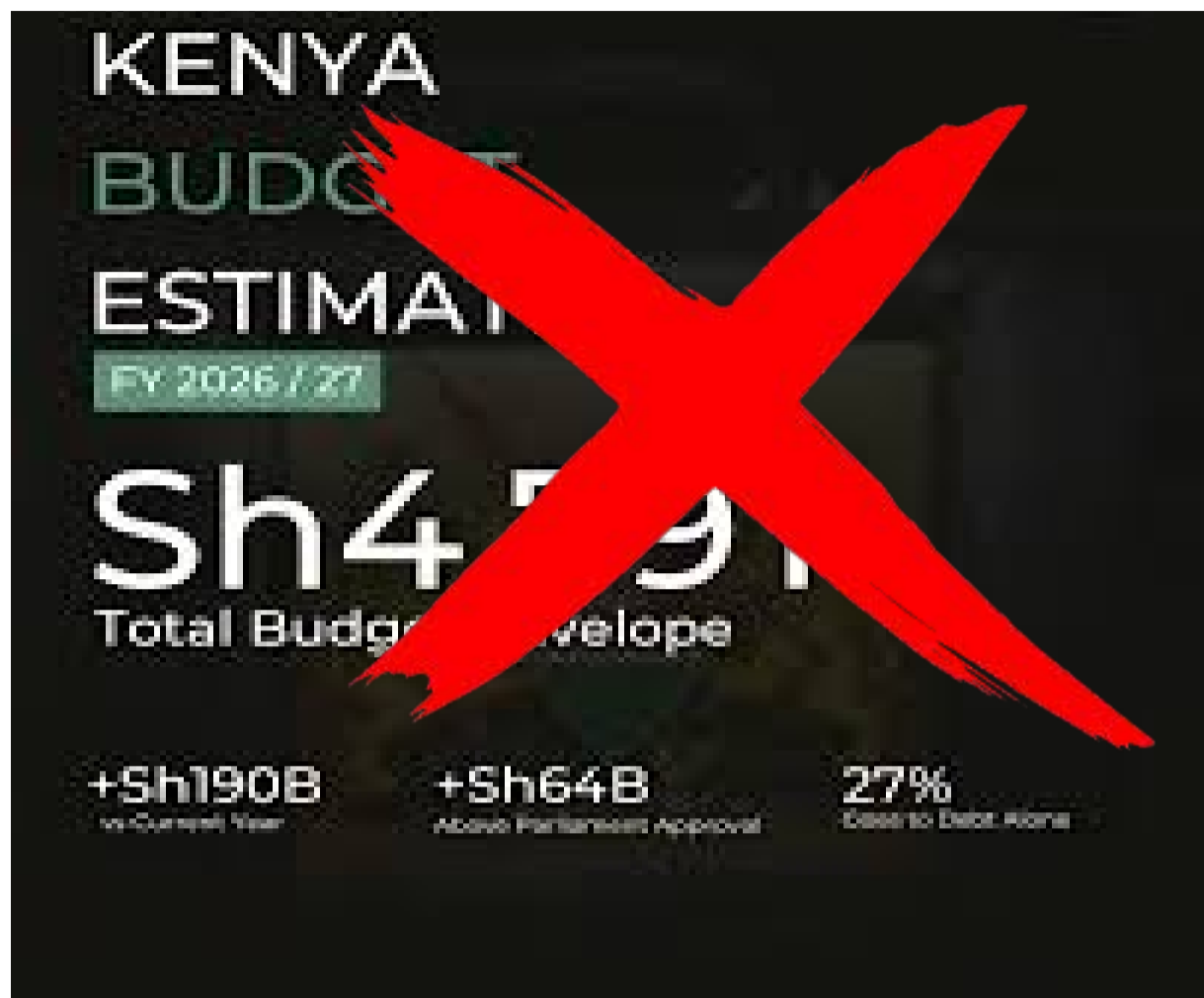
However, the committee raised concern over the lack of an alternative power backup system in case of electricity outages. The lawmakers recommended that future projects incorporate standby diesel generators or solar power systems to prevent disruptions that could lead to losses during blackouts.

Wambugu expressed satisfaction with the progress of the project, terming it a major boost for farmers in the region through improved market access and reduced post-harvest losses.

He noted that the industrial park is expected to strengthen agricultural value chains by providing storage and aggregation services for local produce.



Embu CAIP



The 2026/27 Budget Estimates are unconstitutional



BY Jimi Wanjigi

@themkenyatimes

Every year by April 30, the National Treasury is required by law to submit to the National Parliament the Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure for the following financial Year as provided under Article 220(1)(a) read with Article 221 of the Constitution and sections 35(1)(e),(f),(h), 37(1)(a),(b), 37(9), 38(1)(b)(iv)&(v), 39(1)&2 of PFM Act, 2010 and Regulation 33 of the PFM Regulations 2015 (Legal Notice 34).

The constitutional and public finance statutory provisions quoted define Budget as estimates of Revenue and Expenditure and that the estimate budget shall be balanced; that is the total budget revenue shall cover total budget expenditure.

The Budget estimates submitted to the Parliament last week on Thurs-

day, April 30, do not meet the form and content of the constitutional requirements.

They are incomplete. The Cabinet Secretary, Treasury John Mbadi submitted the Estimates of Expenditure and Finance Bill, 2026 without the comprehensive Estimates of the Revenue.

Where are the Revenue Estimates?

The Treasury has deliberately been misrepresenting budget estimates with intent of concealing the really status of the revenue raising meas.

This has opened flood gates of unconstitutional borrowing. This grave and costly mischief and unconstitutionality must end now.

The estimates of revenue constitute the consolidated fund. Therefore, without estimates of the revenue there is nothing to budget for and spend on.

Finance Bill is not and cannot be the constitutionally stipulated Estimates of Revenue.

Finance Bill comes after the publicly scrutinized, debated and approved Estimates of Revenue.

A Finance Bill only serves to amend or repeal existing tax laws. It is not mandatory to have Finance Bill if the budget is balanced.

Since 2013 budget making has been unconstitutional.

In November 2024, The Controller of Budget publicly told National Assembly committee on Constitution Implementation Oversight that Article 221 of the Constitution, which mandates transparency in both revenue estimates and expenditures has been violated.

She said, and I quote, "My office has flagged this error in the budget-making process, where Revenue Estimates are not clearly presented, yet according to the Constitution, both the revenue estimates and expenditure should be presented to Parliament. It is unconstitutional to bypass one or the other. We have been running an unconstitutional budget-making process. We are only seeing expenditures. Where where are the revenue estimates?"

We are demanding immediate withdrawal of the fake budget estimates that were presented last week to Parliament. A proper and constitutional budget estimates in form and content as required in Articles 220 and 221 of the Constitution must be presented to the Parliament and the people of Kenya.

Jimi Wanjigi is the Safina party leader and it's Presidential candidate

Courts

Gachagua impeachment case turns to legal battle over evidence, procedure

BY MKT Correspondents

@themkenyaintimes

The High Court yesterday resumed hearing a consolidated petition challenging the impeachment of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, with lawyers on both sides locked in a fierce dispute over constitutional procedure, admissibility of evidence, and the legality of Parliament's actions.

The proceedings before a three-judge bench comprising Justices Eric Ogola, Freda Mugambi and Anthony Mrima have attracted significant public and political attention, given the case's implications for Kenya's constitutional democracy and the limits of parliamentary power in removing a sitting deputy president.

Gachagua, who was impeached by the Senate on October 17, 2024, continues to argue that his removal from office was unlawful, politically motivated, and conducted in violation of constitutional safeguards.

He maintains that the process was designed to weaken his political influence, particularly within the Mt Kenya region ahead of the 2027 General Election.

Through Senior Counsel Paul Muite and constitutional lawyer Kibe Mungai, Gachagua's legal team told the court that Parliament acted as "prosecutor, judge and executioner," denying him a fair hearing and failing to uphold due process guarantees.

The lawyers argued that the Senate did not establish a special 11-member committee as required under Article 145 of the Constitution to investigate the impeachment allegations before the matter was debated and voted on in plenary.

They described this omission as a fundamental procedural flaw that invalidates the entire impeachment process.

According to the petitioners, the Constitution requires strict adherence to procedural safeguards in impeachment proceedings, including proper investigation, fair hearing, and adequate time for defence.

They insisted that the Senate's failure to follow these steps rendered the process unconstitutional.

Lawyer Andrew Muge, also representing Gachagua, challenged the adequacy of public participation in the impeachment motion, arguing that Parliament failed to provide sufficient information for citizens to



High Court judges presiding Gachagua impeachment case.

meaningfully engage.

He questioned the credibility of claims that tens of thousands of Kenyans submitted views within a short period, saying the process lacked transparency and verifiable engagement.

He further told the court that lawmakers debated and passed the motion before properly considering the public participation report, raising concerns about whether public input had any real influence on the decision-making process.

Another key argument presented in court was that impeachment should only be applied in cases of clear constitutional or public harm, not as a tool for political competition or settling political scores. Mungai drew comparisons with impeachment thresholds in other constitutional democracies, arguing that Kenya must maintain similarly high standards to prevent abuse of the process.

The legal team further claimed that there were early political efforts to initiate the impeachment motion through different Members of Parliament before Kibwezi West MP Mwangi Mutuse eventually fronted it, a matter they argue demonstrates political orchestration behind the process.

On the other side, lawyers representing the National Assembly and the Senate led by Tom Ojienda and Githu Muigai urged the court to strike out a supplementary affidavit filed by Gachagua, arguing that it was introduced without the court's leave and contained serious allegations that had not been tested through proper channels.

The respondents told the court that the affidavit introduced new claims that were never presented before

the Senate during the impeachment hearings. Among the contested claims is an allegation that President William Ruto personally called Dr Dan Gikonyo who was treating Gachagua at Karen hospital to inquire about his health, a matter they said requires strict verification and possible confirmation from the Head of State.

They further argued that the affidavit was filed one and a half years after the alleged events without explanation for the delay, and that it introduced material that Parliament and the Senate never had the opportunity to examine during impeachment proceedings.

The respondents insisted that judicial review of impeachment should be confined to material that was before Parliament at the time of decision-making.

They maintained that allowing new evidence at this stage would amount to rewriting the legislative record.

However, the court declined to strike out the affidavit, allowing it to remain part of the proceedings, a decision seen as a significant early procedural win for Gachagua's legal team.

The court was also told that the affidavit raises issues requiring independent verification, including possible document examination and confirmation from individuals allegedly mentioned in the document.

Gachagua, who attended court accompanied by his wife Pastor Dorcas Rigathi, family members and political allies, has consistently maintained that his impeachment was unconstitutional and part of a broader political strategy to sideline him from national leadership.

His removal from office followed Senate proceedings in which lawmakers upheld five out of 11 charges against him, including allegations of ethnic division, misconduct, and violation of his oath of office.

The Senate vote effectively ended his tenure and paved the way for the appointment of Prof. Kithure Kindiki as Deputy President.

The case has since evolved into a landmark constitutional challenge testing the boundaries of impeachment powers, the doctrine of separation of powers, and the role of courts in reviewing parliamentary decisions.

Legal analysts say the outcome could set a major precedent on how future impeachment proceedings are conducted in Kenya, particularly on issues of public participation, procedural compliance, and evidentiary standards.

The hearing is expected to continue with further submissions from both sides as the court prepares to determine whether the impeachment process met constitutional thresholds or whether it should be nullified.



Legal team from both sides.

HR This joint venture is enabled by Factorial's AI Acceleration Fund, worth USD \$10 million, which will cover up to 50 per cent of the implementation cost of Factorial's AI agent.

New KEPSA–Factorial partnership targets AI adoption in HR across Kenya

BY Joseph Ng'ang'a
@themkenyatimes

Factorial, an all-in-one HR and business management software company has partnered with the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), the apex body of the private sector in Kenya to enhance productivity.

This partnership seeks to leverage technology to enhance the productivity of various organisations operating in different sectors of the economy.

This joint venture is enabled by Factorial's AI Acceleration Fund, worth USD \$10 million, which will cover up to 50 per cent of the implementation cost of Factorial's AI agent.

Commenting on the partnership during the KEPSA Members' breakfast, Mary Ngecha, MD of Lineplast Group and KEPSA Director, said: "Our private sector is currently under pressure to manage short-term cost pressures amidst executing our long-term growth strategy. Manufacturing and services together account

for 76 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

For us, as the private sector, we have to come up with new ways of attracting, managing, and maximising the productivity of our workforces."

Ngecha said that this means utilising technology to move from manual processes, disjointed systems, and limited visibility to build efficient, data-driven and globally competitive organisations.

"We need to remain a regional leader, and workforce productivity needs to be our



Mary Ngecha with other stakeholders during the event.

national priority," she said.

According to the World Bank report, Kenya is characterised by a high share of small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) with fewer than 2,000 employees. More than 80 per cent of all employees are employed in the SME sector, which contributes to almost 40 per cent of the national GDP.

Tailored for organisations with between 20 and 2,000 employees, Factorial enables organisations to minimise

operational costs, boost staff engagement, inform decisions with data and ensure compliance using its easy-to-use and cloud-based HR platform.

Factorial addresses key organisational challenges, including hiring and onboarding talent, freeing HR staff from mundane tasks, ensuring HR policies are followed, preventing disagreements over holidays and shifts, measuring and improving employee performance and creating and deploying learning programs

among others.

Additionally, the software comes complete with audit trails, integrates with Microsoft and Google products, and offers top-tier ERP and Payroll solutions.

In its commitment to Kenya, Factorial operates from a local office in Nairobi to ensure implementation and ongoing on-the-ground support. Kenya will be used as the regional hub for expansion throughout East Africa.

"Many organisations in Kenya continue to struggle in terms of productivity, efficiency and competitiveness due to fragmented processes. In order to accelerate the digital transformation and unlock productivity gains, the adoption of modern technology in HR is essential," said Francisc Rul lan, Director of Expansion Strategy and Partnerships at Factorial.

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Health The CS clarified that the Ministry of Health does not export donated human blood or blood components for the manufacture of blood-derived products abroad

Duale defends Kenya's blood, organ transplant systems amid trafficking claims



Health CS Aden Duale with other ministry officials when they appeared before the Senate committee. Photos/ courtesy.

BY WMW

@themkenyaintimes

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale defended Kenya's blood transfusion and organ transplant systems amid growing scrutiny over alleged organ trafficking and claims that the country exports donated human blood for processing abroad.

Appearing yesterday before the Senate Standing Committee on Health chaired by Uasin Gishu Senator Jackson Mandago, Duale dismissed reports circulating online suggesting that Kenya exports donated blood and blood products to foreign countries.

The CS clarified that the Ministry of Health does not export donated human blood or blood components for the manufacture of blood-derived products abroad, insisting that Kenya's blood system operates under strict regulatory and quality assurance standards.

In a separate media statement issued by the Ministry, Duale explained that reports published on the World Integrated Trade Solutions (WITS) platform had been misinterpreted.

According to the Ministry, the trade classification la-

belled "Human and animal blood" covers a broad category of pharmaceutical and laboratory products including vaccines, toxins, antisera, microbial cultures and diagnostic products, and does not refer to donated blood collected for transfusion.

"The Ministry of Health does not export any donated blood or components of blood for purposes of manufacturing blood-derived products in a foreign country," Duale stated.

He added that Kenya does not manufacture plasma-derived blood products such as clotting factors, albumin or immunoglobulins, meaning the country imports such products from internationally accredited manufacturers.

The CS also warned against what he termed as misleading social media reports and said the Ministry would work with investigative agencies to pursue individuals spreading false health information.

The Senate session also focused heavily on allegations of illegal organ trafficking and malpractice in transplant services, particularly claims linked to Mediheal Hospital in Eldoret.

Duale revealed that the Ministry first received complaints in August 2023 from the inter-

national Transplantation Society NGO alleging possible organ trafficking activities in Eldoret.

In response, the Ministry constituted a multidisciplinary fact-finding team in December 2023 comprising transplant specialists, bioethicists, representatives from the Kenya Blood Transfusion and Transplant Services

(KBTTS), the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council (KMPDC), senior ministry officials and academic experts.

The team was tasked with auditing transplant procedures at Mediheal Hospital and assessing compliance with ethical, legal and clinical standards. However, Duale disclosed that the report generated by

the initial team was never formally adopted because some members failed to unanimously endorse its findings and recommendations.

"As a result, the findings and recommendations from this report are deemed non-binding and without legal or administrative standing," Duale told senators.

The CS said that on April 25, 2025, he suspended officers responsible at the Kenya Blood Transfusion and Transplant Services to allow for an impartial investigation before appointing the Independent Investigative Committee on Organ Transplant Services (IICOTS).

The independent committee, composed of experts drawn from public and private health institutions, professional associations and regulatory bodies, was mandated to conduct a nationwide audit of organ transplant facilities, investigate governance and ethical compliance at Mediheal Hospital and recommend reforms for the sector.

The committee submitted its final report at the end of July 2025, with some recommendations already under implementation by the Ministry.

Duale told senators that determination of criminal culpability now rests with investigative agencies including Parliament and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI).

He disclosed that while the National Assembly had already completed its investigations into the matter, the Ministry was yet to receive the official report, while DCI investigations remain ongoing.

To address existing gaps in transplant oversight, the CS outlined several reforms being undertaken by the Ministry, including plans to establish a National Organ Transplant Authority (NOTA), enact comprehensive transplantation legislation and strengthen oversight and accountability mechanisms across transplant services.

The Senate committee also heard that the Ministry is seeking to align Kenya's transplant services with international ethical and medical standards amid growing public concern over transparency, donor protection and patient safety.

During the session, Duale was accompanied by Medical Services Principal Secretary Dr. Ouma Oluga, Kenya National Blood Transfusion and Transplant Services Director Dr. Martin Sirengo, Independent Investigative Committee Chairperson Prof. Elizabeth Bukusi and other senior ministry officials.



Uasin Gishu Senator Jackson Mandago (centre) with colleagues

Foreign wars In Cambodia, 406 Kenyans were rescued between January and April this year, with 305 returned home.

Senators put government on the spot over Kenyans trapped in foreign wars, scam networks

BY MKT REPORTER
@themkenyatimes

The government came under pressure yesterday over the growing number of Kenyans falling victim to trafficking syndicates, cybercrime rings and foreign military recruitment schemes across Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

Appearing before the Senate Labour and Social Welfare Committee, Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi painted a grim picture of ex-

ploitation targeting desperate young Kenyans seeking jobs abroad, warning that trafficking networks had become highly organised and transnational.

Mudavadi told Senators that countries within the so-called “Golden Triangle”; Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand had emerged as major centres for cyber-enabled trafficking operations where victims are lured with fake employment opportunities before being forced into online fraud schemes.

Between 2022 and 2026, the government rescued 751 Kenyans from Myanmar, with 615 already repatriated. However, 39 remain imprisoned over immigration and cyber-crime-related offences while another 97 are being held in detention centres in Thailand awaiting deportation.

In Cambodia, 406 Kenyans were rescued between January and April this year, with 305 returned home.

Laos has repatriated 29 Kenyans, while 14 others remain jailed in Thailand over forged



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi before the Senate committee yesterday.

immigration documents allegedly supplied by traffickers.

Mudavadi also disclosed that several Kenyans had died inside the scam compounds.

“Three Kenyans reportedly lost their lives due to illness, while an expectant woman died after traffickers allegedly attempted to forcefully terminate her pregnancy,” he said.

The committee further heard that 162 Kenyans had been smuggled into Qatar by illegal recruitment agents operating both locally and abroad, with investigations currently being handled by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI).

Senators also expressed concern over reports of Kenyans recruited into Russian military operations linked to the war in Ukraine.

Mudavadi said the government had documented 291 cases involving Kenyans recruited into Russian special forces, with 53 already repatriated.

According to the government, 19 Kenyans have died in the conflict, 32 are missing in action while two are currently being held as prisoners of war in Ukraine.

Mudavadi revealed that a Kenyan delegation which visited Moscow in March secured assurances from Russian authorities that no further recruitment of Kenyans into military operations would take place.

The government is also

engaging both Russia and Ukraine in efforts to secure the release of Kenyans currently detained or captured during the conflict.

Officials told the committee that traffickers are increasingly targeting unemployed youth through social media platforms and online job advertisements promising lucrative opportunities in information technology, customer care, cryptocurrency trading and online casinos.

Victims are then forced into cybercrime activities including romance scams, online fraud and fake investment schemes commonly referred to as “pig butchering”.

Despite government efforts, Senators questioned whether enough was being done to dismantle trafficking networks.

Murang’a Senator Joe Nyutu criticised the continued emergence of rogue recruitment agencies despite deregistra-

tion efforts.

“Have we taken legal action, because this is a crime?” he asked.

Diaspora Affairs Principal Secretary Roseline Njogu told the committee that 87 prosecutions linked to trafficking and illegal labour recruitment are ongoing.

Nyamira Senator Okong’o Mogeni urged the government to prioritise job creation locally instead of overreliance on labour export programmes, warning that unemployment was driving many young Kenyans into dangerous overseas networks.

By the close of the session, Senators warned that unless economic opportunities improve at home, trafficking syndicates would continue exploiting vulnerable youth willing to risk detention, exploitation and even death in pursuit of jobs abroad.



Murang’a senator Joe Nyutu with colleagues yesterday



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Election Kanga urged for coordinated action by relevant institutions, noting that failure to act decisively risks undermining national unity.

NCCK urges adequate preparations ahead of 2027 general election

BY Anita Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

The National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) has called for accountability and institutional reforms ahead of next year's General Election.

The organisation called for sustained collaboration between leaders, institutions and citizens to address emerging social, economic and governance challenges.

Rev. Dr. Alphonse Kanga, who addressed delegates at a Nairobi Regional meeting held at YMCA Central Conference Hall, said the country must recommit to constitutional principles and public service ethics, to strengthen national cohesion.

"We remain deeply concerned that the democratic ideals envisioned in the Constitution are being overshadowed

by a transactional political culture that prioritises elite interests over the welfare of wananchi," Kanga said.

He warned against rising political intolerance and isolated incidents of violence linked to public engagements, calling for stronger enforcement of existing laws and increased civic education to support peaceful participation.

"There is need for all stakeholders to ensure that political activity is conducted within the law, with respect for human dignity and peaceful coexistence," he said.

Kanga urged for coordinated action by relevant institutions, noting that failure to act decisively risks undermining national unity.

"If institutions fail to act on hate speech and incitement, the consequences will continue to erode trust and weaken cohesion in our society," he said.

He further raised concern over recurring flooding in urban areas, calling for improved planning, investment in drainage systems and stricter adherence to environmental regulations.

Kanga emphasized the need for transparency and efficiency in the Social Health Authority (SHA), saying accountability in resource management is critical for effective service delivery.

"Health is a constitutional right, and systems must work efficiently to ensure citizens receive quality services," he said.

Further, he noted that rising prices of basic commodities continue to strain households, urging sustained interventions to strengthen food security and support vulnerable populations.

"The rising cost of essential goods continues to place pressure on families, especially those in low-income



Rev. Dr. Alphonse Kanga briefing journalists as other leaders look on.

households," he said.

He also called for continued reforms within the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), urging improvements in voter registration systems and institutional preparedness ahead of future elections.

"All electoral processes must be transparent, credible and guided strictly by the law to safeguard pub-

lic confidence," Kanga said.

The council reaffirmed its commitment to dialogue, peacebuilding and ethical leadership, saying it will continue engaging stakeholders to promote national unity and democratic governance.

The Mt. Kenya Times

THE



A love that outlived time



It was the kind of love poets fail to explain,
A fire that dances even through the rain.

When the world taught hearts to give up fast,
We chose a love that was built to last.
Not perfect, not untouched by scars,
But beautiful enough to outshine stars.

You became the rhythm inside my soul,
The missing piece that made me whole.
And no matter where destiny leads us to,
A part of me will always belong to you.

Even if time rewrites every memory,
And life changes who we are meant to be,
Somewhere between eternity and fate,
Our hearts will still patiently wait.

Because real love does not disappear with time,
It lives in every prayer, every tear, every rhyme.
And among all the stories this world may ever
tell,

Ours will remain the one that forever fell...
And forever stayed as well.

©Dr. Daksha Udhani
Ahmedabad

In a world where seasons endlessly change,
And people slowly grow distant and strange,
You remained the calm within my storm,
The only place my heart still calls home.

Years may pass like waves upon the sea,
Yet your love keeps returning back to me.
Not weakened by silence, distance, or pain,
But growing stronger through sunshine and rain.

There were nights when the stars lost their light,
And days that felt too heavy to fight,
But your voice became my quiet prayer,
A reminder that love was still there.

This was never a fleeting spark or phase,
Not a moment destined to fade away.

You...Carve yourself.. There is no sculptor here to carve you...



It's much harder to remove
unwanted qualities from ourselves
than removing them
from others.

We should gradually learn to carve ourselves.
It is very difficult to do this ourselves.
Correcting our own mistakes is an art.
It needs a lot of patience and understanding.

We do not allow others to carve us.
Changing ourselves requires many changes within
us.

First we should learn to see our mistakes.
We must accept them and turn them into
beautiful carvings.

Rajesh Kanna B N

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GMHSCHOOL, TIRUR.
TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT.
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India
Creative Writers.
Educationist.

In the wisdom



of resilience.

In the Wisdom of my Teachers, I will embrace
knowledge,
Learning with humility, growing with discipline and
grace.

In the Wisdom of my Friends, I will find
companionship,
Laughter and loyalty weaving bonds that time
cannot break.

In the Wisdom of my Children yet to come,
I will plant seeds of hope, teaching them to walk
in light.

In the Wisdom of my Community, I will serve,
Building bridges of peace, lifting hearts with
compassion.

In the Wisdom of my Spirit, I will endure,
For within me lies the strength of all who came
before.

The wisdom that I am, I will strive always to be the
best I can be, no matter the storms I face

And in the Wisdom of Love itself,
I will rise, I will give, I will shine—
Forever grateful for the wisdom that shapes me.

This is for the wisdom passed down to me.
A legacy of strength, of love, of eternal unity.

Keith Onyango
Journalism and communication
Rongo university

Too much availability kills your value



Like waves that kiss then leave the shore.
Absence whispers what presence can't—
A silent truth none can recant.

Pour out your love, but not your core,
Or you may find you have no more.
A giving hand must also rest,
To rise again and give its best.

So stand like gold—refined, untold,
Not scattered dust, nor cheaply sold.
Be felt, not spent, be known, not worn—
In valued silence, strength is born.

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

Too much presence dims your light,
Like stars unseen in endless night.
When always near, you fade from view,
What's rare holds worth, what's constant—few.

Be kind, be warm, with open heart,
Yet guard your space, your sacred part.
Give all you can, with soul and grace,
But don't let worth be commonplace.

For when you're missed, you're treasured more,

In the Wisdom of my holy Father, I will rise to new
heights,
Guided by His light, I shall walk paths of truth and
righteousness.

In the Wisdom of my Spouse, I will love, cherish,
and honor her,
With mind, body, and soul entwined, our bond
eternal and pure.

In the Wisdom of my Father, I will be strong,
A leader, a gentleman, a pillar of honor above all.

In the Wisdom of my Mothers, I shall nurture,
Pouring love into every heart, caring for all
entrusted to me.

In the Wisdom of my Brothers, I shall be my
brother's keeper,
A shield and protector, as they stands guard for
me.

In the Wisdom of my Sister, I will protect her,
With all that I am, with courage unbroken, with
love unshaken.

In the Wisdom of my Ancestors, I hear their
voices,
Whispering through time, guiding me with stories

Trust in his timing ✨



Yet we never lose our trust in God.
One day, He will give the best for us.
We may feel exhausted to the core,
But we never let go of His hand.
Sometimes we plead for answers in our prayers,
But He remains silent for a while.
Later we realize that a delayed answer is better
Than receiving it before the right time.
A delay does not mean He is hurting us,
He prepares us mentally and emotionally to be
strong.
He protects us from the dim light of wrong paths,
And wants us to receive the best in His perfect
timing.

BY
ZAHETHA R
BT ASST ENGLISH
GHS PAPPANTHANGAL
TVM DIST

Life has many reasons to live,
Some choose a spiritual path,
Some choose different paths according to their
situations.
Whenever we are in chaos, we turn toward God,
Seeking clarity and meaning in confusion.
We face extreme struggles in life,

God says, "Trust Me"



He has a better plan
Let all your worries flee
Extending your life's span
Stuck in the past
Worrying about the future
Nothing good happens fast

Leave it in hands of nature
Invisible hands wipes the tears
Consoling from within, guiding
Visible human seldom cares
As life cycle has a gliding
See saw game played together
Even towards the end
Belief is the tether
Tie it with the hope to defend
N. SIVASANKARI
B. T. ASSISTANT IN ENGLISH
GMGBHSS PERAIYUR MADURAI DISTRICT
TAMILNADU

MKU - EACC MKU Chairman and Founder Prof. Simon Gicharu welcomed the initiative, saying the EACC was increasingly being recognized for preventive and educational approaches

MKU, EACC join forces to promote integrity and ethical leadership among youth



Mount Kenya University (MKU) Chairman and Founder Simon Gicharu presents a token of appreciation to Dr. Monica Wanjiru Muiru, Vice Chairperson of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) during a visit by the EACC delegation to MKU.

BY James Wakahiu
@themkenyatimes

Mount Kenya University (MKU) and the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) have entered into a partnership aimed at promoting integrity, ethical leadership and anti-corruption awareness among young people through education and public engagement.

The collaboration will leverage the influence, innovation and energy of the youth to cultivate a culture of honesty, accountability and responsible citizenship in the country.

Speaking during a meeting between officials from the two institutions, MKU Chairman and Founder Prof. Simon Gicharu welcomed the initiative, saying the EACC was increasingly being recognized for preventive and educa-

tional approaches in the fight against corruption rather than solely focusing on punitive action.

Prof. Gicharu, who also chairs the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), emphasized the importance of introducing integrity and ethics education at early stages of learning under the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC).

According to him, values taught consistently from primary school through university would help nurture a generation that embraces ethical conduct naturally without requiring excessive supervision. "I look forward to a future where schools and universities will have no examination invigilators because everybody will have been trained on ethics and integrity and they will not need any invigilators during examinations," said Prof. Gicharu.

"A day when everybody will take care of themselves and regulations without being invigilated or supervised would be a great vision for this country," he added.

He noted that the partnership between MKU and EACC would play a significant role in expanding integrity training and public awareness campaigns across the country.

Prof. Gicharu said MKU would also utilize its sister media outlet, TV47, alongside other institutional platforms, to amplify conversations around ethics, good governance and anti-corruption efforts.

Mount Kenya University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Deogratius Jaganyi said the institution was exploring the possibility of introducing integrity studies as a compulsory common unit for all students.

He added that the university and EACC would jointly develop a course on integrity that could also benefit the wider Kenyan community beyond the university population.

"Integrity could become a common unit where every student must participate, while members of the community can also be engaged through student-driven activities and outreach programmes," said Prof. Jaganyi.

The EACC delegation was

led by Vice Chairperson Dr. Monica W. Muiru, who conveyed apologies from Commission Chairperson Dr. David Oginde. The delegation also included Commissioner Col. (Rtd) Alfred M. Mshimba and other senior officers from the commission.

During the engagement, the EACC officials highlighted the Kenya Integrity Leadership Forum (KILF), an initiative spearheaded by the commission to create platforms for dialogue on integrity within universities and institutions of higher learning.

According to the commission, the programme seeks to involve young people, who form a significant portion of the population in the fight against corruption by encouraging research, innovation and advocacy on ethics and governance.

"We are targeting the education sector through universities to reach the youth because this is their most productive stage in terms of innovation and research," the EACC team said.

"We are encouraging them to innovate and conduct research on integrity and good governance while also speaking out whenever they encounter corruption," the officials added.

The commission further stated that one of the objectives of the initiative is to challenge the perception that ethical conduct limits success in society.

"We want young people to understand that ethics pays and that embracing integrity should not be seen as a disadvantage," the officials said.

The partnership will involve a series of joint activities, including public forums, student engagements and awareness campaigns.

One of the key events under the collaboration will be a public forum scheduled for next month at MKU's Mwai Kibaki Convention Centre.

The two institutions expressed optimism that the partnership would help shape a generation committed to integrity and strengthen the national conversation on ethical leadership and accountability.



Mount Kenya University (MKU) Chairman and Founder Simon Gicharu with Dr. Monica Wanjiru Muiru, Vice Chairperson of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (right) during a visit by the EACC delegation to MKU. Also present were Dr. Susan Kinyeki (2nd left) and MKU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Deogratius Jaganyi (left). | Photo: courtesy.

Water “It is important that we find a way forward to deal with this issue of unmet dues. At the roundtable we have to agree on the way forward,” said Pkosing.

MPs seek sector-wide talks over billions in unresolved water agencies audit queries



MP David Pkosing

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

Members of the National Assembly Public Investments Committee on Commercial Affairs and Energy (PIC-CA&E) have proposed a roundtable bringing together key players in the water sector to address persistent audit issues affecting several state water agencies.

The committee, chaired by Pokot South MP David Pkosing, said the move was prompted by recurring concerns raised by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) in the financial records of multiple water institutions that have appeared before the committee.

The resolution was reached during a meeting with officials from the Athi Water Works Development Agency (AWWDA), who appeared before the committee for review of audit reports covering the 2018/2019 to 2024/2025 financial years.

According to the MPs, similar audit concerns have emerged across various agencies including the Northern Water Works Development

Agency, National Irrigation Authority, Kenya Water Institute, Hydrologists Registration Board and the Central Rift Valley Water Works Development Agency.

Among the major concerns raised were missing ownership documents for land and critical infrastructure inherited from the Ministry of Water and other defunct state agencies.

The committee also flagged rising unpaid loans and financial obligations linked to the failure by some government agencies and water utilities to settle debts owed to the water agencies.

Pkosing said the planned roundtable would bring together the Water Cabinet Secretary, officials from the National Treasury, the Office of the Attorney General and heads of water agencies to develop a long-term solution to the recurring audit concerns.

“It is important that we find a way forward to deal with this issue of unmet dues. At the roundtable we have to agree on the way forward,” said Pkosing.

During the session, MPs questioned AWWDA officials over outstanding loans

amounting to KSh35.4 billion reflected in the agency’s financial statements.

The liabilities include a KSh3 billion loan from the French Development Agency (AFD), repayable over 15 years at an interest rate of 2.9 percent.

Under the agreement with the National Treasury, the agency was expected to make semi-annual repayments on both principal and interest. However, auditors noted that during the period under review, the agency paid only KSh6.4 billion against an outstanding obligation of KSh87.4 billion, including arrears.

AWWDA Chief Executive Officer Eng. Joseph Kamau attributed the repayment challenges to failure by several institutions, including the Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company, to settle financial obligations owed to the agency.

The committee also questioned the agency’s failure to recognize inherited infrastructure assets previously owned by the former Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the defunct National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation.

Kamau told MPs that the agency had not declared the assets because ownership documents had not been transferred.

“The issue will be resolved

once the new transfer plan is finalized by the Ministry,” he said.

Further concerns were raised over lack of ownership documents for land hosting prop-

erty, plant and equipment valued at KSh342.9 billion, including the parcel on which Water Plaza, the agency’s headquarters, stands.

Auditors noted that despite a 2019 court ruling granting ownership of the land to the agency, title documents had still not been presented for audit.

Kamau said the agency was working with the Ministry of Lands and other government offices to resolve the matter.



Officials from Athi Water Works Development Agency when they met parliamentary committee. |

Photo: courtesy.




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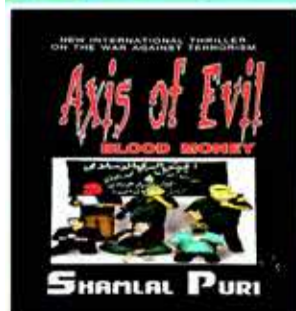
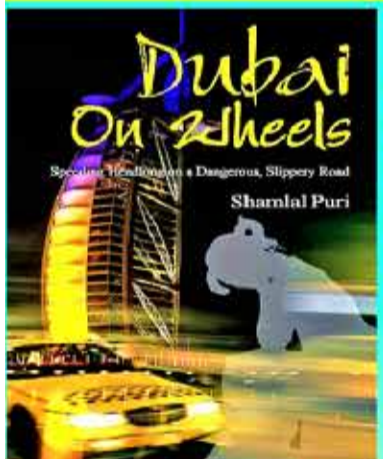
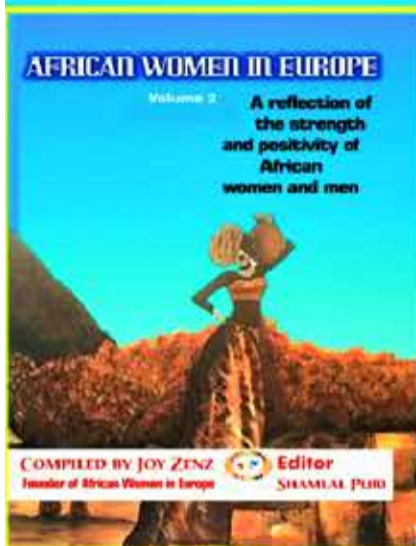
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Politics That ODM is intact, united and deliverable. Delivered? What – cement? Bananas? Maize? Or a suspiciously procured government tender?

When the driver forgets the cargo; The ODM metaphor



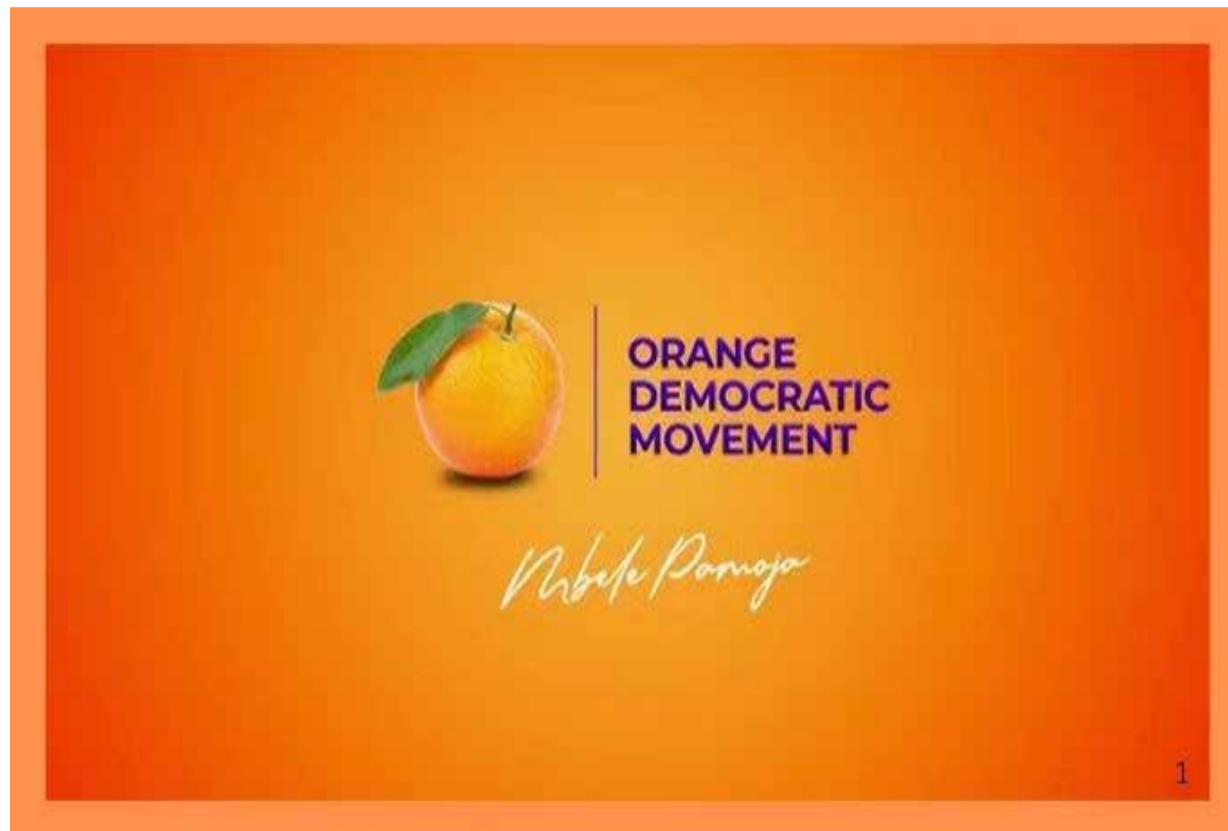
BY Fredrick Chelimo

@themkenyatimes

I write this not from a boardroom, not from a beach hotel where politics is served with coconut water and background violin, but from the ground, under a tree shade, the actual ground, the one that gets invoked I slogans and then promptly ignored in practice. Inside the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), something both tragic and darkly comedic is happening. A crisis of legitimacy, the situation whereby we as members on the ground cease to believe that the party has the right to govern, to represent or exercise authority on our behalf. There is a general feeling and perception of rule without right, loss of public confidence, violation of social contract and performance failure.

There is emerging a certain kind of politics that thrives in echo chambers – where applause is rehearsed, dissent is inconvenienced and reality is something to be managed rather than confronted. It is in such spaces that one begins to believe that a political party as big, strong and followed like ODM can be folded neatly into a briefcase, carried across negotiating tables, and delivered like a well-packaged consignment. And this happens outside the restless and unvarnished terrains, where real voters live. A different story is unfolding within ODM, a story that is instructive as it is unsettling.

We have been told loudly, repeatedly, theatrically, that everything is under control. That ODM is intact, united and deliverable. Delivered? What – cement? Bananas? Maize? Or a suspiciously procured government tender? Let us amplify the circus. The story started as a confrontational disagreement that is normal in every party on the issue of broad-based arrangement, definition, understanding and interpretation. Two factions emerged with one aligned to Dr. Oburu as its leader and another led by the Secretary General Edwin Sifuna. The Oburu led faction, referred to as Linda Ground is



pro broad-based, while Sifuna led faction also referred to as mimi ni Sifuna or Linda Mwananchi is anti-broad-based concept.

The disagreement was initially treated as an internal conflict which can be managed easily within the party organ and its mechanisms. The exchange of words and name calling has shown a different story, with the rift widening by the day. It is heading towards a point of no return. When such a big party splits not on interests voted and decided by the members on ground, but on issues more personal than party, the casualties will be visible and very soon. We are left wondering sometimes under whose mandate are you acting on, where you derive these political decisions that surprises, confuses and undermines the members authority.

To better understand the present scenario, one must abandon the polite language of communique, and adopt instead the blunt clarity of metaphor. Take one of a long-haul trailer truck – a machine of weight and purpose, its cargo painstakingly assembled over years of political struggle, sacrifice, and collective belief. The cargo in this case is not inert; it breathes, it thinks, it votes, it is us. It is the membership, the base, the very essence of ODM. The trailer itself embodies the party's ideological spine, its historical commitments, and its' emotional contract with the people.

At the helm of the prime mover stands Dr. Oburu Odinga, steadily handed and outwardly assured, steering toward the ultimate destination – UDA- or broad-based, with the confidence of a man persuaded that the entire load remains firmly in tow. Around him is a group of like-minded actors, under the broad-based arrangement, have signaled the willingness to align with the United Democratic Alliance (UDA), ostensibly on the premise that ODM, in its totality, can be brought along as part of the transaction. It is a bold claim, not without precedent in the fluid theatre of Kenyan politics, but one that collapses under close scrutiny.

For somewhere along the journey, almost imperceptible at first and then with unmistakable clarity, the trailer detached. What remains for the destination is the head of the truck impressive in isolation, but fundamentally incomplete. The cargo, it turns out, did not follow. Instead, the trailer found a new navigator different from the driver in the name of Edwin Sifuna, whose rallies, whether in estates of Nairobi, towns of Kitengela, Kakamega, Nakuru, Kisumu and Mombasa or spontaneous roadside shows that defy formal scheduled gatherings, have revealed something that no conference hall can manufacture; organic resonance. These are not crowds assembled for spectacle; they are audience engaged in dia-

logue, responding to a language that mirrors their anxieties about economic precarity, governance deficits, and the persistent gap between promise and delivery. One needs only to observe recent political activities to discern the divergence. While one faction convenes strategy sessions in exclusive venues, issuing declarations that emphasize alignment, stability and access to power, the other has immersed itself in the unpredictable rhythms of public engagement, town hall style interactions, impromptu address forums, and digital mobilization campaigns that amplify grassroots sentiment. The difference is not merely stylistic; it is philosophical. One speaks about the people; the other convincingly speaks with them.

This divergence has produced a peculiar impasse. The United Democratic Alliance, positioned as the prospective acquirer of this political "cargo" finds itself in an awkward calculus. There are indications, subtle yet discernible, of a deposit having been placed, a gesture of good faith predicted on the expectation of full delivery. The big question now is, how does one proceed to settle the balance, while the principal asset, the membership, the legitimacy, the mobilizable base, remains conspicuously absent?

What is most striking in this unfolding drama is the role of the ordinary ODM member, now relegated to

margins of a process in which they are, paradoxically the central stake. There is an almost theatrical irony in watching leaders proclaim representation from elevated platforms, rooftops, cartops, curated stages, while the very individuals they claim to represent observe with mixture of disbelief and quiet indignation. If we borrow from the language of satire, a performance in which the audience have begun to question not only the script but the legitimacy of the actors themselves.

Yet beneath the sarcasm lies a serious and urgent warning. Political capital is neither abstract nor infinitely renewable. It is accrued through consistency, safeguarded through accountability, and dispatched through miscalculation. Those who now appear eager to convert ODM into a negotiable instrument would do well to remember that both the market and merchandise are volatile. In the haste, they risk double loss; the forfeiture of the anticipated political dividends and the erosion of their own electoral viability. For voters, increasingly informed and interconnected, are no longer passive participants, but discerning arbiters. The agitation to retain ODM in fidelity to its founding ethos, its commitment to social justice, inclusivity, and democratic accountability, is not an act of rebellion but of preservation. It is an insistence that a party's evolution must remain anchored on its original covenant with the people. Any deviation from this trajectory, however cleverly rationalized, will not be received with indifference. The response, when it comes is unlikely to be dramatic in form; it will manifest instead in the quiet finality of the ballot, where rhetoric yields to judgement.

In this sense, the metaphor of trailer is not merely illustrative but instructive. The cargo cannot be wished into presence, nor can it be claimed by proximity to power. It must be carried patiently, faithfully, and in alignment with the will of those it represents. Until that principle is restored, the journey remains incomplete, the transaction unresolved, and the destination, however grand, ultimately hollow. ODM must be retained for what it was founded to be, what it has grown into and what it must – a people's movement. Not a shortcut, not a detachable trailer that can be claimed by whoever reaches the destination first. Because this time the trailer is not lost, it has simply chosen its own direction.

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PWD

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BOOKS & LITERATURE

with Taimoor Ehsan and Tajalla Qureshi

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHENAB, GUJRAT - PAKISTAN

TITLE: A demonstration to the survival as resistance and the indissoluble bond of Afghan women

Book Review:

Author: KHALED HOSSEINI

Book: A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS

Reviewers: Taimoor Ehsan and Tajalla Qureshi

A Demonstration To The Survival As Resistance And Indissoluble Bond Of Afghan Women

In *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, Khaled Hosseini magnanimously accomplishes a rare feat, he outshines the monumental attainment of his debut, *The Kite Runner*. Hosseini's first novel explored the complex terrain of father-son relationship, ethnic tension and integrity and transparency in true friendship,

"Kite is only fascinating in the light

Behind the fascination there's a price

Love conquers the unconquered sight

One's life and other's survive"

Lines from "For you, a thousand times over by Tajalla Qureshi"

Yet, Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns* drills deeper into bedrock of Afghan society

Afghan women is the locomotive of the survival. Through the intertwined lives of Mariam and Laila, Hosseini Phantasmagorically transforms the domestic sphere, serving as a transitional insight of oppression into a battleground, where every tiny movement is highlighted as victory against patriarchy and ruthlessness. As the novel reflect voices that has broken dreams, burnt resilience, and suppressed reactions.

"To be a woman is to be

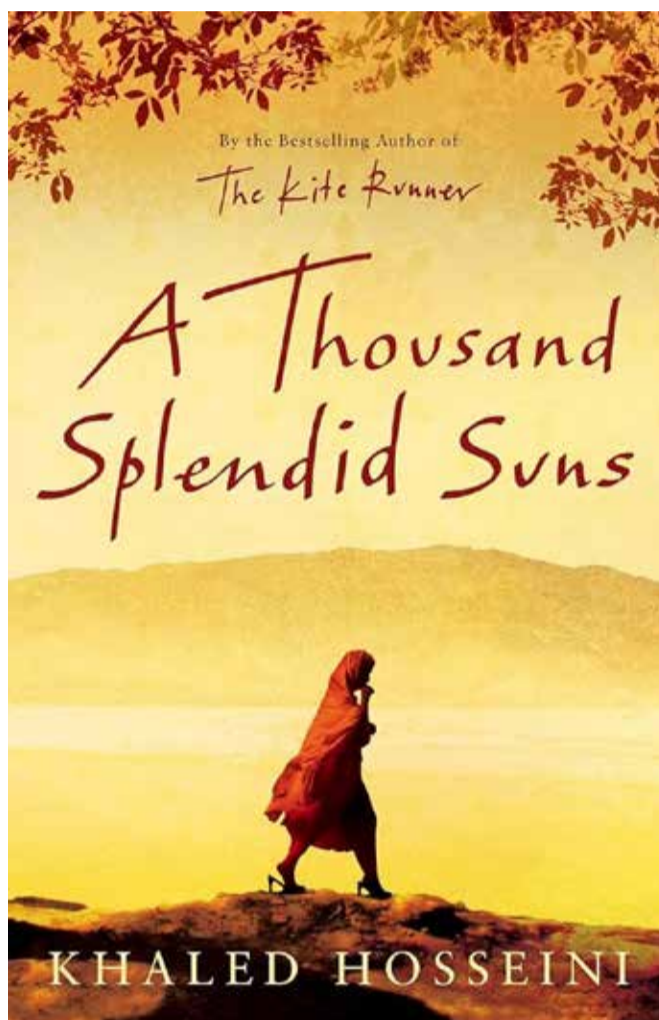
validly mollified, yet they wrenched but raised"- Taimoor Ehsan

In a world designed to erase them, Mariam and Laila's core diligence is revolutionary. Hosseini skillfully showcase the survival capacity of Afghan women against wrenching tactics, Rasheed's fists, belt buckles and locked-starvation strategies portrays the fickleness and sickness of masculine society and outrageous norms. Even the loss, destruction and dismantledness unable to terminates the most surviving lives.

"Strongest can beat the bullets, either hits from a gun or a layered mouth" – Taimoor Ehsan

Hosseini crucially distinguished that the meaning of survival is opposite to submission. When Mariam endure cruelty silently, she preserves a fragment of dignity that men like Rasheed cannot hit. Moreover, when Laila secretly contemplates an escape. The shift that rhetoric endurance into grounding of flight is truly admirable. The novel's core strength reflects the moment when Mariam murders Rasheed to save Laila's life. One becomes the protector, savior and guardian and other

"He was still on top of Laila, his eyes wide and crazy, his hands wrapped around her neck. Laila's face was turning blue now, and her eyes had rolled back. Mariam saw that she was no longer strug-



gling. He's going to kill her, she thought. He really means to. And Mariam could not, would not, allow that to happen. He's taken so much from her in twenty-seven years of marriage. She would not watch him take Laila too."

Mariam's survival fascinates right up until the time comes when she opts sacrifice over continued misery and suffering. It has been a twenty-seven years act of confrontation against a label harami (bastard), entitled by birth. It is a decision to rise up to the clouds even when the body demands to be quite and hidden.

"Survival is the dynamic slapped to distress disasters, manipulations, bombardment of hypocrisy, and devilish strategies" -Tajalla Qureshi

Yet, the survival is dou-

ble-ended supportive system. It is only meaningful when the realization is at both ends in a bond. As we have seen in Mariam and Laila's bonding from initial hatred to later understanding and concerns. Although learning through same abuse, bruises, identical exhaustion and familiar oppressed hopes, transform their thoughts as the time passes and situations pooped them, they reckon each other. Confessions and acceptance ease heart and freeze fickle emotions. Mariam's confession was her mother's death and Laila's sharing of her parent's sorrowful departure, becoming the eyewitness of each suffering. They open a window to stay away from abuse and fickleness, breathable for them.

"And yet she was leaving the world as a woman who had loved and been loved back.



She was leaving it as a friend, a companion, a guardian. A mother: A person of consequence at last. No. It was not so bad, Mariam thought, that she should die this way. Not so bad. This was a legitimate end to a life of illegitimate beginnings."

Above verses highlights the Mariam's entire existence from illegitimate, inconsequential and unwanted to an architect of meaning, resistance and survival. Resilience and sacrifice through suffering, pain and distress can lead to a powerful destination, only when the inner is worth- accepting and enduring. Stepping towards self-satisfaction and peace is the entire game. It truly captures the senses who skillfully and artistically Hosseini portrays resistance as resilience, power and strength over silence and suffering.

Each woman who survives and endures becomes a sun, concealed behind walls but

still exceptional. *A Thousand Splendid Suns* spotlights that Afghanistan remains wounded as Mariam dies and Laila carries grief. Through brutality, Hosseini finds something admiring, the courage and capacity of women, once they decide to shift and remains other slip. In that case survival become legacy and legacy never forget, only celebrated. Closing my review with some enaging verses:

"Newness wakes after a decade

Decade of dullness and bone headedness

Create the covering cure and activeness

Yet, unwrap the belief, yet unwrap the belief

We, vulnerable, we, vulnerable"- Lines from Revival by Tajalla Qureshi

Fragile and vulnerable are a soulful example of strength and resilience when they reckon their worth and the worth matters the most. Worth must be given to the self for the first.



China “The policy directly supports Africa’s industrialization by reducing barriers for semi-processed and finished goods, not just raw materials,” said Leseko Makhetha

Analysts: China’s zero-tariff treatment to boost Africa’s industrialization, value-chain integration

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Analysts have welcomed China’s zero-tariff treatment to 53 African countries with which it has diplomatic relations, highlighting its significance to boosting the continent’s industrial development and participation in global value chains.

Effective on May 1, the zero-tariff treatment, together with an upgraded “green channel” for African agro exports, reaffirms China’s commitment to a high-level opening up and is expected to facilitate deeper China-Africa cooperation in trade and investment. Experts said the zero-tariff measure comes at a critical moment as many African economies seek to shift from reliance on primary commodity exports toward value-added production and to diversify trade structures.



Sekiss Enyeh Bayere harvests a cocoa pod at his plantation on the outskirts of Buea, capital of the Southwest Region of Cameroon, April 8, 2026. | Photo:

Muleng Timngum/Xinhua.

“The policy directly supports Africa’s industrialization by reducing barriers for semi-processed and finished goods, not just raw materials,” said Leseko Makhetha, head of the Department of Economics at the National University of Lesotho. “It

encourages local industries to scale up production, fosters value-added processing and creates jobs across various sectors,” he said, noting the zero-tariff treatment aligns with Africa’s goal of moving up value chains.

South African political analyst Sandile Swana highlighted greater opportunities arising from the widened access to the Chinese market, hailing the measure as “an unequalled opportunity” for African exporters. “The initiative aligns with the vision of (Agenda) 2063, as well as the efforts of regional bodies such as the Southern African Development Community to integrate and diversify their economies,” he said, emphasizing that the size of the opportunity that China has opened up for African countries is significant. Swana added that African countries still need to undertake “the technical work of preparing” to strengthen their manufacturing capacity and production readiness so they can securely integrate into China’s supply chains and fully benefit from the new tariff-free access. Echoing Swana, Tabani Moyo, research fellow with the Graduate School of Business and Leadership

at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, said Africa should seize the opportunity presented with China’s vast consumer market. “African products must take this opportunity to stimulate trade between their countries and China, because of the sheer size of China in terms of consumption and the broader industries that are in China,” he said.

Moyo added that as African countries prioritize industrialization and value-added production, China’s zero-tariff treatment helps promote more predictable and stable supply-chain partnerships in an increasingly uncertain global economic environment. Mikatekiso Kubayi, senior researcher at the Institute for Global Dialogue, an independent South African-based foreign policy think tank, said the policy “has a multiplier effect” and “presents an opportunity for industrialization and reinvestment.” Increased production linked to export opportunities would support employment and benefit local businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, Kubayi added. Mammo Muchie, a professor at Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria, South Africa, said: “China is reducing tariffs, which supports African economies and allows African exports to come to China, and this makes the Africa-China relationship stronger.”

Xenophobia Ablakwa expressed deep concern about the continued violence targeting African nationals in South Africa.

Ghana petitions AU over xenophobic attacks in South Africa

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes

Ghana has formally petitioned the African Union (AU) to address recent xenophobic attacks against African migrants in South Africa during the AU’s eighth mid-year coordination meeting scheduled for next month.

In a letter dated May 6 to the chairperson of the AU Commission, Ghanaian Foreign Affairs Minister Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa expressed deep concern about the continued violence targeting African nationals in South Africa.

He said the attacks have resulted in deaths, destruction of property and investments, and threats to the safety and well-being of migrants from other African countries.

The minister emphasized that such incidents are particularly troubling given the support African nations provided during South Africa’s an-



Protests against xenophobia

ti-apartheid struggle and democratic transition.

Ghana argued that the attacks violate the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and undermine African unity, integration, and the objectives of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Ghana urged the AU to strengthen monitoring systems, launch a fact-finding mission into the causes

of the violence, and promote dialogue and reconciliation initiatives aimed at encouraging tolerance and inclusion across the continent.

The petition follows outrage sparked by a viral video showing a Ghanaian national and others being threatened by South Africans accusing foreigners of taking local jobs.

Son of Hamas leader killed in Israeli airstrike in Gaza

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes

Azzam al-Hayya, son of senior Hamas leader Khalil al-Hayya, died yesterday from injuries sustained in an Israeli airstrike, according to Palestinian medical sources.

The sources told Xinhua that Azzam al-Hayya succumbed to critical injuries suffered in an Israeli airstrike that targeted a gathering of Palestinians in central Gaza City on Wednesday. He had been receiving treatment at the Baptist Hospital in Gaza City, where doctors later pronounced him dead on Thursday morning.

Israeli military sources confirmed Wednesday night that the Israeli army had targeted Azzam al-Hayya.

He was the fourth son of Khalil al-Hayya to be killed in Israeli operations in recent years.

In remarks following his son’s death,



Azzam al-Hayya

Khalil al-Hayya said the targeting was “an extension of the aggression against our people everywhere” and accused Israel of attempting to pressure Palestinian negotiators through military escalation.

He further warned that Israel’s threats of expanded military operations in Gaza were intended to force concessions from Palestinian leaders and negotiators.

China For Mbula Musau, founder of Utake Coffee, China has emerged as a promising and increasingly vital destination for Kenya's premium specialty coffee.

China's zero-tariff policy unlocks opportunities for Kenyan coffee sector

BY Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyatimes

Inside a modest coffee processing plant on the outskirts of Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, workers sort and package freshly processed Arabica coffee beans for export, with a portion of the green beans destined for the Chinese market.

For Mbula Musau, founder of Utake Coffee, China has emerged as a promising and increasingly vital destination for Kenya's premium specialty coffee.

Her connection with the Chinese market began nearly a decade ago. Shortly after establishing her company in 2016, Musau traveled to southwest China's Yunnan Province in 2018 to participate in a coffee competition.

That journey opened the door to fur-



Participants learn about Kenyan coffee at the exhibition of the China-Kenya Business Forum held in Nairobi, Kenya, March 23, 2026. | Photo: Xinhua/Xie Jianfei.

ther cooperation.

"Chinese customers truly appreciate specialty coffee," Musau said,

adding that the majority of Utake Coffee's exports to China are premium green beans scoring above

90 points, accounting for about 40 percent of the company's total shipments.

Kenya's coffee sector, a longstanding pillar of the country's agricultural exports, is gaining fresh momentum as China's coffee consumption continues to expand. Musau noted that Chinese buyers place strong emphasis on traceability.

"They want to know exactly where the coffee comes from, who grew it, and how it was processed," she explained.

China is not only a major market but also a burgeoning coffee producer. "It shows that the market can recognize and embrace high-quality coffee," Musau added, noting that such trends are expected to support Kenyan coffee exports in the long run.

This positive momentum is set to receive a significant boost with China's zero-tariff policy taking effect early this month.

For small- and medium-sized enterprises like Utake Coffee, the measure is expected to substantially lower market entry costs. "With zero tariffs, our price competitiveness will improve markedly," Musau said, noting that the company anticipates more orders and plans to expand operations. Following a recent exhibition, she has already dispatched samples to potential Chinese clients and is forging new partnerships.

The benefits are expected to extend beyond export volumes. As Chinese consumers diversify their preferences; from traditional brews to capsules and cold drinks, rising demand is likely to create positive ripple effects along the value chain, ultimately benefiting smallholder farmers, according to Musau.

Michael Muki, who oversees roasting and quality control at Utake Coffee, believes stronger exports to China will help improve rural livelihoods and generate employment.

"It creates opportunities not only for business growth but also for skills development and learning," he noted. Utake Coffee aims to move beyond green coffee bean exports by supplying roasted coffee to the Chinese market, a move Musau said would create more local jobs and add value at origin. "We don't want to remain only exporters of raw materials," she said, expressing hope to eventually reach Chinese consumers with high-quality roasted Kenyan coffee.

Politics But a voter card is not a mandate. It is a starting point — and the harder, less glamorous work begins now.

'Niko kadi' is just the beginning — now comes the harder work

BY Daniel Maina
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya's Gen Z has pulled off something remarkable — they made voter registration cool. The "Niko Kadi" campaign, driven by youthful creativity and infectious energy over the past month, injected life into what the IEBC had struggled to make compelling. Credit where it is due: these young people delivered, and they deserve their flowers.

But a voter card is not a mandate. It is a starting point — and the harder, less glamorous work begins now.

Kenya has a painful and well-documented habit of electing leaders it almost immediately regrets. The 2022 elections

were no exception. Kenyans were warned, repeatedly and publicly, about candidates with questionable records and thinner-than-paper manifestos. Many voted for them anyway — seduced by tribal loyalty, party affiliation, or a few hundred shillings slipped into an open palm. Within months, the same voters were threatening recalls and lamenting broken promises. The pattern is not new. It is a cycle, and a voter card alone will not break it.

Three structural failures continue to corrode Kenya's electoral integrity. The first is tribalism. During the 2024 Gen Z uprising, young people declared themselves tribeless and partyless — a powerful statement that briefly felt like a turning point. Whether that conviction

survives the campaign season, when identity politics reaches fever pitch and community elders marshal votes like livestock, remains the defining test of this generation's political maturity.

The second failure is the culture of handouts. Kenyans continue to trade their votes — and by extension their futures — for sums that cannot sustain a family for two days. Like Esau selling his birthright for a bowl of stew, the transaction feels necessary in the moment and catastrophic in its consequences. Leadership must be judged by ideology and policy, not by the depth of a candidate's pockets or the weight of their campaign gifts.

The third failure is turnout. It defies logic that a citizen would

invest the time and effort to register as a voter, then stay home on election day. Abstention is not neutrality — it is a vote by default for whoever shows up with the most organised machinery. Every registered voter carries an obligation to the ballot box, and to the sober, emotion-free exercise of choosing who governs them.

This is where Gen Z must now direct its considerable energy. The "Niko Kadi" campaign proved that young Kenyans can mobilise, communicate, and inspire at scale. That same infrastructure — the creativity, the reach, the refusal to be boring — must now be deployed for civic education. Peer-to-peer conversations about what manifestos actually promise. Community forums on how to assess



Niko kadi

a candidate's record. Sustained pressure on the question that matters most: not whether you are registered, but whether you are ready to choose wisely.

The 2027 general election is close enough to plan for and far enough away to prepare properly. Gen Z lit the first fire. The question now is whether they

have the discipline to keep it burning — all the way to the ballot box, and beyond.

Registration was the warm-up. Accountability is the main event.

SPORTS
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Sports >> *With their opening game five weeks away, Mexico's football federation has issued an ultimatum to domestic players absent from a pre-tournament camp

Mexico threaten World Cup exile for players who skip training camp

By Martin Weche

Mexico's football federation has threatened to exclude any domestic player who fails to report to a pre-World Cup training camp on Wednesday, plunging the host nation's tournament preparations into an extraordinary crisis just five weeks before their opening fixture.

The federation issued the warning in a blunt press release that left little room for interpretation. "Per instructions from the coaching staff, any player who does not report to the training camp today will be left out of the World Cup squad," it stated. The ultimatum, unusually public and unusually firm, exposed a fault line running through Mexican club football at the worst possible moment — with coach Javier Aguirre's 20-man camp gathering at the Mexican Football Federation's High Performance Centre in Mexico City, and the country's World Cup ambitions hanging in the balance.

At the centre of the storm are Toluca internationals Alexis Vega and Jesús Gallardo, both called up by Aguirre but reported to have trained with their club on Tuesday. Toluca are due to face Los Angeles FC in the second leg of the CONCACAF Champions Cup semi-finals — a match scheduled to kick off just thirty minutes before the formal start of Aguirre's camp. Head coach Antonio Mohamed is reportedly planning to field both players in that tie, placing club obligation in direct and very public conflict with national duty.

The standoff has already claimed collateral damage. Liga MX giants Chivas de Guadalajara initially released five internationals to the national team despite preparing for a crunch playoff quarter-final this weekend — a gesture of cooperation they now appear to regret. Furious at Toluca's stance, Chivas



Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum and FIFA President Gianni Infantino holding the FIFA world Cup trophy

president Amaury Vergara recalled all five players: Raúl Rangel, Luis Romo, Brian Gutiérrez, Roberto Alvarado and Armando González. His message on X was terse and pointed. "Agreements are valid only when all parties respect them," Vergara wrote — a rebuke aimed squarely at Toluca and, implicitly, at the federation's failure to enforce the terms clubs had previously accepted.

Those terms, agreed in February, were clear enough. Clubs would release players following the conclusion of the domestic regular season and after the first leg of the CONCACAF semi-finals. Both conditions, by most readings, had been met. Yet Toluca's decision to retain Vega and Gallardo — and Mohamed's

reported intention to play them — has unravelled what appeared to be a functioning framework for cooperation between club and country in a World Cup year.

The timing could scarcely be worse. Mexico open the tournament on June 11 at the Estadio Azteca against South Africa in Group A — a home fixture freighted with enormous expectation in a country that has never progressed beyond the quarter-finals of a World Cup. Aguirre's squad still has warm-up matches against Ghana on May 22, Australia on May 30, and Serbia on June 4 to fine-tune preparations, but the value of those friendlies depends entirely on having the right players available, bonded, and battle-ready.

That process is now in disarray. The federation's ultimatum may resolve the immediate standoff, but the damage to trust between clubs and the national setup is harder to repair. For a nation hosting the world's most watched sporting event, the optics of a pre-tournament selection crisis driven by contractual squabbling are deeply unflattering.

Mexico have the players, the passion, and the home advantage. What they appear to lack, at this critical juncture, is unity — and that may prove the most costly absence of all.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *A stoppage-time equaliser from Harry Kane was not enough to prevent Bayern Munich from falling to PSG on aggregate, as the holders booked a Champions League final date with Arsenal.

Bayern's 175-goal season ends in semi-final heartbreak as PSG march on



Bayern Munich's German goalkeeper Manuel Neuer

By **Martin Weche**

Bayern Munich were eliminated from the UEFA Champions League at the semi-final stage on Wednesday after a 1-1 draw with holders Paris Saint-Germain at the Allianz Arena, with PSG advancing 6-5 on aggregate to set up a final showdown with Arsenal.

The result was cruel in its timing and familiar in its pattern. Bayern, who have scored a staggering 175 goals across all competitions this season, were unable to breach a resolute PSG backline until Harry Kane's fourth-minute stoppage-time equaliser — a goal that arrived too late to offer any realistic prospect of forcing extra time. For a side of such attacking abundance, the evening exposed something more fundamental than a lack of quality. It exposed a lack of ruthlessness at the decisive moment.

Captain Manuel Neuer did not shy away from that assessment.

"We didn't have big chances today, but we still created enough to score," he told DAZN. "We missed the killer mentality that PSG had to score the goals. We were close to the final but couldn't take the next step. Our goal came too late." The German goalkeeper, speaking with the measured candour of a man who has stood in finals and felt the difference, was equally blunt about the mathematics of the moment. "We didn't have time to create another chance or maybe even get a set-piece. At that point it was too late."

PSG, for their part, were clinical where Bayern were not. The holders demonstrated precisely the cold-blooded efficiency that their opponents sought but could not summon — and it was that margin, wafer-thin across two legs, that ultimately separated the sides on a 6-5 aggregate.

Bayern head coach Vincent Kompany acknowledged the loss with characteristic directness,

but refused to allow the defeat to define the narrative of a remarkable season. "In the end we lost two very, very tight games against a very good opponent. It's bitter," he said. "We needed to be more decisive. Congratulations to PSG. The Champions League is over for us this season, but there will be another chance — and that's a motivation for me." Kompany also noted the competitive balance between the two clubs across recent meetings. "We have played Paris five times — we have won twice, lost twice and drawn once, which was today. We tried everything. That also has to be said."

The defeat brings a painful historical footnote back into sharp focus. Bayern, six-time European champions, have now failed to advance past the two-legged semi-final stage since 2013. Their last Champions League triumph came during the Covid-disrupted 2019-20 season, when the format was reduced to single-leg ties

from the quarter-finals onward — the same campaign in which they beat PSG 1-0 in the final in Lisbon. Wednesday's elimination means their wait to return to a final stretches to five years and counting.

It is a sobering reality for a club of Bayern's stature and resources. The Bundesliga title is already secured, and a German Cup final awaits, so the season will not end without silverware. Neuer acknowledged as much, while making no attempt to mask the emotional weight of the evening. "Right now, disappointment prevails," he said simply.

For PSG, the road leads to the Champions League final and the chance to defend their crown. For Bayern, it leads back to the drawing board — and the long, motivating shadow of what might have been.

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The magic of learning: how one teacher spent 30 years building dreamers



By: Ayesha Talib

@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- A teacher mentor by title, Kelesoska operates on the conviction that the classroom has no walls. Her lessons spill out into nature, into local communities, into the lived texture of the world her students will one day inherit. Eco-friendly fashion shows. Research visits to beekeepers. Afternoons spent with artisans whose hands carry knowledge no textbook has ever adequately captured. Each session, she says, is a new adventure — and that sense of discovery is entirely deliberate.
- “My goal is to teach children not only what to learn, but how to become empathetic, responsible, and creative individuals who will change the world for the better,” Kelesoska explains. It is a statement that sounds simple until you consider how rarely it is genuinely attempted, and how much courage it takes to measure a teaching career not by institutional approval but by the quiet, long-term flourishing of young human beings.

Suzana Kelesoska has spent more than thirty years teaching children in Macedonia — not just what to learn, but how to become the kind of people the world genuinely needs.

That distinction matters more than it might first appear. In an era of standardised tests, curriculum targets, and performance metrics, Kelesoska has quietly built something rarer and more durable: a philosophy of education grounded in wonder. She calls it “magical learning” — and for the hundreds of children who have passed through her classroom, the description is not hyperbole.

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“My goal is to teach children not only what to learn, but how to become empathetic, responsible, and creative individuals who will change the world for the better,” Kelesoska explains. It is a statement that sounds simple until you consider how rarely it is genuinely attempted, and how much courage it takes to measure a teaching career not by institutional approval but by the quiet, long-term flourishing of young human beings.

She has received institutional recognition — the “Educator of the Year” award among other accolades — and serves as a regional leader in education. But Kelesoska is characteristically unbothered by the hardware. “I measure my success not by the number of awards I receive, but by the successes of my students,” she says. That is not false modesty. It is a precise articulation of what she believes teaching is actually for.

Central to her approach is what she describes as the teacher-student-parent “triangle” — a framework built on the understanding that education does not begin or end at the school gate. Parents are not passive recipients of report cards in Kelesoska’s



Suzana Kelesoska.

world. They are active participants in the architecture of their children’s futures. The triangle, she believes, is the foundation of a healthy and functioning society, and its collapse — when any one side withdraws — is felt not just in exam results but in the character of the next generation.

Kelesoska’s approach is also firmly rooted in the present. She integrates digital innovation into her teaching without allowing technology to flatten the human experience at the centre of learning. Nature and screens

coexist in her classroom with a balance that many educators struggle to strike. The beehive and the tablet. The artisan’s workshop and the digital research tool. Neither replaces the other — both serve the child.

What is perhaps most striking about Kelesoska’s story is not the breadth of her methods but the consistency of her energy. After three decades in a profession that burns many of its most committed practitioners out within ten years, her enthusiasm, she says, is greater than ever. Every stu-

dent remains her most important story. Every class is still an adventure worth having.

In a world that often reduces education to outputs and rankings, Suzana Kelesoska is a quiet but powerful argument for something more enduring — that the teacher, at their best, is not a conveyor of information but an architect of dreams.

Her students, scattered across Macedonia and beyond, are the proof.