



Mau Mau caucus to open documentation centre at The National Archives
A caucus of former freedom fighters is set to open a research and documentation center where all important information on its members will be archived.

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Hundreds benefit from free specialized medical services at Othaya health camp
Hundreds of residents from Othaya Constituency and neighboring areas benefited from free medical services during a health camp organized through a partnership between the Antony Gitonga Foundation

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Monday, June 1, 2026

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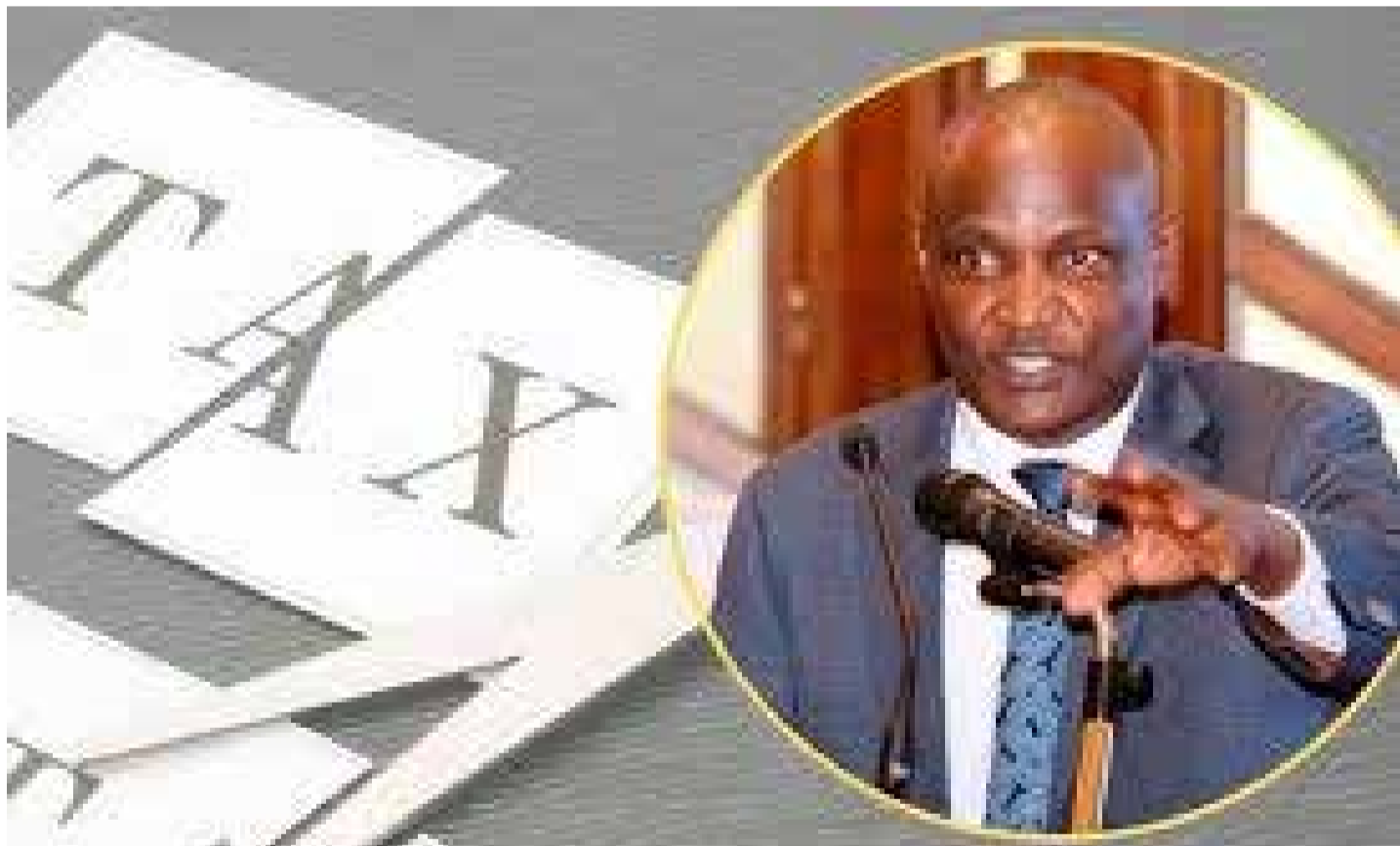
Finance Bill 2026 President William Ruto's government is seeking more revenue through tax reforms

Finance Bill 2026: Govt Explains

The Government of Kenya has unveiled the Finance Bill, 2026, a far-reaching legislative proposal designed to raise additional revenue, improve tax compliance, and modernize the country's taxation system.

Tabled before the National Assembly during the Fifth Session of the Thirteenth Parliament, the Bill proposes amendments to several tax laws that affect individuals, businesses, investors, and various sectors of the economy.

According to the National Assembly, the annual Finance Bill is introduced in line with the Public Finance Management Act to support funding for national development programmes and public services. Revenue collected through taxation is used to finance roads, healthcare, education, water projects, electricity, national security, salaries for public servants, and repayment of public debt.



Treasury CS John Mbadi

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Opposition leaders honour retired cleric, raise national concerns

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

Opposition leaders yesterday joined worshippers at AIC Karen Church in Nairobi to celebrate the retirement of Rev. Dr. Mathews Kalola Mwalwa, hailing him as a dedicated servant of God whose life exemplified humility, integrity and selfless service.

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka and DAP-K leader Eugene Wamalwa attended the service, where they praised the retired cleric for his decades of spiritual leadership and commitment to serving communities.

Speaking during the event, Kalonzo described Rev. Mwalwa as a “good shepherd” who faithfully answered God’s call and devoted his life to uplifting others. He urged leaders across the country to embrace servant leadership and uphold accountability in public office.

Gachagua called for prayers for Kenya, urging divine protection over the country and the world against evil and disease outbreaks.

Kalonzo, meanwhile, criticized rising cases of impunity, misuse of public resources and increasing taxation, saying leaders must remain accountable to citizens.

He also reiterated opposition to the proposed establishment of an Ebola quarantine facility in Kenya, insisting that public health decisions must prioritize the safety and interests of Kenyans.

The leaders called on the Church to remain steadfast in speaking truth to power and promoting integrity in leadership.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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

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NEWS IN BRIEF



A section of Embu County leaders has opposed plans to establish a US-backed Ebola quarantine and treatment centre in Kenya, citing concerns over public health risks. Led by Manyatta MP Gitonga Mukunji, Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP) officials called on President William Ruto to suspend the project, arguing that Kenya lacks the capacity to manage such a deadly disease. Mukunji questioned why the United States would seek to quarantine Ebola patients in Kenya despite its advanced healthcare infrastructure. Former Runyenjes Central Ward MCA Steve Simba said public hospitals remain inadequately equipped to handle a potential Ebola outbreak. Separately, former senator Lenny Kivuti urged the government to halt the project and instead focus on strengthening the country's healthcare system to better serve citizens.



Students of Kereri Girls High School in Kisii County received sanitary towels from the office of Kisii Woman Representative Dorice Aburi during Menstrual Hygiene Day celebrations held at the school. Speaking at the event, Egerton University Gender Specialist Dr. Magdalene Gesare criticized politicians who allegedly hoard sanitary towels and distribute them during campaign periods to influence voters. She urged leaders to stop using menstruation-related needs as political tools and instead ensure sanitary towels reach vulnerable girls promptly and free of charge. Dr. Gesare emphasized that regular access to sanitary products helps keep girls in school. She also highlighted the importance of awareness campaigns in promoting menstrual hygiene and ending period stigma and poverty.



Sheila Atieno Onyango, a trained telecommunications engineer, has successfully transformed traditional weaving into a thriving cultural enterprise through her company, Okapu. After working in the renewable energy sector and engaging rural communities on infrastructure projects, she developed strong community connections that later proved valuable in her business journey. The idea for Okapu emerged unexpectedly when a friend admired and bought a kiondo bag she had purchased from a roadside vendor in Nairobi. As more friends requested similar bags, Sheila began showcasing them on Instagram, sparking growing interest. Today, her venture combines cultural preservation, artisan craftsmanship and community empowerment, demonstrating how traditional skills can be turned into sustainable businesses in a modern marketplace.



Former Vihiga County Executive Committee Member Mary Amalemba has questioned whether women leaders are delivering meaningful benefits to women at the grassroots level despite increased representation in leadership positions. Speaking on Vihiga FM, Amalemba, who plans to contest the Vihiga Woman Representative seat in 2027, said many initiatives targeting women focus on short-term solutions rather than sustainable development. She cited the distribution of umbrellas to traders instead of investing in permanent market structures. Amalemba also highlighted limited access to capital as a major challenge facing women entrepreneurs. Grassroots leader Martha Boge echoed her views, urging more women to seek leadership positions and champion community development as the 2027 elections approach.

The Kenya Union of Domestic, Hotels, Educational Institutions, Hospitals and Allied Workers (KUDHEIHA) has called on the government to strengthen safety measures in schools following the deadly fire at Utumishi Girls' Academy in Gilgil. Speaking in Kisii town, KUDHEIHA Kisii Branch Secretary Thomas Mireri said many boarding schools, particularly those upgraded from sub-county schools, lack infrastructure that meets Education Ministry safety standards. He urged Boards of Management to employ qualified resident matrons to supervise students and respond to emergencies. Mireri noted that some schools lock dormitories at night and lack matrons, exposing learners to risks. He also called for increased funding, accountability, counselling support and assistance for affected families.



The North Eastern Region has seen notable development under the Kenya Kwanza Administration, with 30 major projects completed or underway in Wajir, Mandera and Garissa counties, according to North Eastern Regional Commissioner John Odhiambo Otieno. Speaking ahead of the 2026 Madaraka Day celebrations in Wajir, he highlighted key investments including the newly built 10,000-seater Wajir Stadium, the county's first modern stadium since independence. The facility is expected to boost sports, business and social cohesion. Other projects include upgraded roads, street lighting, improved water connectivity and ongoing enhancements at Wajir International Airport. Additionally, seven modern markets under construction across the region will support over 1,400 traders and create jobs.

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Youth The newly recruited beneficiaries will begin their journey with two months of community service in their respective localities.

Murang'a recruits new cohort for youth empowerment programme

BY Bernard Munyao
@themkenyatimes

The Murang'a County government has recruited a fresh batch of young people into the Murang'a Youth Service (MYS) programme, reaffirming its commitment to equipping youth with practical skills and economic opportunities aimed at reducing unemployment.

The recruitment exercise for the ninth cohort of the programme was conducted on Saturday across all the 35 wards in the county, attracting hundreds of young people eager to secure a place in the transformative initiative.

A total of 30 beneficiaries were selected from each ward through a balloting process, bringing the number of new recruits to 1,050 across the county.

Speaking during the exercise, Murang'a County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Youth Affairs and Sports, Manoah Gachucha said the recruitment process was carried out successfully and witnessed an overwhelming turnout of applicants at designated recruitment centres.

He noted that the exercise was conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner by officials from the Department of Youth and Sports to ensure that all eligible applicants had an equal chance of being selected.

"The turnout was impressive across all wards, demonstrating the growing interest among young people in pro-



Youth show up for the recruitment exercise of the 9th cohort of Murang'a Youth Service in various parts of the county.

grammes that provide skills development and employment opportunity.

The newly recruited beneficiaries will begin their journey with two months of community service in their respective localities.

During this period, they will participate in activities aimed at improving public spaces while gaining valuable work experience and discipline.

After completing the community service phase, the recruits will proceed to three months of fully sponsored vocational training in courses of their choice.

The training is expected to equip them with practical skills that can enable them to secure employment or establish their own businesses.

The county government

will also facilitate the beneficiaries' National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) Grade III examinations, allowing them to earn nationally recognized certifications that can enhance their competitiveness in the job market.

Gachucha said the programme goes beyond training by providing support to graduates as they transition into entrepreneurship and self-employment.

Upon successful completion of the programme, each beneficiary will receive a business start-up grant of Sh15,000 to help them launch income-generating activities.

They will also be issued with a one-year tax exemption certificate, a move aimed at easing the burden on young en-

trepreneurs during the early stages of their businesses.

The CECM observed that the Murang'a Youth Service has continued to play a significant role in addressing youth unemployment since its establishment.

He noted that the initiative has already recruited and empowered more than 8,000 young people through eight previous cohorts.

"The Murang'a Youth Service Programme remains one of the county's flagship youth empowerment initiatives. Through skills training, mentorship and financial support, we are helping young people unlock their potential and become active contributors to the county's development," he said.

ODM Leaders Reject Finance Bill



ODM Linda Mwananchi faction

BY CORRESPONDENT
@themkenyatimes

The ODM Linda Mwananchi faction has ramped up criticism over the proposed taxation in the 2026 Finance Bill, faulting the Kenya Kwanza administration for what they term runaway public spending.

Key figures including ODM Deputy Party Leader Godfrey Osotsi, ODM Secretary-General Edwin Sifuna, and Embakasi East MP Babu Owino have accused the government of mismanaging public resources while overburdening citizens with taxes.

Senators Osotsi and Sifuna cited what they described as inflated State House expenditure and questioned the government's fiscal priorities amid prevailing economic hardship.

"There is a lot of wastage in government. Can you imagine State House uses KSh18 billion in a year, yet Kibaki showed us that you can run State House with even KSh3 billion, and it still delivers," Osotsi stated.

Sifuna added, "It's unacceptable. How can one person alone spend KSh17 billion while Kenyans are suffering out here? He says he cannot reduce taxes, yet you hear he's moving around giving one young man KSh2 million, another KSh10 million, and KSh5 million to a church. Where do you think that money comes from?"

The leaders urged MPs across the political divide to vote against the Bill, warning that any legislator who supports it would face public backlash.

"The Finance Bill is coming. Where will this Finance Bill take our lives? It will punish children, it will punish women. That is why we are saying reject the Finance Bill," Babu stated.

"If you are a Member of the National Assembly, under the 'Linda Mwananchi' movement your vote should be a 'No' to the Finance Bill. Any MP—whether from the government or opposition—who votes 'Yes', we will ask Gen Z to occupy their homes," Osotsi asserted.

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Wetang'ula: Act on Unsafe Schools



National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula

BY KNA | CORRESPONDENT

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula has called on the Ministry of Education to conduct a nationwide crackdown on schools that have failed to comply with the safety measures prescribed by the government leading to loss of lives and property by infernos.

Speaking during a fundraising drive at Chekalini Comprehensive School in aid of PAG churches in Lugari constituency, Wetang'ula expressed concern that many school management teams have ignored the implementation of critical safety standards.

He stated that the Utumishi Academy fire tragedy, which claimed 16 young lives, should prompt intensified school inspections and firm action against institutions that disregard safety requirements.

He noted that it hurts for parents to lose their children through fire tragedies that could be avoided heading schools complied with the laid down safety protocols.

The Speaker asked the Education ministry to ensure there was a responsible person sleeping dormitories with students to help evacuate them in case of fire or other tragedies.

The Speaker's remarks come after Education CS Julie's Ogamba revealed on May 29 that pre-

liminary findings exposed serious safety lapses at the Academy in the wake of the deadly dormitory fire.

"The school did not adhere to the safety requirements as stipulated in The School Safety Manual and The Basic Education Regulations. In particular, there was congestion in the dormitory and one exit door was locked contrary to the prescribed safety requirements," he said.

The Ministry of Education announced that eight students are being held for questioning over their alleged role in the planning and execution of a suspected arson attack at Utumishi Girls Senior Secondary School that left 16 students dead.

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations is also questioning two teachers after it emerged that they had been alerted by some learners about planned unrest but failed to take appropriate preventive action.

79 learners suffered injuries of varied degrees and seven of the injured learners are still in hospital undergoing treatment while the rest have been treated and discharged.

Seven were airlifted on Thursday from Gilgil and they are now being treated in Kenyatta National Hospital

Mau Mau caucus to open documentation centre at The National Archives

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyattimes

A caucus of former freedom fighters is set to open a research and documentation center where all important information on its members will be archived.

The offices, set to be established tomorrow will be housed at The National Archives along Moi Avenue in the City center.

The centre will keep records of the movement and further act as National office.

The caucus, MMV Associates CLG, Director General James Njuguna Mahuria yesterday confirmed that all was set for the grand opening of the facility.

He said various officials led by lawyers for the non-governmental organizations have been invited so that they could also help in the establishment of World Federation of Kenya which their caucus will be affiliated to.

Mau Mau War Veterans Association has been operating from the same house for more than 20 after former President, the late Mwai Kibaki formally recognized their role in liberating the country from the colonial rule.

At the same time, Mahuria called on various groupings of former freedom fighters to join hands and collectively work for the benefit of their members and their descendants.

He said with joining hands the various Mau Mau groups would make and collectively demand compensation, saying contrary to some groups claims, plans to have the former freedom fighters compensated were at advanced stage.

Further, the Director added, animosity between those who fought for independence and those collaborated with colonisers should end.

He said each team was working for their own interests and all being Kenyans should now work together for the prosperity of the country.

He also called leaders of various Kikuyu elders to join hands, stop empty rhetoric and concentrate on ensuring the dream of having Githunguri Shrine become a reality. He said none of the many group-



Former freedom fighter Gen. Dedan Kimathi (left) with his brother. | Photo: Courtesy.



Colonialist collaborators.



MMV Associates CLG Director General James Njuguna Mahuria (centre) during a members meeting at Blue Post hotel last Saturday.

ings was superior than the other and thus they should collectively work together for the sake of the Kikuyu community.

Mahuria also advised UDA Sec-

retary General Hassan Omar to have a sitting with leaders from the mountain region who are aggrieved by his recent remarks and explain to them exactly what he meant.

Finance Bill President William Ruto's government is seeking more revenue through tax reforms

Finance Bill 2026: Government's explainer of key provisions

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

The Government of Kenya has unveiled the Finance Bill, 2026, a far-reaching legislative proposal designed to raise additional revenue, improve tax compliance, and modernize the country's taxation system. Tabled before the National Assembly during the Fifth Session of the Thirteenth Parliament, the Bill proposes amendments to several tax laws that affect individuals, businesses, investors, and various sectors of the economy.

According to the National Assembly, the annual Finance Bill is introduced in line with the Public Finance Management Act to support funding for national development programmes and public services. Revenue collected through taxation is used to finance roads, healthcare, education, water projects, electricity, national security, salaries for public servants, and repayment of public debt.

The Bill seeks not only to increase government revenue but also to seal tax loopholes, simplify tax administration, and align Kenya's tax framework with modern business practices and international standards. Among the notable proposals are tax relief measures for pension beneficiaries, incentives for investment in real estate and petroleum, and new tax measures targeting betting, digital financial services, and foreign investors.

One of the key relief measures proposed is the exemption of pension benefits paid to dependants and beneficiaries of deceased pension scheme members from income tax. If approved, spouses, children, and other beneficiaries will receive the full pension benefits without deductions, providing greater financial protection to bereaved families.

The Bill also proposes exempting property transfers into Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) from Capital Gains Tax. Lawmakers say the move is intended to encourage investment in collective real estate projects such as commercial buildings, shopping centres, apartments, and housing developments by removing tax barriers that currently discourage property owners from transferring assets into REIT structures.

Mobile phones, digital services and investment changes

Among the most discussed proposals is the restructuring of taxes on mobile phones. Under the current system, excise duty is payable when a phone is imported or released from a local manufacturing facility. The Finance Bill proposes that the duty instead be charged only when the device is activated on a mobile network.

The National Assembly maintains that the proposal does not introduce a new tax on mobile phones but rather simplifies the existing taxation framework. Currently, imported phones attract multiple taxes and levies, including VAT, excise duty, import duty, import declaration fees, and the railway development levy. Together, these charges account for more than half the value of some devices. The proposed framework would replace the current structure with a single excise duty payable upon activation.

The Bill further proposes the introduction of VAT on selected digital and platform-based financial services, including payment gateways, payment processing services, digital transaction platforms, merchant acquiring services, and other technology-driven financial systems that earn commissions. The proposal reflects the growing role of digital transactions in Kenya's economy and seeks to bring emerging financial technologies within the tax net.

Another significant proposal targets international investors. Citizens and companies from East African Community member states currently enjoy a reduced withholding tax rate of five per cent on dividends earned from investments in Kenya. The Bill seeks to remove this preferential treatment and subject all non-resident investors, including those from neighbouring EAC countries, to the standard withholding tax rate of 15 per cent.

At the same time, the government is proposing to lower corporate income tax for non-resident petroleum contractors from 37.5 per cent to 30 per cent. Officials believe the reduction will help attract much-needed investment into Kenya's petroleum exploration and production sector.

New measures on betting, VAT

and tax compliance

The Finance Bill introduces a new 20 per cent withholding tax on winnings from betting, gaming, lotteries and other gambling activities. If passed, the tax will be deducted before winners receive their payouts. The existing five per cent excise duty on deposits into betting wallets and gaming accounts will remain in place.

According to the National Assembly, the proposal is intended both to generate revenue and to address the social consequences associated with gambling. The Bill also introduces a 15 per cent tax on profits repatriated abroad by mining and petroleum companies operating in Kenya, ensuring that foreign-owned firms contribute more to the country's revenue before transferring earnings to parent companies overseas.

The legislation further proposes changes affecting banks, fintech companies, payment service providers, and software distributors. Certain fees paid to international payment networks and software providers would be reclassified for tax purposes, making them subject to withholding tax. The government argues that these amendments will improve taxation of cross-border digital and technology transactions.

To enhance transparency and compliance, all suppliers of goods and services would be required to issue invoices under the proposed law. The government believes the measure will improve record-keeping, strengthen accountability, and make it easier to track business transactions across the economy.

The Bill also seeks to tighten VAT rules governing hire purchase arrangements. Under the proposal, only businesses licensed under the Hire Purchase Act will be allowed to exclude financing charges when calculating VAT. Lawmakers argue that the existing provisions have been vulnerable to misuse and require clarification.

In the tourism sector, the Bill proposes that only licensed tour operators qualify for certain VAT exemptions. It also seeks to define what constitutes in-house supplies in tourism operations to reduce uncertainty and disputes regarding tax treatment.

Relief measures, tax amnesty and misinformation claims



The National Treasury headquarters.

Alongside revenue-raising measures, the Finance Bill contains several proposals aimed at reducing costs for consumers and businesses. One of the most notable is the increase of the duty-free allowance for returning travellers from 500 US dollars to 2,000 US dollars. If approved, Kenyans returning from abroad will be able to bring in higher-value personal goods without paying VAT, a move intended to reflect inflation and changing economic realities.

The Bill also proposes VAT exemptions on a range of products and services, including dialysis equipment, scrap metal, locally supplied second-hand clothing, transportation of sugarcane to factories, mobile phones, motorcycles, electric bicycles, solar and lithium-ion batteries, electric buses, bioethanol vapour stoves, and goods and services used directly in approved Public-Private Partnership projects. The government says these exemptions are intended to support healthcare, clean energy, agriculture, infrastructure development, and affordability.

Another major proposal is the re-introduction of a tax amnesty programme covering tax liabilities accrued up to December 31, 2025. Taxpayers who had already paid their principal taxes by that date would automatically qualify for a waiver of penalties and interest. Those with outstanding principal taxes would be required to enter payment arrangements with the Kenya Revenue Authority and fully settle their obligations by December 30, 2026, in order to benefit from the relief.

The Bill also seeks to strengthen the Kenya Revenue Authority's pow-

ers to recover unpaid taxes through agency notices. These notices allow KRA to direct banks, employers, customers, tenants, and other third parties holding money on behalf of taxpayers to remit the funds directly to the authority in settlement of tax arrears.

As debate on the Finance Bill intensifies, the National Assembly has cautioned the public against relying on fake versions of the legislation circulating online. Parliament says some stakeholders have submitted views based on non-existent provisions contained in fraudulent documents. It has urged Kenyans to consult only the official version of the Bill available through parliamentary channels.

The Assembly has also dismissed claims circulating on social media that the Bill seeks to convert freehold land into leasehold land, impose taxes on freehold land ownership, introduce taxes on M-Pesa transactions, increase resident rental income tax, or impose withholding tax on digital content monetisation and digital marketplace transactions. According to Parliament, these claims are false and do not appear in the Finance Bill, 2026.

As the Bill proceeds through public participation and parliamentary scrutiny, it is expected to generate significant national debate over how Kenya balances the need for increased revenue with the desire to encourage investment, create jobs, and ease the cost of living. The outcome of that debate will shape the country's fiscal direction and economic priorities in the years ahead.

Madaraka day Today, as we celebrate Madaraka Day, I extend my warm greetings and heartfelt congratulations to all Kenyans, Africans, and people of goodwill around the world.

Madaraka day message from Supreme Global President of Peace and Universal Leader



BY Amb. Eugene Kavune Nzabonimba
@themtkenyatimes

Fellow Kenyans, Distinguished Leaders, Members of the Diplomatic Community, Religious Leaders, Peace Ambassadors, Humanitarian Workers, Youth, Women, and Friends of Peace Across the World,

Today, as we celebrate Madaraka Day, I extend my warm greetings and heartfelt congratulations to all Kenyans, Africans, and people of good-



Wajir Stadium where Madaraka Day national celebrations led by President William Ruto will be taking place today.

will around the world.

Madaraka Day is a historic reminder of the sacrifices, courage, and determination of our forefathers and mothers who fought for self-governance, dignity, justice, and freedom. Their vision laid the foundation of the Kenya we proudly celebrate today.

As we commemorate this important national day, let us remember that freedom comes with responsibility. We are called upon to protect peace, uphold justice, promote unity, respect one another, and work tirelessly for the common good of our nation.

I take this opportunity to call upon all leaders across Kenya to unite and work together for the prosperity of our beloved country. Let us rise above differences of tribe, religion, politics, and social status, and focus on building a stronger, more peaceful, and more prosperous Kenya.

I humbly request all leaders to become one in purpose and one in vision. Let us support our government in its efforts to create opportunities, improve livelihoods, strengthen institutions, and serve the people of Kenya with integrity and dedication.

Kenya belongs to all of us. The responsibility of building our nation rests upon every citizen, every leader, every organization, and every institution. Together, we can create a future filled with hope, opportunity, justice, and development.

As Peace Ambassadors, Humanitarian Leaders, Social Justice Advocates, Missionaries, and International Observers, we stand ready to work hand in hand with governments, religious institutions, development partners, communities, and all stakeholders to promote peace, reconciliation, humanitarian service, human dignity, and sustainable development.

We are ready to unite for our Kenya.

We are ready to unite for our Africa.

We are ready to unite for humanity.

I also call upon the youth of Kenya to remain focused, hardworking, innovative, and patriotic. You are the future of our nation and the architects of tomorrow's prosperity.

To the women of Kenya and Africa, we celebrate your leadership, resilience, and invaluable contribution to society. Your role in nation-building and peace-building remains essential.

To religious leaders and community leaders, continue to be voices of hope, unity, reconciliation, and moral guidance for our people.

Today, we also pray for Kenya and for all nations of Africa. May peace prevail in every community. May justice prevail in every institution. May development reach every family. May love overcome hatred, and may unity overcome division.

Let us continue to build bridges of friendship, cooperation, and mutual respect among nations. Let Africa rise in peace, dignity, and prosperity. Let the world embrace harmony and shared progress.

As Supreme Global President of Peace and Universal Leader, I reaffirm my commitment to promoting peace, humanitarian service, justice, reconciliation, and global cooperation.

Let us walk together.
Let us work together.
Let us pray together.
Let us build together.

For through unity, we gain strength.

Through peace, we achieve development.

Through love, we transform the world.

May God bless the President of Kenya and all government leaders.

May God bless all leaders across Africa and the world.

May God bless our youth.

May God bless our families.

May God bless Kenya.

May God bless Africa.

May God bless the entire world.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.” — Matthew 5:9

HAPPY MADARAKA DAY 2026!

The writer is also the founder and CEO anGlobal Union for Peace and Development

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Forest President Ruto said forest conservation should be viewed as a national economic priority rather than merely an environmental concern

Ruto calls for stronger conservation to protect KSh611 Billion forest economy

BY Suleiman Mbatiah

@themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto has called for increased investment in forest conservation, warning that Kenya's economic growth and water security depend heavily on the protection of the country's natural ecosystems.

Speaking during the 37th edition of the Rhino Charge in Wamba, Samburu County, the President said Kenya's forests contribute an estimated KSh611 billion annually to the economy and remain critical to sectors such as agriculture, energy, manufacturing and tourism.

The annual Rhino Charge event, organized by Rhino Ark Charitable Trust, is a motorsport fundraiser that supports conservation initiatives in Kenya's major forest ecosystems.

Over the past 37 years, the event has raised approximately Sh2.8 billion for the protection and rehabilitation of key forests, including the Aberdare Range, Mount Kenya, the Mau Forest Complex and Kakamega Forest.

President Ruto said forest conservation should be viewed as a national economic priority rather than merely an environmental concern.

He argued that the country's forests form the foundation of economic productivity because they provide water, support energy generation and sustain agricultural production.

"We do not merely admire these forests; we depend on them because they touch every sector of our nation," he said.

The President reaffirmed his administration's commitment

to planting one billion trees this year under the Jaza Miti campaign, which aims to increase Kenya's tree cover to 30 percent by 2032. He also revealed that the Integrated Natural Resource Secretariat is preparing a comprehensive policy framework intended to improve coordination between government agencies, private investors and conservation organizations.

Kenya's five major water towers—the Mau Forest Complex, Mount Kenya, the Aberdares, Mount Elgon and the Cherangani Hills—play a crucial role in sustaining the country's water supply. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), these forests provide about 75 percent of Kenya's fresh water despite occupying less than two percent of the country's total land area. They support major river systems and contribute significantly to hydropower generation.

Recent data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics highlights both the economic importance of forests and the challenges facing the sector. The Economic Survey 2026 shows that the forestry and logging sector was valued at Sh396.7 billion in 2025, up from Sh339.3 billion in 2024. However, experts note that this figure excludes the broader value of ecosystem services such as water regulation, carbon storage, biodiversity conservation and tourism.

The survey also revealed worrying trends in forest management. Newly planted forest areas in state plantations declined to 4,400 hectares in 2025 from 4,900 hectares the previous year. National forest cover remained at 8.8 percent, below the constitutional target

of at least 10 percent. In addition, the volume of standing wood in public plantations has remained largely unchanged since 2022, indicating that gains from reforestation are being offset by timber harvesting.

To address these challenges, President Ruto emphasized

The President reaffirmed his administration's commitment to planting one billion trees this year under the Jaza Miti campaign, which aims to increase Kenya's tree cover to 30 percent by 2032. He also revealed that the Integrated Natural Resource Secretariat is preparing a comprehensive policy framework intended to improve coordination between government agencies, private investors and conservation organizations. Kenya's five major water towers—the Mau Forest Complex, Mount Kenya, the Aberdares, Mount Elgon and the Cherangani Hills—play a crucial role in sustaining the country's water supply. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), these forests provide about 75 percent of Kenya's fresh water despite occupying less than two percent of the country's total land area. They support major river systems and contribute significantly to hydropower generation.

”



President William Ruto with some of those who took part.

the importance of partnerships between government, communities and the private sector. He praised Rhino Charge as an example of how collaborative efforts can deliver meaningful conservation outcomes while supporting economic development.

The President noted that the government has already completed fencing projects around the Aberdares, Mau and Nandi forests and directed that Kaptagat Forest, part of the Cherangani ecosystem, be fenced next. The fencing programme is designed to reduce illegal logging, prevent encroachment and support sustainable community use of forest resources.

Rhino Ark has played a key role in these efforts. Since 1989, the organization has fenced more than 400 kilometres around the Aberdare ecosystem. Conservationists say the project has helped stabilize water flows into major river basins and significantly reduced human-wildlife conflicts in surrounding communities.

Ruto's remarks came shortly after he signed into law the Forest Conservation and Management Amendment Act 2025. The legislation introduces reforms aimed at improving forest governance, promoting sustainable forest management and strengthening forestry research. The law also restores the Kenya Forestry Research Institute as the lead agency for forestry research and incorporates climate-resilient forestry practices into national planning.

The President stressed that forests should not be viewed as optional assets that receive attention only during periods of economic prosperity. Instead, he said, they are essential infrastructure upon which economic development depends.

Environmental experts have repeatedly warned that deforestation carries significant economic consequences. Reduced forest cover often leads to lower river flows, affecting irrigation schemes and agricultural productivity. Soil erosion and sedimentation also reduce the efficiency of rivers, dams and reservoirs, increasing costs for farmers and water users.

Research by UNEP and the Kenya Forest Service found that the economic losses associated with deforestation exceeded Sh3.65 billion annually as early as 2010. These losses were linked to declining ecosystem services and were substantially higher than the direct revenues generated from logging activities during the same period.

Hydropower generation is also vulnerable to forest degradation. Studies have shown that declining forest cover in key catchment areas contributed to reduced electricity generation, with wider economic effects arising from power shortages and supply disruptions.

Private sector support for conservation continues to grow. Earlier this month, Safaricom and the M-Pesa Foundation committed Sh114 million toward conservation

projects supported by Rhino Charge. The funding will support fencing of Mount Elgon Forest, restoration activities in the Mau Forest Complex and rehabilitation programmes in the Mount Kenya ecosystem. Organizers described the contribution as one of the largest corporate conservation pledges in the history of the event.

The government launched its ambitious 15-billion-tree campaign in December 2022. Official records indicate that more than one billion trees have been planted, while the Jaza Miti digital platform has registered approximately 738 million trees. However, experts caution that planting targets alone are insufficient and stress the importance of monitoring survival rates, maintaining seedlings and ensuring adequate funding for nurseries and long-term management.

To strengthen the programme, the government has allocated five percent of Constituency Development Fund resources toward tree seedling development and directed the Kenya Forest Service and National Youth Service to establish 17 mega nurseries capable of producing up to two billion seedlings annually.

As Kenya pursues its climate and development goals, President Ruto's message was clear: protecting forests is not only about preserving the environment but also about safeguarding the country's economic future, water security and long-term prosperity.

Health The one-day outreach programme, held at the Othaya Approved Grounds, drew large crowds seeking specialized medical attention

Hundreds benefit from free specialized medical services at Othaya health camp

BY MKT REPORTER
@themkenyatimes

Hundreds of residents from Othaya Constituency and neighboring areas benefited from free medical services during a health camp organized through a partnership between the Antony Gitonga Foundation, Blue Star Hospital and City Eye Hospital.

The one-day outreach programme, held at the Othaya Approved Grounds, drew large crowds seeking specialized medical attention, consultations, screening, treatment and medication.

Medical professionals from various disciplines, including urology, oncology, pediatrics, gynecology, neurosurgery and

general medicine, offered services throughout the day, enabling many patients to access quality healthcare that would otherwise be beyond their financial reach.

Speaking during the event, businessman, philanthropist and politician Antony Gitonga, popularly known as Antogito, said the initiative was part of his foundation's ongoing efforts to improve community well-being and expand access to healthcare services at the grassroots level.

Gitonga, who serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Antony Gitonga Foundation and is seeking to become the next Othaya Member of Parliament, disclosed that ap-

proximately 100 medical professionals had been mobilized to ensure residents received comprehensive healthcare services.

"We have to take care of our people because you cannot lead people who are sick. I also challenge those aspiring for elective positions to organize similar programmes to support their communities. This is one of the many medical camps we have conducted over the past few years," he said.

He noted that healthcare remains one of the key pillars of community development and pledged to continue supporting initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for residents.



Antony Gitonga Antogito being checked for BP during the free medical camp he sponsored in Othaya. | Photo: Courtesy.

Blue Star Hospital Clinical Officer John Maigua observed that lifestyle-related illnesses such as hypertension, diabetes and arthritis continue to affect a significant number of people in the region.

He urged members of the public to embrace healthier lifestyles through proper nutrition, regular exercise and routine medical check-ups to facilitate early diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

"Many of these conditions can be effectively managed when detected early. Regular screening is important in preventing complications and improving overall health outcomes," said Maigua.

Residents who attended the camp welcomed the initiative, saying it had provided timely medical attention and eased the financial burden associated with accessing specialized healthcare services.

Many beneficiaries said the programme en-

abled them to consult medical specialists and receive medication free of charge, services they would otherwise struggle to afford due to the high cost of healthcare.

The organizers emphasized that community health outreach programmes remain critical in promoting preventive healthcare, early disease detection and improved access to essential medical services, particularly among vulnerable and underserved populations.

They noted that bringing healthcare closer to communities not only improves health outcomes but also enhances public awareness on disease prevention and healthy living.

The Othaya medical camp is the latest in a series of health initiatives spearheaded by the Antony Gitonga Foundation, aimed at expanding access to healthcare services and improving the overall well-being of residents across the constituency and beyond.

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Othaya parliamentary seat aspirant Antony Gitonga Antogito addressing some of the constituents who turned up for his free medical camp last Saturday.

Market In a statement issued yesterday, Kamuri described the past two weeks as a “sobering” period for both Laikipia and the nation

Kamuri calls for unity, safety amid market fire, school tragedy and Ebola facility debate

BY MKT Correspondent
 @themtkenyentimes

Laikipia County Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri has called for unity, prayer and responsible leadership as the county grapples with a series of challenges, including the recent Nanyuki Market fire, a deadly school dormitory blaze and growing public debate over a proposed Ebola quarantine facility at Laikipia Air Base.

In a statement issued yesterday, Kamuri described the past two weeks as a “sobering” period for both Laikipia and the nation.

He said the fire that destroyed part of Nanyuki Market affected about 145 traders, leaving many families facing significant losses. The county government, he noted, is working with stakeholders to support affected traders, facilitate recovery efforts and rebuild the market.

Kamuri said the reconstruction process presents an opportunity to modernize the facility and undertake the phased removal and safe disposal of asbestos roofing materials in line with public health and environmental safety standards.

The deputy governor also reflected on the recent Utumishi Girls Academy dormitory fire that claimed the lives of young learners, describing the tragedy as a wake-up call for leaders, school administrators, boards of management, parents and government agencies to prioritize the safety and well-being of children.

“Every learner deserves a safe and secure environment in which to learn, grow and pursue their dreams,” he said.

Addressing concerns surrounding the proposed Ebola quarantine facility at Laikipia Air Base, Kamuri acknowledged the intense public

discussion the issue has generated locally and nationally.

While noting that many questions remain, he urged residents and leaders to seek clarity through constructive engagement and informed dialogue.

“May every action taken be informed by truth, responsibility, consultation and the best interests of both present and future generations,” he stated.

Kamuri called on Kenyans to pray for traders affected by the market fire, families grieving lost loved ones, healthcare workers, security personnel and leaders tasked with making critical decisions.

The deputy governor expressed confidence that through unity, wisdom and collective action, Laikipia would overcome its current challenges and emerge stronger.



Laikipia County Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri.

The Mt. Kenya Times



Even monkeys fall from trees



branches firmly
Sometimes they play to catch others,
In that time they are very cautious to escape,
They jump furiously from one to another.
It also leads them to fall down.

Rajesh Kanna B N

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

Practice makes everyone perfect.
Even the athletes may fall down in their wrong
steps

Some negligence and hesitation in climbing
May leads to fall down from the top.

Some ailments may bring instability in our work
While climbing on the steps, walking on the roads
Skids, jerks ,slips and sudden thuds
Causes to fall down from your own side.

Many times we see some monkeys
easily jump tree to tree by clinging to the

Rabbit heart



There's a tremble in me,
a soft, frantic flutter,
like a rabbit's heartbeat
held too close to the chest.
Fragile, fast, wild with fear
a pulse that never settles,
always half a beat away
from breaking.

I wear this heart like armor,
though it feels too small, too thin,
a shield of silence and shadows,
darting through fields of fear.

Each thud a whispered reminder:
run, run before you're seen,
before the world finds the cracks
and slips through.

But there's bravery in small things
in the way I keep breathing,
in the way I dare to hope
while crouched low, listening
to the echoes of my own courage.

This rabbit heart beats on,
fragile yet fierce,
soft yet surviving
learning to trust its own rhythm,
even as it races,
even as it hides.

Keith Onyango
Journalism, communication and PR
Rongo university

Time is borrowed, use it well



Lost time never returns, they say,
Like sand that slips and steals away.
"Time and tide wait for none,"
Whispers the moon, outpacing the sun.

We walk through life with careless feet,
Believing tomorrow will always repeat.
Enough time to heal, enough time to grow,
Enough time to reap what today we sow.

Enough time to understand our soul,
To mend the cracks that make us whole.
Enough time to tell our parents dear
How much their silent love lives here.

Enough time to hold a trembling hand,
To speak the words they'd understand.
Enough time to build the long-dreamed home,
Before our hearts grow tired and lone.

Enough time to finish dreams delayed,
Degrees abandoned, promises frayed.

Enough time to board the distant train,
To dance beneath unfamiliar rain.

But time flies faster than wings of light,
Turning gold mornings into night.
Parents leave like autumn air,
And empty chairs keep waiting there.

The things we wished to do for them
Fade like ink from an old-time pen.
The words left unspoken, the unshared gifts,
Become the weight that memory lifts

So cherish the hours while they remain,
Before they drift like summer rain.
For time is borrowed, not our own
A fleeting seed the wind has sown.

Spend it in kindness, love, and grace,
In lingering hugs and moments we embrace.
For when life's final dusk is drawn,
Only the love we've given lives on.

Use time with prudence,while still in hand
Speak your heart,make it clear
For clocks may stop and seasons part
But cherished moments outlive the heart.

Nandini AnandKumar
Educator, Writer,Motivator,Freelancer

Life begins at the end of the comfort zone



Everyone wants to live in a comfort zone,
But life truly begins beyond the comfort zone.
Life itself is the biggest challenge,
To understand it, we need knowledge.
Young birds fear flying high in the sky,

Yet they leave their comfort zone and try.
A seed struggles to burst from its shell,
Creating the power of its own will.
Young ones learn to search for food alone,
Stepping out from their mother's comfort zone.
All creatures in this world face challenges to win,
For everyone knows
Life begins at the end of the comfort zone.
C Santhi
Graduate Teacher
Bhuvanagiri

The mercy between flames



Can save a dying soul with just one smile.

For rage is only pain without a guide,
And patience is the strength that learns to hide.

The deepest wars are fought inside the soul,
Where silence holds the heart and keeps it whole.

The world remembers every wound made in anger,

But heaven remembers every storm you chose
not to become.

M. Ashwin Niranjana,
IInd PhD (Forestry),
Doctoral Research Fellow,
Forest College and Research Institute, TNAU
Mettupalayam

The tongue can wound before the sword is drawn,
And burn a thousand bridges before the break of
dawn.

A storm of anger blinds the wisest eyes,
While patience hears the truth beneath the cries.

One reckless word can bury years of trust,
And turn pure hearts to silence, cold and dust.

But those who hold their thunder for a while,

A moment of patience during a moment of anger saves you a hundred moments of regret



Patience is deeper than the sea.
When you are angry, you must keep silent.
It gives you a way to solve problems wisely.
When you are affected by anger, you cannot make
the right decisions.

You should take your own time.
Time heals many problems very well.
You should not respond immediately, because it
may lead you down the wrong path.

When you feel angry, be calm.
Calmness gives you the right path and helps solve
your problems.
You should think before you act.
If you remain angry, you will lose all the people
around you.
Patience is the ladder of success.
So, A moment of patience during a moment of
anger saves you a hundred moments of regret.

___G.YasminSirajudheen
Secondary grade teacher
Melmalayanur block
Villupuram dt.

Church The DP said the Church is best placed to assist them to nurture better spiritual wellbeing which is necessary for an all-round development

Kindiki: Church indispensable in Kenya's spiritual development and wellbeing

BY DPCS
@themkenyaintimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has beseeched the Church to lead the way in building a strong, moral and spiritual foundation for people of Kenya to experience holistic development.

The DP said the Church is best placed to assist them to nurture better spiritual wellbeing which is necessary for an all-round development of the individual and the nation.

"We beseech the church to continue working on the spiritual aspect of the nation. As Government, we are interested in the church's leadership in spiritual matters of the people of Kenya," DP noted.

The Second in Command spoke on Saturday during the



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki addressing the congregation.

launch of the Social, Economic and Psychological Transformation Programme by the ACK Nairobi Diocese in Ruai, Nairobi County.

The DP, who represented President William Ruto at the

event, said the country cannot be built through good infrastructure alone but via a combination of both hardware and software aspects of it.

"It doesn't help to build a country that is full of brilliant

engineers, doctors, scientists and researchers who are seriously troubled spiritually. As a Church, help us nurture the software of our nation because we are confronting real challenges in our homes, so-

cities and institutions," DP added.

The Deputy President said roads, hospitals, electricity and other infrastructural investments constitute the nation's hardware while the people's spirituality represents the nation's software.

"The hardware and software are equally important. If we combine a strong infrastructure development with a strong software of patriotic, hardworking, God-believing people then our vision, ambition and objectives as a nation will be fulfilled," he explained.

Prof. Kindiki called on the Church to focus more on the wellbeing of the young people who are looking to moral and spiritual guidance as they navigate life's challenges.

In reference to the recent dormitory fire incident at Utumishi Girls School in Gilgil, Nakuru County where a number of students perished, the DP said preliminary investigations point to unresolved issues affecting the students.

"We must work on the spiritual aspect of the young people to prevent similar happenings elsewhere. The students had problems and expressed themselves through burning their dormitory leading to the

horrible outcome," he said.

As he deeply expressed his commiserations to the affected families, the DP urged students to seek amicable resolution to their concerns instead of violence.

"We must all rally together and mentor the young people and implore them that life's challenges cannot be solved through violence, destruction of property or harm to themselves or others," he said.

The Deputy President welcomed the socio-development programmes by the ACK Church saying they complement similar initiatives by the government. He said the Church has been a critical partner to the country's development for decades.

"The Government appreciates the role of the Church in Kenya's development. The ACK Church has contributed immensely to the nation's growth. Like many churches keen on development of the nation, they are not only focused on the faith of their members but the holistic wellbeing of every Kenyan and the nation at large," DP noted.

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Education The judges further ruled that the Ministry of Health acted outside its legal mandate when it attempted to interfere with the university programme

Reprieve for over 200 MKU students as Court quashes CS order to stop Oral Health degrees



MKU Oral Health students and lecturers during a free oral health clinic. | Photo: File.

BY James Wakahiu

@themkenyatimes

about 225 students are celebrating after the High Court quashed a directive by Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale seeking to discontinue Mount Kenya University (MKU)'s Bachelor of Science in Oral Health programme.

In a judgment delivered by Justice William Musyoka, the Milimani High Court ruled that the Cabinet Secretary acted without legal authority when he issued an order directing MKU to discontinue its Bachelor of Science in Oral Health programme.

In the landmark ruling, the court affirmed that the programme is legally accredited by the Commission for University Education (CUE) and therefore remains valid and operational.

The judges further ruled that the Ministry of Health ac-

ted outside its legal mandate when it attempted to interfere with the university programme.

The case centered on the Ministry's directive aimed at halting the Bachelor of Science in Oral Health course, a programme offered under MKU's Department of Dental Sciences.

The programme is registered with the Oral Health Association of Kenya and has been attracting students seeking careers in oral healthcare and dental therapy.

In its judgment, the court emphasised that the authority to approve, regulate, review or discontinue university academic programmes rests exclusively with the Commission for University Education under the Universities Act.

The Ministry of Health, the court noted, does not possess legal powers to shut down or suspend accredited university

programmes.

The judges also considered the far-reaching implications that the directive would have had on students already enrolled in the course.

More than 225 students stood to be affected, with their studies, professional training and future careers facing uncertainty had the directive been allowed to stand.

By reversing the Ministry's decision, the court protected the academic interests and professional aspirations of the affected learners while reinforcing the legal framework governing higher education in Kenya.

The ruling means that the Bachelor of Science in Oral Health programme at MKU remains fully recognised and protected under the law.

Current students can continue with their studies without interruption, while prospective students can pursue ad-

mission knowing that the programme retains its accredited status.

The decision also serves as a reminder that only the Commission for University Education has the statutory authority to approve, regulate or discontinue university programmes, ensuring that such decisions are made within the framework established by law.

For MKU students and stakeholders in the health sector, the judgment provides clarity and certainty, safeguarding a programme that plays a crucial role in training oral health professionals needed in the country's healthcare system.

Association

The case was filed by the Oral

Health Association of Kenya against the CS for Health after the Ministry of Health sent a letter ordering MKU to discontinue the programme.

The Ministry had claimed that the programme was not aligned with Kenya's oral health needs.

The government also averred that students might lack a professional practice pathway afterward. The court had to determine whether the Ministry had authority to stop the programme and whether the case itself was properly before court.

The court confirmed that the Bachelor of Science in Oral Health programme at MKU was approved and accredited by the Commission for University Education (CUE) back in 2016.

It ruled that the Ministry of Health has nonlegal power to discontinue the programme.

The judge ruled that: "under the Universities Act, only the Commission for University Education (CUE) has authority to approve, accredit, recognize,

inspect, or discontinue university academic programme.

The Ministry was found to have acted outside its mandate (ultra vires), improperly, and in violation of the Universities Act.

Although the Ministry tried to argue that the letter was merely "advice," the judge examined the wording and concluded it was actually an order to shut down the programme.




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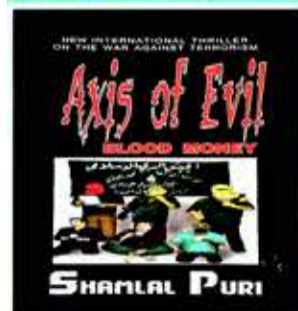
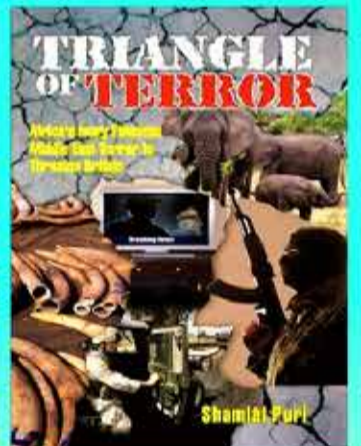
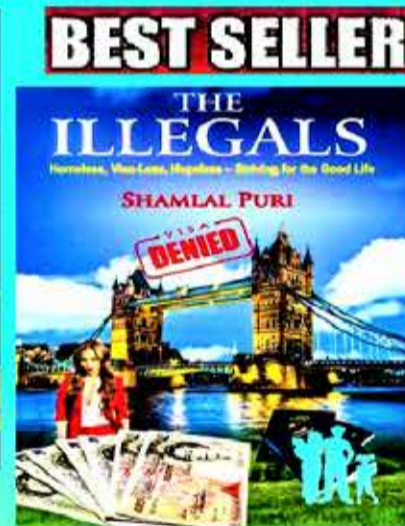
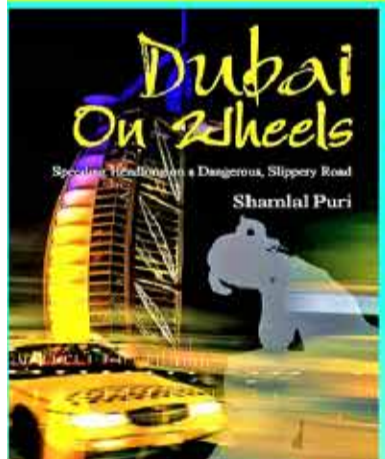
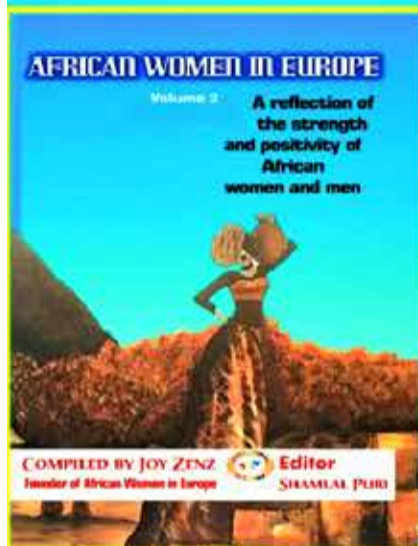
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Pride At first, pride feels harmless. It whispers that you are special, that you are above the rest, that effort is no longer necessary because you are chosen.

Crowned by gift, crushed by pride

“How Talent, When Worshipped Instead of Honored, Slowly Devours the One Who Carries It”



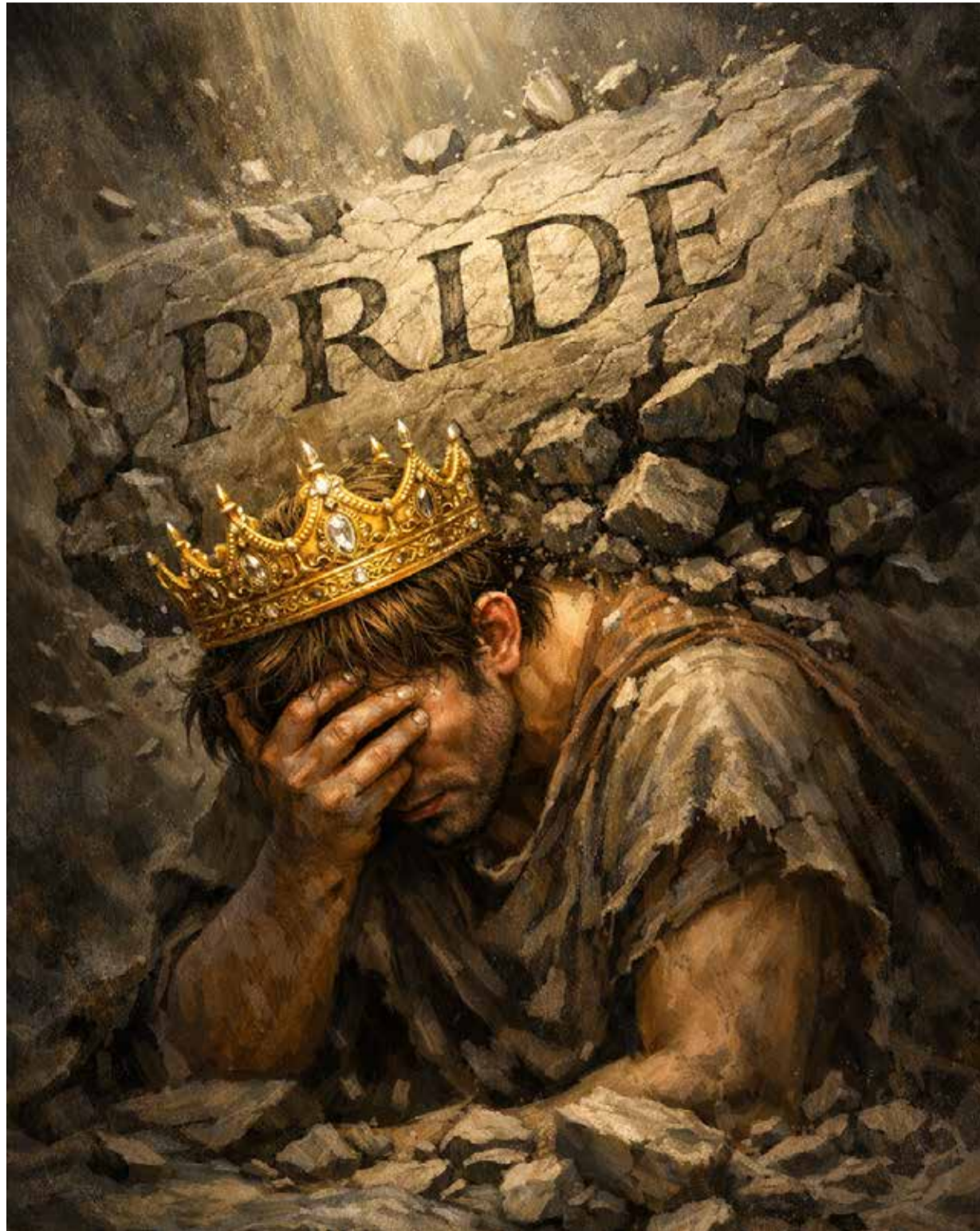
By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
mukphix@gmail.com

There is a peculiar tragedy that walks quietly among the gifted. It does not arrive with failure or rejection. It arrives with applause. It is born in recognition, nurtured in admiration, and fattened by praise until it takes root deep in the soul. By the time its victim notices, that root has already choked the life out of the gift. This tragedy is not the absence of talent. It is the corruption of it — through pride.

To be gifted is to be entrusted with something sacred. A talent is not merely an ability you earned. It is a seed planted in the soil of your existence, waiting to be nurtured, disciplined, and refined. But what happens when the one entrusted with this seed mistakes it for a crown instead of a calling? What happens when the gift becomes a mirror for vanity rather than a vessel for purpose?

At first, pride feels harmless. It whispers that you are special, that you are above the rest, that effort is no longer necessary because you are chosen. It replaces hunger with comfort and discipline with entitlement. Slowly, the fire that once came without effort now has to be begged for. The words that once poured freely now have to be dragged from a dry well. The hands that once built what architects only sketched now feel clumsy and heavy, as though they have forgotten the language they were taught. You tell yourself you are tired. You tell yourself the industry changed. You tell yourself everyone goes through a dry season. But the truth is crueler than a dry season. You changed the weather.

Pride is not just arrogance with a loud mouth. It is theft with good PR. When you take credit for a gift you did not create, you are standing before the Divine and signing your name on a painting you did not paint. The Divine does not argue with thieves. The Divine does not debate with ego. The Divine simply with-



draws — not in anger, but in principle. A gift is a trust, not a possession. The moment you claim it as entirely yours, you break the contract. The moment you use it to feed your image, you pollute the very channel it was meant to flow through. The moment you turn the altar into a stage, the fire leaves.

From a higher vantage point, talent is never a reward for your greatness. It is a responsibility for other people's survival. You were given that voice so the mute could find

words. You were given that mind so the lost could find a map. You were given that beauty so the weary could remember that hope still has a face. Every time you brag, you step between the Giver and the receiver. You put yourself in the doorway. You turn the gift into a mirror and force everyone to look at you instead of through you. But mirrors do not transmit light — they only throw it back at themselves. And a room full of mirrors is still dark.

That is why a gift diminishes qui-

etly. It does not die with thunder. It slips away the way water slips through fingers that grip too tightly. One morning you wake up and the fire is cold. The words do not come. The ideas feel reheated. The crowd still claps, but you know — deep in your chest — that something sacred left the room and took the power with it. And no one can explain it to you, because you cannot reclaim what you insulted. You cannot command back what you took credit for. You cannot call home what you

claimed as your own.

This is the warning no one wants to hear because it costs you your ego. The thing you are most proud of is the thing you are most at risk of losing. The higher the gift, the heavier the humility required to carry it. The brighter the light, the deeper the hiddenness you must embrace. If you cannot carry a gift without making it about yourself, then you were never quite ready to hold it in the first place. Immaturity can receive. Only maturity can retain.

So fall on your face before the gift falls off your life. Repent for every time you took credit you did not earn. Return to the place where you trembled with gratitude instead of swelling with pride. Remember that you are not the river — you are the pipe. And pipes do not boast about water. They simply stay clean, unclogged, and open so the water can pass through to someone else's thirst. The moment a pipe starts applauding itself, it clogs. The moment a vessel starts admiring its own shape, it cracks.

Your talent was never meant to build your kingdom. It was meant to build something far greater. The moment you redirect it toward your own empire, the materials begin to turn to dust in your hands. That is why it diminishes — not because the Divine is cruel, but because the Divine is holy. And holiness does not share glory with ego. It will quietly step back so you can see, clearly and painfully, what life looks like without it. And that life, though loud, though busy, though followed by many, feels hollow at its core.

If you still hear the whisper — if you still feel the flicker — then bow low while you still have something left to bow with. Lay the gift back down. Stop announcing it. Stop branding it. Stop using it as proof that you are extraordinary. Start hiding it again in humility until the Giver tells you to lift it. Because gifts that are hidden in humility last far longer than gifts paraded in pride. Gifts that are surrendered are sustained. Gifts seized by ego are eventually returned to the One who gave them.

And when you finally understand that the gift was never truly yours, you just might get it back — not for your name, not for your brand, not for your platform, but for the people still waiting in the dark for the healing that only your obedience can carry.

The world does not need another talented person with a large ego. The world needs a surrendered person with a quiet mouth and a clean heart.

Be that person again. Before the fire goes out completely.

Branding A product may solve a problem, but a brand answers a deeper question: Why should customers trust you over countless alternatives?

In the Age of AI, does branding matter more than the product?



By: Daniel Tusiimukye
@themtkenyatimes

As artificial intelligence lowers the barriers to creating products, a new debate is taking shape among entrepreneurs, marketers, and business leaders: If everyone can build a product, does branding become more important than the product itself?

The rise of AI-powered tools has made it easier than ever to create software, design websites, launch online businesses, and automate processes that once required specialized expertise. What was once a significant competitive advantage is quickly becoming accessible to anyone with an internet connection and a good idea.

In such an environment, many argue that branding has become the ultimate differentiator.

A product may solve a problem, but a brand answers a deeper question: Why should customers trust you over countless alternatives? In the age of AI, the real question may not be whether the brand is bigger than the product, but



Prominent brands

whether a product can stand out at all without a strong brand behind it.

This phenomenon is evident among some of the world's most successful companies. Despite recurring criticism that its products are no longer as revolutionary as they once were, Apple continues to command extraordinary customer loyalty and generate massive revenues. Consumers are not simply buying devices; they are buying into a story, a reputation, and a promise of quality.

Yet experts caution against viewing branding as a substi-

tute for a good product.

"A great brand can get someone to try a product. A great product is what gets them to stay," is a sentiment increasingly shared across the business community.

In reality, product quality and branding are not competing forces; they are complementary. A weak product may benefit from strong branding for a short time, but dissatisfied customers eventually leave. Conversely, an excellent product may struggle to gain traction if nobody knows it exists.

Visibility, trust, and distri-

bution have become critical factors. In crowded markets where consumers face an overwhelming number of choices, branding helps reduce uncertainty. It signals credibility and creates familiarity before a customer even experiences the product.

Modern branding has evolved beyond logos, colours, and slogans. It encompasses the founder's story, the company's mission, customer experiences, tone of voice, visual identity, and the emotional connection a business creates with its audience.

As products become increasingly commoditised, trust becomes scarcer. Consumers are no longer evaluating products solely on features and functionality; they are also evalu-

ating the people, values, and stories behind them.

The businesses that will thrive in the AI era are unlikely to be those with the most advanced technology alone. Success will belong to organisations that combine useful products with authentic brands, effective distribution channels, and lasting customer trust.

Artificial intelligence may make it possible for almost anyone to build a product. Building a brand that people remember, trust, and advocate for, however, remains a far more difficult challenge, and perhaps the most valuable competitive advantage of all.

The writer is an author and TEDx Speaker.



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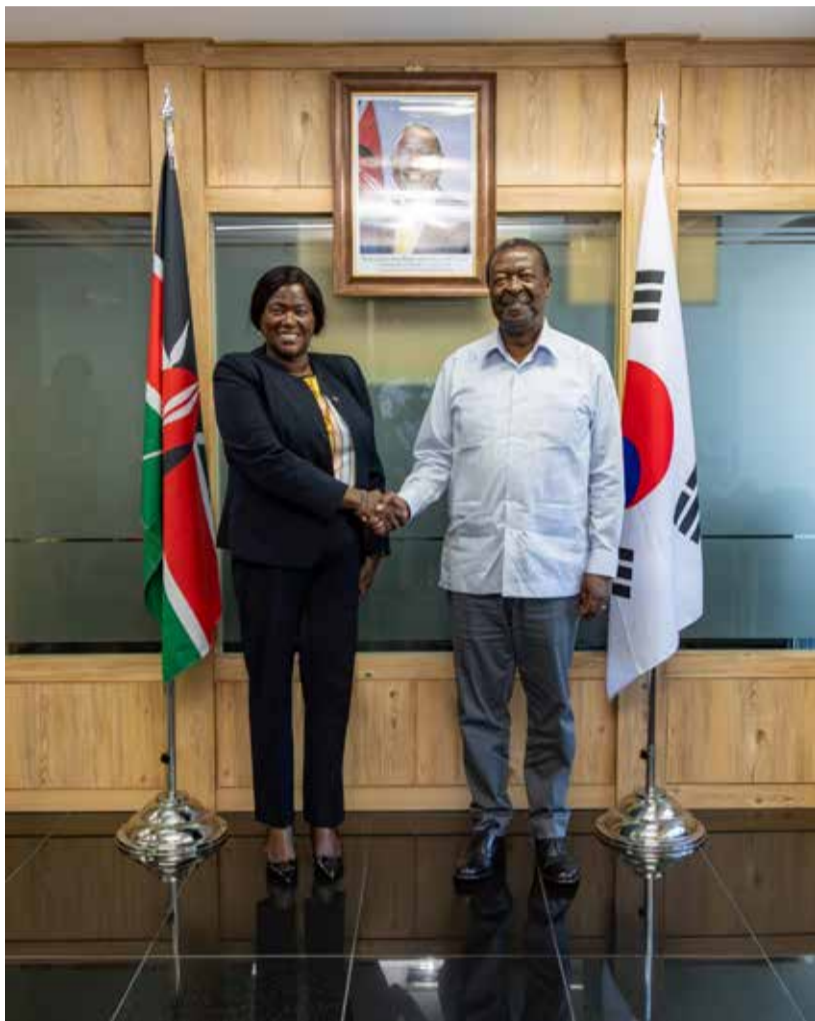
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Summit “We have established very strong economic and technical cooperation, as well as vibrant people to people exchanges.

Mudavadi in Seoul ahead of the South Korea, African Foreign Ministers Summit



Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi poses for a photo with Head of Kenyan Mission in Seoul Amb. Emmy Kipsoi at the Kenyan Embassy in South Korea. | Photo: Humphrey Odhiambo.

BY OPCS

@themtkenyatimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs Musalia Mudavadi is in Seoul, South Korea for the first standalone Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' meeting.

Mudavadi who is leading the Kenyan delegation attending the summit was received by the Head of the Kenyan Mission in Seoul, Amb. Prof Emmy Kipsoi.

The summit brings together representatives from 54 African countries and four regional organizations as Seoul seeks to deepen economic ties, diversify supply chains and strengthen cooperation on global challenges.

He said Kenya will be presenting its agenda items at both the plenary and at the margins of the meeting based on the Kenya-Korea diplomatic relations established six decades ago.

nology transfer.

He said Korea extends significant Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Kenya and there is also growing Korean investment in the fields of Manufacturing, Industry and Infrastructural sectors, which will further be boosted by the recent establishment of Korea Exim Bank Offices in Nairobi.

“During this meeting Kenya will be keen to showcase additional investment opportunities and to boost market access for Kenyan products in Korea. The take home will be of great value to our growing partnership in trade and investment, as we aim to address the trade imbalance that has for long favoured South Korea.” said Mudavadi.

Under the theme of “Partnership for Joint Responses to Global Challenges,” the Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' meeting, marks the first ministerial meeting of its kind independently hosted by the South Korean government.

It follows the inaugural Korea-Africa Summit held in June 2024 and

the meeting will also be attended by the heads of four African international organizations namely the African Union (AU), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (AU CDC).

South Korea is calling Africa a crucial partner, particularly amid geopolitical tensions and supply chain crises, and the two sides will be seeking ways to achieve mutual prosperity and a sustainable future during the meeting.

According to the organizers of the summit, key thematic areas will focus on economic cooperation through adopting resolutions that will help boost and secure stable supply chains for critical minerals and energy resources in light of rising global geopolitical risks; sustainable growth in expanding trade ties, green transition projects, and digital innovation partnerships and discussions on global diplomacy that will ride on foundations set during

the 2024 Summit to foster mutual prosperity and strengthen long-term structured partnerships.

Ministers will hold two plenary sessions. The first session, titled “Strengthening Economic Cooperation: Promoting Shared Prosperity and Sustainable Growth,” will review cooperation in trade, investment, infrastructure, science and technology, education, food security and supply chains, while exploring ways to expand economic engagement between South Korea and African economies.

The second session, “Joint Responses to Global Challenges: Korea-Africa Solidarity,” will discuss practical cooperation in development assistance, climate action, public health, peace and security, and people-to-people exchanges.

In an earlier interview with Korean Media, the South Korea Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said Africa is emerging as a key hub for global connectivity and future growth, backed by its young population, abundant resources and strategic location.

The meeting will be accompanied by a Korea-Africa Business Forum involving government agencies and private-sector participants.



Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi with the Kenyan delegation ahead of the Korea-Africa Ministerial Summit in Seoul. Photo/Humphrey Odhiambo.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Balancing spiritual growth with worldly responsibilities



By: **B. Murali Krishna**

Many people believe that spirituality requires withdrawing from worldly life, avoiding responsibilities, or spending long hours in meditation. However, true spirituality is not about escaping the world but about learning to live in it with awareness, balance, and inner peace. A meaningful spiritual journey can be pursued while fulfilling personal, professional, and social responsibilities sincerely.

The essence of spirituality lies in consciousness. When duties are performed with sincerity, compassion, and detachment from results, every-

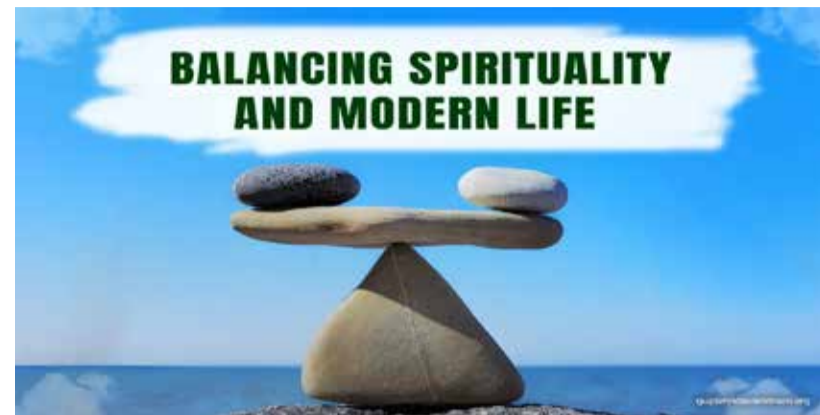
day life itself becomes a spiritual practice. A simple household responsibility, such as preparing food for one's family, can become an act of love and service when done with care and gratitude. The external action may remain ordinary, but the intention behind it transforms its spiritual value.

One of the most important aspects of spiritual living is awareness in daily interactions. Life constantly tests our patience, ego, and emotions through challenging situations. Spirituality is not measured only during prayer or meditation but in how calmly and compassionately we respond to others. When someone speaks harshly or behaves unfairly, reacting with anger is easy. Choosing patience, understanding, and self-control in such moments reflects true inner growth. These everyday situations become opportunities to practice self-mastery.

At the same time, spiritual development also requires dedicated time for inner reflection. Even a few minutes of silence, meditation, prayer, or reading uplifting literature can bring clarity and emotional balance. In today's fast-paced world, many people begin their mornings by immediately checking phones or social media, which creates mental restlessness. Starting the day with silence and mindfulness can help cultivate peace and focus throughout the day.

A beautiful example often used in spirituality is the lotus flower. The lotus grows in muddy water yet remains untouched by the impurity around it. Similarly, human beings can live amidst stress, competition, and worldly distractions without losing inner calmness and values. The goal is not to reject worldly life but to remain centered within it.

Ultimately, the world itself becomes



a classroom for spiritual growth. Family responsibilities, workplace pressures, relationships, and challenges are not obstacles to spirituality; they are opportunities to practice patience, compassion, humility, and detachment. A balanced life is achieved when spiritual wisdom is not separated from daily living but integrated into every action.

True spirituality is not about abandoning responsibilities. It is about performing them with awareness, love, and inner peace while remaining connected to one's higher self.

B. Murali Krishna
Hyderabad

Kenya's newest political theatre: the burial campaign



By **Thuku wa Mwangi**

Kenyan politicians have turned

funerals into campaign rallies — showing up uninvited, seizing the microphone, donating cash publicly, and leaving before the burial.

The formula is cynically efficient. A funeral gathers hundreds, sometimes thousands, at zero cost. Mourners are too grief-stricken to heckle. Local radio and Facebook Live broadcast the speech for free. In one striking example, during the burial of the late Rev. Dumia

of PCEA Tabuga, Bahati MP Irene Njoki announced donations from President William Ruto — a gesture that raised immediate public questions about the appropriateness of presidential politics at a graveside.

The underlying reason is structural. When political parties lack genuine grassroots presence, social gatherings become substitute campaign platforms. As one political analyst observed: "The funeral becomes

a replacement for policy debate." Aspirants routinely attend burials of people they never knew, families they have never visited, and communities they will not return to until the next death — or the next election.

Church leaders are increasingly saying enough. Both the Catholic Bishops of Kenya and the National Council of Churches of Kenya have issued statements urging politicians

to keep politics away from the altar and the grave. Some congregations now cap speeches at two minutes and prohibit cash handouts at the pulpit.

Until voters punish those who turn grief into theatre, the campaign convoys will keep rolling into villages they only visit when someone dies.

The contract discount for teachers' children: what about children from ordinary families?



By: **Rajabova Zebo Sobirjon**

The news that children of teachers may receive a 30% tuition contract discount starting from the 2026/2027 academic year has caused major discussions on social media. While some people see it as

a sign of respect for teachers, others are asking about the children of ordinary families. Because today, it is ordinary families who are experiencing the greatest financial difficulties. Imagine this: on one side, there is a teacher's family working in the public sector. They have a stable salary, social benefits, and now their child may also receive a tuition discount. On the other side, there are ordinary families — fathers working in markets, mothers sewing clothes, laborers, or families surviving on daily income. Their children also enter universities, stay awake at night studying for tests, and dream about their future. But

when the time comes to pay tuition fees, they receive no discount at all. In fact, the biggest question starts here: why is support being given based on profession? Today, many ordinary families are taking loans just to pay tuition fees for their children. Some young people are even forced to quit their studies and work instead because tuition fees increase every year. In some fields, the amount is becoming equal to an ordinary family's yearly income. The saddest part is that some talented young people are giving up on their dreams because of money. Imagine two students who received the same exam score. One gets mil-

lions of soums in discounts simply because they are a teacher's child. The other pays the full tuition fee because they come from a working-class family. This situation is increasing questions among young people about whether there is equality in education. Of course, teachers should be supported. Teachers play an important role in society. But the hard work of ordinary families is no less valuable. The child of a father working in construction under the hot sun, a mother selling goods in the market, or a person working abroad and sending money home may also need support. When the sense of justice disappears in soci-

ety, dissatisfaction grows. Because young people today are feeling one thing clearly: privileges are not equal for everyone. Perhaps the fairest solution would be to provide discounts not based on profession, but on the real financial condition of families. Then not only teachers' children, but also children from genuinely struggling ordinary families, would have opportunities. Education should not be a privilege — it should be an equal opportunity open to everyone.

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Sports >> *Reigning French Open champion Coco Gauff saw her Roland Garros title defence come to a dramatic end on Saturday as she was defeated in three sets by Austrian Anastasia Potapova

Defending Champion Coco Gauff Eliminated from French Open by Anastasia Potapova



Reigning French Open champion Coco Gauff

By Norman Mwale

PARIS — Reigning French Open champion Coco Gauff saw her Roland Garros title defence come to a dramatic end on Saturday as she was defeated in three sets by Austrian Anastasia Potapova, the 28th seed, on Court Philippe-Chatrier. The fourth-seeded American, who lifted the Suzanne Lenglen Cup in 2025, fell 4-6, 7-6 (7/1), 6-4 in the third round after being a break up in the deciding set, joining a growing list of marquee names to exit early from this year's tournament.

Gauff insisted afterwards that the weight of being defending champion had not affected her performance, distinguishing the occasion from her experience at the 2024 US Open when she entered as the title-holder. "I think

at the US Open it did a lot more but honestly this time it didn't. I wasn't really nervous," Gauff told reporters. "That's what's more frustrating because I felt like I learned a lot from that US Open experience and I'm a better player since then and I just don't think I portrayed that today." The 22-year-old added that she simply failed to capitalise at key moments. "I had chances. Just trying to capitalise more on these good points that I was hitting and not quite finishing... that was the difference, she was able to finish the points and I wasn't."

Potapova, the Russian-born world number 30 who represents Austria, produced the match of her life to record a career third win over Gauff and reach the fourth round in Paris for only the second time. "I think I've had a

few big wins before, but I'd put it top three for sure," Potapova said on court after the two-hour and 37-minute contest. "I'm cramping a little bit, but it's OK, it's all good. I don't have any words now, I'm extremely happy." The 25-year-old was full of praise for her opponent. "The fight we could show... Coco's such a champion and I respect her so much. I'm unbelievably proud of myself, that I stayed there, and that I was fighting until the last point."

The match swung repeatedly across a breathless two hours and 37 minutes. After losing her opening service game, Gauff struck back to break Potapova in the eighth and 10th games and take the first set. Potapova responded with two consecutive breaks to race 3-0 ahead at the start of the second, only

for her own serve to desert her as the next five games all produced breaks. Gauff saved two set points, levelled at 5-5 and held again, but Potapova forced a tie-break where a double fault left Gauff 5-0 down before the Austrian closed it out 7-1. In the decider, Gauff drew first blood to lead 3-1, yet Potapova broke back to level at 3-3, held firm from deuce with what TNT Sports described as "gutsy play", and broke again for 5-4 before serving out the match.

Seven-time French Open champion Chris Evert, analysing for TNT Sports, said Potapova had "played the match of her life". "It's her day, it's her court, it's her match. She kept coming back. She believed in herself, she was patient and disciplined," Evert said. "And Coco, who was one of the favourites to win this, has to be devastated."

The defeat marks Gauff's earliest exit at Roland Garros since 2020 and is set to see her drop out of the world's top five for the first time since September 2024, with nearly all of the 2,000 ranking points earned from last year's title now lost. Potapova, who has matched her best Grand Slam result, will face 22nd seed Anna Kalinskaya in the fourth round on Monday as she continues a strong clay-court season that included a final in Linz and a semi-final in Madrid.

Gauff's exit follows those of men's top seed Jannik Sinner and 24-time major winner Novak Djokovic earlier in the week, while Amanda Anisimova also fell on Saturday to Frenchwoman Diane Parry. With four-time champion Iga Swiatek and world number one Aryna Sabalenka still in contention, the draw has opened significantly. For Gauff, attention now shifts to the grass-court season and Wimbledon, where she will look to rebound after last year's first-round loss.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Paris Saint-Germain's second successive Champions League title, sealed with a penalty shoot-out victory over Arsenal in Budapest on May 30

Clashes and arrests taint PSG's Champions League triumph — 416 detained

By Norman Mwale

PARIS — Paris Saint-Germain's second successive Champions League title, sealed with a penalty shoot-out victory over Arsenal in Budapest on May 30, was overshadowed by widespread unrest across France as celebrations descended into violence, leaving seven police officers injured and 416 people detained nationwide, including 283 in Paris, the French interior ministry said on Sunday.

An unprecedented security operation saw 22,000 officers deployed across the country, 8,000 of them in the capital, after similar disturbances marred PSG's first European crown last year. Despite tram lines being halted, several metro stations closed and bus services suspended in parts of Paris, thousands poured onto the streets the moment the final whistle confirmed PSG's 4-3 shoot-out win following a 1-1 draw at the Puskas Arena. Police said some 20,000 supporters converged on the Champs-Élysées, where shops had pre-emptively boarded up windows to avoid a repeat of the looting seen in 2025.

Interior minister Laurent Nunez condemned the disorder as "absolutely unacceptable" and confirmed that seven officers had been wounded during clashes. "I condemn this strongly, there are always hundreds of individuals responsible for these excesses during these festivities who look to clash with law enforcement," he told Europe 1 radio, praising officers for preventing further damage and looting. The ministry reported that six vehicles and two businesses were damaged, a bus shelter was destroyed near the Champs-Élysées, and a bakery and restaurant near the Parc des Princes were also hit. Two dozen flares and about 100 fireworks were seized by police during stop-and-searches.



Paris Saint-Germain's second successive Champions League title

Footage circulated on social media showed electric bikes set ablaze, flares launched into the night sky and shopfronts vandalised. A group of supporters stormed the Paris ring road, the périphérique, bringing traffic to a halt and letting off flares before officers moved in to clear the area. At the Parc des Princes, where more than 40,000 watched the match on giant screens, 4,000 to 5,000 people loitered outside and threw projectiles at police. Officers responded with tear gas after fireworks were aimed at them, and around 150 people attempted to breach one of the stadium gates before being pushed back. Makeshift barricades built from rental bicycles were dismantled by police in the 16th arrondissement.

The scale of the unrest drew sharp political reaction. Marine Le Pen, president of the National Rally, wrote on X: "Only in France does the victory of a football club spark riots. Only

in France does everyone feel compelled to lock themselves in their homes on a night of victory to avoid being confronted with violence". The match fell on an already congested evening in Paris, with singer Aya Nakamura performing at the Stade de France, rapper Damso at La Défense Arena and the French Open in full swing.

For PSG, the disorder was a troubling repeat of 2025, when celebrations of the club's first Champions League title left two people dead, including a 17-year-old boy, nearly 200 injured and more than 500 arrested nationwide. Players are still expected to take part in a victory parade on Sunday at the Champs-de-Mars near the Eiffel Tower, where about 100,000 people are anticipated, before a reception with President Emmanuel Macron at the Élysée Palace.

Despite the violence, the night marked a sporting milestone. PSG's triumph came after Ous-

mane Dembélé equalised from the penalty spot in the 65th minute to cancel out Kai Havertz's early opener for Arsenal, forcing the shoot-out. Yet the achievement was tempered by scenes that once again raised questions over public order. "The trouble started as soon as Arsenal went one-nil up," an onlooker told The Sun in Paris. "Chairs and bottles were thrown at the police, who then moved in to make arrests".

Police said it was not immediately clear how many of the 416 detained nationwide would be remanded in custody for further investigation. With a fan zone yet to be confirmed for future celebrations, Nunez said security would be increased for forthcoming events, adding: "We need to see where this fan zone will be organised". For now, a historic night for French football ends with the capital counting the cost.

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The Use Of Arabic Loanwords In Uzbek Literature: A Study On The 'Maf'Ulun' Pattern

By: Imrona Orifjonova

@themkenyatimes

Abstract

This thesis analyzes the pragmatic, semantic, and stylistic deployment of Arabic loanwords within Uzbek literature. In particular, it focuses on words structurally conforming to the Arabic "maf'ulun" (مفعول) morphological pattern (the passive participle) and examines their stylistic and semantic functions in literary prose. Through a targeted analysis of textual excerpts from Abdulla Qodiriy's seminal modernist novel "O'tkan Kunlar" (Days Gone By), this study demonstrates how these lexical units transcend mere vocabulary, operating as vital tools for psychological characterization, historical contextualization, and aesthetic refinement. The integration, phonetic adaptation, and ongoing vitality of these borrowings highlight the rich historical-linguistic contacts and the socio-cultural development of the Uzbek literary language.

Keywords: Arabic borrowings, maf'ulun pattern, lexical unit, literary text, Uzbek literature, semantics, stylistics, Abdulla Qodiriy, O'tkan Kunlar.

1. Introduction

The lexical treasury of the Uzbek language has been dynamically shaped throughout history through profound interactions with various external languages. Among these, Arabic occupies an exceptionally prominent position due to centuries of shared religious, scientific, educational, and cultural bonds. The historical adoption of Islam, the widespread establishment of traditional madrasas, the flourishing of regional scientific discourse, and the profound influence of classical Eastern literature all served as powerful catalysts for the integration of Arabic lexical strata into Uzbek speech.

Arabic loanwords are deeply embedded not only in religious, judicial, and academic domains but also function vibrantly within Uzbek artistic literature. Among the varied morphological structures borrowed, units adhering to the "maf'ulun" (مفعول) derivative pattern are exceptionally widespread. In Arabic grammar, this template functions as the passive participle, indicating an entity, state, or object that has undergone or received a specific action. In literary texts, these expressions

are highly favored by authors due to their conceptual depth, precise semantic delivery, and inherent stylistic resonance.

Prominent representatives of early 20th-century Uzbek modernist literature, such as Abdulla Qodiriy, Abdulhamid Cho'lpon, and Abdurauf Fitrat, skillfully leveraged Arabic loanwords to elevate the aesthetic quality of their narratives. This deliberate linguistic practice did not merely enrich the expressive palette of their works but also played a foundational role in standardizing and expanding the lexicon of the modern Uzbek literary language.

2. The Morphological Structure of the Maf'ulun Pattern

In Arabic, vocabulary generation relies on a systematic triconsonantal root system mapped onto specific morphological frameworks (wazn). The maf'ulun (مفعول) template serves as the primary formula for deriving passive participles from standard triconsonantal (thulathi mujarad) verbs. When integrated into the Uzbek language system, these units transitioned through complex phonetic and grammatical adaptation processes, smoothly conforming to Uzbek agglutinative syntax while retaining their core semantic essence of 'being the recipient of an action.'

Key baseline examples of this structural mapping include:

- Maktub (مکتوب) — derived from k-t-b (to write); literally meaning 'that which is written' (a letter).

- Ma'lum (معلوم) — derived from 'l-m (to know); literally meaning 'that which is known' (certain/evident).

- Mazkur (مذکور) — derived from dh-k-r (to remember/mention); literally meaning 'that which is mentioned' (aforementioned).

Over time, these units shed their strict foreign grammatical constraints within the target language, establishing themselves firmly as active vocabulary. In creative prose, their deployment introduces a sophisticated stylistic texture that enriches textual imagery and amplifies rhetorical impact.

3. Stylistic and Semantic Analysis in Abdulla Qodiriy's 'O'tkan Kunlar'

As the pioneer of the Uzbek novelistic genre, Abdulla Qodiriy demonstrated remarkable linguistic mastery in his historical masterpiece "O'tkan Kunlar" (Days Gone By). He purposefully utilized loanwords belonging to the maf'ulun pattern to

recreate historical atmospheres, reveal internal psychological tensions, and build complex character dynamics. Consider the following structural and contextual examples extracted from the novel:

1. "Qandog'dir bir xayol ichida o'tirg'uchi bu yigit Toshkentning mashhur a'yonlaridan bo'lg'an Yusufbek hojining o'g'li — Otabek."

Contextual Translation: 'This young man, sitting deeply immersed in some kind of thought, was Otabek—the son of one of Tashkent's most renowned notables, Yusufbek Hoji.'

Linguistic Feature: Mashhur (موشهور) — derived from sh-h-r (to celebrate/repute); means 'renowned' or 'celebrated'. Qodiriy uses it here to instantly establish the prominent social standing of the protagonist and his lineage.

2. "Homid mag'rur bir tusda Otabekka qaradi."

Contextual Translation: 'Homid looked at Otabek with an arrogant air.'

Linguistic Feature: Mag'rur (مغرور) — derived from ggh-r-r (to deceive/delude); in this context, it signifies 'proud' or 'arrogant'. It serves as an immediate psychological indicator of the antagonist Homid's malicious pride and adversarial disposition.

3. "Ertasiga Azizbek mazkur ikki kishini o'z huzuriga oldirib, maqtovchig'a ulug' mansab ato qilardi..."

Contextual Translation: 'The following day, Azizbek summoned the aforementioned two individuals into his presence and bestowed a grand rank upon the flatterer...'

Linguistic Feature: Mazkur (مذکور) — derived from dh-k-r (to mention); means 'aforementioned'. It performs a precise discourse-cohesive function, maintaining narrative continuity typical of historical administrative settings.

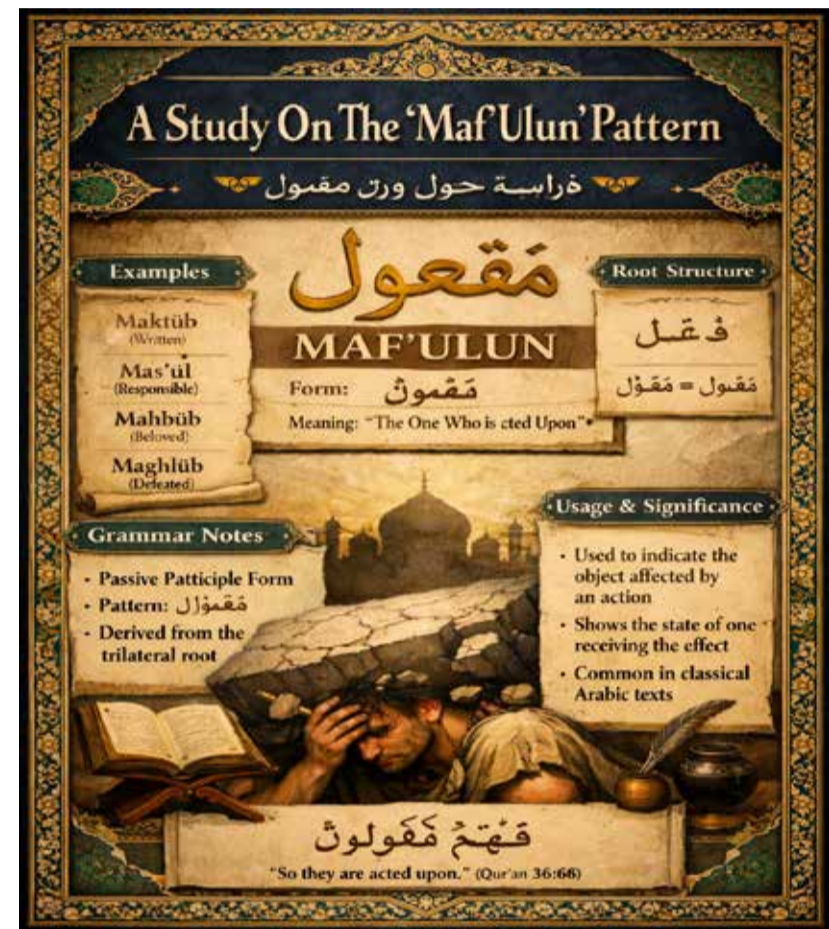
4. "Manim birinchi xolis tilagim mazlum xalq tilidan bo'ladir..."

Contextual Translation: 'My foremost sincere wish is spoken on behalf of the oppressed people...'

Linguistic Feature: Mazlum (مظلوم) — derived from z-l-m (to oppress); means 'oppressed' or 'wronged'. This term carries significant emotional weight, emphasizing the structural suffering of the common population and enriching the moral background of the dialogue.

5. "...bizning kishilarni quruq qaytarishg'a majbur qilibdir."

Contextual Translation: '...it has forced our people to return emp-



ty-handed.'

Linguistic Feature: Majbur (مجبور) — derived from j-b-r (to compel); means 'compelled' or 'forced'. It heightens the sense of external constraint and unavoidable pressure within the plotline.

6. "...qayin otasini o'limga mahkum qilganidek..."

Contextual Translation: '...just as he had condemned his father-in-law to death...'

Linguistic Feature: Mahkum (محكوم) — derived from h-k-m (to judge/rule); means 'sentenced' or 'condemned'. It provides a profound legal and existential tone, amplifying the dramatic weight of an absolute, tragic decision.

7. "...qo'lidagi maktubga va uni keltirg'uchi xotinga qarashmoqda edilar."

Contextual Translation: '...they were staring closely at the letter in his hand and at the woman who had delivered it.'

Linguistic Feature: Maktub (مکتوب) — derived from k-t-b (to write); means 'letter'. It is deployed here as a concrete narrative object that drives plot progression and creates suspense among characters.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, Arabic loanwords

have played an indispensable structural role in the evolution, stylistic enrichment, and diversification of the Uzbek literary language. Introduced over centuries through profound religious, academic, and socio-cultural interactions, these units have been thoroughly assimilated, transforming into an inseparable facet of national expression. Lexical borrowings conforming to the classic "maf'ulun" framework stand out distinctly due to their inherent semantic versatility, morphological elegance, and stylistic adaptability. The qualitative textual analysis of Abdulla Qodiriy's masterpiece "O'tkan Kunlar" proves that these Arabic derivatives perform critical narrative functions that extend far beyond simple ornamentation. They serve as essential literary vehicles used to reconstruct historical authenticity, reveal complex interior character psychologies, and heighten the overarching aesthetic value of prose. Today, these enduring lexical items remain vital, bridging classical traditions and contemporary linguistic frameworks, and underscoring the deep intercultural currents that continue to enrich modern Uzbek philology.