



KALRO conference to spotlight AI, climate-smart innovations in agriculture
Researchers, policymakers, farmers, agribusiness players and development partners are set to converge next week for the Second KALRO Scientific Conference

Page 8



A right violated, an outcome preserved: The dangerous contradiction in the Gachagua judgment
One of the oldest principles of constitutional democracy is remarkably simple: a process that violates fundamental rights cannot produce a legitimate outcome.

Page 12

THANK YOU FOR ADVERTISING WITH US
For any news you would wish us to publish,
email us: news@mountkenytimes.co.ke
For Adverts & Sponsorship
email us: ads@mountkenytimes.co.ke

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

No. 01566

KSh 60 (TSh 1,700 : USh 2,700 : RFr 900)



themtkenytimes

Voice of the People



www.mountkenytimes.co.ke

The Mt. Kenya Times

Daily ePAPER

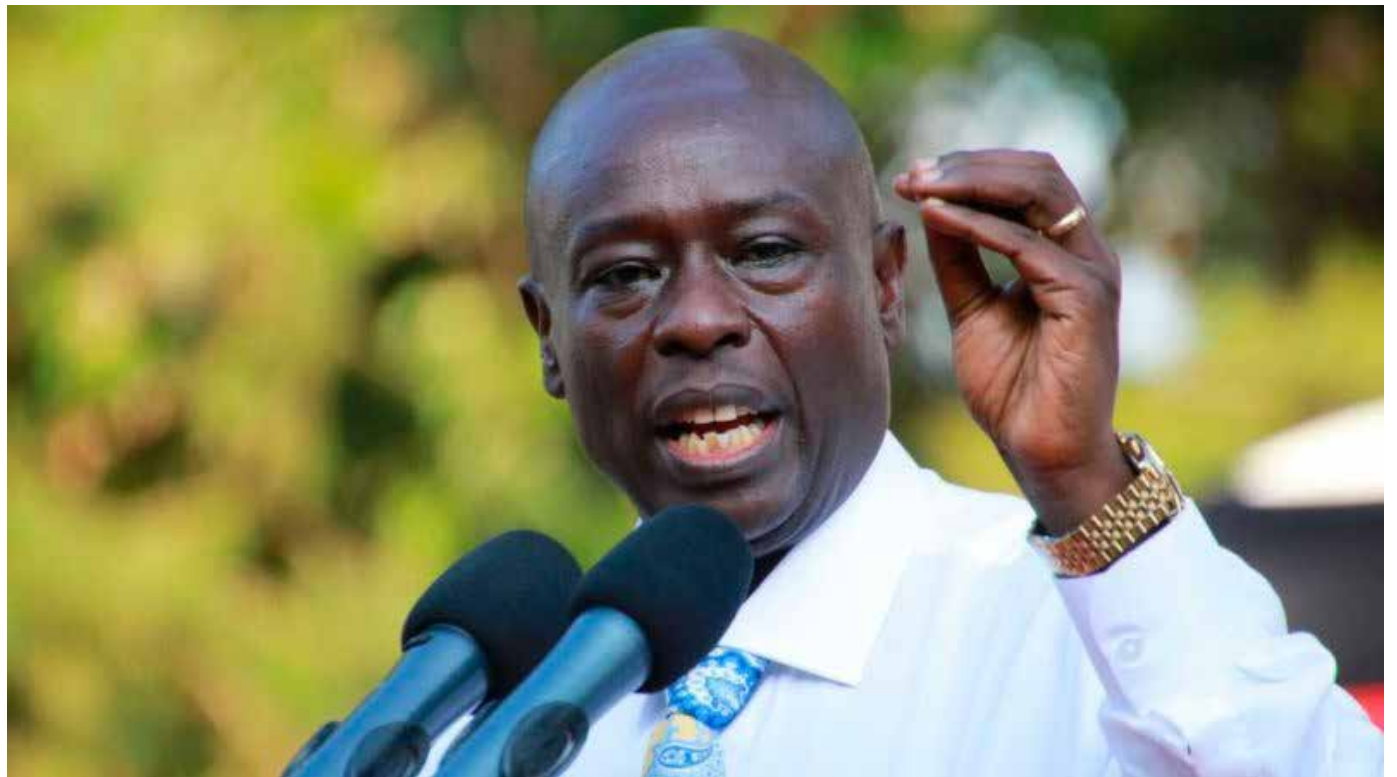
Politics From Monday I will camp in Wamunyor village for 45 days to start exhaustive and extensive consultations with my supporters - Gachagua

Gachagua retreats to Wamunyor to forge single opposition ticket

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua announced yesterday that he will withdraw from public politics for 45 days and retreat to his Wamunyor home in Mathira, Nyeri County, to lead consultations aimed at forging a single opposition presidential candidate to challenge President William Ruto in the 2027 General Election.

The announcement came a day after the High Court upheld the constitutionality of Gachagua's impeachment — but also awarded him Sh50 million in damages after finding that his right to a fair hearing had been violated during the Senate proceedings that removed him from office in October 2024. Gachagua said he would appeal the ruling, arguing that the principles of natural justice had been “trashed and ignored in broad daylight.” But even as his lawyers prepared their next legal move, the Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) leader made clear that his political focus had already shifted — from the courtroom to the village.

Page 9



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY
“ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY”

Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438
+254 706 237 040 / +254 724 613 401

business@exponentialinternational.com



SCAN TO REGISTER



“ALL BUSINESSES
ONE PLATFORM”

Government intensifies Ebola preparedness as it moves to address school unrest

BY DMS

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

The Government has stepped up measures to enhance national preparedness against Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) following reports of an outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, while also taking decisive action to address recent cases of unrest in a number of secondary schools across the country. On Ebola preparedness, Deputy President Kithure Kindiki said the government has heightened surveillance and response mechanisms to prevent any occurrence of the disease in Kenya. Measures already underway include strengthening Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) systems, enhancing surveillance at border crossings and other points of entry, mobilising health workers and medical supplies, and operationalising 23 isolation and treatment centres alongside four specialised laboratories. Recognising the cross-border nature of disease outbreaks, Kenya is also working closely with global, regional and bilateral partners to mobilise the human, financial and



Contd page 8

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.

Group Executive Chairman

M. Danson

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dan-mwangi-1b47446b/>**Our Contacts**

P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262

Editorial Desk: editorial@mtkenyatimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mtkenyatimes.co.ke,**News Desk:** news@mtkenyatimes.co.ke, **Web:** www.mtkenyatimes.co.ke**Facebook:** Mt. Kenya Times, **Instagram:** Mt. Kenya Times, **Twitter:** @themtkenyatimesLinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mt-kenya-times-a07999115/>

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"



"ALL BUSINESSES
ONE PLATFORM"



SCAN TO REGISTER

FREE
REGISTRATION



Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438



+254 706 237 040 / +254 721 274 369

+254 724 613 401 / +254 100 423 971

+254 724 613 401



business@exponentialinternational.com



www.businessavaibale.com

NEWS IN BRIEF



Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi has inspected several quarry sites across the county where gravel is being prepared to support ongoing road rehabilitation works. The governor toured Miguta Quarry in Ngewa Ward, Githunguri Sub-County, as well as sites in Karibaribi, Thika, and Kuraiha in Juja to assess operations and progress. The county government is stockpiling gravel for use in repairing and maintaining rural roads in various wards as part of efforts to improve transport and accessibility for residents. Wamatangi said the initiative reflects the county's commitment to upgrading road infrastructure, particularly in rural areas where poor road conditions have hampered the movement of people, goods and services. He added that road construction equipment is being deployed to ensure access roads remain passable throughout the year.



Residents of Gichagi Village in Ngong Ward, Kajiado North Sub-county, have elected five Village Council members to represent the village's five clusters in local governance. The exercise, held at the Gichagi Assistant Chief's office, forms part of the ongoing recruitment of village council elders across Kajiado County. Conducted under the Constitution of Kenya 2010, the County Governments Act 2012 and the Kajiado County

Village Delineation Act 2022, the elections aim to strengthen public participation and grassroots governance. The elected members will coordinate community engagement, monitor development programmes, advise administrators and promote effective village administration. Officials described the process as transparent and peaceful, urging the new council to work closely with residents to improve service delivery and address local concerns.



Vihiga Woman Representative Beatrice Adagala has underscored the critical role of community health promoters in strengthening healthcare delivery at the grassroots level. Speaking during an empowerment engagement held at Mbale Friends Primary School with community health promoters from Vihiga and Sabatia sub-counties, Adagala said building an effective healthcare system begins within homes, villages and local communities. She noted that community health promoters are

often the first point of contact in promoting preventive healthcare, creating awareness and supporting families to access essential services. The empowerment forum aimed at enhancing the promoters' capacity and equipping them with skills and knowledge needed to serve residents more effectively and improve health outcomes across Vihiga County.



Kenya has emerged as a leader in digital technology in Africa, driven by government efforts to expand ICT infrastructure, promote smart cities and increase digital access at the grassroots level. The ICT sector now contributes an estimated 9 to 10 per cent of the country's GDP and continues to grow as more services shift online and new digital enterprises emerge. Innovations such as M-Pesa have made Kenya a global mobile money powerhouse, facilitating billions of shillings in daily transactions and expanding financial inclusion. Digital lending platforms provide quick credit to small businesses, while e-commerce and digital payment systems are enabling Kenyan enterprises to access wider markets and conduct cross-border trade more efficiently within the East African Community.

Kapenguria MP Samuel Moroto has commended the Judiciary for supporting the government's efforts to increase forest cover through a tree-planting exercise organised by the Kapenguria Law Courts at Kapenguria School. Moroto said the choice of the school was appropriate, noting that the institution required reforestation after many of its trees disappeared due to old



age. He emphasized the importance of preserving the heritage of Kapenguria School, describing it as a historic colonial Government African School (GAS) established in the 1920s. According to the MP, the tree-planting initiative will not only contribute to environmental conservation but also enhance the school's rich history and legacy for future generations.



State House has announced a public auction of various unserviceable items in a notice published in MyGov yesterday. The auction will take place on June 23, 2026 at the State Department for Roads in Ruiru. Items listed for sale include unserviceable motor vehicles, television sets, carpets, old tyres, scrap materials, used vehicle batteries, Toyota gearboxes, halogen security lights, car wash machines and assorted broken furniture. Interested bidders will be required to pay a refundable cash deposit of KSh50,000 at the Executive Office of the President-State House cash office in Nairobi during normal working hours. The exercise aims to dispose of obsolete and unusable government assets through a transparent public process.

The Africa Largest eCOMMERCE



[www. gotyou.co.ke](http://www.gotyou.co.ke)

**NOW
OPEN**

Call/Text/WhatsApp: +254 714 090 155

Seeds of success Mugambi, who combines maize farming with dairy farming, says the programme offers a double benefit.

Mugambi's success story reflects impact of county's free certified seed programme

**BY Faith Mwanza,
Linnet Neemah and Alex
Njeru**

@themtkenyentimes

For years, Mr. Julius Mugambi of Gaciegoki Village in Igambang'ombe Ward struggled with poor harvests, relying on recycled seeds that often yielded little and left his family vulnerable to food shortages.

Today, however, the maize farmer is counting his blessings as he looks forward to one of his best harvests yet, thanks to a free certified seeds programme introduced by Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki.

Standing in his flourishing maize field, Mugambi says the county government's agricultural support programme has transformed farming in the area and improved the livelihoods of thousands of farmers.

"Since Governor Njuki introduced the free certified seeds programme in 2017, my harvest has improved every season. This year, I expect a bumper harvest that will not only feed my family but also earn me good income from sales," he said during an interview at his home.

Mugambi, who combines maize farming with dairy farming, says the programme offers a double benefit. Besides harvesting grain, the maize stalks provide valuable feed for his dairy cows, reducing livestock feeding costs.

He noted that farmers across the area are optimistic about

the season's yields, with maize, beans and green grams distributed by the county government performing exceptionally well.

"My neighbours are very happy because the crops are doing well. Many families will have enough food and still sell the surplus to meet other needs, including paying school fees for their children," he said.

According to Mugambi, the programme has gone beyond seed distribution by providing farmers with free agricultural extension services through county agricultural officers.

"We not only receive the seeds but also get professional advice on modern farming methods. This has helped us increase productivity significantly," he added.

Before the programme was introduced, many farmers relied on seeds retained from previous harvests, resulting in poor yields and recurring food insecurity.

"Most farmers could not afford certified seeds because they were too expensive. We ended up planting poor-quality seeds and harvesting very little. Things have changed completely," he said.

Mugambi observed that food production in the county has improved considerably, reducing dependence on relief food that was once common in many parts of the county.

He appealed for the continuation of the programme beyond Governor Njuki's tenure, saying it has become a lifeline for farming households.

The farmer also lauded the



Mr Julius Mugambi at his farm in Gaciegoki village in Igambang'ombe ward in Tharaka Nithi County.

county government's subsidized Artificial Insemination programme, saying it has enabled many dairy farmers to access improved breeds, leading to increased milk production and higher incomes.

Another farmer from the area, Ms Mary Gaceri echoed Mugambi's sentiments, noting that agriculture has undergone a major transformation compared to the past when farming relied heavily on traditional methods and inten-

sive manual labour.

"Previously, we spent a lot of time weeding by hand and still harvested little. Today, modern farming technologies and improved seeds have made farming more productive and profitable," Gaceri said.

She added that the adoption of herbicides has reduced the burden of manual weeding, enabling farmers to manage larger acreages with less effort.

The farmer further praised

the County Livestock Department for training farmers on improved animal husbandry practices, saying crop residues are now effectively utilized as livestock feed, reducing costs while improving animal health and productivity.

She commended the county government for bringing agricultural services closer to residents and urged continued investment in both crop and livestock programmes to further improve livelihoods in

the county.

The County Government distributes free certified seeds to approximately 100,000 farmers across its 15 wards every planting season, a programme that has significantly contributed to increased food production and strengthened the county's position as one of the leading food-producing area.

The MT. KENYA TIMES

Where Investors Get Returns

To advertise in Mt. Kenya Times read by discerning Kenyan professionals and the business community contact our exclusive **UK & Europe Advertising and Marketing representatives.**



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF
Phone: 0330 606 1438 (44 330 606 1438)
Email: media@adlinkinternational.com
www.adlinkinternational.com
Contact: Mr Shamlal Puri

website: <https://mountkenyatimes.co.ke>

Government intensifies Ebola preparedness as it moves to address school unrest



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki

Contd from page 2

resources necessary to respond effectively. The public has been assured that the government remains fully seized of the matter and is urged to remain calm and seek medical attention promptly should they experience any unusual symptoms.

The Deputy President also received an update on the ongoing Taifa Care Universal Health Coverage (UHC) rollout and directed the Ministry of Health to further strengthen preparedness efforts by ensuring that all operational and logistical requirements are in place.

Meanwhile, the Government is addressing recent incidents of unrest reported in a number of senior schools, which have led to loss of lives, destruction of property and disruption of learning activities. Out of the country's 9,500 schools, including 3,200 boarding institutions, fewer than 200 schools have been affected. Some of the institutions that had temporarily closed have since reopened and resumed normal learning.

To address the situation, the government is streamlining school safety measures and reinforcing the enforcement of existing

regulations aimed at safeguarding learning environments.

The Ministry of Education has been tasked with developing mechanisms for stakeholder engagement and proposing measures to improve service delivery in schools while enhancing the safety and well-being of school communities.

The DP received status updates on both the security situation in schools and interventions being undertaken in the immediate, short-term and long-term to mitigate further disruptions.

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale, Principal Secretaries Dr. Ouma Oluga (Medical Services) and Mary Muthoni (Public Health and Professional Standards), Director-General for Health Dr. Patrick Amoth, and other senior Ministry of Health officials attended the health briefing at the DP's office.

The education briefing, held at the same place was attended by Cabinet Secretary for Education Julius Ogamba, Principal Secretaries Prof. Julius Bitok (Basic Education), Dr. Beatrice Inyangala (Higher Education and Research), Dr. Esther Muoria (TVET), and senior Ministry of Education officials.

KALRO conference to spotlight AI, climate-smart innovations in agriculture

BY DMS

@themkenyetimes

Researchers, policymakers, farmers, agribusiness players and development partners are set to converge next week for the Second Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) Scientific Conference and Innovation Expo, with a focus on accelerating agricultural transformation and enhancing food security.

The five-day event, scheduled for June 15 to 19, will bring together stakeholders from across the agricultural value chain to showcase technologies, research findings and innovations aimed at boosting productivity and building resilience against climate change.

Speaking during a pre-conference stakeholder and media breakfast meeting at KALRO headquarters, Director General Dr. Patrick Ketiem said the conference would feature scientific paper presentations, technology demonstrations and exhibitions of innovative products and solutions through both physical and hybrid platforms to enable wider participation.

"The conference provides an opportunity for stakeholders to interact, exchange knowledge and forge partnerships that can speed up the adoption of research-driven innovations," said Dr. Ketiem.

Among the innovations to be showcased are climate-smart crop varieties, including maize, rice, sorghum and vegetables developed to withstand changing weather patterns. KALRO says it has released more than 100 climate-smart crop varieties and numerous technologies designed to strengthen food security, improve farmer incomes and enhance climate resilience.

The institution will also highlight bat-escaping sorghum varieties capable of reducing crop losses caused by bats by up to 90 per cent in arid and semi-arid areas.

Advances in livestock production, disease surveillance, vaccine development, fodder production, soil testing, water harvesting and post-harvest loss reduction are also expected to feature prominently.

KALRO Board Chairman Dr. Thuo Mathenge urged farmers, scientists and investors to take advantage of the forum to showcase their



Dr Patrick Ketiem

work and engage with researchers, noting that government policy encourages public-private collaboration to strengthen agricultural production and distribution systems.

The conference will additionally spotlight KALRO's growing investment in digital technologies and artificial intelligence.

Director of ICT Simon Mulwa said the organization has established a big data platform supporting digital tools such as weather advisory applications and crop selection systems. He added that emerging technologies, including drones, Internet of Things sensors and digital soil mapping, are being integrated to

improve data collection and analysis.

Mulwa noted that KALRO's database of more than seven million farmers is helping lay the groundwork for AI-powered advisory services and an AI-enabled call centre that would provide round-the-clock agricultural support.

Held under the theme, "Innovation for Sustainable Agri-food Systems, Climate Change Resilience, and Improved Livelihoods," the free-to-attend expo will also feature business-to-business networking sessions to foster investment and strategic partnerships.



Dr Thuo Mathenge addressing the forum yesterday. | Photo: Courtesy.

Politics The former deputy president vows to stay off public platforms for 45 days as he works to unite the opposition around one candidate for 2027

Gachagua retreats to Wamunyoro to forge single opposition ticket

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua announced yesterday that he will withdraw from public politics for 45 days and retreat to his Wamunyoro home in Mathira, Nyeri County, to lead consultations aimed at forging a single opposition presidential candidate to challenge President William Ruto in the 2027 General Election.

The announcement came a day after the High Court upheld the constitutionality of Gachagua's impeachment — but also awarded him Sh50 million in damages after finding that his right to a fair hearing had been violated during the Senate proceedings that removed him from office in October 2024. Gachagua said he would appeal the ruling, arguing that the principles of natural justice had been “trashed and ignored in broad daylight.” But even as his lawyers prepared their next legal move, the Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) leader made clear that his political focus had already shifted — from the courtroom to the village.

“From Monday I will camp in Wamunyoro village for 45 days to start exhaustive and extensive consultations with my supporters, opinion leaders and stakeholders on the formula of identifying a single presidential candidate to face President William Ruto,” he said. “You will not see me anywhere in public rallies. I will be in Wamunyoro doing very serious, extensive consultations because this is critical for the country.”

The retreat, which begins next week, marks a deliberate strategic pivot. For months, Gachagua has been a fixture at rallies across the country, building the opposition coalition he calls the United Alternative Government and positioning himself as its natural leader. That phase, he said on Tuesday, is now over. A 60-member caucus comprising elders, professionals, clergy, youth leaders and political advisers, convened in the immediate aftermath of the High Court ruling, had reached a conclusion: the work of mobilisation against Kenya Kwanza was done. The task now was selection — agreeing on the one person who would carry the opposition into the ballot box.

It is a shift that reflects both the mat-

uration of the opposition's planning and the pressure of a tightening political calendar. The 2027 election is little more than a year away, and the experience of Kenya's recent political history is unambiguous: a divided opposition hands the incumbent a significant structural advantage. Gachagua knows this as well as anyone. He said yesterday that having a single candidate against Ruto was “not negotiable” and “the only way to liberate this country.”

The question of who that candidate will be is, of course, the one that remains unresolved. Gachagua has made no secret of his own ambitions. He insisted again yesterday that he remains eligible to contest the presidency despite the High Court ruling, arguing that his ongoing appeals preserve his political rights. “I wish to confirm to my supporters across the country that I am eligible to vie as a presidential candidate, and I will be on the ballot on August 10, 2027 should the formula that will be agreed upon by the United Alternative Government favour me as the single presidential candidate,” he said.

But he was equally clear that the process is bigger than any individual. He laid out two scenarios — Plan A, in which the consultations produce consensus around his own candidacy, and Plan B, in which a different leader emerges as the coalition's preferred choice. Under either outcome, he said, the result would be the same: one opposition candidate on the ballot, with every ally and supporter behind them. “I remain hopeful that I will be that candidate for the election of the presidency. However, if any of my other colleagues is agreed upon, I give a very firm commitment to the people of Kenya that I, Rigathi Gachagua, and the millions of supporters behind me, shall rally behind the agreed candidate,” he said.

It is a posture that is both statesmanlike and strategically shrewd. By framing himself as the broker of opposition unity rather than simply a contender for the ticket, Gachagua preserves his influence regardless of whether he ultimately secures the nomination. In Kenyan politics, where coalitions are fragile and personalities dominant, the person who controls the process of consensus often controls its outcome.

Before heading to Wamunyoro, Ga-



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

chagua said he would travel to Western Kenya this weekend to show solidarity with DCP deputy party leader Cleophas Malala and DAP-K party leader Eugene Wamalwa — a signal that the coalition-building work extends well beyond his Mount Kenya base and that he is actively investing in its cross-regional breadth.

The 45-day consultation period is expected to culminate in structured engagement with fellow opposition co-principals on a formal framework for selecting a joint presidential candidate. Who those principals are, and how much they trust the process Gachagua is now proposing to run, will determine whether the Wamunyoro retreat produces a genuine breakthrough or simply another round of

opposition negotiations that ends without resolution.

The High Court ruling that prompted all of this was itself a complex verdict. The judges held that while concerns had been raised about aspects of the impeachment process, the Constitution does not permit courts to overturn an impeachment after it has been concluded and a new deputy president has been lawfully appointed. The Sh50 million damages award was a consolation that acknowledged process was flawed even as it declined to reverse the outcome. Gachagua rejected it. “It is an insult,” he said flatly, signalling that his legal battle would continue even as his political one moved into its next phase.

What is clear is that Gachagua, for all the setbacks of the past twenty months, remains a significant force in Kenya's political landscape. He was impeached, removed from office, and has now had that removal confirmed by the High Court. Yet on Tuesday, he stood before cameras and spoke with the calm assurance of a man who believes the story is far from over.

Whether Wamunyoro produces the unified opposition Kenya's democracy arguably needs — or simply provides forty-five days of quiet before the familiar noise resumes — will become apparent soon enough.

Health While migration offers economic opportunities, experts say it also presents unique social adaptation predicaments, including mental health challenges

Kenyans in diaspora suffer silent mental health issues

BY Rose Muthoni
@themtkenyatimes

As more Kenyans emigrate abroad in pursuit of employment, education, and business opportunities, concerns are growing over the immense mental health challenges those adjusting to life away from home are grappling with.

According to the State Department for Diaspora Affairs, over four million Kenyans are estimated to be living and working overseas. Their contribution to the national economy continues to grow, with diaspora remittances now ex-

ceeding Sh650 billion annually, making them one of Kenya's largest sources of foreign exchange.

While migration offers economic opportunities, experts say it also presents unique social adaptation predicaments, including mental health challenges.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), migrants are often at increased risk of mental health conditions due to factors such as family separation, loneliness, social exclusion, discrimination, employment pressures, and difficulties adapting to new environments.

As the country marks the

Men's Mental Health Awareness Month this June, Kenya News Agency spoke to a Kenyan mental health advocate based in the United Kingdom (UK), who says many Kenyan men in the diaspora are silently battling emotional and psychological struggles.

Baraza Namunyu, popularly known as Balozi Baraza, says financial responsibilities, social isolation, and cultural expectations often place immense pressure on Kenyan men living abroad.

As a diaspora community champion who has lived in the UK for more than a decade, Baraza admits the pressure to appear successful



A Signage at Mathari National Teaching and Referral Hospital (MNTRH) in Nairobi directing visitors to designated sites for medical services.

often comes at a high cost to men's mental well-being.

"Many men carry the weight of supporting families both in the UK and back home while simultaneously trying to establish themselves in a new country. There is often an unspoken expectation to be strong, resilient, and financially dependable regardless of personal circumstances," he explains.

Inevitably, this breeds loneliness, which has become one of the most significant challenges facing Kenyan men abroad.

"Many men leave behind extended family networks, lifelong friendships, and familiar cultural environments. The resulting social isolation can contribute to anxiety, depression, and emotional exhaustion," he adds.

In addition, identity struggles often arise as men attempt to reconcile the cultural values they grew up with in Kenya and the realities of living in a multicultural society. Despite these challenges, many men continue to suffer in silence.

Baraza attributes this largely to cultural expectations surrounding masculinity, which often discourage men from openly discussing their emotional struggles.

"Many Kenyan men cope privately rather than openly. Some immerse themselves in work, education, business ventures, church activities, or

community responsibilities as a way of managing emotional distress," he discloses.

Others, he noted, seek support through trusted friends, family members, and faith leaders. Most times, unresolved mental health struggles can manifest through burnout, relationship difficulties, substance abuse, withdrawal, and declining physical health.

The UK offers a range of mental health support services, including counseling, talking therapies, crisis support, and specialist care through the National Health Service (NHS). In many cases, these services are available free of charge to eligible residents.

Baraza, however, says accessibility alone does not guarantee utilization.

"For some people, immigration status may affect access to certain services. For others, it is the stigma associated with discussing mental health that remains the biggest barrier," he says.

Beyond government services, community organizations, charities, churches, and peer-support groups are increasingly providing culturally sensitive mental health support for migrant communities.

As a mental health champion, Baraza says his work centers on creating safe spaces where men can have honest conversations without fear of judgment.

Through community forums, mentoring sessions, storytelling, and reflective discussions, he encourages men to openly discuss issues affecting their lives, including work-related stress, parenting, relationships, and personal growth.

"I have found that men are more likely to seek help when they realize they are not alone and when mental health is framed as part of personal development rather than a sign of crisis," he adds.

Balozi Baraza believes simple conversations can often become the first step toward healing.

"The most effective conversations are often the simplest ones, those that remind men they do not have to carry every burden alone."

As Men's Mental Health Awareness Month is observed this June, Baraza is urging men both in Kenya and abroad to prioritize their well-being and reject the notion that suffering in silence is a sign of strength.

"A healthy man is not one who never struggles; he recognizes when support is needed and is willing to seek it. Mental health is not just about surviving life; it is about living it fully and purposefully," he concludes.

Where Moments Become Memories

Use Promo Code **TOURISM26**

Sales valid until 15th March 2026
Travel valid until 30th June 2026

ENJOY **6% OFF** DOMESTIC ROUTES

Book on: www.kenya-airways.com, or via KQ Mobile App

www.kenya-airways.com

Kenya Airways
The Pride of Africa

Purpose At the time his mother was attending to her green grocery stall situated along 6th Street in Eastleigh, about 400 meters away from the burning house

Fire victim turned advocate, Ngunjiri transforms pain into purpose

BY Samuel Maina
@themtkenyatimes

In June 1980, when Jose Njuki-imwe Ngunjiri was only four months old, the house he was sleeping in suddenly caught fire.

At the time his mother was attending to her green grocery stall situated along 6th Street in Eastleigh, about 400 meters away from the burning house.

The house help had also left the house to pick Ngunjiri's elder sister from a nearby school where she was studying.

By the time neighbours raced to put out the fire, the helpless infant had suffered severe burns on his face and left hand but miraculously survived.

But it was this near-death incident that was to shape his future career when decades later he decided to train as a fireman.

Today, his main mission at Africa Fire Mission (AFM) as a Fire Safety Advocate Representative in Africa is to sensitize the public on the basics of preventing and confronting the very enemy that had threatened to nip his life in the bud while still an infant.

"On coming back, she (house help) could see smoke billowing at a nearby house. When she came back, she saw the smoke was coming right from where she served. She quickly left my sister by herself and ran as fast as she could, broke the door, and crawled through the smoke and rescued me," narrates Ngunjiri, who now works and lives in Nairobi with his family.

He, however, identifies himself with Nyeri County, owing to the fact that his ancestral home is in Mukurwe-ini.

"I stayed at the Kenyatta National Hospital Burns

Unit with my mother for nine months. My mother literally moved house, and my dad took over the other siblings. Six years ago I decided to follow my path and went back to school and became a fireman."

Besides having its main office in Nairobi, the US-based emergency responder operates in five other African countries, including Malawi, Zambia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Ethiopia.

Through training, material support, and partnerships, the organization actively increases the sustainable capacity of local fire departments and emergency responders.

Now close to 46 years after the tragedy, Ngunjiri believes Kenya and Africa at large still need more advocacy on best practices when it comes to preventing and combating fire disasters.

Though he says Africa cannot be placed on the same pedestal with the West due to differences in terms of technological advancement, the officer believes all is not lost.

With enhanced training on basic firefighting tips right from the home, schools, and workplaces, the number of fires in the country can be reduced a great deal.

"In many developing countries in Africa, emergency times are often delayed due to lack of a simple toll-free number or easy-to-remember phone numbers. During emergencies the public needs quicker access to the nearest fire station or ambulance. But they must first find out their location and then remember to look up a number sometimes up to ten digits long, he describes.

He notes that at times calling fire stations costs money that can create barriers and

make the difference between a human being saved or being burnt to death.

"The time spent searching for such digitals can be critical, sometimes making the difference between life and death or preventing a small fire from escalating into a major disaster."

But Ngunjiri emphasizes that all is not lost, and many firefighting services being a devolved function has forced many governors to invest in modern firefighting engines besides recruiting additional disaster management officers.

And to enhance communication between the public and fire brigade, some counties have adopted easier-to-remember toll-free numbers for use during fire emergencies.

"Recently some counties in Kenya have introduced their own digital toll-free emergency numbers, representing a significance for the country.

These simple new numbers can enable people to react to emergency services swiftly, easily, and without cost greatly improving response time and safety," he explained.

Nyeri is among counties that have already unveiled a toll-free number for use by the public when reporting about a fire breakout.

On March 19 this year Nyeri Governor Dr. Mutahi Kahiga led the county in launching its first emergency toll-free number, 1549, for use by the public in case of a disaster.

Dr. Kahiga noted that the free emergency line would eliminate barriers to reporting emergencies and at the same time strengthen the county's disaster preparedness and response framework.

"I am aware of the fact that when a disaster strikes, seconds matter and cost should never be a barrier to seeking



Photo:

help. It is therefore our duty to put in place systems that are not only responsive, inclusive, and technology-driven but also accessible, efficient, and reliable," he said during the ceremony.

The governor said that the emergency number had come at a time when the county was dealing with a high rate of emergency cases, having recorded a total of 386 incidents in the last one year alone.

Among the cases included were 277 structural fires, 46 bush fires, 46 road traffic accidents, six drowning cases, four emergency aid cases, three vehicle fires, two gas explosion fires, and two search and rescue operations.

Dr. Kahiga similarly revealed that among the reported cases, 20 perished through structural fires.

He at the same time called for close collaboration between partners, stakeholders, and emergency service providers, saying that disaster management is a shared responsibility.

"I can tell you that when disasters happen, the first people to be blamed are governments. Disasters can only be well taken care of only when you mitigate them, not after they have happened, and therefore let us work towards collaboration," he said.

Statistics from the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) show that over the past 14 years alone, fire incidents have steadily risen in frequency, though the number of fatalities has been decreasing.

The data also say fires now rank second only to road traffic accidents in terms of occurrence and third in fatalities

after armed conflict and road fatalities.

According to Relief Web, an online humanitarian information hub under the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), between 2020 and 2024, a total of 1,606 fire incidents were reported across 17 counties.

Nairobi, Nyeri, Kiambu, Nakuru, Mombasa, and Bomet were among the worst-hit counties in terms of overall impacts.

These fires affected 28,000 households, resulting in 2,392 casualties, 11 missing persons, and 293 fatalities.

Among the fatalities are students who have perished after the dormitories they were sleeping in either caught fire or were set ablaze by arsonists.

For instance, on July 13, 1991, another 19 female students were reported to have died at St. Kizito Secondary School after their dormitory was allegedly set on fire by their male counterparts.

Seven years later a total of 26 girls from Bombolulu Secondary School in Kwale lost their lives after a suspected electric fault caused a major fire in a crowded dormitory.

The worst school inferno ever recorded in Kenya was the Kyanguli Secondary School fire disaster, in which 67 male students perished after their dormitory was set ablaze by two of their colleagues on March 25, 2001.

And on September 5, 2024, 21 pupils at Hillside Endarasha Academy were burnt to death after a fire erupted in the dormitory they were sleeping in.

To date, the cause of the fire

remains unknown, and the matter is currently an issue of judicial inquest.

Ngunjiri argues that a lot still needs to be done in terms of advocacy and policy formulation to enable the country to be in a position to address cases of frequent fires that often leave a trail of destruction and death in their wake.

He says the nation can no longer continue to sit on the fence on the issue of disaster preparedness since fires are now being reported in school dormitories.

He nevertheless says all is not lost for the country on the issue of policy formulation following the signing of the Disaster Reduction Bill by President Dr. William Ruto, which he says can go a long way in mentoring citizens on critical disaster preparedness skills.

"If we need to address the problem of how we can reduce the number of fires in our country, we need to start such a conversation right in our homes. Every member of the household should know how to crawl under billows of smoke while heading to the nearby fire exit if the house he or she is living in is ablaze," he advises.

"This information should afterwards be extended to all our learning institutions, where students need to be educated on how to prevent the outbreak of fire and what to do in case one breaks out. We should talk to our children when they are as young as seven years old in order to inculcate the culture of disaster preparedness in their psyche at all times."

Politics First, it found that Gachagua's constitutional right to a fair hearing was violated during the impeachment process

A right violated, an outcome preserved: The dangerous contradiction in the Gachagua judgment



By: Gitile Naituli
@themkenyaintimes

.....
.....

One of the oldest principles of constitutional democracy is remarkably simple: a process that violates fundamental rights cannot produce a legitimate outcome. That principle is so basic that it forms the foundation of modern constitutionalism, administrative justice, and the rule of law.

It is therefore understandable that many Kenyans have been left puzzled by the High Court's decision on the impeachment of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

The court made two findings that appear difficult to reconcile. First, it found that Gachagua's constitutional right to a fair hearing was violated during the impeachment process.

Second, it declined to quash the impeachment itself, allowing the outcome of that process to remain intact. The court then awarded him KSh50 million in damages for the violation of his rights.

For many observers, the immediate question is obvious: if the process was constitutionally defective, how can the product of that process remain constitutionally valid?

This question goes beyond Rigathi Gachagua. It goes to the heart of constitutional governance in Kenya. The Constitution does not treat fair hearing as a procedural luxury. It is not an optional courtesy extended to individuals at the discretion of public institutions. It is a substantive constitutional guarantee protected under Article 50 and

reinforced throughout the constitutional architecture.

A fair hearing exists precisely to prevent public power from being exercised arbitrarily. The logic is straightforward. We do not protect the right to be heard because hearing someone is pleasant. We protect it because outcomes reached through unfair procedures cannot be trusted.

That is why courts across democratic jurisdictions have consistently held that where a decision is reached through a process that violates fundamental procedural rights, the normal remedy is to set aside the decision and require the process to be undertaken lawfully. The principle is often captured in a simple legal proposition: one cannot build legality upon illegality.

Yet the judgment appears to create a different principle altogether. According to the ruling, the former Deputy President did not receive a constitutionally compliant hearing. His rights were violated. Compensation is therefore justified. But the impeachment remains effective. This raises a difficult constitutional question. If a violation serious enough to attract KSh50 million in damages is insufficient to invalidate the resulting decision, then what practical protection does the right to a fair hearing actually provide?

The danger lies not merely in this particular case but in the precedent it may establish. Imagine future situations involving governors, cabinet secretaries, public officers, judges, or ordinary citizens. If decision-makers know that constitutional violations can be cured through monetary compensation while preserving the desired outcome, the incentive to respect due process becomes significantly weaker.

The Constitution was designed to prevent exactly that.

Rights are not supposed to be priced. A government institution should never be allowed to conclude that violating constitutional rights is acceptable so long as taxpayers can later pay damages. The remedy for constitutional wrongdoing should ordinarily be the restoration of constitutional order, not merely financial compensation.

This is why many legal scholars are likely to focus less on the amount awarded and more on the remedy denied. The KSh50 million may generate headlines, but the more important question concerns constitutional doctrine. What is the consequence of a proven violation of fair hearing rights? If the answer is compensation alone, then constitutional protections risk becoming symbolic rather than substantive.

The judgment becomes even more significant when viewed alongside another finding of the court: Parliament must enact legislation regulating impeachment procedures under Article 150. This is itself a notable observation.

By directing Parliament to establish clearer legal procedures, the court effectively acknowledges the existence of significant procedural uncertainty within the impeachment framework. That acknowledgement further strengthens the argument that strict constitutional safeguards should have been applied in this case. Where procedures are unclear, courts ordinarily become more vigilant in protecting constitutional rights, not less.

The judiciary's role in constitutional democracies is not merely to identify rights violations. It is to provide effective remedies for those violations. A right without an effective remedy is not truly a right at all. That is why the judgment is likely to face intense scrutiny before the



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

Court of Appeal.

The appellate court will inevitably be asked to address what many citizens now see as the central contradiction of the case. Can a process be constitutionally unfair and constitutionally effective at the same time? Can a public officer be denied a fair hearing yet still lawfully lose office through the very process that violated that right? Can the Constitution acknowledge a wrong but leave the consequences of that wrong untouched?

These are not political questions. They are constitutional questions.

Reasonable lawyers may disagree on the answers. Courts frequently balance competing constitutional considerations. Judicial interpretation is rarely straightforward. But constitutional legitimacy depends not only on the correctness of decisions but also on their coherence. Citizens must be able to understand the relationship between constitutional principles and constitutional remedies.

When that relationship appears broken, public confidence inevitably suffers. It is therefore unsurprising that the

ruling has generated strong reactions across the political spectrum.

Supporters of the former Deputy President view the decision as internally inconsistent. Critics of the impeachment process see it as a missed opportunity to strengthen due process protections. Others fear that the judgment may unintentionally weaken constitutional safeguards in future political disputes.

These concerns should not be dismissed lightly. The Constitution is ultimately sustained not by judges alone but by public confidence in constitutional institutions. Courts derive their authority from the belief that constitutional principles will be applied consistently and that rights, once violated, will be meaningfully vindicated.

The Court of Appeal now has an opportunity to provide clarity. It must determine whether the finding of a violated fair hearing right can coexist with a valid impeachment outcome, or whether constitutional logic requires that the outcome itself be revisited.

Whatever one's political opinion of Rigathi Gachagua,

the issue before the appellate court transcends personalities. Today it is a Deputy President. Tomorrow it may be a governor, a cabinet secretary, a judge, a public servant, or an ordinary Kenyan. The constitutional principle must remain the same.

If the right to a fair hearing means anything, then its violation must carry consequences capable of restoring constitutional integrity. Otherwise, we risk arriving at a troubling destination: a constitutional order in which rights may be acknowledged, compensated, and celebrated in theory, while the unconstitutional consequences of their violation remain firmly in place. That would be a precedent far more significant than the fate of any individual politician. And it is precisely why this judgment deserves careful reconsideration on appeal.

Professor Gitile Naituli is a Fellow of the Kenya National Academy of Sciences (FKNAS). And Teaches Constitutionalism and Governance at Multimedia University of Kenya

Education Supporters of the reshuffle see it as a fresh start, a chance for new leadership to bring new energy to entrenched problems

New faces, old problems?

Will Ruto’s reshuffle rescue Kenya’s schools?

BY Hadassah Karangu
@themkenyentimes

President William Ruto’s decision to swap Principal Secretaries between the education and tourism dockets has reignited a familiar debate: can new appointments actually fix what ails Kenya’s schools?

The change, announced yesterday, sees Basic Education PS Julius Bitok moved to the State Department for Tourism, replaced by John Lekakeny Ololtuua from the tourism ministry. It is a move that landed in a sector already under pressure. The education sector continues to face major challenges — delayed capitation funds, persistent school unrest, staffing shortages, and the ongoing turbulence surrounding CBC implementation. Bitok himself had drawn controversy days before his transfer for suggesting that school heads could negotiate with students on examination schedules as a way of addressing the rising wave of unrest.

Supporters of the reshuffle see it as a fresh start, a chance for new leadership to bring new energy to

entrenched problems. Critics are less convinced. Shuffling officials between ministries, they argue, is not the same as solving the problems those officials were meant to address.

They have a point. The challenges facing Kenya’s schools did not arrive overnight and they will not leave because a name on an office door has changed. Students across the country are grappling with examination pressure, mental health struggles, overcrowded classrooms and a gnawing uncertainty about what the future holds. Schools, meanwhile, are expected to deliver quality education on budgets that frequently arrive late and fall short. These are structural problems that require structural solutions.

What ultimately matters is not who sits in the PS’s chair but what they do once seated. Students do not experience government through press conferences — they experience it through the state of their classrooms, the quality of teaching, the availability of textbooks and the presence of a functioning guidance and counselling service. The new Basic Ed-

ucation PS will be judged by those markers, not by the announcement of his appointment.

If this reshuffle is to mean anything, the incoming leadership must move quickly on several fronts. Capitation funds must reach schools on time. Infrastructure backlogs must be honestly assessed and addressed. Guidance and counselling programmes, long underfunded and understaffed, must be treated as essential rather than supplementary. And the mental health crisis quietly unfolding in Kenya’s secondary schools must be brought into plain sight and confronted directly.

There is also a harder truth that no reshuffle can sidestep: many cases of school unrest are symptoms of frustrations that have been ignored for too long. Students who feel unheard rarely stay quiet forever. Creating safe, structured channels through which learners can raise concerns — without fear of punishment — would do more to prevent unrest than any disciplinary crackdown after the fact.

Parents and communities have a role to play too. Education has never



John Lekakeny Ololtuua

been the government’s burden alone, and the strongest school environments are almost always those where families, teachers and administrators work in genuine partnership. That kind of partnership does not emerge from policy documents; it is built through trust and consistent engagement.

The real question, then, is not whether the reshuffle signals change. The question is whether the new leadership will have the appetite to pursue the reforms that actually matter — the unglamorous, incremental,

expensive work of fixing a system that serves millions of children every day.

Kenya’s schools do not need new faces performing old routines. They need honest diagnosis, sustained investment and leadership with the courage to follow through. Whether this reshuffle delivers any of that remains, for now, an open question.

Students and parents are watching. They have seen enough reshuffles to know that announcements are easy. What they are waiting for — and what they deserve — is results.



Give without remembering and receive without forgetting



The earth gives more trees to the society
Without any hesitation and expectations.

Rajesh Kanna B N

RAJESH KANNA .B N
M.Sc.,M.A.,M.,,
PGDG&C,B.Ed., CELT.
BT Asst.
GMHSCHOOL, TIRUR.
TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT.
Tamil Nadu
India.
Creative Writers.
Educationist.

Forgetting others help is not good
As keeping bad things within us as food.
Great things coming from others are always to
be remembered.
As the earth reciprocates to the sky in the form
of evaporation.

The birds show their gratitude to the earth.
By sowing the seeds on the earth to grow more
trees.

Nature's unseen face



With your charm and grace!

Are you a philanthropist?
What a generous mind you possess!
You shower your boundless sympathy
For the helpless creatures on earth
And unfold your lap as their haven
To gratify their needs.

Are you my love in disguise?
I often wonder filled with awe;
Whenever I feel dejected and lost,
Your lullaby caressed me;
Your fragrance soothed me;
Your tears enthralled me.

Are you my parent?
I would like to learn the virtues
Of life from you;
My parents guide me righteous path,
But for you none;
How perfectly you adorn the world

Are you a sadist?
When you turn rageous,
You lock your kind heart
And display your ferocious face;
Instead of wiping our tears
You sneer at us;
It is an enigma to me!

Shyni. S. S,
English Teacher,
GHSS Rameswaram.

The magical rainbow



I see the rainbow 🌈 in the sky
It's colors make me want to fly .
Red and yellow , green. blue and purple joins the
party too !

The rainbow is a lovable scenery that is colorful
and pleasant to eyes.
The rainbow smiles so wide and bright,

And fills the world with sparking light.
A bridge of colors, bold and bright,
Making the world a happy sight.

S.Bavanya , 7th A ,GHSS,pattukkottai

Miles that bind



Though life may pull out world apart.

Marriage draws new paths in life,
Yet somewhere in the soul,
A father's voice, a mother's smile
A sister's affection,a brother's care
Still make the spirit whole.

The longing to return once more
To doors left years behind
Lives gently like a monsoon breeze
That stirs the sleeping mind.

And childhood friends
Across time's endless sky
Still linger in forgotten songs
And laughter drifting by.

Though distance builds its silent walls,
It also builds love stronger,
For hearts that truly cherish one another
Only grow fonder.

Distance is not always loss,
Nor silence always pain,
Sometimes absence is the bridge
That leads hearts home again.

Nandini AnandKumar
Educator, Writer, Motivator, Freelancer
(In Service of Education)

Distance is a silent weaver
Weaving longing through the souls,
Teaching hearts the worth of presence
Through the ache of absent times.

Familiar roads may gather dust
When walked each day the same,
Yet miles can turn old memories
Into blossoms of fragrance deep

In childhood's noisy battlefield,
Where siblings fought like rain and thunder,
A stolen toy, a shouted word,
Would pull small worlds asunder.

But seasons softened restless hearts,
For love still blooms in faithful hearts
Distance only binds our heart

Father's Day – A Real Hero



become a source of inspiration throughout life.

One of the greatest qualities of a father is his unconditional love. Though he may not always express his emotions openly, his care is evident in everything he does. He works hard to fulfill his family's needs, often putting their happiness before his own. His love provides security, comfort, and strength during difficult times.

Fathers also play a significant role in shaping the character of their children. They teach responsibility, discipline, perseverance, and respect. Through their example, children learn the importance of integrity and commitment. The values instilled by a father often remain with his children for a lifetime.

On Father's Day, we have an opportunity to thank our fathers for their endless love and dedication.

A simple greeting, a heartfelt message, or spending quality time together can make this day meaningful. More importantly, we should appreciate and respect our fathers not only on Father's Day but every day of the year.

In conclusion, a father is truly a real hero. His sacrifices, guidance, love, and unwavering support make a lasting difference in the lives of his children. As we celebrate Father's Day, let us honor these everyday heroes who inspire us to become better human beings. A father's love is one of life's greatest blessings, and his influence remains a guiding light forever.

Dr.Meera.T
Erode

Father's Day is a special occasion celebrated around the world to honor fathers and father figures who play an important role in our lives. It is a day to express our gratitude, love, and respect for the sacrifices they make for their families.

A father is not just a parent; he is a guide, protector, teacher, and a real hero.

A real hero does not always wear a cape or perform extraordinary feats. Often, a real hero is the person who works tirelessly every day to provide for his family and ensure their happiness.

Fathers face many challenges and responsibilities, yet they continue to support their children with strength and determination. Their silent sacrifices often go unnoticed, but they form the foundation of a family's well-being.

A father teaches valuable life lessons through both words and actions. He encourages his children to be honest, hardworking, and kind. When children face difficulties, a father stands beside them, offering guidance and confidence. He celebrates their successes and helps them learn from their failures. His wisdom and experience

Award The unanimous outcome reflected strong confidence from delegates in his leadership and vision for the continent’s cooperative sector

Kenya wins ICA-Africa top seat



Members of ICA-Africa who attended the International Cooperative Alliance-Africa (ICA-Africa) during 12th Technical Committee of the Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference (TCAMCCO). | Photo: Courtesy.

BY Wangari Ndirangu
@themtkenyentimes

Kenya has cemented its position in Africa’s cooperative movement after McLoud Malonza, Chairman of Co-operative Bank Holdings and the Co-operative Alliance of Kenya (CAK), was elected Chairperson of the International Cooperative Alliance

– Africa (ICA-Africa) in a decisive victory. ICA-Africa is a regional arm of the International Cooperative Alliance, founded in 1968, bringing together more than 50 cooperative organizations across 21 African countries. Malonza secured all 65 votes cast, defeating two contenders from Nigeria, Lawrence Bale and Ojo Oladayo Aindehinde,

both representing the Cooperative Federation of Nigeria. The unanimous outcome reflected strong confidence from delegates in his leadership and vision for the continent’s cooperative sector. He takes office at a time when cooperatives are increasingly being recognized as key drivers of economic empowerment, financial inclusion, and social transformation across



McLoud Malonza making his acceptance speech.

Africa. Cooperative enterprises continue to play a major role in providing financial services, supporting farmers, creating employment, and expanding market access, particularly in underserved communities. In his acceptance speech in Maputo, Mozambique, Malonza pledged to champion unity, inclusive leadership, and transformation of the co-operative movement across Africa, noting that his mandate reflected the confidence

of member organizations. “Cooperatives remain central to addressing pressing challenges, including youth unemployment, food insecurity, climate change, financial exclusion, and inequality. Today is not about one individual, one country, or one region. It is about the future of cooperatives in Africa,” he said. He outlined priorities, including strengthening cooperative governance, enhancing member engagement, promoting youth and women’s leadership, supporting cooperative entrepreneurship, expanding regional trade, and positioning cooperatives as drivers of Africa’s economic transformation.

Malonza also emphasized the need for stronger collaboration with the African Union, regional economic communities, and global partners, noting that unity would be key in leveraging opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). “Together we can create a stronger cooperative voice in global policy discussions and ensure that cooperatives become key drivers of inclusive growth, social justice, and sustainable development across Africa,” he added. He paid tribute to outgoing ICA-Africa leadership, crediting them with laying a strong foundation for the growth of the cooperative movement on the continent. With decades of experience in the sector, Malonza also chairs Co-operative Bank

Holdings and has previously held leadership roles in major Kenyan cooperative institutions, including Harambee Sacco and Co-op Holdings Cooperative Society. His election is being viewed as a strong endorsement of Kenya’s cooperative model, with more than 15 million Kenyans linked to cooperatives and Saccos mobilizing billions in savings and investments. The appointment is expected to further strengthen Kenya’s influence in shaping policies on financial inclusion, agricultural transformation, trade, and sustainable development across Africa. The election was described as transparent and credible, with appreciation extended to the Electoral Committee, the Regional Board, and the ICA-Africa Secretariat for overseeing the process. Malonza pledged to serve all members fairly and inclusively, saying he would work to advance the interests of cooperatives across the continent. The leadership transition comes at a time when cooperatives are gaining renewed recognition as key engines of inclusive economic growth and sustainable development across Africa. The International Cooperative Alliance – Africa (ICA-Africa) leadership transition was shaped by the sudden passing of President High Chief Tajudeen Oriyomi Ayeola on December 25, 2025.

Delik home

BUSINESS START UP & SOAP MAKING Masterclass

Discover the art of liquid soap making and learn how to start your own successful soap business!

18th April

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Venue: MH Towers 12th Floor

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

✓ Soap making from scratch

✓ Learn how to start a business, social media marketing and Public Relations

✓ Starting and marketing your soap business

ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED!

CONTACT / BOOK NOW:

0796052809

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE!

EXCEPTIONAL CAR HIRE SERVICES

✓ Auto/Manual

✓ Clean & Comfort Interior

✓ Cool Air Conditioning

✓ Discount for repeat customer

BEST CAR RENTAL DEAL

WE MEET ALL YOUR CAR NEEDS. BOOK AND DRIVE

2nd Parklands Avenue

0723889371

Info@exceptionalcarhire.co.ke

https://www.eceptionalcarhire.co.ke

@exceptionalcarhireservices

Exceptional Car Hire Services

Land dispute Rev. Mungai said church leaders have not received any formal eviction notice despite reports that the facility could be demolished.

Church, school and police families fear displacement amid Kiambu housing project dispute



Kiambu residents protest over alleged grabbing of land..

BY Felix Njenga

@themkenyaintimes

An emerging land dispute linked to the Affordable Housing Project in Kiambu Town has sparked concern among church leaders, Administration Police officers, and local residents who fear that key community facilities could be displaced as construction continues.

The controversy centres on land occupied by Administration Police (AP) residential units, a church, and a nursery school in the Indian Bazaar area of Kiambu Township Ward. Community members claim portions of the land have been earmarked for housing development without sufficient consultation or public disclosure.

Leading the concerns is Reverend Damiano Mungai, pastor of a church located within the AP camp. He says the congregation was recently informed that the church may be required to vacate the premises to make way for the ongoing project.

According to the cleric, the church has operated on the site for more than 35 years

and serves both security officers and residents from neighbouring communities. The compound also hosts a nursery school attended largely by children of police officers as well as families living nearby. Rev. Mungai said church leaders have not received any formal eviction notice despite reports that the facility could be demolished.

“We were verbally told that the church should relocate, but no official communication has been issued. This is a place of worship that has served the community for decades and cannot simply be moved overnight,” he said.

The pastor further raised concerns that construction works near the church compound have already affected parts of the nursery school, creating anxiety among parents and teachers.

Residents are now appealing to government authorities to intervene and protect community institutions that have long served families living within and around the AP camp.

Former Kiambu Township Ward MCA James ManNjenga echoed the concerns, calling for transparency regard-

ing the land allocated for the Affordable Housing Project.

While acknowledging the importance of affordable housing initiatives, ManNjenga questioned whether the project’s current footprint corresponds with the land area that was initially presented to residents during public engagement forums.

“The community supports development, but all procedures must be followed. People deserve access to approved plans, survey maps, and documentation showing exactly what land has been allocated to the project,” he said.

ManNjenga emphasized that residents are not opposed to the housing programme itself but want assurances that public land reserved for security services and community facilities is not being unlawfully converted.

The concerns have since been formalized through a public petition submitted to the National Land Commission, the Governor of Kiambu County, and the State Department for Housing and Urban Development.

In the petition, residents seek



Part of the affected land.

an investigation into the ownership, status, and boundaries of land currently occupied by Administration Police officers at Indian Bazaar. They argue that questions remain over whether the land was legally incorporated into the housing

project and whether all statutory approvals were obtained before construction began.

The petition also calls for disclosure of planning approvals, environmental assessments, survey records, and development permits related to the

project.

Among the demands made by residents is the suspension of any demolition, relocation, or further development activities on the contested land until a comprehensive investigation is completed.

They are further seeking a joint survey involving the National Land Commission, Kiambu County Government, and the Ministry of Housing to establish the exact boundaries of the housing project and determine whether public land reserved for security purposes has been affected.

The petitioners maintain that the issue goes beyond the housing project and touches on broader concerns of accountability, public participation, and the protection of public institutions.

As the matter awaits response from the relevant authorities, uncertainty remains over the future of the church, nursery school, and police housing facilities that have existed on the site for generations.




MURANGI WATER & SANITATION CO. LTD.

DRINK . CLEAN . SANITIZE

GET STARTED WITH MAJISAFI IN 4 STEPS

- 1 Download the App from Google PlayStore
- 2 Sign up & verify your phone number
- 3 Go to services and click "Add account"
- 4 Link the account associated to your number

GET STARTED NOW!

Download Majisafi app today!

GET IT ON Google Play

0701 038 226



SCAN FOR MAJISAFI

DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

Let Professional Editors and Authors turn your story into a Dream Book.

THRILLERS - FICTION - FACTION - BIOGRAPHIES - TRAVELOGUES - HUMOUR - COFFEE TABLE - BROCHURES

London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.

We offer one-stop top notch Editing, Expert Design, Proof Reading, Book Covers, Artwork, Digital, Litho Printing, E-Books, Corporate Brochures and UK ISBN number. Reasonable costs. We print and deliver books. Authors retain 100% sales profits.

SELECTED PORTFOLIO

BEST SELLER NOVELS

The Crownbird Publishers logo and imprint owned by Adlink International (1989) Media Group London

Copies of some books available for sale: hard copy/ digital. Contact us: media@adlinkinternational.com Email Subject: Crownbird Books

ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP

Books Division

16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF (UK)

Tel: 44 330 606 1438

Email: media@adlinkinternational.com

www.adlinkinternational.com



Zimbabwe At its heart, CAB3 would do five things. First and most controversially, it would end the direct popular election of the President

Constitutional Amendment Bill 3: what it is, what it does, and why it matters

Zimbabwe's most contentious proposed law in a generation would end direct presidential elections, extend terms to seven years and dismantle key oversight bodies — but the government says it is simply a stability measure

BY Norman Mwale

@themkenyatiimes

The Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill, 2026 — known widely as CAB3 — is a proposed law gazetted on 16 February 2026, triggering a mandatory 90-day public consultation period. It seeks to make sweeping changes to Zimbabwe's 2013 Constitution and has quickly become one of the most debated pieces of legislation in the country's recent history.

At its heart, CAB3 would do five things. First and most controversially, it would end the direct popular election of the President. Under the proposal, the President would instead be elected by members of Parliament at a joint sitting of the Senate and National Assembly after every general election, with a candidate needing more than half of valid votes cast and a run-off triggered if no candidate achieves that majority.

Second, it would extend presidential and parliamentary terms from five to seven years, with the practical effect



President Emmerson Mnangagwa

of prolonging President Emmerson Mnangagwa's tenure until 2030.

Third, the bill would amend Section 120 of the Constitution to allow the President to appoint ten additional senators, increasing the total Senate membership from 80 to 90. Critics note this would make it significantly easier for the executive to secure the two-thirds supermajority needed to pass future constitutional amendments.

Fourth, the bill would establish a

new Zimbabwe Electoral Delimitation Commission and transfer responsibility for the voters' roll from the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to the Registrar-General. Fifth, it would repeal both the Zimbabwe Gender Commission and the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission.

The government describes CAB3 as introducing "a set of constructive reforms that, taken together, reinforce constitutional governance, strength-

en democratic structures, clarify institutional mandates, and harmonise Zimbabwe's constitutional order with tested and successful practices in other progressive jurisdictions."

Attorney-General Virginia Mabiha has said the changes do not alter presidential term limits and are designed to strengthen institutions rather than benefit individual office bearers, urging the public to refer to the officially gazetted text rather than speculation. The bill is also linked to ZANU-PF's "2030 agenda," adopted in 2024, which aims to position Zimbabwe as an upper-middle-income economy by the end of the decade. Proponents argue that longer electoral cycles reduce "election-related toxicity" and give government sufficient time to implement long-term projects without what they describe as "constant electoral disruptions."

The opposition to CAB3 has been broad and pointed. Constitutional analyst Justice Mavedzenge described the bill's cumulative effect as "a fundamental reordering of the constitutional system which increases presidential authority while weakening

mechanisms for popular participation and democratic accountability." He also noted that President Mnangagwa chaired the Cabinet meeting that approved the bill.

Critics draw comparisons with similar constitutional manoeuvres elsewhere on the continent — in Burundi, Uganda, Rwanda and Côte d'Ivoire — where term-limit amendments were justified as stability measures but ultimately weakened succession mechanisms and increased political risk.

The bill is already facing legal challenges. On 13 May 2026, war veterans filed a constitutional challenge in Zimbabwe's Constitutional Court against President Mnangagwa and the Attorney-General, arguing that CAB3 cannot lawfully proceed without a referendum and that the process violates Section 328 of the Constitution. Former opposition leader Nelson Chamisa has also spoken out, describing the bill as a direct threat to democratic governance.

CAB3 is the most far-reaching proposed change to Zimbabwe's constitutional order since the 2013 Constitution was adopted. It would remove citizens' direct vote for their president, add two years to the current government's mandate without a fresh popular mandate, and dismantle independent oversight institutions. The government frames it as institutional modernisation in pursuit of Vision 2030; its critics say it is executive consolidation dressed in the language of reform.

WHO urges Uganda to reconsider Congo border closure as Ebola fears mount

BY Norman Mwale

@themkenyatiimes

The World Health Organization has urged Uganda to reconsider its decision to close its border with the Democratic Republic of Congo, warning that sweeping travel bans could undermine efforts to contain the region's escalating Ebola outbreak.

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus made the appeal on Monday, 8 June, during a visit to Kampala, where he met senior Ugandan officials to discuss the cross-border health threat. "Uganda should reconsider its decision to close its border with the Democratic Republic of Congo over the Ebola outbreak," Dr Tedros said, stressing that border closures often push movements underground and disrupt humanitarian access.

Uganda announced the temporary

closure on 27 May, citing what the Ministry of Health described as a "continued escalation" of Ebola cases in Ituri Province. Permanent Secretary Dr Diana Atwiine said the National Task Force, chaired by the Vice President, resolved to shut the border "with immediate effect" due to "the high risk of Ebola spreading into Uganda." The measure covers several hundred kilometres of frontier, allowing passage only for humanitarian, cargo, or security purposes. Anyone entering from the DRC must undergo a mandatory 21-day quarantine.

Authorities explained the move followed reports that Ugandan health-care workers had been exposed to infected patients who crossed before the outbreak was officially declared. At least 19 Ebola cases have been confirmed in Uganda, most linked to travel from eastern Congo. The Bundibugyo strain currently circulating has no approved vaccines or

treatments.

Dr Tedros cautioned against long-term restrictions, arguing they complicate outbreak response. "Such measures can hinder collaborative disease control efforts," he said. He urged Kampala to pursue "joint efforts with neighbouring countries," noting that the WHO has declared the DRC outbreak a global health emergency amid fears of wider regional spread.

The closure has already disrupted trade and daily life in border communities. Sarah Bitangalo, a clothing retailer in Bunia, DRC, said her business depends on goods imported via Kampala. "The closure of our border with Uganda is already affecting my business. I import products from Kampala and have customer orders, but I cannot fulfil them," she explained. Bernardati, a teacher and mother of three in Ituri, acknowledged the need to control the virus but questioned how long restrictions



Protests over a US Ebola facility in Kenya

would last, calling for more community support.

Congolese authorities have also suspended flights to and from Bunia, the capital of Ituri Province, where the virus continues to spread. The Ministry of Transport said the precaution was "designed to avert cross-border transmission and safeguard the health and safety of passengers, crew, and airport personnel." Exceptions are made for humanitarian, medical, and emergency flights with explicit approval from aviation and health officials.

Despite WHO's guidance against border closures, Uganda's govern-

ment appears committed to its hard-line stance as case numbers rise. Analysts warn that strict border controls can drive travellers to informal routes, increasing transmission risk. For now, Kampala says the shutdown will last four weeks, though extensions remain possible.

As the outbreak spreads, the dispute underscores a familiar tension in public health emergencies: balancing national security measures with international calls for cooperation. Dr Tedros was unequivocal: "Travel bans don't stop Ebola. Working together does."

THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND: A CASE STUDY OF KALUMBILA CONSTITUENCY, ZAMBIA

Authors: Kadima Samuel Kanyembu, John Mwangunga
University: DMI St. Eugene University, Chibombo, Zambia.
Level: Master’s Degree in Education (Civic Education)
Date of Submission to University: December 2025.
Date of Publication: 10th June 2026.

ABSTRACT

This study investigates the social and economic impacts of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in Kalumbila Constituency, Zambia. Since its inception in 1995, the CDF has served as a primary mechanism for fiscal decentralization, aimed at poverty reduction and community empowerment. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach—including quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews—the research identifies the types of projects funded, assesses community participation levels, and evaluates resident satisfaction. Findings indicate that while the CDF significantly impacts education and health infrastructure, challenges such as political influence, low technical capacity, and limited awareness of guidelines persist. The article concludes with recommendations for enhancing transparency and financial literacy to maximize the fund’s developmental potential.

INTRODUCTION

Poverty and unemployment remain significant threats to socio-economic development in rural Zambia. To address these challenges through decentralized governance, the Zambian government introduced the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in 1995. The fund is designed to empower local communities by allowing them to identify and implement projects that address their specific needs, particularly in health, education, and water services. In 2023, the budgetary allocation for CDF rose to approximately US\$ 1,200,000 per constituency, marking a significant shift in fiscal resources toward the grassroots.

MEANING OF CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND

The definition of Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in Zambia is polysemic. It means various things to different people in different categories where it can be applied or implemented.

a) From the Legal point of view:

It is a fund established by article 162 of the Constitution of Zambia Amendment Act (No. 2) of 2016, that promotes citizen-driven and community participation through devolution of power to local authorities for projects and empowerment.

It is money that is from the National Budget allocated to constituencies by the Parliament utilized through a decentralization system in accordance with the CDF Act (No. 1) of 2024.

b) From the Civil Societies points of view:

It is a government initiative aimed at financing local projects, empower women, orphans, vulnerable children and youths with skills training, education and vocational training (ACA, 2022).

It is money established by the Constitution of Zambia Amendment Act (No.2) to ensure that development reaches the grassroots level and it is not concentrated only in urban areas (TIZ, 2022).

c) From the Economic Point of view:

It is the fiscal decentralization of financial resources that promotes citizen’s decision-making at grassroots level to empower them economically through grants, loans and projects fund for economic growth, poverty reduction and improved livelihoods at the

Constituency or community level (Malama, 2012).

d) From the Monitoring and Evaluation point of view:

It is a fund, which is from the Zambia National Budget, established by articles 162 of the Constitution of Zambia Amendment Act (No. 2) of 2016 and implemented using CDF Act (No. 1) of 2024 which has to be distributed to all the constituencies with the following outcomes: improved living standard, stimulated local economic growth, enhanced access to basic services such as water, healthcare and improved infrastructure development (CPA, 2016).

From the various meanings established above, it becomes apparent that, Constituency Development Fund (CDF) is a financial allocation given by the Central Government, established under article 162 of the Constitution of Zambia Amendment Act (No. 2) of 2016, and implemented using CDF Act (No. 1) of 2024 in order to support community projects and empower people at the local level in Zambia.

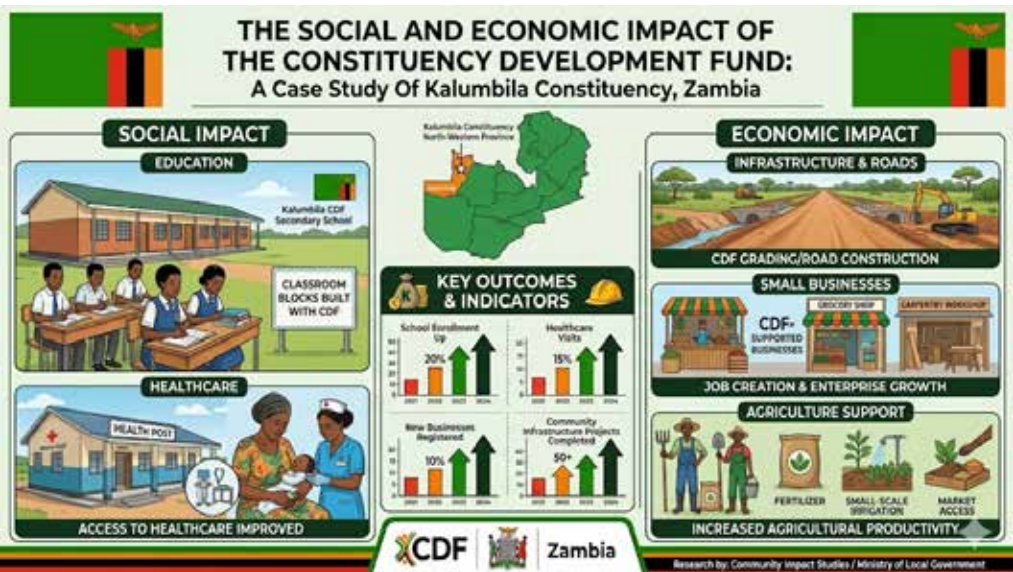
THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The study was grounded in Principal-Agent Theory and Social Capital Theory. The conceptual framework views the CDF through three main components:

- a) **Inputs:** Financial allocations, human resources, and regulatory frameworks.
- b) **Processes:** Project identification, resource disbursement, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E).
- c) **Outputs / Outcomes:** Social outcomes (infrastructure, community cohesion) and economic outcomes (job creation, poverty reduction).

METHODOLOGY

A mixed-methods research design was employed to capture a comprehensive view of the CDF’s impact in Kalumbila District.



a) **Quantitative:** Cross-sectional surveys were conducted with community members to gather numerical data on perceptions and experiences.

b) **Qualitative:** Semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, and direct observations were used to gain deeper insights into participant motivations and social dynamics.

c) **Analysis:** Content analysis was used to systematically review government policies and disciplinary records related to the fund.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION
Project Identification and Distribution

The study found that the CDF in Kalumbila has prioritized education-related projects, such as building classroom blocks and laboratories, followed by health facilities.

Community Participation and Awareness

Participation levels are notably high, with 69.5% of respondents indicating they had participated in CDF-funded projects. However, the effectiveness of this participation is often hampered by a low understanding of the formal CDF guidelines. Awareness of the fund is generally “average,” with 50% of the sample falling into this category.

Resident Satisfaction

Approximately 80% of respondents expressed satisfac-

tion with CDF-funded projects. The primary drivers of satisfaction are the tangible improvements in healthcare and education accessibility.

Challenges

Despite the positive impact, several barriers remain:

- a) **Political Interference:** The fund is sometimes perceived as a tool for political patronage rather than a neutral development initiative.
- b) **Mismanagement:** Embezzlement and misallocation of funds have been reported by watchdog organizations.
- c) **Capacity Constraints:** Local authorities often lack the human and technical resources to manage large-scale projects effectively.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The CDF is a vital tool for rural development, but its success depends on moving away from “top-down” mentalities. To improve outcomes, the study recommends:

- a) **Financial Literacy:** Conducting workshops to help local entrepreneurs manage start-up capital effectively.
- b) **Enhanced Transparency:** Implementing robust monitoring and evaluation systems and social audits to rebuild trust between the community and leadership.
- c) **Inclusive Decision-Making:** Ensuring that

marginalized groups, including women and youth, are actively involved in project selection through community forums.

References

Alliance for Community Action (ACA), 2022 Report.
Chikoko, V. (2015). The Constituency Development Fund in Zambia: Challenges and prospects. Zambia Governance Foundation.
Constituency Development Fund Act (No. 1) of 2024.
Constitution of Zambia Amendment Act (No. 2) of 2016.
Government of the Republic of Zambia (2006). Constituency Development Fund Guidelines.
Malama, E. (2012). Local Government in Zambia . Lusaka: Zambia Educational Publishing House (ZEPH).
Mfula, C. (2017). Participatory Development in Zambia. Ministry of Local Government. (2021). Councillors’ and Officers’ Manual. Lusaka: GIZ.
Mwenzwa, E. M. (2007). The Weaknesses of CDF Management in Zambia. National Assembly of Zambia (2023). Budgetary Allocations for 2023.
TIZ. (2022). Constituency Development Fund: Issues Brief. Lusaka: Transparency International Zambia. Retrieved December 31, 2024, from https://tizambia.org.zm/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Report-Constituency-Development-Fund-Issues-Brief.pdf

China-Korea According to Xi, the relationship between the two nations should continue evolving to meet contemporary challenges

Xi, Kim hold talks in Pyongyang, pledge to advance China-DPRK ties

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themkenyaintimes

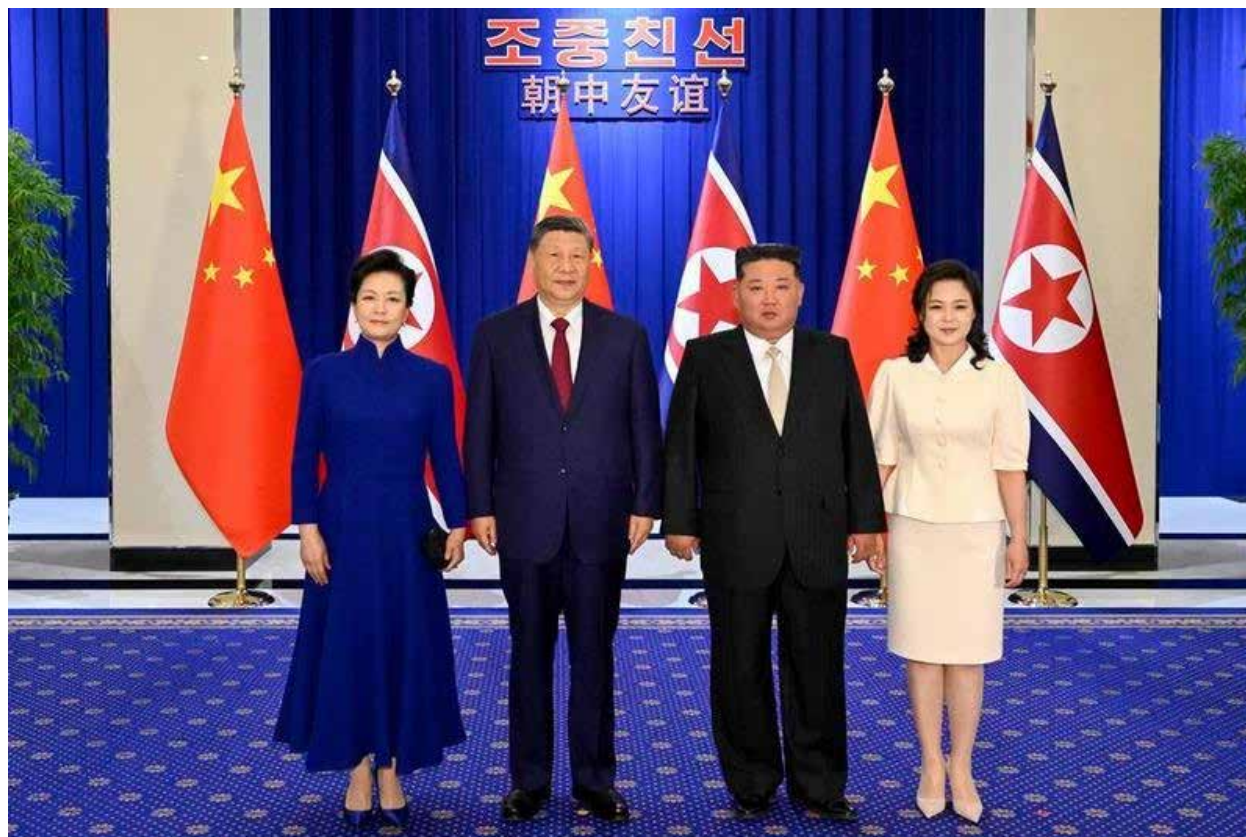
Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with DPRK leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang during a two-day state visit, pledging to strengthen bilateral relations and advance cooperation between China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Xi described the visit, his first to Pyongyang in seven years, as an opportunity to deepen strategic coordination and guide the relationship into a new era.

Xi emphasized that China and the DPRK, as socialist countries led by communist parties, share a long-standing friendship rooted in common ideals, historical ties, and mutual support. He said that despite changes in the international environment, China's commitment to valuing its traditional friendship with the DPRK, supporting Kim Jong Un's leadership, and safeguarding the common interests of both countries would remain unchanged. According to Xi, the relationship between the two nations should continue evolving to meet contemporary challenges while contributing to regional peace, development, and prosperity.

During the talks, Xi outlined four proposals for advancing China-DPRK relations.

First, he called for maintaining high-level exchanges to strengthen political mutual trust. Xi said that strategic guidance from the top leaders of both countries remains the greatest strength of bilateral relations. He expressed readiness to maintain close communication with Kim Jong Un to ensure that ties continue reaching new heights. Xi noted that this year marks the 65th anniversary of the China-DPRK Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance, and announced that both sides would hold major commemorative activities. He also highlighted the guiding role of party-to-party relations and urged expanded exchanges at different levels and in various sectors, including diplomacy, law enforcement, and military affairs, along with greater sharing of governance experiences.

Second, Xi stressed the importance of practical cooperation aimed at improving the well-being of both peoples. China, he said, is prepared



XI KIM4: Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese president, and his wife Peng Liyuan pose for a photo with Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and Kim's wife Ri Sol Ju, in Pyongyang, the DPRK, June 8, 2026. Xi and Peng attended a welcome banquet hosted by Kim here on Monday. | Photo: Xinhua/Shen Hong.

to align development strategies with the DPRK and expand collaboration in trade, agriculture, construction, science and technology, and healthcare. He also pointed to the full re-opening of border crossings and the resumption of civil aviation flights and international passenger train services as opportunities to increase people-to-people interaction and facilitate exchanges.

Third, Xi underscored the need to preserve and pass on the traditional friendship between the two countries. He described this friendship, forged through shared struggles and sacrifice, as a valuable asset belonging to both peoples. China, he said, is willing to cooperate with the DPRK in maintaining memorial facilities dedicated to Chinese People's Volunteers who died during the Korean War and in promoting revolutionary traditions and youth education. Xi further called for enhanced cooperation in education, culture, the arts, tourism, sports, media, youth affairs, local government exchanges, and sister-city partnerships so that future generations continue to appreciate

the historic ties between the two countries.

Fourth, Xi urged both countries to enrich their strategic coordination by upholding fairness and justice in international affairs. He referred to his vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity and the four global initiatives proposed by China, describing them as efforts to improve global governance and promote greater equity. Xi said that Asian countries share a common home and should work together to safeguard sovereignty, security, development interests, and regional stability. He called on China and the DPRK to strengthen cooperation in addressing international and regional challenges.

Kim Jong Un warmly welcomed Xi, describing him as the most respected guest of the DPRK people. He said Xi's decision to make Pyongyang the destination of his first overseas trip of the year reflected the importance China attaches to relations with the DPRK and served as a powerful demonstration of the strength of the friendship between the two

countries.

Kim characterized DPRK-China ties as time-tested and unbreakable. He said the relationship has consistently stood for independence and justice and derives its special character not only from geographical proximity but also from deep historical bonds and shared convictions. According to Kim, both countries are committed to preserving and strengthening these ties for future generations.

Recalling his previous meeting with Xi in Beijing, Kim noted that bilateral cooperation had made positive progress in multiple fields since then, delivering practical benefits to both peoples. He welcomed Xi's proposals for advancing relations and pledged that DPRK institutions would work closely with their Chinese counterparts to implement them fully.

Kim said the DPRK seeks to deepen cooperation in areas such as trade, infrastructure development, science and technology, education, and cultural exchanges. He also expressed support for greater exchanges be-

tween the two ruling parties to share experiences in governance and contribute to the development of the DPRK's socialist system.

Praising China's achievements under Xi's leadership, Kim said China's economic progress and rising international influence had impressed the world. He also endorsed Xi's concept of building a community with a shared future for humanity and China's global initiatives, describing them as meaningful contributions to international peace and development.

Kim reaffirmed the DPRK's support for the one-China principle and China's positions on issues affecting its core interests. He stated that strengthening and developing DPRK-China relations remains the DPRK's consistent strategic choice and a requirement of the times. According to Kim, the DPRK regards the relationship with China as its foremost strategic undertaking and intends to build it into a model of interstate relations that contributes to regional and global peace and prosperity.

Before the talks, Kim hosted a grand welcome ceremony for Xi at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang. The two leaders reviewed an honor guard after a 21-gun salute and the playing of both national anthems. Xi inspected troops from the Korean People's Army and later watched a military parade alongside Kim.

Kim also hosted a welcome banquet in Xi's honor. Speaking at the event, Xi said that China-DPRK relations had reached a new historical starting point and that the two leaders had achieved important consensus during the visit. Looking to the future, Xi stated that both countries would strengthen high-level exchanges, deepen strategic communication, expand practical cooperation, enhance people-to-people ties, and promote the high-quality development of bilateral relations. He said these efforts would not only advance the socialist causes of both nations but also contribute to peace, stability, and the continued progress of human society.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Who shepherds the shepherd?

Society demands perfection from clergy families but rarely asks who cares for them

By Munene MaryJoy

The clergy are often seen as tireless guardians of faith, summoned whenever spiritual, emotional, or even financial support is needed. Yet behind the pulpit stand human beings with families, struggles, and responsibilities of their own. Society expects them to be ever-present, but when they falter, they are swiftly branded selfish or negligent.

This burden extends to their children, who grow up under relentless scrutiny. While other young people are free to stumble and learn, clergy children are judged by harsher standards. A simple mistake, a social outing, or even a personal interest can be twisted into criticism. Many hide their parents' calling to escape stereotypes, wary of being defined by expectations they never chose.



The irony is stark: while pastors spend countless hours guiding other families, their own children may feel neglected, isolated, or pressured into rebellion. What should be a blessing — a life of service — can become a heavy burden for those closest to them. The community that benefits from their parents' devotion often forgets to extend compassion

to the ones living in the shadow of that devotion. Clergy families need support too. They deserve empathy, space to grow, and recognition of their humanity. Before demanding that pastors endlessly shepherd their congregations, society must pause and ask: who shepherds the shepherd

Youth in Kenya embrace skills training to improve employment chances

By Lydia Jerop

Kenya's youth are rewriting their future through skills training. With formal jobs increasingly elusive, many are enrolling in technical and vocational institutions to gain practical expertise in trades such as electrical work, carpentry, plumbing, hairdressing, and digital technology. This shift reflects a growing recognition that self-reliance and entrepreneurship may offer more secure paths than waiting endlessly for white-collar opportunities.

One trainee explained, "I joined a vocational course because I could not find a job after school. Now I am learning skills that can help me start my own business." Such voices capture the determination of a generation unwilling to be defined by unemployment statistics. Instead, they are embracing



hands-on training as a way to carve out livelihoods and contribute to Kenya's economy.

Experts argue that this momentum must be matched by greater investment in youth training programmes. Equipping young people with market-ready skills not only addresses joblessness but also strengthens industries that depend on skilled labour. From construction sites to salons and digital hubs, the demand for practical expertise is rising, and Kenya's youth are positioning themselves to meet it.

The challenge lies in ensuring these programmes remain accessible, affordable, and aligned with evolving market needs. Without sustained support, the promise of vocational training risks being undermined by underfunding and outdated curricula.

Kenya's young people are proving that resilience and innovation can thrive even in tough economic times. The question now is whether the nation will invest enough to turn this grassroots energy into lasting opportunity.

Government of bloggers

Kenya's digital voices are reshaping public opinion, but misinformation threatens to drown out urgent national issues.

By Oliver Ogutu

In today's fast-paced digital age, information spreads faster than ever. A breaking story can go viral within minutes, often reaching millions before traditional media verifies its accuracy. This phenomenon has given rise to what many now call Kenya's "government of bloggers," where online influencers wield growing power over public opinion, political discourse, and national dialogue.

Blogging has evolved into a potent communication tool. Many bloggers expose corruption, highlight overlooked issues, and engage audiences that mainstream outlets sometimes miss. Their reach has made them influential figures in society. Yet this influence carries risks. In the race to break news first, some bloggers publish unverified claims, mislead-



ing headlines, or manipulated content. Such misinformation spreads rapidly, sowing confusion and blurring the line between fact and fiction.

The result is a public increasingly skeptical of all sources, genuine or otherwise. This erosion of trust diverts attention from urgent matters like rising living costs, unemployment, healthcare, education, and transparency in public institutions. Political communication itself has been transformed,

with digital voices often setting the tone of debate.

Blogging remains a powerful tool for democratic engagement, but its credibility depends on responsibility. Kenya's challenge lies in ensuring digital platforms serve the public interest rather than distort it. As bloggers' influence expands, the question becomes sharper: are Kenyans truly informed, or are they being led astray?

School unrest: a warning sign that should not be ignored

By Christine Simiyu

School unrest is no longer an isolated incident but a recurring crisis across Kenya's learning institutions. Strikes, property destruction, and disrupted lessons are often dismissed as indiscipline, yet they point to deeper problems within the education system. Treating them merely as misconduct risks ignoring the warning signs of student frustration and neglect.

Today's learners face immense pressure — from academic expectations to family responsibilities and social challenges. Many struggle with mental health but lack access to proper guidance and counselling. When students feel unheard, their grievances can erupt into unrest, leaving administrators scrambling to restore order.

Punishment alone cannot solve this. Schools must embrace



open communication, mentorship, and counselling to create safe spaces where students can express concerns before they escalate. Listening to students does not weaken discipline; it strengthens trust and helps identify solutions early.

Parents, too, play a critical role. Character development begins at home, and cooperation between families and schools is essential to instill values of respect, responsibility, and self-discipline. Students must also recognise that violence and destruction are never acceptable answers to

grievances.

Education is meant to prepare young people for the future, yet frequent unrest undermines learning, damages property, and breeds tension among communities. The challenge is not just discipline but addressing the root causes of discontent.

Kenya must act decisively: school unrest is not simply rebellion, it is a cry for help. Ignoring it risks failing a generation; confronting it with dialogue and compassion can build safer, stronger schools.

SPORTS
NEWSPHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *Victor Wembanyama and Stephon Castle silence Madison Square Garden as San Antonio cut the series deficit to 2-1

Wembanyama leads Spurs to 115-111 Game 3 victory, halts Knicks' 13-game play-off streak



Victor Wembanyama and Stephon Castle silence Madison Square Garden as San Antonio cut the series deficit

By Norman Mwale

Victor Wembanyama produced a statement performance at Madison Square Garden on Monday night, scoring 32 points as the San Antonio Spurs beat the New York Knicks 115-111 in Game 3 of the 2026 NBA Finals, snapping New York's 13-game play-off winning streak and pulling the series back to 2-1.

The 22-year-old French centre was dominant from the opening tip, throwing down the game's first four points and finishing with 32 points, eight rebounds, six assists, three blocks and two steals in 39 minutes. He shot 11-for-18 from the field, including two three-pointers, and converted 8-of-9 from the free-throw line, including a perfect 6-for-6

in the fourth quarter.

"Facing a 2-0 deficit in the Finals and the most hostile crowd he has likely faced to this point in his young career, Wemby was the best player on the floor," said Spurs head coach Mitch Johnson. "Every time New York threatened to take control, he responded with a clutch basket, a defensive stop or a momentum-shifting play."

San Antonio opened the contest with a 7-0 run and led 33-22 after the first quarter, with Wembanyama scoring nine early points while attacking the rim. The Knicks responded strongly in the second, outscoring the Spurs by 18 to take a seven-point half-time lead, before San Antonio seized back control after the break.

Rookie guard Stephon Castle delivered a career-defining night alongside Wembanyama, adding 23 points, five rebounds and five assists. A pivotal Castle three-pointer as the shot clock expired pushed the Spurs ahead 111-104 with 1:53 remaining, draining the noise from the Garden in an instant. De'Aaron Fox then weaved through the paint to sink a mid-range jumper for a 113-108 lead with 12.2 seconds left, and Castle sealed the win from the free-throw line after OG Anunoby's corner three cut the deficit to two.

Wembanyama and Castle, both aged 22 or younger, became the first pair of teammates in that age bracket to each score 20 or more points in an NBA Finals game. "Victor wasn't alone," Johnson

said. "Stephon stepped up in a huge way, scoring 23 points and making several critical plays."

Jalen Brunson led New York with 32 points, while Anunoby and Josh Hart also reached double figures. Despite the defeat, the Knicks remain ahead 2-1 in the best-of-seven series and will host Game 4 at Madison Square Garden on Wednesday, 11 June. The loss ended New York's 13-game post-season winning streak, the second-longest in NBA history, behind only the 2017 Golden State Warriors' run of 15.

Wembanyama acknowledged the significance after the buzzer. "We had our backs against the wall," he said. "We knew we couldn't go down 3-0. We just wanted to come in, play hard and get one on the road."

The Spurs' victory was their first of the series and Wembanyama's first career win at Madison Square Garden. San Antonio held the Knicks under 30 points in three of four quarters and forced key stops late, with Wembanyama altering multiple shots in the closing minutes.

President Donald Trump attended the game, the first sitting US president to do so at an NBA Finals. His presence required heightened security, with the NYPD setting up a broad perimeter around the arena and ticket-holding fans waiting over two hours to enter. He was booed when shown on the jumbotron, seated alongside Knicks owner James Dolan.

The Spurs now trail 2-1 with momentum shifted. "This completely changes the Finals," Johnson said. "We are still in tremendous shape, but these Spurs proved they are far too talented to count out."

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Four years after walking away, the 23-time Grand Slam champion is back on the grass — and she has two words for anyone wondering why

The queen returns: Serena Williams stages grass-court comeback at Queen’s



Serena Williams

By Norman Mwale

Serena Williams returned to professional tennis on Tuesday, stepping onto the grass at Queen’s Club in west London to compete at the HSBC Championships — her first match in nearly four years.

The 44-year-old American, winner of 23 Grand Slam singles titles, accepted a wild-card entry into the women’s doubles, partnering 19-year-old Canadian Victoria Mboko. The pair, separated by a quarter-century in age, opened against third seeds Nicole Melichar-Martinez and Erin Routliffe on Andy Murray Arena. It was a formidable draw for a first match back, though the seeded duo had never previously played together as a team, a detail that could yet prove significant.

Williams last competed at the

2022 US Open, where she signalled her intention to step away from the sport that had defined her for two decades, telling the world she was “evolving away” from tennis. She never formally retired. On Monday, she met the press for the first time in four years and fielded questions about her return with characteristic brevity. Asked why she had come back, her answer was three syllables: “Why not?”

That simplicity belies the scale of the moment. The HSBC Championships, a WTA 500 event, runs from 8 to 14 June at Queen’s Club and serves as one of the key grass-court warm-ups before Wimbledon. Williams has not committed to singles play. Pressed on whether she might return to the All England Club in singles, she was direct: “Right now, no.”

The comeback does not stop in

London. Berlin Open organisers confirmed that Williams will compete in doubles at the German grass-court event beginning 13 June. Her partner there has yet to be announced. The two tournaments sit back-to-back on the calendar, with Wimbledon following a fortnight later.

Williams said she had nothing to prove upon her return, adding that winning was not her focus. She described the partnership with Mboko as a cautious re-entry into match play, a chance to find her rhythm before making any larger decisions. Mboko, ranked world No. 9 and widely regarded as one of the most disruptive young talents on the WTA Tour, said it was an honour to share a court with one of the greatest athletes of all time.

Williams also revealed that one of her motivations for returning was giving her daughters, Olym-

pia and Adira, the chance to watch her compete. It is a detail that adds warmth to what might otherwise be read as a purely sporting calculation — and it suggests that whatever happens on the scoreboard this week, the comeback means something beyond results.

Williams announced her return on 1 June through a teaser video showing her phone chiming as she crossed a tennis court, closing with the message: “guess everybody heard the news.” She received a wild card for the event shortly afterwards. For now, the comeback is doubles only, grass-court only, and defined by two words that make no promises but leave every door open: why not.

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS

Backpage



A celebration of poetry and meaning: Global author spotlight features leaves of luminous thoughts

European Book Club Virtual Session

There is something quietly powerful about gathering — even virtually — around words that move you. On June 6, 2026, the European Book Club did exactly that, hosting a warm and engaging Global Author Spotlight session featuring poet and educator Brinda D. and her celebrated poetry collection, *Leaves of Luminous Thoughts*. The session, organized by theeuropeanbookclub.org, brought together poetry enthusiasts, readers, writers, and literary community members from across the globe for an intimate morning of reflection, dialogue, and discovery.

Meet the Author

Brinda D. is a poet whose work is rooted in a deep, attentive love for life. Through her verses, she captures the textures of human emotion — the quiet joys, the aching losses, the resilience we find when we least expect it. As both a poet and an educator, she writes with the hope of helping readers pause, look inward, and find meaning in the ordinary moments that shape our lives.

About the Book

Leaves of Luminous Thoughts is a collection of 100 thoughtfully crafted poems that journey through the full range of human experience. From joy and gratitude to grief and perseverance, from love and relationships to nature, spirituality, and self-discovery, the poems speak with honesty and warmth to readers of every background.

The European Book Club described the collection beautifully: a work that “captures life’s joys, sorrows, dreams, and victories, inspiring readers to reflect and find meaning in every verse.” It is, at its heart, an invitation — to slow down, feel deeply, and grow.

Highlights from the Session The Author’s Journey

Brinda D. opened the session by sharing her literary path with candour and warmth. She spoke about

how her passion for poetry took shape over the years and how her life’s experiences — her observations of people, places, and quiet moments — found their way into the poems that fill this collection.

Exploring the Themes

One of the session’s richest threads was the conversation about what poetry can do. Brinda D. spoke about how verse can serve as a medium for healing, self-expression, and inspiration — not just for the reader, but for the writer too. Participants were struck by the universality of her themes; these are poems that do not belong to one culture or one kind of person. They belong to anyone who has ever loved, struggled, hoped, or wondered.

Reader Interaction

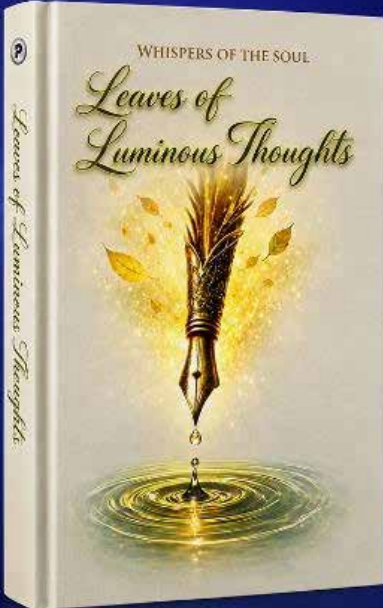
The interactive segment proved to be a highlight of the morning. Readers came with genuine curiosity, asking about the inspiration behind specific poems, the discipline and creative process behind writing them, the role poetry plays in contemporary society, and advice for aspiring poets and young writers finding their voice.

The conversation was generous and honest. Several participants commented on how uplifting and grounding the poems felt — how relevant they were to the everyday rhythms of real life.

Poems That Stayed with the Audience

Among the many poems discussed, these were the ones that resonated most powerfully with listeners:

1. Those Who Left Us Left a Lesson
2. Let Your Conscience Be Your Guide
3. My Strength Didn’t Come from Outside
4. No One Can Take Care of You More Than You
5. If a Door Doesn’t Open, Think It’s Not Yours
6. We Learn More from Defeat Than from Victory
7. Never Give Up



Global Author Spotlight

Virtual Session

AUTHOR
BRINDA D.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6
7:00AM - EST

Join author **BRINDA D.** for an enlightening exploration of her book, **Leaves of Luminous Thoughts**. Featuring 100 beautifully crafted poems, this collection captures life’s joys, sorrows, dreams, and victories—inviting readers to reflect, connect, and find meaning in every verse.



8. Great Things Never Come from the Comfort Zone
9. What Is Yours Will Reach You in Time
10. It’s Not Our Duty to Fix Others’ Problems
11. If You Don’t Believe in You, Then Who Will Trust You?
12. There Is No Doubt — When We Lift Others, We Too Rise
13. Falling Down Is Not Losing
14. Loneliness Teaches Us So Many Things
15. My Tears Speak Volumes of My Pain
16. In Disturbed Situations, Silence Is the Best Way
17. Let’s Be Good to All, for No Reason at All
18. We Need Only Peace, No Need for War
19. Oh, My God — Why Me? Why Me Alone?

Each title alone carries weight. Together, they tell you everything you need to know about the kind of poet Brinda D. is — one who meets you where you are.

Why Sessions Like This Matter

The Global Author Spotlight is more than a book discussion. It is a

platform for promoting contemporary poetry, deepening literary appreciation, connecting authors with readers around the world, encouraging emerging writers, and celebrating the diversity of literary voices that so often go unheard.

This session was a reminder that poetry is not a relic of the past. It is alive, necessary, and deeply human — a bridge between people who may never share a geography but who share the same longing to be understood.

A Fitting Close

The Global Author Spotlight session featuring *Leaves of Luminous Thoughts* was, by every measure, a success — not just as an event, but as an experience. Brinda D.’s sincerity and the depth of her poetic voice left a genuine impression on everyone present. The European Book Club once again demonstrated its commitment to bringing global literature to a global audience, and to reminding us all that in a noisy, fragmented world, there is still great power in a well-chosen word.

