



Kindiki: Kenya fully supports UN Expansion Project in Nairobi
 Kenya is looking forward to hosting more United Nations agencies and has allocated billions of money to support the on-going expansion project in Nairobi, Deputy President Kithure Kindiki said. [Page 8](#)



State House spent KSh.4.4B outside budget, Controller of Budget reveals
 The government spent more than KSh.206 billion in unbudgeted expenditure in the first nine months of the 2025/2026 financial year, with State House Kenya accounting for KSh.4.4 billion of that figure [Page 12](#)

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Budget “Nothing in all these years of public life has prepared me for the cruelty of this budget,” Kalonzo said
Opposition tears into Ruto’s KSh4.8 trillion budget

The opposition coalition United Alternative Government launched a comprehensive assault on President William Ruto’s administration on Wednesday, unveiling an alternative fiscal framework it has branded the “People’s Budget” and accusing the government of producing the most reckless, inequitable spending plan in Kenya’s post-independence history.

The broadside came less than 24 hours before Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi was due to present the government’s proposed KSh4.82 trillion budget to the National Assembly — the largest spending plan the Republic has ever tabled. Speaking at a joint press conference, Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka led the opposition’s case, flanked by Democracy for Citizens Party leader and former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Democratic Party of Kenya leader Justin Muturi, and Jubilee Deputy Party Leader Dr. Fred Matiang’i. The breadth of the coalition on display was itself a message: that a significant and growing portion of Kenya’s political establishment has concluded that the Ruto administration’s economic direction is untenable.

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Opposition leaders Rigathi Gachagua (DCP), Fred Matiang’i (Jubilee) Kalonzo Musyoka (Wiper), and J B Muturi during a past meeting. Photo | Courtesy

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“ALL BUSINESSES ONE PLATFORM”

Ruto in Finland State visit seals new deals on climate, innovation and digital cooperation

BY DMS

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

President William Ruto's two-day State visit to Finland was aimed at strengthening Kenya's diplomatic, economic and technological ties with the Nordic nation, with both countries signing new agreements on climate action, education, innovation and the digital economy.

Ruto, who arrived in Helsinki at the invitation of Finnish President Alexander Stubb, said the visit presents an opportunity to deepen cooperation in key sectors including clean energy, digitisation, technology, education and investment.

"We look forward to deepening economic ties, strengthening partnerships in technology, digitisation, clean energy, innovation and education, and advancing new opportunities for investment, job creation and shared prosperity," the President said upon arrival.

He was officially received at the Presidential Palace in Helsinki by President Stubb and First Lady Suzanne Innes-Stubb, marking the formal commencement of the high-level engagements. Ruto said the visit un-



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Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) yesterday held strategic discussions with a World Bank delegation on strengthening the commercialization of agricultural research and increasing its impact on farmers and agribusinesses. Led by Director General Dr. Patrick Ketiemi and Deputy Director General for Crops Dr. Alice Murage, the meeting explored ways of positioning KALRO as a knowledge hub that transforms research outputs into practical solutions for smallholder farmers and value chain actors. Insights from New Zealand's Bio-economy Science Institute highlighted approaches to identifying commercialization gaps and scaling innovations. Dr. Ketiemi emphasized the importance of nurturing private sector partnerships to adopt and expand KALRO technologies. The World Bank pledged support through diagnostic assessments and recommendations to enhance commercialization frameworks, promoting food security, climate resilience and sustainable agricultural transformation.



Marsabit County hosted the national launch of the 2027 Day of the African Child celebrations, bringing together government officials, development partners, civil society groups, community leaders and hundreds of children. Held on Tuesday at Sangante Kargi Maikona (SKM) Primary School, the event focused on improving children's access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services and strengthening child protection systems. The gathering offered stakeholders an opportunity to examine the persistent challenges affecting children and reaffirm their commitment to safeguarding children's rights and welfare. Participants also emphasized the need for increased investment in services that support children's health, education and overall development. The Day of the African Child is observed annually to promote children's rights and advocate for action to address issues affecting their well-being across Africa.



Hundreds of young entrepreneurs in Meru County have received a major boost after Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO), through its Sacco wing, disbursed loans worth KSh30 million to support small businesses. The funding is aimed at strengthening youth-led enterprises and improving income generation among beneficiaries engaged in various trades. SHOFCO Chief Executive Officer Dr. Kennedy Odede said the organization remains committed to empowering vulnerable communities through targeted programmes that enable people to transform their liveli-

hoods. He also announced the launch of a new resource centre featuring a library, community hall and computer lab to promote digital literacy and community development. The initiative is expected to expand economic opportunities and enhance entrepreneurial growth among young people in the region.



More than 1,000 cyclists, including 38 elite international riders from Africa, Europe and the United States, are expected to compete in the second leg of the 2026 LOOP Safari Gravel Series at Hell's Gate National Park in Naivasha on June 13. The event doubles as a UCI Gravel World Series Qualifier, offering riders a chance to qualify for the 2026 UCI Gravel World Championships in Western Australia. Competitors will tackle 20km, 60km and elite 111km routes featuring challenging gravel terrain. Uganda's Charles Kagimu and Rwanda's Claudette Nyirahabimana headline the elite field alongside top Kenyan riders. Winners of the elite 100km race will receive Sh20,000, while team prizes range up to Sh125,000. Organisers say the UCI accreditation boosts Kenya's global cycling profile and creates international opportunities for African athletes.

Kenya is developing a Country Agribusiness Partnership Framework (CAP-F) to attract domestic and foreign private investment and transform smallholder farming into a modern, commercially driven sector. Through a pilot Matching Grant Fund (MGF), the initiative will support farmer organizations and agribusiness enterprises by co-financing investments in productivity, value chain development, climate-smart agriculture and innovation. Speaking in Nairobi, Agriculture Principal Secretary Dr. Paul Rono said the programme aims to address financing challenges facing smallholder farmers, women-led enterprises and youth-owned agribusinesses, many of whom struggle to access affordable credit. The pilot, under the AUDA-NEPAD initiative, will test the effectiveness of the grant mechanism in catalysing private investment, strengthening agricultural value chains and generating lessons for scaling sustainable agricultural financing nationwide and across the region.



Kuwait has banned the recruitment of domestic workers from Kenya and 26 other countries as part of new labour regulations issued by the Ministry of Interior. Other countries listed alongside Kenya include Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Cabo Verde, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mali, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, and the Central African Republic, The Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and Angola, Madagascar, Uganda, Nigeria, Togo, Malawi, Chad, Djibouti and Niger have also been blacklisted. However, domestic workers from South Africa, Benin, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, India, Vietnam, Nepal, and Senegal have been granted recruitment, limited to male workers only.

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Children Kirinyaga County has not been spared, with several incidents reported in Mwea and Ndia constituencies

Wangui Ngirici raises alarm over rising cases of missing children in Kirinyaga

BY Jane Mugambi
@themkenyatimes

Former Kirinyaga Woman Representative Wangui Ngirici has expressed concern over the increasing number of missing children cases in Kirinyaga County, saying Mwea and Ndia constituencies have been particularly affected.

Speaking during a burial ceremony at Kaitheri Village in Kirinyaga Central, Ngirici urged the government to act swiftly to address the worrying trend, which she said has left many families distressed and searching endlessly for their loved ones.

She called on relevant government agencies to conduct thorough investigations into the disappearances and ensure those responsible are identified and prosecuted.

According to Ngirici, the growing number of cases has heightened fear and anxiety among parents and guardians, who now live in constant worry over the safety of their children.

“Kirinyaga County has not been spared, with several incidents reported in Mwea and Ndia constituencies. The trend has heightened fear and anxiety among parents and guardians,” she said.

She noted that the disappearance of children not only threatens their safety and well-being but also undermines the rights guaranteed



Ms Wangui Ngirici addressing mourners during the burial of Michael Wachira Gitabi at Kaitheri, Kerugoya ward in Kirinyaga Central.

to them under the Constitution.

Ngirici reminded parents that Kenyan laws protect children from abuse, neglect, violence, exploitation and other harmful practices, urging them to remain vigilant and closely monitor their children’s movements.

The former legislator also faulted the government’s response to the crisis, saying many affected families have not received adequate support and remain in the dark regarding the whereabouts of their missing children.

She cited figures from the Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services showing that 10,581 cases of miss-

ing children were reported across the country between January 2025 and March 2026. The statistics translate to an average of approximately 23 children disappearing every day.

On the issue of school unrest, Ngirici called for independent investigations into the recent incidents that have rocked learning institutions across the country.

She argued that the government should involve a broader range of stakeholders in efforts to establish the root causes of the disturbances.

Ngirici suggested that institutions such as churches could play a role in conducting impartial inquiries, espe-

cially following a series of dormitory fire tragedies that have claimed the lives of students.

She emphasized that only transparent and inclusive investigations would help restore public confidence and prevent similar incidents in future.

Her remarks come amid growing national concern over child safety and unrest in schools, with stakeholders calling for urgent interventions to protect learners and address emerging social challenges affecting children and young people.

Govt distributes 10,000 devices to JSS schools



Through Kenya Digital Economy Acceleration Project (KDEAP), flagged off the distribution of laptops and interactive smart boards

BY MKT REPORTER
@themkenyatimes

The government launched the nationwide distribution of teacher laptops and 65-inch interactive smart boards to 10,380 Junior Secondary Schools on Tuesday, in what officials described as the most significant digital classroom intervention in Kenya’s education history.

The flag-off, held at the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa in Nairobi, was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Education, the World Bank, the ICT Authority and Parliament. Officials demonstrated the devices’ capabilities live, conducting a remote digital lesson with learners at New Mukuru Primary School.

The initiative falls under the Kenya Digital Economy Acceleration Project, a programme backed by the World Bank. “These devices will make lessons more visual,

interactive and engaging, supporting digital literacy from an early stage and helping young Kenyans develop the skills increasingly required in today’s labour market,” said Aneliya Muller, KDEAP Task Leader at the World Bank.

Dagoretti South MP John Kiarie, who chairs the National Assembly Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation, framed the rollout in broader terms. “By integrating technology into our classrooms, we are equipping learners with the skills needed to thrive in the Fourth Industrial Revolution,” he said.

The government added that more than 30,000 kilometres of fibre optic infrastructure have been deployed nationally, with over 8,000 public institutions now connected to the internet.

For Kenya’s Junior Secondary learners, the devices have arrived. The test now is whether the connectivity holds.

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Ruto in Finland State visit seals new deals on climate, innovation and digital cooperation



Contd from page 2

underscores the strong and enduring relationship between Kenya and Finland and a shared commitment to expand cooperation for mutual benefit.

The two leaders later presided over the signing of three Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) covering cooperation in the circular economy, bioeconomy, climate change, education, digitisation and innovation. The agreements are expected to boost scientific collaboration, enhance knowledge exchange and support innovation-driven partnerships between the two countries.

According to the two governments, the MoUs will also help accelerate sustainable development initiatives, particularly in areas such as green growth, digital transformation and skills development. Finland, a global leader in education and clean technology, has increasingly positioned itself as a strategic partner for African countries seeking to expand innovation ecosystems and climate resilience strategies.

Ruto noted that the agreements align with Kenya's broader development agenda, including efforts to create jobs, promote digital connectivity and strengthen climate action responses. He emphasized that partnerships with advanced economies such as Finland are critical in supporting Kenya's economic transformation.

"We reaffirmed our shared commitment to reforming multilateral institutions to make them more representative, effective and responsive to the aspirations of the Global South," Ruto said, adding that both nations also reiterated support for global peace, adherence to the UN Charter, respect for sovereignty, and peaceful resolution of disputes under international law.

Beyond the formal talks, President

Ruto also took time to honour Finland's national heroes. He laid wreaths at the Cross of the Heroes and at the tomb of Marshal Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim, paying tribute to their legacy and contribution to Finland's independence and development.

He described their sacrifice as reflecting values of service, resilience and patriotism that resonate with Kenya's own national journey and aspirations.

"Their legacy of service, resilience and patriotism resonates across generations and reflects values shared by both Kenya and Finland," he said.

The visit comes at a time when Kenya is seeking to expand its global partnerships in green energy, digital infrastructure and education reform. Finland, on its part, has been strengthening ties with African nations through technology transfer, sustainable forestry initiatives, and education exchange programmes.

Analysts note that the renewed engagement between Nairobi and Helsinki is expected to open new avenues for investment, particularly in renewable energy, digital innovation hubs, research collaboration and skills development programmes.

The State Visit is expected to continue with further bilateral meetings, business forums and engagements with Finnish institutions, as both countries work to translate the signed agreements into practical projects that benefit citizens.

Ruto is accompanied by senior government officials and is expected to outline Kenya's investment priorities during meetings with Finnish business leaders and innovation stakeholders before concluding the visit.

He was accompanied by among others; Prime Cabinet Secretary and CS for Foreign Affairs Musalia Mudavadi and his colleagues, William Kabogo and Deborah Barasa.



Ms. Annalena Baerbock (2nd left) and her team with DP Kithure Kindiki yesterday.

Kindiki: Kenya fully supports UN Expansion Project in Nairobi

BY DPCS

@themkenyentimes

Kenya is looking forward to hosting more United Nations agencies and has allocated billions of money to support the ongoing expansion project in Nairobi, Deputy President Kithure Kindiki said.

The DP said the KSh140 billion financial allocation by the government is a show of Kenya's solid commitment to boost the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) Expansion Project that the global body has allocated KSh44 billion.

The Deputy President spoke yesterday when he hosted the President of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Ms. Annalena Baerbock, who paid him a courtesy call at the Harambee Annex Office in Nairobi.

"To ensure the success of this historic modernization, the Government of Kenya has invested USD 1.1 billion of domestic resources into matching infrastructure. This massive state investment has fun-

damentally upgraded the road networks, security frameworks, and sustainable utility systems around the Gigiri diplomatic enclave, aligning the campus with global net-zero climate goals," Prof. Kindiki revealed.

He said Kenya considers it a great privilege for the UN to prove its belief in the country by expanding the offices in Nairobi thus elevating it to the same level as other headquarters elsewhere in the developed world.

"Nairobi offers the global community a highly competitive, low-cost duty station backed by aggressive public investment. The elevation of UNON's operational and diplomatic status to achieve true parity with UN Headquarters in the Global North will fulfill the promise of equitable geographic representation," DP noted.

"Against the backdrop of a highly fragile global security landscape, marked by a troubling resurgence of militarization and the erosion of traditional disarmament frameworks, Kenya continues to serve as

a vital anchor for regional stability.

Kenya is hosting the United Nations Environment Programme and UN-Habitat offices but through the expansion programme it will be home to three more agencies: the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and UN Women.

Ms. Baerbock commended Kenya for its support for the UN saying that has been reciprocated by the expansion of the body's only office in the Global South saying the role of Kenya and Africa is critical for the UN's future.

"The coming of more agencies to Nairobi proves the attractiveness of Nairobi and Kenya and the UN is looking forward to increasing this global partnership," she noted.

UAG Kalonzo did not reach for diplomatic language. “Nothing in all these years of public life has prepared me for the cruelty of this budget,” he said.

Opposition unveils ‘People’s Budget’, tears into Ruto’s KSh4.8 trillion spending plan

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyaintimes

The opposition coalition United Alternative Government launched a comprehensive assault on President William Ruto’s administration on Wednesday, unveiling an alternative fiscal framework it has branded the “People’s Budget” and accusing the government of producing the most reckless, inequitable spending plan in Kenya’s post-independence history.

The broadside came less than 24 hours before Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi was due to present the government’s proposed KSh4.82 trillion budget to the National Assembly — the largest spending plan the Republic has ever tabled. Speaking at a joint press conference, Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka led the opposition’s case, flanked by Democracy for Citizens Party leader and former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Democratic Party of Kenya leader Justin Muturi, and Jubilee Deputy Party Leader Dr. Fred Matiang’i. The breadth of the coalition on display was itself a message: that a significant and growing portion of Kenya’s political establishment has concluded that the Ruto administration’s economic direction is untenable.

Kalonzo did not reach for diplomatic language. “Nothing in all these years of public life has prepared me for the cruelty of this budget,” he said. “Because that is what it is. Not just incompetence and miscalculation — but cruelty.”

The government’s proposed expenditure of KSh4.82 trillion against projected revenues of KSh3.63 trillion leaves a deficit of KSh1.11 trillion, to be financed through further borrowing. The opposition argues that this trajectory is not merely imprudent — it is generational in its consequences. “We are binding children not yet born to loans they never signed,” Kalonzo said, describing the debt burden as “generational slavery.” Kenya’s total public debt now stands at KSh12.8 trillion and continues to rise.

The opposition reserved particular contempt for the allocation of KSh1.5 trillion to debt obligations and pensions — a figure that, Ka-

lonzo noted, renders the national balance sheet absurd by any measure of social priority. “Interest on domestic debt alone costs more than the entire education budget,” he said. “We are spending more on paying bankers than on teaching children.” That single comparison, however rhetorical in its delivery, reflects a fiscal reality that Treasury’s own numbers bear out and that parliamentary budget analysts have flagged repeatedly in recent years.

Education emerged as the opposition’s most emotive battleground. The coalition accused the government of hollowing out the constitutional promise of free education by allowing significant funding gaps to persist across Free Primary Education, Junior Secondary School and Free Day Secondary Education programmes. Parents, it argued, are quietly absorbing costs the State has promised but failed to cover. The opposition cited a KSh28.4 billion capitation shortfall in the Free Day Secondary programme alone — a gap it said translates directly into children being turned away from classrooms or families pushed deeper into debt to keep their children in school.

The coalition also drew a direct line between underinvestment in student welfare and the wave of unrest and fires that have swept through secondary schools in recent months, arguing that inadequate safety infrastructure and the near-total absence of dedicated mental health funding have created the conditions for the crisis. It is a connection the government has resisted making publicly, but one that resonates with educators, parents and child welfare organisations who have been raising alarms for months.

On healthcare, the opposition renewed its assault on the Social Health Authority. Kalonzo’s description was blunt: “SHA, in its current form, is not a health policy. It is a compulsory tax with a hospital logo.” The coalition questioned the government’s decision to proceed with a KSh104 billion technology contract linked to the SHA while public health facilities continue to report medicine shortages and inadequate staffing. It pledged, should it assume office after the 2027 General Election, to cancel the contract and redirect the funds to frontline ser-



Opposition leaders Eugene Wamalwa (DAP-K), Rigathi Gachagua (DCP), Kalonzo Musyoka (Wiper), and Fred Matiang’i (Jubilee) during a past meeting. | Photo: Courtesy

vices.

The Finance Bill 2026 drew equally pointed criticism. The proposed 16 per cent Value Added Tax on mobile money platform fees and a 25 per cent excise duty on mobile phones at network activation were singled out as measures that would fall hardest on those with the least. “The grandmother in Wajir waiting to receive KSh1,000 from her grandson working in Mombasa will pay more for that transfer,” Kalonzo said. “The mama mboga in Gikomba paying her supplier through M-Pesa will pay more.” Mobile money is not a luxury product in Kenya — for millions of citizens, it is the only financial infrastructure they have ever had access to. Taxing it is, in the opposition’s framing, taxing survival.

The coalition also raised alarm over proposals it said would significantly expand the Kenya Revenue Authority’s powers to access taxpayer data, warning of what Kalonzo called “a tax surveillance state.” And it put the government on notice over what it described as plans to dispose of strategic national assets — specifically the Kenya Ports Authority and the

government’s stake in Safaricom — without meaningful public participation or legislative consent. “These are our crown jewels,” Kalonzo said. “They are what this country built across generations.”

As its alternative, the United Alternative Government proposed a KSh4.32 trillion spending framework that it says would reduce the fiscal deficit to KSh593.5 billion — equivalent to 2.8 per cent of GDP, against the government’s projected 5.3 per cent. The People’s Budget pledges increased allocations to education and health, restoration of Linda Mama and Edu Afya programmes, a KSh80 billion youth employment initiative, abolition of the Affordable Housing Levy and removal of the proposed mobile money and handset taxes.

On public finance management, the coalition pledged to implement a Single Treasury Account to eliminate ghost workers and duplicate payments, claiming that Auditor-General-verified leakages currently cost the country KSh250 billion annually. “Every contract requires confirmed exchequer backing

before work begins,” Kalonzo said. “Any accounting officer with an adverse Auditor-General report must step aside immediately.”

The opposition leader closed with a direct appeal to Members of Parliament, who will begin debating the budget and Finance Bill 2026 this week. “You were not elected to be a rubber stamp,” he said. “A mother woke before dawn, walked to a polling station, queued for hours, and marked your name because she believed you would go to Nairobi and fight for her.”

Whether Parliament heeds that appeal — or performs the loyalty the executive has come to expect — will determine not just the shape of next year’s budget, but the credibility of Kenya’s legislature as an institution capable of holding power to account.

The vote, as Kalonzo made plain, is not merely fiscal. It is a test of whether Kenya’s democracy still means what it says.

Peace The Prayer for Peace Day Conference aims to promote peace, unity and national cohesion while encouraging interfaith prayer and reconciliation

Nakuru to host global prayer for peace conference as leaders rally for unity

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Nakuru County is set to host a major international peace gathering later this year as religious leaders, peace ambassadors, humanitarian organizations and community stakeholders intensify preparations for the Prayer for Peace Day Conference scheduled for September.

The three-day conference, slated for September 16 to 18 at Afraha Stadium, is expected to bring together delegates from Kenya and abroad in a renewed push for peace, reconciliation and sustainable development amid growing global and regional tensions.

Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Union of Peace and Development (GUPD), Ambassador Eugene Kavune Nzabonimba, said the conference seeks to strengthen collaboration among various actors working towards conflict prevention and social cohesion.

Speaking yesterday after a planning meeting with a team of Peace Ambassadors in Nakuru County, Nzabonimba said the event would provide a platform for dialogue and collective action in addressing challenges facing communities.

“The Prayer for Peace Day Conference aims to promote peace, unity and national cohesion while encouraging in-

terfaith prayer and reconciliation,” he said.

“It will also strengthen humanitarian cooperation and social justice initiatives, foster dialogue among community, government and international leaders, and support sustainable peace and development in Kenya, Africa and the world.”

According to the organizers, the conference will bring together peace ambassadors, humanitarian leaders, religious leaders, social justice advocates, missionaries, community representatives and international observers.

The meeting in Nakuru focused on mobilizing stakeholders and developing strategies to ensure the success of



Amb. Eugene Kavune Nzabonimba (4th right) with other peace ambassadors after yesterday's consultative meeting in Nakuru. | Photo: Courtesy.

the event, which organizers hope will become one of the country's largest annual peace forums.

The conference comes at a time when Kenya, like many countries across the world, continues to grapple with social and economic pressures that have tested national cohesion. Recent incidents of school unrest, rising concerns over insecurity in some parts of the country and the increasing need for dialogue have reignited conversations around peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

Peace practitioners say faith-based institutions and community structures have a critical role to play in promoting tolerance and reconciliation. Nzabonimba, who has been involved in several peace initiatives across the region through GUPD and other international networks, emphasized that sustainable development cannot be achieved without peaceful coexistence. “Peace is the foundation upon which justice, development and prosperity are built. It is only through unity and collective responsibility that communities can thrive,” he said.

Recent messages issued by the peace advocate have consistently called on leaders and citizens to embrace dialogue over division and cooperation over confrontation.

The organizers also intend to use the conference to highlight humanitarian concerns affecting vulnerable populations and encourage partnerships aimed at improving livelihoods and strengthening social support systems.

Participants are expected to deliberate on issues including conflict resolution, youth empowerment, social justice, interfaith cooperation, humanitarian response and the role of communities in fostering lasting peace.

Nakuru's selection as the host city is viewed as symbol-

ic, given its history as a cosmopolitan county that has experienced both the challenges of conflict and the transformative power of reconciliation.

Afraha Stadium, a venue associated with major national events, is expected to provide a fitting backdrop for the gathering, which organizers say will welcome people from diverse faiths, cultures and nationalities.

“We appreciate the dedication and commitment of all Peace Ambassadors and stakeholders who continue to work tirelessly in advancing peace, justice and human dignity,” Nzabonimba said.

As preparations gather momentum, organizers expressed optimism that the conference will inspire renewed commitment towards building peaceful communities and strengthening partnerships beyond national borders.

They say the ultimate goal is not merely to hold another conference, but to nurture a culture where dialogue, compassion and shared responsibility become the driving force behind development.

For a country that has repeatedly demonstrated resilience in the face of adversity, the September gathering presents an opportunity to reaffirm a simple but powerful message: that peace remains the cornerstone of national progress and global solidarity.

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Schools The Education Ministry described the unrest as a matter of grave concern, citing the loss of lives, injuries and destruction of school property witnessed in recent weeks

Government moves to stem rising unrest as 204 senior schools are hit by disturbances

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

The Government has announced a raft of measures aimed at addressing the recent wave of unrest that has disrupted learning in boarding senior schools across the country, even as it sought to reassure parents and the public that the vast majority of learning institutions remain stable.

In a press statement issued yesterday, Cabinet Secretary for Education Julius Migos Ogamba said 204 senior schools have so far reported incidents of unrest, representing less than two per cent of the country's schools. He noted that more than 98 per cent of institutions continue to operate normally.

The Education Ministry described the unrest as a matter of grave concern, citing the loss of lives, injuries and destruction of school property witnessed in recent weeks.

At the centre of the crisis is the tragic fire at Utumishi Girls Academy in Gilgil Sub-County, Nakuru County, where 16 learners lost their lives. Investigations have established that the blaze was an act of arson allegedly orchestrated by some students.

"Nine suspects have already been arraigned and are remanded in custody," Ogamba said, extending condolences to the bereaved families and wishing those injured a speedy recovery.

The Cabinet Secretary condemned the acts of violence, saying no grievances, however legitimate, could justify the destruction of property or loss of life.

"Any grievances must only be addressed through appropriate channels without resorting to unlawful actions or

violence. All perpetrators will be dealt with firmly in accordance with the law," he said.

According to the Ministry, 59 of the affected schools have since resumed normal operations, with learners returning to class as efforts continue to restore stability in the remaining institutions.

The Government clarified that the disruptions have largely been confined to boarding senior schools, with learners in Grades One to Nine continuing with their studies without significant interruption. Day senior schools have also remained largely unaffected.

Ogamba commended learners, teachers, school administrators and parents who have maintained calm and ensured continuity of learning despite the prevailing challenges.

"We take this opportunity to commend the majority of our learners in schools across the country for remaining disciplined and committed to their studies," he said.

Preliminary assessments by the Ministry indicate that the unrest is being fuelled by a combination of factors. These include leadership challenges within institutions, examination-related anxiety, poor conditions in boarding facilities, alcohol and drug abuse, strenuous school routines, peer pressure and copycat behaviour among students demanding early closure of schools.

The Cabinet Secretary reminded school heads of their legal and moral responsibility to safeguard learners and address emerging concerns before they escalate into crises.

As part of the Government's response, the Ministry announced the formation of a multi-stakeholder team tasked with investigating the under-

lying causes of the recurring unrest and recommending long-term interventions.

The team will bring together various stakeholders in the education sector to develop strategies aimed at preventing future disturbances.

The Ministry also confirmed that the mid-term break for the second term of the 2026 academic year will proceed as scheduled from June 24 to June 28.

Parents and guardians have been urged to use the break to engage with their children, provide guidance and support, and encourage them to voice concerns through established channels.

Schools have further been directed to convene urgent Parents Association meetings to review learner welfare and the state of affairs within their institutions.

Additionally, institutions have been instructed to strengthen safety measures, intensify guidance and counselling programmes, and improve mechanisms for handling student grievances.

County and Sub-County Education Offices will undertake targeted safety assessments and closely monitor schools considered vulnerable to unrest.

In a move aimed at addressing some of the structural issues contributing to learner fatigue and anxiety, the Ministry announced plans to rationalise the school calendar beginning next academic year to ensure more balanced terms throughout the year.

Calling for collective action, Ogamba said addressing school unrest requires the involvement of all stakeholders.

"This worrying pattern of unrest summons all of us to engage in collective reflection about our children and their



CS Julius Migos

future," he said.

"It is our shared responsibility as education sector players — ranging from the Government, parents, guardians, leaders, policy makers, school heads and teachers — to en-

sure that our education system serves the best interest of our children."

He added that society has a sacred obligation to nurture young people into responsible and law-abiding citizens who

contribute positively to national development.

The Ministry said it would continue providing updates as investigations and interventions progress.



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State House The findings, which cover the period through March 2026, lay bare the scale of spending conducted outside parliamentary-approved allocations

State House spent KSh.4.4B outside budget, Controller of Budget reveals

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

The government spent more than KSh.206 billion in unbudgeted expenditure in the first nine months of the 2025/2026 financial year, with State House Kenya accounting for KSh.4.4 billion of that figure, according to a report by the Office of the Controller of Budget.

The findings, which cover the period through March 2026, lay bare the scale of spending

conducted outside parliamentary-approved allocations — and raise pointed questions about fiscal discipline at the highest levels of government at a time when Kenyans are absorbing the burden of rising taxes and a public debt that has now reached KSh.12.8 trillion.

The mechanism through which most of this spending occurred is Article 223 of the Constitution, which permits the government to access funds for genuinely unforeseen expenditure — circum-

stances that could not reasonably have been anticipated during the budget-making process. What the Controller of Budget's report documents, however, is the provision being deployed on a scale that stretches well beyond its intended purpose.

The National Treasury requested Article 223 withdrawals totalling KSh.276 billion during the period. The Controller approved KSh.206 billion — a 490 per cent increase on the equivalent period in the previous financial



State House

year. Of that sum, KSh.185.3 billion was directed towards recurrent expenditure, while only KSh.19.5 billion went to development programmes. The single largest draw was KSh.144 billion used by the National Treasury to service public debt — one of the most significant deployments of emergency constitutional provisions ever recorded, and one that critics argue falls far outside the spirit of the clause. State House's share of that spending warrants particular scrutiny. The presidential office entered the 2025/2026 financial year with an approved annual allocation of KSh.8.5 billion. By December 2025 — just six months into the year — it had already consumed more than 90 per cent of that figure. By March 2026, total State House expenditure had climbed to KSh.12.07 billion, equivalent to 140 per cent of its full-year budget.

The pace of withdrawal during a six-week window between January and February 2026 is striking. On 19 January, State House drew KSh.353 million. Eleven days later, it sought a further KSh.380 million. On 5 February, KSh.396 million was approved, followed by KSh.258 million on 11 February, KSh.291 million on 19 February, KSh.390 million a week after that, and KSh.381.8 million on 27 February. In total,

more than KSh.2.5 billion left the public purse through State House in under six weeks — all of it classified under “other expenses,” a deliberately broad and opaque category that offers little transparency to oversight institutions or the public.

During the same period, State House hosted a series of Nyota empowerment programme meetings held at venues across the country. Whether those events account for the volume of withdrawals remains unclear. No detailed itemisation has been made public.

State House was not the only department drawing heavily outside approved limits. The State Department for Internal Security and National Administration spent KSh.6.1 billion beyond its budget, the Special Programmes Department drew KSh.5.6 billion — much of it attributed to drought relief interventions following adverse weather conditions in late 2025 and early 2026 — while the Teachers Service Commission received KSh.7 billion through supplementary withdrawals. The sports department recorded KSh.3.9 billion in unplanned development expenditure.

Some of these draws carry more obvious justification than others. Drought response and teacher payroll pressures represent the kinds of contin-

gencies Article 223 was designed to address. Debt repayment and rolling presidential programme expenditure are a considerably harder sell.

Kenya's public debt now stands at KSh.12.8 trillion, rising steadily as the government continues borrowing even as a growing proportion of the national budget is consumed by interest payments on existing loans. The Controller of Budget's report does not editorialise, but the arithmetic speaks plainly enough: a government spending 490 per cent more than planned through emergency constitutional provisions, while its debt load compounds, is a government whose fiscal architecture is under serious strain.

Parliament, which approved the original budget, must now account for why KSh.206 billion was spent beyond its mandate with limited legislative scrutiny. The constitutional safeguard that Article 223 was designed to provide has, in this financial year, functioned less as a guardrail than as an open gate.

For ordinary Kenyans who were asked to absorb new tax measures in the name of fiscal responsibility, the Controller of Budget's numbers demand not merely an explanation — but an accounting.

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Sleep well, live well

Court The decision follows a court case filed by Peter Njaramba, who had sought to stop the singer's burial.

Court clears way for gospel singer Rachel Wandeto's burial

BY Jane Mugambi
@themkenyaintimes

A Kerugoya court has directed that the body of gospel singer Rachel Wandeto be released to her mother for burial, bringing to an end a protracted dispute that had delayed her interment for more than two weeks.

In a ruling, a Kerugoya based Magistrate Harrison Kariuki ordered Montezuma Monalisa Funeral Home to release Wandeto's remains to her mother, Njeri Wandeto, saying she had the legal right to oversee the burial arrangements.

The decision follows a court case filed by Peter Njaramba, who had sought to stop the singer's burial. Njaramba argued that he was entitled to bury Wandeto, with whom he had lived for 14 years and had two children.

However, the magistrate ruled that although Njaramba was indeed the father of Wandeto's two children, that alone did not grant him the right to bury her.

"We cannot refute that Njaramba is the father of her two children. However, he had not paid dowry as required under Kikuyu customary traditions. Therefore, the mother gets the right to bury her," Magistrate Kariuki ruled.

The family's lawyer, Munene, welcomed the court's decision and said the order would immediately be served on the morgue to facilitate the release of the body.

"We shall deliver the court order to the morgue so that they can release the body to the mother and allow the family to proceed with the burial arrangements," he said.

The legal dispute had dramatically unfolded on May 28 when Njaramba

moved to court to block Wandeto's burial. On the day mourners had gathered to pay their last respects, they were left in shock after the family returned from the morgue without the singer's remains following the court intervention.

In an emotional symbolic gesture, the grieving family proceeded to bury a banana plantation in place of the body as they awaited the court's determination.

The ruling now paves the way for Wandeto's family to accord the gospel singer a final send-off after weeks of uncertainty and distress.

Rachel Wandeto was widely known in gospel circles, and news of the dispute over her burial had drawn public attention, reigniting debate over the intersection of customary law, family relationships and burial rights in Kenya.



The late Rachel Wandeto

The Mt. Kenya Times

THE



Nothing feels heavier than unsaid words



Closed hands, closed book, unopened locks
Unopened lips, unopened eyes, unopened books
Unopened screens, unopened clouds
Unopened stores, zipped bags
Are having many powerful stories within it until
they are opened.

We shouldn't judge until it opens,
Once it opens, it reveals all the secrets, we should
feel free.

It has a lot of stories until it doesn't open.
Once it opens, we realise only few things are left.

It is the mindset, the closed one having a lot in it.
Speaking openly with an opponent having an idea.
Until you open your lips he has many things about
you in his mind.

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.

They enter the museum



Granddaughter:
Look around, Grandma, I see
Only five women here with me.

Grandmother:
Yet those five are more than art,
They're the people of my heart.
One's my mother, kind and dear,
One's my grandma standing here.
One's my lovely granny's face,
One my aunt with gentle grace.
When I think of those who've gone,
My heart aches and carries on.

Granddaughter:
Look! There's even a button there.
I'll press it now—if I dare!

(The first figure comes to life.)

Mother:
Oh my child, what do you wear?
Such a style is rather rare!
Nothing beats our native dress,
It brings beauty, not less.
Silk and atlas fit you best,
Why wear jeans like all the rest?
Wait a bit and you shall see,
I will sew a dress for thee.

Granddaughter:
Grandma, did the mothers sew
All these dresses long ago?

Grandmother:
Yes, my dear, in days gone by,
Love was shown in every try.

Granddaughter:
And this woman holding there,
What's that object in her care?

Grandmother:
For her children she would bake
Fresh warm bread at daybreak.

Second Mother:
Sweetest daughter, come and taste,
Here's a flatbread made in haste.
Dipped in milk and baked with care,
Nothing finer anywhere.

Granddaughter:
Wow, it smells and tastes so fine!
Did she make it all the time?
Tell me, Grandma, did women then
Bake their bread again and again?

Grandmother:
See the wrinkles on her face?
Life had put her through its race.

Granddaughter:
Look, she's holding metal too!
What's she going to do?

Grandmother:
That's a ladle, child of mine,
Used for cooking meals divine.

Granddaughter:
But doesn't "Yandex Food" arrive
Every morning right at five?

Grandmother:

Back then kitchens large would stand,
Built by skillful human hands.
Grandma lit the fire bright
Before dawn had brought its light.

Third Mother:
Let me chop the carrots small,
Father's craving pilaf after all.
The matches too are running low,
Forgot to buy them, don't you know.
I've soaked chickpeas through the night,
Cleaned the raisins nice and bright.
After dinner we shall share
Melons sweet beyond compare.
Something tells me guests will come,
Let's prepare and welcome some.
Husband dear, come lend a hand,
Let's cook pilaf, rich and grand.

Fourth Mother:
Come, my darling, come to me,
I will sing your lullaby.

Granddaughter:
Lullaby? What's that, Grandma?
Is it music, song, or drama?

Fourth Mother:
Ask of me and you will hear
Words that mothers hold most dear.
Not just song and not mere rhyme,
It's a treasure beyond time.
In it live a mother's dreams,
Hope and love in gentle streams.
Passed from Eve through ages long,
Blessed by God in cradle song.
May the lullaby remain,
May love never leave our land.
Holding close her precious child,
Every mother sings so mild.

(Lullaby is sung.)

Granddaughter:
Now I'm curious, tell me please,
What's that thing beside the trees?

Grandmother:
You've not seen one, so you ask,
That was once a common task.
It's a bucket, plain and true,
Used for carrying water too.
In those days we'd hurry fast,
Crossing hills and valleys vast.
Meeting friends along the way,
Laughing, singing every day.

Girl:
Come, my friends, don't stay behind,
Bring your buckets, one and all!
Laylo, Lola, hurry too,
Let us answer nature's call.
Run along and don't be late,
Others reached the river gate.
Look how lovely is the night,
How the moon shines full and bright!
Gathered by the water's side,
Let us sing with joy and pride.
Through the night our songs shall flow,
Friendship's warmth will brightly glow.
May these buckets never fade,
For the memories they made!

Granddaughter:
Ha! I know that thing at last!
A witch's broom from cartoons past!

Grandmother:
Child, that's hardly right to say,
People swept their homes that way.
Cleanliness was prized indeed,
A precious wealth for every need.

Granddaughter:
Sweeping with a thing like that?
Sounds impossible, imagine that!

Heartfelt Thanks

newspaper on 10 th May 2026.

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standards Mt. Kenya Times is known for.

I look forward to your continued commitment to
promoting literary voices.

Thank you once again from the depth of my heart
for this golden opportunity.

Yours sincerely,
Brinda. D
Teacher, Author ,
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To

The Editor
Mt. Kenya Times international newspaper

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The more you sweat and work hard in practice,
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Because practice makes everything perfect.

A hardworking person is a more successful

Weather El Niño, a periodic climate pattern characterized by abnormal warming of ocean surface temperatures in the Pacific, often disrupts rainfall patterns

Weatherman issues warning over El Niño

BY DMS
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya could experience significant shifts in weather patterns in 2026 following early warnings from the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) indicating a high likelihood of El Niño conditions developing during the year.

In a statement issued by the acting Director of Meteorological Services Edward M. Muriuki, KMD said global climate models show an 80–82% probability of El Niño emerging between June and August 2026, with chances rising to between 90% and 96% for the phenomenon to persist through the end of the year.

The department noted that the event could range from moderate to strong intensity.

El Niño, a periodic climate pattern characterized by abnormal warming of ocean surface temperatures in the



A weather station

Pacific, often disrupts rainfall patterns across East Africa, including Kenya.

KMD warned that its effects, combined with other climate systems such as the Indian

Ocean Dipole (IOD), could significantly influence seasonal weather outcomes.

According to the department, the IOD is currently neutral but may shift to a pos-

itive phase later in the year, a combination that could further intensify rainfall during the October–November–December (OND) season.

For the June–July–August

(JJA) 2026 period, KMD forecasts near-average to below-average rainfall in western Kenya, the Lake Victoria Basin, Rift Valley and parts of northwestern Kenya. Most of the country is expected to experience predominantly dry conditions during this period.

However, the coastal region is likely to receive near-average to above-average rainfall, while the central highlands, including Nairobi and surrounding areas, may experience light showers. The southeastern lowlands and northeastern regions are expected to remain largely sunny and dry, with temperatures projected to be above average across much of the country.

The weatherman emphasized that forecasts may evolve as new climate data becomes available and urged the public and key sectors to remain alert to updates.

“Members of the public are encouraged to stay informed through official weather updates and advisories,” the statement read, adding that timely dissemination of forecasts is crucial for preparedness and risk reduction.

KMD further noted that the anticipated El Niño could have varied impacts across

different regions, potentially including both dry spells and periods of intense rainfall depending on location and timing.

The department said it is working closely with the National Disaster Operations Centre and other agencies to support preparedness and mitigation efforts aimed at reducing potential impacts on livelihoods, agriculture, infrastructure and public safety.

The October–November–December seasonal forecast will be released in late August or early September 2026 as part of ongoing climate monitoring efforts.

Meteorological authorities have in the past warned that El Niño events can lead to flooding, displacement of communities, damage to infrastructure and disruptions to agricultural production, particularly when combined with a positive Indian Ocean Dipole.

KMD reiterated its commitment to providing timely and accurate climate information to support national planning and safeguard lives and property as the country prepares for a potentially volatile weather year.

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Business Designed with today's cost-conscious and environmentally aware operator in mind, the new LPG model delivers significant fuel savings

Car & General introduces Piaggio LPG three-wheeler to cut costs and emissions

The Piaggio Ape NXT+ LPG promises fuel savings of over 30 per cent, offering Kenya's last-mile operators a cleaner and more profitable ride.



Vincent Were, the national chairman of the tuk tuk association (left) Tobias Alando, the CEO of Kenya Association of Manufacturers and Vijay Gidooma, the Group CEO of Car & General during the launch of the Piaggio LPG three wheelers at the Company's showroom.

BY MKT REPORTER
@themkenyatimes

For the hundreds of thousands of three-wheeler operators navigating Kenya's congested urban corridors, every shilling saved on fuel is a shilling closer to viability. Car & General is betting that a new LPG-powered vehicle can deliver those savings at scale — and clean the air in the process.

The company officially launched the Piaggio Ape NXT+ LPG in Nairobi last week, marking the latest chapter in a mobility strategy that has seen Car & General steadily pivot towards greener, more cost-efficient transport solutions. The event was officiated by Vijay Gidooma, Chief Executive Officer of Car & General, and Tobias Alando, Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya Association of Manufacturers — a pairing that signalled the launch was as much about industrial policy as it was about a new

vehicle.

At the heart of the Piaggio Ape NXT+ LPG's pitch is a straightforward economic proposition. Running on liquefied petroleum gas, the vehicle delivers fuel savings of more than 30 per cent compared with conventional petrol-powered three-wheelers. For operators already absorbing the cumulative pressure of rising fuel prices, erratic demand and thin margins, that figure carries considerable weight.

"This new LPG three-wheeler is designed to put more money into the pockets of our operators," Gidooma said at the launch. "With fuel savings of over 30 per cent, operators can significantly lower their running costs and ultimately increase their daily earnings, making their businesses more sustainable."

The numbers behind the vehicle add texture to that claim. The Ape NXT+ LPG is fitted with a 20.6-litre LPG tank complemented by a 2.8-litre petrol reserve, offering opera-

tors a degree of fuel flexibility that reduces range anxiety. The engine produces a maximum power output of 11.3 horsepower and is capable of handling gradients of up to 30 per cent — a specification that matters in a city like Nairobi, where hilly terrain is a daily operational reality.

Beyond the performance credentials, the vehicle has been designed with driver comfort and urban sensibility in mind. A redesigned front fascia, an integrated music system and expanded passenger space distinguish it from older three-wheeler generations. Equally significant is the engine's notably quieter operation — a feature that benefits not only the driver but the densely populated neighbourhoods these vehicles pass through daily.

The environmental dimension of the launch was not incidental. LPG combustion produces substantially fewer harmful pollutants than petrol, and with urban air quality in Nairobi deteriorating un-

der the weight of an expanding vehicle fleet, the case for cleaner last-mile transport has never been more pressing.

Alando framed the transition in broader terms. "Transitioning to LPG is an important step towards cleaner urban mobility," he said. "This technology reduces harmful emissions while also offering a quieter ride, which improves both the operator's experience and the urban environment."

There are, however, infrastructural realities to reckon with. LPG fuelling stations remain limited across Nairobi, a constraint that could temper adoption in the short term. In-

dustry stakeholders acknowledge the gap but remain optimistic that growing demand for LPG-powered vehicles will drive a corresponding expansion in fuelling infrastructure. The petrol reserve tank offers a practical buffer in the interim.

The launch carries symbolic weight beyond the vehicle itself. Car & General marks its 90th year in business in 2025, with more than two decades of that history bound up in its partnership with Piaggio. The company introduced the Piaggio electric three-wheeler to the Kenyan market in 2024, and the LPG model represents

a further step along the same green mobility trajectory — one calibrated for operators who may not yet be ready for full electrification but are prepared to move away from petrol dependence.

"We are committed to bringing practical, forward-looking mobility solutions to the market," Gidooma said. "The Piaggio Ape NXT+ LPG is a clear demonstration of how innovation can deliver both economic and environmental value."

Kenya's last-mile transport sector has long been defined by improvisation and resilience. If the infrastructure catches up with the ambition, the Piaggio Ape NXT+ LPG could offer something that has eluded operators for years: a vehicle that pays for itself while doing less damage to the city around it.

In the race between cost and conscience, this one may not force operators to choose.

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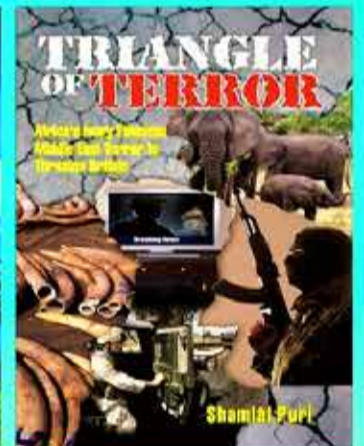
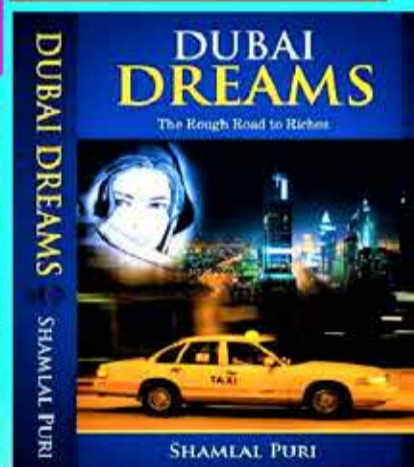
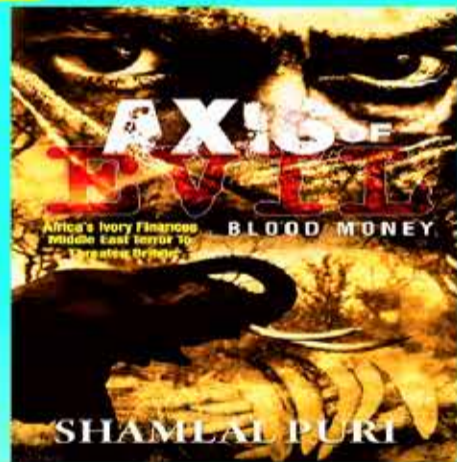
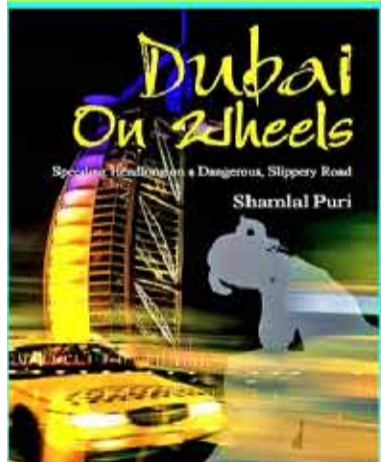
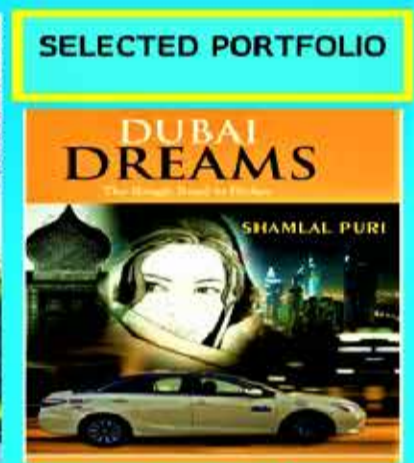
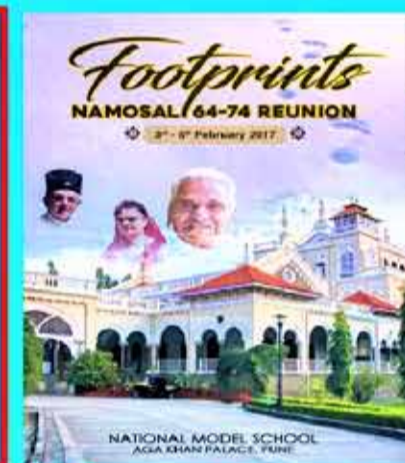
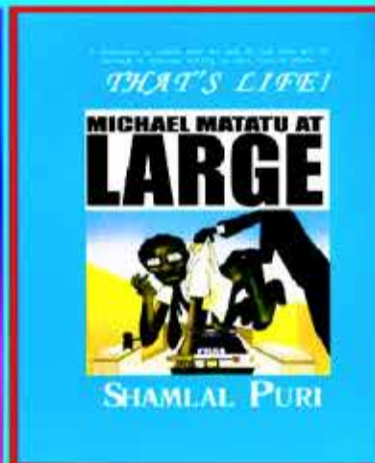
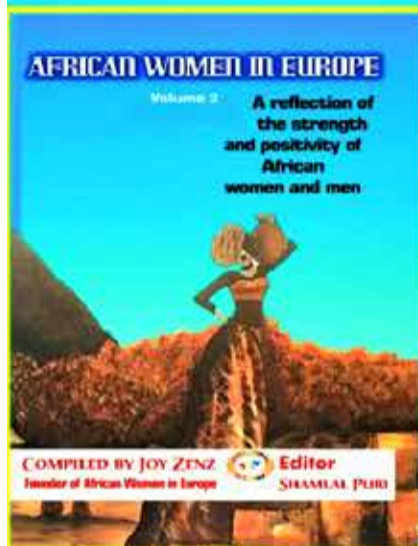
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KDA According to Dr Mundia, the Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree has remained the recognised pathway for training dentists in Kenya for the past five decades

KDA warns against unapproved medical courses, says students risk blacklisting

The Kenya Dental Association (KDA) has sounded the alarm over the growing number of unapproved healthcare training programmes being offered by some universities and colleges, warning that the trend could compromise patient safety and leave students unable to practise af-

BY MKT REPORTER

[@themkenyatimes](#)

ter graduation.

Speaking during a press briefing in Nairobi on Tuesday, KDA President Dr Kahura Mundia urged institutions offering healthcare courses to comply with standards set by the Ministries of Health and Education to ensure graduates acquire the competencies required for professional practice.

He said the Ministry of Health had already issued directives requiring all healthcare-related programmes, including dentistry, medicine, pharmacy and nursing, to meet both national and international training standards.

“Healthcare training cannot happen in isolation. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health must work together because the quality of healthcare professionals directly affects the lives of Kenyans,” Dr Mundia said.

The KDA boss expressed concern over the introduction of alternative dental programmes that he said lacked the structures, facilities and approvals necessary to train competent practitioners.

According to Dr Mundia, the Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree has remained the recognised pathway for training dentists in Kenya for the past five decades, with students undergoing intensive academic instruction, clinical exposure, internship and competency assessments before obtaining licences to practise.

“You cannot establish healthcare programmes without hospitals, equipment, qualified trainers and adequate patient exposure. Clinical training is not optional,” he said.

He warned that students enrolled in unaccredited programmes face the possibility of being denied professional licences, effectively rendering their qualifications unusable.

“These students risk losing years of study and substantial financial



KDA President Dr Kahura Mundia addressing journalists on Tuesday.

investment because they cannot legally treat patients if they have not undergone the required training,” he added.

Dr Mundia said healthcare professionals must complete supervised practical sessions, maintain clinical logbooks and fulfil internship requirements before being allowed to practise independently.

“Healthcare is not a place where you simply observe and learn. There are competencies that must be demonstrated under supervision,” he said.

He disclosed that the Ministry of Health had held consultations with universities and professional regulatory bodies, during which institutions agreed to align their programmes with ministry directives by September this year.

“To suggest there was no consultation is misleading. Universities participated in these discussions and committed to standardising their

programmes,” he noted.

The association also urged private universities to invest in adequate infrastructure to support quality healthcare training.

“We need more healthcare workers, but they must be properly trained to deliver safe and quality services to the public,” Dr Mundia said.

Referring to a recent court ruling touching on the matter, he clarified that while the Ministry of Education had been directed to pronounce itself on the issue, its decision could not be made without input from the Ministry of Health.

“There is nothing to celebrate about continuing with illegal programmes. The relevant ministries have already engaged on the matter,” he said.

Dr Mundia advised parents and prospective students to verify whether institutions and courses have been accredited by the relevant authorities before enrolling.

“Parents should exercise caution and avoid institutions offering programmes that fail to meet professional standards,” he warned.

He further revealed that some students affected by the accreditation concerns had been advised to undertake refresher and retraining programmes to meet national competency requirements.

Other KDA officials echoed the call for stricter oversight of healthcare training institutions.

Dr Muiridi Kaaria, a prosthodontist and lecturer, described the emergence of unapproved programmes as “quackery in training” that threatens the integrity of the profession.

“We are fighting for public safety. Producing graduates who are not adequately prepared for practice is a disservice to Kenyans,” he said.

Dr Laura Izaya, a lecturer at the University of Nairobi School of Dental Sciences, acknowledged the

country’s shortage of healthcare workers but insisted that lowering standards was not the answer.

“A shortage of personnel should push us to strengthen training systems, not compromise quality and expose patients to substandard care,” she said.

The association warned that the rapid expansion of healthcare colleges and programmes without proper accreditation could result in more graduates being blacklisted from professional practice.

Dr Mundia urged institutions planning to introduce healthcare courses to follow the law, consult stakeholders and secure approvals before admitting students.

“If something is illegal, it is lawful to stop it. Professional standards must be upheld to protect patients and preserve confidence in Kenya’s healthcare system,” he said.

South Africa More than 10 armed suspects moved through a densely packed Cleveland settlement, shooting residents at multiple locations before disappearing into the night.

Gunmen open fire on Johannesburg settlement, killing 12 in late-night massacre



South African Police Service (SAPS) officers along with forensic technicians carry a victim's body at Jumpers informal settlement in Cleveland, east of Johannesburg, on June 10, 2026. | Photo: Courtesy

BY Norman Mwale

@themkenyatimes

It was nearly midnight when the shooting started. In the narrow, tightly packed lanes of Jumpers Informal Settlement in Cleveland, east of Johannesburg's city centre, residents had little warning and nowhere near enough time to run.

By the time South African Police Service officers reached the scene, responding to a cascade of distress calls, at least 12 people were dead or dying and nine others had been wounded. It was one of the deadliest mass shootings Johannesburg has recorded this year, and it was over in minutes.

"Upon arrival, police found numerous victims who had sustained gunshot wounds," the SAPS confirmed in a statement issued on Wednesday morning. "Emergency Medical Services were immediately summoned to the scene to assist the injured."

Eight adult men and three adult women were declared dead at the scene. A twelfth

victim, also a man, died later in hospital from his wounds. Nine survivors were transported to various medical facilities, all with gunshot injuries.

Preliminary investigations paint a picture of a calculated, coordinated attack. More than 10 suspects were dropped off by a white Toyota Quantum near a petrol station in Cleveland at approximately 23:10 local time. They entered Jumpers through both access points and moved through the settlement deliberately, opening fire on residents at multiple locations before retreating to the same vehicle and driving away.

No arrests have been made. The suspects remain at large.

Gauteng Acting Police Commissioner Fred Kekana confirmed that multiple crime and investigation management teams had been deployed. "An intensive investigation is underway," the SAPS said in its statement, "and we urge residents to remain vigilant as efforts continue to track down those responsible." Kekana made a direct appeal to members of the public for any information that could assist the

investigation. The motive for the attack has not been established.

Jumpers, like so many informal settlements scattered across South Africa's major cities, is a community built without official land rights, where homes have gone up on occupied ground and residents navigate daily life with limited access to formal policing and municipal services. It is a place where people have built something from very little — and on Tuesday night, that fragile sense of safety was shattered without warning or apparent reason.

Community leaders in Cleveland described scenes of panic as families dived for cover and scrambled to find one another in the darkness. For many residents, the hours that followed were spent not knowing whether the people they loved were among the dead.

The Cleveland massacre has thrown a harsh light once again on the vulnerability of Gauteng's urban informal settlements to organised violent crime. Police resources in these areas are persistently stretched, response times fre-

quently longer than in formally serviced neighbourhoods, and the close proximity of homes — built wall to wall, lane to lane — means that when gunfire erupts, there is almost nowhere safe to go.

Tragically, Tuesday's attack did not occur in isolation. In December 2025, at least nine people were killed and 10 wounded when gunmen opened fire at a tavern in Bickersdal, south-west of Johannesburg. A separate attack at a bar in Saulsville, west of Pretoria, left 12 people dead, among them a three-year-old boy. Police have not formally linked these incidents, but the pattern is difficult to ignore:

heavily armed groups, residential settings, gatherings of ordinary people going about their lives. The frequency and brutality of these attacks have drawn condemnation from national government and civil society organisations, and are fuelling growing demands for a serious, sustained response.

By Wednesday afternoon, forensic teams were still working across multiple sites within Jumpers, carefully documenting shell casings and other evidence in what investigators described as a complex, multi-location crime scene. Authorities appealed to anyone with information to contact Crime Stop any-

mously on 08600 10111 or via the dedicated WhatsApp tip line on 321.

As darkness settled over Cleveland for the second consecutive night, something quiet and deeply human began to take shape at the entrances to the settlement. Candles were lit. Handwritten notes appeared. Small bunches of flowers were laid where neighbours had fallen. People gathered, some in tears, others in a silence that said everything words could not.

Twelve people left their homes on Tuesday night without any reason to believe they would not return. For the families they left behind, the grief is raw, the questions are many, and the answers are nowhere near close enough.

The manhunt for more than 10 suspects continues.





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U.S. - Iran Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) said Wednesday that it launched a drone attack on the U.S. Fifth Fleet in Bahrain

U.S., Iran exchange fire after Trump accuses Tehran of downing helicopter



US missiles

BY Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyatimes

Iran yesterday said it had struck several U.S. bases in the region in retaliation for the latest wave of U.S. attacks on Iran, further straining the ceasefire after Iran and Israel traded missile attacks in a recent major escalation.

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) said Wednesday that it launched a drone attack on the U.S. Fifth Fleet in Bahrain in response to the U.S. attacks on southern Iran. The IRGC said it also targeted Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait with drones, as well as four sites at the U.S. al-Azraq base in Jordan using long-range missiles, Iranian media reported. "In

the event of continued hostility, heavier responses are on the way," the IRGC said in a statement. The U.S. strikes began at 5 p.m. ET (2100 GMT) Tuesday, according to the U.S. Central Command, which oversees U.S. military operations in the Middle East. The command said it struck Iranian air defense, ground control stations and surveillance radar sites near the strait with munitions from the U.S. Air Force and Navy fighter jets. A series of explosions was reported early Wednesday in the southern Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas, as well as Qeshm Island and Sirik County, triggering the activation of air defenses, the state-run IRIB news agency said, citing sources. Meanwhile, the IRGC said

that U.S. forces attacked several locations in Jask, Sirik and Qeshm, damaging a telecommunications mast and destroying two water tanks in Sirik. Hours later, the command said it had completed strikes against Iran, which was confirmed by the IRIB. The latest wave of U.S. attacks came after President Donald Trump claimed that Tehran had shot down a U.S. Apache helicopter in the Strait of Hormuz, vowing "very strong, very powerful" response. "I have just been informed ... that last night the Iranians shot down one of our highly sophisticated Apache helicopters while (it was) patrolling over the Strait of Hormuz," Trump said in a post on Truth Social. Two pilots onboard the

aircraft "are safe and uninjured," he said. "Nevertheless, the United States must, of necessity, respond to this attack."

However, the IRIB news agency quoted a military source as saying that "no offensive aerial military operation was carried out" over the Strait of Hormuz within the past 24 hours. "If the enemy commits another malicious act under the pretext of a military helicopter's crash, it will face a decisive response," the source said. Shortly after the U.S. strikes, Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi warned that Iran "will leave no attack or threat unanswered."

"Despite its defeats on the battlefield, the U.S. opted to test our determination,"

Araghchi said on X. "Leave our region if you want to be safe. History of the Persian Gulf has many chapters on the dire fates of intruding outsiders." "Our Powerful Armed Forces are on constant alert for any violation of Iran's airspace, land or waters. Foreign forces in proximity to our territory are at constant risk on account of their own human errors, plain accidents, or potentially being caught in crossfire," he said. "To reduce risk, the best solution is for foreign forces to exit, as soon as possible, an environment which will never be hospitable to a hostile presence," Araghchi said.

DR Congo Ebola cases near 600 amid warning of wider spread

The number of confirmed Ebola cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has risen to 598, including 115 deaths, the country's public health authorities said.

According to the latest report, 48 new confirmed cases were reported Monday, including 14 deaths. Three more Ebola patients were declared recovered, bringing the total number of recovered patients to 22. The report said confirmed cases had been rising from one week to the next, showing "continued community transmission" of the disease. Health authorities warned of a possible rapid geographic expansion of the outbreak if public health measures are not carried out quickly. A total of 297 patients remained in isolation or hospitalization on Monday, including 113 confirmed patients and 184 suspected cases, the report said. The report also said security conditions continue to affect the response. Armed groups have remained active in parts of Ituri province, the epicenter of the outbreak, limiting access to several affected or high-risk health zones, it said. The current outbreak, caused by the Bundibugyo Ebola virus, was officially declared by the DRC health ministry on May 15.

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned on Tuesday that ongoing response efforts are "facing significant operational constraints," noting that health facilities in several affected areas are in poor condition and often lack potable water, incinerators, personal protective equipment, and decontamination supplies.

BY Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyatimes



An Ebola patients being attended to in DRC. | Photo: Courtesy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KRA's compliance drive: Strengthening revenue without stifling business

By Christine Simiyu



Kenya cannot fund hospitals, roads or schools without tax revenue. That much is settled. What remains contested is whether KRA's intensified compliance drive — anchored on the Electronic Tax Invoice Management System — is being executed in a way that strengthens the economy rather than undermines it.

The case for digital tax administration is compelling. Accurate transaction records, a broader tax base and reduced evasion are objectives any credible fiscal authority must pursue. The question is not whether to modernise — it is whether the rollout serves all stakeholders or merely the tax-man.

Small and medium-sized enterprises form the backbone

of Kenya's economy. They are already absorbing rising operational costs, shrinking margins and prolonged economic uncertainty. Imposing new compliance requirements without adequate guidance does not cultivate a culture of tax responsibility — it cultivates resentment.

KRA would secure far greater and more durable results through simplified systems, affordable implementation and sustained taxpayer education than through enforcement

and penalties alone. Voluntary compliance, once embedded, outlasts any deterrent.

Kenya needs revenue. It equally needs entrepreneurs generating employment and sustaining growth. These are not competing imperatives — but treating compliance as a burden imposed on business will make them so.

The true measure of a tax system is not what it extracts. It is the trust it builds between citizens and the state — and whether that trust holds.

Why unpaid industrial attachment must end

By Oliver Ogutu

Students are reporting for work, delivering real value — and going home with nothing.

Every year, thousands of Kenyan university students enter workplaces to fulfil mandatory attachment requirements. They arrive on time, complete assigned tasks and contribute to daily operations. Many organisations benefit directly from their labour. Yet the vast majority of these students leave each evening without a shilling in compensation.

This is not a minor oversight. It is a structural injustice embedded in the academic system.

Attachment carries real costs — transport, meals, professional attire, accommodation. For students placed far from home or from low-income households, these expenses are not inconveniences; they are crises. Many depend entirely on parents already under fi-



financial strain. Others borrow to survive. Some miss attachment opportunities altogether because they simply cannot afford to show up.

The argument that students are still learning and therefore owe their labour freely does not hold. Learning and contributing value are not mutually exclusive. Organisations that assign interns meaningful work, benefit from fresh ideas and fill operational gaps through attachment students are, in effect, employing them. The absence of pay is a policy choice, not a logical necessity.

The government, universities and employers must act together to establish a mandatory minimum allowance for all industrial attachés. The framework exists; what is missing is the political and institutional will to enforce it.

Industrial attachment is designed to prepare students for professional life. Subjecting them to financial hardship in the process prepares them for nothing except endurance.

Dignity is not an optional graduate attribute. It should begin at attachment.

From blueprints to bytes: How artificial intelligence is giving infrastructure a 'brain'

By David Nyaga



AI is no longer confined to the digital world — it is being poured into the very concrete beneath our feet.

The most powerful tool on a modern construction site is no longer a crane. It is an algorithm.

Kenya stands at an infrastructure inflection point. Amid an unprecedented construction boom and ambitious affordable housing targets, AI is quietly transforming how engineers design, build and maintain the physical world — not by replacing human expertise, but by sharpening it.

For decades, infrastructure management ran on a reactive model: fix the pothole after the blowout, reinforce the bridge after the cracks appear. AI inverts that logic entirely. Smart sensors embedded in

new structures create digital twins — live virtual replicas that monitor stress loads, temperature shifts and structural fatigue in real time, flagging failures years before the human eye detects them. For cities like Nairobi and Mombasa, that foresight translates directly into saved lives and billions of shillings in avoided repairs.

Before a foundation is dug, AI-driven generative design software analyses thousands of variables simultaneously — soil topology, weather patterns, material costs, solar orientation — producing optimised,

climate-resilient layouts that would take conventional methods weeks to model.

This shift demands a new kind of engineer: technically grounded, data-literate and capable of collaborating with machine intelligence without being supplanted by it. Kenya's universities must rise to that challenge.

Engineering has always been a human endeavour — science applied in service of people. AI does not diminish that. It makes it more powerful.

Build smarter, or be left behind.

Kenya Power's digital transition: A necessary leap, but who gets left behind?

By Christine Simiyu

Kenya Power's decision to phase out physical payment counters in favour of mobile and online platforms is logical, overdue and not without risk.

The efficiency case is straightforward. Digital platforms eliminate queues, cut operational costs and give customers round-the-clock access to tokens, billing and fault reporting. For urban, tech-savvy consumers, the transition is barely a disruption.

For everyone else, it could be considerably more than that. Elderly citizens, rural residents and those with limited digital literacy do not interact with technology the way Nairobi's middle class does. For these groups, a physical service counter is not a relic — it



is a lifeline. Strip it away without adequate preparation, and Kenya Power does not modernise its service; it simply transfers the burden onto those least equipped to carry it.

The challenge is not whether to go digital. That question is settled. The challenge is how to manage the transition so that no customer is effectively cut off from an essential utility. Simplified interfaces, sustained public education campaigns, community-level support and accessible help-

lines are not optional extras — they are the difference between transformation and exclusion.

Digital progress that bypasses the vulnerable is not progress. It is a rebranding of inequality.

Kenya Power has an opportunity to show that modernisation and inclusivity are not competing priorities. The measure of success will not be how many counters close — it will be how many citizens are genuinely served better.

SPORTS
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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> **"This is not just a tournament. It is a continent-wide celebration of football, and it begins today in the Azteca."* — FIFA President Gianni Infantino

Today: The World Awaits a 48-Team World Cup Revolution



By **Norman Mwale**

The sun has risen on the most ambitious World Cup in history, and the countdown is over. On Thursday, 11 June 2026, at 13:00 local time in Mexico City, the 23rd FIFA World Cup begins at the iconic Estadio Azteca as hosts Mexico face South Africa, launching a 39-day, 104-match odyssey across three nations. When the final whistle blows at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey on Sunday, 19 July, football will have written a new chapter: 48 teams, 16 cities, and more than one billion people expected to watch the opening clash.

The Azteca, already the only stadium to have staged two World Cup finals and two opening matches, now becomes the first ground in history to host three tournament openers. "To start the biggest World Cup ever in the Azteca is symbolic," said Mexican Football Federation president Ivar Sisniega. "This

stadium is where Pelé lifted the trophy in 1970 and Maradona in 1986. Today, it welcomes the world again." Kick-off is set for 21:00 CET, 20:00 BST, with an opening ceremony featuring Shakira and Burna Boy beginning 90 minutes earlier.

For the first time, the World Cup spans three host nations. After Mexico's opener, Canada begin their campaign tomorrow, Friday, 12 June, at BMO Field in Toronto against Bosnia and Herzegovina, while the United States face Paraguay the same day at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles. "Innovative match scheduling is designed to minimise travel for teams and fans alike, ensuring that players' rest and recovery are prioritised throughout the tournament," FIFA stated in its official release.

The scale is unprecedented. From 11 June to 27 June, the group stage will deliver 72 matches across the United States, Canada and Mexico, be-

fore the knockout phase begins on 28 June with a new round of 32. Fans will have only five days without a scheduled match — 8, 12, 13, 16 and 17 July — until the final. For UK audiences, games will kick off between 17:00 and 05:00 BST, with Sky Sports News running a dedicated 'World Cup Breakfast' programme from 07:00 to 10:00 each day.

Players and coaches have spent the last week absorbing the magnitude of the moment. "This is the dream," said USA head coach Gregg Berhalter. "To play the opening match for the US in Los Angeles, in front of our fans, is what these players have worked their whole lives for." Canada's captain echoed the sentiment: "Our country has waited 40 years for this moment. Today, it begins."

The tournament's expansion to 48 teams has drawn both excitement and scrutiny. It guarantees debuts, reunions, and a record

1,000th World Cup match when Tunisia meet Japan in Monterrey on 20 June. Yet it also brings logistical demands, with FIFA confirming that dynamic pricing has pushed some final tickets beyond \$10,990 and resale seats as high as \$38,665. Still, officials insist access remains a priority. FIFA announced a £45, or \$60, tier for every match, including the final, representing 10 per cent of each member association's allocation.

As the clock ticks forward, security, transport and fan zones across Mexico City, Toronto and Los Angeles have moved into their final operational phase. "We are ready," said Mexico City mayor Clara Brugada. "The Azteca is ready. The world is welcome."

From the high altitude of the Azteca to the lights of New York New Jersey, the 2026 World Cup begins today. The game is about to get bigger than ever.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> **"He is one of the most impressive young coaches in European football. We are confident he is the right man to lead the next chapter at Selhurst Park."* — Crystal Palace source

Eagles Turn to Sage: Palace bank on French tactician to lead new era

By: Norman Mwale

"He is one of the most impressive young coaches in European football. We are confident he is the right man to lead the next chapter at Selhurst Park." — Crystal Palace source

Crystal Palace have agreed terms with Pierre Sage to become the club's new manager, ending Oliver Glasner's successful tenure and ushering in a bold new chapter in South London. The 47-year-old Frenchman arrives from RC Lens, where he delivered a remarkable second-place finish in Ligue 1 and lifted the Coupe de France in May 2026 — Lens' first major trophy in 120 years. These achievements convinced chairman Steve Parish and the Palace hierarchy to make him their top target.

Sage, who previously managed Olympique Lyonnais, is expected to sign a contract until June 2029 with an option for a further year, as Palace finalise compensation terms with Lens. His appointment follows Glasner's decision not to renew his contract, which expires on 30 June. The Austrian departs having delivered the club's first major honours: the 2025 FA Cup, the 2025 Community Shield, and the 2026 UEFA Conference League.

Palace's pursuit accelerated after Andoni Iraola joined Liverpool, while Thomas Frank, Frank Lampard, Gareth Southgate, and Hernán Crespo were also considered. Ultimately, Sage emerged as the standout candidate following positive talks. "Sage has never worked outside France, but the Eagles are ready to give him the chance to prove himself in the Premier League," one insider noted.

His credentials are striking. Appointed at Lens in June 2025, Sage guided the club to Champions League qualification with 28 wins in 40 matches, pushing Par-



Crystal Palace

is Saint-Germain deep into the title race. His tactical flexibility — alternating between a 3-4-2-1 and 4-3-3 — is seen as a natural fit for Palace's squad, particularly their wing-backs and attacking midfielders.

Glasner reflected warmly on his time in SE25: "I am very happy to have joined Crystal Palace F.C. as manager. I am looking forward to working with the talented squad, meeting the club's supporters and experiencing the Selhurst Park atmosphere I have

heard so much about." His reign brought European football to Palace for the first time, but he opted for a "new challenge" after nearly three years in charge.

For Sage, the Premier League represents uncharted territory but also a stage befitting his rise. "His man-management skills and tactical adaptability, along with his track record in French football, are key reasons the Eagles want him at Selhurst Park next season," a source close to the club said. With Europa League

football on the horizon, Palace are determined to complete the deal swiftly.

The Frenchman's arrival signals ambition. From Lyon to Lens to London, Pierre Sage now takes charge of an Eagles side eager to build on its newfound silverware and cement itself as a force beyond survival. At Selhurst Park, the next chapter begins — and it will be written in Sage.

SPORTS NEWS



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The role of regional relations in strengthening state sovereignty: The experience of Uzbekistan



By: Mamadjonova Gulsara

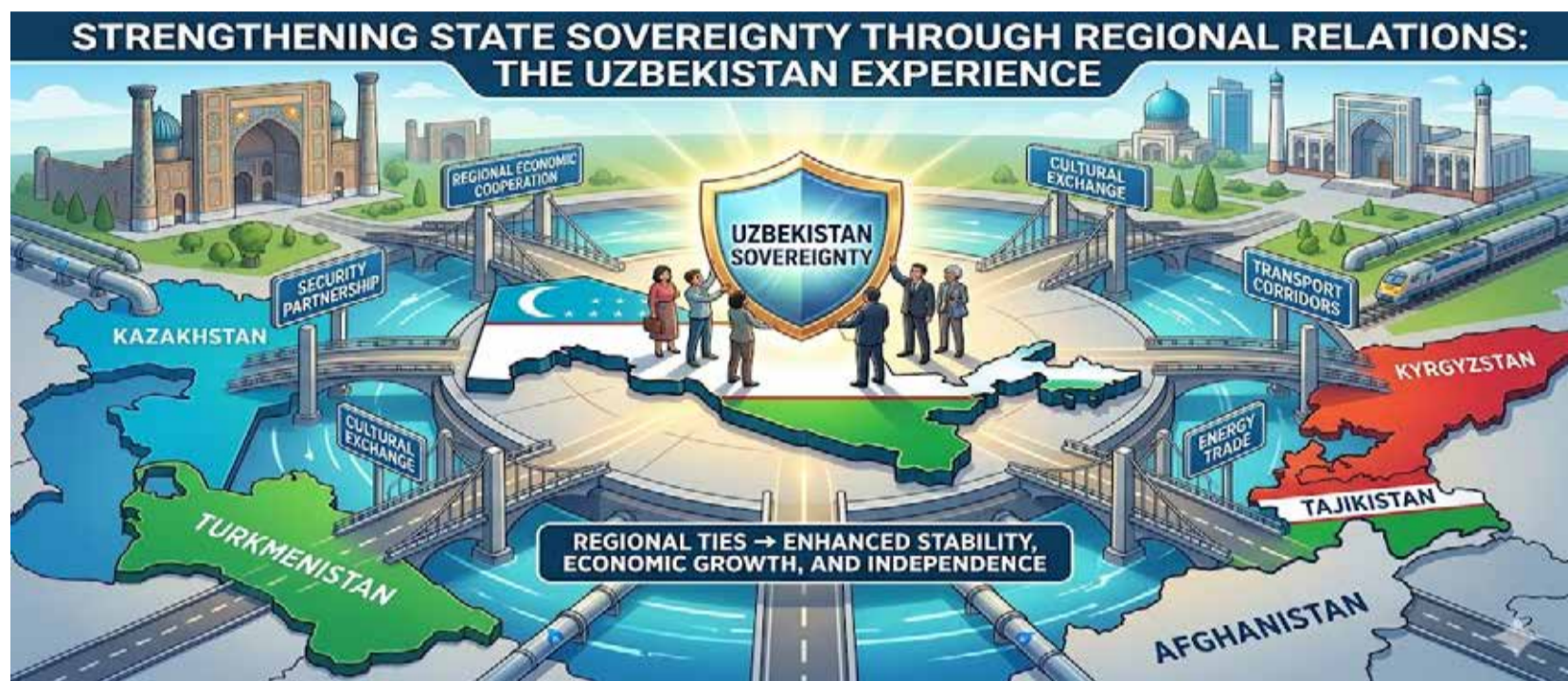
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To fully understand the present, future, and potential of Uzbekistan, it is necessary to consider the country within the broader context of its region. In today's world, national economies, social processes, and economic and humanitarian cooperation are becoming increasingly globalized. Likewise, Uzbekistan's natural resources cannot be viewed separately from the opportunities provided by the region. Therefore, in the 21st century, it is methodologically appropriate to analyze and interpret Uzbekistan's potential within the framework of Central Asia.

When discussing the distinctive characteristics of Uzbekistan and the region, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has repeatedly emphasized the richness of natural resources, the fertility of the land, the favorable climate for human life and health, and the abundance of raw materials of strategic importance to the global economy. Numerous studies highlight the scale, quality, and relevance of these resources to the needs of the 21st century.

Experts note that in the current international economic environment, the development of new energy-rich regions and the transportation of energy resources to global markets have become increasingly important. Due to its geographical proximity to energy-demanding countries such as China, Russia, South Asia, and the Middle East, the Caspian and Central Asian region possesses significant geostrategic and energy-strategic importance. Similar assessments can be found in various scientific and analytical sources.

As can be seen, Central Asia, and Uzbekistan in particular, remains at



the center of global attention. Following the decline of the Great Silk Road, the region has once again secured an important place in international economic and political agendas. However, another crucial issue concerns the effective utilization of these opportunities. In this regard, factors beyond Uzbekistan's direct control continue to influence the country's internal and external policies.

Throughout the years of independence, Uzbekistan has successfully overcome historical challenges and strengthened its reputation within the international community. Nevertheless, for one household to prosper fully, neighboring households must also enjoy favorable conditions. This timeless principle has brought considerable benefits to the peoples of Central Asia. If we regard neighboring countries as neighboring households, it becomes evident that the stability and prosperity of our homeland are closely connected to developments in surrounding states.

The position of an independent state in world politics cannot be determined by others. Therefore, Uzbekistan continues its search for effective development strategies, addressing numerous challenges and preparing itself for rapid changes in global affairs. Questions such as which

status Uzbekistan can attain in the international arena and with which regions and countries it should establish strategic partnerships remain highly relevant. The future position of any state depends on two factors: first, its own efforts and mobilization capacity; second, the direction of global political developments. In political science, this process is often described as a state's ability to find its own favorable place in the international system.

Consequently, while paying close attention to domestic issues, Uzbekistan actively strengthens relations with neighboring countries. In particular, cooperation with the Central Asian states and the Russian Federation occupies a significant place in the country's foreign policy. Through these partnerships, the opportunities and potential of Uzbekistan's territory continue to expand.

As President Mirziyoyev has repeatedly emphasized, Uzbekistan is an exceptionally rich country with immense potential. From the perspective of the post-industrial economy of the 21st century, it occupies a strategically important position. However, unless the country's natural resources are effectively managed and integrated into modern economic processes, their value may remain unrealized. Therefore, the

key task is to activate and effectively utilize the nation's territorial potential. Without dynamic development and adaptation to structural changes, any territory risks falling behind the demands of modern times.

Today, leading countries increasingly formulate long-term development strategies based on the resources available within their territories. Similarly, Uzbekistan's economic and political influence in the future can be projected by considering both its resource potential and global demand trends. A relevant question arises: what products and resources will the world economy require in the next 10–15 years?

It is expected that demand for oil, natural gas, coal, and energy resources will remain significant in many parts of the world. At the same time, Uzbekistan's future development is closely linked to agriculture, horticulture, livestock farming, melon cultivation, and, most importantly, the service sector. The successful development of these industries will allow Uzbekistan not only to strengthen its role in the global economy but also to become one of the countries with substantial export and expert potential based on its resource base.

The territorial potential of a country is directly connected with its overall

power and development. As Uzbekistan advances toward becoming a producer of competitive export-oriented goods, the effective utilization of territorial resources becomes increasingly important for safeguarding national interests and ensuring social stability.

In conclusion, the analysis demonstrates that Uzbekistan's territory is one of the key factors in ensuring national interests and sustainable development. At the same time, the country's geographical position serves as an important foundation for regional cooperation and solidarity. Uzbekistan's territory functions as a central element in strengthening regional collaboration and promoting common interests.

Furthermore, Uzbekistan's educational, cultural, and political influence contributes positively to stability and security throughout Central Asia. By fostering regional cooperation and mutual understanding, the country expands opportunities for protecting its national interests and enhancing its international standing. In the modern era, no territory can fully realize its potential independently. Today it has become increasingly clear that regions, states, and administrative units can unlock their capabilities only through cooperation and partnership with others.