



Counties secure record KSh502 billion allocation in 2026/27 budget
 County governments are set to receive their highest funding allocation yet under the 2026/27 budget, with the National Treasury increasing transfers to KSh502 billion

Page 8



Kenya's economic slide is not an accident. It is a political choice
 For many years, Kenya enjoyed a reputation as the economic powerhouse of East and Central Africa. Nairobi was the region's commercial capital.

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Budget Mbadi said the spending plan was shaped by extensive engagements with Kenyans across the country

Treasury eases cost burden

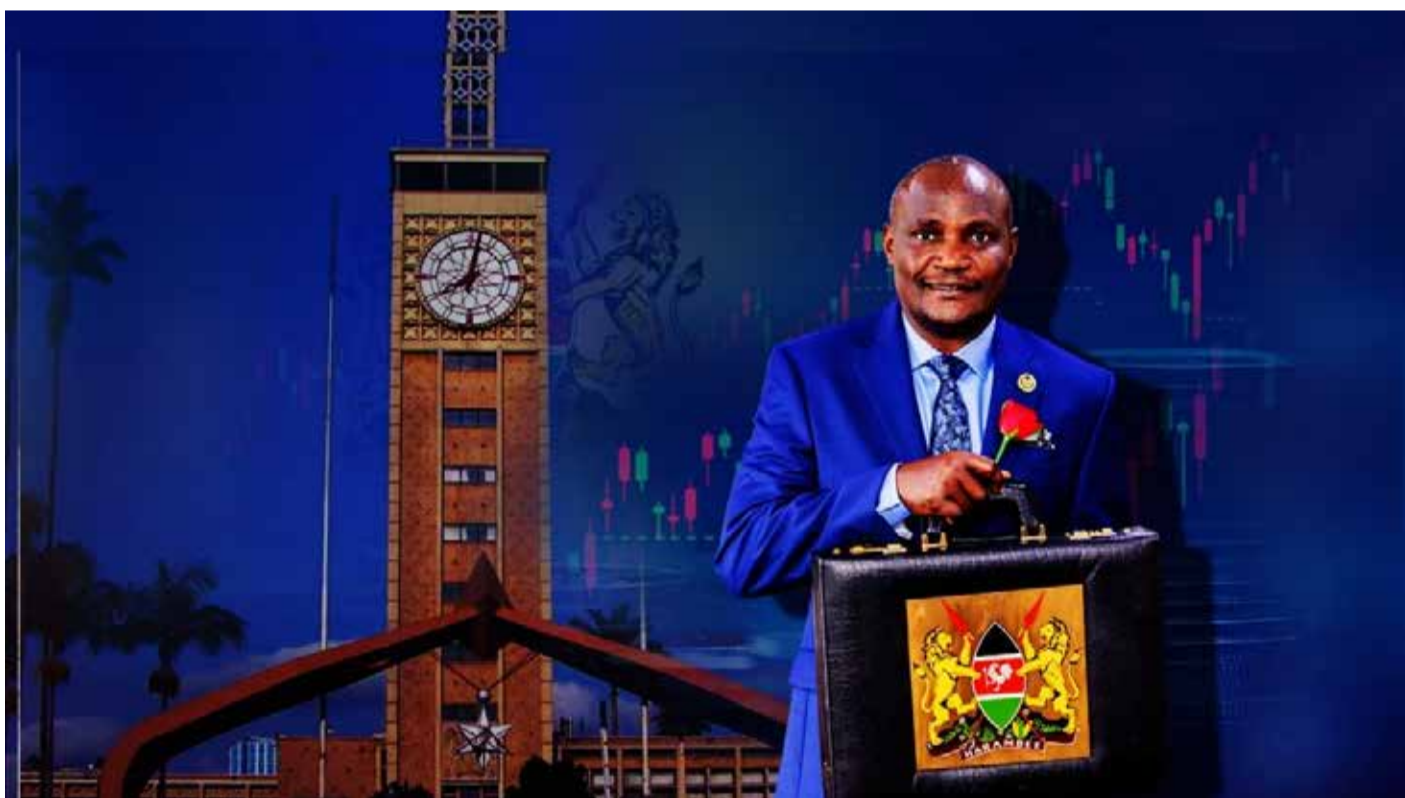
Budget 2026/27

The government has sought to ease pressure on households and businesses by avoiding significant new taxes in the 2026/27 budget, with the Treasury saying public consultations overwhelmingly called for lower living costs and reduced taxation on essential goods.

Presenting the 2026/27 Budget Statement in the National Assembly yesterday, National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi said the spending plan was shaped by extensive engagements with Kenyans across the country and reflects a deliberate effort to balance revenue collection with economic recovery, job creation, and affordability.

The decision marks a notable departure from previous budgets that relied heavily on tax measures to boost government revenue. It also comes nearly two years after the Finance Bill 2024 sparked widespread public protests, forcing the government to rethink its approach to taxation and public participation.

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Treasury CS John Mbadi

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MKU launches integrity club as EACC urges youth to reject corruption

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

Students in universities and colleges have been urged to reject corruption, academic fraud and dishonesty and instead embrace integrity as a pillar of national transformation.

Speaking during the launch of the Ethics and Integrity Club at Mount Kenya University (MKU), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) Chairperson David Oginde warned that corruption continues to undermine Kenya's moral and economic foundations. He cited EACC surveys showing that many young people increasingly view practices such as tax evasion, exam cheating, plagiarism and the use of fake academic certificates as acceptable.

"Stand up against corruption. Corruption may promise quick rewards, but it destroys a nation," Oginde said, noting that the commission frequently investigates cases involving forged certificates, including among senior officials.

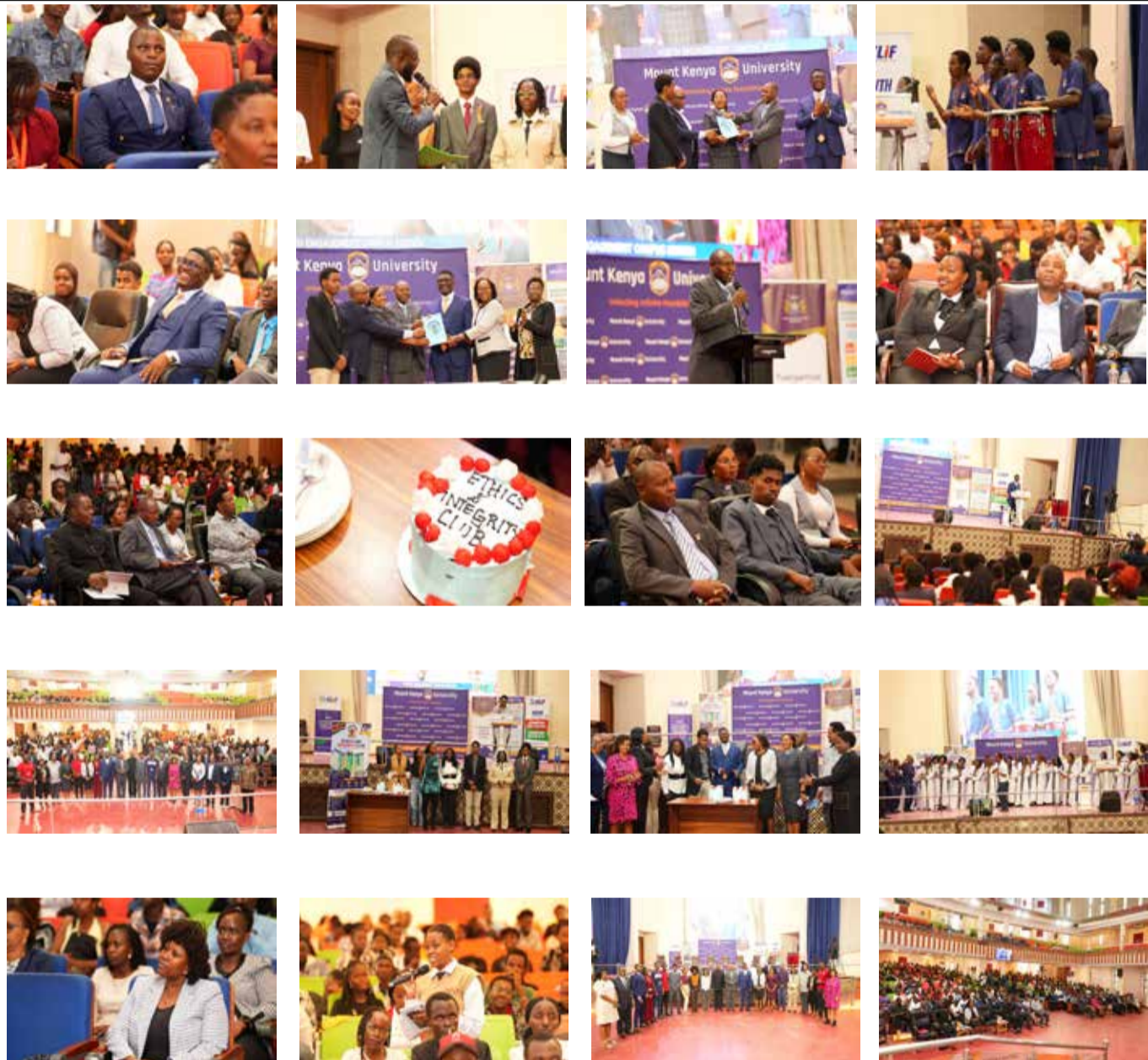
The event, themed "Rebuilding Trust Through Ethical Leadership," brought together leaders from government, academia and the anti-corruption sector.

MKU Principal for Corporate Services Prof. Peter Wanderi said the university had introduced a common course on ethics, integrity and responsible citizenship to strengthen value-based education.

Principal Secretary for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy Fikirini Jacobs encouraged students to uphold values capable of transforming the country and to become partners in promoting integrity.

Students attending the event expressed frustration that corruption denies qualified youth employment opportunities, exposing many to crime and drug abuse. They called for tougher action against offenders.

The initiative forms part of the Kenya Leadership Integrity Forum (KLIF). MKU officials said the university and EACC will also develop a comprehensive integrity course accessible to students and the wider public.



The Mt. Kenya Times

Editor's Desk



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Farmers in Kirinyaga Central and Ndia constituencies have been urged to embrace coffee farming and gradually reduce their reliance on maize cultivation, which stakeholders say generates lower returns. Speaking in Kaitheri Village, Kirinyaga Central, National Coffee Cooperative Union (NACCU) Chairman Felix Mwai noted that the two constituencies have significant potential to boost coffee production but continue to lag behind other areas in the county. He singled out Gichugu Constituency as an example, describing it as Kirinyaga's leading coffee-producing region. Mwai challenged local farmers to take advantage of favourable conditions for coffee growing to improve their incomes and strengthen the county's position in the coffee sector.



Embu County has recorded four Mpox cases since the disease was first detected on May 30, with health authorities intensifying surveillance and containment efforts. County Executive Committee Member for Health Jamal Runyenje said contact tracing is ongoing to identify and monitor people who may have interacted with the infected individuals. The patients have been isolated at various centres across the county and are responding well to treatment under close medical supervision. The county has enhanced surveillance, public awareness campaigns, rapid response measures and screening services at health facilities. Health officers have also been deployed for community sensitisation and monitoring of suspected cases. Residents have been urged to observe proper hygiene, avoid close contact with symptomatic individuals and cooperate with health officials. Runyenje dismissed reports of plans to establish an Ebola quarantine centre as false.



Pumwani Maternity Hospital has received equipment from the Safaricom Foundation to strengthen maternal and newborn healthcare services as the facility marks its 100th anniversary this year. The hospital, Kenya's largest maternity facility, handles about 80 to 90 deliveries daily. The upgraded newborn unit is expected to reduce infant deaths, particularly those caused by

hypothermia, a condition in which newborns struggle to regulate body temperature. Medical Superintendent Dr. Chris Mugambi described hypothermia as "an invisible enemy" that has affected many infants over the years. He said the installation of a central heating system has led to more than a 75 per cent improvement in thermal regulation outcomes, helping save newborn lives despite the increasing demand for services at the busy hospital.

Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP) leader Rigathi Gachagua yesterday held a consultative breakfast meeting in Nairobi with Trans Nzoia Governor George Natembeya, where they discussed the upcoming tour of the Western Kenya region by the United Alternative Government beginning today. Gachagua said Natembeya briefed him on the region's commitment to joining other Kenyans in pushing for political change ahead of the 2027 General Election. He noted that both leaders agreed on the need for the opposition coalition to identify a single presidential candidate to challenge President William Ruto on August 10, 2027. Gachagua also updated Natembeya on his 45-day stakeholder consultations at his Wamunoro residence aimed at building consensus on the coalition's presidential flagbearer.



Three suspects are in police custody after officers from Marsabit Police Station recovered 13 pieces of elephant tusks during a raid in the Majengo area. Acting on a tip-off, the officers stormed a residential house and arrested Wario Ali Halo, Umuro Afani Duba and Alkano Elema Galgalo. A search of the premises led to the discovery of a green sack containing the tusks, believed to be from recently poached elephants. The suspects and the recovered trophies were taken to Marsabit Police Station, where they are being processed ahead of their court appearance. The tusks have been secured as exhibits. Police said the operation demonstrates the National Police Service's commitment, alongside other agencies and stakeholders, to combating wildlife trafficking and protecting Kenya's endangered species and natural heritage.



Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni appeared before the National Assembly Committee on Regional Integration to outline Kenya's progress in implementing the East African Community Regional Health Policy and update lawmakers on the country's Ebola preparedness. She said Kenya is strengthening its health systems through improved disease surveillance, emergency preparedness and response, and enhanced cross-border collaboration with neighbouring countries. The PS noted that Kenya is working closely with East African Community partner states to prevent and respond to Ebola through tighter surveillance at points of entry, real-time information sharing, coordinated screening and rapid response mechanisms. Muthoni stressed the need for regional cooperation and urged Parliament to support preparedness efforts through adequate resources, sustained collaboration and a whole-of-government approach to public health emergencies.

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GBV The DP said action has already been taken as recommended by the Presidential Technical Working Group

Kindiki: Government speeding up measures to stop gender-based violence and femicide

BY DPCS
@themkenyatimes

The government is hastening implementation of stringent measures to stop escalation of gender-based violence and femicide in the country, Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has affirmed.

The DP said action has already been taken as recommended by the Presidential Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide that was established by President Ruto last year as more extensive measures are fast-tracked through Cabinet and Parliament.

"I reaffirm the commitment of the government to make sure we roll back the worrying statistics of gender-based violence and femicide in our country," DP stated.

Yesterday, the Second in Command at Harambee House Annex in Nairobi, engaged Gender and Affirmative Action Cabinet Secretary Hanna Cheptumo and senior Ministry officials on the status of the implementation of the report by the Working Group.

The Deputy President said the President has directed speeding up of legal, policy and administrative interventions to curb the menace that is threatening the country's socio-economic progress.

He assured Kenyans that all hands are on deck to implement preventive measures



The DP chairing the meeting yesterday.

as instructed by the Head of State.

"The government is concerned with the repeated cases and reports of the killing of women in brutal and horrendous circumstances. We take these cases seriously because they are harming our nation-building and the progress we are making in development," he noted.

Needed measures, DP reiterated, are being pursued through multiple ways including immediate administrative action, Cabinet policies and legislative interventions.

"We are taking the recommendations of the technical working group seriously. The implementation is on course on the issues that do not require Cabinet or Parliament approval," he reaffirmed.

The DP directed the CS to quickly present policies and proposed legislation for approval by the Cabinet.

"There is a need for Cabinet approval for the proposed legislation or policy so we have a government-backed document to be submitted to Parliament. In the meantime, we are implementing measures that do not require legislation and policy," DP stated.

Prof. Kindiki said the implementation of the report will aid in the fast-tracking the ratification of the Africa-Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls that was adopted during the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in February, 2025.

He said the country must be

safe for all members of society calling on all citizens to be champions against the vices.

"As much as we are pursuing national development goals of putting up better infrastructure for better education, roads, and health, we have a bigger role to put together a country that is safe for everyone: men, women, children and all members of the society.

The Deputy President also assured that the government is working on measures to curb the rising cases of missing children.

Also in attendance were Gender and Affirmative Action Principal Secretary Anne Wang'ombe and senior Ministry officers.

Kenya records major progress in reducing street families



Gender, Culture and Children Services Cabinet Secretary Hanna Wendot (right) joined by Board Chair of the Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund Mary Wambui (second right) during the launch of the 2025 National Census for Street Families report. |

Photo: Erastus Gichohi.

BY Erastus Gichohi
@themkenyatimes

The national government's tailor-made rehabilitation interventions for street families have borne remarkable progress, with the vulnerable population reducing by half over the last eight years.

Investment in rehabilitation, integration, family care and child protection programmes has seen the population decline from over 46,000 persons in 2018 to 18,049 by the end of 2025.

The results were contained in the 2025 National Census for Street Families report, undertaken by the Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund in partnership with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), to guide data-informed approaches as the country geared towards a street-families-free environment.

This emerged as Nairobi, Nakuru, and Mombasa counties continue to record the highest numbers, with poverty, family instability, economic hardships, and drug and substance abuse being the major contributors to the influx.


Of the 18,049 street-connected persons recorded during the months-long 2025 census, 78.6 per cent were male and 21.4 per cent female. Nairobi recorded the highest count at 4,690 persons, followed by Nakuru with 1,546, Mombasa 1,428 and Kiambu 1,370, while Nyandarua, Lamu, and Tana River recorded the lowest figures.

According to Gender, Culture, and Children Services Cabinet Secretary Hanna Wendot, the government was committed to scaling up re-

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2026/27 Budget pronouncement in pictures



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Budget The increased allocation underscores the government's continued commitment to devolution, with county funding rising steadily

Counties secure record KSh502 billion allocation in 2026/27 budget

BY Suleiman Mbatiah

@themtkenyatimes

County governments are set to receive their highest funding allocation yet under the 2026/27 budget, with the National Treasury increasing transfers to KSh502 billion in a move aimed at strengthening healthcare, infrastructure, and service delivery across the country.

The increased allocation underscores the government's continued commitment to devolution, with county funding rising steadily since the Kenya Kwanza administration took office.

Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi said the enhanced transfers are intended to ensure counties have sufficient resources to deliver essential services while accelerating local development programmes.

According to the budget statement presented in the National Assembly yesterday, the equitable share allocated to counties will rise to KSh428 billion in the 2026/27 financial year, up from KSh370 billion in the 2022/23 budget. Total county allocations, including additional funding from the national government and development partners, will reach

KSh502 billion.

Mbadi said the increase reflects the government's determination to strengthen devolution and support county governments in fulfilling their constitutional mandates.

"Since 2022, funding to County Governments has steadily increased, with the Equitable Share to Counties increasing from KSh 370.0 billion in the FY 2022/23 budget to KSh 428.0 billion in the FY 2026/27 budget," Mbadi told Parliament.

The Treasury estimates that counties will receive KSh 444.6 billion through shareable revenue and additional allocations from the national government. A further KSh 57.4 billion is expected from loans and grants provided by development partners to support various county projects and programmes.

The increased funding comes at a time when county governments continue to shoulder responsibility for critical sectors including healthcare, agriculture, water services, trade development, and local infrastructure. Officials believe the additional resources will help improve service delivery and expand access to essential public services at the grassroots level.

Mbadi said the government remains

committed to supporting devolution through predictable and timely fiscal transfers in line with constitutional requirements. He noted that the KSh 428 billion equitable share represents 21 percent of the most recently audited national revenue, significantly above the constitutional minimum threshold of 15 percent.

The Treasury also announced plans to streamline the approval and disbursement of additional county allocations. Proposed amendments to the Public Finance Management Act are expected to create separate legislation for national government additional allocations and donor-funded county grants, a move aimed at reducing delays that have previously affected county financing.

In addition to county allocations, the government has proposed KSh 10.3 billion for the Equalisation Fund to support development projects in marginalized areas. The fund is expected to finance infrastructure and social programmes in regions that have historically lagged behind in access to public services.

While welcoming the increased allocations, the Treasury acknowledged persistent challenges facing county governments, particularly the growing stock of pending bills.



CS John Mbadi in Parliament yesterday

Counties reported outstanding pending bills amounting to KSh 183 billion as of June 30, 2025, raising concerns over delayed payments to suppliers and contractors.

Mbadi urged county administrations to implement agreed action plans aimed at reducing pending bills and improving financial management.

"I therefore propose to allocate KSh 428.0 billion in equitable share which shall be transferred to the respective County Governments as per the Fourth Basis formula during FY 2026/27," he said.

The increased county funding forms

part of the government's broader Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, which seeks to promote inclusive growth, improve livelihoods, and expand access to public services while maintaining fiscal sustainability.

For millions of Kenyans who depend on county governments for healthcare, agricultural support, water projects, and local infrastructure, the record allocation is expected to play a central role in shaping service delivery and development outcomes during the 2026/27 financial year.

Street families The census confirms that poverty, family instability, lack of economic opportunities, substance abuse and social exclusion contribute significantly to street migration

Kenya records major progress in reducing street families

Contd from page 6

habilitation and integration interventions to rid the country of street families.

Wendot noted that since the rehabilitation exercise was initiated in 2003, the country had made significant strides and remained on course to ensure all persons enjoyed equal human dignity.

Speaking at the launch of the report

in Naivasha, the CS said the government had allocated Sh40 million in the current financial year towards rehabilitation programmes and skills training for vulnerable persons.

The CS said the report had flagged rising poverty, economic hardship, drug and substance abuse, and social and family instability as the primary drivers of street migration.

"The census confirms that poverty, family instability, lack of economic opportunities, substance abuse and social exclusion contribute signifi-

cantly to street migration," she said. Wendot noted that the census showed most of the population expressed a willingness to leave street life if alternative measures and viable solutions were provided.

She added that through collaboration with county governments, civil society organisations, the private sector, and local communities, the state was investing in family support systems, education, and child protection frameworks to address the problem.

"Increased poverty levels, corporal punishment, denial of food, and alcohol-dependent parents were the main causes of family separation, pushing children onto the streets," noted the report.

The CS, who also presided over the launch of the Street Families Information Management System, said the new platform was a game changer and was capable of providing real-time data and statistics on the vulnerable population to inform evidence-based interventions.

On the recent wave of school arson incidents and student strikes, Wendot condemned the acts, calling for a parental and whole-of-society approach to address the crisis.

Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund Board Chairperson Mary Wambui said the organisation was seeking additional funding to scale up rehabilitation support systems and ensure those in rescue centres received life-enabling skills.

KNBS Director General Macdonald Obudho attributed the sharp decline in the street families' population from over 46,000 in 2018 to 18,048 in 2025 to targeted government interventions.

He added that stronger family structures had proved a key catalyst in addressing the problem and that the organization had begun incorporating refugees and asylum seekers into the national census framework ahead of the 2028/29 financial year.

The report indicated that street-connected girls and women had suffered sexual, physical and emotional abuse, largely at the hands of fellow street dwellers and law enforcement officers.

It noted that 71 per cent of street families had used at least one substance, with glue, cannabis and alcohol the most commonly abused, amid limited access to healthcare.

Budget Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi said the spending plan was shaped by extensive engagements with Kenyans across the country

No major tax hikes as Treasury prioritizes cost of living relief

BY Suleiman Mbatiah

@themtkenyatimes

The government has sought to ease pressure on households and businesses by avoiding significant new taxes in the 2026/27 budget, with the Treasury saying public consultations overwhelmingly called for lower living costs and reduced taxation on essential goods.

Presenting the 2026/27 Budget Statement in the National Assembly yesterday, National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi said the spending plan was shaped by extensive engagements with Kenyans across the country and reflects a deliberate effort to balance revenue collection with economic recovery, job creation, and affordability.

The decision marks a notable departure from previous budgets that relied heavily on tax measures to boost government revenue. It also comes nearly two years after the Finance Bill 2024 sparked widespread public protests, forcing the government to rethink its approach to taxation and public participation.

Mbadi said feedback from citizens during regional consultations, town hall meetings, stakeholder forums, and digital engagements consistently pointed to the need for relief from the high cost of living.

“The main feedback from all these engagements was that the Government should reduce the overall cost of living by lowering the tax burden on essential commodities; tame wastage of public resources; and decisively deal with corruption,” Mbadi told lawmakers.

The Treasury said the budget is anchored on sustaining the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) while promoting private sector-led growth, preserving macroeconomic stability, and creating opportunities for ordinary Kenyans.

According to Mbadi, the government intentionally chose a cautious path on taxation after listening to concerns from households, businesses, farmers, youth groups, and informal sector operators who said rising costs had strained incomes and weakened purchasing power.

“Kenyans want an economy that works for them; an economy where the cost of living is manageable; where opportunities for employment and businesses are expanding;



Treasury and Parliament officials.

and where the benefits of economic growth are shared widely across society,” he said.

The budget seeks to support those objectives through continued investment in agriculture, affordable housing, healthcare, infrastructure, manufacturing, digital innovation, and small business development rather than relying solely on higher taxes to finance expenditure.

Agriculture remains one of the government’s flagship sectors under the BETA framework. Treasury highlighted gains achieved through the fertilizer subsidy programme, which has reduced the price of a 50-kilogram bag of fertilizer from KSh 7,500 to KSh 2,500 while significantly increasing uptake among farmers.

The government said the intervention has helped lower production costs, improve food security, and increase agricultural output, benefiting both rural households and consumers facing food price pressures.

Mbadi said the administration would continue supporting productive sectors of the economy because growth remains the most sustainable path toward improving livelihoods.

“They want to see a Government that protects their livelihoods; supports farmers and small businesses; empowers the youth and women; and ensures that public resources are used prudently and transparently,”

he said.

The budget also places significant emphasis on strengthening devolution, with county governments set to receive a record KSh 502 billion in total allocations. Treasury officials argue that increasing county funding will improve access to healthcare, water services, roads, agricultural extension services, and other critical functions delivered at the local level.

At the same time, the government has maintained its commitment to fiscal discipline. Treasury projects a gradual reduction in the fiscal deficit from 5.5 percent of GDP in the 2026/27 financial year to 3.3 percent by 2028/29 as part of a broader strategy to strengthen public finances and ensure debt sustainability.

Mbadi acknowledged that global economic conditions remain challenging, citing geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, and rising energy prices as risks to growth and inflation. He noted that global oil prices rose sharply between February and May 2026, creating additional pressure on households and businesses.

Despite those challenges, the Treasury argues that Kenya’s economy has demonstrated resilience. The government reported average economic growth of five percent between 2022 and 2025, outperforming both global and regional averages during the same period.

youth population.

Mbadi said public participation played a central role in shaping the budget and emphasized that citizens expect their taxes to deliver tangible results.

“Above all, the people of Kenya want assurance that their hard-earned taxes will translate into tangible improvements in their daily lives,” he said.

The Treasury also signaled continued reforms within the Kenya Revenue Authority aimed at improving tax compliance, broadening the tax base, and reducing leakages through technology rather than imposing new burdens on compliant taxpayers.

While some economists have cautioned that the government still faces significant financing pressures, the absence of major new taxes is likely to be welcomed by households and businesses that have been grappling with elevated living costs and slower income growth.

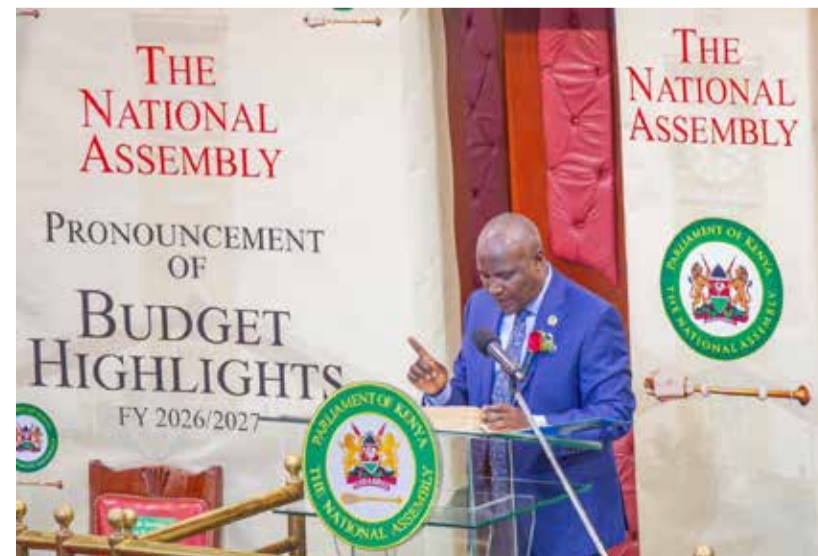
For many Kenyans, the most significant message from the 2026/27 budget may not be what has been introduced, but what has been left out. After months of consultations and lessons drawn from recent public discontent, the government has opted for a budget that prioritizes affordability, economic growth, and public confidence over aggressive tax increases.

“This Budget is being presented at a time of heightened global uncertainty,” Mbadi said, adding that the government’s objective is to protect livelihoods while sustaining growth and maintaining economic stability in an increasingly unpredictable global environment.

“The hard decisions are bearing fruits,” Mbadi said. “Under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, we have recorded clear gains.”

The Treasury pointed to lower inflation, a more stable exchange rate, stronger foreign exchange reserves, and improved access to credit as indicators that the economy is on a firmer footing than it was three years ago.

Another key feature of the budget is its focus on employment creation. The government intends to accelerate investments in labour-intensive sectors, expand support for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and deepen industrialization efforts to generate jobs for Kenya’s growing



Budget Fertilizer disbursements under the Fertilizer Subsidy Programme have increased substantially to 21.3 million bags in 2025

Budget: Agriculture gets major boost as Treasury sustains farmer support

BY Suleiman Mbatiah

@themtkenyatimes

Agriculture emerged as one of the biggest winners in the 2026/27 budget, with the government maintaining a fertilizer subsidy programme that Treasury says has saved farmers an estimated KSh105 billion and strengthened food production nationwide.

Presenting the 2026/27 Budget Statement in Parliament, National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi highlighted agriculture as a key pillar of the government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), saying continued support for farmers remains central to

efforts to lower the cost of living, enhance food security, and drive economic growth.

The Treasury said the fertilizer subsidy programme has transformed access to farm inputs over the last three years, helping reduce the cost of a 50-kilogram bag of fertilizer from KSh7,500 in 2022 to KSh2,500 in 2025. The intervention has enabled farmers to expand production while easing pressure from rising global commodity prices and climate-related challenges.

According to the budget statement, fertilizer disbursements under the subsidy programme increased significantly from 1.4 million bags in 2022 to 21.3 million bags in 2025, making it one of

the largest agricultural support programmes undertaken by the government in recent years.

"Fertilizer disbursements under the Fertilizer Subsidy Programme have increased substantially to 21.3 million bags in 2025 from 1.4 million bags disbursed in 2022," Mbadi told lawmakers.

The Treasury estimates that lower fertilizer prices have generated savings of approximately KSh 105 billion for farmers over a two-year period, allowing producers to redirect resources toward expanding acreage, purchasing farm equipment, hiring labour, and investing in productivity-enhancing technologies.



Farmers taking fertilizer from a depot.

For millions of Kenyans who depend directly or indirectly on agriculture, the programme has become one of the most visible government interventions under the Kenya Kwanza administration. Agriculture remains the backbone of rural livelihoods and contributes significantly to employment, exports, and food supply.

Government officials argue that reducing production costs at the farm level has had wider economic benefits by increasing food availability and helping stabilize prices of key commodities. The continued support is also expected to strengthen resilience among farmers facing unpredictable weather patterns and fluctuating market conditions.

Mbadi said the gains recorded in the sector demonstrate the importance of targeted interventions designed to support productive sectors of the economy.

"As a result, farmers realized estimated savings of approximately KSh 105 billion over a two-year period, enabling increased investment in production," he said.

Beyond fertilizer subsidies, the government says the agriculture sector has registered improvements in marketed agricultural production, expanded food security interventions, and strengthened farmer support services targeting both smallholder and commercial producers.

The budget positions agriculture as a key driver of inclusive economic growth, particularly in rural areas where farming remains the primary source of income for millions of households. Increased productivity is expected to

support food security while creating employment opportunities across agricultural value chains, including transportation, processing, storage, and retail.

Treasury officials say the government's broader agricultural strategy focuses on increasing productivity, improving access to affordable inputs, strengthening extension services, and expanding market opportunities for farmers.

The emphasis on agriculture comes as the government seeks to sustain economic growth amid global uncertainty, including geopolitical tensions, rising energy costs, and disruptions in international supply chains. Officials believe strengthening domestic food production is critical to reducing vulnerability to external shocks and protecting consumers from price volatility.

Mbadi noted that agriculture has played an important role in supporting Kenya's economic resilience over the past three years and remains a priority sector under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.

"Since the rollout of BETA, the agriculture sector has registered key gains that include reduced fertilizer costs through Government subsidy programmes, increased marketed agricultural production, expanded food security interventions, and strengthened farmer support services," he said.

The Treasury also linked agricultural support to broader efforts aimed at reducing the cost of living, one of the issues most frequently raised by

Kenyans during public consultations conducted ahead of the budget.

According to Mbadi, citizens consistently called for policies that would lower the prices of essential goods, support livelihoods, and create opportunities for income generation. Supporting agricultural production was identified as a key strategy for achieving those objectives.

The government believes that continued investment in the sector will not only benefit farmers but also consumers by helping ensure a stable supply of food products in local markets. Lower production costs can translate into lower food prices, easing pressure on household budgets at a time when many families continue to grapple with economic challenges.

"The hard decisions are bearing fruits," Mbadi said as he outlined the government's assessment of economic performance under the current administration.

Analysts say the continued focus on agriculture reflects recognition of the sector's central role in the economy. With millions of Kenyans relying on farming for their livelihoods, investments that improve productivity and reduce costs are likely to have a direct impact on incomes, food availability, and rural development.

For farmers across the country, the continuation of the programme signals sustained government support for a sector widely regarded as essential to the country's economic transformation and long-term growth.




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Education Dr. Oginde questioned why students would pursue shortcuts instead of earning genuine qualifications through hard work and commitment

University students challenged to lead Kenya's anti-corruption fight

As Mount Kenya University introduces a common unit on ethics, integrity and responsible citizenship to strengthen value-based education

BY James Wakahiu
@themkenyatimes

Students in universities and colleges have been challenged to reject corruption, dishonesty and academic fraud and instead embrace integrity as a foundation for national transformation.

Speaking during the launch of the Ethics and Integrity Club at Mount Kenya University (MKU), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) Chairperson Dr David Oginde challenged students to take a firm stand against corruption, warning that dishonesty continues to erode the country's moral and economic fabric.

He expressed concern over findings showing that many young people increasingly view dishonest practices as acceptable, including tax evasion, corruption, malpractices during exams, fake academic certificates and plagiarism. "Stand up against corruption. Corruption may promise quick rewards, but it destroys a nation," said Dr. Oginde

The EACC chair said the commission's surveys reveal many young people do not see harm in dishonesty. He added that EACC is witnessing an upsurge in plagiarism among university students and sometimes overwhelmed by investigations involving fake certificates, including cases of people holding very senior positions.

The launch, themed "Rebuilding Trust Through Ethical Leadership," brought together leaders from the anti-corruption sector, academia and government who urged young people to become champions of ethical conduct in society.

Dr. Oginde questioned why students would pursue shortcuts instead of earning genuine qualifications through hard work and commitment.



EACC Chairperson, Dr David Oginde, speaking during the launch of the Ethics and Integrity Club at Mount Kenya University in Thika, Kiambu County. | Photo: Courtesy.

"Why go to university and fail to earn a genuine certificate that truly reflects who you are? No nation has ever thrived through corruption. Greatness is built on honesty, hard work, and trust," he asked.

MKU Principal for Corporate Services and Director of

Partnerships and Linkages, Prof. Peter Wanderi, said the university had already developed a common unit on ethics, integrity and responsible citizenship to strengthen value-based education.

He said the course unit had been approved by the university management and fur-

ther endorsed by the Dean's Committee, following consultations between the university leadership and a high-level delegation from the ethics sector.

Prof. Wanderi noted that the initiative aligns with MKU's institutional values and commitment to integrity. He added

that the collaboration between MKU and ethics institutions is expected to enhance awareness, strengthen institutional partnerships and encourage student-led integrity initiatives and policy discussions within universities.

"We need to keep talking about integrity at all times and also practice it. I am happy that even the MKU anthem speaks about integrity, which reflects our institutional values," he said.

The Principal Secretary in the State Department for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy, Fikirini Jacobs, urged young people to embrace values and ethical leadership that can positively transform the country.

"I beseech you with humility to move forward while holding firmly to values and ethos that can transform the country. Change must happen in a manner that does not become disastrous to us," said Jacobs. He challenged students to change their mindset and approach national issues differently, urging them to see opportunities rather than obstacles. Jacobs called on students to walk together in promoting integrity and national transformation.

Jacobs called on students to walk together in promoting integrity and national transformation. "Let us be comrades in this journey and uphold integrity together," he added.

Some of the youths who attended the event led by Ndicho Njoroge and Natali Asai said many educated young people remain jobless due to the actions of corrupt officials in various institutions, leaving them frustrated and vulnerable to drug abuse and crime.

They urged the EACC and the courts to take tougher ac-

tion against corruption by ensuring all those found guilty, whether senior government officials or ordinary citizens, are punished to demonstrate seriousness and help eradicate the vice.

The Ethics and Integrity Club launch is part of broader efforts under the Kenya Leadership Integrity Forum (KLIF), a partnership and governance initiative aimed at fostering a unified and integrated fight against corruption across institutions.

Last month, MKU entered into a strategic partnership with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), aimed at leveraging the innovation, creativity and energy of young people to foster a strong culture of integrity and ethical leadership across the country.

Speaking during the engagement, MKU Founder and Chairman, Prof. Simon Gicharu, commended EACC's evolving approach, noting a positive shift toward preventive measures such as integrity training and awareness creation, rather than focusing solely on enforcement. He emphasized the importance of embedding ethics and integrity within the education system, particularly through Kenya's Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), where values can be instilled at an early age.

MKU Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Deogratius Jaganyi, reaffirmed the university's commitment to mainstreaming integrity within academic programmes. He further noted that MKU and EACC will jointly develop a comprehensive course on integrity, which will be accessible not only to students but also to the broader Kenyan community.



MKU Principal for Corporate Services and Director of Partnerships and Linkages, Prof Peter Wanderi addresses students and guest during the launch of the institution's Ethics and Integrity Club at the institution's main campus in Thika town.



The Principal Secretary, State Department of Youths and Creatives, Mr Fikirini Jacobs speaking during the launch of the institution's Ethics and Integrity Club at the institution's main campus in Thika town on Wednesday.

Budget Nations do not suddenly wake up and discover they have fallen behind. Economic decline is rarely dramatic. It happens gradually

Kenya's economic slide is not an accident. It is a political choice



By: Gitile Naituli
@themkenyatimes

For many years, Kenya enjoyed a reputation as the economic powerhouse of East and Central Africa. Nairobi was the region's commercial capital. Multinational corporations established their headquarters here. Investors viewed Kenya as the gateway to Eastern Africa. Our banking sector was admired, our entrepreneurial culture celebrated, and our private sector regarded as one of the most dynamic on the continent.

Today, that position can no longer be taken for granted. Across the region, countries that once looked up to Kenya are increasingly becoming our competitors. Ethiopia has emerged as a manufacturing giant. Tanzania continues to attract significant investments in infrastructure, industry, logistics and energy. Rwanda has built a reputation for efficiency and investor confidence. Even countries with fewer resources than Kenya are beginning to outperform us in key indicators of economic growth.

This did not happen overnight.

Nations do not suddenly wake up and discover they have fallen behind. Economic decline is rarely dramatic. It happens gradually through a series of poor decisions, misguided policies and political choices that slowly erode competitiveness. Kenya's challenge is not a lack of talent, resources or entrepreneurial spirit. Our challenge is that we have increasingly

created a political and policy environment that makes growth more difficult than it should be.

Over the last decade, Kenya has become a country that taxes production instead of encouraging it. Businesses are frequently viewed as revenue sources rather than partners in development. Every budget cycle seems to introduce new taxes, levies, fees and compliance requirements. The result is predictable. Businesses spend more time complying with regulations and paying taxes than expanding production, hiring workers or investing in innovation.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), which form the backbone of our economy, have suffered the most. These enterprises create the majority of jobs in Kenya. They support millions of households and provide opportunities for young people entering the labour market. Yet many SMEs operate under constant pressure from taxes, licensing fees, unpredictable regulations and rising operating costs. Instead of helping them grow into larger enterprises, we often make survival their primary objective.

Credit has also become increasingly expensive. High interest rates, aggressive government borrowing and limited access to affordable financing have made it difficult for businesses to expand. A manufacturer seeking to increase production, a farmer seeking modern equipment or a young entrepreneur launching a start-up often faces borrowing costs that make profitability difficult.

No economy can grow rapidly when productive businesses are denied affordable capital. Government itself has also become part of the problem.

Delayed payments to suppliers have become a chronic challenge. Many business-

es that provide goods and services to government institutions wait months, and sometimes years, to receive payment. Some collapse before receiving what they are owed. Others are forced into expensive borrowing simply to remain operational while waiting for government obligations to be honoured. A government that fails to pay its suppliers on time effectively becomes a barrier to economic growth.

Perhaps the most damaging challenge, however, is the increasing politicisation of economic policy. Investors value certainty. They seek predictable regulations, stable policies and confidence that decisions are guided by economic logic rather than political expediency. Unfortunately, Kenya's policy environment has become increasingly influenced by political calculations. Major announcements are often made without adequate consultation. Policies are introduced and later revised. New regulations emerge with little warning. Businesses are left uncertain about what tomorrow may bring. Investment thrives in stability and dies in uncertainty.

Meanwhile, countries such as Ethiopia and Tanzania have pursued a different path. They have focused on industrialisation, infrastructure expansion, manufacturing and long-term investment strategies. They have embraced patient capital and created conditions that encourage large-scale production. Their leaders understand that sustainable prosperity comes from producing goods, creating jobs and expanding exports. Economic transformation requires patience, discipline and consistency. Unfortunately, these qualities are often difficult to sustain in highly polarised political environments.

Kenya today faces another



Budget 2026/2027

challenge that deserves honest discussion: the toxic nature of our politics. Political competition is essential in any democracy. However, when politics becomes excessively confrontational, tribal, personalised and permanent, economic progress suffers. Too many politicians spend more time attacking opponents than discussing economic solutions. Too many parliamentary debates generate headlines but produce little value for businesses, investors or ordinary citizens. Too many leaders view politics as an end in itself rather than a tool for improving the lives of citizens.

The consequences are visible everywhere. Investors become cautious. Businesses postpone expansion. Youth unemployment rises. Public confidence declines. Economic opportunities migrate elsewhere.

As Kenya approaches the 2027 General Election, voters

must begin asking different questions.

Beyond party affiliations, ethnic identities and political slogans, citizens should evaluate candidates based on their understanding of economic growth and job creation. Does a candidate understand how businesses operate? Do they appreciate the importance of investment, innovation and entrepreneurship? Can they formulate policies that encourage production rather than punish it? Do they understand that government cannot employ everyone and that a thriving private sector is essential for national prosperity?

The future of Kenya's economy will not be determined solely by who occupies State House. It will also be shaped by the quality of leaders elected to Parliament, the Senate and county governments. Kenya requires legislators who understand economics as

well as politics. Leaders who appreciate that prosperity is created by productive citizens, thriving enterprises and sound policies, not endless political battles.

The choice before us is clear.

We can continue with politics that generates noise but undermines growth. Or we can elect leaders who understand that the ultimate purpose of politics is not political victory itself, but the creation of jobs, opportunities and prosperity for the people. Kenya's economic decline was not accidental. Its recovery will not be accidental either. It will require better choices, better policies and, above all, better leadership.

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



KTDA The forum also provided an opportunity for residents to engage directly with the leadership of KTDA and seek updates on mitigation measures

KTDA pays KSh12 Million compensation to 44 families affected by Gura canal damage in Othaya

BY WMW

@themtkenyatimes

Forty-four families affected by the destruction caused by the damaged Gura Hydro canal in Othaya, Nyeri County have received KSh12 million in compensation in a move aimed at helping them rebuild their livelihoods and recover from losses occasioned by the incident.

The compensation was issued yesterday during a community engagement forum that brought together affected residents, Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) leadership and members of the Gura Power Company Board.

The affected families, drawn from communities neighbouring the Gura Hydropower Project suffered losses in the month of March after torrential rains damaged sections of the hydro canal, leading to the destruction of farms and property.

KTDA said the compensation package demonstrates the agency's commitment to supporting communities living around its operations and ensuring that those adversely affected

receive assistance to recover.

The forum also provided an opportunity for residents to engage directly with the leadership of KTDA and seek updates on mitigation measures being undertaken to prevent similar incidents in future.

Among those present were KTDA Acting Group Chief Executive Officer Eng. Francis Miano, Nyeri zone board member David Ndung'u, KTDA Power Company Acting General Manager Eng. Moses Shikuku, Majani Insurance General Manager Pauline Mwangi as well as the project board chairman Teobald Makundi Temuwa.

Speaking during the meeting, KTDA officials reaffirmed the organisation's duty of care to farmers and neighbouring communities, noting that the compensation process had been undertaken following assessment of the losses suffered by affected households.

"KTDA remains committed to supporting farmers and communities around its operations and upholding its duty of care to all within its areas of operation," the agency said.

The Gura Hydropower Project,

owned by KTDA through four tea factories in Nyeri County, was established to reduce energy costs for tea factories and generate additional income through the sale of surplus electricity to the national grid.

The project, which produces approximately 5.8 megawatts of electricity, serves Gathuthi, Gitugi, Iriani and Chinga tea factories while also supplying excess power to Kenya Power.

The latest compensation marks another chapter in the long-standing concerns surrounding the canal's vulnerability during periods of heavy rainfall.

Heavy rains caused sections of the seven-kilometre canal to overflow and trigger landslides, destroying tea bushes, napier grass and portions of farmland belonging to neighbouring residents. At the time, affected farmers demanded compensation and called for investigations into the safety of the infrastructure.

Following the latest incident, residents have welcomed the compensation while expressing hope that permanent engineering solutions will be implemented to safeguard lives,



KTDA pays KSh12 Million compensation

property and livelihoods.

The engagement forum also underscored the importance of continued dialogue between project operators and host communities, particularly as extreme weather events become increasingly frequent.

KTDA officials indicated that beyond compensation, efforts are being made to strengthen risk mitigation measures and enhance preparedness around the hydropower infrastruc-

ture to minimise future disruptions.

For the affected families, the Sh12 million payout offers a measure of relief and an opportunity to begin rebuilding after months of uncertainty.

As communities recover, attention now shifts to ensuring that investments in critical infrastructure are matched by adequate safeguards to protect the people living alongside them.

The Mt. Kenya Times



Life begins at the edge of the comfort zone



Where trembling feet still choose the unknown,
For sheltered seeds may never sprout,
Till they try and break through the earth

The butterfly must leave the pupa
Where once silent darkness fell,
For wings are not designed to stay
Folded from the light of day.

And fragile chicks must break the seam
Beyond the shell awaits a dream
For life unfolds when hearts find grace

To leave behind their sheltered place.

The bird must leap from branches high
Before it learns the art of sky.
And rivers leave the mountain side
To find the vast and waiting tide.

The farmer sows through heat and rain,
Not fearing loss or months of strain
The fisherman leaves shores behind
To seek the gifts the deep may find.

Growth is born where fears reside,
Where courage walks though doubts collide
For every dream that learned to soar
First knocked upon uncertainty's door.

Nandini AnandKumar
Educator,Writer, Motivator,Freelancer

If somebody hates you



If somebody hates you,
always laugh because they have no eligibility to
receive your love.

If you face any failure or disappointment,
always laugh because you are going to another
level.

If you are disappointed,
laugh and realize that you still have qualities to
improve.
Losses are the best learners.

Laugh well,
go ahead,
and try to touch the sky.
Laughter is medicine for our health.
Keep laughing every day,
every minute.
Take everything easy.
God is always with us.
Laughter is a booster and also stress-free
medicine.
Laugh like a baby.
Life is only one.
Changes are always in our life,
and change is the only thing that never changes.
Keep laughing.

Mohana K, BT Assistant, PUMS Kovakkulam,
Karur, Tamil Nadu.

Fantastic fabulous illusion



The human mind is a curious thing,It dances along
when praises ring.

Even when we know the words are fake,
A sweet, gentle comfort they still make.
The logic knows it is just a lie,Yet the lonely heart
begins to fly.

We crave the warmth of a pleasing voice,In the
melody of words, we rejoice.So why not speak a
word of cheer?To lift a soul and chase their fear.

Let us praise with an open heart,And let a
beautiful moment start.
For a passing second or a fleeting day,

Kind words can drive the clouds away.
If a simple praise brings pure delight,

Let's make someone's world a little bright
Let the compliments flow, let the spirits rise.

Mirroring a happiness in each other's eyes

For truth is heavy, and the road is often
long,Sometimes a weary traveler just needs a
song.

If an artificial spark can light a darkened room,
Let us plant the praise and watch the spirit
bloom.

Give them a moment where they feel completely
bright,And turn a passing second into pure
delight*

Sheela Rajan
Content creator
Chennai

The magic of life



Morning to evening, you work so hard, dear,
Yet caring for your health, you disregard, dear.
Do you know the secret to staying strong?
A healthy body helps you move along.

The magic of life is simple, dear,
Good health brings happiness near, dear.
Just as we maintain a car with care,
Our body too needs attention to repair.

Without proper maintenance, troubles arise,
And costly repairs become the price.
Think wisely and choose the healthy way,
So medicines need not fill your day.

No need to worry about all things, dear,
Focus on what is in your hands, dear.

Eat well, move well, and keep stress away,
Small healthy habits brighten each day.

Sleep well—but sleeping alone is not enough,
Many things can make good rest tough.
Inconsistent timing, pollution in the air,
Health issues and stress need proper care.

Late dinners, heavy meals at night,
Nutrient deficiency and excessive blue light,
Can disturb your sleep and reduce your cheer,
So make healthy choices throughout the year.

Read Living Younger, Healthier, Longer The
Telomere Effect too
It shares many lessons useful to you.
Learn, practice, and become aware,
Join a wonderful community that cares.

Health is wealth—remember this song, dear,
Take care of yourself and live healthy and long,
dear.

V. Jayanthi
Graduate teacher
Creative Writer
Chengalpattu district
Tamil Nadu India

The frozen heart



A frozen heart is not born cold,
It learns from winters long and old.
From doors once closed, from trust betrayed,
From promises that slowly frayed.
It builds its walls of silent snow,
Where tender hopes no longer grow.
Each wound becomes a crystal seam,
Each sorrow hardens every dream.
Once it danced in summer's light,
Chasing stars through velvet night.
It knew the language flowers speak,

And found its strength in being meek.
But storms arrived with ruthless hand,
Leaving frost across the land.
The songs it sang grew faint and far,
Like distant echoes of a star.
Yet deep beneath the ice and stone,
A hidden ember still is sown.
For hearts, though frozen, never lose
The power to awaken, choose.
One gentle word, one patient care,
One soul that stays when none are there,
Can melt the icicles of pain
And teach the heart to trust again.
So judge not those whose smiles are few
Whose guarded eyes conceal their view
The coldest heart,you chance to see
May simply be longing to be free.

Nandini .N

Book release celebration



The most awaited day finally arrived on 23rd
May 2026, when my second anthology, Timeless
Thoughts, was officially released at Trichy by our
respected JD Jaikumar Sir. It was a memorable
and joyous occasion for all the writers who had
eagerly awaited the release of their books.

The event was truly remarkable, with more than
100 books released under one roof. Participants
ranging from 6 to 60 years of age showcased
their creativity and passion for writing, making
the celebration a unique gathering of talent
across generations.

Many authors received recognitions and awards
under various categories, which served as a great

source of motivation and inspiration for everyone
present. These achievements encouraged others
to aim higher and work towards earning similar
recognitions in the coming year.

The atmosphere was filled with fun, laughter,
and excitement, making the event feel more
like a family celebration than a formal function.
Writers, mentors, and well-wishers came
together to celebrate creativity, achievement,
and friendship.

The release of Timeless Thoughts marked another
proud milestone in my writing journey. With
wonderful memories and renewed motivation, I
now eagerly look forward to participating again
and achieving even more recognitions in the years
ahead.

SRIPRIYA R
BT ENGLISH GHSS KOLAPAKKAM
KANCHIPURAM DISTRICT TAMILNADU

Ombudsman The Commission said its intervention compelled the university to settle the outstanding amount of KSh2,381,140 owed to the lecturer

Ombudsman intervention forces Kimathi University to pay former lecturer millions in salary arrears

BY DMS
@themtkenyatimes

A former part-time lecturer at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) has finally received more than KSh2.3 million in unpaid salary arrears after years of unsuccessful attempts to secure her dues, thanks to the intervention of the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ), popularly known as the Office of the Ombudsman.

The Commission said its intervention compelled the university to settle the outstanding amount of KSh2,381,140 owed to the lecturer, identified as Ms. S.N., bringing to an end a protracted dispute that had dragged on for years.

According to a statement issued by the Commission's Corporate Communication

Division, Ms. S.N. lodged a complaint alleging undue delay by the university in paying her for services rendered while working as a part-time lecturer between 2013 and 2018.

The former lecturer told the Commission that although she had taught at the institution over the five-year period, she had not been paid for work undertaken between 2015 and 2018.

She said that after repeatedly raising the matter with the university administration, she only received payment covering two semesters; September to December 2016 and January to April 2017.

Despite numerous follow-ups, the university failed to clear the balance owed to her.

By the time she sought the Ombudsman's intervention, the outstanding

amount had accumulated to KSh2,381,140.

The Commission subsequently initiated formal inquiries and wrote to the Vice-Chancellor of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology seeking an explanation and urging the institution to address the complaint.

However, the inquiry failed to elicit any response from the university.

The Commission said it was forced to escalate the matter by issuing three reminder letters after the Vice-Chancellor failed to respond to its initial correspondence.

When the reminders also went unanswered, the Ombudsman issued a Notice to Show Cause, requiring the university to explain why action should not be taken against it for failing to cooperate with the Commission's investigations.

It was only after the issuance of the notice that the university moved to settle the outstanding dues.

"The action prompted the University to settle the outstanding dues owed to the former lecturer," the Commission said.

The resolution brought relief to Ms. S.N., who expressed gratitude to the Commission for helping her obtain justice after years of frustration.

In a letter addressed to the Office of the Ombudsman, she praised the Commission's professionalism and persistence throughout the process.

"I am writing to express my appreciation to the Office of the Ombudsman, Isiolo Regional Office, and the Head Office for the assistance accorded to me in resolving my complaint against DeKUT," she wrote.



"I received payment of the dues owed to me, leading to the full settlement of my claim. I have no further complaint against DeKUT. Thank you for your clear and timely correspondence throughout the resolution process. Please continue the good work you do in assisting Kenyans."

The case highlights the critical role played by the Commission on Administrative Justice in protecting citizens from maladministration and ensuring that public institutions remain accountable in the discharge of their duties.

Established under Article 59(4) of the Constitution and the Commission on Administrative Justice Act, the Ombudsman is mandated to investigate complaints relat-

ing to abuse of power, unfair treatment, delays, discourtesy, incompetence, inefficiency and administrative injustice in public offices.

The successful resolution of the complaint also underscores the challenges that many part-time lecturers continue to face in securing timely remuneration from institutions of higher learning.

For Ms. S.N., what began as a years-long struggle for compensation ended with vindication and full payment of her hard-earned dues.

For the Ombudsman, the case serves as another example of how persistence and institutional oversight can restore public confidence in the pursuit of administrative justice.



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NTSA The Authority stressed that vehicle owners holding existing paper logbooks should continue using them, as they remain valid proof of ownership

NTSA warns Kenyans against E-Logbook fraud as digital transition gains momentum



The National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA)

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

The National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) has issued a strong warning to motorists against fraudsters exploiting the country's transition to the newly introduced electronic logbook system, clarifying that already issued paper logbooks will not be converted into digital versions.

In a public notice released yesterday, NTSA sought to address growing public confusion and concerns surrounding the rollout of the eLogbook system, which officially went live on June 10 as part of the government's drive to digitise transport services.

The Authority stressed that vehicle owners holding existing paper logbooks should continue using them, as they remain valid proof of ownership.

"The Authority shall not convert already printed paper

logbooks to eLogbook," the notice stated.

The clarification by NTSA Director General comes amid reports of individuals and social media pages purporting to assist motorists in obtaining digital logbooks in exchange for personal information and payments.

NTSA explained that eLogbooks will only be generated after an applicant initiates a vehicle registration-related transaction, makes the required payment and successfully completes the prescribed process through official government channels.

The new electronic registration certificate is expected to replace paper documentation for future vehicle transactions, including transfers of ownership, duplicate logbook applications, asset financing registrations and discharges, re-registration and deregistration of vehicles, as well as changes to vehicle particulars.

According to the Authority, only registered motor vehi-

cle owners will have access to download their eLogbooks through their personal accounts on the NTSA Service Portal integrated with eCitizen.

"No NTSA officer can download a client's eLogbook on their behalf," the Authority warned, adding that no third party or agent has been authorised to offer NTSA services.

Vehicle owners have further been advised not to share sensitive personal information, including national identity card numbers, phone numbers, vehicle details or account login credentials with anyone claiming to facilitate the issuance of the digital documents.

NTSA noted that fraudsters often exploit periods of technological transition to target unsuspecting members of the public.

The Authority reiterated that it will never request personal details through WhatsApp messages, social media platforms, SMS or any unofficial

communication channels for purposes of processing or sending an eLogbook.

Motorists purchasing second-hand vehicles have also been urged to independently verify the authenticity of an eLogbook before concluding transactions.

Verification can be conducted free of charge through the NTSA Services Mobile Application or the NTSA Service Portal, a move aimed at curbing forgery and fraudulent vehicle sales.

The eLogbook initiative represents one of the most significant reforms in Kenya's vehicle registration system in decades.

NTSA says the shift from paper-based records to a fully digital registry is intended to enhance efficiency, improve accessibility, strengthen data integrity and eliminate the

fraud, delays and losses that have long characterised the traditional logbook system.

Recent sensitisation campaigns conducted by the Authority brought together vehicle dealers, financial institutions, legal practitioners, county governments and members of the public to prepare stakeholders for the transition.

The digital certificates also feature enhanced security measures, including electronic verification capabilities designed to provide real-time confirmation of vehicle ownership records.

Even as it embraces the new technology, NTSA has sought to reassure millions of motorists that the transition will be gradual and orderly.

For those with existing paper logbooks, the message is simple: keep them safe, as they

remain valid.

Meanwhile, motorists requiring assistance with eLogbook services have been advised to seek help only through official channels, including NTSA offices, Huduma Centres, the Authority's verified social media platforms and its customer support email.

As Kenya accelerates the digitisation of public services, authorities say public vigilance will remain critical in ensuring that fraudsters do not take advantage of unsuspecting citizens navigating the new system.

For enquiries and support, NTSA has directed members of the public to contact the Authority through its official communication channels or visit the nearest NTSA office or Huduma Centre.

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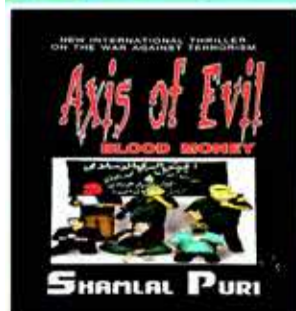
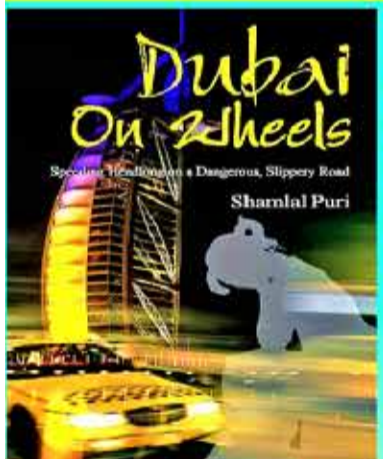
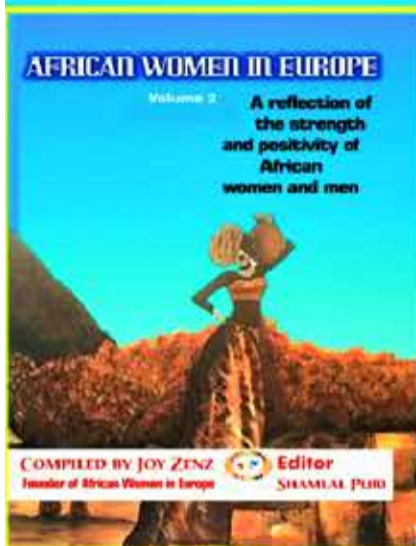
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Mentorship Speaking during the launch, Dr. Kelej said the platform is more than just a space for sharing ideas on leadership and influence

Dr. Rasha Kelej launches global mentorship platform to inspire future leaders

BY Elizabeth Angira

@themtkenyatimes

Senator Dr. Rasha Kelej, Chief Executive Officer of Merck Foundation, has launched her first virtual mentorship and leadership platform dubbed “Beyond Power: Leadership, Global Influence and Impact.”

The platform, hosted on Substack, aims to inspire, guide, and support future leaders, especially women and young people. It is open and accessible to everyone, regardless of their background, providing valuable mentorship, leadership lessons, and practical guidance for personal and professional growth.

Through the platform, Dr. Kelej will share knowledge and experiences gained over her 32-year career to help aspiring leaders unlock their potential, achieve their goals, and become agents of positive change in their communities and countries.

To reach a wider audience, the articles will also be shared through her website and social media platforms. Links will be available on Merck Foundation’s website and social media channels, which collectively reach more than nine million followers worldwide.

Speaking during the launch, Dr. Kelej said the platform is more than just a space for sharing ideas on leadership and influence.

“I see this platform as a mentorship journey. Throughout my career, I have been privileged to work with remarkable leaders across Africa and beyond. I believe knowledge and experience become more valuable when shared. Through these articles, I hope to inspire women and young people to believe in themselves, de-



Senator Dr. Rasha Kelej, Chief Executive Officer of Merck Foundation

velop their skills, and lead with integrity, compassion, and courage,” she said.

She added that the initiative is her contribution towards sustainable de-

velopment and capacity building by investing in people and helping nurture a new generation of leaders who will shape a better future.

Dr. Kelej has earned global recogni-

tion for her leadership and social impact. Since 2019, she has consistently been named among the 100 Most Influential African Women. She was also recently recognized among the

Most Influential Africans 2025 and the 100 Most Impactful Voices 2026.

She previously served as a member of the Egyptian Senate between 2020 and 2025 and was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Letters (D.Litt) by Krishna World University in recognition of her efforts in women’s empowerment, girls’ education, and improving healthcare in Africa and other developing regions.

Over the past 14 years, Dr. Kelej has worked closely with more than 33 African and Asian First Ladies who serve as ambassadors of the Merck Foundation’s “More Than a Mother” campaign. She has also partnered with ministries of health, education, information and gender, academic institutions, policymakers, fertility societies, media professionals and artists in more than 52 countries.

Among her major achievements is the Merck Foundation Scholarship Program, which has provided more than 2,600 scholarships to healthcare professionals from 52 countries. The scholarships support training in 44 critical and underserved medical specialties, helping strengthen healthcare systems across Africa and beyond.

In 2015, she launched the “More Than a Mother” movement, one of the foundation’s most impactful initiatives. The campaign seeks to empower infertile and childless women through education, healthcare access, information sharing, and changing societal attitudes. It also promotes infertility prevention, addresses male infertility stigma, and supports reproductive and fertility care services.

Dr. Kelej is also a strong champion of girls’ education. Through the Merck Foundation Educating Linda Program, annual scholarships are awarded to bright but disadvantaged schoolgirls. So far, more than 1,500 scholarships have been provided to girls from 21 African countries, covering school fees, books, uniforms, and other essential learning needs.

She believes that educating girls remains one of the most effective ways of transforming families, communities, and nations.



Education Prof. Ogechi noted that the conference has attracted participants from the United States, West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, and other regions

Kisii University hosts global conference to drive research and innovation

conference as a major milestone for Kisii University and reaffirmed the institution's commitment to promoting research, innovation, collaboration, and transformative education that addresses society's needs.

The conference is expected to generate new ideas, strengthen partnerships, and inspire innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges.

BY Elizabeth Angira
@themkenyatimes

Researchers, scholars, policymakers, and students from different parts of the world have gathered at Kisii University for the 3rd International Multi-Disciplinary Conference aimed at finding practical solutions to global challenges.

Speaking during the opening of the two-day conference, Prof. Nathan Ogechi said the event focuses on inclusivity and collaborative approaches to addressing global issues, particularly those related to health and sustainable development.

He explained that the conference began with presentations by graduate students, giving them an opportunity to showcase their research and contribute to discussions on emerging global challenges.

According to Prof. Ogechi, health should not be viewed only from a medical perspective. He said improving the health of society requires contributions from various fields including education, sociology, business, technology, and health sciences.

"This conference is bringing together experts from different disciplines because solutions to today's challenges cannot come from one sector alone," he said.

Prof. Ogechi noted that the conference has attracted participants from the United States, West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, and other regions, with some attending physically while others are participating virtually.

He said the growing international participation will strengthen Kisii University's academic presence both regionally and globally while creating opportunities for col-



Prof. Nathan Ogechi Speaking during the opening of the 3rd International Multi-Disciplinary conference highlighted the importance of strengthening research capacity in Kenyan universities | Photo:

Elizabeth Angira

laboration among researchers. One of the key themes emerging from the conference is the role of artificial intelligence (AI) and Competency-Based Education (CBE) in preparing students for the future.

Prof. Ogechi said universities must move beyond teaching for the sake of acquiring knowledge and instead focus on equipping learners with practical skills and competencies that enable them to solve real-life problems and adapt to rapid technological changes.

He emphasized that while AI has made vast amounts of information easily accessible, students must learn how to apply that knowledge responsibly and creatively for the benefit of society.

"The issue is not simply accessing information from AI, but how we use that information to bring positive and transformative change," he said.

Prof. Ogechi also highlighted the importance of strengthening research capacity in Kenyan universities. While acknowledging funding challenges, he called for increased

collaboration among universities, research institutions, government agencies, and development partners.

He urged institutions to invest in modern laboratories, research equipment, and highly trained personnel to improve the quality of research being conducted in the country.

According to him, no single university can adequately address research challenges alone, making partnerships essential for advancing scientific discoveries and innovation.

He welcomed government efforts to strengthen research through the establishment of a dedicated State Department for Research, saying the move will help coordinate research activities across universities and other institutions.

On emerging health threats such as new disease variants, Prof. Ogechi said researchers are continuously working to find solutions through collaboration with institutions such as the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) and international partners.

He noted that diseases con-

tinue to evolve, making research more important than ever in developing effective responses and protecting public health.

Prof. Ogechi described the



Group photo | Photo: Elizabeth Angira





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Kiambu citizen seeks full rollout of grassroots administrative structures through petition



Kiambu County Assembly

BY Felix Njenga
@themtkenyatimes

A resident of Kiambu County has formally petitioned the County Assembly, calling for the immediate implementation of Village Administrators, Village Councils and Ward Administrative Complexes as part of efforts to strengthen devolution and improve service delivery at the grassroots.

The petition, presented yesterday by John Mweha Kariuki of Ndenderu Ward in Kiambaa Sub-County, urges county leaders to operationalize the provisions of Sections 52 and 53 of the County Governments Act, 2012, which provide for the establishment of village-level governance structures.

According to the petitioner, the delayed implementation of these legal provisions has hindered meaningful public participation, weakened accountability and reduced the effectiveness of county government services at the local level.

The petition requests the County Assembly to determine the current status of implementation before directing the County Executive Committee and the County Public Service Board to recruit Village Administrators and facilitate the formation of Village Councils.

As part of the proposed strategy, the petitioner recommends that the initiative begin with a pilot programme in Kiambaa Sub-County before being progressively expanded across all parts of Kiambu County.

It further calls for sufficient bud-

getary allocations to ensure the sustainability of the programme and the formulation of clear guidelines governing the creation of village units, remuneration of Village Administrators and operational support for Village Councils.

In addition, the petition advocates for the establishment of Ward Administrative Complexes on available public land. The proposed facilities would accommodate offices for Members of County Assembly, Ward Administrators and Village Administrators, while also housing Resource and Information Centres and Public Participation Halls to enhance citizen engagement and improve access to county services.

The petitioner cites Articles 10, 174 and 232 of the Constitution, arguing that the proposed reforms would reinforce the principles of devolution, transparency, accountability and participatory governance while bringing government services closer to residents.

After submitting the petition to the Clerk of the County Assembly of Kiambu, with a copy forwarded to Governor Dr. Kimani Wamantangi, John Mweha Kariuki expressed confidence that the Assembly would give the matter due consideration in line with its constitutional responsibilities of legislation, representation and oversight.

If adopted, the recommendations are expected to strengthen grassroots governance, improve coordination of public services and create more effective channels for public participation throughout Kiambu County.



Residents of Chuka/Igambango'mbe Constituency attend public participation forum for 2026/2027 budget at Chuka Picnic Grounds.

Residents prioritize water, roads and health during public participation on KSh7.66B budget

BY Faith Mwanza, Faith Nkatha and Precious Waithira

@themtkenyatimes

Residents across Tharaka Nithi County have called for increased investment in water, healthcare and road infrastructure during public participation forums on the proposed KSh7.66 billion budget for the 2026/2027 Financial Year.

The public participation exercise, led by Members of the County Assembly (MCAs), was conducted across the three constituencies of Tharaka, Maara and Chuka/Igambango'mbe, attracting hundreds of residents who turned up to present their views and development priorities.

The proposed budget seeks to finance county operations, deliver essential services and implement development projects aimed at improving the livelihoods of residents.

Out of the total allocation, KSh5.01 billion (65.5 per cent) has been set aside for recurrent expenditure while KSh2.64 billion (34.5

per cent) has been allocated to development projects.

According to the budget estimates, the county expects to raise KSh5.12 billion from the equitable share, KSh1.89 billion through conditional grants and KSh650.5 million from own-source revenue.

Health emerged as the biggest beneficiary, with the Department of Public Health and Sanitation receiving KSh1.40 billion and Medical Services allocated KSh1.30 billion.

Roads, Infrastructure, Public Works and Urban Development has been allocated KSh1.01 billion to support road construction and maintenance projects across the county.

Other significant allocations include KSh574 million for the County Assembly, KSh562 million for Public Administration, Inter-governmental Coordination and Devolution Affairs and KSh474 million for Agriculture, Livestock, Veterinary Services and Cooperative Development.

Residents who spoke during the forums emphasized the need for improved access to clean and reli-

able water, upgrading of roads to enhance connectivity and markets and strengthening healthcare services through better-equipped facilities and adequate staffing.

The Department of Environment, Mining and Natural Resources has been allocated KSh425 million, while Education, Vocational Training and Culture will receive KSh375 million.

Water Services and Irrigation has been allocated KSh285 million, with Energy and Industry receiving KSh275 million.

County officials said public views collected during the forums will be considered before the budget is finalized and approved, underscoring the importance of citizen participation in shaping development priorities.

The proposed budget reflects the county government's focus on strengthening healthcare, improving infrastructure, supporting agriculture, expanding access to water, enhancing education and promoting economic growth across Tharaka Nithi County.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Environment vs development: finding the balance

By Christine Simiyu

Kenya's debate on conservation and development is often framed as a binary choice. It is not.

Development is essential. Growing populations need roads, housing, energy, and industry. These investments raise living standards and create employment. No government can ignore that mandate.

But development without environmental safeguards is self-defeating. Forests, rivers, and wetlands are not obstacles to progress — they underpin agriculture, tourism, and climate stability. Deforestation triggers soil erosion and water shortages. Destroyed wetlands worsen flooding. The costs of environmental degradation routinely exceed the short-term gains of poorly planned projects.

Recent disputes over infrastructure near protected areas illustrate the tension sharply.



Once a natural habitat is gone, it is rarely recovered. Future generations inherit the consequences — at far greater cost than any development benefit delivered today.

The answer is sustainable development. Environmental impact assessments must be rigorous, independent, and conducted before ground is broken. Modern technology and innovative planning can limit ecological damage without halting progress. Communities affected by major projects must have a genuine voice — trans-

parency and accountability are not optional extras; they are the foundation of public trust.

Conservation and development are not opposing forces. A healthy environment sustains economic growth. Responsible development generates the resources that fund conservation. The two are interdependent.

Kenya's leaders must resist the false choice. True progress demands the wisdom to pursue both — and the political will to hold the line when short-term interests threaten long-term survival.

Who is to blame for Kenya's school fires?

Sixteen girls are dead. Dozens of schools have shut. Kenya's boarding school system is on fire — literally.

The tragedy at Utumishi Girls High School in Nakuru, where 16 students perished in a dormitory blaze allegedly set by fellow pupils, was not an isolated incident. It was a symptom. Within weeks, fires, strikes, and unrest had swept more than 50 schools nationwide, exposing a system under severe strain.

Blame is easy to assign. Parents point at teachers. Teachers point at administrators. Administrators point at parents. The truth is the failure is shared.

Overcrowding is at the heart of it. Butere Girls High School reportedly runs 26 Form One streams — a market, not a school. Dirty latrines, inadequate food, cramped dormitories, and rising cases of abuse create conditions where desperation festers. When stu-



dents cannot speak without fear of punishment, fire becomes their loudest voice.

Former Education Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i warned repeatedly about deteriorating dormitory conditions. The moment he left office, standards collapsed. His successor must act with the same urgency — not react after the next tragedy.

The remedies are neither complex nor costly: independent dormitory inspections, functional counselling ser-

vices, CCTV installation, strict enrolment caps, and teachers trained to listen rather than intimidate.

A school is not a prison. Until those who run them accept that, the fires will keep burning.

By Lauryn Wakia — Technical University of Mombasa

The people's verdict: will this budget ease Kenya's burden?

By Hadassah Karangu

Kenya's latest budget arrived to cautious silence. Not applause. Not protest. Just millions of people waiting to see whether it would make any real difference to their lives.

For ordinary households, a budget is not a parliamentary document. It is the price of unga, the cost of a matatu ride, the school fee balance still unpaid. In a country where families stretch every shilling across competing needs, the stakes are immediate and personal.

The dominant sentiment is unmistakable: life remains punishingly expensive. Basic commodities continue to strain household budgets. Parents struggle to provide. Young people hunt for jobs that do not exist. Small businesses absorb rising costs with shrinking margins.

Youth unemployment is the budget's most critical test.



Thousands of graduates enter a job market each year that offers little in return. They are not asking for handouts — they want investment in entrepreneurship, innovation, and skills development that creates genuine pathways to work.

Farmers, who feed the nation, need affordable inputs, reliable market access, and protection against erratic weather. Education demands stronger resourcing and credible implementation of the Competency Based Curriculum, particularly for learners from disadvantaged

backgrounds.

Across every sector, Kenyans are asking the same question: where does the money actually go? Accountability is not a technocratic concern — it is the difference between a budget that changes lives and one that merely fills headlines.

The true verdict will not come from Parliament. It will come from kitchens, classrooms, and market stalls.

Kenya is watching.

The republic of trends

By Oliver Ogotu

Kenya does not lack passion. It lacks patience.

Every few weeks, a new crisis seizes the national conversation — fuel prices, Ebola scares, school fires, corruption scandals, finance bills. Social media erupts. Radio panels debate. Leaders promise action. Then, almost on cue, another issue surfaces and the previous one quietly dies, unresolved.

The Finance Bill is the starkest illustration. Each year, Kenyans dissect proposed taxes with remarkable sophistication, organise campaigns, and occasionally take to the streets. Yet once the political noise subsides, the underlying grievances are shelved until the next bill arrives. The cycle repeats. Nothing fundamentally changes.

Corruption scandals follow the same arc. Public funds are misappropriated, outrage peaks, demands for justice ring loud — then silence. Few



prosecutions follow. Fewer funds are recovered. The scandal fades, making room for the next one.

School dormitory fires offer perhaps the most damning example. After each tragedy, investigations are announced, experts convene, and parents demand reform. Within weeks, attention drifts. Then another dormitory burns.

This is not civic engagement. It is civic theatre.

A functioning democracy requires citizens to remain engaged long after an issue

stops trending. Corruption, unemployment, education, and healthcare cannot be fixed by temporary outrage. They demand sustained pressure, institutional follow-through, and media that treats accountability as a beat — not a moment.

Kenya has the voice. What it urgently needs is the discipline to keep using it.

SPORTS
NEWSPHOTOS
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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *The biggest football tournament in history opens yesterday across three nations, 48 teams, and one extraordinary spectacle

Mexico tame nine-man South Africa in chaotic World Cup opener

By Norman Mwale

"I have nothing to say about the first red card. The game was good but the next thing we should always have the ball."
— *Hugo Broos, South Africa head coach*

"Of course we have lost our key players through red cards, but we have to move on with a positive mind into the next game."
— *Rowan Williams, South Africa goalkeeper*

Mexico began their World Cup campaign with a 2-0 victory over South Africa in a tempestuous opening fixture that produced three red cards, seven minutes of added time, and a final quarter of an hour played ten versus nine. Julián Quiñones, who was named man of the match for his influential display, struck in the 8th minute to settle El Tri's nerves before Santiago Giménez doubled the advantage on 67 minutes, with South Africa's discipline unravelling as the match wore on. The South Africans finished with only nine men on the pitch after seeing a player dismissed on 49 minutes, followed by the experienced Themba Zwane receiving his marching orders in the 83rd minute, whilst Mexico themselves were reduced to ten when a player was sent off in the first minute of stoppage time.

The contest, played over 97 minutes at a frenetic pace, was overseen by a yet-to-be-confirmed team of match officials who brandished three red cards in total and managed a match that threatened to boil over on several occasions. Quiñones provided the early breakthrough, latching onto a precise through ball before finishing calmly to give Mexico a lead they would never relinquish, a goal that set the tone for a performance that



Mexico began their World Cup campaign with a 2-0 victory over South Africa

earned him the man of the match award. South Africa's task became significantly harder shortly after the restart when they were reduced to ten men in the 49th minute, the dismissal tilting the balance of play decisively in Mexico's favour. Giménez capitalised on that numerical advantage midway through the second half, heading home from close range in the 67th minute to put daylight between the sides and effectively seal the result.

Bafana Bafana's evening deteriorated further when captain Themba Zwane was shown a straight red card in the 83rd minute for a late challenge, leaving South Africa to negotiate the remainder of the match with nine players. In a dramatic twist, Mexico's own discipline faltered in added time as they too were reduced to ten men following a

dismissal in the 90+1st minute, setting up a chaotic finale played ten against nine. Despite the late flashpoint, Mexico saw out the remaining minutes to claim three points and a plus-two goal difference to open their tournament account, whilst South Africa were left to rue a lack of composure that saw them play more than forty minutes with a man disadvantage and the closing stages with two fewer players.

Speaking after the match, South Africa head coach Hugo Broos declined to be drawn on the first red card, stating: "I have nothing to say about the first red card. The game was good but the next thing we should always have the ball." Goalkeeper Rowan Williams echoed the need to look ahead, adding: "Of course we have lost our key players through red cards, but we have to move

on with a positive mind into the next game." With Quiñones' early strike and commanding performance earning him man of the match honours, the result hands Mexico early momentum in the group stage and leaves South Africa with questions to answer ahead of their second fixture, after an opener that will be remembered as much for its ill-discipline as for its football. Full-time: Mexico 2, South Africa 0.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Four years after walking away, the 23-time Grand Slam champion is back on grass — and winning

The queen returns: Serena Williams stuns tennis with winning comeback at Queen's



Serena Williams.

By Norman Mwale

She said nothing when she left. On Tuesday, she let her racket do the talking.

Serena Williams, 44, made a winning return to professional tennis at the HSBC Championships, Queen's Club, partnering Canadian teenager Victoria Mboko to defeat third seeds Erin Routliffe and Nicole Melichar-Martinez 7-6 (7/2), 6-2 in the first round of doubles. It was her first competitive match since the 2022 US Open — and she made it look almost routine.

The announcement had come a day earlier, Queen's Club's social media breaking the news with a crown emoji: "THE QUEEN RETURNS." Williams, who accepted a wild card into

the doubles draw, described the decision as a "pretty 11th-hour commitment." The tennis world, characteristically, stopped everything and paid attention.

Her choice of partner was inspired. Mboko, 19 and ranked world No. 9, is among the most exciting young talents on the WTA Tour. The pair are separated by 26 years — Williams won her first Grand Slam in 1999, seven years before Mboko was born — yet under the west London sun, that gap dissolved entirely. Williams' serve remained heavy, her court instincts razor-sharp. Mboko's fearless returning supplied the perfect foil. They played like a team that had shared locker rooms for years.

Williams had been eligible to return since February, having

completed her six-month term in the anti-doping testing pool. She chose the British grass-court season deliberately. "Queen's Club feels like the perfect place to begin this next chapter," she said — offering warmth, but no promises.

On singles, she was characteristically cryptic. "Right now it is no," she told reporters. "I cannot say yes, I cannot say no." That ambiguity, of course, is precisely what makes the next fortnight so compelling.

Queen's concludes on 14 June. Wimbledon begins on 29 June. Williams holds a doubles wild card for the Berlin Tennis Open, starting 15 June — the same week the first Wimbledon wild cards are expected. The Eastern Herald framed it neatly: Wil-

liams may be using Queen's the way she once used Eastbourne — as a door left slightly ajar, with Wimbledon visible through the gap.

There is also the matter of Venus. Her sister, 45, remains active on tour. Together they hold 14 Grand Slam doubles titles. Williams hinted the door on that partnership has not closed either. For now, though, the story belongs to Queen's Club: a comeback, a convincing win, and a reminder that greatness does not retire — it reloads.

The queen is back. And she is winning.

SPORTS NEWS



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Chenai Kadungure: A champion for social justice and inclusive leadership



By: Anila Bukhari
@themtkenyatimes

Chenai Kadungure is a distinguished social impact leader, equity advocate, and Pan-Africanist whose work has transformed communities across Africa, the Caribbean, and North America. Renowned for her dedication to advancing equity, inclusion, and social justice, she has built a remarkable career leading programs, influencing policy, and creating opportunities for underrepresented communities. Through her leadership in healthcare, philanthropy, community development, and international advocacy, Chenai has become a respected voice for change and a powerful advocate for people of African descent worldwide.

Currently serving as the Executive Director of the Black Physicians' Association of Ontario (BPAO), Chenai leads initiatives that support Black physicians and address systemic inequities within healthcare systems. Under her leadership, the organization continues to strengthen representation, improve healthcare outcomes, and advocate for equitable access to quality healthcare for diverse communities. Her commitment to creating inclusive environments has positioned BPAO as an influential voice in advancing health equity across Canada.

In addition to her executive leadership role, Chenai serves as a Senior Consultant at Global Philanthropic, where she advises organizations on strategic development, stakeholder engagement, fundraising, and social impact initiatives. Her extensive experience in nonprofit leadership and community engagement allows her to guide organizations toward sustainable growth while maintaining a strong focus on equity and community empowerment.

Before assuming her current leadership positions, Chenai contributed significantly to several respected organizations, including Black Youth

Success, Skills for Change, and CARE Canada. Throughout these roles, she designed and implemented programs aimed at empowering marginalized communities, supporting youth development, promoting economic inclusion, and strengthening community resilience. Her work consistently reflected her belief that meaningful change occurs when individuals and communities are equipped with the resources, opportunities, and support necessary to thrive.

A passionate advocate for equity and equality, Chenai serves as the G100 Canada Country Chair for Equity and Equality. In this capacity, she collaborates with global leaders, policymakers, and changemakers to advance initiatives that promote fairness, inclusion, and equal opportunities for all. Her leadership within G100 reflects her unwavering commitment to addressing systemic barriers and creating pathways for diverse voices to be heard and represented in decision-making spaces.

Chenai also serves as the Secretary General of the Global Litigation and Advocacy Network for People of African Descent (GLANPAD), a role that highlights her dedication to international advocacy and human rights. Through GLANPAD, she works alongside global partners to address issues affecting people of African descent, advocating for justice, equity, and recognition on an international scale. Her efforts contribute to important conversations around racial equity, social justice, and the protection of human rights worldwide.

Her influence extends far beyond her professional responsibilities. Chenai actively contributes to numerous boards, advisory councils, and committees, providing strategic guidance and leadership across a diverse range of sectors. Her involvement includes organizations such as Ontario Health, York University, The Meta Centre, The Jean Augustine Centre, BORN Ontario, Aga Khan Foundation Canada, the African Union Sixth Region, AMREF, and various United Nations initiatives. Through these engagements, she helps shape policies, programs, and strategies that positively impact



Chenai Kadungure

communities both locally and globally.

As a Zimbabwean-Canadian leader, Chenai embraces a global perspective while maintaining a strong commitment to local action. Her identity and experiences have shaped her understanding of the interconnected nature of global challenges and the importance of community-centered solutions. She embodies the principle of thinking globally and acting locally, ensuring that her work remains rooted in the realities and needs of the communities she serves.

Chenai's international engagement further demonstrates her dedication to global citizenship and collaborative leadership. She is recognized as an Aga Khan Global Leader, participates in the STEM Women's Congress, serves as a Women Changing the World (WCW) Ambassador, and is a founding member of Rotary Global Partners in Peace. These roles enable her to connect with leaders from around the world, exchange ideas, and contribute to initiatives focused on peacebuilding, education, innovation, and social

development.

Her contributions to Rotary International also reflect her commitment to service and public engagement. As Assistant Public Image Chair, she supports efforts to strengthen awareness of Rotary's mission and impact. Through strategic communication and community outreach, she helps amplify stories of service, collaboration, and positive change, inspiring greater participation in humanitarian initiatives.

Throughout her career, Chenai has demonstrated exceptional leadership characterized by integrity, compassion, and a deep commitment to social transformation. She believes that equity is not merely an aspiration but a responsibility that requires intentional action, courageous leadership, and collective effort. Whether advocating for healthcare equity, mentoring emerging leaders, supporting youth empowerment, or advancing international human rights initiatives, she consistently works to create spaces where individuals can reach their full potential.

Her achievements have earned her

recognition as a trusted leader, advisor, and advocate across multiple sectors. Colleagues and partners admire her ability to build meaningful relationships, foster collaboration, and bring diverse stakeholders together around shared goals. Her leadership style combines strategic vision with genuine empathy, enabling her to drive impactful change while maintaining strong community connections.

As she continues to lead and inspire, Chenai Kadungure remains committed to advancing equity, strengthening communities, and promoting social justice on a global scale. Her journey serves as a powerful example of how dedicated leadership, informed by purpose and guided by compassion, can create lasting impact. Through her ongoing work, she continues to champion a future where opportunity, dignity, and inclusion are accessible to all, leaving a legacy of empowerment that extends across borders and generations.