



Wanjigi: Budget process is unconstitutional
Safina Party leader and 2027 presidential aspirant Jimi Wanjigi has accused the government of presiding over an unconstitutional budget-making process for more than a decade

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KNCHR presents reparations framework for victims of human rights violations
The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) has presented a framework guiding compensation and reparations for victims of human rights violations to President William Ruto

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Daily ePAPER

Diplomacy Nairobi welcomes reversal after a sharp diplomatic protest, but Uganda, South Sudan and the DRC remain restricted

Israel lifts Ebola travel ban on Kenya, Rwanda

Israel has removed Kenya and Rwanda from its list of countries subject to temporary Ebola-related entry restrictions, the country's Ministry of Health confirmed at the weekend, ending a five-day travel dispute that had strained relations between Nairobi and Jerusalem. In a statement, the ministry said it was pleased to announce the decision to lift the restrictions on the two countries, which had been introduced as a precautionary measure amid concern over the worsening Ebola outbreak in the wider region.

The reversal follows a directive issued by Israel's Border Control Department on 10 June, which had barred airlines from allowing passengers from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to board flights bound for Israel.



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Dr Korir Sing'Oei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs

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Ruto Pledges Justice for Protest Victims

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

President William Ruto has committed to implementing recommendations aimed at compensating victims of human rights violations during protests and picketing, describing the move as a critical step towards national healing and democratic reform.

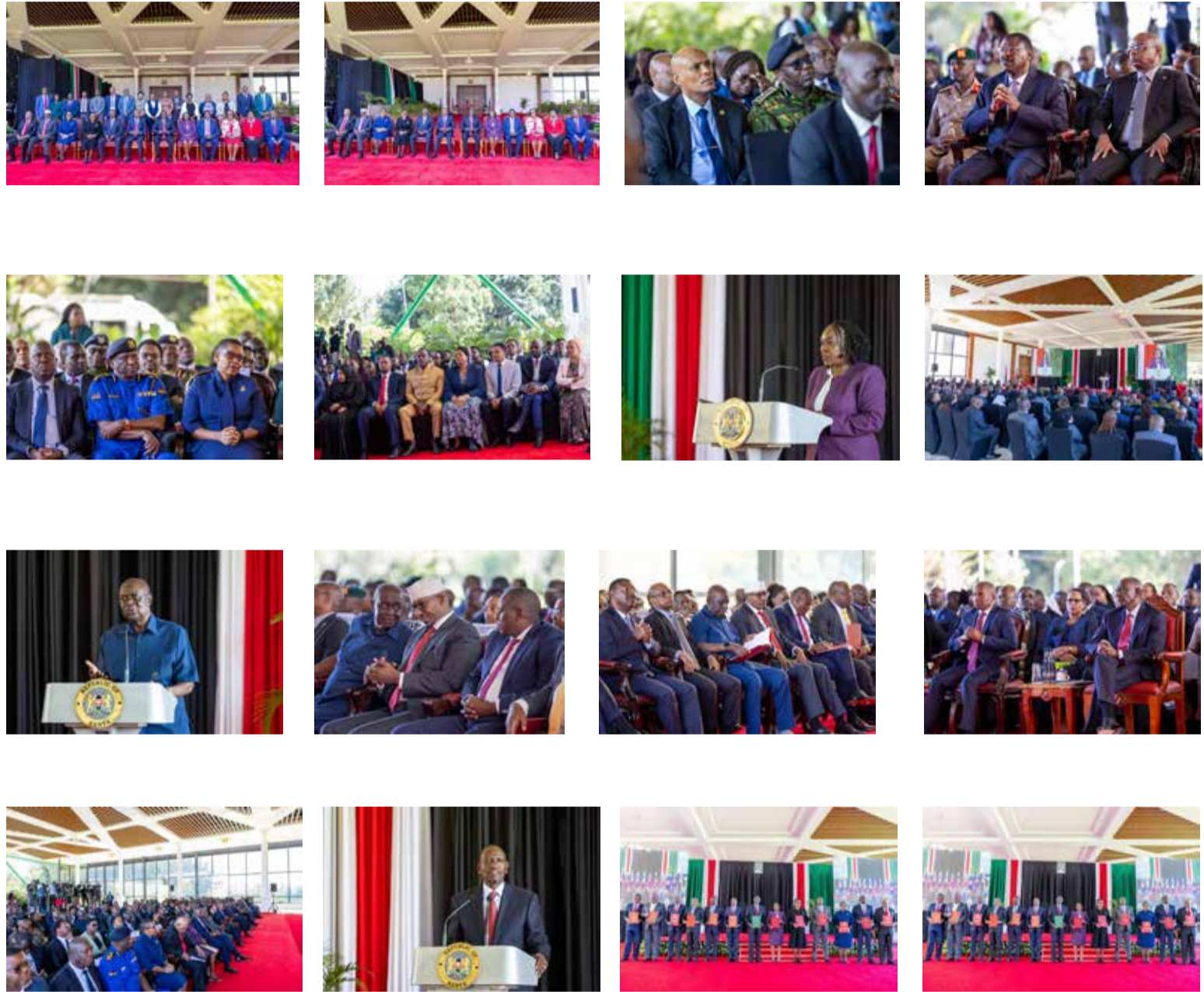
Speaking at State House, Nairobi, after receiving the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) report on the Framework for Compensation and Reparations for Victims of Human Rights Violations During Protests and Picketing, Ruto acknowledged Kenya's troubled history of demonstrations often ending in violence, injuries, deaths and destruction of property.

He admitted that, in some instances, security agencies had used excessive force, resulting in violations of rights and the loss of innocent lives.

"For decades, successive generations of leaders have condemned these tragedies. Yet we have not fundamentally resolved this challenge," Ruto said, adding that the cost of inaction had become too high.

The President said the initiative stemmed from the 2023 National Dialogue Committee process, undertaken jointly with the late opposition leader Raila Odinga, to address longstanding grievances and strengthen national unity.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to protecting Kenyans' constitutional rights to assemble, demonstrate and petition peacefully while ensuring that human dignity, justice and the protection of lives remain paramount during the exercise of those freedoms.



Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



New research by the African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) has revealed that climate change-induced flooding is fuelling a mental health crisis in Kenya's informal settlements. The Weather Events and Mental Health Analysis (WEMA) study, involving 1,000 residents in Nairobi's Mukuru Kwa Reuben and Kisumu's Manyatta settlements, found high levels of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression and anxiety among flood-affected communities. About 37 per cent of respondents screened positive for probable PTSD, while 22 per cent showed signs of depression and 15 per cent anxiety—rates far higher than those in the general population. PTSD prevalence rose to 44 per cent among flood victims and 51 per cent among those experiencing repeated flooding. Researchers say recurring disasters leave lasting psychological scars that require urgent attention.



A night guard was killed and property worth about Sh600,000 stolen during a robbery at Ranch Pub in Migori Town. The pub's owner, Philip Omondi, said he was alerted by a cleaner early Monday morning about a break-in at the premises. Upon arriving at the scene, Omondi found the guard tied up and brutally murdered. He said the attackers made away with several items, including television screens, a sound system and other valuables. Omondi appealed to security agencies in Suna East Sub-County to intensify security operations and fast-track investigations to identify and apprehend those responsible for the killing and theft.



Bandari Maritime Academy (BMA) Chief Executive Officer Dr. Eric Katana has urged maritime institutions to embrace Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education and training to prepare professionals for the evolving demands of the maritime sector and Blue Economy. Speaking during a panel discussion at the 11th Our Ocean Conference 2026 in Mombasa, Dr. Katana said AI-driven technologies are enhancing operational efficiency, improving safety at sea and transforming how maritime professionals are trained. He reaffirmed BMA's commitment to integrating modern technologies into its programmes to position the institution as a regional centre of excellence. The conference has brought together global leaders and experts to explore innovative solutions for ocean conservation, sustainable marine resource use and strengthened international cooperation.

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The government has accelerated construction of the multi-billion-shilling Mwache Dam Project in Kwale County, targeting October for the start of water impoundment to address chronic water shortages in Mombasa and surrounding areas. During a progress inspection, State Department for Water and Sanitation Principal Secretary Julius Korir said works were progressing on schedule after financial resources were aligned. He noted that the contractor was operating around the clock under a 24-hour schedule, with engineering teams mapping out critical activities over the next six months. Korir added that the government was finalizing a supplementary budget allocation to maintain momentum, avoid costly delays and ensure efficient use of public funds and donor support.



Kibwezi West MP Mwangi Mutuse has urged the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to take urgent measures to contain elephants straying from Tsavo National Park into human settlements, saying residents are suffering repeated losses. Speaking during a women's empowerment forum at Kathyaka Market, Mutuse lamented the destruction of crops, property and livelihoods caused by the persistent human-wildlife conflict. He accused KWS of failing to respond adequately to residents' concerns and warned that locals could not continue farming only for their harvests to be destroyed by wildlife. Aviation and Aerospace Development Principal Secretary Teresa Mbaika acknowledged residents' suffering and pledged to engage relevant authorities to find lasting solutions that protect both communities and wildlife while promoting economic empowerment initiatives.



KADU Asili leaders have criticised the 2026/2027 national budget, arguing that allocations to key sectors such as health and education are insufficient to meet the growing needs of Kenyans. Speaking during the party's National Executive Committee meeting in Mombasa, party leader Mudzo wa Nzili said the budget presented by Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi failed to adequately address challenges facing counties, particularly in healthcare delivery. In the Sh4.8 trillion budget, education was allocated Sh784.5 billion, representing 26.8 per cent of total spending, while the health sector received Sh177.2 billion, or 6.1 per cent. Although these allocations reflect increases from the previous financial year, KADU Asili maintains they fall short of addressing pressing service delivery gaps affecting millions of citizens.

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Mau Mau Registration for participants has been ongoing at Blue Post Hotel, with organisers urging all members to formalise their participation ahead of the gathering

Mau Mau veterans, descendants to gather in Nairobi for heritage fellowship and welfare talks

BY WMW

@themkenyaintimes

More than six decades after Kenya attained independence, the struggle to preserve the memory of the Mau Mau liberation movement and secure justice for its surviving veterans and descendants continues to shape national conversations on identity, compensation, and historical recognition.

On Friday, members of the Mau Mau community drawn from across the country are expected to converge in Nairobi for a Members' Luncheon and African Heritage Fellowship organised by MMV Associates CLG.

The event, which will be held at the Iconic Plaza Hotel on Market Street off Uhuru Highway is expected to bring together veterans, elders, descendants of freedom fighters, heritage activists, and officials from government agencies in what organisers describe as a celebration of Kenya's liberation legacy and a forum for charting the future of the movement.

According to the public notice issued by the organisers, the fellowship seeks to strengthen unity among members while discussing pressing issues affecting the welfare of former freedom fighters and their families.

Among the agenda items are deliberations on the MMV Associates CLG 2026/2027 budget, veterans' welfare ex-



MMV Associates CLG addressing journalists in the past as other members looks on | Photo: Courtesy.

penses, ongoing efforts towards compensation for colonial injustices, and strategies for preserving African heritage and indigenous knowledge.

Registration for participants has been ongoing at Blue Post Hotel, with organisers urging all members to formalise their participation ahead of the gathering.

Officials from the Public Benefits Organisations Regulatory Authority (PBORA) are expected to attend as guests of honour, reflecting the growing interaction between Mau Mau advocacy groups and institutions responsible for regulating public benefit organisations.

For many families represented within the movement, the event is about much more than fellowship.

It is part of a broader campaign seeking acknowledgement of the sacrifices made by those who fought against British colonial rule during the 1950s Emergency period.

While a landmark settlement reached in 2013 saw a number of elderly Mau Mau veterans compensated by the British government for torture and abuse suffered during detention, many descendants and families maintain that thousands of victims were left out of the compensation framework.

Consequently, Mau Mau organisations have intensified calls for expanded reparations covering issues such as land dispossession, forced displacement, loss of livelihoods, and the long-term social and economic effects borne by subsequent genera-

tions.

At the forefront of these campaigns is MMV Associates CLG Director General James Njuguna Mahuria, whose name has increasingly become synonymous with contemporary Mau Mau advocacy.

Over recent years, Mahuria has spearheaded efforts to unite the numerous associations representing former freedom fighters and their descendants under common structures aimed at amplifying their voice.

He has consistently argued that fragmentation among veteran groups weakens the pursuit of justice and compensation.

Under his leadership, MMV Associates CLG has rolled out nationwide registration drives involving descendants

and veterans from all 47 counties, seeking to establish comprehensive records of those affected by colonial injustices and strengthen organisational structures. Recently, the group took over the former freedom fighters office at The National Achieves in Nairobi after former occupiers were accused of using it to further other interests, other than of the intended purpose when the government allocated it to them by the Kibaki administration.

The organisation has also engaged government agencies, financial institutions, and regulators in a bid to enhance transparency and institutional legitimacy.

Mahuria has further championed participation in public policy processes, particularly around the implementation of the Public Benefits Organisations Act, arguing that stronger legal frameworks can provide avenues through which veterans' organisations can effectively pursue recognition and reparations.

He has repeatedly emphasised that compensation should transcend ethnic considerations and extend to all individuals and families adversely affected by colonial oppression.

Beyond compensation, the MMV Associates CLG Director General has advocated for the preservation of liberation history through documentation, archival initiatives, and the transmission of indigenous knowledge to younger

generations.

His message has consistently centred on ensuring that the story of the Mau Mau is not confined to textbooks or commemorative statues, but remains a living heritage capable of inspiring patriotism, resilience, and national unity.

Organisers of Friday's fellowship say the event therefore represents both remembrance and renewal.

It is expected to provide an opportunity for elderly veterans to reconnect with fellow comrades, for descendants to better understand their historical roots, and for younger Kenyans to appreciate the sacrifices that laid the foundation for the country's independence.

The theme adopted by the organisers; "Honouring Our Past, Uniting For Our Future" captures this dual purpose.

As surviving veterans age and memories of the liberation struggle gradually fade, those championing the cause believe that preserving the Mau Mau legacy has become an urgent national responsibility.

For the men and women gathering in Nairobi this week, freedom is not merely a historical achievement to be celebrated annually.

It is a continuing journey demanding recognition, dignity, justice, and an unwavering commitment to ensuring that the sacrifices of Kenya's freedom fighters are neither forgotten nor diminished by time.

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Budget “We have finally caught them,” Wanjigi said. “They approved non-existent domestic borrowing in the FY 2026/27 Estimates of Revenue.”

Wanjigi: Budget process is unconstitutional

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

Safina Party leader and 2027 presidential aspirant Jimi Wanjigi has accused the government of presiding over an unconstitutional budget-making process for more than a decade, alleging that illegal domestic borrowing has been concealed in successive national budgets and has contributed to Kenya’s growing debt burden and high taxation.

In a statement, Wanjigi claimed that the approved 2026/27 Budget Estimates presented to Parliament by Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi failed to provide a constitutional basis for the KSh1.03 trillion in net domestic borrowing that the government intends to undertake in the coming financial year.

“We have finally caught them,” Wanjigi said. “They approved non-existent domestic borrowing in the FY 2026/27 Estimates of Revenue.”

According to the Safina leader, while the published Estimates of Revenue listed domestic borrowing in the table of contents, the corresponding page did not indicate any amount attributable to such borrowing.

He argued that this omission rendered the proposed domestic borrowing unconstitutional from the outset, warning banks, investors and individuals intending to purchase Treasury Bills and Treasury Bonds that they would be doing so “at their own peril.”

Wanjigi anchored his arguments on constitutional and statutory provisions governing public finance, citing Articles 220 and 221 of the Constitution as well as various sections of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012.

He maintained that the Constitution requires the National Treasury to submit balanced estimates of both revenue and expenditure to Parliament before the commencement of every financial year.

“The constitutional and public finance statutory provisions define a budget as estimates of revenue and expenditure. The estimate budget shall be balanced. This means that



Jimi Wanjigi (2nd left) with other party officials during the press briefing.

the total budget revenue shall cover total budget expenditure,” he said.

He accused the National Treasury of deliberately misrepresenting revenue estimates since 2014 in a manner designed to conceal the true status of government borrowing and financing.

Wanjigi claimed that a review of previous budget estimates dating back to 2014 revealed a similar pattern, which he said pointed to a systemic violation of the Constitution.

“Budget making since 2013 has been unconstitutional,” he declared.

The Safina leader further pointed to remarks previously made by Controller of Budget Margaret Nyakang’o before Parliament’s Departmental Committee on Constitution Implementation Oversight in November 2024.

According to Wanjigi, the Controller of Budget had questioned the absence of clear revenue estimates in the budget process and warned that the constitutional requirement to present both revenue and expenditure estimates to Parliament was not being fully observed.

He quoted her as saying: “My office has flagged this error in the budget-making process, where revenue estimates are not clearly presented, yet according to the Constitution, both the revenue estimates and expenditure should be presented to Parliament. It is unconstitutional to bypass one or the other.”

“We have been running an unconstitutional budget-making process. We are only seeing expenditures, but where are the revenue estimates?” the Controller reportedly asked.

Wanjigi also revisited allegations he first made in April this year concerning the existence of what he described as a secret sovereign bonds account operating outside the Consolidated Fund established under the Constitution.

He alleged that the account, first opened during Kenya’s inaugural

Eurobond issuance in 2014, had become a conduit for illegal borrowing and debt repayments outside the scrutiny of the Controller of Budget. “Through this account, which bypasses the Controller of Budget scrutiny and approval, domestic borrowing is done and used to pay illegally borrowed debt,” he said.

He argued that the alleged borrowing practices had entrenched a cycle of debt dependency that has translated into heavier taxation and worsening economic conditions for

ordinary Kenyans.

“This illegal debt borrowing entrapment is responsible for the heavy taxation and economic pain. This has created a debt colonialism. Kenyans cannot remain financial slaves. It must end,” Wanjigi said.

He maintained that the Finance Bill 2026 should be rejected in its entirety, arguing that Kenyans cannot be asked to shoulder additional tax burdens without a clear explanation of the revenue gaps the proposed measures are intended to address.

“The estimates of revenue constitute the Consolidated Fund. The Finance Bill is not and cannot be the constitutionally stipulated Estimates of Revenue,” he said.

Wanjigi argued that any Finance Bill should only come after estimates of revenue and expenditure have undergone public scrutiny, public participation and parliamentary approval.

He also took aim at the political opposition, accusing leaders allied to the United Opposition, led by Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka, of endorsing an unconstitutional borrowing framework.

“It is deeply troubling that the United Opposition led by Kalonzo Musyoka is together with President Ruto in endorsing and perpetuating this illegal borrowing,” he said.

“This is tantamount to adding more pain to Kenyans.”

The allegations are likely to intensify scrutiny over the 2026/27 budget and the Finance Bill currently before Parliament, even as the National Treasury maintains that the government’s fiscal measures are necessary to sustain public services, manage debt obligations and support economic growth.



Diplomacy Israel's Ministry of Health said the original recommendation had been informed by a professional risk assessment

Israel lifts Ebola travel restrictions on Kenya and Rwanda

Nairobi welcomes reversal after a sharp diplomatic protest, but Uganda, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo remain on Israel's restricted list

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyaintimes

Israel has removed Kenya and Rwanda from its list of countries subject to temporary Ebola-related entry restrictions, the country's Ministry of Health confirmed at the weekend, ending a five-day travel dispute that had strained relations between Nairobi and Jerusalem. In a statement, the ministry said it was pleased to announce the decision to lift the restrictions on the two countries, which had been introduced as a precautionary measure amid concern over the worsening Ebola outbreak in the wider region.

The reversal follows a directive issued by Israel's Border Control Department on 10 June, which had barred airlines from allowing passengers from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to board flights bound for Israel. The order also applied to foreign nationals of any country who had visited any of the five states within 21 days of their planned arrival. Airlines were instructed to screen passengers before departure and to deny boarding to anyone meeting the criteria, although the measures did not apply to Israeli citizens or permanent residents, who would instead face health screening on arrival.

Israel's Ministry of Health said the original recommendation had been informed by a professional risk assessment that considered the spread of the outbreak in the DRC, confirmed infections in Uganda, and the movement of at-risk populations toward South Sudan, Rwanda and Kenya. The ministry stressed that the move was precautionary, citing the severity of Ebola, its high mortality rate and the complexity of managing suspected or confirmed cases, even though there was no known case of the disease in Israel and the overall public risk to the country remained low.

Kenya's reaction to its initial inclusion on the list was swift and pointed. Dr Korir Sing'Oei, Principal

Secretary for Foreign Affairs, issued a formal protest yesterday, describing the decision as unjustified given the country's public health record. "Kenya strongly protests the decision by Israel to include the country amongst those whose travellers it will restrict," he said, adding that the move was unfortunate given Kenya's support for regional Ebola surveillance and response. He noted that the country had carried out more than 80,000 Ebola tests without recording a single confirmed case.

When Israel reversed its position on Kenya and Rwanda, Sing'Oei welcomed the decision in markedly warmer terms. "We welcome very much the decision of Israel to vacate the inclusion of Kenya from the list of countries subject to Ebola-related restrictions," he said. "We are grateful for your sensitivity, friendship and partnership." The exchange, in the space of a few days, illustrates how quickly a public health measure introduced thousands of kilometres away can ripple into the heart of bilateral diplomacy, and how readily it can be resolved once both sides are seen to engage constructively.

For travellers, the practical implications of the reversal are immediate. The lifting of the restrictions is expected to ease disruption for passengers and restore normal aviation links between Kenya and Israel, routes that had been thrown into uncertainty by the original directive. Business travellers, tourists, students and members of the Kenyan diaspora who had faced the prospect of being turned away at check-in counters can now plan journeys without that additional barrier. For Rwanda, the decision carries similar weight, removing a restriction that had grouped Kigali alongside countries with active transmission despite Rwanda recording no outbreak of its own.

The episode also has a reputational dimension for Kenya that extends beyond Israel. Health authorities in Nairobi have continued to stress that the country remains free of any confirmed Ebola case despite heightened vigilance linked to the outbreak



Dr Korir Sing'Oei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs

in the DRC and Uganda. Officials say more than 100,000 international travellers have been screened at airports and border crossings since the regional outbreak intensified, with roughly 3,000 people now screened daily at designated points of entry. The government has also outlined plans, developed in partnership with the United States, to establish 23 Ebola isolation and treatment centres across the country, part of a broader effort to demonstrate readiness rather than merely respond to restrictions imposed by others.

Not every element of that partnership has proceeded smoothly. A separate proposal to build a 50-bed isolation and quarantine facility at Laikipia Air Base, intended for American citizens potentially exposed to the virus in the DRC, has drawn public opposition in Kenya and prompted scrutiny from senior officials, underlining how sensitive the politics of Ebola preparedness have become even when the underlying intention is cooperative.

Crucially, Israel's decision to lift restrictions on Kenya and Rwanda while keeping Uganda, South Sudan

and the DRC on its restricted list suggests an approach calibrated to the epidemiological picture rather than a blanket regional response. Uganda has recorded confirmed Bundo-bugyo cases linked to cross-border transmission from the DRC, while the DRC itself remains the epicentre of an outbreak that has spread across more than 30 health zones in three provinces. By contrast, Kenya and Rwanda have not recorded confirmed cases, a distinction that Nairobi's diplomats argued should have been reflected from the outset.

For Kenya, the outcome offers a measure of vindication, but also a re-

minder. The country's standing as a regional hub for travel, trade and diplomacy depends on its public health credibility being recognised promptly by partners abroad, not asserted after the fact. As the Ebola outbreak in the DRC and Uganda continues to evolve, further reviews of travel advisories by Israel and other states are likely, and Nairobi will be watching closely to ensure that its record of zero confirmed cases continues to count for something on the world stage.



US-Iran The agreement, whose official signing ceremony is scheduled for Friday in Switzerland, has been hailed by Nairobi as a triumph of diplomacy over confrontation

Kenya welcomes US-Iran peace deal, protests Israel travel curbs

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

Kenya has welcomed the breakthrough peace agreement between the United States and Iran, describing it as a major diplomatic milestone that offers renewed hope for stability in the Middle East and relief to economies around the world, including those in Africa that have borne the economic consequences of prolonged conflict. In a statement, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi said Kenya warmly received news of the agreement, which provides for the permanent cessation of military operations on all fronts, including Lebanon.

The agreement, whose official signing ceremony is scheduled for Friday in Switzerland, has been hailed by Nairobi as a triumph of diplomacy over confrontation.

“The Government of Kenya warmly welcomes the announcement of the peace agreement between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Mudavadi said.

“We note the scheduled official signing ceremony on Friday, 19 June, in Switzerland and commend the diplomatic efforts that have led to this moment.”

Mudavadi said Kenya had consistently championed peaceful resolution of disputes through dialogue and multilateral engagement, adding that sustainable solutions to global crises could only

emerge through inclusive diplomacy, adherence to international law and collective action among nations.

“Kenya has long stood as a steadfast advocate for peace, dialogue and the peaceful resolution of disputes through multilateral institutions and the community of nations,” he said.

The Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary noted that the de-escalation in the Middle East offered the prospect of reopening critical global trade corridors, particularly the Strait of Hormuz, through which a significant portion of the world’s oil supplies passes.

He said renewed stability in the region would enhance global energy security, restore disrupted supply chains and improve the livelihoods of



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi with Narok Governor Patrick Ole Ntutu on Sunday.

millions affected by conflict. “This development offers hope for de-escalation, the reopening of vital maritime routes such as the Strait of Hormuz, and the broader stabilization of the Middle East region—outcomes that will benefit global energy security, trade and the lives of millions affected by conflict,” Mudavadi said.

He congratulated all parties involved in the negotiations for choosing “the path of negotiation over further confrontation.”

Mudavadi also reaffirmed Kenya’s commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter and the role of regional organisations in promoting dialogue whenever disputes arise.

“As a nation committed to multilateralism, Kenya reaffirms its support for the principles of the United Nations Charter and regional organizations in fostering dialogue and cooperation whenever disharmony arises,” he said.

He urged all parties to honour the commitments made under the agreement and pursue confidence-building measures capable of translating the deal into lasting peace.

“We urge all stakeholders to uphold the commitments made, work towards lasting trust-building measures and ensure that the gains of this agreement translate into tangible peace for the region and the world,” Mudavadi said.

The Cabinet Secretary further observed that African economies had suffered significantly from the instability in the Middle East through rising fuel prices, disrupted supply chains and inflationary pressures that had heightened economic vulnerabilities across the continent.

“This agreement comes as a significant relief to Kenya and many other African nations, which have borne considerable economic strain from the conflict,” he said.

“Disruptions to global energy markets, supply chains, rising fuel and commodity prices, and inflationary pressures have exacerbated economic vulnerabilities, threatened livelihoods and risked fuelling social unrest across the continent.”

According to Mudavadi, the de-escalation presents a timely opportunity to ease those pressures and support economic recovery.

“Kenya remains ready to support broader efforts aimed at promoting stability, economic cooperation and mutual understanding among nations because peace is not merely the absence of war, but the presence of fairness, dialogue and shared opportunities,” he added.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs also protested Israel’s decision to include Kenya among countries whose travellers would face restrictions linked to concerns over Ebola.

Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Dr. Korir Sing’oei described the move as regrettable and inconsistent with Kenya’s demonstrated commitment to disease surveillance and regional health security.

“Kenya strongly protests the decision by the government of Israel to include the country among those whose travellers it will restrict because of Ebola,” Sing’oei said.

“This is especially unfortunate given Kenya’s support to regional surveillance and response to Ebola. With over 80,000 tests, no case of Ebola has been reported in Kenya,” he added.

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EACC Among the most notable cases is the hearing involving former Murang'a Governor Francis Mwangi Wa Iria and eight others

EACC steps up anti-graft war as high-profile cases dominate court this week

BY DMS

@themkenyatimes

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) yesterday began another busy week in court, with a raft of high-profile corruption, unexplained wealth and public land recovery cases scheduled for hearing and mention across the country.

The cases involve former governors, senior public officials, politicians, county government officers and private individuals accused of corruption-related offences amounting to billions of shillings.

Among the most notable cases is the hearing involving former Murang'a Governor Francis Mwangi Wa Iria and eight others, who face charges of conspiracy to commit an offence of corruption, unlawful acquisition of public property, conflict of interest and money laundering.

The prosecution alleges that Murang'a County unlawfully awarded a contract worth KSh351.1 million to Top Image Media Consultants Limited. The case is scheduled for hearing at the Milimani Anti-Corruption Court upto tomorrow.

Also before the Milimani Anti-Corruption Court is a suit against Daniel M. Wambua and Judith Vaati Matheka, in which the EACC seeks to recover KSh124.6 million allegedly constituting unexplained wealth. The matter will be heard today and tomorrow.

In Kajiado, Esther Chege, a former employee of the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA), and six others will face hearing today over allegations of conflict of interest and unlawful acquisition of public property. The EACC claims Chege conducted business dealings with KeRRA through her company, Reswan Enterprises Limited,

using proxies and close relatives.

The Environment and Land Court in Eldoret is expected to hear a suit on Thursday against Rahila Cheruto Chelang'a and three others, seeking recovery of Eldoret Municipality Block 7/209, which the Commission says was irregularly acquired by private developers.

On Friday, the Milimani Anti-Corruption Court will hear the case against Sammy Kipngetich Kirui and 11 others, who are accused of conspiring to irregularly purchase land identified as L.R. No. 14759/2 in Machakos for cemetery use by the former City Council of Nairobi.

The EACC is also pursuing the recovery of public land allegedly reserved for government institutions.

At the Environment and Land Court in Machakos, former Lands Commissioner, Wilson Gacanja, Martha Wanjumbi Wamboi and three others will appear tomorrow in a suit involving Machakos Municipality Block 1/609, land reserved for Machakos Prison.

Similarly, the Environment and Land Court in Kerugoya will hear a case on Thursday against James Munene, in which the Commission seeks to recover Parcel No. Kerugoya Township/216, alleged to have been illegally acquired.

At Milimani Anti-Corruption Court, Huruma Ward MCA Peter Owera Oluoch was scheduled to appear in court yesterday over charges of providing false information to the EACC, forgery of a signature and embossing a false stamp on a self-declaration form purported to be genuine.

The Commission is also pursuing recovery of billions of shillings allegedly lost through irregular procurement practices.

Yesterday, the court mentioned a suit involving Ste-

phen Lowoton, trading as Napeyok Suppliers and Contractors, Trabano Investments Limited and 10 others, seeking recovery of KSh1.2 billion allegedly paid irregularly by Turkana County to companies associated with the defendants.

Another that was also mentioned involves Felix Nyakundi and three others, from whom the EACC seeks forfeiture of assets worth KSh713.7 million believed to constitute unexplained wealth.

Also scheduled for mention yesterday is a suit against Joseph Chege Gikonyo and others, involving alleged unexplained wealth amounting to KSh615 million.

The Environment and Land Court at Milimani also mentioned a suit against Dayan Construction Company Limited, Geoffrey Majiwa and Omar Abdi Farah over the recovery of public land reserved for Nairobi City County.

The parcels, L.R. Nos. 19952/4 and 19952/5, are valued at approximately KSh355 million.

Tomorrow, the Milimani Anti-Corruption Court will mention a suit against former Kenya Film Classification Board Chief Executive Officer Dr Ezekiel Mutua and 12 others. The Commission seeks recovery of KSh22.6 million, allegedly paid irregularly as salaries and entertainment allowances.

The same day, Jecinter Adoyo Hezron will appear before the Milimani Law Courts over allegations that she fraudulently acquired public property worth KSh15.2 million and forged Master's and Bachelor's degree certificates to secure employment as a Senior Analyst at the Commission on Revenue Allocation.

Another case scheduled for mention involves Bob Kephias Otieno, former Homa Bay County Assembly Clerk, and two others. The EACC seeks recovery of KSh12.6 million



Former Murang'a Governor Francis Mwangi Wa Iria

allegedly paid fraudulently as salaries to an individual who was not an employee of the county assembly.

Former Ruthimitu Girls High School principal Sarah Muthoni Muraa, trading as Kawisa Suppliers, was expected in court in a suit seeking recovery of KSh11.7 million. The Commission alleges she exploited her office to award school supply contracts to her own company.

At the Milimani Law Courts, Richard Munyao Muindi, a former ICT officer at the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), will appear today over allegations that he fraudulently acquired KSh8.7 million in salaries after using a forged degree certificate to secure employment.

The Environment and Land Court at Milimani will also mention a suit involving Nesco Services Limited and three others, alongside the National

Bank of Kenya as an interested party, seeking recovery of L.R. No. 209/13557 in Nairobi West, land allegedly reserved for a public car park.

The Commission further listed the case against Francis Xavier Kipkoskei Lagat, a former employee of Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company, who faces charges of fraudulent acquisition of public property and presenting a forged KCSE certificate to obtain employment.

Meanwhile, Samuel Odhiambo Agumba, a former IEBC clerical officer, will appear tomorrow over allegations that he forged KCSE and university certificates to secure employment.

Outside Nairobi, the Environment and Land Court in Nyeri will mention, on Thursday, a suit against Ephantus Mate seeking recovery of Nyeri Municipality Block 1/1088, which the EACC says is grabbed public land.

In Thika, the Commission will pursue recovery of Limuru Township/206 on Thursday in a suit against Joseph Kinyanjui Mwai and David Kabiro Gathoga. The parcel is alleged to belong to the State Department for Housing and Urban Development and to have been unlawfully acquired by private individuals.

The extensive court schedule underscores the EACC's intensified efforts to combat corruption, recover stolen public assets and hold public officials and private individuals accountable for the misuse of public resources.

With billions of shillings and strategic public properties at stake, the outcomes of the cases are expected to attract significant public interest and test the country's resolve in the fight against graft.

Human rights violations KNCHR Chairperson Claris Ogangah said the framework was developed pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 1 of 2026

KNCHR presents reparations framework for victims of human rights violations

BY Sallo Gobana and Lilian Gichohi

@themkenyatimes

The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) has presented a framework guiding compensation and reparations for victims of human rights violations to President William Ruto, marking a significant step towards justice, accountability, and national healing.

Presenting the report at State House, Nairobi, yesterday KNCHR Chairperson Claris Ogangah said the framework was developed pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 1 of 2026 and seeks to establish a structured mechanism for compensating and supporting victims of human rights violations, including those arising from demonstrations and public protests.

“Today marks a historic and significant milestone in Kenya’s continuing journey towards justice, accountability, and national healing. We gather not merely to present a report but to reaffirm the state’s commitment to recognizing persons who have suffered violations and to move towards providing meaningful remedies for the harm they have suffered,” said Ogangah. She noted that the initiative represents the first major state-led process aimed at formally acknowledging victims of human rights violations and providing a framework for reparations, reconciliation, and restoration of dignity.

According to the report, the Commission documented 1,815 claims and received an additional 1,022 cases from the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) and other government agencies. Out of these, 1,101 vic-

tims have so far been verified and have provided consent for inclusion in the reparations programme.

The documented cases cover violations arising from the 2017 and 2022 election-related protests; demonstrations witnessed in 2023 and 2024; the Gen Z and Finance Bill protests; as well as the 2025 commemoration demonstrations. The violations include deaths, injuries, unlawful arrests, sexual violence, and destruction of property.

“The framework seeks to establish a victim-centered, transparent, and accountable system capable of delivering accessible and effective remedies in accordance with the Constitution and international human rights standards,” she said.

Ogangah emphasized that compensation is only one component of reparations and that the framework also recommends rehabilitation, restitution, satisfaction measures, and guarantees of non-repetition.

She further proposed collective reparations for communities that have historically borne the effects of protests and related violations, including investments in community infrastructure, psychosocial support services, memorial sites, and community development initiatives.

The KNCHR Chairperson highlighted the economic impact of violent protests, citing Ministry of Interior estimates indicating that demonstrations between June and July 2025 resulted in losses amounting to approximately Sh3 billion.

“There is a significant cost to human lives, including deaths and injuries, but violent protests also have serious eco-

nomical consequences that affect investment, employment, public finances, and overall economic stability,” she said.

She called for a national conversation on balancing constitutional rights with civic responsibilities and urged the operationalization of Article 37 of the Constitution through legislation and technology-supported systems to facilitate peaceful demonstrations while safeguarding public order.

Chief Justice Martha Koome welcomed the report, describing it as an important milestone in advancing constitutionalism, accountability, and the rule of law.

Speaking on behalf of the judiciary and the National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ), Koome said the framework recognizes the constitutional obligation to ensure victims of human rights violations receive effective remedies and meaningful redress.

“The Bill of Rights affirms that every person is entitled to the full enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms. It also places a corresponding obligation on all state organs and public institutions to respect, protect, and fulfill those rights,” she said.

Koome noted that the right to a remedy is itself a fundamental constitutional guarantee and that reparations are essential in ensuring justice for victims.

“The right to reparations is the promise of our Constitution. It is a demand of justice and a requirement of the rule of law,” she stated.

The Chief Justice said the Judiciary had been working through the National Council on the Administration of



Ms Claris Ogangah presenting the report to President William Ruto yesterday.

Justice to explore ways of operationalizing Article 37 through legislation, rules of procedure, and standard operating procedures to ensure demonstrations remain peaceful while protecting the rights of all citizens.

She observed that many of Kenya’s constitutional gains were achieved through civic action and public demonstrations, making it necessary to protect the right to assemble

while ensuring public safety and respect for the rights of others.

“As an institution constitutionally entrusted with the interpretation and protection of the Constitution, the judiciary remains steadfast in ensuring that constitutional guarantees are not merely aspirational promises but lived realities for all Kenyans,” said Koome.

She commended KNCHR for developing a practical frame-

work that would guide the country towards healing historical injustices, strengthening public trust in institutions and promoting national reconciliation.

The report is expected to guide future government policy, legislation, and institutional reforms aimed at compensating victims, rebuilding confidence in public institutions, and fostering lasting national unity.



Human Rights violation in Kenya

Courts Widow breaks down as detectives play footage showing how Dutch businessman's body was recovered from a water tank at his Kitisuru home

Cohen reported Wairimu assault to police months before disappearance, court hears

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

The widow of Dutch businessman Tob Cohen, Sarah Wairimu, broke down in the High yesterday as detectives played footage showing how Cohen's body was recovered from a water tank at his Kitisuru home. The footage was shown during testimony from former Parklands OCPD James Muribo and homicide detectives from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations leading the murder probe. Wairimu appeared visibly distressed and was unable to continue watching, prompting the judge to call a short adjournment before proceedings resumed.

Muribo told the court that months before Cohen's disappearance and death in 2019, the businessman had raised concerns with police over an

assault he alleged Wairimu had committed, claiming the matter was not being adequately pursued. Cohen visited Parklands Police Station in February 2019, where he recorded a statement and submitted medical documents, including a P3 form. "He came and we recorded his statement and the P3 form," Muribo said. The former officer testified that plans to arrest Wairimu stalled after Cohen declined to give further statements. An unidentified person later delivered a letter purportedly written by Cohen instructing police to halt the investigation, after which attempts to reach him by phone failed before he went missing.

DCI detectives also presented footage documenting the search and recovery of Cohen's body. Investigators said that after an extensive search of the property, they iden-

tified three cement mounds above a water tank, concealed with wood and soil. Breaking through the structure revealed one mound had sealed the tank's entrance, keeping water out. "We want to show this court how we uncovered the scene. It was on the right far corner," DCI officer Beneutychus Wanjohi told the court.

The court heard that recovering the body was a lengthy process, as it had been bound with ropes and wrapped in plastic and a curtain inside the tank. The court has allowed Wairimu to visit her home under police escort next Monday and granted her access to banking services as the trial continues.



Sarah Wairimu

The Mt. Kenya Times



Motherland



Since time immemorial, your majestic mountains
Have taught my spirit how to stand upright and
proud.
Whenever I breathe far away from your affection,
Even my pen refuses to console my soul.
But when, for a fleeting moment, I inhale within
your embrace,
My humble hut transforms into a paradise divine.
Within your enchanting magic, it was you who
guided
Little poets toward the boundless realm of great
art.
Your playful streams flow in shimmering delight,
May my laughter forever dwell along their banks.
The rivulets, overflowing with your tenderness,
surge like storms,
And the songs of your birds steal away my heart.
From your love rise mountains and endless hills —
Are you the remedy for wounded hearts?
For those who conquered the heavens step by
step,
Are you the ladder immortalized within history
itself?
Could it truly be that your warmth burns so

deeply
That poets entrusted even birds with their
sorrows?
Even your great Babur, crowned a king in distant
lands,
Wept for you in the silence of the night.
From the epics sung in honor of your glory,
Even Venus in the heavens longs for your beauty.
At times, the Seven Wonders themselves stand
astounded
By the wondrous dance of your changing seasons.
Your Registan stands in solemn grandeur,
Whispering stories from the depths of ancient
ages.
Your Bukhara gazes beyond the deserts,
Murmuring the sacred echoes of Naqshbandi
sages.
Your emerald valleys — graceful and unparalleled
—
Bestowed wings of inspiration upon Muqimiy.
To the blossoms blooming in the garden of
creation,
They gifted a glorious name like “Sayohatnoma.”
Whenever I yearn for the scent of your soil,
Even bread and morsels fail to pass my throat.
You are the cradle of undying geniuses —
My Uzbekistan, unequalled upon this earth.

Mehriniso Ergashova
Uzbekistan

You may be the light



It may be who you truly are.
The Gita’s voice through ages rings:
“Stand firm when life with challenge stings.”
Like Arjuna on the battlefield,
The light within must never yield.
The Bible whispers, clear and bright:
“Let your lamp shine before all in sight.”
A faithful heart that glows with grace
Can bring hope to the darkest place.
The Quran speaks with wisdom clear:
“God guides those who draw Him near.”
And those who walk in truth’s pure ray
Become a lantern on life’s way.
So when the world seems wrapped in night,
Look once again with clearer sight,
For if you are the light today,
You can help others find their way.
Nandini AnandKumar
Educator, Writer, Motivator, Freelancer
(In Service of Education)

If everything around seems dark,
Look again, you may be the spark.
When troubles come in baskets full,
And hope grows faint and strength grows dull,
When every path appears unclear,
And shadows whisper words of fear,
Remember—not all light descends from blue,
Some kindles inside of you.
A single lamp in darkest night
Can guide a traveller by its light.
The light you seek may not be far,

My homeland Uzbekistan



Our future generation
Our homeland is our glory
We are capable of noble deeds
My homeland is Uzbekistan
A great state is itself
Our history is our word
A flourishing land is us
My homeland Uzbekistan

Science and culture
The support of society
The rule of law
The trust of our nation
The support of our country
The unity of the young generation
Security among our people
A sign of stability

As long as there is a beautiful homeland
Independence flourishes
On the path to prosperity
A hero takes steps.

Bobonazarova Yulduz, 2nd year student of
Urgench State Pedagogical Institute

If everything around you seems dark, you may be the light



Your inner strength is always here.
When paths are hidden from your sight,
Believe in your own guiding light.
Kind words spoken from the heart,
Can mend a soul and make it start.
A gentle smile, a helping hand,
Can change the fate of someone’s land.
The world needs dreamers who dare to shine,
Who turn their struggles into a sign.
Every sunrise begins in the dark,
Every fire starts with a spark.
So when all around seems bleak and gray,
Be the light that shows the way.
For darkness never has the might,
To overcome one soul’s true light.
Meera.T

If everything around you seems dark and still,
Hold on to hope and trust your will.
When clouds of doubt cover the sky,
Let your courage teach your heart to fly.
The night may seem endless and deep,
Yet stars awaken while others sleep.
A single lamp can light a room,
A hopeful soul can conquer gloom.
Do not fear the shadows near,

Ulevi



Ni wapi ulipotoka, utumwa ukatupata
Watu wakahuzunika, maafa yakatupata
Kuchapo mnarauka, mkisema yatapita
Tusimameni kidete, tuumalize ulevi

Wanalia kina mama, waume waangamia
Watoa zao lawana, ulevi washikilia
Nani taona huruma, kina baba kuokoa
Tusimameni kidete, tuumalize ulevi

Wanalia na watoto, mashaka yawaingia
Wazazi wawaka moto, chanzo tembo kubugia
Yawalazimu na koto, hima kuzishabikia
Tusimameni kidete, tuumalize ulevi

Biashara zimeisha, chanzo chake ni ulevi
Mihela inapoisha, wanaanza ugomvi

Wanalilia maisha, huku wamekula chumvi
Tusimameni kidete, tuumalize ulevi

Hamkuzi maadili, mlalapo mitarani
Tena na wingi ukali, mrejeapo nyumbani
Lini mbadili Hali, tuboreke maishani
Tusimameni kidete, tuumalize ulevi

Simameni kina baba, wadogo kuwashauri
Mianya yote kuziba, maisha yapate kheri
Pombe iliyowabeba, iwatoke wawe shwari
Tusimameni kidete, tuumalize ugomvi

Tamati hili twaamba, ulevi kuumaliza
Sote tujifunge kamba, tufunge hili jeneza
Mbele tusongea naamba, ulevi kuumaliza
Tusimameni kidete tuumalize ulevi

Mwandishi: Wachira Wagaki
Malenga Msumari Mpya
Mwanafunzi(Grade 9 Karima Comprehensive
School Othaya)

Mhariri: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
Malenga Kitunguu Machoni

Health is wealth



Eating what you like in a roadside hotel is wealth.
A watch made of gold is not a blessing,
A heart beating strongly is a blessing,
Sleepless nights in a big bungalow are not
prosperity,
Sleeping peacefully wherever you lie down is
prosperity.
We admire the wealthy and powerful,
Yet often overlook the truly fortunate,
The richest person is not the one who owns the
most,
But the one with a body that falls ill the least.
M.Raddhika,
Freelance content writer,
Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu, India

A man with a colorful and rich wardrobe
But also taking colorful medicines is not rich.
A man with limited and simple clothes,
But no medicine is actually rich.
Traveling business class with illness is not wealth,
Being able to run fast to catch a train is wealth,
Eating just a salad in a posh restaurant is not
wealth,

Business The campaign seeks to inspire Kenyans to embrace progress and move forward confidently across every stage of their personal and business journeys

Stanbic bank launches keep growing campaign

BY Rachel Nderitu
@themtkenyatimes



Stanbic Kenyatta Avenue

Stanbic Bank has launched the Keep Growing campaign, reaffirming its commitment to supporting individuals, businesses and communities to unlock opportunities, build resilience and achieve sustainable growth.

The campaign seeks to inspire Kenyans to embrace progress and move forward confidently across every stage of their personal and business journeys, backed by financial solutions designed to enable long-term prosperity.

The initiative is anchored in insights drawn from the bank's interaction with retail and SME customers and their desire to grow despite facing pressure from rising costs, high debt levels and unpredictable income streams, thereby straining households and businesses.

Abraham Ongenge, Acting Chief Executive, Stanbic Bank Kenya said: "The Keep Growing campaign is a tribute to the resilience of

the Kenyan spirit that starts with ambition, strengthened by challenge and driven by motivation. It is our answer to Kenya's plan to build a resili-

ent economy, driven by MSMEs and manufacturing."

Projections from the World Bank, IMF, CBK, National Treasury show that Kenya's

economy will grow between 4.5%–5.5% in 2026, with the medium-term trajectory of 4.7–5.3% through 2028. CBK projects 5.2% growth in 2025 and 5.5% in 2026, having executed its longest easing cycle in recent history — cutting the Central Bank Rate from 13.0% to 8.75% between August 2024 and February 2026 to stimulate credit and economic activity.

The campaign, which is a powerful call to action, comes on the back of this economic growth that is broadening beyond agriculture, a structurally positive signal for medium-term resilience.

Lilian Onyanch, Head, Brand and Marketing, Stanbic Bank, explained, "Through this campaign, we want to inspire Kenyans to connect, share and inspire one another on the path to progress. We want to affirm resilient entrepreneurs who are growing their businesses and empower the next generation of entrepre-

neurs. In today's world, authentic stories are one of the most powerful ways to inspire the next generation, and that is what we aim to achieve through the Keep Growing campaign."

As part of the campaign, the Bank will profile and celebrate homegrown businesses, bringing to life authentic stories of growth and resilience. The campaign will also be supported by a series of promotions across various media platforms.

The bank recorded 5% year on year growth in Q1 Profit After Tax to KES 3.5 billion, driven by a double-digit balance sheet growth, and prudent cost and risk management. Going forward, the bank aims to keep accelerating its growth agenda, by deepening financial access for individuals and enterprises across the region.

The Bank has received several accolades in the past few months including Overall Best Bank in Kenya at the Think Business Awards and through Standard Bank, named Africa's Most Valuable Bank Brand by Brand Finance for the fifth consecutive year.



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Education If home is not settled, the student cannot settle well at school. If dad and mum are fighting daily, how can the student concentrate in class?

Ten reasons why students don't do well in High School



BY Sam Vidambu
@themkenyatimes

1. Lack of content retention techniques.

When your kid comes home with bad grades, you always ask them, 'Why have you dropped?'.

The child replies and says 'Mum, I don't know what my problem is, when teachers teach in class I always understand but when the exam comes I forget'. Your child has one problem, retention problem. For this problem to be solved, the student needs a proven academic mentor to take them through proper content retention techniques so that when the exam comes they can easily deliver.

2. Negative attitude.

A bad attitude can hinder personal growth, damage relationships and limit success. The only disability in life is bad attitude. The truth is, your attitude determines your altitude. A bad attitude is like a flat tyre, you can not go far until you change it.

3. Lack of reading cultures.

The student might want to create time to go through their books, but they find themselves sleeping, not because they like sleeping but because they lack the right reading cultures.

4. Home affairs.

Home affects school, that is the truth. If home is not settled, the student can not settle well at school. If dad and mum are fighting daily, how can the student concentrate in class?

5. Lack of study habits.

Without study habits, it is dif-

TEN REASONS WHY STUDENTS DON'T DO WELL IN HIGH SCHOOL
By Sam Vidambu

1. Lack of content retention techniques.
Student forgets in exams. Needs academic mentor for proven retention methods.

2. Negative attitude.
Bad attitude like a flat tire. Attitude determines altitude.

3. Lack of reading cultures.
Student finds sleeping instead of reading. Right cultures missing.

4. Home affairs.
Unsettled home effects. Fighting parents hinder and reading R' concentration.

5. Lack of study.
Unsettled home effects. Studying is a science. Needs proper skillsets and mindset for personal study.

8. Lack of support from part/guardian
Parents pay fees but don't know teacher. Education manes Education full support.


5. Lack of study habits.
Studying is a science. Needs proper skillsets and mindset for personal study.

8. Lack of support from parent/guardian
Parents pay fees but don't know teacher. Education's full support.

9. Sitting position in class.
Sit in first three rows. Alertness and engagement, rotates sitting.

10. Lack of a personal timetable.
Timetable like ATC. Follow Vidambu's Timetable for success.

MEET SAM VIDAMBU
Mr Sam Vidambu is a professional academic over 5,500 high-school schools in Kenya running his programs.



Sam Vidambu This is a photo byline

ficult for a student to do well in class. Studying is a science, to understand this science a student needs to have the right skillsets and mindset. Study habits revolves around how a student conducts the personal study sessions.

6. Bad friends.

I am not a pastor but in the bible, in the book of 1st Corinthians 15:33, it says, 'Do not be misled, bad company corrupts good morals'.

The truth is, if an A student walks with five E students, after some time, the A student will start getting Es. You are the average of the five closest friends you associate yourself with. If an E student walks with five A students, soon, the E student will be getting As.

Hang around winners so that your wins don't sound like you are bragging.

7. Lack of revision techniques.

An A student has reading cultures, study habits and revision techniques.

Truth is, most students don't know the difference between reading, studying and revising. Revision is about how a student studies their topics in

an organised manner without ignoring some.

The A student with the right revision techniques knows that not everything will come in KCSE but anything can come in KCSE.

8. Lack of support from parent/guardian.

Truth be told, some parents don't care about their children so long as they are in school.

Imagine a parent does not have the phone number of the class teacher of their child. To make it even worse, the parent does not know the name of the class teacher of their child. To many parents, their role is just to pay school fees and the teachers will perform miracles so that their kids can get As and go to do medicine in the university. It doesn't work like that, this thing needs support from everyone.

9. Sitting position in class.

My advice to students is, if you know you are not doing well in class, ensure you are sitted among the first three rows in class. The reason is, you will not be tempted to doze off or speak to your friend when teachers teach. You will be alert because you

will be worried the teacher can ask you a question any-time. All the students can not sit in front, I know that, in a class there will always be some who sit at the back. The class teacher should always rotate the sitting arrangement. The people who don't like me will comment and say, 'I was a backbencher but I passed my exams'. Everyone might not be as sharp as you were. This article is to help those who are not doing well to start doing well. If you do what you've always done, you will get what you've always gotten. To get the results that you've never gotten, you must do things that you've never done.

Remember, if nothing changes, nothing changes.


10. Lack of a personal timetable.

Many high school students don't have a working personal timetable, the few who have don't follow them.

A timetable for a student is like Air traffic controller for the airport.

In The Vidambu's Timetable, it is clearly stipulated how to study, when to study, 10 reading cultures, 10 study habits, 10 revision techniques and the 15 rules for making a working, practical and proven timetable.

Mr Sam Vidambu is a professional academic mentor with over 5,500 high schools in Kenya running his academic programs.

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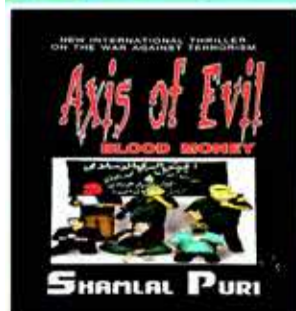
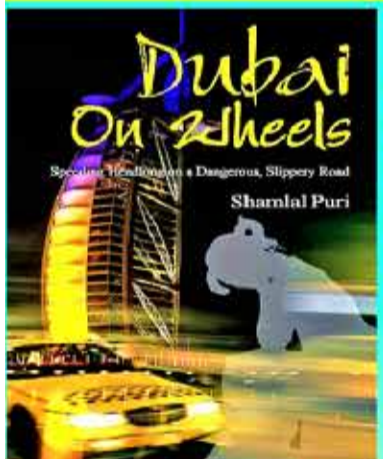
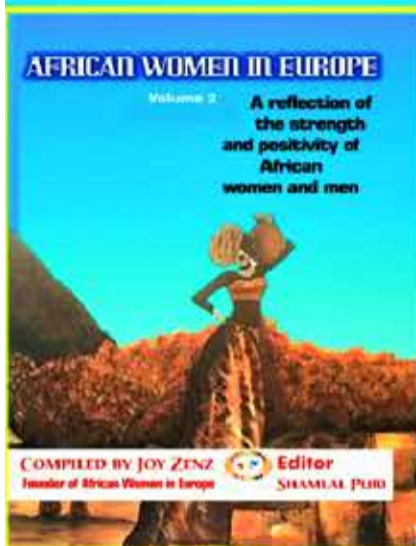
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Education To speak of a university without robust academic freedom is to celebrate a lighthouse without light.

When the Ivory Tower Builds Its Own Walls and Locks the Gate

If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear. George Orwell



By: Jerameel Kevins Owuor Odhiambo

@themkenyatimes

The modern university has successfully bartered its historic soul for corporate symmetry. It is a sterile processing plant where thoughts are carefully pasteurized, homogenized, and packaged for immediate market consumption. We are told, with a straight face by administrative czars, that these institutions remain the premium centers of knowledge generation, faithfully churning out the next cohort of industry captains. Even so, behind this shiny veneer of productivity lies a chilling reality. The heartbeat of true scholarship academic freedom is hooked to a ventilator, suffocating under the heavy blanket of institutional conformity.

To speak of a university without robust academic freedom is to celebrate a lighthouse without light. It becomes a mere factory floor, trading in the currency of safe, sanitized compliance. True thought leadership is not an exercise in public relations; it must be socially responsive, gritty, and fiercely engaging. It demands a sanctuary where an individual can think, speak, and write without constantly looking over their shoulder. The hallmark of any progressive society is its capacity to tolerate, and indeed protect, the freedom to offend. Without the liberty to disrupt the comfortable slumber of status quo, the university abdicates its primary calling and becomes an expensive echo chamber.

In the Kenyan context, this struggle is not a theoretical abstraction discussed over expensive lattes. It is etched into our collective memory. We must remember the dark decades of the late twentieth century, when the state viewed the university lecture theater with pathological suspicion. The walls of Main Campus had ears, and the Nyayo House torture chambers bore witness to what



To speak of a university without robust academic freedom is to celebrate a lighthouse without light.

happens when academic freedom is treated as treason. Scholars like Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o did not write *Petals of Blood* to win administrative popularity contests; they wrote because the truth demanded expression, even when the heavens were poised to fall.

When the state cracked down on the University of Nairobi and Kenyatta University in the 1970s and 1980s, forcing brilliant minds into exile, it sought to kill the capacity to imagine an alternative society. The ghost of that era has not been completely exorcised; it has merely changed its wardrobe. Today, the blunt instrument of state detention has been replaced by the quiet, administrative guillotine. A lecturer who dares to challenge orthodoxies, or who dissects public policy with uncomfortable precision, rarely faces a midnight arrest. Instead, they

face the silent denial of promotion, the abrupt non-renewal of contracts, or the cold shoulder of institutional isolation.

The French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu spent decades analyzing how systems of power reproduce themselves through cultural and academic institutions. In his seminal work *Homo Academicus*, Bourdieu strips away the romanticism of the university, exposing it as a battlefield where individuals fight for academic capital. When institutional survival becomes contingent on pleasing political masters or corporate donors, intellectual courage is the first casualty. The modern scholar faces an insidious choice: become a court poet for the status quo or risk professional erasure.

This systemic timidity transforms the university from a vanguard of transformation into a citadel of

self-preservation. When faculty members self-censor out of fear of losing future consultancies, they commit academic heresy. They deliberately choose to bury their talents in exchange for safety. The loss is entirely borne by a society starved of independent critique.

Justice Albie Sachs, a towering figure in African jurisprudence and human rights, noted that a university must be a place where uncomfortable questions are asked, otherwise it ceases to be a university. This implies that the right to pronounce oneself freely must be protected with religious fervor. It must remain insulated from the shifting winds of political expediency or the delicate sensibilities of those who hold the purse strings.

To say what needs to be said, irrespective of the unpopularity of the sentiment, requires a specific brand

of structural protection. If an academic must constantly worry about their next meal, or whether a controversial research paper will cost them a future state appointment, the research will naturally bend toward the benign. We end up with a mountain of descriptive, toothless research that occupies shelf space but changes absolutely nothing. It is a tragic waste of human capital.

This absolute freedom does not imply an open license for reckless bigotry. Academic freedom carries a proportionate burden of intellectual responsibility. It must be grounded in rigorous methodology, empirical honesty, and an unswerving commitment to the public good. It is the freedom to pursue truth wherever it leads, not the freedom to fabricate convenient falsehoods.

Responsibility means that the scholar stands by their data, invites peer scrutiny, and defends their conclusions in the open marketplace of ideas. It is a disciplined defiance, not a chaotic tantrum. When we protect the freedom to offend, we are protecting the scientific and social friction necessary for human progress. Every major breakthrough in human history from Galileo's astronomy to the dismantling of colonial legal structures began as a deeply offensive, unpopular deviation from the accepted norm.

The current trajectory of higher education suggests we are losing this battle by default. By turning our universities into hyper-bureaucratic corporations, we have elevated the administrator above the thinker. Key performance indicators and resource mobilization targets have replaced the pursuit of raw, transformative truth.

If we do not consciously reclaim the university as a sanctuary for dissent, we will continue to produce graduates who are technically competent but intellectually hollow. We will have plenty of industry-ready cogs, but a complete drought of social conscience. The ivory tower must remain a place where truth is spoken to power, even if the building shakes to its very foundations. Silence within its walls is not peace; it is institutional rigor mortis. Indeed, the university is not an echo chamber for the prevailing orthodoxy of the state, but a crucible for testing ideas.

The writer is a legal scholar and researcher.

Compensation fund Ruto said the country had for decades witnessed a cycle in which demonstrations often ended in injuries

Victims of protest-related violence to share KSh2 billion compensation fund



President William Ruto with other stakeholders with copies of the report.

BY Suleiman Mbatiah
@themtkenyatimes

The government has set aside KSh2 billion to compensate individuals and businesses affected by protest-related violence, with President William Ruto saying the initiative seeks to acknowledge losses suffered during years of recurring unrest.

The compensation fund forms part of a newly launched Framework for Compensation and Reparations to Victims of Human Rights Violations During Protests and Picketing, which the President said is intended to provide redress to families of those killed, injured citizens, affected businesses and law enforcement officers harmed during periods of public unrest.

Speaking at State House, Nairobi, yesterday, Ruto said the country had for decades witnessed a cycle in which demonstrations often ended in injuries, deaths, destruction of property and deep societal divisions, leaving victims without adequate support or recognition.

“This is not only a significant moment; it is a solemn one. It is solemn because today we seek to make amends for harms that can never truly be

repaid. No compensation can restore a lost life. No reparation can fully erase the pain of a parent who buried a child, a spouse who lost a partner, or a family forever changed by tragedy,” Ruto said.

The President said the initiative emerged from a commitment made to address the recurring human cost of protests and public demonstrations, adding that previous administrations had acknowledged the problem but failed to establish lasting solutions.

He noted that while the Constitution guarantees the right to assemble, demonstrate, picket and petition, protests have frequently been accompanied by violence, loss of life, destruction of businesses and injuries to both civilians and police officers.

According to Ruto, the government recognizes that there have been instances where responses to demonstrations resulted in excessive use of force and violations of constitutional rights. At the same time, he said some protests had been infiltrated by criminal elements who engaged in looting, violence and destruction of property.

The framework follows a process initiated through Gazette Notice No. 12002 of 2025, which set in motion

plans to compensate victims of protests and public unrest. Ruto subsequently appointed a panel chaired by constitutional scholar Prof. Makau Mutua to help develop proposals aimed at placing victims, justice, accountability and national reconciliation at the centre of the process.

A court later directed that the framework be developed by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), which was formally tasked through Presidential Proclamation No. 1 of 2026 to prepare guidelines for compensation and reparations.

Ruto praised the commission and the panel for their contribution, describing the framework as a significant milestone in protecting victims’ rights and strengthening democratic governance.

“As a demonstration of our commitment, we have already allocated Ksh 2 billion towards compensation and reparations for those who suffered verified harm arising from protests and unrest, including affected families, injured citizens, businesses, and law enforcement officers injured in the course of their duties,” he said.

The President emphasized that the compensation pack-

age was not intended to place a monetary value on lives lost or suffering endured, but rather to acknowledge harm and

affirm the state’s responsibility to victims.

He further clarified that compensation would only apply to verified claims and should not be interpreted as a reward for violence, criminal activity or destruction of property.

The initiative is also expected to form part of broader reforms aimed at preventing future abuses and improving the management of public demonstrations.

Ruto said the government would pursue a comprehensive legal framework to operationalize and protect rights guaranteed under Article 37 of the Constitution, including the right to peaceful assembly and demonstration.

He also announced plans for reforms and training programmes within the National Police Service to enhance professionalism, accountability and respect for constitutional rights during public protests.

The President warned against the misuse of emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence and digital platforms, saying they had increasingly been used to spread misinformation, fuel tensions and manipulate public discourse.

Looking ahead, Ruto said the success of the initiative would ultimately be measured not by the amount of money paid out, but by the reforms implemented to ensure similar tragedies do not recur.

“Today, we affirm that every life matters, every victim deserves recognition, and every Kenyan has the right to exercise their constitutional freedoms without fear,” he said.



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Ebola The area is also under the control of the March 23 Movement (M23) rebel group, whose control over parts of North Kivu and South Kivu

In rebel-held eastern DR Congo, a quieter Ebola front struggles to stay ahead of the virus

BY Xinhua News Agency
@themtkenyatimes

At Lwiro Hospital in South Kivu Province, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the fight against Ebola has narrowed to a ward, a mobile laboratory and a fragile line of surveillance around one of the country's less noticed fronts of the outbreak.

The village of Lwiro, in Kabare territory, lies in the Miti-Murhesa health zone north of Bukavu, the provincial capital of South Kivu. While most attention has focused on Ituri province, the epicenter of the current Ebola outbreak, health workers here say the virus has already forced them into maximum alert. As of June 12, the DRC had reported 710 confirmed cases, including 149 deaths, across Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu provinces, said the DRC health ministry late Saturday. According to the DRC health ministry, three Ebola cases have been confirmed in South Kivu, including one death. Several suspected cases are being monitored at Lwiro Hospital, where the first confirmed case linked to the area was recorded, local sources told Xinhua. "We have already recorded two confirmed cases and two suspected cases," said Rene Mbiye, medical director of Lwiro Hospital. He said six patients were currently under care, including children. "We have a newborn who is almost two weeks old, as well as another child aged one year and three months," Mbiye said. "We are monitoring them closely. They have been separated from their mothers, and we have made a nurse available to take care of them." For doctors in Lwiro, the small number of confirmed cases does not mean the danger is small. The zone sits along important routes linking Bukavu, Kavumu and areas farther north, in a province already weakened by conflict, displacement and limited health services.

The area is also under the control of the March 23 Movement (M23) rebel group, whose control over parts of North Kivu and South Kivu has complicated normal administration, humanitarian access and public health coordination. The World Health Organization (WHO) said



Women make fuel briquettes from charcoal dust in the Kigonze camp for internally displaced people (IDP) on the outskirts of Bunia, Ituri Province, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, June 9, 2026.

on Saturday in its latest disease outbreak update that the Ebola outbreak in the DRC continues to evolve rapidly, with rising case numbers and geographic spread. Although South Kivu accounted for only one affected health zone in that WHO update, the province had already listed more than 200 contacts under follow-up, underscoring the risk of silent transmission in an area far from the main epicenter. WHO has assessed the risk in the DRC as "very high", citing ongoing transmission and the continued expansion of the outbreak into new health zones. It also warned that security incidents affecting health facilities were constraining access, disrupting surveillance and response activities, and increasing the risk of undetected transmission. Those warnings have special resonance in South Kivu.

Earlier this month, an Ebola safe and dignified burial team was attacked in Katana, about 30 km north of Bukavu, in an area controlled by the M23 rebels, according to local media. The team was forced to abandon a coffin, and the body was later handled by community members, a

high-risk practice that can fuel new chains of infection. For Ebola responders, burial practices, contact tracing and early isolation are not technical details. They are the difference between a contained cluster and a spreading outbreak. In Miti-Murhesa health zone, health teams are trying to detect symptoms early, isolate suspected cases and prevent the virus from moving quietly through families, clinics or crowded communities. To shorten the time between suspicion and confirmation, a mobile molecular biology laboratory has been deployed near the outbreak's local epicenter. Inside the mobile unit, laboratory specialists analyze samples taken from suspected cases and people considered at high risk. Results that previously had to wait for samples to be sent to Kinshasa can now be obtained within hours.

Noella Mukana, a medical biologist with the National Institute for Biomedical Research (INRB), said the mobile laboratory is equipped for testing hemorrhagic fevers and includes biosafety level-3 facilities, sample incubation areas, manual ex-

traction units and dedicated workstations for sample processing, analysis and archiving. "We have put in place the necessary means to respond to the situation," Mukana said. "They chose to deploy a mobile laboratory directly at the epicenter of the outbreak. This considerably reduc-

es the time between sample collection, transport and the obtaining of results. It is the best solution." The role of the laboratory has become even more important because Bundi-bugyo Ebola virus disease, the strain responsible for the current outbreak, can initially resemble other common febrile illnesses, including malaria.

WHO says there is currently no approved vaccine or specific treatment for this strain, making rapid detection, isolation, supportive care, contact tracing, safe burials and community engagement central to controlling transmission. The memory of previous Ebola outbreaks remains strong in eastern DRC. But in South Kivu, the current outbreak has arrived in a place already burdened by armed conflict and displacement. The province may not yet have the highest number of cases, but health workers say that is precisely why speed matters. "While attention has focused on Ituri province, which accounts for more than 90 percent of the caseload, we are concerned about the lack of resources and attention given to North Kivu and South Kivu, especially in areas where armed conflict is hampering humanitarian and medical assistance," a staff member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) told Xinhua. As eastern DRC confronts a widening outbreak, South Kivu has become a quieter test of whether Ebola can be stopped before it gains a stronger foothold in a province where conflict, mobility and mistrust already make every delay dangerous.



Children are seen in the Kigonze camp for internally displaced people (IDP) on the outskirts of Bunia, Ituri Province, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, June 9, 2026. | Photo: Xinhua.

Politics As Kenya edges toward the 2027 General Election, citizens are left asking who is truly behind the violence disrupting the nation's political life

The politics of blame and the rise of goons

BY Hadassah Karangu
@themtkenyatimes

As Kenya edges closer to the 2027 General Election, a worrying trend is emerging across the country's political landscape. Scenes of violence, disruption of public gatherings, and attacks by groups commonly referred to as "goons" have become increasingly common. While politicians trade accusations and point fingers at one another, many Kenyans are left asking a simple but important question: who is really behind these groups?

In recent months, incidents involving armed gangs disrupting protests and public meetings have sparked public outrage. Videos circulating online show groups of young men attacking demonstrators, destroying property, and spreading fear among ordinary citizens. Yet despite the public nature of these incidents, answers remain elusive.



Goatism

Political leaders from different sides of the divide have been quick to blame their rivals. One camp accuses the government of sponsoring goons to silence critics, while the other claims opposition politicians are hiring criminals to create chaos and gain political sympathy. The re-

sult is a blame game that generates more heat than light.

For many Kenyans, the situation raises uncomfortable memories of the 2024 anti-government protests. During those demonstrations, arrests were made swiftly, and security agencies appeared capable of identi-

fying suspects within hours. Today, however, investigations into recent acts of violence seem to be moving far more slowly, leading many to question whether justice is being applied equally.

This delay has fuelled public suspicion. Citizens want to know why individuals captured clearly on camera are not being arrested as quickly as expected. They want to know whether powerful interests are shielding some perpetrators from accountability. Most importantly, they want reassurance that the rule of law still applies to everyone, regardless of political affiliation.

Beyond politics lies a deeper problem. Many of the young people accused of taking part in violent activities come from communities struggling with unemployment, poverty, and limited opportunities. Politicians may be exploiting these frustrations, mobilising vulnerable youth for political battles that ultimately do little to improve their lives.

Kenya's leaders must recognise that violence cannot become a normal feature of political competition. The country has paid a heavy price in the past whenever political tensions have been allowed to spiral out of control, and history reminds us that ordinary citizens often suffer most when leaders choose confrontation over dialogue.

As the nation prepares for the 2027 elections, transparency and accountability will be crucial. Security agencies must investigate all acts of political violence without fear or favour, while politicians must stop inciting divisions and instead focus on offering real solutions to the challenges facing citizens. Young people deserve jobs, opportunities, and hope, not recruitment into political gangs.

Kenyans are not merely asking who is to blame. They are asking whether their leaders are truly committed to protecting democracy, justice, and public safety. Until those questions are answered, the politics of blame will continue to overshadow the truth.

The country deserves better. The people deserve answers. And above all, Kenya deserves peace.

US-Iran "This is a step towards stability, but the hard work of peace begins now." — António Guterres, UN Secretary-General.

Washington and Tehran agree ceasefire to de-escalate tensions

BY Norman Mwale
@themtkenyatimes

The United States and Iran have agreed a framework to halt their war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, marking the most significant breakthrough since joint US-Israeli strikes on Iran began in February. US and Iranian officials confirmed on Sunday they had reached the preliminary pact, which provides for an immediate and permanent cessation of military operations on all fronts, including Lebanon. The deal was announced shortly after Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who mediated the talks, said a deal had been struck early on Monday local time.

President Donald Trump wrote on Truth Social at around 5:30 p.m. ET



Illustration

Sunday: "The Deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete". He later said the Strait of Hormuz would open to all shipping on Friday, and that he had ordered the end

of the US naval blockade of Iranian ports, adding "Ships of the World, start your engines. Let the oil flow!". Trump also told reporters the agreement limits enrichment to "nonmili-

tary purposes forever".

The memorandum of understanding is scheduled to be officially signed on Friday 19 June in Geneva, Switzerland. Sharif said the pact called for "the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon". Iran's Supreme National Security Council confirmed war and military operations on all fronts, including Lebanon, would end permanently starting Monday night. Iran's deputy foreign minister Kazem Gharibabadi said a more expansive agreement would be negotiated during a 60-day ceasefire period, including sanctions relief for Iran, while the fate of Tehran's nuclear programme will be addressed in later talks.

Regional and global stakeholders reacted quickly. UN Secretary-General António Guterres welcomed the deal, calling the permanent ceasefire and reopening of the Strait of Hormuz a "critical step" towards ending the conflict. French President Emmanuel Macron praised the agreement and said Paris would support its swift and full implementation, stressing the urgent and uncondi-

tional reopening of the Strait of Hormuz was "essential for regional stability and the global economy". ECB President Christine Lagarde called it "good news", especially as it could lead to a re-opening of the Strait of Hormuz. A joint statement from Britain, France, Germany and Italy said "Iran must never acquire a nuclear weapon" and that they stand ready to work with the US, Iran and the IAEA to this end.

Oil markets responded immediately, with Brent crude falling more than 4% and US West Texas Intermediate sliding 4.6% on hopes that shipping would resume through the waterway that handles about a fifth of global oil and gas supply. The precise terms remain under discussion, and Israel said it was not party to the US-Iran talks. With the signing set for Friday and frontline commanders now under orders to stand down, attention turns to implementation and whether the ceasefire can hold long enough for nuclear negotiations to begin.

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Sports >> **"Fantastic. Great performance. It was solid. We could have scored more. All credit to the players who were fantastic." — Graham Potter, Sweden manager*

Sweden punish Tunisia 5-1 to seize control of Group F



By Norman Mwale

"Fantastic. Great performance. It was solid. We could have scored more. All credit to the players who were fantastic." — Graham Potter, Sweden manager

Sweden announced themselves as serious contenders at World Cup 2026 with a commanding 5-1 victory over Tunisia at Estadio BBVA in Monterrey on Sunday, a result that sent them top of Group F after an attacking masterclass that left the North African side chasing shadows for long periods. The Blue and Yellow struck early and never relinquished control, with Brighton midfielder Yasin Ayari opening the scoring in the 7th minute after a Tunisian clearance fell to him 20 yards out, his first-time strike flashing into the top corner for a goal he muted out of respect for his father's birthplace.

Alexander Isak doubled the advantage in the 30th minute, collecting a pass from Viktor Gyokeres, cutting inside from the left and drilling a low finish into the bottom corner that gave goalkeeper Abdelmouhib Chamakh no chance. Tunisia briefly revived hopes just before half-time when Omar Rekik glanced home a header from Hannibal Mejbri's delivery in the 43rd minute, but any momentum was snuffed out after the break.

Viktor Gyokeres restored Sweden's two-goal cushion 14 minutes into the second half, the Arsenal striker finishing clinically in the 59th minute after dispossessing Ellyes Skhiri on the edge of the area and combining with Isak. Substitute Mattias Svanberg then made it 4-1 in the 84th minute, sweeping home from inside the box just 18 seconds after coming on, a goal initially flagged offside but awarded af-

ter VAR detected a slight touch from Isak that played him on-side. Ayari had the final word deep into stoppage time, hammering a second wonder strike in the 90th minute plus six to complete his brace and seal a rout that was Sweden's biggest World Cup win since 1938. "Sweden powered to a commanding 5-1 victory over Tunisia to move top of Group F," reports confirmed, with Ayari's two long-range goals bookending a performance that also featured goals from Isak, Gyokeres and Svanberg, while Rekik netted Tunisia's consolation.

Sweden manager Graham Potter praised the composure of his side after the final whistle, saying "Fantastic. Great performance. It was solid. We could have scored more. All credit to the players who were fantastic. I thought the boys remained calm after conceding and maintained

a threat, which was important for us." Ayari, whose brace came either side of the game in the 7th and 96th minutes, reflected on the emotional context of scoring against Tunisia, the country of his father's birth, while Isak added that the team's movement and pace caused constant problems. Tunisia manager Sabri Lamouchi was candid in defeat, noting "It's a big loss, obviously. It's not the best way to start this competition, but we paid for our mistakes. The quality of our opponent made the difference. With these kinds of players, simple mistakes are difficult to manage." With three points and a superior goal difference, Sweden now sit atop Group F and will look to press home their advantage in the next round of fixtures, while Tunisia must regroup quickly knowing they were punished for every error against a ruthless Swedish attack.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> **"We came to the U.S. for this, and we came here with ambitions, with high hopes. This shows that our team has acquitted itself well."* — Emerse Fae, Ivory Coast manager

Diallo's 90th-minute strike seals Ivory Coast victory over Ecuador



By Norman Mwale

"We came to the U.S. for this, and we came here with ambitions, with high hopes. This shows that our team has acquitted itself well." — Emerse Fae, Ivory Coast manager

Ivory Coast opened their World Cup 2026 campaign with a dramatic 1-0 victory over Ecuador at Philadelphia Stadium on Sunday, a result secured by Manchester United forward Amad Diallo's clinical finish in the 90th minute that denied a match heading for stalemate. The Elephants, returning to the tournament after a 12-year absence, absorbed pressure and hit the woodwork themselves before substitute Diallo struck, steering a first-time shot from the edge of the box into the far corner after Wilfried Singo's surging run down the right wing. The goal ended Ecuador's 19-

game unbeaten run dating back to September 2024 and gave Ivory Coast three crucial points in a Group E that also features four-times champions Germany.

The match was finely poised for long periods, with both sides spurning clear chances. Ecuador struck the crossbar twice in the first half through John Yeboah in the 23rd minute and Alan Minda shortly after, while Ivory Coast teenager Yan Diomande rattled the woodwork after the break and Elye Wahi also hit the bar. In 33-degree heat the contest became a test of composure, and Diallo provided it with virtually the last kick of regulation time. "Amad Diallo scored a clinical 90th-minute winner to earn his side a 1-0 win over Ecuador," match reports confirmed, and his cool side-footed finish proved enough to hold off late Ecuador pressure in seven minutes of added time.

Manager Emerse Fae praised his young squad's belief after the final whistle, saying "We came to the U.S. for this, and we came here with ambitions, with high hopes. We don't want to just have visited the U.S. and have to go back, so everything is going well for now. We've beaten France. We are starting this competition well against Ecuador, a very tough team, but we managed to come into our own and won the match. This shows that our team has acquitted itself well." Diallo, who had been introduced in place of Bazoumana Toure shortly before the hour mark, reflected on the moment, while Ecuador captain Enner Valencia offered a candid assessment of his side's missed opportunities: "They finished, we didn't. We leave with a defeat, but with our heads up, knowing that this just started, and we've got a whole tournament ahead.

We've got two more matches, so now we need to rest and prepare for those."

With Germany having thrashed debutants Curacao 7-1 in the group's other fixture, Ivory Coast sit second on goal difference and now turn their attention to a daunting clash with the four-times champions in Toronto on Saturday. Ecuador must regroup quickly to face Curacao on the same day, knowing that their defensive solidity in qualifying means little unless they convert chances. For Ivory Coast, the victory is only their fifth at a World Cup and their first since 2014, but more importantly it delivers momentum and belief to a youthful side determined to make this tournament more than a cameo.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



A journey that began with a book



By: Ismigul Samatova
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

Preparing for the competition has always been an adventure for me. Within the pages of seemingly ordinary books, entire worlds unfold. Sometimes I find myself traveling through history; at other times, I witness the deepest emotions of the human heart. One book brings tears to my eyes, another inspires me, while a third teaches me to look at life from a completely different perspective. In my view, this is the greatest achievement of Yosh Kitobxon.

It does not simply encourage young people to read books; it teaches them to live with books. Through this competition, thousands of young men and women have made reading an essential part of their daily lives. Some have dreamed of becoming writers, others scientists or teachers, but all of them are united by one thing: their love for books.



People often say that a single book can change a person's life. I would add that sometimes a competition can leave an unforgettable mark on one's destiny. In Uzbekistan, the "Young Reader" (Yosh Kitobxon) competition is one such initiative. I have been participating in this competition for seven years, and throughout this journey I have come to realize that Yosh Kitobxon is much more than an ordinary contest. It is a meeting place for young people who love books, admire literature, and dream big. Here, winning or losing is not the most important thing. What truly matters are the friendships formed, the books discovered, the ideas exchanged, and, above all, the motivation to keep learning and growing.

Preparing for the competition has always been an adventure for me. Within the pages of seemingly ordinary books, entire worlds unfold. Sometimes I find myself traveling through history; at other times, I witness the deepest emotions of the hu-

man heart. One book brings tears to my eyes, another inspires me, while a third teaches me to look at life from a completely different perspective. In my view, this is the greatest achievement of Yosh Kitobxon.

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Around the world, many countries launch programs to promote reading among young people. What often surprises international observers about Uzbekistan is that outstanding readers can even receive a car as a prize. Yet the true value of such rewards lies not in their material worth. Rather, they symbolize society's deep respect for knowledge, education, and reading. It is as if

the nation is telling its young readers: "Your efforts matter. The books you read are valuable, and your dedication is appreciated." Anyone who has participated in the national stages of the competition can feel the unique atmosphere it creates. Everywhere, young people enthusiastically discuss literature. Some debate the characters of Uzbek classics, while others share insights from world literature. In such an environment, personal growth happens naturally. You learn not only from books but also from the people around you.

Looking back today, I realize that Yosh Kitobxon has given me much more than knowledge. It has taught me patience, discipline, perseverance, and the importance of making the most of my time. Most importantly, it has helped me understand the transformative power of books. Regardless of whether I won or lost, each year the competition gifted me new goals, fresh inspiration, and a deeper appreciation for reading.

For this reason, Yosh Kitobxon is not merely a competition to me. It is like a book whose story is still being written. Every year opens a new chapter, introduces new characters, and gives rise to new dreams. And I firmly believe that a nation that values books and reading will always have a bright future. After all, not every victory is measured by medals or prizes. Some victories live quietly within our hearts, between the pages of books, and in the lives transformed through reading. That, above all, is the true legacy of Yosh Kitobxon.

*Ismigul Samatova
master's student at Karshi State
University, Uzbekistan*