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# The Mt. Kenya Times

Daily ePAPER

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**Gen Z anniversary** Thousands of Kenyans across the nation marked the second anniversary of the historic Gen Z protests

## Kenyans mark Gen Z anniversary amid protests and roadblocks

Two years ago, Kenya's young people did something their parents' generation had only imagined. They breached Parliament. They forced a president to withdraw a finance bill. And dozens of them paid for it with their lives.

Yesterday, the country paused to remember them.

Thousands of Kenyans across the nation marked the second anniversary of the historic Gen Z protests, commemorating those who lost their lives during the June 25, 2024 anti-Finance Bill demonstrations that culminated in the unprecedented storming of Parliament — a moment that reshaped Kenya's political landscape and reverberated far beyond its borders.

The anniversary was observed through peaceful marches, memorial services, candle-lighting ceremonies, moments of silence, and the laying of wreaths in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, and towns across the country.

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Martha Karua and Kalonzo Musyoka among Kenyans marking Gen Z anniversary

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# Gen-Z second anniversary in photos



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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Pupils at Nyomwaru Primary School in Nyando Sub-County are benefiting from improved access to clean water and modern sanitation facilities following the unveiling of a new water and hygiene project. Implemented through a partnership between Kisumu County and Habitat for Humanity Kenya, the initiative has introduced innovative flood-resilient toilet technology and reliable water infrastructure at the school. The project aims to enhance hygiene standards, improve health outcomes, and create a more conducive learning environment. Teachers say the improvements have significantly transformed daily life for learners, particularly in an area frequently affected by flooding and water-related challenges.



Principal Secretary for Livestock Development Jonathan Mueke and Trans Nzoia Woman Representative Lilian Siyoi flagged off five solar-powered milk coolers in Cherangany Constituency, Trans Nzoia County, in a move aimed at boosting dairy farming and reducing post-harvest losses. The cooling facilities are expected to benefit more than 2,700 dairy farmers by preserving over 18,000 litres of milk daily. Mueke said the project will help farmers avoid losses caused by milk spoilage and reduce the need to transport milk over long distances for preservation. The initiative forms part of government efforts to strengthen dairy cooperatives, increase productivity and improve farmers' incomes.



A Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) officer was found dead after an apparent suicide at Honeymoon Camp within Lake Nakuru National Park in Nakuru County. Police said Corporal Leonard Odero, who was on standby duty, allegedly used his assigned rifle to shoot himself inside his residence at the camp. Officers responding to the incident recovered several spent cartridges and a five-page note addressed to his wife and parents. In the note, the officer reportedly expressed regret, listed debts, detailed his property and provided contacts for family members to be notified. The scene was processed by crime scene investigators, and the body was moved to Umash Funeral Home pending a post-mortem examination. Investigations are ongoing.

The Dedan Kimathi Foundation will on Sunday participate in an environmental conservation trip to Oloolua Forest, a section of the larger Ngong Forest Block that stretches from Nairobi to Kajiado County. The event, organized with support from Bandung Africa, will be held under the theme, "Empower the People to Protect the Environment." Organizers say the forest requires urgent conservation efforts due to degradation caused by quarrying, infrastructure development and other human activities, while threats of land grabbing remain a concern. The day-long event will feature tree planting, forest clean-up exercises, hiking and panel discussions on environmental protection. Participants are expected to engage in activities aimed at promoting sustainable conservation and raising awareness about the need to safeguard Kenya's forest ecosystems.



Head of Public Service Felix Koskei held a consultative meeting with professionals from Vihiga County drawn from sectors including education, healthcare, business, transport and agriculture to discuss development priorities and ways of improving livelihoods. Koskei said the engagement provided an opportunity to gather views and practical proposals on accelerating growth in the county. He challenged professionals to play a more active role in promoting visionary, accountable and transformative leadership,



noting that they have a critical responsibility in influencing governance, strengthening institutions and driving sustainable development. He also urged them to champion government programmes such as the Social Health Authority (SHA), the Affordable Housing Programme and subsidised fertiliser initiatives. The meeting was attended by several Principal Secretaries and Emuhaya MP Omboko Milemba.

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has announced the commencement of Enhanced Continuous Voter Registration (ECVR) from yesterday to July 25, 2026, in preparation for upcoming by-elections. The exercise will be conducted in Mbeere North Constituency, Porro Ward in Samburu West Constituency, Endo Ward in Marakwet East Constituency, Emurua Dikirr Constituency and Malava Constituency. Registration services will be available daily, including weekends, at ward-level registration centres, constituency offices, Huduma Centres, institutions of higher learning within the affected areas and the IEBC Customer Experience Centre at Anniversary Towers. Upon completion of the exercise, regular Continuous Voter Registration and voter register revision services will continue at constituency offices during normal working hours on weekdays, excluding public holidays.



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# Gen-Z second anniversary in photos



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# When will families be allowed to mourn in peace?

*As Kenya marked yesterday's anniversary of the June 25 protests, one question continues to echo across homes, churches, and communities*



Families, Activists Lay Wreaths at Parliament as Kenya Marks June 25 Gen Z Protest Anniversary

BY Hadassah Karangu

@themtkenyatimes

For many families, yesterday was not just another date on the calendar. It was a painful reminder of lives cut short, dreams interrupted, and empty chairs at dinner tables — a day that reopened wounds that have not yet had the chance to heal.

As Kenyans gathered to remember those who lost their lives during last year's protests, concerns mounted over arrests, intimidation, and heavy police deployments at memorial gatherings. Many are asking a simple but profound question: should commemorating a lost loved one be treated as a security threat, or as a deeply human moment deserving compassion and respect?

Grief is a universal language. It knows no political party, no tribe, no religion, no social class. A mother mourning her child is not seeking conflict. A father laying flowers at a memorial is not looking for confrontation. Families simply want the freedom to remember, to reflect, and to honour the lives that were taken.

The right to peaceful assembly and remembrance is protected by law and anchored in human dignity. While authorities carry a genuine responsibility to maintain public

order, many citizens believe that responsibility must be balanced with empathy — particularly towards those already carrying the unbearable weight of loss.

Across the country yesterday, candles were lit, prayers offered, and tears quietly shed. Behind every name remembered is a family still searching for answers, for justice, and for closure. Their pain does not fade with the passing of time. If anything, anniversaries often make the absence feel heavier, not lighter.

As Kenya continues its journey towards unity and healing, there is a growing call for dialogue over confrontation, for understanding over force. Many Kenyans hope that future commemorations will be marked not by fear or dawn arrests, but by mutual respect and the quiet dignity that grief deserves.

The memories of those who died deserve to be honoured. Their families deserve space to grieve. And the nation deserves the opportunity to reflect honestly on its recent past while working towards a future where differences are resolved through conversation, not conflict.

The question remains: when will families be allowed to mourn in peace?

For many Kenyans, the answer cannot come soon enough.



PLP leader Martha Karua with other opposition leaders preparing to lay wreaths yesterday.

# Karua leads tribute to Gen Z victims, demands justice

BY MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

People's Liberation Party (PLP) leader and 2027 presidential aspirant Martha Karua yesterday joined families of slain Gen Z protesters, opposition leaders and human rights activists in a peaceful procession through Nairobi to commemorate young Kenyans killed during the June 25, 2024 and 2025 protests.

The march, which culminated in a wreath-laying ceremony at Parliament, brought together Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka, DAP-Kenya leader Eugene Wamalwa, Siaya Governor James Orengo, former Chief Justice David Maraga and activist Boniface Mwangi, among others.

The leaders, alongside families of victims and supporters, laid flowers at the Parliament fence in memory of young protesters who lost their lives while demonstrating for accountability, good governance and economic justice.

Speaking during the commemoration, Karua described the event as both a solemn act of remembrance

and a renewed call for justice for families who lost loved ones during the demonstrations.

"We marched peacefully to honour the memory of the young Kenyans we lost and to stand with their families in their pursuit of justice," she said.

Karua maintained that the youth who participated in the protests were exercising their constitutional rights and should not be treated as enemies of the state.

"The young people who took to the streets were demanding accountability, dignity and opportunity. They were met with bullets instead of dialogue and intimidation instead of leadership," she said.

The former Justice Minister argued that many of the grievances that drove young people to the streets remain unresolved, citing unemployment, corruption, high taxation and what she termed a growing disconnect between government leaders and ordinary citizens.

She accused the Kenya Kwanza administration of responding to civic activism with suppression rather than dialogue, warning against attempts to dismiss the Gen Z movement as a passing political

moment.

According to Karua, June 25 has become a defining chapter in Kenya's democratic history and a reminder of the consequences of failed leadership.

She urged young people to continue participating in civic and democratic processes, drawing parallels between the Gen Z movement and the struggle for multiparty democracy in the 1990s.

"I know this because I walked with the young Turks who fought for democratic freedoms. Today's youth are no different—courageous, determined and ready to lead," she said.

Karua also used the occasion to outline her vision for Kenya, promising that if elected president in 2027, she would prioritize youth empowerment, institutional reforms, accountability and equal opportunities for all citizens.

She concluded by calling for unity, courage and sustained civic engagement, saying the best tribute to those who lost their lives would be building a just, inclusive and accountable nation.

**Gen Z anniversary** Citizens paid tribute online, sharing photographs, messages and memories of those who died during the protests that reshaped Kenya's political landscape

# Kenyans mark Gen Z anniversary amid protests, roadblocks

*Two years after young people stormed Parliament and changed Kenya's political conversation, the nation paused yesterday to remember the fallen — but not without confrontation*

**BY MKT Correspondents**

@themtkenyatimes

Two years ago, Kenya's young people did something their parents' generation had only imagined. They breached Parliament. They forced a president to withdraw a finance bill. And dozens of them paid for it with their lives.

Yesterday, the country paused to remember them.

Thousands of Kenyans across the nation marked the second anniversary of the historic Gen Z protests, commemorating those who lost their lives during the June 25, 2024 anti-Finance Bill demonstrations that culminated in the unprecedented storming of Parliament — a moment that reshaped Kenya's political landscape and reverberated far beyond its borders.

The anniversary was observed through peaceful marches, memorial services, candle-lighting ceremonies, moments of silence, and the laying of wreaths in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, and towns across the country. Citizens also paid tribute online, sharing photographs, personal messages, and memories of those who died during protests that many describe as a generational turning point in Kenya's democratic history.

## Opposition leads commemorations

Leading the commemorations in Nairobi were prominent opposition figures, including Wiper Patriotic Front leader Kalonzo Musyoka, DAP-Kenya leader Eugene Wamalwa, People's Liberation Party leader Martha Karua, and Siaya Governor James Orengo, who joined mourning families and supporters in honouring the victims.

The leaders praised Kenyans who participated in the commemorations despite what they described as organised attempts to intimidate peaceful citizens. In a joint statement, they declared: "Today, I stood with courageous Kenyans in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu and across the nation to mark the historic Gen Z protests anniversary. I salute every patriot who took to the streets, and

every citizen who honoured this day from home."

The opposition went further, alleging that groups deployed to disrupt peaceful demonstrations were operating with direct state backing and under active police protection. "The mask has completely fallen. It is now undeniably evident that the goons unleashed to harass peaceful citizens were state-sponsored, operating under police escort. But intimidation cannot silence a nation," they said.

The government did not immediately respond to those allegations.

## Heavy security, restricted access

Despite repeated assurances from Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen that June 25 would proceed as an ordinary working day, the reality on the ground told a very different story.

In Nairobi, police mounted roadblocks on all major entry points into the city. Key roads leading to Parliament, State House, and other government installations were barricaded with razor wire and guarded by heavily armed security officers. Public service vehicles were prevented from accessing large sections of the Central Business District, forcing thousands of commuters to walk long distances in the morning heat.

Much of the city centre recorded unusually low activity. Businesses remained shuttered, many traders chose to stay away, and residents who ventured out did so cautiously, wary of possible confrontations between protesters and security forces. Similar scenes unfolded in several other towns, where heightened security deployments disrupted transport networks and suppressed normal economic activity for much of the day.

Critics argued that the extensive restrictions directly contradicted the government's public assurances. For many ordinary Kenyans, the closure of roads, disruption of public transport, and the sheer weight of the security presence amounted to an unofficial lockdown — one that left working people unable to earn a living on a day that was supposed to be normal.

Nevertheless, groups of protesters

managed to gather at multiple locations across Nairobi and beyond, carrying Kenyan flags, flowers, candles, and placards bearing the names and photographs of those killed during the 2024 demonstrations. The images were striking — young people in black, holding portraits of peers who never came home.

## Nationwide commemorations

In Nairobi, opposition leaders and families of victims marched towards Parliament to lay wreaths in honour of those who fell during the anti-Finance Bill protests. The ceremony drew hundreds of supporters who observed moments of silence and offered prayers for the dead. For many of the families present, it was their second year of marching without closure — still waiting for answers, still waiting for accountability, still waiting for justice.

Mombasa witnessed sizeable gatherings of young people who marched through sections of the coastal city carrying flowers and placards calling for justice. Many participants dressed in black as a symbol of mourning, while others carried hand-painted portraits of victims. The mood was solemn but resolute.

In Kisumu, although demonstrations remained relatively subdued compared to Nairobi and Mombasa, residents joined the national remembrance through prayer meetings, community gatherings, and coordinated online campaigns honouring the victims. Businesses in parts of the lakeside city also remained closed while security personnel maintained a visible presence throughout the day.

Commemorative activities were also reported in Nakuru, Kisii, Nyeri, Eldoret, Kitengela, and other towns, where citizens held peaceful gatherings, candle-lighting vigils, and memorial events. In several of these towns, young people who had been active in the 2024 movement gathered to reflect on what had been achieved, what had been lost, and what remained undone.

## Online tribute and renewed calls for justice



Kenyans mark Gen Z anniversary amid protests

Across social media platforms, Kenyans shared messages of remembrance throughout the day, describing the Gen Z movement as a defining chapter in the country's democratic history. Many paid tribute to the courage of young people who challenged what they viewed as economic injustice, corruption, and entrenched poor governance — and who did so at tremendous personal cost.

The anniversary also intensified calls for justice over deaths, injuries, and alleged human rights violations linked to the 2024 demonstrations. Human rights organisations, families of victims, and opposition leaders maintained that the fundamental questions surrounding many of the deaths remain entirely unanswered. No senior security official has been charged. No independent inquiry has delivered public findings. For the families of the dead, impunity re-

mains the loudest statement the government continues to make.

As commemorations drew to a close across the country, opposition leaders delivered a final word to those who had hoped the anniversary would pass without notice.

"They tried to bury our youth," they said. "They forgot they were seeds. The struggle for a just Kenya continues."

Two years after protests that captured global attention and forced a sitting president to reverse course, the memory of June 25, 2024 remains deeply embedded in Kenya's national consciousness. The flowers laid yesterday, the candles lit, the names read aloud in town squares and church halls across the country — they are not the gestures of a movement fading from memory.

They are a demand. And they are still waiting for an answer.



**Protests** Today is proof that when demonstrations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of our Constitution, peace and security are guaranteed

# Murkomen hails peaceful demonstrations, says 355 suspects arrested

**BY MKT Correspondent**  
@themtkenyatimes

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen has lauded Kenyans for maintaining peace during demonstrations held across the country yesterday, saying the day was largely calm despite isolated incidents of criminal activity. In a statement updating the country on the security situation, Murkomen said no widespread cases of looting, vandalism, skirmishes or injuries were reported in connection with the demonstrations, describing the development as a sign of growing political maturity and respect for constitutional freedoms.

“Today is proof that when demonstrations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of our Constitution, peace and security are guaranteed,” he said.

The Cabinet Secretary noted that families and friends of victims of previous protests, alongside members of the public, held peaceful processions in Nairobi and Mombasa, while most towns across the country experienced normal business activities.

Murkomen revealed that security agencies had received intelligence indicating that groups of individuals were being transported to Nairobi to disrupt peace and target businesses. In response, authorities mounted security

screening operations along major highways leading into the capital.

He said the measures helped prevent potential chaos and ensured relative calm in Nairobi and its surroundings, although he acknowledged the inconvenience caused to commuters and motorists.

“We regret the inconveniences occasioned by these measures, and at the same time appreciate their effectiveness in securing the city and other parts of the country,” he said.

Despite the generally peaceful atmosphere, Murkomen said a number of individuals attempted to commit crimes under the guise of participating in demonstrations. As a result, police arrested 355



**CS Kipchumba Murkomen**

suspects across several counties.

Nairobi recorded the highest number of arrests at 161, followed by Kajiado with 123 and Kiambu with 36. Additional arrests were reported in Murang’a, Bungoma, Meru, Laikipia and Machakos. The suspects are expected to face charges ranging from robbery and vandalism to road obstruction and attempted theft. The Cabinet Secretary also

reported that Kariti Sub-Location Assistant Chief Anthony Gathungu was injured after being attacked by individuals attempting to erect a barricade in Kandara, Murang’a County. He was treated and discharged in stable condition. Murkomen commended security officers for what he termed professionalism, effective planning and dedication in maintaining law and order throughout the day. He also

praised journalists and media houses that he said reported responsibly on the events.

He urged Kenyans to continue safeguarding peace and stability, noting that all citizens share a common responsibility in securing the country’s future.

“We all have an equal stake in the future of our country; let us guard our peace and stability jealously,” he said.

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**Education** “The quality of governance determines the quality of institutional performance,” said Gaitho at the forum on leadership and governance within universities

# Strategic governance emerges as critical driver for African university success

BY James Wakahiu  
@themtkenyatimes

A strong call for transformative, forward-looking governance in African universities dominated high-level discussions this week as global higher education leaders convened in Lancaster, United Kingdom, for a landmark forum on institutional leadership and performance.

The conference, held under the theme, Governing Councils as Strategic Stewards and Custodians of Institutional Performance, brought together policymakers, university executives, and governance experts to examine how institutions can remain competitive in an increasingly complex global academic landscape.

Delivering a keynote address, Dr. Vincent Gaitho, Chairman, University Council and Pro-Chancellor of Mount Kenya University (MKU), said the future of African universities will be shaped not by infrastructure alone, but by the quality of leadership and governance structures guiding them. “Institutional success is no longer determined solely by academic excellence,” Dr. Gaitho noted. “It is increasingly determined by the quality of governance and leadership,” he added.

He said African universities must overhaul their governance models and embrace strategic leadership if they are to remain competitive, financially sustainable and relevant in an era of artificial intelligence, shrinking funding and rising accountability demands.

“The quality of governance

determines the quality of institutional performance,” said Gaitho at the forum on leadership and governance within universities.

## Shift toward strategic governance

Participants highlighted that universities across Africa are navigating mounting pressures, including rapid technological disruption, reduced traditional funding sources, intensified competition for students and talent, and growing expectations for accountability and societal impact.

Experts at the forum urged governing councils to move beyond routine oversight and embrace a strategic role that shapes institutional direction, resilience, and long-term sustainability.

Central to discussions was the concept of ‘strategic stewardship’—the responsibility of councils to safeguard institutional values and resources while proactively positioning universities to seize emerging opportunities and address potential risks.

The forum outlined key attributes of effective governing councils. Speakers emphasized that governance strength lies not only in who sits on boards, but in the collective capabilities and competencies they bring. Beyond governance structures, the forum underscored the growing importance of cohesive leadership teams. High-performing institutions, participants noted, are guided by leadership that demonstrates shared vision and alignment as well as strong execution capabilities. There is also accountability through measurable

outcomes, innovation-driven thinking and cross-functional collaboration.

“A brilliant strategy poorly implemented remains just a document,” Dr. Gaitho remarked, underscoring the need for disciplined execution.

He challenged university leaders to rethink the role of governing councils. “Are our governing councils merely supervising universities, or are they actively shaping their future?” he posed, adding that universities should shift from compliance-focused governance to value-creating governance and from short-term decision-making to long-term sustainability.

“If African universities are to become globally competitive, financially sustainable, innovative and transformative institutions, then governing councils must embrace their role as strategic stewards and leadership teams must embrace their responsibility as drivers of institutional performance,” he said.

“Good governance creates confidence. Good leadership creates results. Together, governance and leadership create enduring institutions,” he added.

The presentation also highlighted the growing importance of digital governance, with universities increasingly required to address artificial intelligence, cyber security, data governance and digital transformation. Dr. Gaitho said African universities face a critical moment as AI reshapes learning and work, while traditional funding models become less reliable.

“Traditional funding models are under pressure,” he said,



**From left: Martin Kimemia, Vice-Chancellor of Mount Kigali University; DR Innocent Mugisha, Council Chairman of the Mount Kigali University, Dr Vincent Gaitho, Council Chairman and pro-chancellor of the Mount Kenya University; and Mr. Timothy T. Nganga, Council Member of Mount Kigali University, during the Leadership and Governance Conference in the United Kingdom. The conference brought together higher education leaders to discuss governance, leadership, and international collaboration in higher education. | Photo: Courtesy**

urging universities to pursue diversified revenue streams, endowments, research commercialisation and stronger industry partnerships. He further challenged institutions to prepare graduates for future jobs, entrepreneurship and innovation-driven economies, noting that Africa possesses the world’s youngest population.

His remarks come as universities across Africa grapple with funding constraints, rapid technological changes, growing competition for students and increasing pressure from governments, regulators, industry and communities to demonstrate impact.

A recurring theme was the importance of clearly defined roles and trust between governing councils and management teams. Governance failures, participants cautioned, often stem from blurred responsibilities, lack of transparency, and adversarial relationships. “The council governs, management manages—but both must lead,” one speaker observed.

The forum identified critical pillars for building resilient and high-performing universities. Participants also called for universities to prepare for emerging challenges such as artificial intelligence gover-

nance, financial sustainability, global competition, and environmental and social responsibility. Africa’s youthful population was highlighted as a key opportunity, with universities urged to equip graduates with skills for innovation, entrepreneurship, and the future workforce.

On the sidelines of the conference, MKU reaffirmed its commitment to international collaboration through strengthened ties with the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) and its sister institution, Mount Kigali University (MKUR), Rwanda.

The trilateral engagement explored expanded cooperation in joint academic programmes, faculty and student exchange initiatives, collaborative research and innovation as well as governance and leadership capacity building.

MKU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Deogratius Jaganyi and Council Chairman, Dr Vincent Gaitho, led the Kenyan delegation, while Dr Martin Kimemia, Vice-Chancellor of Mount Kigali University, headed the Rwandese team. Others are Thomas Nganga, MKU Council Member; Dr. Innocent Mugisha, Chairman of Council, MKU Rwanda.

“Our continued partnership reflects a shared vision

to internationalise education, expand opportunities for students, and strengthen cross-border research,” Dr. Gaitho said.

Prof. Jaganyi said the MKU delegation’s participation in the UK conference further strengthened the institution’s long-standing partnership with the University of the West of Scotland (UWS), particularly through the Centre for African Research on Enterprise and Economic Development (Careed).

Prof John Struthers, a professor and director of Careed at UWS Scotland is MKU’s Chancellor. That’s why the collaboration has been strong since 2015. In 2022, the Kenyan and Scotland universities agreed that MKU would become a “delivery hub” for UWS courses. MKU offers compressed, affordable UWS bachelor’s programs on a twinning basis. You study in Kenya at MKU, graduate with a UWS Scotland degree.

“Our engagement in such international forums reflects MKU’s commitment to advancing global academic linkages and contributing to Africa’s development agenda

**Protests** I sincerely thank my dear sons and daughters — the GenZs — for heeding my plea to avoid death and injury - Gachagua

# Gachagua hails youth for staying home

*Former deputy president claims foiled Sh200m state plot lay behind the quiet streets*

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyaintimes

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday congratulated Kenya's Gen Z movement for heeding his call to stay away from anniversary demonstrations, claiming their restraint foiled a government-sponsored plot to unleash violence on protesters marking two years since the historic June 25, 2024 protests.

In a statement posted on his X handle, Gachagua alleged that Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen had authorised the withdrawal of Sh200 million to fund organised gangs tasked with attacking demonstrators and destroying property. He said the intelligence reached him through patriotic civil servants and police officers operating from within the state itself — information he used to advise Kenyans to stay home. The government had not responded to the allegations at the time of going to press.



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

"I sincerely thank my dear sons and daughters — the GenZs — for heeding my plea to avoid death and injury. They had planned to harm you in a big magnitude today," Gachagua wrote.

The streets of Nairobi and several other towns were notably quieter than anticipated. Large sections of the Central Business District remained shuttered, public transport

was heavily disrupted by police roadblocks, and many residents stayed indoors throughout the day.

Gachagua also extended thanks to traders and business communities across the country for closing their premises and securing their neighbourhoods, arguing the precaution denied the alleged gangs their intended targets. He acknowledged with evident bitterness that private

citizens had been compelled to hire their own security to protect their livelihoods from what he characterised as a state-backed threat.

He drew a firm distinction between police officers who exercised restraint and those who, he alleged, attempted arbitrary arrests and excessive force. He publicly thanked security personnel who passed him advance warning of the alleged plot while warning others against following unlawful orders. "This is your country," he wrote. "We know you are suffering too, just like the 55 million other Kenyans."

The former deputy president used the occasion to revisit what he described as a pattern of state violence across three successive years — lives lost on June 25, 2024, during the June 2025 protests, and during the 7/7 Day demonstrations — each time, he alleged, at the hands of police bullets and state-sponsored gangs. He spoke directly to bereaved families, promising they would not be forgotten.

"To the families who lost their loved

ones and to Kenyans whose property and livelihoods were destroyed, we shall never forget what they did to us," he wrote.

Framing yesterday's quiet streets as a political statement rather than public apathy, Gachagua declared that the nation's restraint amounted to a vote of no confidence in the Ruto administration. He urged Kenyans to channel their energy into voter registration ahead of the August 2027 general election, which he described as Kenya's date with destiny.

"Tactical retreat is not surrender but strategy," he told the Gen Z movement. "Caution is not cowardice but wisdom."

Since his controversial impeachment in October 2024 — which he has consistently described as unconstitutional — Gachagua has reinvented himself as a vocal opposition figure with a growing following among younger Kenyans. Yesterday's statement was consistent with that repositioning: direct, combative, and aimed squarely at a generation whose political energy he is openly courting.

For the families still waiting for justice over deaths dating back to 2024, the politics matter less than the silence that surrounds their loss. Their questions remain unanswered. And Gachagua, for one, is determined that nobody forgets it.

**Education** "The quality of governance determines the quality of institutional performance," said Gaitho at the forum on leadership and governance within universities

## Strategic governance emerges as critical driver for African university success

Contd from page 11

through research-driven solutions," Prof Jaganyi said, adding that the partnership with UWS has also supported capacity building, innovation and staff development, while enhancing MKU's visibility in global academic networks.

The conference reinforced the importance of integrating African universities into the global knowledge economy while maintaining strong regional collaboration.

MKU's partnership with Mount Ki-

gali University—anchored in joint programmes and student exchanges—was highlighted as a model for cross-border education in East Africa, now strengthened through global linkages with institutions such as UWS.

In closing, participants issued a call for bold governance reforms across African universities, including transitioning from administrative oversight to strategic governance and shifting from compliance-focused models to value-driven leadership. "Good governance creates confidence. Good leadership creates results. Together, they create enduring

institutions," Dr. Gaitho concluded.

As African universities seek to enhance their global competitiveness and relevance, the message from Lancaster was clear: governance and leadership are no longer optional—they are the defining pillars of institutional success.



Prof. Stephanie Pitticas, Principal in charge of Transnational Education Program in UWS (centre) flanked by MKU VC Prof. Deo Jaganyi (left) and Pro-Chancellor Dr. Vincent Gaitho during a visit of MKU team to University of West of Scotland. | Photo: Courtesy

**EACC** Investigators found that despite a reduction in the number of security guards deployed under the contract, payments continued to be made at the full contract rate

# Security firm director arraigned over Sh5.4 million procurement fraud case

**BY Elizabeth Angira**

@themtkenyatimes

The Managing Director of Gimo Security and Investigation Service Limited, Gilbert Momanyi, has been released on a cash bail of Sh1 million or, in the alternative, a bond of Sh2 million with two sureties of a similar amount after being charged with procurement fraud involving Sh5.4 million.

Momanyi was arrested by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) following investigations into the award and execution of a security services contract.

Investigations established that Gimo Security and Investigation Service Limited was awarded a contract to provide security services at a cost of Sh257,000 per month for two financial years, amounting to

Sh5,448,000.

However, investigators found that despite a reduction in the number of security guards deployed under the contract, payments continued to be made at the full contract rate.

The EACC further established that a Tax Compliance Certificate submitted by the company during the tendering process was allegedly falsified and did not originate from the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) system.

Appearing before Principal Magistrate Ada Mildred Obura at the Kisii Law Courts, Momanyi was charged with three counts, including fraudulently obtaining a tender for the provision of security services by submitting a false Tax Compliance Certificate, thereby influencing the award of the contract in favour of his company.

He also faces charges of making a

false document contrary to Section 353 of the Penal Code and unlawful acquisition of public property.

Momanyi pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

“My client has a constitutional right to bond or cash bail, and I pray that this court grants him reasonable bond terms,” defence counsel Gideon Nyambati told the court.

The court released Momanyi on a cash bail of Sh1 million or a bond of Sh2 million with two sureties of a similar amount. He was also ordered to deposit his passport with the court pending the hearing and determination of the case.

The matter will be mentioned on July 6, 2026, for directions.



**Managing Director of Gimo Security and Investigation Service Limited, Gilbert Momanyi before Kisii Law Courts Over allegations of Sh5.4 Million Procurement Fraud | Photo: Elizabeth Angira**

# The Mt. Kenya Times



## Live your life for yourself, not for others



You choose what is good for you.

Even if the path is narrow or broad,  
Choose your own path.  
When you feel it is not right,  
Just say a big "No".

Don't worry about others' criticism.  
You were not born to live for others' happiness.  
Live your life for yourself, not for others.

Brinda. D  
Teacher, Creative writers  
GHS Melpattampakkam  
Cuddalore  
Tamilnadu, India

Your mind should be happy,  
Your soul should be happy.  
Your happiness should not depend on others.

It is your life and only yours  
Don't spoil your future for others.  
Don't let others give opinions for you.

## Everyone will ignore my efforts, but Highlight my mistakes



mistakes.

Everyone wants to see others mistakes with the lenses  
and their mistakes with closed eyes.

Broad minded people only see the positives of others  
Not as narrow minded people.

Rajesh Kanna B N

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

Appreciation is a key to success in everyone's life.  
Everyone expects the appreciation and the  
consoling hearts.

No one can see their back but they can see others  
easily.  
Finding mistakes in others is an easier job than  
theirs.

If we are in red eye glasses, everything looks as  
red.  
With the dirty minds,, only we see others

## The secret of joy



A little gruel to the backyard cow at that,  
Leave grains and water for birds above,  
And feed the ants and squirrels with love.

A glass of water for vendors weary,  
A kindly word when days seem dreary,  
The Gita, Bible, and Quran agree,  
The giving heart is truly free.

Love calms the mind and lights the way,  
Its blessings grow with every day,  
The secret of happiness, simple and true,  
Give joy to others, and it returns to you.  
Nandini AnandKumar  
Educator, Writer,Motivator Freelancer  
(In Service of Education)

We search for happiness far and wide,  
Yet often miss what waits beside,  
For joy is not in what we take,  
But in the love and care we make.

Give milk and fish to the mewing cat,

## The window seat



The wind whispers a happy song,  
Making every trip feel strong.  
Life is like a window seat,  
With happy moments, kind and sweet.  
Sometimes sunshine, sometimes rain,  
But hope will always smile again.

Some are rich and some are poor,  
Yet dreams can open every door.  
A loving heart is the greatest treasure,  
Sharing kindness brings true pleasure.  
So never worry, never fear,  
Keep your hopes and dreams sincere.  
Look outside and you will see,  
The world is full of beauty and glee.

- R. Dharani, IX A  
GGHSS, Pattukkottai

The window seat is my favourite place,  
It fills my heart with joy and grace.  
On a bus, a train, or in the sky,  
I watch the clouds and birds fly by.  
The trees and rivers rush away,  
Painting pictures every day.

## The last tree on earth



A gift of nature, kind and rare.  
People learned to love and care,  
And planted trees everywhere.  
The last tree smiled with hope and cheer,  
A better future was now near.

S. Yasir shihan  
VII STD  
government high school  
sakkarakkottai

The last tree stood so tall and bright,  
Under the sun's warm golden light.  
The birds came near and sang a song,  
Wishing the green world would come along.  
The tree gave shade and fresh clean air,

## Live your life for yourself



I celebrate my favourite festivals,  
With dear orphan soulmates happily.  
I travel to far off places alone,  
Enjoying the gifts of nature freely.

My hobbies shake hands with me,  
Whenever I feel bored or weary.  
I hate people who hate me,  
I love persons who love me.

I often watch my favourite movies,  
Every fortnight with delight.  
My life is mine,  
I live for myself,  
Only for myself and not for others.

If I have lived so, I'll care,  
For my loved ones with joy.  
Making them happy in all aspects,  
As they expect me to do so.  
Live your life more for you,  
And a little more for others too!

— V.R. Vijayalakshmi, Graduate Teacher, CW  
Writers Group, Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu,  
India

My life is mine,  
I live for me.

I intake tastiest cuisine for joy,  
I hear melodious music for my soul.

I dress neatly and colourfully,  
Unto my taste and cheerful mood.  
I spend my valuable time with friends,  
My dear ones stay with me ever.

I play my favourable games often,  
My authentic spots await me forever.  
I've chosen my passionate profession,  
To earn with pride and purpose.

## The Pencil Is a Good Angel



They draw something new and colour it.  
It brings happiness to them because they create  
something special. Their imagination spreads its  
wings. Slowly, they learn to write.

Their early scribbles turn into beautiful  
handwriting.  
The pencil is a blessing for children. Really, it is  
not just a pencil;  
it is a good angel.

G. YasminSirajudheen  
Secondary grade teacher  
Melmalayanur block  
Villupuram dt.

A pencil is an angel. It creates miracles. Children  
are like shining stars, and the pencil is the first  
learning tool for them.  
It fits in their little fingers and works like magic.

**Health** WHO uses the Global Benchmarking Tool to assess national regulatory systems, ranking countries from Maturity Level 1 to Maturity Level 4

# Kenya targets WHO maturity Level 3 status to boost drug safety

BY DMS  
@themkenyaintimes



Health CS Adan Duale addressing the conference | Photo: Courtesy.

Kenya has intensified efforts to attain the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT) Maturity Level 3 (ML3) status by December, a move expected to strengthen pharmaceutical regulation, improve the quality and safety of medical products, boost local manufacturing, and enhance access to essential medicines and vaccines.

The Ministry of Health, through the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), is spearheading reforms aimed at achieving the globally recognized regulatory standard and positioning Kenya among a select group of African countries with advanced medical product regulatory systems.

WHO uses the Global Benchmarking Tool to assess

national regulatory systems, ranking countries from Maturity Level 1 to Maturity Level 4. Kenya currently holds ML2 status, which reflects an evolving regulatory system. Attaining ML3 would signify a stable, well-functioning and integrated regulatory framework capable of effectively overseeing the safety, quality and efficacy of medical products.

Only nine African countries have attained ML3 status so

far: Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Rwanda and Ethiopia. No African country has achieved ML4 status.

Speaking during the 46th Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya (PSK) Annual Scientific Conference in Mombasa, Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale reaffirmed the government's commitment to achieving the milestone by the end of next year.

Duale said attaining ML3

status is a strategic national objective that will strengthen confidence in Kenya's regulatory systems, facilitate regional and international market access, support innovation and position the country as a pharmaceutical manufacturing hub in Africa.

He emphasized the need to uphold professional standards, eliminate quackery and ensure only qualified healthcare professionals perform duties assigned to them by law.

"We must ensure that fake, substandard and falsified medicines have absolutely no place within our supply chains. Patient safety must always remain non-negotiable," he said.

The Cabinet Secretary noted that the COVID-19 pandemic exposed vulnerabilities associated with excessive reliance on imported medicines and health technologies, underscoring the need for local production.

To address the challenge, the Ministry recently launched the Health Products and Technologies Local Manufacturing Strategy, a roadmap designed to support more than 30 pharmaceutical, vaccine, biopharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers. The initiative aims to reduce dependence on imports, create jobs, stimulate research and innovation, strengthen industrial capacity and improve access to essential medicines.

As part of broader reforms, the Ministry of Health, PPB and the Digital Health Agency will roll out three national digital platforms across the pharmaceutical sector from July 1, 2026. These include the National Track and Trace System, Practice 360 and Facility 360.

The platforms are intended to improve supply chain visibility, enhance accountability, combat counterfeit medicines and strengthen compliance with health regulations. All pharmaceutical professionals, manufacturers, importers, distributors, wholesalers, pharmacies, chemists and healthcare facilities handling pharmaceutical products will be required to register and comply with the systems.

In addition, stakeholders will be expected to adopt GS1 Global Standards for product identification, serialization and traceability, and report pharmaceutical transactions through national logistics and tracking systems.

Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya President Dr. Wairimu Njuki welcomed the reforms, saying Kenya has significant potential to expand local pharmaceutical manufacturing if supported by an enabling policy and regulatory environment.

She said the society fully supports Kenya's journey towards WHO ML3 status, describing it as a demonstration of the country's commitment to ensuring the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines and health products available to its citizens.

PPB Chairperson Dr. John Munyu also urged pharmaceutical professionals to uphold ethical standards and support efforts to eliminate unqualified practitioners from the sector, saying stronger collaboration will enhance public confidence in the profession and contribute to the achievement of the WHO benchmark.



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**Peace** The gathering also provided a platform for the delivery of a keynote address on peace, unity, national healing and development

# Peace Ambassadors convene in Nairobi, call for unity, national healing and development

*Dozens of leaders gathered at Lutheran Church, Nairobi for strategic peace and development meeting*



GUPD founder Amb. Eugene Kavune Nzabonimba (sitted, 4th from left) with other peace ambassadors in a group photo after Wednesday's event. | Photo: Courtesy.



communication structures to ensure successful implementation of organizational programs and activities. The event concluded with a special national prayer for Kenya, during which participants sought God's guidance, protection and blessings upon the nation.

**BY DMS**

@themtkenyatimes

Religious leaders, Peace Ambassadors, coordinators and development stakeholders gathered at the Lutheran Church in Nairobi for a leadership meeting aimed at strengthening peace initiatives, organizational coordination and preparations for upcoming national and international programs.

The meeting, organized on Wednesday by the Office of the Supreme Global President of the Global Union for Peace and Development (GUPD), brought together leaders from various levels of the organization to discuss registration, leadership structures, humanitarian programs and preparations for the International Leadership and Peace Conference scheduled for September 16-18, 2026.

The gathering also provided a platform for the delivery of a keynote address on peace, unity, national healing and development by GUPD founder and CEO Amb. Eugene Kavune Nzabonimba.

Addressing participants, Nzabonimba thanked Peace Ambassadors, church leaders,

humanitarian organizations and development partners for their commitment to promoting peace, reconciliation, justice and human dignity.

He described Kenya as a nation richly blessed with hard-working citizens, talented youth, cultural diversity and vast development potential.

However, he noted that the country continues to face challenges such as unemployment, economic hardships, insecurity, social inequalities and political differences.

Despite these challenges, he urged Kenyans to remain hopeful and united, stressing that peace remains the foundation of national development.

"Without peace there can be no development. Without unity there can be no stability. Without justice there can be no lasting harmony," he said.

The peace leader called upon citizens to reject violence, tribalism, corruption, hatred and discrimination while embracing reconciliation, patriotism, integrity, accountability and servant leadership.

He further encouraged young people to become agents of positive change by utilizing their education, creativity and innovation to transform soci-

ety.


Women were praised for their contribution to families, communities and institutions, while religious leaders were urged to continue serving as instruments of reconciliation and moral guidance.

During the leadership meeting, participants reviewed the ongoing registration and affiliation exercise for Peace Ambassadors and discussed measures aimed at strengthening leadership coordination at county, regional, national and international levels.

The agenda included reports on humanitarian and social justice programs, missionary and outreach activities, financial and administrative coordination, partnership opportunities and mobilization strategies across Kenya's 47 counties.

Leaders also deliberated on preparations for the forthcoming International Leadership and Peace Conference, which is expected to bring together delegates and peace advocates from different regions to discuss peacebuilding, development and humanitarian cooperation.

Organizers emphasized the importance of accountability, discipline and effective

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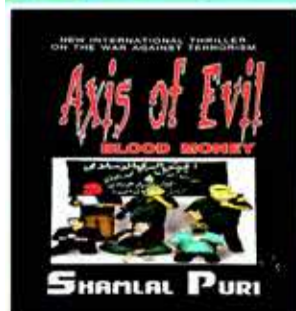
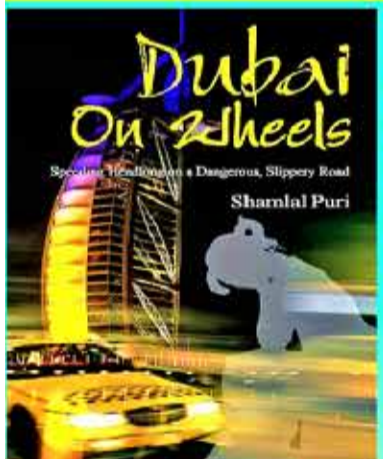
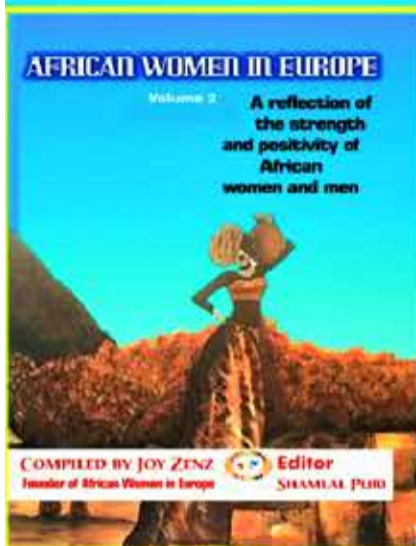
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**Education** From Kampala to Nairobi, Dar to Kigali — degrees hang on walls while hunger teaches new lessons in the streets

# Brokers of desperation: when East Africa's educated youth learn to con



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza  
mukphix@gmail.com

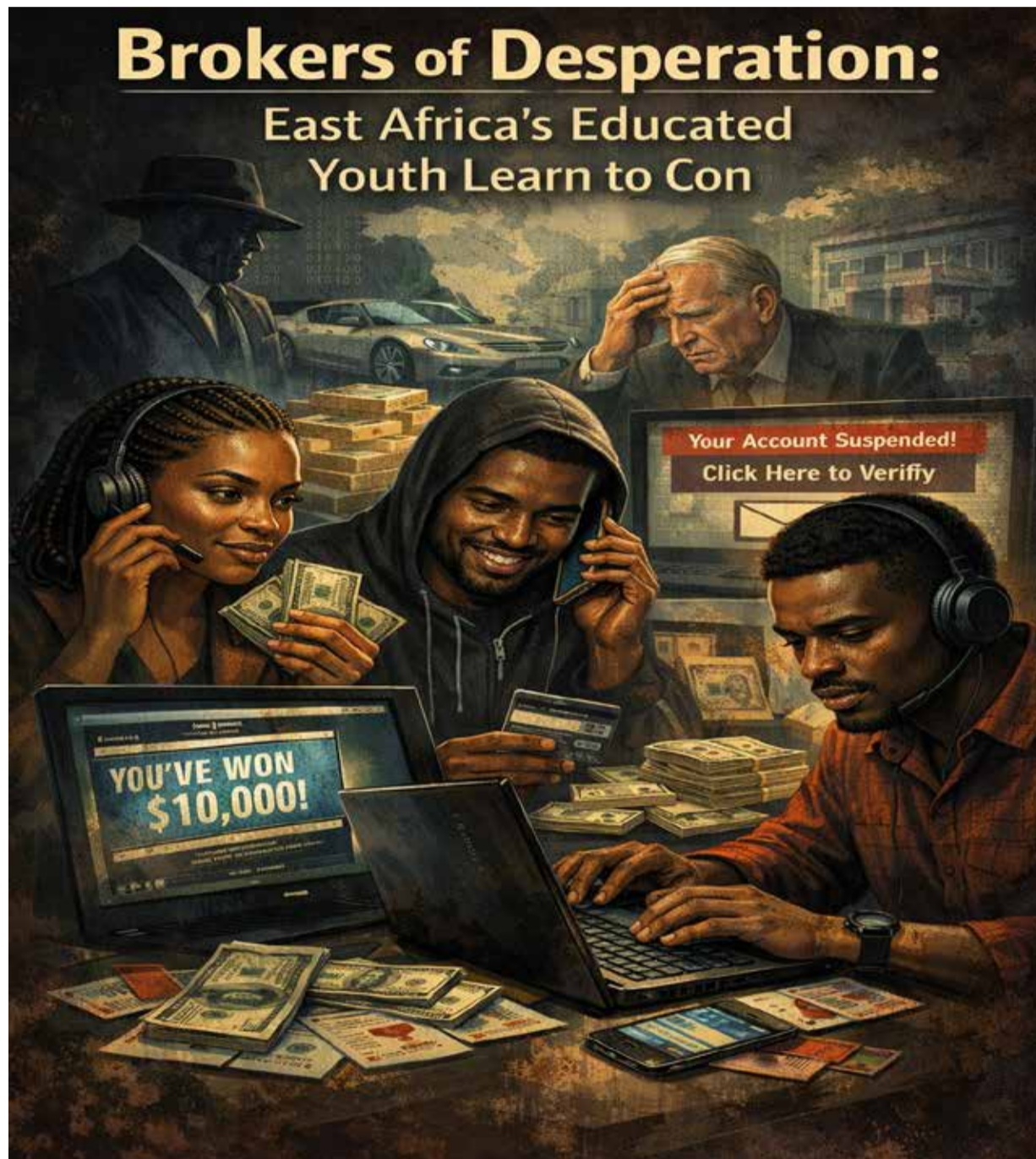
Walk through Kampala at 11 a.m. and you will see them outside the NSSF towers — second-hand blazers pressed, phones held tight against their ears. “I have a connection inside. Bring the money, we fast-track your benefits.” Their English is clean. Their confidence is borrowed. Their eyes carry the exhaustion of a graduate who sent out 200 applications and received 200 silences in return.

Take the same walk in Nairobi — at the bus stage in Gikomba or outside the Huduma Centres. Young men with certificates tucked in plastic sleeves weave through crowds. “Madam, KRA clearance? I know a guy at Times Tower. Five thousand and it is sorted today.” They speak like consultants. They smile like salesmen. But that tremor in the voice is not skill — it is hunger pretending to be hustle.

Cross into Dar es Salaam and watch the young men near Kariakoo Market and NMB branches. “Mkuu, your NIDA registration is stuck? Let me call my cousin at immigration.” They are 24, 26, holding degrees in business and IT. They have learned to read people the way they once read textbooks — spotting a tired father, a desperate trader, an elderly woman counting pension money within seconds, and knowing precisely which lie will sound like relief.

In Kigali it is quieter, but the story is the same. Near Nyabugogo Park and the government offices, young men in polished shoes approach visitors. “I can help get that tender document processed faster.” Their French and English are sharp. Their hands are clean. But they are selling access they do not have, because unemployment left them with nothing else to sell.

Across East Africa today, the majority of young people are out of work. And the pain is identical in every city. It is the pain of waking up with a degree in one hand and rent overdue in the other. It is watching your mother in Jinja sell her last bunch of



matooke to buy you mobile data for job applications, only for the bundles to expire with zero replies. It is graduating with first-class honours in Eldoret and ending up sweeping a shop for 300 shillings a day while your younger siblings ask you for school fees.

The world told them education was the key. Nobody told them the key would not fit any door in Kampala, Nairobi, Dar, Kigali, Bujumbura, or Juba.

So they adapt. Because survival is louder than pride.

They become professional deceivers — not with guns at first, but with words. They learn to wear authority they never earned. In Kampala they call themselves “NSSF brokers.” In Nairobi they are “KRA agents.” In Dar they are “NIDA fixers.” In Ki-

gali they are “RDB consultants.” Different names, same script.

This is how the con is born. A young man spends three years waiting. He watches his father sell land in western Uganda to pay his tuition. He watches his sister drop out so he can finish. Then the landlord knocks. The hospital rings about his mother’s bill. The job market says it will call him. So he walks to the city centre and learns the language of opportunity. He studies desperation the way he once studied chemistry.

He stands near banks in Nakuru and tells a farmer her loan can be approved today for a facilitation fee. He sits outside government offices in Dodoma and tells a boda-boda rider he knows someone who can remove penalties from a licence. He approaches tourists in Arusha and

promises work permits that will never come. He writes fake receipts with the same hands that once wrote essays on integrity. He calculates fear the way he once calculated statistics.

At night, when the city quietens, the mask falls. A young man in Mombasa once told me: “Every time I take someone’s money, I see my mother’s face. She sold her sewing machine for my campus fees. I feel like I am stealing from her too.” A young woman in Kampala whispered: “I used to pray before exams. Now I pray the police do not catch me before I make enough for my brother’s fees.” These are not monsters. They are wounded young people wearing the mask of conmen because the streets left them no other mask to put on.

We built a system across East Af-

rica that told an entire generation to study hard, that their future was secure. Then we removed the future and called it economic adjustment. We produced graduates who are overqualified for manual work and under-qualified for the few jobs that remain. We told them to be patient while their rent, their medical bills, and their ageing parents were anything but.

So now the cities are full of educated swindlers — not because they love crime, but because crime was the only employer that answered. They learned the streets of Kampala’s Owino, Nairobi’s River Road, Dar’s Kariakoo, and Kigali’s downtown the way they once learned lecture halls. They learned to lie the way they once learned to lead. And every time they succeed, a small part of them dies. Every time an elderly woman in Kisumu loses her pension savings, a child who once wanted to be a doctor is buried a little deeper.

This is not only their tragedy. It is ours. A region that turns its brightest minds into brokers of deceit will one day find no one left to build, to heal, to teach. We are raising a generation that is clever but not good, smart but not safe.

We must sit with this pain before we can heal it. Stop labelling these young people lazy and start asking what happened to the jobs that were promised from Kampala to Kigali. Stop arresting desperation and start creating opportunity. No young man in Gulu or Eldoret wakes up deciding to become a conman. He becomes one after 47 rejections, after the landlord knocks, after his mother cries quietly in the kitchen.

To every young person reading this across East Africa: I see you. I see the shame you swallow each day. I see the genius being wasted on fake deals. Your education was not a mistake. Your dreams were not foolish. The system failed you — not the other way around.

And to every parent, leader, employer, and policymaker from Kampala to Dar es Salaam: these are not thieves yet. They are warnings. Alarm bells ringing in every city centre. If we do not answer them with jobs, skills, mentorship, and genuine investment, East Africa will keep producing brokers instead of builders.

The youth are not lost. They are abandoned. And until we bring them back to the table, our cities will keep bleeding — one fake deal, one broken promise, one shattered dream at a time.

Because when unemployment wins, we all lose. And when dignity dies in the young, a nation buries its future while it is still breathing.

**Disability** Members also expressed concerns over what they described as persistent invisibility of disability considerations in the planning

# One year of Jiamini Disability Network: A quiet revolution seeking recognition, inclusion, justice and empowerment



BY Fredrick Chelimo  
@themkenyatimes

On Saturday, 20th June, 2026, Jiamini Disability Network Community Based Organization marked one year since its formation. One year after its formation, Jiamini reached an important milestone - not merely to celebrate survival but to reflect on a year defined by determination, advocacy and a persistent demand for dignity and equal opportunity for persons with disabilities.

The anniversary gathering brought together members from different backgrounds and disability categories in what became more than a commemorative event. It evolved into a forum of truth, accountability and renewed hope. Members received updates from the management committee of the organization registrations progress, activities undertaken during the first year, achievements realized despite limited resources and the shared strategic direction envisioned for the future.

Yet beneath atmosphere of appreciation and solidarity emerged a recurring and painful reality: many persons with disabilities continue to feel unseen, unheard and structurally excluded from opportunities and public services that should belong equally to all citizens. This is not only a reflection of what is prevalent in Tembelio ward, Moiben sub-County in Uasin Gishu County, but a Kenyan reflection on status of disability inclusion.

Among the strongest concerns raised was the continued difficulty in accessing Inua Jamii support programmes and other social protection initiatives. Members narrated experiences of prolonged



Members of the Jiamini Disability During the first AGM & Anniversary

waiting periods, unclear eligibility pathways, inconsistent information and barriers that often leave vulnerable households excluded from safety nets designed to protect them. For many families living with disabilities, these programmes are not optional assistance—they represent access to food, medication, education and survival and a stipend that enables or alleviates disability challenges. The Senate Bill proposal for a stipend of Kenya shillings ten thousand and later deleted by National Assembly, could be a serious relieve to persons with disabilities.

Members also expressed concerns over what they described as persistent invisibility of disability considerations in the planning and delivery of critical public services. During public resource distribution, emergency intervention, empowerment programmes and county-level development initiatives, disability often appears to remain an afterthought rather than embedded principle. This is more visible in the structural design of public participa-

tions and design of disability related representation from village level to national level. Accessibility challenges were cited as another daily struggle. Physical infrastructure, communication systems, service points, transport environments and public participation forums continue to exclude many persons with disabilities either directly or indirectly. Members questioned how inclusion can be spoken of nationally while practical barriers continue to deny equal participation locally. Particularly concerning was frustration surrounding employment and economic empowerment.

Members observed what they perceive as a glaring underrepresentation of persons with disabilities in county recruitment opportunities, public appointments, economic empowerment programmes, healthcare access mechanisms and development initiatives. Despite existing legal and constitutional commitments to inclusion, many members expressed concern that disability quotas and inclusion policies are either weakly im-

plemented or not adequately monitored. Participants challenged leaders and institutions to move beyond symbolic recognition and specifically parliament, not only to enact laws, but to ensure implementation of the said laws.

They noted with concern that disability issues frequently receive attention only during commemorative days, campaigns periods, or donor-funded events, while sustained investment and structural reforms remain limited. Several members questioned why invitations extended to leaders and political actors on disability matters often attract low engagement despite repeated calls for dialogue. A sentiment repeatedly voiced during the gathering was the discomfort with societal attitudes that continue to reduce persons with disabilities to recipients of charity rather than recognize them as citizens, professionals, entrepreneurs, innovators, taxpayers, voters, and contributors to national development.

Members rejected narratives that portray disability communities as perpetual bene-

ficiaries without influence. They affirmed that persons with disabilities constitute organized constituencies with voices, aspirations, expertise, and democratic power. The measure of inclusion, they argued, should not be determined by sympathy but by policy decisions, budget allocations, recruitment outcomes, accessible infrastructure and measurable participation.

At the same time, the gathering was not defined by criticism alone. Members acknowledge and appreciated the efforts undertaken by the management committee during the organization first year. They expressed confidence in the leadership and reaffirmed their support for the committee under the stewardship of its chairperson, recognizing the progress made in registration processes, stakeholder engagement, mobilization and establishing a foundation for future growth. Members encouraged the leadership to maintain momentum and accelerate efforts towards resource mobilization and establishing founda-

tion for future growth.

Priority areas identified included fundraising for capacity building, vocational and entrepreneurship programmes, educational scholarships, leadership development, economic empowerment, disability-responsive innovation, psychosocial support and broader inclusion initiatives. The anniversary concluded with a collective appeal directed to National government, County governments, national institutions, development partners, regulators, legislators, political leaders and private sector actors.

The call was simple but profound: disability inclusion must move from policy language into a lived reality.

A society should not be judged by how loudly it speaks about inclusion, but by whether a child with disability can access education without barriers whether a graduate can compete fairly for employment, whether a family can access healthcare with dignity and whether citizens with disabilities are represented where decisions are made and whether the funding for disability inclusion really provides realistic inclusion to the intended beneficiaries.

As Jiamini Disability Network enters its second year its message is becoming clearer: persons with disabilities are not asking for favor; they are demanding equal access, equal recognition, equal opportunity and equal citizenship. We remain committed to soldiering on the journey based on the principles and conviction of our organization and in the hope that one day, one time, our society will hear and act on our collective request.

Mr. Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo PWD  
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US Few analysts expect a fundamental rupture in U.S.-Israel relations as Israel still relies heavily on U.S. military assistance and diplomatic support

# As U.S. seeks Iran deal, Israel tests limits of alliance

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themkenyatimes

U.S. Air Force refueling aircraft remain parked at Ben-Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv, occupying space and resources and complicating the airport's return to normal operations. The sight is a reminder of close military cooperation between the United States and Israel. Yet it also reflects a growing reality: the two allies no longer appear to share the same vision for dealing with Iran. As Washington seeks to shift from confrontation with Tehran to diplomacy, Israel has increasingly positioned itself as the principal regional skeptic and, at times, a potential spoiler.

## Different endgames

Lebanon has emerged as a key sticking point. While Iran's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva has said any renewed attack against Lebanon would cross Tehran's "red line" and urged Washington to use its leverage on Israel, Israel has vowed to maintain its military presence and freedom of action in southern Lebanon. The competing positions have turned Lebanon into an important front in the bargaining between Washington and Tehran. For decades, many Israelis believed the United States would ultimately stand firmly alongside Israel on Iran. The recent U.S.-Iran memorandum of understanding has challenged that assumption.

Eyal Zisser, vice rector of Tel Aviv University and an expert on Middle East affairs, told Xinhua that Washington's priorities are preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, securing maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz and avoiding another regional war. Israel, however, sees the Iranian threat in much broader terms. "For Israel, the issue is not only the nuclear program," Zisser said. "It is also Iran's ballistic missiles, drone capabilities and its network of regional proxies." For many in Israel's strategic community, their concern is not only the U.S.-Iran agreement, but the message it sends: Washington is prepared to manage Iran rather than



US warship

defeat it.

## Growing frictions

The differing approaches have exposed new tensions in one of the world's closest alliances. The Jerusalem Post noted that many Israelis fear a U.S.-Iran rapprochement could weaken American deterrence against Tehran and give Iran time and resources to rebuild its regional influence.

The emerging framework has also turned Lebanon into a new fault line. While mediators are seeking arrangements to reduce tensions along the Israel-Lebanon border and create conditions for further U.S.-Iran negotiations, Israeli leaders have made clear they are not prepared to scale back military operations unless their security demands are met. In a joint statement on Monday, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, De-

“**The differing approaches have exposed new tensions in one of the world's closest alliances. The Jerusalem Post noted that many Israelis fear a U.S.-Iran rapprochement could weaken American deterrence against Tehran and give Iran time and resources to rebuild its regional influence.**”

fense Minister Israel Katz and military chief Eyal Zamir said the Israel Defense Forces would continue to act against threats in southern Lebanon, demolish militant infrastructure and maintain the security zone established there. U.S. officials have tried to hold the diplomatic tracks together. A State Department official said the Israel-Lebanon talks in Washington were aimed at advancing “a comprehensive peace and security agreement” between the two countries. The official said the shared goal was to “end the cycle of violence for good” and enable Israel and Lebanon to negotiate as sovereign states.

Still, concerns are more pronounced within Israel's ruling coalition. Far-right ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich -- key pillars of Netanyahu's government -- have signaled strong opposition to any arrangement that would require Israel

to withdraw from southern Lebanon or fully align itself with Trump's regional agenda. Former Mossad official and Iran expert Sima Shine believes Lebanon could become the next major source of friction. “The United States wants to lower tensions and create conditions for further diplomacy with Iran,” she said. “Israel wants to preserve military pressure and prevent Hezbollah from recovering.”

## Strained alliance

Few analysts expect a fundamental rupture in U.S.-Israel relations as Israel still relies heavily on U.S. military assistance and diplomatic support, while Washington continues to regard Israel as a key regional partner.

Trump has emphasized that the United States and Israel have a strong relationship, but he has also shown frustration. He said last week he was “not happy” with the way Israel had handled Lebanon and Hezbollah, arguing that the fighting risked casting “a negative light” on the U.S.-Iran agreement. Experts also believe Israel is unlikely to launch another full-scale war on its own. The Israeli society is showing signs of fatigue after prolonged conflicts, and the government must consider mounting economic and social pressures. Analysts predict Israel will likely adopt a strategy of limited confrontation: publicly maintaining support for Washington while continuing to exert pressure on Iran and its allies through airstrikes, intelligence operations and military deployments. Yet this approach carries risks. The inclusion of Lebanon in the U.S.-Iran diplomatic agenda means any renewed Israeli operation there could complicate negotiations and undermine efforts to stabilize the region.

The debate surrounding the U.S.-Iran negotiations has revealed a deeper shift. The United States appears to be moving from a strategy of defeating Iran to one of managing it, and from unconditional alignment with Israeli preferences toward balancing broader regional interests. For many Israelis, that strategic signal may prove more consequential than the agreement itself. The U.S.-Israel alliance is unlikely to break apart. But as the two countries pursue increasingly different priorities on Iran, Lebanon and regional security, managing their differences may become just as important as preserving their partnership.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## State of development graft

By Joyleen Jepkoech

Twelve years of audits, charges, and damning reports — and yet the money keeps vanishing.

Since the devolution of power in 2013, the Office of the Auditor General and the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission have consistently exposed massive financial leakages, systematic mismanagement, and entrenched corruption across Kenya's 47 county governments. The findings are not occasional — they are relentless.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has charged multiple sitting and former governors, County Executive Committee Members, and chief officers with misappropriating billions of shillings through embezzlement and procurement fraud. Cases are filed. Headlines are written. And then, far too often, nothing happens.

The Office of the Controller of Budget has repeatedly flagged



counties for inflating project costs and processing payments without proper authorisation — what amounts to budgeted corruption hiding in plain sight within approved expenditure lines. Meanwhile, files continue to pile up in the DPP's office, awaiting prosecution that rarely arrives with the urgency the public deserves.

Devolution was sold to Kenyans as the promise of development delivered closer to the people. Instead, it has in too

many cases become a decentralised system for looting public resources, with accountability lagging years — sometimes forever — behind the offence.

The institutions exist. The evidence exists. What remains absent is the political will to prosecute swiftly, consistently, and without fear or favour.

Kenya cannot build a country on foundations that are quietly being stolen.

## The power of a voice: reflections on yesterday's protests

By Phenny Esther Ombija

Yesterday, Kenyans did not just march. They spoke — and the country would do well to listen.

Across the nation, thousands took to the streets not simply to vent frustration, but to demand accountability, transparency, and a future that works for ordinary people. Whatever one's view on the causes or the outcomes, that underlying message deserves serious engagement, not dismissal.

Too often, protests are remembered for their imagery — the crowds, the placards, the chants — rather than the legitimate grievances driving them. Yesterday's demonstrations reflected the hopes, fears, and aspirations of a generation that refuses to be governed without being heard. That is not a threat to democracy. It is democracy in action.

The test of a mature nation is not whether its citizens protest,



but how its leaders respond when they do. A society grows stronger when those in power choose dialogue over deflection and solutions over silence. It weakens when voices raised peacefully are either ignored or met with force.

The energy on the streets yesterday must not dissipate with the evening crowd. It must translate into meaningful conversations — in parliament, in county assemblies, in boardrooms, and in communities

— about the kind of Kenya this generation is determined to build.

Citizens spoke yesterday with clarity and conviction. The only question that now matters is whether their leaders were truly listening.

## Gen Z memorial protests held across Kenya

By Alex Muthui

Two years after security forces opened fire on unarmed protesters, Kenyans took to the streets yesterday to ensure the dead are not forgotten.

Thousands joined memorial demonstrations across the country to mark the second anniversary of the June 25, 2024 anti-government protests, in which dozens of people were killed following demonstrations against a controversial finance bill. In Nairobi, police erected roadblocks on major routes into the Central Business District as mourners and activists gathered to honour the victims and demand justice for their families. Several businesses in the city remained closed amid heightened security concerns.

Demonstrators carried flowers and placards bearing the names and photographs of those who lost their lives. Human rights



organisations renewed calls for accountability, compensation, and meaningful engagement with affected families who say they are still waiting for answers.

Security deployments were heavy across Nairobi and other towns. Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen said authorities would protect peaceful protesters but warned firmly against violence or destruction of property. The demonstrations were largely peaceful, though isolated con-

frontations between protesters and police were reported in some areas.

The annual commemoration has become a defining fixture in Kenya's civic calendar — a moment when the country is forced to reckon with questions about police conduct, impunity, and the cost of dissent that remain unanswered two years on. Flowers were laid. Names were read aloud. And the families of the dead are still waiting.

## Mental health concerns rise among Kenyan university students

By Mercy Kanini

Kenya's university students are in crisis, and the lecture halls are too quiet about it.

Across campuses nationwide, mental health challenges are mounting at a pace that counselling services — where they exist at all — are wholly unprepared to meet. Academic pressure, financial hardship, and a deeply uncertain job market are converging on a generation already stretched to its limits. Many students are not coping. They are simply enduring.

The warning signs are not new. Counsellors and education stakeholders have for years called for greater investment in campus mental health services and awareness programmes. Yet the response

from university administrations and government has remained largely inadequate — a poster here, a single overworked counsellor there, and an institutional culture that still treats struggling students as a discipline problem rather than a human one.

The financial dimension cannot be ignored. Many Kenyan university students support not just themselves but contribute to their families while studying. When the Higher Education Loans Board disbursement is delayed, when part-time work dries up, when rent is due — the psychological toll is real, immediate, and compounding.

A student who cannot think clearly cannot learn. A graduate broken by years of unaddressed mental suffering



cannot build a nation. Kenya cannot afford to lose a generation to preventable psychological collapse.

Universities must stop treating mental health as a welfare footnote and start treating it as an academic emergency.

SPORTS  
NEWSPHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
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SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS

Sports &gt;&gt; \*Vinícius Júnior's first-half brace and a Matheus Cunha strike seal Group C top spot for Ancelotti's side in Miami

## Brazil overpower Scotland in commanding 3-0 victory



By Norman Mwale

Scotland's World Cup hopes were dealt a severe blow at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens on Wednesday as Brazil delivered a composed and clinical 3-0 victory, a performance built on pace, defensive fragility from the Scots, and the irresistible quality of Vinícius Júnior. The Seleção struck inside seven minutes when Rayan's pressing forced a Scott McKenna turnover deep in Scotland's half, and Vinícius was quickest to react, finishing coolly to give Brazil the lead. Scotland, disciplined in patches but undone by their own errors, found Brazil's tempo difficult to live with as the half wore on.

The tie was effectively settled before the interval. In first-half stoppage time, Cunha intercept-

ed a poor pass out from the back, Bruno Guimarães delivered a precise cross to the far post, and Vinícius — unmarked and clinical — headed home to make it 2-0. The double strike made Vinícius only the fifth Brazilian to score in each of his side's three group stage matches at a World Cup, joining Jairzinho, Romário, Ronaldo and Rivaldo — on each of those occasions, Brazil lifted the trophy. The scoreline was completed in the 60th minute when Guimarães dispossessed Kenny McLean in midfield and Cunha, given space and time in a fractured Scottish defence, eased home Brazil's third. Neymar, returning to the international stage for the first time in three years, came on as a second-half substitute to warm applause.

Scotland manager Steve Clarke

did not hide his frustration afterwards. "We made it difficult for ourselves," he said. "We gave them the goals and gave them the game they wanted." His initial interview was cut short when he walked away in evident anger at his side's defensive lapses. Captain Andy Robertson struck a similarly downcast tone. "In certain moments, we let ourselves down tonight," he said. "Against these teams, we cannot afford to make the mistakes we were making."

For Brazil, the performance only reinforced their credentials as one of the tournament's most dangerous sides. Under Carlo Ancelotti, the Seleção have rediscovered their attacking identity, and Vinícius — who scored just six goals in 39 appearances under previous coaches — has

now netted seven times in 13 games since the Italian took charge. Scotland, who entered the group stage for the first time since 1998, now face an agonising wait to discover whether their three points are sufficient to advance as one of the eight best third-placed teams. Their goal difference of minus-three leaves the outcome in other hands.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*Atlas Lions twice come from behind in a breathless six-goal contest at Atlanta to advance as Group C runners-up

## Morocco survive Haiti thriller 4-2 to seal last-32 place



By Norman Mwale

Morocco twice came from behind in a breathless six-goal thriller to beat Haiti 4-2 at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta on Wednesday, securing their passage to the World Cup last 32 as Group C runners-up. The Atlas Lions were stunned in the 10th minute when Lenny Joseph backheeled a Jean-Kévin Duverne cross into the net, the ball deflecting off goalkeeper Yassine Bounou and credited as an own goal. Morocco responded with intent and levelled in the 39th minute when Bilal El Khannouss' deflected shot fell to Achraf Hakimi, who turned in the rebound on the line to make it 1-1. Haiti refused to yield and surged back in front four minutes later through Wilson Isidor, who picked out the top-left corner with a stunning 25-yard drive in the 43rd minute. Parity was

restored in first-half stoppage time when Ismael Saibari swept Hakimi's cutback into the bottom-left corner to leave it 2-2 at the break.

The second half belonged to Morocco's bench. Substitute Soufiane Rahimi provided the decisive moment, his effort deflecting into the top corner in the 78th minute to edge Morocco ahead for the first time at 3-2. Gessime Yassine then wrapped up the victory in clinical fashion in the 89th minute, making it 4-2 and sealing a contest that will live long in the memory of the 68,239 inside the stadium.

Coach Mohamed Ouahbi praised his side's resilience after what had been a genuine scare. "We were looking for first spot in the group, but Haiti had nothing to lose and played a good transition game, so it was not an easy match," Ouahbi said. "It was a game where we put up very

good statistics and created many chances. I am very happy with all the players. Morocco has entered a whole new dimension, and we actually need to believe we can take the title. The players believe in it, the same for the staff."

Captain Hakimi, who both scored and assisted on the night, said the comeback reflected the character running through this squad. "We conceded early but we did not panic," he said. "We know our quality and we showed character to respond twice in the first half. The substitutes made the difference and that is the strength of this team."

Haiti manager Sébastien Migné was disappointed not to earn a first World Cup point but proud of his players' courage throughout. "I'm disappointed from a result standpoint, but I didn't feel as though the boys gave up," Migné said. "Even after the third goal I was worried we would

collapse, yet they kept fighting. They represented their country right. We showed we were worthy of this qualification." Haiti captain Johny Placide, playing his final international, produced a string of saves — including a sensational double stop in the first half — before departing to warm applause in the 79th minute.

Morocco finish Group C on seven points, behind Brazil on goal difference, and face the Group F winners at Estadio BBVA in Monterrey on Monday 29 June. Haiti exit without a point but with their first World Cup goals in 52 years and a performance that proved, emphatically, that they belong on the global stage.

# SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
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BREAKING NEWS



# SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



# Investiture ceremony and book release mark landmark day at New John Dewey Matric High School

*Young poets, new student leaders, and dedicated teachers celebrated in a ceremony that captured the school's spirit of creativity and excellence*

By: MKT Reporter

@themkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

- The morning opened with the Tamil Thai Vazhthu, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries. Students then performed a smartly synchronised march past before the central business of the day got under way.
- The newly elected Student Council for 2026-27 was formally invested with its duties and responsibilities. The Principal administered the oath to the Head Girl, Head Boy, School Pupil Leader, Assistant SPL, House Captains, Vice Captains, Prefects, Scouts Captain, Guide Captain, and Bunnies Captain. Badges and sashes were conferred by the Chief Guest, with the young leaders pledging to uphold discipline, service, and integrity, and to serve as role models for their peers.

New John Dewey Matric High School marked a memorable milestone on Tuesday when it brought together three significant occasions under one roof — the Investiture Ceremony for 2026-27, the release of the school's first student poetry anthology, and a felicitation programme honouring academic achievers and dedicated teachers.

Held on the school campus from 10 a.m., the event drew together students, staff, parents, and distinguished guests in an atmosphere described by attendees as one of genuine pride and celebration.

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The newly elected Student Council for 2026-27 was formally invested with its duties and responsibilities. The Principal administered the oath to the Head Girl, Head Boy, School Pupil Leader, Assistant SPL, House Captains, Vice Captains, Prefects, Scouts Captain, Guide Captain, and Bunnies Captain. Badges and sashes were conferred by the Chief Guest, with the young leaders pledging to uphold discipline, service, and integrity, and to serve as role models for their peers.

The undisputed highlight of the day, however, was the release of The Little Laureates of New John Dewey School — the school's first student poetry anthology. Compiled from original poems written by students from Grades 8 to 10, the collection reflects the imagination, emotion, and keen observation of its young authors. The Chief Guest formally released the book, with the first copy received by Guest of Honour Mrs D. Brinda, teacher and creative writer at GHS Melpattampakkam, who warmly praised the school's commitment to nurturing young creative voices. The moment drew sustained applause from the audience.

The ceremony's Chief Guest, Mr

Rajasekar, Special Inspector of Traffic Police, delivered an address that resonated strongly with the student body. He urged the young leaders to grow into responsible citizens, stressing the importance of discipline, cyber safety, and drug-free living.

Mrs Brinda, in her address, honoured Correspondent Mr Veeradhas and Senior Principal Mrs Valentina Lesley for their role in driving the literary initiative. Drawing on her own experience as a writer, she encouraged students to read widely and express themselves fearlessly, sharing practical tips on poetry writing with the young laureates in the audience.

Class toppers and subject toppers from the 2025-26 Annual Examinations were honoured with certificates, while teachers who achieved 100 per cent results were felicitated with cash rewards by the management — a gesture that visibly moved the faculty in attendance.

Students added colour and warmth to the proceedings with a welcome dance, welcome song, and the school anthem. Head Girl Lakshana delivered the welcome address, while Head Boy Lokeshwaran proposed a vote of thanks, expressing the school's gratitude to the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, management, teachers, and parents for making the day a success. The programme concluded with the National Anthem.

The Investiture Ceremony was far more than a badge-giving occasion. It was a celebration of leadership, creativity, and the belief that every child has a voice worth hearing. In honouring students and teachers together, the school reaffirmed its guiding ethos: Together We Learn, Together We Grow.

