



**African innovators showcase breakthrough accessibility solutions at Inclusive Africa Conference 2026**

The Inclusive Africa Conference 2026 brought together leading innovators, policymakers, technology companies, and disability advocates in Nairobi to spotlight African-led solutions addressing accessibility challenges **Page 11**



**Green Belt Movement concerned over plans to excise Uhuru and Central Parks for Highway expansion**

The Green Belt Movement (GBM) has sounded the alarm over reports that portions of Nairobi's iconic Uhuru Park and Central Park **Page 12**

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# **The Mt. Kenya Times** Daily ePAPER

**Politics** "The protection of public health is a constitutional obligation and a matter of national security," the coalition said

## **Opposition rejects Finance Bill, demands Ebola answers**

Kenya's opposition coalition, operating under the banner of the United Alternative Government (UAG), has launched a sharp attack on President William Ruto's administration over its handling of reported Ebola-related arrangements, the proposed Finance Bill 2026, and preparations for the forthcoming Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election.

In a statement issued after a meeting of coalition leaders, the opposition accused the government of secrecy, economic mismanagement, and undermining democratic processes, while positioning itself as a credible alternative ahead of future electoral contests. The coalition demanded the immediate release of all agreements, protocols, and commitments related to reported Ebola programmes and facilities, arguing that the government's handling of the matter has created unnecessary public anxiety. **Page 9**



*United opposition leaders on Tuesday.*

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# Kenya seeks stronger technical education partnerships following Mudavadi's Korea visit

BY MKT REPORTER

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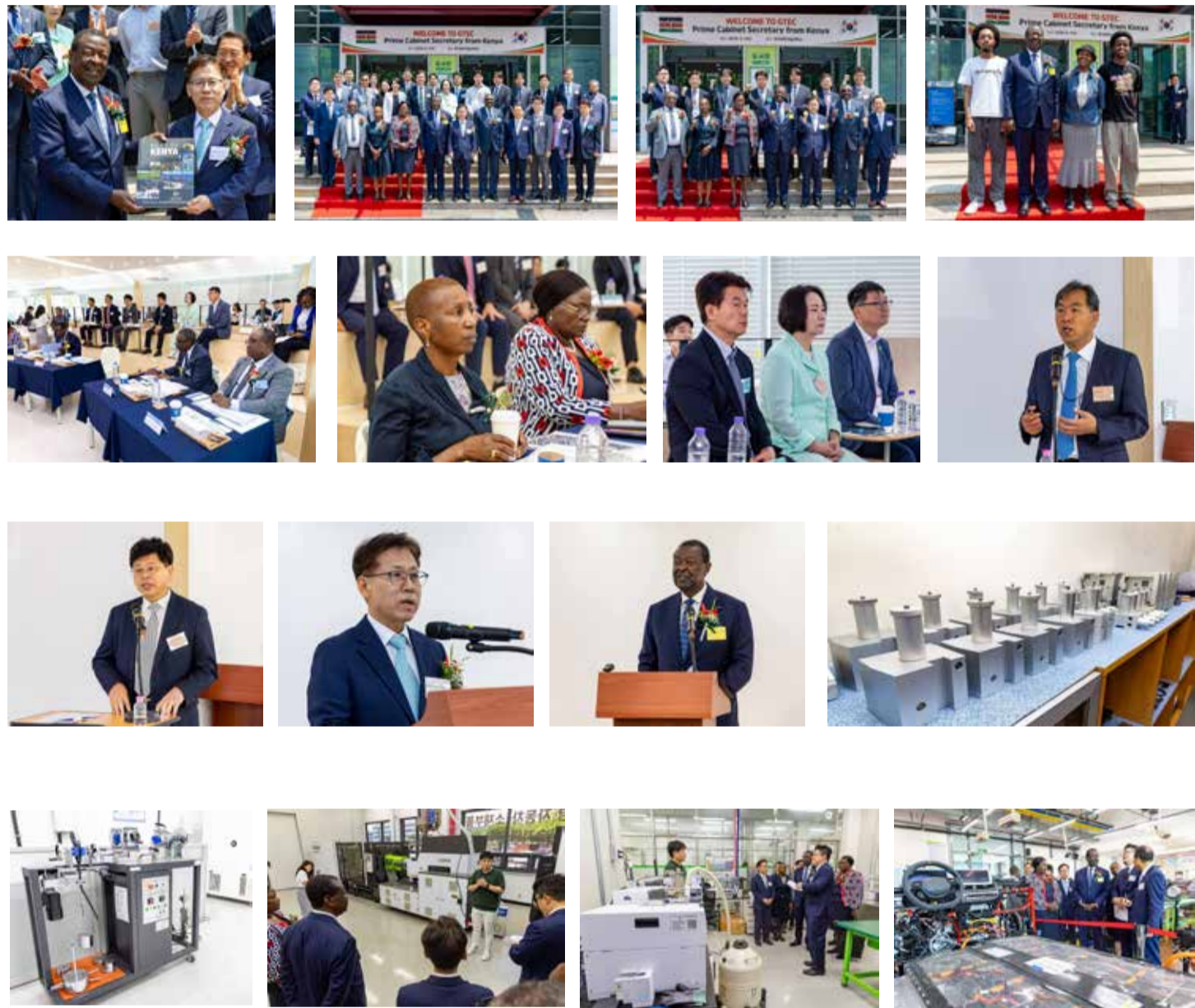
*Some of the moments as captured in pictures*

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi yesterday concluded his official visit to the Republic of Korea with a tour of the Gyeonggi University of Science and Technology (GTEC) in Siheung City, describing the institution as a leading centre for engineering and applied technical education that has significantly contributed to South Korea's industrial growth.

Mudavadi noted that the university's advanced workshops and laboratories reflect Kenya's own aspirations to strengthen technical and vocational education and training (TVET) as a cornerstone for economic transformation, innovation, and industrial development. He emphasized that such institutions play a critical role not only in education but also in producing skilled professionals who drive national progress.

He highlighted that partnerships with institutions like GTEC are essential in shaping the next generation of Kenyan engineers, technicians, and innovators. According to him, Kenya is actively modernizing its TVET system and deepening linkages between training institutions and industry to better align skills development with market needs. Mudavadi expressed encouragement over the growing collaboration between GTEC and Kenyan institutions and welcomed opportunities to expand cooperation through student exchange programs, faculty partnerships, joint research initiatives, and technology transfer.

He reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to learning from South Korea's successful model of integrating education, skills training, and industrial advancement, noting that such cooperation would support Kenya's long-term development goals.



Editor's Desk




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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company (NYEWASCO) yesterday held its 2026 Stakeholders' Conference, bringing together representatives from various stakeholder groups, the Board of Directors, management, and staff to discuss the company's performance, governance, and future direction. The event featured remarks from Board Chairman CPA Gathogo Mwangi and a presentation by Managing Director Eng. Peter G. Kahuthu on the company's achievements and outlook. MCA Frederick Kinyua also addressed participants, highlighting the importance of collaboration in improving water and sanitation services across Nyeri County. The conference provided a platform for constructive dialogue, stakeholder feedback, and the exchange of ideas aimed at strengthening service delivery and community impact. NYEWASCO expressed appreciation to all participants for their contributions and reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable, efficient, and customer-focused services.



The Narok Magistrate's Court has ordered a mental assessment for David Matunke Mayone, an aspirant for the Narok South parliamentary seat who is facing a murder charge linked to the ongoing Maji Moto land dispute. Appearing before Principal Magistrate Esther Mwikali, Mayone was directed to undergo the examination before taking a plea. The case will be mentioned on June 4, 2026, when the assessment report is expected to be presented, and he will remain in custody until then. Mayone is accused of killing Koinet Sankale on May 19, 2026, in Narosora, Osupuko Location, Narok South. Tension erupted outside the court after the hearing as supporters protested his detention, prompting police intervention to restore order following clashes with demonstrators.



Passengers enjoy a sojourn train trip through the newly revived Nairobi-Gilgil-Ol Kalou-Nyahururu railway route, which has been dormant for the last 46 years, with the Kenya Railways Corporation banking on the route to facilitate the movement of cargo, farm produce and passengers. The Corporation has offered affordable transport fare, especially for passengers who will enjoy the scenic view of the agricultural-rich regions.



Nyeri gubernatorial aspirant Eng. Wangai Ndirangu yesterday attended the Kieni East Farmers Field Day at Ngazi SACCO, where farmers, agricultural stakeholders, and community members discussed key issues affecting the agricultural sector. The discussions centered on dairy farming, horticulture, fodder production, and animal feeds, with participants highlighting the need for stronger support systems, improved market access, and enhanced value addition to boost productivity and incomes. Eng. Wangai stressed the

importance of directly engaging with farmers to better understand their needs, noting that agriculture remains a major driver of livelihoods and economic growth in Nyeri County. The event provided a platform for sharing ideas and exploring practical solutions to strengthen the sector and support rural development. Several other leaders aspiring various political seats also graced the event.



The government, through the Kenya Copyright Board (KECOBO), is reviewing Kenya's copyright laws to address emerging challenges in the digital environment. Speaking in Siaya, KECOBO Deputy Executive Director for Training and Research, Sharon Chahale Wata, said the Kenya Copyright Bill (Amendment), 2026 seeks to align intellectual property protection with the 2010 Constitution and strengthen safeguards for creatives against exploitation. The bill, currently under public participation, also aims to enhance protection in online spaces and expand the mandate of the copyright tribunal. KECOBO urged Kenyans to submit views on the proposed law and reaffirmed its commitment to enforcing copyright protections. Participants welcomed the initiative, citing its role in protecting creative works, supporting innovation, and promoting opportunities within the creative economy.

A total of 40 officers from Nyeri County's Inspectorate Department have graduated after completing a 20-day Initial Enforce Course (IEC) aimed at enhancing their professional skills and effectiveness in public service. The trainees comprised 34 constables and six inspectors who underwent training at the Wambugu Agricultural Training Center through a partnership between the Nyeri County Government and the Nairobi Inspectorate Training School. Speaking during the graduation ceremony, Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga emphasized the importance of continuous training to equip officers with skills needed to address evolving challenges. He expressed confidence that the graduates would apply their knowledge to improve law enforcement, public order, service delivery, and the enforcement of county laws across Nyeri County.



The National Assembly's Administration and National Security Committee has pledged to support efforts to improve security on Lake Victoria following longstanding complaints of harassment of Kenyan fishermen by security officers from neighboring countries. During a meeting with security stakeholders in Homa Bay County, committee members led by Chair Joseph Kahangara acknowledged concerns over fishermen being detained, tortured, fined, and losing their catch and fishing gear during cross-border incidents. The committee promised to push for increased funding in the 2026/27 budget to enhance lake security through the deployment of more Kenya Coast Guard officers, acquisition of patrol boats, and provision of necessary equipment. Members also pledged to address shortages of police vehicles and other operational challenges affecting security and public service delivery in the region.

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**NYOTA** The World Bank-supported NYOTA project is a five-year initiative aimed at empowering vulnerable

# Government assures NYOTA beneficiaries of second grant

BY DMS

@themkenyatimes

The Government has assured beneficiaries of the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) project that the second tranche of business start-up grants will be disbursed by June 30, 2026, following delays caused by budgetary adjustments.

Speaking during a press briefing in Nairobi on Tuesday, Principal Secretary for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development Susan Mang'eni confirmed that all eligible beneficiaries across the country would receive the funds simultaneously before the close of the current financial year.

Mang'eni explained that unlike the first phase, where grant disbursements were released in clusters, the second tranche would be issued to all qualified beneficiaries at the same time. She assured participants that the government had put measures in place to ensure the funds are released before the June 30 deadline.

The World Bank-supported NYOTA project is a five-year initiative aimed at empowering vulnerable and marginalized youth through entrepreneurship training, mentorship, apprenticeship opportunities, job placement, business support and access to markets. The programme, which began in March 2025,



PS Susan Mang'eni addressing journalists as other officials look on.

attracted nearly two million applicants under its Business Support Component, reflecting strong interest among young people seeking entrepreneurial opportunities.

According to the PS, 122,147 youths from all 1,450 wards nationwide successfully completed entrepreneurial aptitude assessments and business development training. Each beneficiary received an initial grant of Sh25,000, while Sh3,000 was deposited into the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) as savings.

She noted that monitoring and evaluation conducted after the first disbursement revealed encouraging results, with more than 99 per cent of beneficiaries having already established businesses. Findings from mentorship sessions and follow-up business development training indicat-

ed that most participants had put the start-up capital to productive use.

Mang'eni attributed the delay in the second disbursement to changes made to the project's implementation model. Initially, beneficiaries were to be enrolled in three separate cohorts. However, following interventions by President William Ruto and the World Bank, the government opted to enroll all targeted beneficiaries simultaneously. While the move expanded access to opportunities, it also compressed project activities into a single financial year, creating budgetary pressure.

She said the National Treasury was working to address the fiscal constraints and expressed confidence that the pending funds would be released within the announced timeline.

The PS further emphasized that beneficiaries must demonstrate commitment to their businesses to qualify for the second tranche, warning that those who failed to show progress would not receive additional funding.

She also urged beneficiaries to be cautious of fraudsters demanding payments or sharing fake links, stressing that access to the grants is entirely free.

Meanwhile, the government is considering expanding the programme in the 2026/2027 financial year to accommodate more youths who applied but were not selected in the current intake, citing the project's success and positive impact nationwide.

# Nine students remanded for 21 days



Utumishi Girls in court

BY Margaret Kalekye

@themkenyatimes

Nine Utumishi Girls' Senior School students suspected of causing the deadly dormitory fire that killed 16 of their schoolmates have been remanded for 21 days.

The court directed that the minors be held at the Nakuru Children's Home. They will have regular and unrestricted access to officers from the Children's Department to ensure their rights and welfare are fully protected.

In allowing the application, the court agreed with the DPP's submissions that investigations into possible arson and murder charges remain ongoing and require additional time to be completed.

The Prosecution informed the court that key forensic processes, including DNA analysis and other scientific

examinations, are yet to be finalised.

Naivasha Chief Magistrate Abdulqadir Lorot Ramathan denied them bond, citing fears that they could interfere with witnesses.

Further, the prosecution argued that the continued detention of the minors is necessary not only to safeguard the integrity of investigations but also for their own protection and welfare, given the sensitivity and public interest surrounding the matter.

Chief Magistrate Abdulqadir Ramadhan also barred members of the media and the public from taking, publishing, sharing, or disseminating images of the students. The order is intended to protect the children's privacy and ensure compliance with legal provisions governing matters involving minors.

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**Counseling** Wamuratha made the announcement while urging parents and guardians to prioritize mental health care

# Wamuratha launches free counseling program for students affected by school tragedies

BY Felix Njenga  
@themkenyatimes

Kiambu Woman Representative Anne Wamuratha has launched a free trauma counseling initiative aimed at supporting students and families affected by recent school tragedies, including the devastating fire at Utumishi Girls High School that claimed the lives of 16 students.

The program is designed to provide immediate psychological support to learners who may be struggling with emotional distress following traumatic incidents.

Wamuratha made the announcement while urging parents and guardians to prioritize professional mental health care for children affected by such events. She emphasized that many students may be silently suffering and require structured psychological intervention to help them cope and recover. According to her, the emotional impact of school-related tragedies often extends beyond visible symptoms, making early detection and support critical.

As part of the initiative, her office in Kiambu County has been opened to offer free counseling services to affected learners. A qualified mental health specialist has been deployed to provide therapy, guidance, and emotional support. The Woman Representative noted that some students are already receiving counseling through the program and encouraged more families to come forward, whether their children were directly impacted by the Utumishi Girls incident or other traumatic experiences in schools.

She stressed that trauma can manifest in different ways, including anxiety, fear, withdrawal, and behavioral changes, which may not always be immediately obvious to parents or teachers. For this reason, she urged



Ann Wamuratha

guardians to remain attentive to their children's emotional wellbeing and seek help before conditions worsen.

"The pain and fear caused by recent incidents in our schools are significant, and no child or parent should face them alone," Wamuratha said, assuring families that support is available and accessible at no cost. She added that her office is located in Kiambu Town near St. Paul's Church on the road leading to Kirigiti, making it easier for residents to access the services.

Wamuratha also warned against assuming that children have fully recovered simply because they appear calm or have resumed normal

routines. She noted that many young people continue to experience long-term emotional effects such as post-traumatic stress, grief, and depression after such incidents. She emphasized that professional therapy is essential to help them rebuild confidence and return to their studies in a healthy mental state.

Mental health professionals have long highlighted the importance of early intervention after traumatic events, particularly among children and adolescents who are more vulnerable to psychological distress. They recommend counseling to address symptoms such as anxiety, trauma-related stress, and emotional instability before they

develop into more severe conditions.

The initiative has been welcomed by residents and education stakeholders in Kiambu County, who view it as a timely response to the growing need for mental health support in schools. Wamuratha reaffirmed her commitment to safeguarding children's welfare and ensuring that families have access to essential psychological services during difficult times.

As the county continues to mourn the loss of students and support affected families, the free counseling program is expected to play a key role in helping the community heal and rebuild.

# Ruto in South Africa for state visit



President William Ruto and First Lady Rachel Ruto arrive in Pretoria, South Africa.

BY MKT REPORTER  
@themkenyatimes

President William Ruto and First Lady Rachel Ruto arrived in Pretoria yesterday evening for a two-day state visit aimed at strengthening bilateral relations between Kenya and South Africa.

The couple was received warmly in the South African capital as the two nations reaffirmed a long-standing partnership spanning more than three decades — one that both sides say has matured well beyond diplomacy into a substantive economic alliance.

President Ruto described the Kenya-South Africa relationship as having evolved into a strategic partnership anchored on trade and investment, pharmaceuticals, vaccine development, and a shared vision for Africa's economic transformation. He noted that the ties between the two countries reflect a broader continental ambition: that African nations can and should lead their own development agenda.

He noted that South Africa's diversified and growing economy — particularly its manufacturing sector — continues to demonstrate the continent's industrial potential, offering lessons and opportunities that can be leveraged across Africa. For Kenya, which is positioning itself as East Africa's

innovation and services hub, the partnership offers access to industrial scale and pharmaceutical capacity that complements its own strengths.

Ruto also highlighted the steady growth in bilateral trade, pointing to the increasing presence of South African companies operating in Kenya, which have contributed to job creation and broader economic development. The relationship, he suggested, is no longer one of potential — it is one of measurable impact.

The President emphasised that both countries are committed to consolidating these gains while exploring new avenues for deeper cooperation in trade, innovation, and people-to-people exchanges over the course of the visit.

The state visit underscores the growing importance both Nairobi and Pretoria place on south-south cooperation as Africa navigates an increasingly competitive and multipolar global economic landscape. For both leaders, the message is clear: the future of African growth will be built from within.

**Politics** The coalition claimed the bill demonstrates that the government has failed to learn lessons from the widespread anti-tax protests that rocked the country in 2024

# Opposition coalition demands Ebola transparency, rejects Finance Bill 2026

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyaintimes

Kenya's opposition coalition, operating under the banner of the United Alternative Government (UAG), has launched a sharp attack on President William Ruto's administration over its handling of reported Ebola-related arrangements, the proposed Finance Bill 2026, and preparations for the forthcoming OI Kalou parliamentary by-election.

In a statement issued after a meeting of coalition leaders, the opposition accused the government of secrecy, economic mismanagement, and undermining democratic processes, while positioning itself as a credible alternative ahead of future electoral contests.

The coalition demanded the immediate release of all agreements, protocols, and commitments related to reported Ebola programmes and facilities, arguing that the government's handling of the matter has created unnecessary public anxiety.

According to the UAG, the administration's alleged failure to provide timely information and engage stakeholders has fueled public concern and speculation over the nature and implications of the arrangements.

"The protection of public health is a constitutional obligation and a matter of national security," the coalition said, insisting that any initiative involving a highly infectious disease must be subjected to public scrutiny and transparency.

The opposition further questioned the government's ability to manage such programmes, citing persistent challenges in public healthcare, including shortages of medicines and underfunded health facilities.

The coalition argued that public trust can only be maintained through openness and accountability, accusing the administration of failing to meet those standards.

**Finance Bill 2026 comes under fire**

The proposed Finance Bill 2026 was another major target of the opposition's criticism.

The coalition claimed the bill demonstrates that the government

has failed to learn lessons from the widespread anti-tax protests that rocked the country in 2024.

According to the UAG, Kenyans continue to face economic hardship characterised by rising living costs, unemployment, struggling businesses, and mounting public debt.

The opposition argued that introducing new tax measures without addressing corruption and wasteful expenditure would further burden households and businesses.

The coalition said citizens are not opposed to contributing to national development but are increasingly demanding accountability and prudent management of public resources.

Referencing the youth-led protests against the 2024 Finance Bill, the opposition praised Generation Z and millennial activists for what it described as a pro-accountability movement aimed at securing better governance.

The UAG vowed to oppose any tax measures that increase pressure on workers, farmers, traders, and small businesses while failing to address corruption and inefficiencies within government.

"Kenya does not suffer from a shortage of revenue. Kenya suffers from a shortage of accountability," the statement said.

**Single candidate planned for OI Kalou contest**

Turning to the forthcoming OI Kalou parliamentary by-election, the coalition announced plans to field a single candidate under the United Alternative Government banner.

The opposition said the candidate would be selected through an independent scientific survey and opinion polling process designed to identify the aspirant with the strongest chance of victory.

Coalition leaders described the decision as a demonstration of political unity and evidence-based decision-making, arguing that collective interests should take precedence over individual ambitions.

The UAG also called on the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), security agencies, and political actors to guarantee a free, fair, and peaceful election.

The coalition warned against voter bribery, intimidation, misuse of pub-



United opposition leaders on Tuesday.

lic resources, and any attempt to deploy state machinery to influence the outcome of the contest.

"The people of OI Kalou must be allowed to exercise their democratic right without fear, coercion, or interference," the statement said.

**Call for accountability**

In its concluding remarks, the opposition argued that the three issues—public health transparency, taxation, and electoral integrity—reflect a broader governance challenge facing the country.

The coalition accused the administration of prioritising political inter-

ests over the welfare of citizens and reiterated its commitment to transparency, accountability, economic justice, and democratic freedoms.

The statement was signed by Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka the UAG Convenor, and was endorsed by parties affiliated with the coalition, including Wiper, DAP-K, Jubilee, PNU, PLP, DCP and UPIA.



Illustration of reject Finance Bill 2026

**Security** Mr Murkomen views the NYPD as the gold standard and an ideal model for Kenya, especially given the increasing complexity of Nairobi's security landscape.

# Murkomen in New York for NYPD policing lessons

**BY MKT REPORTER**  
@themtkenyatimes

Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen is in New York on a high-level benchmarking visit to the New York Police Department, as Kenya races to establish the much-anticipated Nairobi Metropolitan Police Unit before its government-set deadline.

The NYPD, with more than 35,000 uniformed officers patrolling one of the world's most complex urban environments, is widely regarded as a global benchmark in metropolitan policing — and it is precisely that reputation that drew Murkomen across the Atlantic.

The visit comes at a critical moment. President William Ruto ordered the creation of the Nairobi Metropolitan Police Unit in February, tasking it with tackling rising insecurity, maintaining public order, neutralising emerging criminal threats, and protecting the economic interests of Kenya's fast-growing capital and its satellite towns. With the establishment deadline drawing closer, Murkomen's team is moving with urgency.

"We are drawing lessons and best practices from the NYPD because it is one of the world's most effective metropolitan police services," the Cabinet Secretary said. He outlined an ambitious agenda for the tour, covering intelligence-led and community-oriented policing, technology integration,

specialised urban operations, emergency response coordination, and crime prevention strategies. "These are areas of direct relevance to what we are building back home," he added.

A highlight of the visit was Murkomen's meeting with NYPD Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch, where talks went beyond observation and into the realm of formal partnership. The two sides discussed a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Kenya Police Service and the NYPD — an agreement that would institutionalise cooperation between the two forces and directly shape the structure and operations of the new Nairobi unit.

The proposed MOU reflects a broader philosophy driv-



Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen. Photo/Courtesy

ing the visit: that building a world-class metropolitan police service requires more than goodwill and blueprints. It demands structured knowledge transfer, shared training frameworks, and access to tested operational systems. New York, which has spent decades refining its approach to urban crime, counter-terrorism, and community policing, offers exactly that kind of

institutional depth. Kenya's security planners are particularly keen to understand how the NYPD manages the tension between high-visibility enforcement and community trust — a balance that will be equally critical in Nairobi, where public confidence in the police remains a persistent challenge. The proposed partnership signals that Kenya is not simply

looking to copy a model, but to build a lasting relationship that delivers ongoing expertise, training, and technical support well beyond this initial visit. With Nairobi's population and its security challenges both growing rapidly, the lessons drawn from New York could prove decisive in determining whether the new metropolitan unit hits the ground running.

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**Conference** A major highlight of the conference was the AT Innovation Village, where innovators presented a wide range of assistive technologies tailored to African contexts

# African innovators showcase breakthrough accessibility solutions at Inclusive Africa Conference 2026

BY Felix Njenga

@themkenyatimes

The Inclusive Africa Conference (IAC) 2026 brought together leading innovators, policymakers, technology companies, and disability advocates in Nairobi to spotlight African-led solutions addressing accessibility challenges faced by persons with disabilities. Held at the JW Marriott Hotel on World Assistive Technology Day, the seventh edition of the conference highlighted how local innovation is reshaping assistive technology across the continent.

Ten African innovators were selected from more than 100 applicants to present at the flagship Assistive Technology (AT) Innovation Village, demonstrating practical, scalable solutions designed to improve mobility, learning, communication, and independence for millions of people with disabilities.

The event attracted more than 300 in-person delegates and over 3,700 virtual participants from across government, the private sector, development agencies, and civil society. Participants included technology companies, investors, disability rights organizations, multilateral agencies, and education stakeholders, all united by a shared goal of advancing digital inclusion. The conference theme emphasized accelerating digital accessibility and artificial intelligence (AI) solutions for Africa's future, reflecting growing urgency to ensure that technological transformation benefits everyone, including marginalized groups.

A major highlight of the conference was the AT Innovation Village, where innovators presented a wide range of



Irene Kirika inABLE founder and executive director making her speech.

assistive technologies tailored to African contexts. These included bamboo-based wheelchairs designed for affordability and durability using locally sourced materials, AI-powered learning platforms that support inclusive education, and smart navigation systems for visually impaired users that combine GPS and camera vision for indoor and outdoor mobility. The innovations demonstrated not only technical creativity but also a strong focus on affordability, local manufacturing, and cultural

relevance.

Among the standout innovations was Bamboo Labs from Ethiopia, which produces customized bamboo wheelchairs using strengthened natural materials. The company has already conducted training programs in Kenya and plans regional expansion. Kenya's Sightra showcased a navigation system that enables visually impaired users to move independently using real-time environmental detection and GPS mapping, with plans to serve thousands of users lo-

cally. Ishara Learning, another Kenyan initiative, focused on bridging educational gaps for Deaf learners by offering digital skills training in Kenya Sign Language, including artificial intelligence content creation and cybersecurity education, while also helping organizations translate digital content into sign language.

Other notable innovations included ZeroBionic, which developed inclusive robotics and STEM learning tools for visually impaired students using Braille integration, tactile

kits, and speech-based coding systems. The Blind Classroom platform demonstrated an AI-powered voice-based learning system that has already supported more than 500 learners across multiple schools in Kenya, allowing students with visual impairments to access educational materials through audio and assistive interfaces. From South Africa, Senso introduced a wearable wristband that detects environmental sounds and alerts users with hearing impairments, improving situational awareness. Zimbabwe's PadPerch developed a hands-free device that converts smartphones and tablets into magnification tools for low-vision users, while Botswana's Revision Africa created an AI learning assistant capable of interpreting images, reading printed materials, and providing personalized educational support.

Conference discussions emphasized that these innovations are part of a broader movement toward inclusive digital transformation in Africa. Speakers highlighted that assistive technology is increasingly being developed by Africans for African contexts, ensuring solutions are more affordable, relevant, and sustainable. Irene Mbari-Kirika, Founder and Executive Director of inABLE, stressed that African innovation does not need to wait for external solutions but requires investment, procurement support, and enabling policy frameworks to scale. She also acknowledged partnerships with global organizations such as Mastercard Foundation, Google, Microsoft, Meta, Safaricom, UNDP, and others, which are supporting digital inclusion efforts across the continent.

Mbari-Kirika also underscored the importance of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), recognizing their long-standing advocacy in advancing accessibility rights. She praised ongoing government and institutional efforts to develop harmonized digital accessibility standards across Africa in collaboration with regional and international partners. She further noted that Kenya, through its leadership in digital policy and education reform, is actively working to strengthen technical and vocational training

systems to better equip young people with disabilities for participation in the digital economy.

A key theme of the conference was the persistent accessibility gap across Africa's digital and physical systems. Speakers highlighted barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing education, employment, financial services, and public infrastructure. A cited assessment of leading African banks revealed widespread shortcomings in digital accessibility compliance, underscoring systemic exclusion in key sectors. Mbari-Kirika emphasized that despite rapid growth in Africa's digital economy, more than 80 million Africans with disabilities risk being left behind if accessibility is not prioritized.

The economic implications of exclusion were also a central focus. Presenters noted that disability-related exclusion can cost countries between three and seven percent of GDP, while the global spending power of persons with disabilities and their families exceeds 18 trillion US dollars annually. These figures were used to demonstrate that accessibility is not only a social responsibility but also a significant economic opportunity for growth, innovation, and market expansion across the continent.

Artificial intelligence emerged as both a promising tool and a critical concern during the conference. Speakers highlighted how AI is enabling innovations such as real-time sign language translation, automated captioning, adaptive learning systems, and intelligent navigation tools. However, they also warned that many AI systems are still being developed without adequate consideration of accessibility needs. Mbari-Kirika emphasized that inclusive design must be embedded from the earliest stages of development, including policy formulation, procurement decisions, and product design, to ensure that emerging technologies do not replicate existing inequalities. As the conference concluded, participants called for

# Green Belt Movement concerned over plans to excise Uhuru and Central Parks for Highway expansion



Central Park

BY WMW

@themtkenyatimes

The Green Belt Movement (GBM) has sounded the alarm over reports that portions of Nairobi's iconic Uhuru Park and Central Park could be excised to pave the way for the expansion of Uhuru Highway, warning that any such move would face close scrutiny and must comply fully with the law.

In a statement issued yesterday, the environmental organization said it had received credible reports indicating that survey beacons had already been placed within sections of the two parks, suggesting that preliminary preparations for the project may be underway.

The development has sparked concern among environmental advocates and citizens who view the parks as vital public spaces that provide ecological, recreational and cultural value to the city.

GBM noted that the reports come amid growing pressure on Kenya's public green spaces from infrastructure projects, commercial developments and shifting land-use priorities. According to the organization, the loss of urban

parks would undermine biodiversity conservation, weaken climate resilience efforts, negatively affect public health and compromise Kenyans' constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment.

The organization emphasized that both Uhuru Park and Central Park are protected public land under the Constitution of Kenya and are gazetted public recreational facilities held in trust for current and future generations.

"Any proposal to excise, alienate, reduce or change the use of these parks must strictly comply with the law," GBM stated.

The movement outlined several legal requirements that would need to be fulfilled before any portion of the parks could be acquired or repurposed. These include approval by the Nairobi City County Assembly, public participation, gazettement procedures, approval by the National Land Commission (NLC), Environmental Impact Assessment processes and licensing by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), as well as the necessary survey and land registration procedures.

GBM has called on key gov-

ernment agencies, including the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA), Nairobi City County Government, NLC, NEMA, the Ministry of Roads and Transport, and the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, to publicly disclose whether any approvals, assessments, consultations or surveys related to the proposed acquisition of land from the parks have been initiated or completed.

Specifically, the movement wants KeNHA to clarify whether plans exist to acquire any portion of Uhuru Park or Central Park for the highway expansion, disclose the acreage involved, explain the legal basis for the acquisition and release any environmental, social or feasibility studies undertaken.

The Nairobi City County Government has been asked to reveal whether public participation processes have been conducted, provide records of consultations and indicate whether the County Assembly has considered or approved any proposal affecting the status or size of the parks.

The National Land Commission has also been urged to state whether it has received



The Green Belt Movement (GBM)

or approved any requests relating to the acquisition or change of use of land within the parks, while NEMA has been asked to disclose whether any Environmental Impact Assessment studies have been submitted and whether any environmental licences are under review or have already been issued.

GBM stressed that public participation is a constitutional requirement and not a procedural formality.

"Decisions affecting public land and public resources must be undertaken transparently, lawfully and with the meaningful involvement of citizens," the statement said.

The movement further highlighted the historical significance of Uhuru Park,

describing it as a symbol of environmental justice and democratic participation. It recalled the successful campaign led by the late environmentalist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Professor Wangari Maathai to protect the park from development projects in the past.

GBM also expressed concern over the continued restriction of public access to Central Park despite court orders directing that the facility be reopened to the public. The organization argued that the situation demonstrates the need for stronger accountability in the management of Nairobi's green spaces.

At a time when cities worldwide are expanding urban green cover to address cli-

mate change, improve public health and enhance quality of life, GBM said Nairobi should prioritize the protection and restoration of its public parks rather than reducing them.

The organization vowed to closely monitor developments surrounding the reported project and pledged to pursue legal, advocacy and civic action where necessary to protect the two parks.

It also called on Kenyans, civil society groups, professional organizations and environmental defenders to remain vigilant and demand transparency and accountability from public institutions.

"These parks are public assets held in trust for all Kenyans and future generations," the movement said.



Airview of Uhuru Park.

**Conference** A major highlight of the conference was the AT Innovation Village, where innovators presented a wide range of assistive technologies tailored to African contexts

# African innovators showcase breakthrough accessibility solutions at Inclusive Africa Conference 2026

Contd from page 11

stronger collaboration between governments, investors, development partners, and technology companies to support assistive technology ecosystems in Africa. Key recommendations included increasing funding for local innovators, prioritizing procurement of African-made assistive technologies, strengthening local manufacturing capacity, and reducing reliance on imported solutions. Speakers also emphasized the need to expand digital skills training for young people with disabilities and to strengthen partnerships between educational institutions and employers to improve workforce readiness.

Ultimately, the Inclusive Africa Conference 2026 reinforced the message that digital accessibility is

not a form of charity but a strategic necessity for inclusive economic growth. The event positioned Africa's assistive technology innovators as key drivers of the continent's digital future, capable of transforming exclusion into opportunity. By combining innovation, policy reform, and cross-sector collaboration, stakeholders at the conference outlined a vision of a more inclusive digital Africa—one where persons with disabilities are fully integrated into education, employment, and technological advancement.



Irene Kirika addressing the participants.

# The Mt. Kenya Times



## There are very few people who ask, are you ok??



Even in your hardships , they never allow you  
To fall down or to stumble and support you.

Even in your simple slips ,  
they worried very much.  
Keep those people around you.  
They are the real supporters of you.

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.

Really you are well blessed with the people,  
Those who are always around you to take care.  
There are many people around you  
But only a few of them are really seeking your  
happiness.

They never expect anything from you  
But they are very concern on you.

## Creative writers' 7th award function



It was not just a wonderful function, but a beautiful platform where everyone—from children to elders—had the opportunity to become poets and authors without partiality or discrimination. Every year, this event inspires learning, sharing, love, and knowledge through the CW family, which feels like kith and kin. Seeing authors enthusiastically publish their books brings immense joy. The child authors were amazing, and every member was talented, patient, and supportive. Respected Jayakumar sir kindly motivated every author during book publishing, while the chief guests inspired

everyone with their warm-hearted presence. Madam's enthusiastic song encouraged shy individuals to come forward with confidence. I sincerely appreciate the good-hearted people who voluntarily contribute their best to make this event special.

Finally, I thank Brinda mam from the bottom of my heart. Her encouragement and inspiration transformed me into an author of two books and motivated me to actively participate in Tamil and English poetry groups. I strongly believe that under her guidance and with the support of CW, I will reach the pinnacle of my life. I feel truly proud and blessed to be part of this journey.

Krishnaveni  
Creative writers group  
Cuddalore.  
Tamil Nadu  
India.

## When things get harder



By Umadevi Arasakumar

When things get harder,  
When situations grow weaker,  
When life moves slower,  
When trust turns to danger.

When our burden is heavier,

It's difficult to breathe,  
It's uneasy to move,  
It's time to decide.

Whether to stand with overload,  
Or to throw out the trash,  
Unload, relax, and move on,  
Make your path light and clear.

Umadevi ArasaKumar  
B.T.English  
Panchayat Union Middle School, Kugalur  
Gobichettipalayam  
Erode

## Our sincere thanks to The Mt Kenya Times



As a recent member of this beautiful literary family, I feel immensely blessed and encouraged by this opportunity. Your magnanimity in recognising and supporting budding voices has become a beacon of inspiration to countless writers who dare to dream through poetry.

On behalf of each and every member of the Creative Writers Group, and with deepest respect on behalf of our beloved founder Ms. Brinda, we offer our heartfelt gratitude to MT Kenya Times. Your encouragement has not merely published poems, it has nurtured confidence, kindled creativity, and given wings to countless emotions waiting to soar.

May your noble endeavour continue to illuminate literary paths and inspire writers across horizons.

With sincere gratitude and warm regards,

Nandini AnandKumar  
Member of the Creative Writers

With hearts overflowing in gratitude and joy, we extend our sincere thanks to The Mt Kenya Times for the noble gesture of publishing the poems written by the members of the Creative Writers

For every writer, words are not merely ink upon paper, they are fragments of the soul, whispers of dreams, echoes of silent emotions, and reflections of life itself. To see those thoughts lovingly printed and shared with the world is a feeling beyond measure — a joy too profound for words alone to capture.

## Why obedience is important in our life



Most teachers show deep affection too,  
Even when students disobey and do  
Things that make the teachers sad,  
Still they guide them toward the good, not bad.

Obedience is important in life's long way,  
It lights our path each passing day.  
A child who learns respect and care  
Will find success waiting everywhere.

Discipline builds a future bright,  
Like stars that shine with gentle light.  
Respect and kindness, hand in hand,  
Can make a peaceful home and land.

Nowadays many problems grow,  
Because people forget what they should know.  
Understanding, patience, love, and grace  
Can bring true happiness to every place.

Teachers and parents must always teach  
Values that every child should reach.  
For obedience is not fear or pain,  
It is wisdom's golden chain.

A respectful child will rise one day  
Like a flower blooming after May.  
Kind words, humble thoughts, and a caring heart  
Will help them stand strong and smart.

So listen well and wisely choose  
The values in life you should never lose  
For those who honour, obey, and care  
Will always find blessings everywhere.

V.JAYANTHI  
Graduate teacher  
Creative Writers  
PUMS Kongancherry  
Chengalpattu district  
Tamil Nadu India

A ladder helps us to climb high,  
Step by step towards the sky.  
But once we reach the top one day,  
We should not push the ladder away.

If we fail to care and show respect,  
Coming down safely we cannot expect.  
The ladder serves us up and down,  
Helping us rise without a frown.

Likewise, teachers guide our way,  
From little steps in LKG day by day.  
Patiently teaching year by year,  
Helping us grow without fear.

They hold our hands when we are small,  
And encourage us when we stumble or fall.  
Because of teachers, many can stand  
With confidence, knowledge, and dreams so grand.

But how many students truly remember  
Every teacher along the way?  
Many forget those caring hearts  
Who guided them day by day.

Parents should teach their children well  
How with elders they must dwell,  
How to respect and gently speak,  
And help the poor, the old, and weak.

**Kenya - South Korean** Kenya is not just open for business—we are eager for partnerships that create jobs, transfer skills, and build industries that will define the future

# Mudavadi: Kenya eager for partnerships that will prosper the country

BY OPCS Team  
@themkenyatimes

Kenya is ready for transformative partnership with South Korean companies in areas of manufacturing and industrial technology; automotive and mobility solutions; electronics and ICT; renewable energy and green technologies; and construction, engineering, and smart city development.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi said Kenya is working towards building a strong commitment that will foster a conducive environment for investment and structured collaboration with South Korean companies.

He said this when he met with representatives of the Korean industry and the civil society during his tour of the



Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi takes a tour of engineering and locomotives workshop at the Gyeonggi University of Science and Technology (GTEC) in Siheung City, Gyeonggi Province, South Korea. | Photo: Humphrey Odhiambo/OPCS.

Gyeonggi University of Science and Technology (GTEC) in Siheung City, Gyeonggi

Province. “Kenya is a gateway to a market of over 500 million

people in the East African region, supported by a stable democracy, a skilled work-

force, and a rapidly modernizing infrastructure. Kenya and Korea share a common belief that human capital, innovation, and technology are the engines of national transformation,” said Mudavadi.

Mudavadi said Korea has become a global benchmark for industrial excellence, and Kenya is looking forward to tapping into the immense Korean potential to build a future anchored in innovation, skills, and shared prosperity.

“Kenya is not just open for business—we are eager for partnerships that create jobs, transfer skills, and build industries that will define the future. We value Korean companies for their reputation in quality, innovation, and long-term commitment.” he said.

“Let us continue to strengthen the bridges between our peoples, our institutions, and our industries. Together, we can shape a partnership that is not only mutually beneficial but transformative.” he added.

Mudavadi also the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs said Kenya will be banking on a strategic partnership with Korean institutions of higher learning in shaping the next generation of Kenyan engineers, technicians, and innovators.

He noted that robust plans are underway in expanding Technical, Vocational and Education Training institutions, modernizing curricula, and deepening partnerships with industry global players.

“I am encouraged by the ongoing collaborations between GTEC and Kenyan institutions, and I welcome the possibility of expanding these partnerships—through student exchanges, faculty cooperation, joint research, and technology transfer. Kenya is ready to learn from Korea’s remarkable experience in linking education to industrial growth.” noted Mudavadi.

Mudavadi also acknowledge the input of Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Societies in contributing to social development of nations.

He said the civil society plays a pivotal role in strengthening communities, supporting vulnerable groups, and complementing government efforts in education, health, and technology access.

“We look forward to deeper collaboration with organizations that share our vision of inclusive development and empowerment.” noted the Prime CS.

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**EACC** Regional Manager Alfred Mwachugha said the commission received reports alleging irregular procurement practices

# EACC arrest Nyamira county clerk in shocking KSh 30 million scandal



**Nyamira County Assembly Clerk Duke Simeon Onyari at the EACC office in Kisii County.** | Photo: Elizabeth Angira



**EACC South Nyanza Regional Manager Alfred Mwachugha addressing the press outside the office over the arrest of the Nyamira County Assembly Clerk over the allegations of corruption.** | Photo: Elizabeth Angira

**BY Elizabeth Angira**  
@themtkenyatimes

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) has arrested Nyamira County Assembly Clerk Duke Simeon Onyari over allegations of corruption and the loss of KSh 30 million linked to the construction of the Nyamira County Assembly office block.

According to EACC investigations, the alleged irregularities stem from the award of a construction tender to Jetta Builders Limited in contravention of procurement laws. Investigators established that the company was awarded the contract despite not being the lowest evaluated bidder, resulting in what the commission describes as an unlawful benefit of approximately KSh 30 million.

Speaking to the press at the EACC South Nyanza Regional Office, Regional Manager Alfred Mwachugha said the commission received reports alleging irregular procurement practices in the award of the tender for the construction

of the assembly office block. "Investigations established that the County Assembly of Nyamira awarded the tender to Jetta Builders Limited, which was not the lowest evaluated bidder. This amounted to the conferring of a benefit of about KSh 30 million to the contractor," said Mwachugha.

Following the completion of investigations, the EACC forwarded its findings to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), which approved charges against several officials connected to the project.

Those facing charges include Duke Simeon Onyari, Clerk of the Nyamira County Assembly; Leonard Kevin Nyamasege, Deputy Clerk and Director of Finance and Accounts; David Nyarango Ombego, Deputy Clerk and Director of Legal Services; Joyce Oyengo, Director of Monitoring, Evaluation and Development; Engineer Joseph Martini-Oruru, Chief Officer for Roads and Public Works in the Nyamira County Government; Eric Onguti Ayuka, Infrastructure Officer; and Simon Ondari Ogecha, Infrastructure Officer.

Mwachugha revealed that one of the suspects was arrested on March 19 and arraigned before a Nyamira court in a case titled Republic versus Duke Simeon Onyari and Seven Others.

He further noted that the original tender for the construction of the Nyamira County Assembly offices was valued at approximately KSh 367 million.

"Today, we managed to arrest the clerk, who has been on the run. The suspects have been moving to various courts seeking anticipatory orders in an attempt to avoid the court process. However, we have successfully apprehended him and are currently processing him for arraignment in court tomorrow," said Mwachugha. The EACC has also urged the remaining suspects who are yet to be arrested to surrender to the commission for processing and subsequent arraignment in court.

The commission says investigations are ongoing and that additional suspects linked to the alleged procurement irregularities could be pursued as the case progresses.




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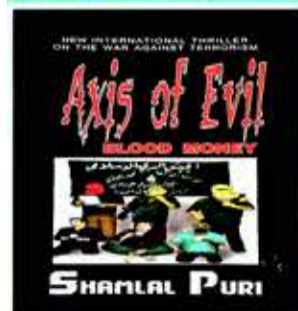
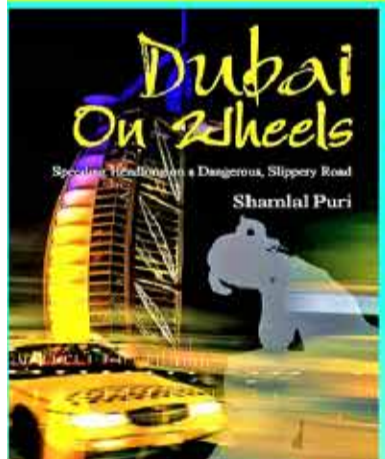
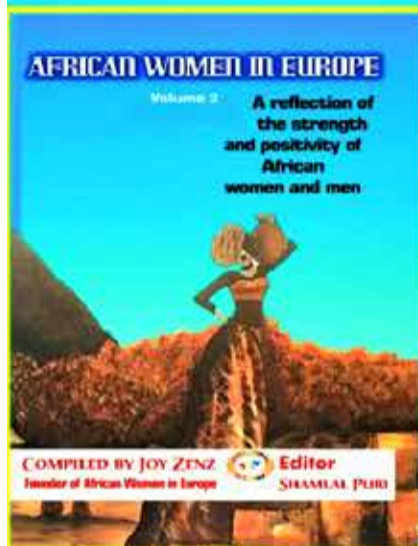
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**Politics** The first thing one must concede and concede without the charitable softening of diplomatic language is that the constitutional argument

# A nation that keeps drinking its own poison and calling it medicine



By: Jerameel Kevins Owuor Odhiambo

@themkenyentimes

There is a peculiar species of political dysfunction that does not announce itself with the theatrics of a coup or the spectacle of a collapsing state it arrives instead dressed in the unremarkable clothes of the ordinary, wearing the face of a neighbour, speaking in the voice of the evening news, sustained by the quiet agreement of millions who have collectively decided, without saying so aloud, that they deserve exactly what they tolerate. Kenya is not a broken state. It is something more philosophically disturbing: it is a functioning one that has chosen, with apparent enthusiasm and remarkable consistency, to function badly.

The first thing one must concede and concede without the charitable softening of diplomatic language is that the constitutional argument is a spent shell. We produced, in 2010, a document of extraordinary architectonic ambition: a text that codified rights, distributed power, entrenched devolution, and erected judicial independence with the kind of thoroughness that would make a Scandinavian legal draftsman weep with professional admiration. And then, having handed ourselves this instrument of transformation, we proceeded to treat it the way a gifted child treats a violin given by a parent who couldn't afford it we put it in the corner, walked away, and went back to playing in the mud. The Constitution of Kenya 2010 did not fail Kenya. Kenya failed to be the Kenya that the Constitution assumed it was writing for. The problem was never the text. The problem is the reader.

What one encounters daily in the conversations of governance in the matatu arguments, in the X outrage cycles, in the WhatsApp groups that have replaced civic discourse is not political disagreement but cognitive theatre. People argue with the performative intensity of those who believe something, while behaving with the perfect consistency of those who believe nothing at all. They will catalogue the sins of the incumbent



Peculiar species of political dysfunction that does not announce itself with the theatrics of a coup

administration with the precision of a forensic accountant and the passion of a wronged spouse, and then, when the season of reckoning arrives, they will queue at the polling station and, with the solemnity of a liturgical act, hand power back to the very machinery of their suffering. This is not naivety. Naivety is forgivable. This is something colder; it is a negotiated transaction in which the voter receives psychological comfort in the form of ethnic solidarity and the politician receives everything else.

The biblical image is not merely apposite; it is, in the most clinical sense, exact. Proverbs 26:11 is not a metaphor deployed for rhetorical effect; it is a behavioural model with measurable predictive power on the Kenyan electoral calendar. The dog returns because the vomit, however repulsive, is familiar. Familiarity, in conditions of political uncertainty, functions as a surrogate for safety. The electorate does not vote for the candidate who promises the most, it votes for the candidate whose betrayal it has already absorbed, metabolized, and learned to survive. There is a grim evolutionary rationality to this: the known thief represents a calibrated risk; the principled stranger represents an unknown one. And in a system where institutions offer no reliable protection regardless of who holds power, the electorate's behaviour is less irrationality than it is a rational response to irrational conditions. Which is, of course, the most devastating indictment of all that it makes a twisted kind of sense.

The opposition deserves no exemption from this dissection. The current crop of those who present themselves as alternatives to the incumbent fragmented, tribally indexed, constitu-

tionally allergic to coalition arithmetic, incapable of sustaining a unified platform beyond the shared negative of not being the government represent less a political alternative than a collection of grievances looking for a vehicle. One does not build a coalition of the willing through ethnic arithmetic and hope that the numbers add up nationally, because Kenya, as any serious political analyst will confirm, is not a country of national numbers. It is a country of regional tallies dressed in national clothing. The opposition's failure is not one of communication or resourcing it is one of categorical imagination. They are attempting to win a national election with a tribal psychology, which is precisely the same mistake they accuse the government of making, executed with considerably less competence.

And yet the most fascinating figure in the current landscape the one whom commentators mention with a certain reverence before trailing off into pragmatic resignation is the former senior public servant. The principled one. The no-nonsense one. The one with a record. He exists in the conversation the way a good idea exists in a bad meeting: acknowledged, even admired, and then efficiently ignored. The verdict on him is not delivered by argument it is delivered by geography. "He cannot persuade my grandmother in the village." The grandmother, bless her, becomes the unwitting avatar of a collective epistemology: the belief that virtue, unattached to ethnic recognition, is a political disqualification. And so the principled man is filed under the category of things we appreciate in theory and decline in practice, like exercise, or honesty, or paying tax-

es willingly. The irony, savage in its precision, is that the very tax burden provoking the loudest outrage is the product of the same logic that keeps re-electing those who impose it.

The relationship between the Kenyan electorate and its political class is not merely toxic, it is structurally co-dependent in the clinical sense. The leader needs the voter's manufactured consent; the voter needs the leader's ethnic endorsement as a form of communal identity insurance. Each feeds the dysfunction of the other. The politician does not improve because there is no incentive to; the voter does not demand improvement because the demand would require first admitting the depth of the self-betrayal involved. And so both parties maintain the performance the leader performing governance, the voter performing outrage and the country performs the appearance of a democracy while conducting the business of a patronage oligarchy. The Constitution sits on the shelf, thoroughly unvindicated, watching.

What bewitches a people is rarely magic and almost always structure. It is the structure of an electoral system that rewards ethnic mobilisation over policy coherence. It is the structure of an economy so precarious that short-term patronage is worth more than long-term institutional trust. It is the structure of a civic education so impoverished that the connection between the ballot and the tax bill between the choice made in August and the salary deduction in September never fully registers as causation rather than coincidence. To diagnose this as bewitchment is to be poetic where one should be architectural: the house is not haunted, it is badly

built, and the occupants have convinced themselves that the drafts are a feature. The hopeful observer and one must remain hopeful, for the alternative is mere despair dressed as realism must insist that the structure can be redesigned. But it cannot be redesigned by people who first refuse to see it.

There is a special category of civic sadness reserved for watching a country possess every instrument of its own liberation and decline, election after election, to use them. Kenya has the lawyers. It has the activists. It has the constitutional architecture. It has a young population whose demographic profile should terrify any incumbent with a rational risk-assessment capability. It has produced thinkers, writers, litigators, and public intellectuals who understand, with surgical clarity, exactly what is wrong and exactly what would constitute a remedy. And then, in the periodic ritual of the ballot, all of that understanding is set aside, and the vote goes to the man who slaughtered a bull in the home county. The intelligence exists. The will is what absents itself and the question of whether will can be cultivated without first suffering consequences sufficient to overcome the psychological comfort of familiar failure is the question that does not yet have an answer.

And here is the thing that keeps a thoughtful person awake not with despair, but with a quiet, unsettling watchfulness. Kenya's dysfunction is not static. The taxes are not merely a grievance; they are a compressing force. The young generation is not simply restless; it is structurally excluded from the patronage networks that made the old bargain tolerable. The 2024 protests were not an aberration they were a system under stress beginning to speak in a language it has never used before. The cycle depicted above suffering, outrage, elections, tribal logic, return has run for decades because the pressure never quite exceeded the inertia. But pressure compounds. And there is a point, impossible to locate in advance but unmistakable in retrospect, at which a people stop returning to the vomit not because they have become wise, but because they have become hungry enough that even the unfamiliar looks survivable. The question is not whether Kenya will change. The question and this is the one no analyst dares to complete is whether the force that finally breaks the cycle will be one that the Constitution can absorb, or one that arrives with no interest in constitutions at all.

*The writer is a legal researcher and writer.*

**Maputo and Pretoria** South Africa's government has condemned the violence while also acknowledging public frustration over undocumented migration.

# Maputo and Pretoria at odds over reports of Mozambican deaths in South Africa's xenophobic violence



Protestors in Maputo Mozambique against xenophobia in South Africa

**BY Norman Mwale**  
@themkenyatimes

A diplomatic rift is deepening between Mozambique and South Africa after reports emerged that five Mozambican nationals were killed during a fresh wave of xenophobic unrest — claims that Maputo says it cannot yet verify. The allegations surfaced as communities across Gauteng and the Western Cape reeled from days of looting, arson, and attacks targeting migrants, prompting several African governments to issue safety warnings to their citizens and sparking urgent talks between the two neighbours.

The unrest intensified on 31 May 2026, when riots tore through KwaNonqaba and Asla Park in Mossel Bay, Western Cape. Scores of residents fled their homes as buildings burned, and police confirmed that two murder dockets had been opened af-

ter a 19-year-old South African, Nhlamulo Sambo, was fatally stabbed — apparently after being mistaken for a foreigner. It was against this backdrop that reports began circulating on social media alleging that five Mozambican citizens had been killed in separate incidents across the country.

In response, Mozambican President Daniel Chapo travelled to Pretoria on Tuesday to meet South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and “call for calm.” Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Chapo struck a measured tone: “The official information we have so far is that no Mozambican has been affected by this situation, and we will continue to monitor it.” He cautioned against the spread of misinformation, noting that “information is circulating on social media that is not official — there are some videos that are not even from the current situation, and others are from entirely different countries.”

He went on to remind both nations of their shared history, saying the two peoples “fought together against colonialism, against apartheid, and we must fight together to develop our countries.”

South Africa's government has condemned the violence while also acknowledging public frustration over undocumented migration. A cabinet statement released on Thursday said: “South Africans are within their right to protest against the spiralling illegal immigration challenge, but violence linked to those protests is not acceptable, and law enforcement must deal with the instigators.” Presidency spokesperson Vincent Magwenya confirmed that discussions between Ramaphosa and Chapo covered “issues related to ongoing bilateral co-operation and security.”

The latest flare-up follows weeks of anti-immigrant marches across several provinces. Vigilante group Op-

eration Dudula has led campaigns against undocumented migrants, including attempts to block them from accessing public health facilities. Other African governments have moved swiftly. Nigeria announced it was repatriating at least 130 citizens after two Nigerians were killed, while Ghana facilitated the safe return of a citizen who was targeted in a widely shared video. Kenya, Malawi, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe have all urged their nationals in South Africa to stay cautious and remain indoors.

Mozambique's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Ma-

ria de Fátima Manso, said her government had been watching the situation closely “for about two weeks,” ever since groups of South Africans began demonstrating against undocumented foreigners. She noted that more than 300,000 Mozambicans reside in South Africa and that, “at this delicate moment, they are facing terror, fear, and uncertainty about their future.”

Civil society voices have pushed back against the narrative blaming migrants for South Africa's troubles. “Migrants are not the source of any of South Africa's challenges. There are too few to

make a substantial impact on employment or crime,” said Loren Landau, a senior migration researcher at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Meanwhile, the South African Police Service has increased patrols in flashpoint areas. However, SAPS intelligence documents suggest that Mozambican nationals had planned to blockade the Ressano Garcia and Ponta do Ouro border posts on 4 June in retaliation for the xenophobic attacks — a sign of how quickly tensions could escalate if left unchecked.

For now, Maputo maintains that no Mozambican deaths have been officially recorded, even as families and activists continue to share unverified reports online. With both governments pledging to “join efforts to discourage xenophobic acts,” the immediate priority remains de-escalation, accurate information, and above all, the protection of vulnerable communities on both sides of the border.

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**U.S.-Iran** As a fragile April ceasefire holds on despite sporadic skirmishes, both Iran and the United States have sent mixed signals about the prospects for a lasting settlement

# Mixed signals in U.S.-Iran talks highlight broader divisions, but deal prospects remain



Aftermath of some of the conflict in the Middle East. | Photo: Courtesy.

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themkenyatimes

As hopes mount for a peace agreement between the United States and Iran, a flurry of conflicting signals from both sides has cast fresh doubt on the course of diplomatic efforts to end the war.

While Tehran has threatened to suspend communication with Washington and hinted at opening a new front in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, U.S. officials insist a deal remains within reach. The mixed messages have coincided with sporadic military exchanges between the two countries, underscoring the fragility of the diplomatic process. Analysts say the divergent narratives reflect broader, unresolved divisions between Tehran and Washington. Yet as the war has already taken a heavy toll on both sides, neither seems eager to ignite a full-scale conflict, leaving the door slightly ajar for a possible deal.

## Mixed signals

As a fragile April ceasefire holds on despite sporadic skirmishes, both Iran and the United States have sent mixed signals about the prospects for a lasting settlement, highlighting tensions while also underscoring efforts to avoid a return to open conflict. In recent days, Iran has reportedly halted negotiations with the United States via mediation, citing continued Israeli military operations in Lebanon and accusing Washington of failing to uphold the truce, while the U.S. side insisted that the U.S.-Iran talks are ongoing. On Monday, Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency reported that Tehran has halted talks and exchanges of draft proposals with the United States, saying that "there will be no dialogue" until Iran's demands on "immediate cessation" of Israeli operations in Gaza and Lebanon are secured. It added that Iran and its allies have determined "on the agenda to completely block the Strait of

Hormuz, and to activate other fronts, including the Bab el-Mandeb Strait," in retaliation.

Hours after the Iranian announcement, U.S. President Donald Trump said that U.S.-Iran talks "are continuing, at a rapid pace," and expressed confidence that the United States would reach an agreement with Iran within next week to extend the ceasefire and reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Amidst the conflicting signals, sporadic clashes have flared in and around the Strait of Hormuz over the past several days. The U.S. Central Command said Sunday that the U.S. military conducted "self-defense strikes" on Iran's radars, command and control sites for drones in parts of Iran over the weekend. A day later, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps said it targeted a U.S.- and Israeli-linked vessel with a cruise missile.

## Broader divisions

The recent escalation appears to

have dimmed prospects for the two countries to end the war. The conflicting signals from both sides show that the disagreement is no longer focused solely on "centrifuge numbers or uranium enrichment levels," Muawiya Al-Toum, a Sudanese expert in diplomacy and international relations, told Xinhua. "It is now about the shape of the regional security order itself, Iran's role within it, and the limits of U.S. influence in the region," he said.

Regarding Iran's demand that Israel immediately halt operations in Gaza and Lebanon, Ezzat Saad, director of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, said it reflects Tehran's effort to secure greater leverage in any future agreement. The mixed signals from both sides suggest that the core disagreements remain fundamentally unchanged, said Akram Atallah, a Gaza-based political analyst. "There are still major differences regarding the limits of Iran's nuclear activities, the timing and scope of sanctions relief, verification procedures, and

the broader security implications of any future agreement." Even with deep rifts between the two sides, analysts say this does not mean the two countries have abandoned the possibility of a diplomatic solution. "These contradictory signals are not new; rather, they have been a clear feature of the ongoing talks between the two sides since the ceasefire took effect," said Saad. Despite the contradictions and differences in their positions, both sides appear keen to maintain and extend the ceasefire, as a return to full-scale conflict would be a more costly option for both, the Egyptian expert said.

## Deal still possible

While current quarrels and sporadic clashes have added complexity to negotiations, many experts believe that the prospect of reaching a deal remains. "The recent statements and actions by both sides may create an impression of growing tension, but they should also be understood as part of a broader negotiating strategy," said Mustafa Ibrahim, a Gaza-based political analyst. "Both Washington and Tehran are trying to improve their leverage and secure better terms without completely shutting the door on diplomacy." Echoing the Gaza expert, Khaled Al-Hroub, a professor of political science and international conflicts at Northwestern University in Qatar, described recent U.S.-Iran moves as a "negotiated management of escalation" used by both sides to maximize gains before reaching any potential agreement. "The chances of reaching an agreement in the near term remain limited but not impossible, because mutual interests push both sides to keep the negotiation channel open," said Ali Al-Harhi, a political analyst at King Saud University in Riyadh. Although a deal remains possible, it cannot be ruled out that further uncertainties and challenges may arise before the two sides reach a deal. "Interim arrangements or temporary understandings could be reached," said Al-Toum, the Sudanese expert, "but the ultimate resolution will be shaped not only by talks between Washington and Tehran, but also by developments elsewhere in the region, including the war in Gaza, the trajectory of Iran-Israel relations, and the positions of major international actors." "The region is currently facing a period of profound uncertainty, where opportunities for compromise coexist with the risk of escalation, and neither path has yet emerged as the decisive outcome," he added.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Dormitories should be escape routes, not traps

The recent turmoil in boarding schools has once again sparked serious concerns about the safety of students residing in dormitories. Incidents of arson, property damage, and student protests have been on the rise, revealing vulnerabilities not only in school administration but also in the architectural layout of school buildings. During such unrest, dormitories often become the main targets. In numerous cases, students have ignited dormitories, endangering hundreds of lives. While authorities focus on identifying and punishing the culprits, a crucial question arises: are dormitories designed to facilitate students' safe escape during emergencies? Many school dormitories are equipped with metal window grilles and are situated on higher floors.

When designing dormitories, safety should be the top priority. Incorporating ground-floor



structures, multiple emergency exits, fire alarms, and windows that can be used for evacuation can greatly minimize the risk of casualties. It is important for a dormitory to offer students protection, not to confine them during emergencies. The recent increase in school unrest serves as a reminder that emergencies can occur unexpectedly. Whether stemming from indiscipline, frustration, or external influences, school fires pose

a constant threat to the lives of innocent students. School administrators, education officials, and policymakers need to reconsider the layout of dormitory facilities to ensure that students can evacuate swiftly and securely.

By: **Oliver Ogutu.**

## A historic apology in Wajir: Can words heal decades of neglect?

By **Hadassah Karangu**

When President William Ruto stood before thousands in Wajir on Madaraka Day and publicly acknowledged decades of state neglect of Northern Kenya, he did something rare in Kenyan politics: he told the truth.

It was a moment of recognition millions had waited a lifetime for. Northern Kenya enters the national conversation mostly through drought, insecurity, and humanitarian appeals — rarely as a region of ambition, talent, and unrealised potential. Hosting the celebrations in Wajir for the first time in the country's history amplified that message. Roads, water projects, healthcare facilities, livestock programmes, and education investments followed in a sweeping vision for



transformation.

The announcements generated genuine hope. But Kenyans have heard ambitious promises before.

What residents of Northern Kenya want is not eloquence — it is evidence. Water flowing where drought once dominated. Tarmac roads replacing dusty tracks. Modern schools nurturing future leaders. Economic opportunities keeping young people productive. These are not aspirations; they are rights long denied.

Ruto's apology matters only if it marks the beginning of a

policy shift, not the high point of a ceremony. An acknowledgement without accountability is just a better speech.

True independence, sixty-three years on, is not measured by the size of the crowd or the sincerity of the applause. It is measured by whether every Kenyan — wherever they live — has an equal chance to thrive.

Wajir listened. Now Kenya must deliver.

*Hadassah Karangu is a student at Laikipia University.*

## The contract discount for teachers' children: what about children from ordinary families?



BY **Rajabova Zebo Sobirjon**  
@themtkenyatimes

The news that children of teachers may receive a 30% tuition contract discount starting from the 2026/2027 academic year has caused major discussions on social media. While some people see it as a sign of respect for teachers, others are asking about the children of ordinary families. Because today, it is ordinary families who are experiencing the greatest financial difficulties. Imagine this: on one side, there is a teacher's family working in the public sector. They have a stable salary, social benefits, and now their child may also receive a tuition discount. On the other side, there are ordinary families

— fathers working in markets, mothers sewing clothes, laborers, or families surviving on daily income. Their children also enter universities, stay awake at night studying for tests, and dream about their future. But when the time comes to pay tuition fees, they receive no discount at all. In fact, the biggest question starts here: why is support being given based on profession? Today, many ordinary families are taking loans just to pay tuition fees for their children. Some young people are even forced to quit their studies and work instead because tuition fees increase every year. In some fields, the amount is becoming equal to an ordinary family's yearly income. The saddest part is that some talented young people are giving up on their dreams because of money. Imagine two students who received the same exam score. One gets millions of soums in discounts simply

because they are a teacher's child. The other pays the full tuition fee because they come from a working-class family. This situation is increasing questions among young people about whether there is equality in education. Of course, teachers should be supported. Teachers play an important role in society. But the hard work of ordinary families is no less valuable. The child of a father working in construction under the hot sun, a mother selling goods in the market, or a person working abroad and sending money home may also need support. When the sense of justice disappears in society, dissatisfaction grows. Because young people today are feeling one thing clearly: privileges are not equal for everyone. Perhaps the fairest solution would be to provide discounts not based on profession, but on the real financial condition of families. Then not only teachers' chil-



Teachers play an important role in society

dren, but also children from genuinely struggling ordinary families, would have opportunities. Education should not be a privilege — it should be an equal opportunity open to everyone.

*Rajabova Zebo Sobirjon qizi was born on April 30, 2008, in Narpay district of Samarkand region. She was admitted to the 1st grade of School No. 16 in 2015 and successfully graduat-*

*ed from this school in 2026 with excellent grades.*

*Zebo holds certificates in English language as well as in native language and history among general education subjects.*

*Currently, she is actively engaged in writing and publishing articles in order to become a student at the University of Journalism and Mass Communications of Uzbekistan.*

*Her family consists of five*

*members. Her father, Sobir, works as an architect in the construction field. Her mother passed away in 2017. She also has one older brother and one younger brother.*

*Zebo is interested in learning the Korean language and enjoys reading books. In the future, she aims to become Uzbekistan's correspondent journalist in Korea.*

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**Sports >>** \*Riot officers clash with thousands of striking teachers at Mexico City's Zócalo as the countdown to the 2026 FIFA World Cup opener enters its final stretch.

## Mexican police fire tear gas at teachers' protest 10 days before World Cup opener

By Norman Mwale

Mexico City's preparations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup were rocked on Monday when riot police fired tear gas to disperse thousands of teachers marching on the Zócalo, just 10 days before the capital is due to host the tournament's opening match on 11 June. The confrontation erupted as demonstrators from the National Coordinator of Education Workers, or CNTE, breached metal barriers surrounding the historic square, where a giant screen and Fan Fest infrastructure for the World Cup are under construction.

According to AFP journalists at the scene, the clash began when teachers broke through one of the temporary barricades erected at the entrance to the Zócalo, a block from the National Palace. Hundreds of riot officers, positioned behind tall metal fences, responded with tear gas and fire extinguishers to prevent the march from reaching the plaza. "This event will have to be suspended," union leader Filiberto Frausto told AFP as blue smoke filled the air. "A cause like ours should be far above — it's far more important than a little bit of distraction and fun." Frausto confirmed that at least one protester was struck by an unidentified projectile and taken away with blood pouring from a head injury. AFP witnessed another participant being carried away with a bloody head wound.

The dissident faction of the CNTE has threatened to mobilise millions of teachers in the capital during the World Cup unless the government meets demands for salary increases and the reversal of pension reforms. "We demand the fulfilment of our demands," said Filiberto Frausto Orozco, a teacher from the northern state of Zacatecas, speaking to AFP last month. He added that union members had agreed to stage



"intense protests" throughout the tournament. Pedro Hernández Morales, general secretary of CNTE section 9 in Mexico City, warned that if their demands are not met before the opening match, "the ball will not roll," Al Jazeera English reported.

Mexico City authorities had not released an official statement on Monday's use of force, but the capital's Secretariat of Citizen Security has previously said that protests will be permitted provided they remain peaceful and do not impede World Cup infrastructure. The Zócalo, which will host public viewings of Mexico's first match, has been cordoned off for weeks as crews assemble stages, screens and sponsor installations. Security forces have maintained a heavy presence around the square since 25 May, when teachers first attempted to establish a protest camp there.

The timing of the unrest has heightened international scrutiny. With five World Cup matches scheduled in Mexico City, including the opener, the capital is considered one of the safer host cities despite ongoing concerns about crime and protest activity. "There are very large networks

of piracy, human trafficking, prostitution, obviously drug dealing, and some extortion, but it's also the area of the country with the highest per capita police presence and security cameras," Víctor Manuel Sánchez Valdés, a researcher at the Autonomous University of Coahuila, told CNN. He added that while cartels do not dominate the capital, street-level crime and demonstrations pose logistical challenges for organisers.

Teachers affiliated with the CNTE have staged rolling strikes since mid-May, coinciding with Teacher's Day, and previously shut down parts of Mexico City by blocking key roads and the entrance to the international airport. The union says the monthly starting gross wage for public school teachers is the equivalent of US\$967, and it is demanding a 100% increase — far above the nine per cent offered in government negotiations. "Education isn't a priority, but the million-dollar business of the World Cup is," read one banner carried during a rally on 16 May.

Monday's scenes evoked memories of 2013, when riot police cleared thousands of striking teachers from the Zócalo with

tear gas, flash grenades and water cannons three days before Independence Day celebrations. Then, as now, the teachers armed themselves with metal pipes and wooden clubs, while police warned that force would be used if the square was not vacated. Within half an hour, the plaza had been cleared.

With the tournament set to begin on 11 June, pressure is mounting on President Claudia Sheinbaum's administration to balance security for the World Cup with the rights of demonstrators. FIFA has not commented publicly on the protests, but Mexican organisers insist the Fan Fest will proceed as planned. For the CNTE, however, the World Cup represents leverage. "We will win this struggle, whatever it costs," protesters chanted on Monday. "It will fall, it will fall... that wall is going to fall." As Mexico prepares to welcome an estimated five million visitors, the coming days will test whether the government can keep both the football and the dissent from a collision course.

# GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> \*Tielemans and Lukaku give the Red Devils a clinical pre-World Cup boost on the Adriatic coast.

# Belgium sink Croatia 2-0 in Rijeka as Lukaku strikes late



Belgium underlined their credentials with a clinical 2-0 victory over Croatia

By Norman Mwale

Belgium underlined their credentials with a clinical 2-0 victory over Croatia in an international friendly at Stadion HNK Rijeka on Monday, with Youri Tielemans and Romelu Lukaku providing the goals in a contest that served as a key tune-up ahead of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers. The Red Devils weathered early pressure from Luka Modrić's side before striking in each half to extend their unbeaten run to five matches.

The visitors opened the scoring in the 37th minute when Tielemans arrived late in the box to steer a left-footed finish into the centre of the goal, capitalising on patient build-up play to put Belgium 1-0 up at the interval. Croatia, roared on by a capac-

ity crowd in Rijeka, responded with intensity after the break but struggled to convert possession into clear chances. Petar Musa went closest with a driven effort in the 11th minute, while Belgium's Jérémy Doku tested Dominik Livaković early on.

As the Vatreni pushed for an equaliser, Belgium struck decisively on the counter in stoppage time. Hans Vanaken slipped a perfectly weighted through ball to Lukaku, who cut in from the left and drilled a low shot into the bottom right corner in the 96th minute to seal the 2-0 result. The goal capped a professional away performance and ensured Belgium left Croatia with a morale-boosting win.

Speaking after the match, Belgium head coach Domenico Tedesco praised his side's disci-

pline. "We knew Croatia would have the ball, especially with Modrić controlling the tempo. The key was to stay compact and be ruthless when the chances came," Tedesco said. "Youri's timing for the first goal was perfect, and Romelu showed again why he is so important to us in these games."

Croatia manager Zlatko Dalić admitted his team lacked cutting edge despite a positive approach. "We created situations but the final pass or shot was missing. Against a team like Belgium you get punished," Dalić told reporters. "This is preparation. We will learn from it before the qualifiers start." Captain Luka Modrić, who led Croatia out in front of his home supporters, added: "It is always special to play here in Rijeka. The result is disappoint-

ing but the World Cup is what matters. We keep working."

The match, played on 2 June 2026, drew significant interest as both nations fine-tune for competitive fixtures later this year. Belgium's victory continued a recent edge in the head-to-head, with the Red Devils now holding three wins to Croatia's three across nine meetings. For Croatia, the defeat was a sobering reminder of the margins at international level, while Belgium depart the Adriatic coast with momentum and two well-taken goals to show for their evening's work.

# SPORTS NEWS



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# SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



# The theory of generations and its interpretation in the digital age



By: Kamilla Kamilovna Kuralbaeva  
@themtkenyatimes

In the context of rapid technological development and the transformation of social communication, the study of the characteristics of different generations has become particularly relevant. Modern society is characterized by the coexistence of people belonging to various generational groups, each of which was formed under specific historical, cultural, and technological conditions. These differences influence value orientations, ways of perceiving information, communication models, and forms of interaction with the surrounding world.

One of the most well-known concepts explaining the characteristics of generational differences is the Theory of Generations, developed by the American researchers William Strauss and Neil Howe. This theory suggests that approximately every 20–25 years a new generation emerges, possessing specific social attitudes, behavioral patterns, and perceptions of the world. These differences have become the subject of active academic discussion in various fields, including sociology, pedagogy, cultural studies, and media studies.

During the seminar held on February 12-13, special attention was paid to the analysis of the main characteristics of modern generations and their role in social processes. Generation Alpha is already being formed in a world where artificial intelligence is becoming an everyday tool for learning and communication. The seminar clearly emphasized that the differences between generations are manifested not only in the level of technological literacy, but also in value orientations. Older generations tend to view AI as an auxiliary tool, whereas young people perceive it as a full-fledged participant in the educational and creative process.

Particular interest was generated by the discussion on the influence of artificial intelligence on culture and professional activity. In the humanities, AI is used for text analysis, the creation of digital archives, the reconstruction of historical objects, and even the restoration of works of art. However, along with the expansion



Digital age



## Worth Noting:

- Particular interest was generated by the discussion on the influence of artificial intelligence on culture and professional activity. In the humanities, AI is used for text analysis, the creation of digital archives, the reconstruction of historical objects, and even the restoration of works of art. However, along with the expansion of opportunities, concerns are also increasing.

- During the discussion, it was emphasized that AI reflects the values and attitudes of those who create it. Therefore, responsibility for the results of its work lies with people. This is precisely why intergenerational communication is so important: older generations transmit professional and ethical traditions, while younger generations contribute technological adaptability.

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The seminar demonstrated that AI can become not only a factor of communication, but also a tool for uniting generations. With a грамотный approach, it promotes the exchange of knowledge, accelerates scientific research, and opens new forms of collaboration. The older generation focused attention on the risks of technological dependence, the decline of independent thinking, and the need for regulatory frameworks. Young people, in turn, emphasized the potential of AI as a means of expanding opportunities and accelerating professional growth. Thus, the seminar became a space for constructive dialogue, where each position received well-reasoned justification.

For me, participation in this seminar became an important professional and personal experience. First of all, I had the opportunity to represent our institute on an intellectual platform and exchange opinions with representatives of other educational institutions. Secondly, the discussion of the topic of generations allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of my own position as a representative of the younger generation actively using digital tools. I came to the conclusion that artificial intelligence is not an alternative to humans, but rather an extension of human capabilities. However, the effectiveness of its application directly depends on the level of critical thinking, responsibility, and professional competence of the user. Moreover, the seminar demonstrated that the future of education and science is impossible without taking technological trends into account. It is important not to oppose generations to one another, but to create conditions for their cooperation.

The seminar devoted to the topic of generations and artificial intelligence demonstrated the high relevance and interdisciplinary nature of the issues

under discussion. Artificial intelligence is becoming an important factor in the transformation of society, while generational differences determine the specific ways in which it is perceived and applied. The main conclusion that can be drawn from participation in the event is the following: the harmonious development of a digital society is possible only through maintaining a balance between technological progress and humanistic values. Artificial intelligence should serve as a tool for development rather than replace human thinking and responsibility.

**Kamilla Kamilovna Kuralbaeva** was born in 2005 in Tashkent. She is of uzbek nationality and holds the title of a third-degree dance master. She is fluent in Russian and English. In 2023, she was admitted to the Kamoliddin Behzod national institute of art and design, majoring in Museum Studies (expertise of museum objects, conservation and restoration). Currently, she is a talented third-year student of the institute..