



Kenya turns to Europe for new investment, export opportunities

Kenya is seeking to unlock fresh opportunities for farmers, manufacturers and exporters through a high-level diplomatic push in Europe that targets increased investment flows and wider access to lucrative international markets. **Page 10**



Why a Gachagua victory may not divide the opposition

As Kenya awaits the court's ruling on the impeachment case of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua today, political analysts have begun offering competing interpretations of what a victory or defeat would mean for the country's political future. **Page 12**

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Verdict During the hearings, lawyers representing Gachagua raised 18 grounds of challenge, arguing that the impeachment process was unconstitutional

D-Day for Gachagua

The High Court delivers its judgment today, Monday 8 June 2026, in consolidated petitions challenging the constitutionality of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's impeachment — a ruling that carries consequences far beyond one man's career.

Justices Eric Ogolla, Anthony Mrima and Frida Mugambi will read their decision in a case that will determine the legality of Gachagua's removal from office and the subsequent appointment of Deputy President Kithure Kindiki. For Gachagua, his supporters and the fractious opposition coalition he now leads, the ceremonial hall at Milimani Law Courts in Nairobi is the most consequential room in Kenya this morning.

The journey to this moment has been long, bitter, and constitutionally unprecedented. **Page 9**



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

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SCAN TO REGISTER

Kalonzo launches 'Komboa Kenya' movement, pledges people-powered 2027 campaign

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

Wiper Patriotic Front party leader and 2027 presidential hopeful Kalonzo Musyoka has officially unveiled the Komboa Kenya movement, describing it as a national mission to liberate the country from what he termed "state capture" and restore hope for millions of Kenyans.

Speaking during the launch of his presidential campaign platform website at Nairobi's Emaru Ole-Sereni Hotel on Saturday, Kalonzo said Komboa is not merely a slogan but a covenant with Kenyans seeking accountable leadership, economic renewal and inclusive development.

The former Vice President said the movement seeks to move the country "from promise to delivery, from potential to progress, and from hope to action," noting that the vision was first unveiled during the Wiper Patriotic Front National Delegates Conference in October 2025.

Kalonzo also pledged that his 2027 presidential bid would not be financed by cartels or special interests, insisting that the campaign would rely on ordinary citizens.

"Every shilling given by an honest Kenyan carries more value than any cheque written in pursuit of favour," he said.

Addressing concerns over rising safety incidents in schools, Kalonzo promised a nationwide audit of boarding school dormitories, a fully funded school mental health programme, stricter boarding school standards and firm action against negligence that endangers learners.

In a message of appreciation to supporters, Kalonzo thanked those who attended the launch, expressing confidence that, together, they would "Komboa Kenya" ahead of the August 10, 2027 General Election. Scores of his supporters from different parts of the country attended the event.



The Mt. Kenya Times



Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Rotary Club of Nanyuki has appealed for partnerships to help support underprivileged learners in Laikipia County, citing the growing number of students who drop out of school due to financial challenges. Speaking during his installation as club president, Alex Kamau said the club's current scholarship fund is insufficient to cater for all deserving learners across the county. He noted that expanding the education kitty will be a key priority during his one-year tenure, describing education as a powerful tool for creating lasting impact and strengthening communities. Kamau also emphasized the need for strategic partnerships to enhance the club's community service initiatives and improve the lives of local residents. He pledged to increase awareness of Rotary's work and encourage more people to join in service, guided by the club's motto, "Service Above Self."



Persons with disabilities in the Nyanza region have benefited from a Sh5 million programme launched by the National Fund for the Disabled of Kenya (NFDK) to promote economic empowerment, mobility and institutional development. The initiative saw 18 beneficiaries from Kisumu West and Nyando receive assistive devices and income-generating equipment worth Sh815,000, including wheelchairs and welding machines. Additionally, 21 institutions serving persons with disabilities received grants of Sh200,000 each, totaling Sh4.2 million. NFDK Chairman Prof. Francis Kibera said the programme aims to enhance independence and livelihoods, while also supporting infrastructure development through larger grants for rehabilitation institutions.

Government officials, environmental stakeholders, and residents of Kajiado North marked World Environment Day at the Deputy County Commissioner's complex in Ngong, emphasizing the importance of involving young people in environmental conservation. Deputy County Commissioner Yusuf Mohammed said engaging the youth ensures long-term protection of the environment, as they grow up valuing conservation efforts. The event featured tree planting and a walk to Ngong Hills organized by the Young Green Army Club. Founder Abel Ondigi said the club has planted 2.2 million trees over the past four years and aims to reach five million by 2030. Participants also highlighted proper waste management, environmental awareness, and stronger protection of forests through existing laws.



Nyandarua Forest Conservator Daniel Mkung has urged farmers to regularly visit Kenya Forest Service (KFS) offices for guidance on suitable tree species and proper planting practices to enhance environmental conservation and sustainable forestry management. He at the same time urged farmers to adhere to regulations governing tree harvesting, warning that indiscriminate cutting of trees contributes to deforestation and can lead to desertification. On tree harvesting in the county Mkung noted his office has a tree harvesting and planting plan they use for the exercise. He said through the plan they are able to harvest trees while ensuring more are planted.



Turkana County joined the rest of the world in marking World Environment Day on Saturday at Lodwar Cathedral Catholic Church, reaffirming its commitment to environmental conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable development. Deputy County Secretary Joseph Nyanga said environmental protection is a shared responsibility and urged residents to take part in conservation efforts, highlighting the threats posed by climate change to livelihoods and ecosystems. County Director of Environment Phoebe Ekal encouraged communities to adopt sustainable practices such as tree planting and proper waste management. Stakeholders, including representatives from NEMA, KEFRI, and local government, called for increased tree cover, improved waste management, and stronger community participation to address climate change and promote a sustainable future.



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Politics Ndirangu outlined a people-centered agenda focused on infrastructure development

Eng. Wangai Ndirangu sets out bold vision for a prosperous Nyeri County

BY DMS

@themtkenyatimes

Nyeri gubernatorial aspirant Eng. Wangai Ndirangu has unveiled an ambitious development blueprint aimed at accelerating economic growth, improving public services, and creating opportunities for residents across Nyeri County.

Speaking in different public engagement forums across the county, Ndirangu outlined a people-centered agenda focused on infrastructure development, healthcare improvement, agricultural transformation, youth empowerment, and accountable leadership. He said his vision is anchored on unlocking Nyeri's economic potential while ensuring that development reaches every part of the county.

A key pillar of his agenda is infrastructure. Ndirangu noted that improved road networks, modern markets, and upgraded public facilities would stimulate trade, attract investment, and enhance access to essential services. He emphasized that reliable infrastructure is critical to connecting farmers, businesses, and communities to economic opportunities.

On healthcare, the aspiring governor pledged to strengthen medical services by improving health facilities, increasing access to quality care, and ensuring affordable treatment for residents. He said a healthy population is essential for sustainable development and promised to prioritize investments that

improve healthcare delivery across the county.

Agriculture, which remains the backbone of Nyeri's economy, features prominently in Ndirangu's development plan. He pledged to work closely with farmers to boost productivity through modern farming technologies, better extension services, and improved market access. He also underscored the need to support value addition and agribusiness initiatives that can increase farmers' earnings and create employment opportunities.

Youth empowerment is another major focus of his vision. Ndirangu said his administration would invest in skills development, entrepreneurship programs, and job creation initiatives to help young people become active contributors to the county's economic growth. He observed that many youths possess talent and potential but require supportive policies and opportunities to thrive.

Beyond sectoral development, Ndirangu has consistently emphasized transparency, accountability, and prudent management of public resources. He argues that effective leadership and responsible use of county funds are essential for delivering meaningful and lasting development. According to him, public participation and citizen engagement will play a central role in ensuring that county projects address the real needs of residents.

Political observers note that Ndirangu's message resonates with growing calls for



Eng. Wangai Ndirangu addressing Mihuti Farmers Cooperative Society members in Mukurwe-ini last week. | Photo: Courtesy.

transformative leadership and sustainable development in Nyeri. His focus on economic empowerment, service delivery, and inclusive growth seeks to position the county as a regional leader in agriculture, business, and innovation.

As the race for Nyeri's top seat gains momentum, Ndirangu is urging residents to support leaders committed to integrity, development, and shared prosperity.

He maintains that with strategic planning, sound governance, and collaboration between government and

citizens, Nyeri can achieve greater economic progress and improve the quality of life for all its residents.

He will be battling it with among others; Senator Wahome Wamatinga, former Othaya MP Gichuki Mugambi, KALRO chairman Dr Thuo Mathenge, businessman Kinyua Wanjohi alias Usikamake and Amb. Peter Munyiri among others.

Kamwangi Lands registry opens to bring services closer to Gatundu residents



Kamwangi Lands registry

BY DMS

@themtkenyatimes

Residents of Gatundu North Constituency in Kiambu County are set to benefit from improved access to land services following the official commissioning of the Kamwangi Lands Registry by Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development Alice Wahome.

The newly established facility is expected to serve more than 30,000 residents, reducing the need for long-distance travel to access land-related services while supporting the government's efforts to decentralize public service delivery.

Speaking during the launch last Friday, Wahome described the opening of the registry as a significant step in the Ministry's ongoing reforms aimed at enhancing efficiency, transparency and accessibility in land adminis-

tration across the country.

She noted that bringing services closer to the people would help reduce processing times, lower costs for citizens and improve the management of land transactions, registration and documentation.

The CS also praised Gatundu North MP Elijah Njoroge Kururia for championing the establishment of the facility, saying the project reflects the government's commitment to people-centered service delivery.

"I am delighted that the Kamwangi Lands Registry is now operational and ready to serve over 30,000 residents. This demonstrates the government's commitment to ensuring Kenyans can access essential land services conveniently," said Wahome.

The launch marks another milestone in the government's broader agenda to strengthen land administration systems and enhance service delivery at the grassroots level.

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Environment Day Cabinet Secretary Deborah Barasa emphasized that Kenya’s resilience depends on sustained climate action and ecosystem restoration.

Kenya marks World Environment Day in Nyandarua with call for climate action

BY MKT REPORTER
@themtkenyatimes

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry joined Kenyans in marking World Environment Day 2026 at the Olkalou Arboretum in Nyandarua County. The event, held last Friday, was celebrated under a global theme framed as a call for urgent climate action, spotlighting the need to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

Cabinet Secretary Deborah Barasa called for stronger collective responsibility in protecting and restoring the environment, urging stakeholders to remain faithful stewards of natural resources.

She emphasized that Kenya’s resilience depends on sustained climate action and ecosystem restoration.



CS Deborah Barasa watering a tree

The commemoration brought together key institutions and partners, including the Kenya Forestry Research Institute, the National Environment

Management Authority led by Director General Mamo B. Mamo, as well as Principal Secretary Festus Ng’eno, local govern-



Some of the stakeholders in a procession.

ment representatives, special interest groups, and development partners.

Speakers underscored the importance of collaboration in advancing climate resilience and landscape res-

toration across Kenya, reaffirming the government’s commitment to a greener and more sustainable future for generations to come.

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Coastal leaders raise alarm over mangrove loss and marine pollution



Environmentalist during the exercise.

BY DMS

@themkenyatimes

Environmental stakeholders have intensified calls for urgent action to address mangrove destruction, marine pollution, and the growing impacts of climate change along Kenya's coastline.

The concerns were raised during World Environment Day celebrations at Shelly Beach in Likoni, Mombasa, where community groups, judicial officers, elected leaders, and environmental advocates participated in a beach cleanup and tree-planting exercise.

Environment and Land Court Judge Anthony Ombwayo warned that receding shorelines and the expansion of inland water bodies are clear signs of environmental degradation linked to climate change. He attributed much of the problem to widespread deforestation and urged Kenyans to embrace tree planting and conservation efforts.

Ombwayo noted that despite existing laws prescribing stiff penalties for environmental pollution, enforcement remains weak, with only a few climate change-related cases currently before the courts.

Likoni MP Mishi Mboko said her office has dedicated a portion of the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) to environmental conservation projects, including mangrove restoration and tree-planting

programmes in schools. She also announced a partnership aimed at planting fruit trees in learning institutions across the constituency.

Mboko called for greater public participation in environmental protection, stressing that climate change threatens livelihoods, biodiversity, and coastal ecosystems.

Mombasa County Executive Committee Member for Blue Economy Ibrahim Khamisi identified industrial waste discharge into the ocean as a major environmental challenge, particularly in the Tudor area. He emphasized the need for collective responsibility in protecting natural resources.

Civil society leaders also called for stronger enforcement of environmental laws and equitable sharing of revenues generated from natural resources in coastal counties.

Community groups showcased ongoing conservation efforts, with the Kishoka Youth Organization highlighting its mangrove restoration project at Dongo Kundu. Working with local partners and supported through NG-CDF funding, the group has planted 30,000 mangrove trees to help restore degraded ecosystems and protect coastal livelihoods.

Participants urged continued collaboration among government agencies, communities, and development partners to safeguard the environment and build resilience against climate change.



Stakeholders addressing the media after the event.



Embu Catholic Bishop Peter Kimani Ndung'u with some of the uniformed and disciplined officers after the thanksgiving mass on Saturday | Photo: Courtesy.

Embu hosts annual thanksgiving mass for uniformed and disciplined officers

BY DMS

@themkenyatimes

Uniformed and disciplined officers from Embu, Meru and Tharaka Nithi counties gathered with their families at Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Parish in Embu for the annual thanksgiving ceremony, a colourful inter-agency event dedicated to recognising God's role in safeguarding the nation and those serving in the security sector.

The Saturday Holy Mass was led by Bishop Peter Kimani Ndung'u of the Catholic Diocese of Embu, assisted by chaplains from the disciplined services and local clergy.

The congregation included personnel from the National Police Service, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Prisons Service, Kenya Wildlife Service and the National Youth Service.

Drawing from the theme, "Be strong and steadfast for the Lord your God is with you" (Joshua

1:9), and the Gospel teaching of the widow's mite, Bishop Ndung'u urged officers to embrace humility, sacrifice and integrity in their daily duties.

"God notices all the sacrifices you make while on duty," the bishop said, noting the critical roles played by prison officers, police officers, conservationists and youth trainers in serving society. He encouraged officers to remain steadfast, honest and professional while treating members of the public with kindness and respect.

The bishop also paid tribute to officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty while maintaining law and order, protecting wildlife and rehabilitating offenders. He further encouraged officers to cherish the time they spend with their families despite the demands of their work.

Eastern Regional Commissioner Jacob Ouma, represented by Embu County Commissioner Morris Wanyonyi, acknowledged the challenging nature of security work

and emphasised the importance of prayer and gratitude in service.

Mr Wanyonyi challenged officers to embody the qualities of a true "CHIEF" office; Courageous, Honest, Integrity-driven, Effective and Focused.

He also called on institutional commanders to treat junior officers fairly and compassionately.

"Let us love one another and work hand in hand with every community as one family to make Kenya thrive," he said.

The event was attended by senior security and conservation officials, including National Organising Committee Chairman Dr Clement Ng'oriareng, Director of Wildlife Security Johana Tonui, Embu County Police Commander Sarah Koki, DCI Headquarters representative Grace Ndirangu, Embu County Forest Conservator Elizabeth Muthoni Kariuki and Principal Chaplain Father Jeremy Mwenda, among other senior officers.

Verdict The constitutional questions the judges must now resolve are significant. At the heart of the case is whether impeachment disputes are justiciable at all.

D-Day for Gachagua: a nation waits on a ruling that could rewrite Kenya's politics

After 20 months of legal battles, church prayers, and defiant speeches, former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua faces a High Court verdict today that will determine not just his future — but the shape of Kenya's 2027 election

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

The High Court delivers its judgment today, Monday 8 June 2026, in consolidated petitions challenging the constitutionality of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's impeachment — a ruling that carries consequences far beyond one man's career.

Justices Eric Ogolla, Anthony Mrima and Frida Mugambi will read their decision in a case that will determine the legality of Gachagua's removal from office and the subsequent appointment of Deputy President Kithure Kindiki. For Gachagua, his supporters and the fractious opposition coalition he now leads, the ceremonial hall at Milimani Law Courts in Nairobi is the most consequential room in Kenya this morning.

The journey to this moment has been long, bitter, and constitutionally unprecedented.

The impeachment process began in October 2024 after a motion sponsored by Kibwezi West MP Mwangi Mutuse accused Gachagua of gross misconduct, abuse of office, and violations of the Constitution. The National Assembly voted overwhelmingly to approve the motion before the matter proceeded to the Senate, which later upheld the charges and removed him from office. The 67 lawmakers of the Senate found him guilty on five grounds but absolved him on six charges — making him the first sitting Deputy President in Kenya's history to be removed through impeachment.

Gachagua was removed from office in October 2024. Lawmakers accused him of promoting ethnically divisive politics and undermining the government. He has since alleged that bribes were solicited in both the National Assembly and the Senate to support his removal. His legal team moved swiftly. Challenges were filed, conservatory orders sought, and a protracted battle through multiple court levels began — one that involved the Supreme Court itself weighing in on whether

the original High Court bench was properly constituted.

During the hearings, lawyers representing Gachagua raised 18 grounds of challenge, arguing that the impeachment process was unconstitutional, unfair, and violated his right to a fair hearing. The legal team further claimed that there was insufficient public participation and procedural irregularities during the impeachment proceedings. Parliament pushed back firmly. Lawyer Moses Kipkoge, representing the National Assembly, told the High Court that the proceedings were conducted within constitutional timelines and involved one of the most extensive public participation exercises in Kenya's history, with some 223,000 Kenyans submitting views physically in various offices.

The constitutional questions the judges must now resolve are significant. At the heart of the case is whether impeachment disputes are justiciable at all. The Attorney-General, Parliament, the Senate and Deputy President Kindiki argued that impeachment is a political process entrusted to Parliament, urging the court not to substitute judicial opinion for parliamentary judgment. But petitioners argued that the Constitution created a supervisory judiciary with power to review exercises of public authority, and that Parliament cannot escape scrutiny simply because a dispute carries political consequences.

On the eve of the ruling, Gachagua was composed — and deliberately public about it.

Speaking during a church service at PCEA Karen on Sunday, Gachagua said he was ready to accept the High Court ruling while urging his supporters to remain calm regardless of the outcome. "I ask you to pray for us. I was removed from office against the law and the Constitution. The case has been heard and the verdict is tomorrow. We are ready for any outcome," he said.

It was a message calibrated carefully for two audiences: his base, which he needed to keep steady, and a watching public that has seen Kenyan political disputes turn vola-



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

tile. He added that if the judges ruled in his favour, it would affirm the strength of the country's justice system. "If the three judges rule that we were treated unfairly and against the law and Constitution and lift the impeachment and let us be, we shall be grateful to God and grateful that the justice system in the country works," he said.

But he was equally clear about what an adverse ruling would mean — not defeat, but a next step. Should the ruling go against him, Gachagua has indicated that he will immediately move to the Court of Appeal to challenge the decision. He has maintained that even an unfavourable ruling would not mark the end of his political ambitions, insisting that his path to State House remains open regardless of the outcome. "It is not a must that I lead while in an elected office; I can still do it from my Wamunyororo home, exactly what I have been doing since they hounded me out of office," he said.

The stakes, however, extend well beyond Gachagua's personal fortunes.

The June 8 judgment has emerged

as a crucial factor in the 2027 elections, with implications for President William Ruto's re-election bid and the presidential aspirations of Wiper Patriotic Front boss Kalonzo Musyoka and Jubilee deputy party leader Fred Matiang'i, the two United Opposition presidential hopefuls. A ruling that upholds the impeachment could bar Gachagua from contesting public office — or it could liberate him to serve as kingmaker rather than candidate. Analysts caution that a Gachagua presidential bid, if cleared by the court, could paradoxically benefit President Ruto by splitting anti-government votes and making it easier for the incumbent to secure a second term.

Gachagua has reiterated his commitment to the opposition cause and a push for a joint single candidate to face President Ruto in 2027. "If it will not be me, and it turns out that my sister Martha Karua or my cousins Edwin Sifuna, Fred Matiang'i, Kalonzo Musyoka, George Ntembeya, Eugene Wamalwa... I will be good to submit," he said. It is a statement that sounds magnanimous — and one that the opposition's in-

ternal tensions immediately complicate. While Gachagua has publicly stated he will back Kalonzo for the presidency, former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i is pushing back against how the coalition plans to pick a single candidate, proposing a scientific selection process that Kalonzo allies have dismissed as a boardroom manoeuvre.

Whatever the judges decide this morning, one thing is already clear: this ruling will not end Kenyan politics as Gachagua has learned to play it. If the impeachment is declared unconstitutional, he becomes a man vindicated — and emboldened. If it is upheld, he becomes a martyr whose grievance the opposition will continue to weaponise.

Either way, Rigathi Gachagua is not going home.

Kenya turns to Europe President William Ruto left Nairobi last evening for official visits to Belgium and Norway and a state visit to Finland

Kenya turns to Europe for new investment, export opportunities

BY Suleiman Mbatiah and DMS

@themkenyatimes

Kenya is seeking to unlock fresh opportunities for farmers, manufacturers and exporters through a high-level diplomatic push in Europe that targets increased investment flows and wider access to lucrative international markets.

President William Ruto left Nairobi last evening for official visits to Belgium and Norway and a state visit to Finland, where he is expected to hold talks with political leaders, investors and business executives as part of efforts to strengthen trade ties, attract capital and expand Kenya's export footprint. The tour comes as the government intensifies economic diplomacy to spur growth, create jobs and increase foreign exchange earnings.

The engagements are expected to focus on sectors including agriculture, manufacturing, logistics, renewable energy, technology and value addition, areas the government views as critical to accelerating industrialization and boosting exports.

"President William Ruto departs this afternoon for Official Visits to Belgium and Norway, and a State Visit to Finland aimed at attracting investment, expanding market access for Kenyan products and strengthening partnerships that boost exports, create jobs and drive economic growth," State House Spokesperson Hussein Mohamed said in a statement.

In Belgium, President Ruto is scheduled to meet King Philippe and Flanders Minister-President Matthias Diependaele to discuss trade, investment and broader bilateral cooperation. He is also expected to engage business leaders on opportunities in manufacturing, agriculture,

logistics and value addition.

The visit will include consultations with senior European Union officials, among them European Council President António Costa and European Parliament President Roberta Metsola. Discussions are expected to centre on implementation of the Kenya-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement, which grants Kenyan exports duty-free and quota-free access to the EU market.

The European Union remains one of Kenya's largest export destinations. According to the European Commission, the bloc is a major market for Kenyan tea, coffee, cut flowers, fruits and vegetables, products that support hundreds of thousands of jobs across the country's agricultural value chains.

Government officials believe stronger implementation of the trade agreement could help local producers increase exports while encouraging more European investment into Kenya's processing and manufacturing sectors.

"The discussions will focus on the implementation of the Kenya-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement, which provides duty-free and quota-free access for Kenyan exports to the European market. The engagement will help unlock greater opportunities for Kenyan farmers and exporters, particularly in tea, coffee, cut flowers, horticulture and other value-added products," the statement said.

After Belgium, the President will travel to Norway, where he is expected to hold talks with Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre and meet Crown Prince Haakon. The programme includes participation in the Kenya-Norway Business Forum, bringing together investors from both countries to explore commercial partnerships.

The forum is expected to focus on renewable energy, electric mobility, climate-smart agriculture and the blue economy. Kenya has increasingly positioned itself as a regional leader in clean energy, with geothermal, wind and solar power accounting for a significant share of its electricity generation, according to data from the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority.

Analysts say stronger investment partnerships in green industries could help Kenya accelerate its transition to a low-carbon economy while creating employment opportunities for young people entering the labour market.

The final leg of the tour will take the President to Finland on a state visit following Finnish President Alexander Stubb's visit to Kenya in May 2025. The two countries are expected to deepen cooperation in education, digital technology, healthcare, environmental sustainability, clean energy and security matters.

"While in Finland, President Ruto will participate in the Kultaranta Talks, a leading international foreign and security policy forum. The inclusion of Africa as a key pillar of this year's discussions provides an important opportunity for Kenya to advance the continent's priorities on peace, security, sustainable development and reforms to the international system," the statement said.

President Ruto will also attend a Kenya-Finland Business Forum aimed at connecting investors and companies in technology, manufacturing, innovation and value addition. State House says the engagements are intended to generate new investment commitments, strengthen economic cooperation and open additional pathways for Kenyan products in European markets as the government pursues export-led growth.



President William Ruto leaving the country in the past.

MURANG'A COUNTY GOVERNMENT



KENOL MUNICIPALITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Urban and Cities Act of 2011 (Amended in 2019) and Kenol Municipality Charter of 2023, Kenol Municipality is mandated to undertake Public Participation forums on matters development.

This notice is to inform the general public of a proposed meeting to be held on Friday 12th June 2026 at Kenol DCC's Hall starting 9.30am.

Agenda.

1. Discussion on existing Municipal Development plans: Strategic, Spatial and Integrated Development (IDep) plans.
2. Identification of Municipality priorities.
3. Projects/Programs implementation status.
4. Private Sector Engagement Framework for Urban boards.
5. A.O.B

Members of the public can share their views through our official email address (kenolmunicipality@muranga.go.ke). Hard copies of proposals can also be dropped at the Municipality Offices Kenol town along Nairobi Nyeri Highway on or before 11th June 2026 during official working hours.

Ms. B. Wairimu Gicheha
 KENOL MUNICIPALITY
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 MUNICIPAL MANAGER -KENOL MUNICIPALITY

ASK The five-day exhibition, organized by the Nakuru branch of the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK), will run from July 1 to July 5, 2026

Nakuru banks on ASK Show to drive food security, investment and enterprise growth

BY Suleiman Mbatiah

@themkenyatimes

The County Government of Nakuru is banking on the upcoming 2026 Nakuru National Show to attract investment, promote climate-smart agriculture and connect farmers and businesses with new market opportunities as part of broader efforts to accelerate economic growth and strengthen food security.

The five-day exhibition, organized by the Nakuru branch of the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK), will run from July 1 to July 5 at the Nakuru Showground under the theme, "Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Growth." The event is expected to bring together government agencies, private sector players, researchers, financial institutions, development partners, farmers, innovators and investors from across the country.

Deputy Governor David Kones while addressing exhibitors said the exhibition will provide a strategic platform for showcasing agricultural innovations, expanding trade opportunities and strengthening partnerships that support sustainable development.

"This year's theme reminds us of the critical role that innovation, partnership, and sustainability play in transforming our agricultural sector and strengthening our economy," Kones said during an exhibitors' event held ahead of the show.

County officials say agriculture remains a key pillar of Nakuru's economy, with the county ranking among Kenya's leading producers of maize, wheat, barley, potatoes and beans, alongside a thriving dairy industry. Its strategic location and strong agricultural base have also



Deputy Governor David Kones and other ASK and Nakuru County officials touring stands during last year's show.

helped position Nakuru as a major commercial hub within the Rift Valley region.

Kones noted that the exhibition will allow farmers to access modern technologies, improved farming methods and market linkages while giving businesses an opportunity to showcase products and services to potential investors and customers.

According to ASK Nakuru Branch Chairman Dr. Perminus Migwi, the annual show is expected to attract thousands of visitors, including farmers, agribusiness firms, innovators, investors, schools and members of the public.

The exhibition will feature demonstrations of modern farming technologies, livestock production systems, mechanization solutions, value addition opportunities and climate-smart agricultural practices aimed at improving productivity and sustainability.

Dr. Migwi said such platforms have become increasingly important as farmers grapple with unpredictable rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts and rising production costs associated with climate change.

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"This year's theme reminds us of the critical role that innovation, partnership, and sustainability play in transforming our agricultural sector and strengthening our economy," Kones said during an exhibitors' event held ahead of the show.



Preparations for the exhibition are already underway. ASK has scheduled an exhibitors' briefing ahead of pre-show activities set for June 29 and 30. Trade judging will take place on June 30 before the exhibition officially opens to the public on July 1.

The organizers have also unveiled a schedule of themed days designed to target different categories of participants. July 1 has been designated as Business Day, focusing on trade and networking opportunities, while July 2 will be Farmers Day. The official opening ceremony is scheduled for July 3, followed by Members Day on July 4 and Family Day on July 5.

Visitors can expect a wide range of exhibits covering dairy farming, poultry production, sheep farming, horticulture, crop production, livestock management and farm mechanization. Demonstrations of emerging agricul-

tural technologies are also expected to feature prominently as stakeholders seek practical solutions to enhance productivity and adapt to changing climatic conditions.

Beyond agriculture and trade, the show will offer family-oriented entertainment activities, including funfairs, performances by local artists, military band displays, music and theatrical productions, as well as amusement park attractions aimed at attracting visitors of all ages.

Kones emphasized that strong collaboration among stakeholders remains essential in accelerating agricultural transformation and creating employment opportunities, particularly for young people seeking opportunities within agricultural value chains.

"I wish to particularly commend the strong collaboration between the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK), the County Government of Naku-

ru, private sector players, development partners, research institutions, financial organizations, and all exhibitors represented here today. This partnership has been instrumental in creating a platform where knowledge is shared, innovations are showcased, and business opportunities are created," he said.

The exhibition is also expected to create networking opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises, financial institutions and investors seeking to expand their footprint within the agricultural sector. County leaders maintain that greater access to financing, technology and markets will be critical in unlocking the full potential of farmers and agribusiness enterprises.

ASK has set gate entry charges at KSh300 for adults and KSh250 for children, while organized groups and special parties will enjoy discounted rates of KSh250 for adults and KSh200 for children.

The society is also encouraging public participation through its membership programme. Membership categories include Executive Membership at KSh8,500, Full Membership at KSh3,000, Single Membership at KSh2,000, Armed Forces Membership at KSh800 and Young Farmers Club Membership at KSh400.

Kones said the county administration would continue investing in infrastructure and policies that support enterprise growth and agricultural development, arguing that long-term economic progress depends on effective collaboration between government, businesses and local communities.

"As a County Government, we remain dedicated to creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive through improved infrastructure, supportive policies, enhanced service delivery, and strategic partnerships. We recognize that meaningful development can only be achieved when the government, private sector, and communities work together," he said.

Politics The leaders who ultimately shape political transitions are often those who understand the difference between personal ambition and historical responsibility

Why a Gachagua victory may not divide the opposition



By: Gitile Naituli
@themkenyatimes

As Kenya awaits the court's ruling on the impeachment case of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua today, political analysts have begun offering competing interpretations of what a victory or defeat would mean for the country's political future.

One argument gaining traction is that President William Ruto and the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) may quietly prefer Gachagua to

win because such a victory would strengthen him politically and potentially divide the opposition.

It is an interesting argument. It is also one that deserves closer scrutiny. The proposition rests on the assumption that a strengthened Rigathi Gachagua would inevitably become a destabilizing force within the emerging United Alternative Government (UAG), demanding a larger share of power and creating tensions that could fracture opposition unity. According to this view, a stronger Gachagua would either pull the opposition apart or position himself for a future political deal with President Ruto.

The argument sounds logical on the surface. The problem is that it misunderstands both the nature of the current opposition coalition and the

political instincts of Rigathi Gachagua himself.

First, it assumes that political strength automatically translates into political arrogance. History suggests otherwise.

The leaders who ultimately shape political transitions are often those who understand the difference between personal ambition and historical responsibility. Since his fallout with President Ruto, Gachagua has undergone a remarkable political transformation. Whether one agrees with him or not, he has increasingly presented himself not merely as a politician seeking office but as a mobilizer seeking political change.

His political language has evolved from defending a government to challenging one. His audience has expanded beyond Mount Kenya. Most importantly, he

appears to understand that the central political question of 2027 is not who becomes president, but whether the opposition can remain united long enough to offer Kenyans a credible alternative.

That is why the assumption that a court victory would automatically push him toward confrontation with fellow opposition leaders may be misplaced. In fact, one could argue the opposite.

A judicial victory would give Gachagua greater confidence and legitimacy. Leaders who feel secure are often more willing to compromise than those who feel politically threatened. A strengthened Gachagua would have less reason to fight for relevance because his relevance would already be established.

The second weakness in the fragmentation argument is the assumption that President Ruto would somehow benefit if the opposition produced multiple strong candidates.

This reflects an outdated understanding of Kenya's political landscape.

The Kenya of 2027 will not be the Kenya of 2013, 2017, or even 2022.

The political map has fundamentally changed.

The opposition today is not built around a single region or ethnic bloc. It consists of multiple political centers with independent influence and distinct constituencies.

If Edwin Sifuna emerged as a presidential candidate, he would significantly strengthen opposition appeal in Western Kenya and among urban voters.

If Kalonzo Musyoka became the candidate, he would consolidate support in Ukambani while remaining acceptable to broader opposition constituencies.

If Fred Matiang'i became the flagbearer, he would command substantial support among the Kisii community while attracting voters who prioritize competence and administrative experience.

If Martha Karua became the candidate, she would energize reform-minded voters and command significant support in parts of Mount Kenya and beyond.

If David Maraga became the candidate, he would bring a reputation for integrity and constitutionalism that reso-



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

nates across regional boundaries.

None of these scenarios automatically benefits William Ruto.

In fact, every one of them presents him with a serious electoral challenge.

The assumption that opposition diversity somehow helps the incumbent ignores a simple reality: President Ruto's greatest political problem is no longer opposition fragmentation. It is declining public confidence in his administration.

An opposition coalition united around a shared agenda of economic recovery, accountability, constitutionalism, and governance reform remains dangerous to any incumbent regardless of who carries the presidential flag.

The third flaw in the argument is the suggestion that Mount Kenya requires a Gachagua-Ruto reconciliation in order to remain politically relevant.

Current political realities suggest otherwise.

Mount Kenya has already undergone its political realignment.

The region's dissatisfaction with the government is now well documented in public surveys, public meetings, and political discourse. The debate in the region is no longer whether there is discontent. The debate is what should replace the current political order.

That conversation is larger than any individual politician. It is larger than Gachagua.

It is larger than Ruto.

And it is certainly larger than the outcome of a single court case.

The significance of Monday's ruling therefore lies elsewhere.

A Gachagua victory would not necessarily divide the opposition. It would likely strengthen one of its most influential mobilizers.

Nor would it automatically improve President Ruto's political prospects. If anything, it could reinforce the narrative that attempts to politically neutralize opponents have failed.

Ultimately, the future of the United Alternative Government will not be determined by court judgments. It will be determined by leadership discipline.

If opposition leaders remain focused on the larger objective of democratic change, a stronger Gachagua becomes an asset rather than a liability.

The real test is not whether one leader becomes stronger than another. The real test is whether all of them are wise enough to recognize that no individual is bigger than the mission before them. And on that question, Kenya's future may depend less on what judges decide on Monday and more on what politicians decide thereafter.

The writer comments on various topical issues

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Prosecution The organizations argued that the committee does not possess the legal authority to approve or reject development applications

Professional bodies oppose planned prosecution of Nairobi planning committee members



BY WMW

@themkenyatimes

Four leading professional and residents' organizations have called on the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) to withdraw its intended prosecution of members of the Nairobi City County Urban Planning Technical Committee (UPTC), arguing that the move unfairly targets individuals who serve in an advisory capacity.

In a joint statement, the Kenya Alliance of Resident Associations (KARA), the Architectural Association of Kenya (AAK), the Kenya Institute of Planners (KIP), and the Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK) expressed concern over the ODPP's decision to approve criminal charges against UPTC members in connection with the collapse of the Manzil Towers building.

The organizations maintained that while accountability for the tragedy is necessary, the proposed prosecution

of the entire committee is legally flawed and risks undermining professional participation in public decision-making processes.

According to the statement, the UPTC is primarily an advisory body tasked with reviewing development applications and providing technical recommendations on planning, engineering, and architectural matters.

The organizations argued that the committee does not possess the legal authority to approve or reject development applications.

"The committee's mandate is strictly one of checks and balances," the statement said, adding that final approval powers rest with the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) responsible for urban planning and the built environment.

The groups noted that recommendations issued by the committee are non-binding and can be accepted, modified, or disregarded by executive decision-makers.

As such, they argued that committee members should not be held criminally liable for decisions they neither made nor implemented.

The organizations warned that prosecuting professionals who serve on advisory committees without evidence of fraud, corruption, collusion, or personal gain could create a dangerous precedent within public administration.

They further stated that the UPTC includes representatives from professional bodies and civil society organizations specifically to provide independent technical expertise and community oversight in the development approval process.

According to the joint statement, extending criminal liability to such representatives amounts to conflating advisory participation with executive responsibility. The groups

cautioned that the move could discourage qualified professionals from serving on public oversight committees for fear of legal repercussions.

"If independent professionals are exposed to criminal charges merely for offering consultative opinions, public institutions will struggle to attract competent talent," the statement said.

The organizations argued that such an environment could weaken urban planning oversight, compromise structural safety standards, and reduce the quality of professional advice available to government agencies.

They called on the ODPP to review and terminate what they described as a blanket prosecution of UPTC members and instead focus investigations on individuals who possessed executive authority over development approvals or who may have engaged in criminal negligence, malpractice, or falsification of records.

Specifically, the organizations urged the withdrawal of intended charges against Architect Christopher Naica, a KARA representative; Architect Brenda Nyawara, representing AAK; and Planner Alfred Eshitera, a representative of KIP.

The groups also called for closer collaboration between the ODPP, the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Nairobi City County Government, and professional bodies to establish clearer distinctions between advisory and executive roles in development control processes.

Despite their objections to the intended prosecutions, the organizations reaffirmed their commitment to lawful urban development, strict enforcement of planning regulations, and accountability for public safety.

"Justice cannot be achieved by

misallocating legal culpability," the statement concluded. "Those who advise cannot be prosecuted as though they were the ultimate decision-makers."

The move by the professional organizations follows a communication issued by the DPP approving criminal charges against several individuals linked to the collapse of Manzil Towers in South C, Nairobi, which occurred on January 2, 2026.

In a statement issued last Friday, the ODPP said the decision followed a review of an investigation file submitted by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI). The DPP noted that an independent assessment of the evidence established sufficient grounds and a realistic prospect of conviction against the suspects.

Among those approved for prosecution is Patrick Analo Akivaga, who will face charges of abuse of office and neglect of official duty under the Penal Code.

According to the ODPP, the charges stem from findings related to the approval, oversight, and regulatory processes surrounding the construction project before its collapse.

The DPP has also approved charges against other public officials, developers, and professionals connected to the project.

The suspects are expected to face various offences, including manslaughter, abuse of office, neglect of official duty, making and uttering false documents, and commencing a project without an Environmental Impact Assessment licence.

The ODPP said the decision to charge was made in accordance with Article 157 of the Constitution, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions Act, and the Decision to Charge Guidelines.



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come up.
Start with ideas and work on them, takes you to the top.
If you work hard as an ant ,you never borrow.

Make your dreams come true,
You should work on your plans.
The busy honeybees are always remembered for their honey.

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

Milestone never travels, it stays there itself
But you should step forward to travel.
Miles of the journey starts with the first step.
Nature also does it's work and brings us seasons.

The word sugar in the paper
never helps you to enjoy the taste.
Likewise ideas in your mind,
Doesn't allow you to reach success.

Moving forward is a stepping stone of success.
Staying wherever you are, never helps you to

The triumph of love



But sees the beauty of humankind.

The Bhagavad Gita softly says,
"Adveshta sarva-bhutanam"
Bear hatred toward none, be a friend to all,
And answer every creature's call.

The Holy Bible's timeless voice declares,
"Love is patient, love always cares",
It keeps no record of another's wrong,
And makes the weak and weary strong.

The Holy Quran gently teaches,
That mercy is the height one reaches,
"The believers are but brothers" near and far,
Bound together beneath one star.

The Buddha taught with serene grace,
"Hatred ceases through love's embrace",
And Guru Nanak sang of the One Divine,
Whose light in every heart does shine.

Love is not thunder seeking applause,
Nor power enforced by rigid laws,
It is the lamp that lights the night,
The unseen hand that makes burdens light.

When love awakens, ego departs,
Leaving room for united hearts,
For the greatest triumph one can prove
Is not to conquer—but to love.

Nandini Anandkumar
Educator,Writer, Motivator Freelancer
(In Service of Education)

Love is the quiet art of losing "I",
A flame that teaches pride to die,
Like morning mist before the sun,
The walls of ego come undone.

Where love resides, no crowns are worn,
No battles fought, no hearts are torn,
For love seeks not to rule or reign,
Nor build its joy on another's pain.

Where there is love, defeat has no place,
For victory wears a gentler face,
It lifts, it heals, it understands,
And joins divided hearts and hands.

The sorrow resting in another's eyes
Becomes your own unspoken cries,
Like raindrops gathered in sea's embrace
Their grief becomes your empathy.

Where there is love, there is listening too,
A sacred silence, deep and true,
Each word received like falling rain
Upon a thirsty field of grain.

Where there is love, acceptance grows,
Like a fragrant rose among life's thorns,
It does not measure, judge, or bind,

Kindness is easy to show



It asks for little, gives so much,
And reaches near and far.

A caring word can calm the mind,
And make the burden less.
A smile, a hug, a tender phrase,
Can brighten someone's day.

So speak with kindness every day,
Let gentle words come from your mouth,
Because kindness is easy to show,
But helps everyone so much to grow.

M. Raddhika
Freelance content writer,
Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu, India

All the best," said with a smile,
"You can do it," with a pat.
"No problem," said with a gentle hug,
Costs nothing, yet means so much.

Kindness never breaks a mouth,
Nor leaves a hurting scar.

Fantastic fabulous illusion



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

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

Mirroring a happiness in each other's eyes
For truth is heavy, and the road is often
long,Sometimes a weary traveler just needs a
song.

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

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

Sheela Rajan
Content creator
Chennai

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

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

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

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

Love is the art of dissolving your ego.



Love breaks all rude rules.
Love dissolves everyone's ego.Love shows magic
when people share love without ego.

They help each other.
Honey bees love flowers, and flowers love sunlight.
The evening loves the moon and stars. Nature
loves the rain. Children love their parents, and
parents love their children.

Everyone is connected by valuable love.
So, love dissolves all ego and creates strong
bonds.

__G.YasminSirajudheen.
Secondary grade teacher
Melmalayanur block
Villupuram dt

Love is a unique thing among people. It never
expects anything from loved ones.
Children receive love from everyone.
At that time, people do not show any ego. They
have only smiles.

Silence sparks within



Workloads unbalanced, peace hard to find.
We try to solve our heavy strife,
Struggling daily to balance life.

We go to the temple, yet restless inside,
We go to the beach, where thoughts still collide.
But when we see the sea so wide and kind,
A silent spark awakens the mind.

We feel refreshed, our worries nearly gone,
As if we are newly, softly born.

Silence can spark the growth of new brain cells
In the busy world,
We run and run every day,
No time to pause,
No time to look at the way.

Silence has faded, rustling in our mind,

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

Peace Today, Kenya, Africa, and indeed the whole world are called to embrace a renewed commitment to peace, unity, reconciliation, prayer, justice, and hope.

Peace is everything: Why Kenya, Africa and the world must choose unity over division



BY Amb. Eugene Kavune Nzabonimba

@themkenyatimes

In an age marked by uncertainty, conflict, economic hardship, and growing social tensions, humanity stands at a defining crossroads. Nations are grappling with political polarization, communities are facing divisions, families are burdened by economic pressures, and millions continue to suffer from war, poverty, injustice, displacement, and humanitarian crises.

Yet amid these challenges, there remains a powerful truth that must guide our collective future: peace is not merely the absence of conflict, it is the foundation upon which justice, development, prosperity, and human dignity are built.

Today, Kenya, Africa, and indeed the whole world are called to embrace a renewed commitment to peace, unity, reconciliation, prayer, justice, and hope.

The choices we make today will determine the kind of societies we leave for future generations.

If we desire a world characterized by stability, opportunity, and shared prosperity, we must place peace at the center of our national and global priorities.

Kenya's greatest strength is its unity

Kenya remains one of Africa's most influential and resilient nations. Blessed with remarkable diversity, entrepreneurial energy, strategic geographic positioning, and a vibrant population, Kenya possesses all the ingredients necessary for sustained na-

tional progress.

However, history has repeatedly demonstrated that no nation can achieve its full potential if it allows tribalism, political hostility, corruption, hatred, social exclusion, and division to flourish.

The future of Kenya will not be determined solely by government policies or economic indicators.

It will also be shaped by the choices made by ordinary citizens every day; choices to promote peace rather than violence, dialogue rather than confrontation, unity rather than division and service rather than self-interest.

National cohesion remains one of the most valuable assets any country can possess. When citizens view one another as partners rather than rivals, development becomes possible. When communities work together, businesses thrive, investments grow and opportunities expand.

Kenya's strength lies not in its differences but in its ability to transform diversity into a source of national pride and collective progress.

At a time when many citizens face economic challenges, unemployment, rising living costs and social pressures, it is important to remember that difficult circumstances should never become an excuse for hopelessness. Throughout history, nations have overcome adversity through resilience, innovation, faith and collective determination.

Every generation faces its own trials, but no crisis is permanent.

Hope is not passive optimism. Hope is the courage to continue building despite obstacles. Hope is believing that tomorrow can be better than today. Kenya's future remains bright because its people remain resilient. The nation possesses talented youth, hardworking farmers, innovative entrepreneurs, dedicated professionals, and strong communities

that continue to support one another despite difficulties.

These strengths provide a solid foundation for national renewal and growth.

Africa's time is now

Across the African continent, a new generation is emerging; educated, connected, innovative and eager to transform society.

Africa possesses some of the world's richest natural resources, one of the youngest populations globally, vast agricultural potential, expanding markets and growing technological capabilities.

Yet the continent's greatest resource is not found beneath the ground. It is found within its people.

The future of Africa cannot be built through dependency, conflict, corruption, or fragmented national interests. It must be built through visionary leadership, regional cooperation, investment in education, technological advancement, industrial development and sustainable economic policies.

The continent's immense potential can only be realized when nations work together for the common good.

The African dream should not be limited to economic growth statistics. It should encompass human development, social justice, healthcare access, educational excellence, environmental stewardship and opportunities for future generations.

Every child should have access to quality education. Every young person should have the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to society. Every community should be empowered to participate in national development.

Africa's rise is not merely an African aspiration; it is a global necessity. A peaceful, prosperous, and stable Africa benefits the entire world.

The time has come for Af-

rica to take its rightful place among the leading regions of the world through unity, innovation, integrity and shared responsibility.

Leadership and youth: Building the future together

One of the defining challenges of our time is the crisis of leadership witnessed in many parts of the world. Public office should never be viewed as a privilege for personal enrichment. Leadership is fundamentally a responsibility to serve.

Whether in government, business, religious institutions, civil society, or community organizations, leaders must embody integrity, accountability, humility, wisdom and compassion. Citizens increasingly expect transparency and ethical governance. They desire leaders who listen, who unite rather than divide, and who prioritize the common good above narrow interests.

True leadership is measured not by titles or authority but by the positive impact made on people's lives.

The most enduring leaders are those who leave behind stronger institutions, empowered communities and a legacy of peace and justice.

At the same time, no discussion about the future can ignore the central role of young people. Africa's youth population represents one of the greatest opportunities of the twenty-first century. Young people possess creativity, innovation, energy, and the capacity to drive transformational change.

Yet many continue to face barriers, including unemployment, inadequate educational opportunities, substance abuse, crime and social exclusion.

Investing in youth is not charity; it is strategic nation-building. Governments, educational institutions, private sector actors, faith com-



munities and development partners must work together to create opportunities that enable young people to thrive. Young people must also recognize their responsibility to become agents of positive change. Violence, corruption, extremism and destructive behavior cannot build a better future.

Education, entrepreneurship, innovation, integrity and service remain the pathways to sustainable success.

The future belongs to those who are willing to prepare for it and work diligently to achieve it.

A global call for peace, reconciliation and hope

The world today faces numerous challenges that transcend national boundaries.

Armed conflicts, humanitarian emergencies, climate-related disasters, economic uncertainty and social divisions continue to affect millions of lives.

These realities remind us that humanity is interconnected and that lasting solutions require cooperation.

The pursuit of peace must remain a shared responsibility among governments, international organizations, religious institutions, civil society and citizens.

Dialogue remains more powerful than violence. Reconciliation remains more effective than revenge. Justice remains more enduring than oppression. Human dignity must remain at the center of all development efforts.

Faith communities also have an important role to play in shaping moral values, promoting social cohesion, and supporting vulnerable populations. In times of crisis, places of worship often become centers of comfort, healing and hope. Religious leaders must continue championing peace,

compassion, justice, and respect for human dignity.

The challenges confronting humanity are too great for any nation to solve alone.

Climate change, poverty, migration, public health emergencies and security threats require cooperation that transcends borders.

Our common humanity must always be greater than our differences.

The future is not something that simply happens to us. It is something we collectively create.

Every act of kindness strengthens peace.

Every effort toward justice strengthens society.

Every commitment to integrity strengthens governance.

Every investment in education strengthens development.

Every gesture of reconciliation strengthens humanity.

The choice before Kenya, Africa, and the world is clear. We can allow division, hatred, corruption, and conflict to shape our future, or we can choose unity, justice, compassion, and peace.

History consistently rewards nations and peoples who choose cooperation over confrontation.

As citizens, leaders, institutions and communities, we must commit ourselves anew to the values that uplift societies and strengthen nations.

Peace must become more than an aspiration; it must become a way of life.

For when peace prevails, development flourishes. When unity prevails, nations prosper. When hope prevails, humanity advances.

Indeed, peace is everything; and everything is peace.

The writer is the founder and Chief Executive Officer, Global Union of Peace and Development (GUPD)

IDF “This is not politics,” the Forum said in its statement. “This is a matter of survival — for our rivers, our farms, our people, our way of life, our children, and our future.”

Resign or be removed: Meru leaders face fury over Imenti Forest lodge plot

A coalition of professionals and conservationists has issued an ultimatum to the county's top officials over plans to excise 100 acres of gazetted forest for a state lodge, golf course and airstrip

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

The Imenti Development Forum (IDF) has had enough.

In a statement issued yesterday that pulls no diplomatic punches, the coalition of professionals, conservationists, farmers and concerned citizens from Meru County has called for the immediate resignation of Governor Mutuma M'ithingia, Senator Kathuri Murungi and Imenti North Member of Parliament Rahim Dawood — and warned that if the three will not go voluntarily, impeachment and recall proceedings will follow.

The trigger is a plan to excise 100 acres from the gazetted Imenti Forest Reserve for the construction of a state lodge, a golf course and an airstrip. The Forum says the Governor has actively engineered the handover of this public land to the national government, the Senator has remained conspicuously silent throughout, and the MP has spent years quietly advancing the scheme behind closed doors.

“This is not politics,” the Forum said in its statement. “This is a matter of survival — for our rivers, our farms, our people, our way of life, our children, and our future.”

The language is deliberate. Because in Meru, the fate of Imenti Forest is inseparable from the fate of the county's agriculture, water supply and climate stability.

Imenti is not simply a scenic highland woodland. It is a legally gazetted public forest reserve — one of the last surviving fragments of the montane forest belt that once stretched unbroken across the eastern flanks of Mount Kenya. Its ecological services are not abstract. Its slopes feed the rivers and streams that supply irrigation canals, household water and small dams across



Governor Mutuma M'ithingia

Tigania, Imenti and Igembe. The forest absorbs rainfall, stores it, and releases it slowly. When the forest goes, what follows is flash flooding and dry riverbeds — a cycle Meru's farmers have been watching with dread for decades.

The numbers tell the story bluntly. A peer-reviewed study published in 2025 in Environmental and Sustainability Indicators found that between 2000 and 2023, closed forest cover across the Mount Kenya Ecosystem declined by 141.55 square kilometres. Under a business-as-usual scenario, a further 423.53 square kilometres could disappear by 2035. South Imenti alone lost 650 hectares of tree cover between 2001 and 2025, releasing an estimated 360,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent into the atmosphere. The United Nations Environment Programme conducted an aerial survey documenting the accelerating destruction of Mt Kenya, Imenti and Ngare Ndare forest reserves — and its findings were alarming enough to warrant formal UN documentation.

To excise a further 100 acres from this already stressed ecosystem is, the Forum argues, not development. It is the reckless acceleration of a slow-motion catastrophe.

Meru County contributes an estimated 8.1 per cent of the value of Kenya's entire national agricultural economy. Tea, coffee, miraa, bananas, Irish potatoes, wheat and maize — the diversity and scale of the county's agricultural output rests on two foundations: fertile soils and reliable water. Both depend directly on the health of the surrounding forest cover.

The Meru County Participatory Climate Risk Assessment of 2023, commissioned by the county government itself, identifies erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts and rising temperatures as the primary threats facing Meru's farming communities. Every hectare of forest lost from the catchment aggravates each of those risks. The Forum does not hesitate to draw the conclusion: a golf course for the privileged few, paid for in drought and crop failure for the many.

Beyond water and climate, Imenti Forest is a living library of biological diversity accumulated over millennia. Research published in February 2026 by Save the Elephants documents African elephants actively using the Lower Imenti Forest Reserve as critical habitat and as a wildlife corridor between the Mount Kenya ecosystem and

the lowland rangelands. The forest supports indigenous species including the Meru oak — *Vitex keniensis*, an endemic tree carrying the very name of the county — alongside podo, red skin wood and camphor, many of which carry medicinal, ecological and commercial value.

The red skin wood, *Pygeum africanum*, is already listed as a vulnerable species and is the source of an internationally traded pharmaceutical compound. The Meru oak is a Category 2 threatened species under Kenyan forest legislation. These are not incidental casualties. They are irreplaceable natural assets whose loss would diminish Kenya's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Forum is categorical on one point: the forest is not the only option, and the claim that it is has never been seriously substantiated. Meru County

contains extensive areas of degraded land, private land and semi-arid rangeland that could absorb any combination of a state lodge, an airstrip and a golf course without touching a single gazetted tree.



The case for building in the forest is further weakened by geography. Kenya already maintains Sagana State Lodge in Nyeri County, a short helicopter flight from Meru. Isiolo International Airport — built at enormous public expense along the LAPSSET corridor specifically to connect northern and central Kenya — sits a short drive from Meru town and remains chronically underutilised after more than 14 years of construction. Senators were still debating its completion as recently as April 2025, with an estimated KSh 4.8 billion still required to bring it to full operational status. The logical course, the Forum argues, is to finish Isi-

olo — not bulldoze forest for a redundant private airstrip serving a handful of dignitaries.

The Imenti Development Forum has vowed to pursue every available legal avenue and to engage every constitutional body until the project is halted. Their demands include the immediate suspension of all excision plans, a genuine public participation process as required under Articles 10 and 69 of the Constitution, an independent environmental impact assessment with publicly available findings, and a parliamentary investigation into how gazetted forest land was committed to any infrastructure project without due constitutional process.

Kenya has lost Karura, parts of the Mau, Ngong and Embobut — each time to promises of jobs and development that communities never saw. What they inherited instead was less water, more dust and the knowledge that their land had been traded for someone else's convenience.

The Forum's message to Meru's leaders is unambiguous: the forest belongs to the people. It is not the Governor's to give away. And this time, Meru is watching.

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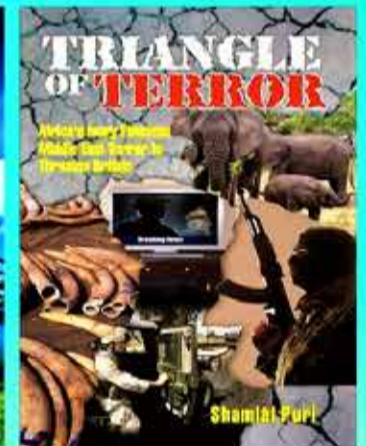
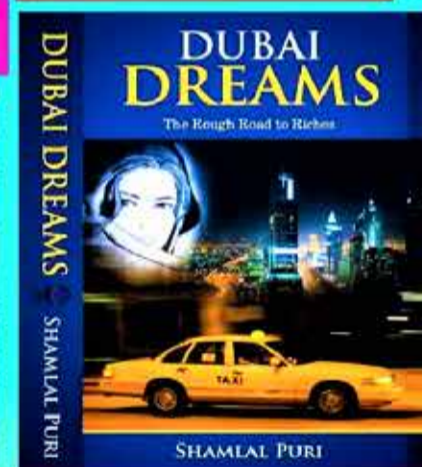
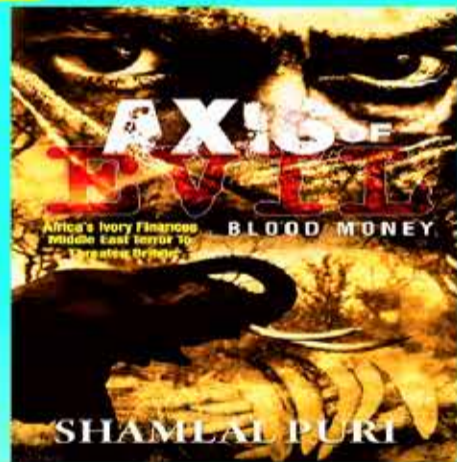
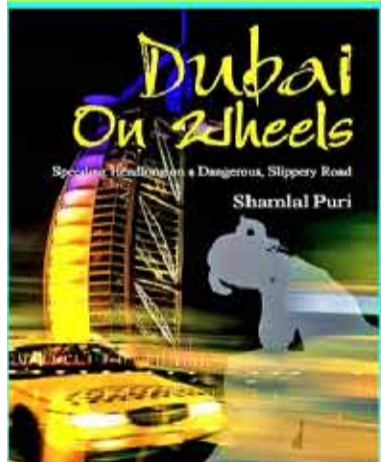
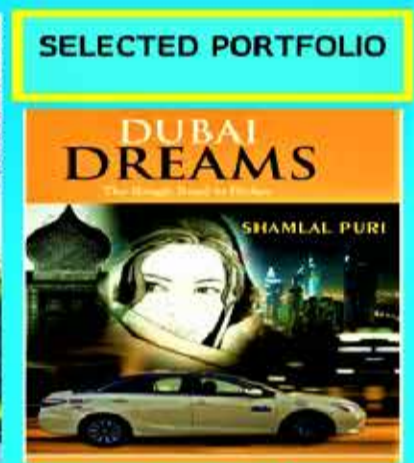
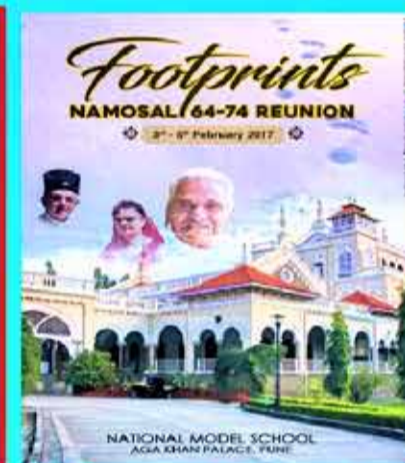
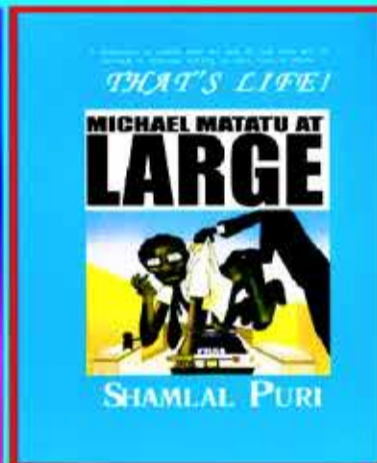
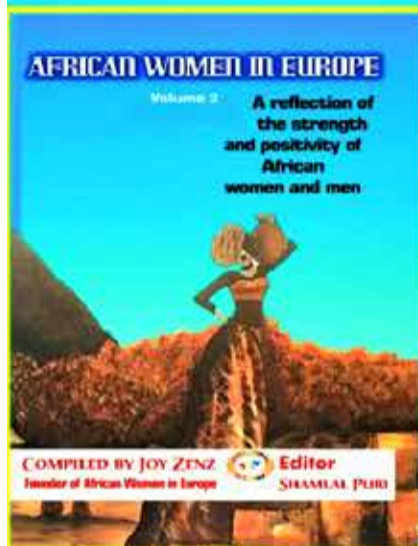
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Ebola It is the defining challenge of Uganda's worst Ebola crisis in years — a rapidly expanding outbreak that the World Health Organisation has confirmed

Ebola surges in Uganda as cases near 500 across Central Africa

With no licensed vaccine for the current strain, health workers are racing against the virus — and against fear

BY Norman Mwale

@themkenyatimes

The nights in Mubende have changed. Neighbours are taken away in the dark. By morning, families are told not to touch the house next door. Life carries on — but only just, and only carefully.

“My neighbour was taken at night,” said Mary Nakato, a market vendor in the district. “In the morning, they told us not to touch the house. How do we live like this?”

That question is not rhetorical. It is the defining challenge of Uganda's worst Ebola crisis in years — a rapidly expanding outbreak that the World Health Organisation has confirmed is approaching 500 cases across Central Africa, with infections rising by 100 and at least 20 additional deaths recorded since Friday alone.

A different kind of outbreak

What makes this wave particularly alarming is not just its speed, but its geography. Unlike previous outbreaks largely contained in remote forest communities, this one is moving through truck routes, open-air markets, and cross-border trading hubs — environments where physical contact is constant and public health messaging struggles to keep pace.

“We are in a race against time,” said a senior WHO epidemiologist in Kampala, speaking on condition of anonymity. “The geography of this outbreak is different. It's moving along truck routes, through markets, and into communities where trust in health authorities is fragile.”

Uganda's Ministry of Health has confirmed that the Sudan strain is driving the current wave. That detail matters enormously. Unlike the Zaire strain that devastated West Africa a decade ago, the Sudan variant has no licensed vaccine. Health authorities cannot rely on immunisation to cut transmission chains. Instead, they are falling back on classic, labour-intensive public health tools: rigorous contact tracing, strict isolation, safe and dignified burials, and communi-



Illustration of Ebola surges in Uganda as cases near 500 across Central Africa

ty engagement.

“Vaccines alone will not stop an outbreak,” a WHO official told reporters in Geneva this week, outlining what else is urgently required — rapid diagnostics, coordinated risk communication, and the sustained trust of affected communities. The last of those, health workers on the ground will tell you, is the hardest to build and the easiest to lose.

On the frontline

In Mubende and Kassanda, the two worst-hit districts, the health system is under severe pressure. Isolation units are stretched. Staff are exhausted. And the human cost is personal. “We lost three colleagues last week,” said Dr Aisha Namutebi, who manages an isolation unit on the outskirts of Mubende town. “The fear is real. But if we abandon our posts, the virus wins.”

That determination is being replicated across the response — in laboratories, at checkpoints, in churches and mosques. Faith leaders have emerged as unlikely but vital frontline communicators. In DR Congo's Ituri Province, where cases have also been detected, religious institutions are broadcasting prevention messages between prayers. “Faith, fear and trust — that is what

will determine if we survive this,” said Father Jean-Baptiste Kambale, a Catholic priest working alongside WHO teams in Bunia. His framing is not dramatic. It is epidemiologi-



In Mubende and Kassanda, the two worst-hit districts, the health system is under severe pressure. Isolation units are stretched. Staff are exhausted. And the human cost is personal.

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cally accurate. Community trust has historically been among the most powerful determinants of outbreak control, and its absence has allowed Ebola to spread unchecked in previous crises.

A continental response

The scale of the threat has prompted a coordinated continental mobilisation. The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and WHO this week launched a joint response plan valued at 518 million dollars, targeting Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the virus has resurfaced in densely populated urban zones.

Fifteen rapid response teams have been deployed. Laboratory reinforcements have arrived from South Africa and Nigeria. Yet funding remains a critical gap. “We have the plan,” said Dr Ahmed Ogwel Ouma, acting director of Africa CDC, at the joint response launch in Addis Ababa. “We need the resources to match it.”

The appeal reflects a pattern familiar to global health observers: outbreak response plans that are technically sound but chronically underfunded, particularly in the critical early weeks when speed determines outcomes.

Economic and regional consequences

The outbreak's reach extends well beyond the health system. Uganda's government has restricted movement across five districts, closing schools and markets. At the Busia border crossing with Kenya, truck drivers are reporting delays of up to 12 hours as health screenings intensify.

“If it reaches Kampala, the whole region suffers,” said James Onyango, chair of the East African Transporters Association. He is not overstating the case. Kampala is a regional commercial hub whose disruption would send economic shockwaves across East Africa. The 2022 Ebola outbreak cost Uganda an estimated 10 per cent of tourism revenue in affected regions, even after containment.

This time, with the virus spreading along the very arteries of cross-border trade, the economic stakes are correspondingly higher.

What this outbreak is really about

Behind the case counts and the logistics figures is a simpler and more urgent story. Ebola does not spread because it is unstoppable. It spreads when systems are slow, when communities are afraid, and when the gap between a person falling ill and receiving care is measured in days rather than hours.

The 2014 West Africa outbreak — which killed more than 11,000 people — was not a failure of medicine. It was a failure of response speed, coordination, and trust. Health officials across the region know this. It shapes the urgency in their voices and the pace of their decisions now.

Uganda's health minister is expected to address the nation this evening, with an updated case count and a public reassurance that the government is in control of events. Whether that reassurance lands will depend less on the words chosen and more on what communities in Mubende and Kassanda experience tomorrow morning.

As one frontline nurse summarised it, with the quiet authority of someone who has watched this virus work: “Ebola exploits delay. The virus does not wait for bureaucracy. Neither can we.”



BOOKS & LITERATURE

with **Norman Mwale**

Zimbabwean journalist & South African Correspondent

Book Review:

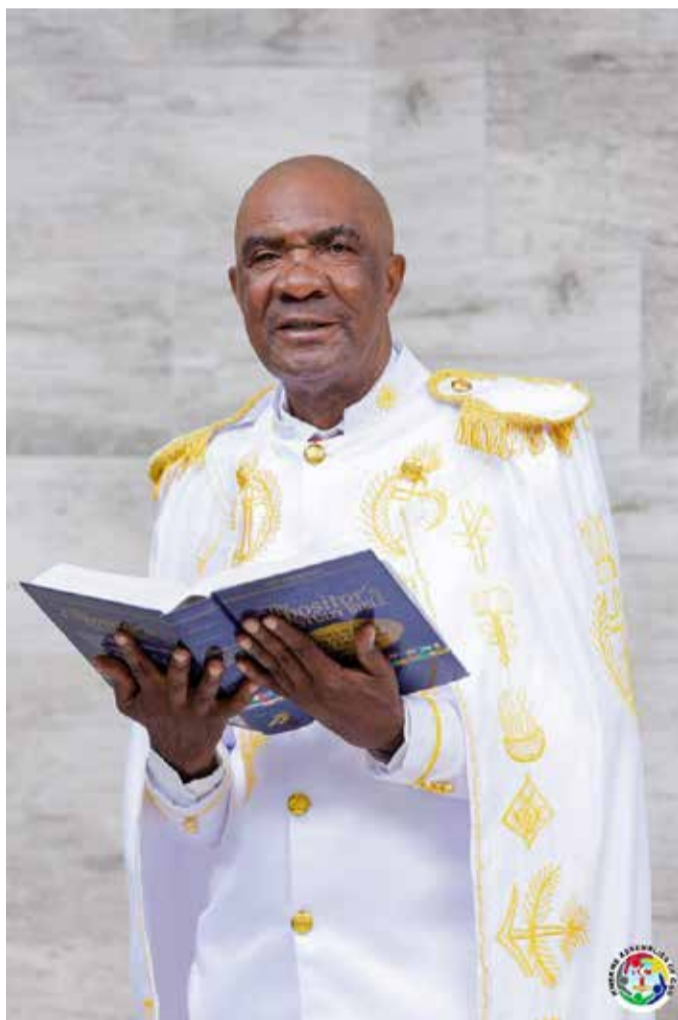
Book Review:

Author: Apostle John Mapurazi

Book: Walking in God's Favour

Reviewer: Norman Mwale

Apostle John Mapurazi's new book is a warm, practical guide to living a life that invites divine blessing.



Apostle John Mapurazi

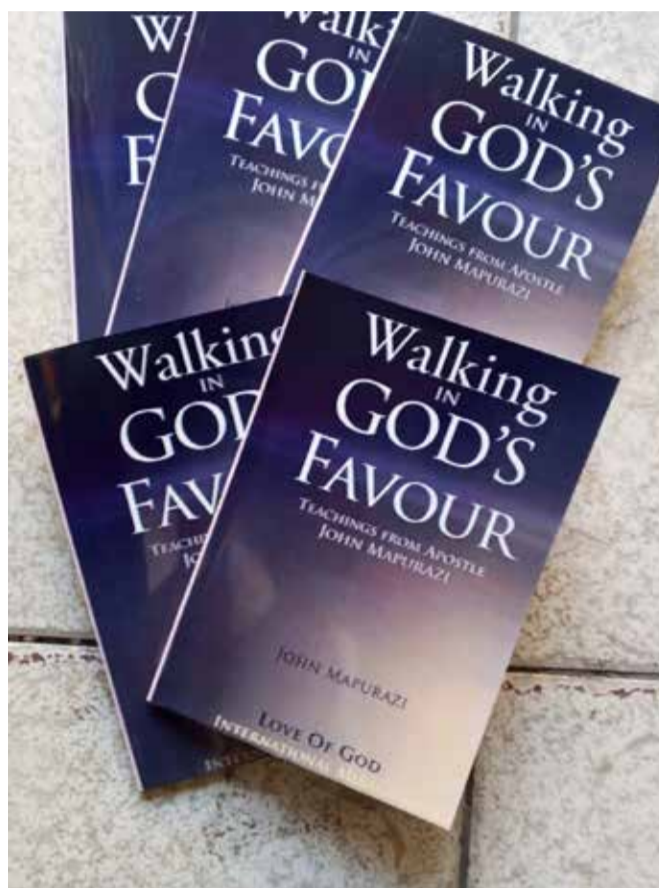
There are books that inform, and there are books that transform. Walking in God's Favour by Apostle John Mapurazi belongs firmly in the second category.

Published in 2026 by Essential Books in Zimbabwe, this is not a book that sits comfortably on a shelf. It pulls at you. It asks questions of your daily choices, your prayer life, your relationship with God — and then, generously, it offers answers. For anyone navigating the demands of modern life

while trying to hold on to their faith, Apostle Mapurazi arrives at exactly the right moment.

What the book is about

At its core, Walking in God's Favour is a commentary on biblical principles made accessible for everyday believers. Apostle Mapurazi explores three central themes — trust, obedience and perseverance — weaving them together into a coherent, prac-



tical framework for Christian living. His central argument is straightforward: walking in God's favour is not a matter of luck or destiny. It is the natural consequence of living in alignment with God's will. He draws extensively on the 10 Principles of Love Of God International Ministry (LOGIM), a framework he developed inspired by the Ten Commandments. These principles range from unwavering commitment to God's Word and genuine love for God and others, to empowerment by the Holy Spirit and active service to the community. Together, they form a blueprint for cultivating a deep, intentional relationship with Jesus Christ — one built not on emotion alone but on daily, deliberate choices.

A voice that connects

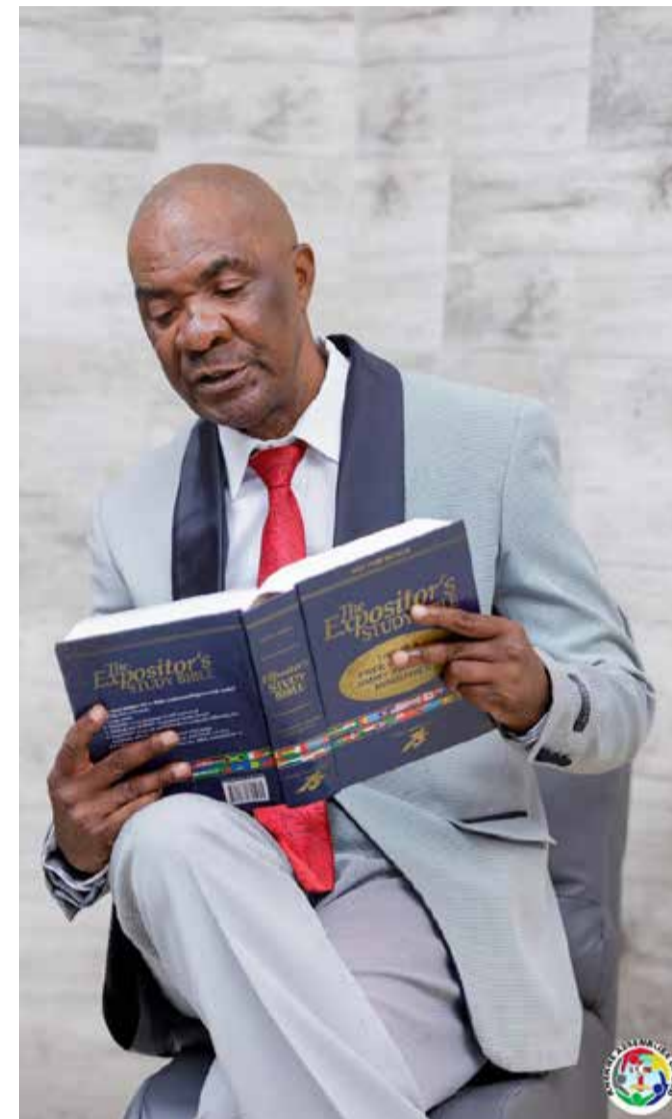
What immediately sets this book apart is its tone. Apostle Mapurazi writes the way a trusted pastor speaks — warmly, directly and without condescension.

Complex theological ideas are explained with clarity and illustrated with relatable examples, making the text accessible to new believers without feeling simplistic to more seasoned readers. That balance is notoriously difficult to strike, and the author achieves it with what feels like effortless grace.

His description of what it means to walk in God's favour is particularly memorable. He likens it to receiving a "green light" from God — a season in which doors open, burdens lift and a quiet sense of divine companionship settles over your days. It is a beautiful image, and one that will resonate with any reader who has experienced that kind of unexplainable peace amid difficult circumstances.

Practical wisdom, not empty inspiration

Many Christian self-help books offer encouragement without direction. Walking in God's Favour does not make that mistake. Each chapter



Apostle John Mapurazi

moves from principle to practice, inviting the reader not just to believe differently but to live differently. Apostle Mapurazi outlines concrete habits for those seeking to walk in divine favour: staying close to God through prayer and regular reading of Scripture, obeying His commands even when it is inconvenient, trusting His timing especially when your own timeline has collapsed, serving others without expecting recognition, and remaining humble in seasons of both struggle and success.

These are not novel ideas. What makes them compelling here is the sincerity with which they are presented, and the pastoral care evident in how they are explained. Apostle Mapurazi is not lecturing. He is accompanying.

Who should read this book

Walking in God's Favour will speak to a wide readership. New Christians will find in it a solid, encouraging foundation. Those who have

walked with God for many years will find it a useful mirror — a reminder of what faithfulness looks like when stripped of habit and returned to its original intention. For small group study or personal devotion, it is equally well suited.

If there is one critique, it is that certain sections feel they could be expanded further. Readers will occasionally want the author to linger a little longer before moving to the next principle. But that is, perhaps, the mark of a book that leaves you wanting more rather than less.

Verdict

Walking in God's Favour is a warm, well-crafted and genuinely useful book. It does what the best Christian literature always does — it makes the invisible feel near, and the difficult feel possible.

Rating: 5/5

Norman Mwale is a writer and reviewer covering faith, culture and African literature.

EU For years, EU enlargement was largely viewed as an economic and political project aimed at promoting prosperity, democratic reforms and regional reconciliation

EU's renewed Balkans push reflects deeper security concerns

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes

At the EU-Western Balkans Summit held in Montenegro on Friday, the European Union (EU) renewed efforts to accelerate the accession of Western Balkan countries, highlighting a growing recognition in Brussels that enlargement is increasingly tied to security considerations amid a changing geopolitical landscape.

The summit came as EU leaders seek to inject fresh momentum into a process long criticized for moving too slowly. Leaders discussed ways to speed up the Western Balkans' integration, but whether enlargement will ease the EU's security anxiety at a time of mounting uncertainty across the continent remains an open question.

Security imperative

For years, EU enlargement was largely viewed as an economic and political project aimed at promoting prosperity, democratic reforms and regional reconciliation. Now, the context has changed dramatically.

"In these times of global geopolitical uncertainty and economic instability -- now more than ever -- enlargement is not just an opportunity. It is a geostrategic necessity for Europe," European Council President Antonio Costa said in Serbia ahead of the summit, describing the accession process as one of the EU's most strategic investments. The Russia-Ukraine conflict, now in its fifth year, has fundamentally reshaped European security thinking. Beyond the battlefield, drone incidents, cyberattacks and heightened military activity around the Black Sea and NATO's eastern flank have reinforced concerns that instability can quickly spill across borders.

Several Western Balkan countries have spent more than a decade waiting for membership negotiations to advance. Frustration over delays has periodically prompted the EU to worry that prolonged uncertainty could undermine reforms and fuel political instability. At the same time, debates over burden-sharing within NATO and Washington's evolving strategic priorities have intensified European unease about the long-term reliability of external



Some of the leaders at the forum. | Photo: Courtesy.

security guarantees. Against this backdrop, many analysts argue that, for Brussels, bringing the Western Balkans closer to the EU is seen as a way to strengthen stability along the bloc's southeastern flank and reduce potential vulnerabilities in an uncertain security environment.

Political choice

For years, accession to the EU was primarily presented as a technical process centered on reforms, governance standards and alignment with EU legislation. Today, the renewed push is increasingly becoming a question of political alignment rather than administrative readiness.

The war in Ukraine has accelerated this shift. Since 2022, the EU has granted candidate status to several countries and signaled a greater willingness to use enlargement as a geopolitical tool. "The war in Ukraine has single-handedly reframed what European enlargement is meant to be and what it is for," Faruk Basic, a researcher at the Brussels Institute for Geopolitics, told the Guardian. Ukraine's candidacy, granted in 2022, showed "real geopolitical urgency that we haven't seen before," he said.

Ahead of the summit, French Pres-

ident Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz proposed a more flexible accession pathway, including phased integration into selected EU programs and institutions before full membership. Merz said the people of the Western



"In these times of global geopolitical uncertainty and economic instability -- now more than ever -- enlargement is not just an opportunity. It is a geostrategic necessity for Europe," European Council President Antonio Costa said in Serbia ahead of the summit, describing the accession process as one of the EU's most strategic investments. The Russia-Ukraine conflict, now in its fifth year, has fundamentally reshaped European security thinking. Beyond the battlefield, drone incidents, cyberattacks and heightened military activity around the Black Sea and NATO's eastern flank have reinforced concerns that instability can quickly spill across borders.

Balkan states should receive a clear message that they are welcome in the EU. Macron stressed the region's geopolitical significance, noting that the Western Balkans would also determine Europe's energy and security independence. Their initiative reflects a growing willingness among major EU powers to place greater emphasis on geopolitical considerations alongside traditional accession criteria. Costa stressed that full alignment with the EU's common foreign and security policy remains a key requirement for membership, describing it as an essential expression of European unity.

Enlargement's limits

Despite renewed momentum, several Western Balkan countries continue to face difficult reform requirements, unresolved bilateral disputes and domestic political challenges.

As former Deputy Prime Minister of Montenegro Jovana Marovic commented on EU enlargement a year ago, the process is less about meeting accession deadlines than about creating stability and democratic progress in the Western Balkans. "We still don't have consistency between political rhetoric and reality," she said. Moreover, enlarge-

ment alone cannot resolve Europe's security concerns, not least because even within the EU, member states do not always share identical foreign-policy positions. Hungary has frequently differed from Brussels on Russia-related issues, while divisions also emerged among member states over responses to conflicts in the Middle East and broader security questions.

Regional leaders welcomed the renewed momentum at Friday's summit with varying degrees of enthusiasm. While Montenegrin President Jakov Milatovic said Montenegro is ready for the final stage of accession by 2028, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic and North Macedonian Prime Minister Hristijan Mickoski voiced support for progress while emphasizing national independence, sovereign foreign policy and the importance of preserving national dignity. Analysts noted that while enlargement may help strengthen regional stability, it cannot eliminate the deeper challenges confronting Europe, including questions about defense capabilities, strategic autonomy and the future role of transatlantic security arrangements.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rising cost of living strains Kenyan households

By Lydia Jerop

Kenyan households are tightening their belts, and the belt keeps getting shorter.

Prices of essential commodities — unga, cooking oil, electricity and transport — have risen sharply, forcing households in both urban and rural areas to restructure their daily spending. For many families, the question is no longer what they can afford but what they can do without.

The pressure is felt in every corner of the economy. Market traders report declining sales as buyers stretch their shillings further. Commuters are walking longer distances or skipping trips altogether. Parents are pulling children from private schools. Meals are getting smaller.

Economists warn that sustained inflation at this level carries consequences beyond the kitchen table. When basic needs become unaffordable,



household debt rises, child nutrition suffers and informal employment — already the backbone of Kenya's economy — contracts. The ripple effects are neither distant nor abstract.

Government authorities have urged patience, citing long-term economic interventions under development. But patience, unlike electricity bills, does not accumulate interest. Citizens are not waiting for a policy paper — they are calculating whether they can afford supper.

The cost-of-living crisis demands more than reassurance. It demands a credible, time-bound plan that puts relief into household budgets rather than official statements. Until then, millions of Kenyans will continue making impossible choices between necessities they were never meant to choose between.

Is school unrest becoming a competition?

By Oliver Ogotu

Dormitories are burning, and nobody seems surprised anymore.

Across the country, a disturbing pattern has taken hold in secondary schools. No sooner does one institution erupt in strikes or property destruction than another follows — often with greater intensity. Classrooms are vandalised, dormitories torched, and property worth millions destroyed. Learning stops. Parents panic. Students suffer.

The grievances driving some of this unrest are real. Poor living conditions, academic pressure and administrative failures are legitimate concerns. But the scale and frequency of destruction now suggest something beyond frustration. Increasingly, the unrest looks performative — a contest to see which school can stage the most dramatic rebellion.

That is a dangerous shift.



When indiscipline becomes currency, when a student gains peer recognition not for academic excellence or leadership but for sparking the most destructive strike, the school environment itself is compromised. Notoriety replaces achievement. Destruction replaces dialogue.

The institutions bearing these scars will carry them long after the smoke clears. Burnt dormitories take years to rebuild. Lost academic terms are never recovered. And the students

who stood aside, wanting only to study, pay the heaviest price. Schools exist to build problem-solvers and leaders. Genuine grievances deserve genuine channels — student councils, school boards, parental engagement. These mechanisms must be strengthened, not bypassed.

The students lighting the next match should understand this clearly: the only trophy in this competition is a disrupted future, and it belongs to everyone.

The US Ebola camp in Kenya

Washington is protecting American lives

by gambling with Kenyan ones

Kenya is not America's quarantine ward.

The decision by the Trump administration to establish an Ebola holding facility at Laikipia Air Base is not a gesture of partnership — it is an act of medical offloading. Rather than repatriate exposed American citizens for care on home soil, Washington has chosen to park its biological risk in a sovereign African nation. That choice demands not diplomatic silence but outright rejection.

The double standard is glaring. The United States has restricted entry for non-citizens travelling from Ebola-affected regions, shielding its own population from exposure. Simultaneously, it is exporting that very exposure to Kenya. The facility is not designed to serve Kenyan patients. Its beneficiaries are



American. Yet the consequences of any containment failure — a breach, a miscalculation, a single lapse — would land squarely on Kenyan communities and an already stretched public health system.

This is not partnership. It is liability transfer dressed in diplomatic language. It signals, loudly and unmistakably, that African lives are an acceptable buffer for Western safety calculations.

Kenya has every right — and every reason — to refuse. No

infrastructure funding, no diplomatic goodwill, no security arrangement justifies placing millions of citizens at elevated risk of a haemorrhagic fever for which the country's health system is ill-equipped to respond at scale.

True international cooperation is built on mutual obligation. What is being proposed here is the opposite.

By Keith Onyango The writer is a student at Rongo University.

The new gold rush: why every youth wants a political seat

By Oliver Ogotu

Something has shifted. Politics is no longer a calling — it is a career plan.

Across Kenya, a generation of educated, ambitious young people is converging on one destination: elected office. Every ward has its aspiring MCA. Every constituency has a queue of would-be MPs. The trend is visible, vocal, and accelerating.

The economic logic is not hard to follow. Graduate unemployment is high, salaries are low, and formal career ladders feel broken. Against that backdrop, a political seat offers something rare: guaranteed income, public visibility, and access to networks that money alone cannot buy. For many young Kenyans, the ballot box has become the most rational investment available.

But ambition and desperation are not the same thing, and the



difference matters.

When politics becomes a shortcut rather than a vocation, governance suffers. Leaders who enter public office to escape poverty rarely prioritise service once they arrive. The hunger that drove them in does not disappear — it simply finds new ways to feed itself.

There is also a broader cost. A society in which every talented young person aims for a political seat is a society ha-

morrhaging doctors, teachers, engineers, journalists and entrepreneurs it can ill afford to lose. Democratic participation is vital. But a nation cannot run on politicians alone.

The question is not whether young people should enter politics. Many should. The question is whether they are chasing a seat — or answering a call.

SPORTS
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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *Brazil sent a statement to their World Cup rivals on Saturday night, coming from behind to beat Egypt 2-1 in a pulsating friendly at Cairo International Stadium

Samba Style Sinks Pharaohs: Brazil Edge Egypt 2-1 in World Cup Warm-Up Thriller

By Norman Mwale

“This is how you prepare for a World Cup” – Dorival Júnior, Brazil Head Coach

Brazil sent a statement to their World Cup rivals on Saturday night, coming from behind to beat Egypt 2-1 in a pulsating friendly at Cairo International Stadium, with two goals in seven second-half minutes turning the Pharaohs’ early party into a Brazilian carnival.

Egypt struck first blood in front of 70,000 roaring fans. Mohamed Salah, wearing the captain’s armband, latched onto a clever through-ball from Mahmoud Trézéguet in the 19th minute and rifled a left-foot drive past Alisson into the bottom corner for 1-0. The stadium erupted, the smoke from flares briefly obscuring the Nile skyline.

But Brazil’s response was pure samba. After a tense first half in which Egypt’s low block frustrated Vinícius Júnior and Rodrygo, coach Dorival Júnior’s half-time switch to a double pivot unlocked the game. The equaliser arrived on 63 minutes. Raphinha, a constant menace down the right, whipped in a cross that was only half-cleared, and Bruno Guimarães met it on the volley from 18 yards, his strike kissing the post before nestling in the net for 1-1.

Seven minutes later, the turnaround was complete. Substitute Endrick, 19, announced himself on the senior stage. The Real Madrid forward collected a pass from Lucas Paquetá on 70 minutes, turned his marker with one touch, and buried a low shot beyond Mohamed El Shenawy to make it 2-1 Brazil. Cairo fell silent, then rose to applaud the audacity of youth.

“We knew Egypt would be organised and dangerous on the counter,” Dorival Júnior said at full time. “Conceding first was



Brazil beats Egypt 2-1 in a pulsating friendly at Cairo International Stadium

a test of character. The way we controlled the second half, the way we showed patience, that is how you prepare for a World Cup. Endrick is special. He does not feel pressure.”

Egypt head coach Hossam Hassan was gracious in defeat but defiant about his side’s prospects. “For 60 minutes we were the better team,” he said. “We scored a great goal through the best player in the world. But Brazil have depth we don’t yet have. We learn from this. In the World Cup, details decide games.”

Salah, who cut a frustrated figure late on, insisted the result would sharpen his squad. “We wanted to win for our people. The fans were amazing,” he said. “But this is why we play Brazil.

They punish you if you sleep for five minutes. We will be ready when it matters.”

Brazil’s captain Marquinhos praised the Cairo atmosphere and the test Egypt provided. “It was a real game, not a friendly,” he said. “High intensity, great stadium, a team that will cause problems for anyone in the United States next week. We needed this.”

The Seleção dominated possession 62% to 38% and registered 15 shots to Egypt’s 6, but the Pharaohs’ defensive discipline meant Alisson was forced into two crucial saves before the hour mark. Egypt’s evening was soured further in stoppage time when defender Ahmed Hegazi limped off with a suspected

hamstring strain, a concern with Group F opener against Belgium just eight days away.

For Brazil, the victory extends their unbeaten run to 11 matches and offers Dorival Júnior selection headaches of the best kind. For Egypt, it was a reminder of both their quality and the margins at the elite level.

Final score: *Egypt 1-2 Brazil*
Goals: Salah 19’ | Guimarães 63’, Endrick 70’

As the teams left the pitch, the Brazilian band in the away end struck up a familiar rhythm. The World Cup is coming. On this evidence, Brazil are dancing toward it.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> **"I just told myself to fight for every point,"* Andreeva said, the Coupe Suzanne Lenglen cradled in her arms. *"Two years ago I was playing juniors here."*

Andreeva arrives: Russian teen stuns Sabalenka to claim maiden grand slam at Roland-Garros



Mirra Andreeva

By Norman Mwale

"I just told myself to fight for every point. This is a dream" – Mirra Andreeva

Mirra Andreeva announced herself to tennis history on Saturday, the 19-year-old becoming the youngest French Open women's champion since Monica Seles after a fearless 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 victory over world number one Aryna Sabalenka on Court Philippe-Chatrier.

In a final that swung like a Parisian summer storm, Andreeva recovered from a second-set wobble and saved two break points at 4-5 in the decider before breaking Sabalenka to love in the 11th game. She served out the championship with an ace down the T, dropping her racquet and covering her face as the crowd of 15,000 rose to salute a new star. "I just told myself to fight for

every point," Andreeva said, the Coupe Suzanne Lenglen cradled in her arms. "Two years ago I was playing juniors here. Today this is a dream. Aryna is a champion and she made me play my best tennis. I still can't believe it."

The Russian, ranked 15th coming into the tournament, played with composure that belied her years. After trading brutal baseline exchanges to take the opening set, she was overwhelmed by Sabalenka's power in the second as the Belarusian levelled with a run of five straight games. The third set was a test of nerve. At 4-5, 15-30, Andreeva produced a 102mph second serve that Sabalenka netted, then ripped a forehand winner to hold. The pressure told two games later.

Sabalenka, bidding for a third Grand Slam title and first in Paris, was gracious in defeat. "She deserves it," the top seed said.

"At 19, to play like that in your first major final, it's unbelievable. I had my chances. She was just better in the important moments. I'll be back."

Tournament director Amélie Mauresmo hailed the final as "a passing of the torch". Speaking courtside, Mauresmo added: "What Mirra did these two weeks is extraordinary. She has the game, the head, and the heart. Roland-Garros loves a fighter, and today Paris found a new one."

Andreeva's path to the title was littered with scalps: she beat defending champion Iga Świątek in the semi-finals 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, and fourth seed Coco Gauff in the quarter-finals. She dropped only three sets all fortnight. Her coach, former Wimbledon champion Conchita Martínez, said the victory was "the product of two years of quiet, hard work". "She listens, she learns, and she is

not scared of anyone," Martínez said. "Today she showed the world."

The win makes Andreeva the first teenager to win the French Open since Świątek in 2020 and the youngest Grand Slam champion since Maria Sharapova at Wimbledon in 2004. She will rise to world number 6 on Monday, with Paris already asking if a new era has begun.

Asked how she would celebrate, Andreeva smiled: "First I will call my mum. Then maybe I eat a lot of crêpes. I think I deserve them."

As the sun set over Auteuil, the new champion took her lap of honour, pausing to kiss the clay that had launched her into tennis immortality. Roland-Garros has a habit of crowning prodigies. On this evidence, Mirra Andreeva intends to reign.

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Topomorphisms in Alisher Navoi's Khamsa: Artistic expression and symbolic meaning



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INTRODUCTION

The literary heritage of Alisher Navoi occupies a unique place not only in Turkic literature but also in the broader history of world civilization. His monumental Khamsa, composed between 1483 and 1485, represents one of the greatest achievements of medieval literary culture. Written within an exceptionally short period of two years, the work demonstrates Navoi's extraordinary poetic talent, encyclopedic knowledge, and deep understanding of Eastern philosophical traditions.

The five epic poems of the Khamsa reveal a rich synthesis of history, mythology, geography, religion, and ethics. Among the many artistic devices employed by Navoi, the use of geographical names in figurative and phraseological functions deserves particular attention. These expressions, known as topomorphisms, transform ordinary place names into powerful symbols capable of conveying complex philosophical and emotional meanings.

Topomorphisms occupy a significant position within the semantic structure of Navoi's poetry. They serve not merely as geographical references but as cultural signs that carry historical memory, collective imagination, and symbolic significance. Through them, Navoi creates an artistic universe in which geography becomes language, and place names become vehicles of ethical, spiritual, and aesthetic meaning.

From a linguistic perspective, topomorphisms emerge when a geographical name undergoes semantic transformation and acquires a stable figurative meaning. Such expressions become deeply rooted in literary tradition and cultural consciousness. Their effectiveness stems from their ability to condense extensive historical and cultural associations into a concise poetic image.

The present study aims to investigate the topomorphisms employed throughout Navoi's Khamsa, to classify their semantic functions, and

to examine their role in shaping the artistic and ideological structure of the poems. Through textual analysis, the article seeks to demonstrate that topomorphisms constitute one of the fundamental mechanisms through which Navoi enriches poetic expression and expands the symbolic potential of language.

ANALYSIS OF TOPOMORPHISMS IN THE KHAMSA

1. Topomorphisms in Farhad and Shirin

Among the poems of the Khamsa, Farhad and Shirin contains one of the richest geographical landscapes. The narrative unfolds across numerous regions, including Khitai, Armenia, Bisutun, and the legendary Mount Qaf. Each geographical name functions simultaneously as a physical location and as a symbolic representation of a broader concept.

The phrase "Khan of Khitai" embodies the notion of supreme political authority and grandeur. During the medieval period, China represented the farthest and most magnificent realm known to the peoples of Central Asia. Consequently, references to Khitai acquired connotations of power, wealth, and imperial splendor.

Similarly, the expression "like Bisutun" evolved into a phraseological symbol of seemingly impossible challenges. The association originates from Farhad's legendary task of carving through Mount Bisutun in pursuit of his beloved Shirin. Over time, Bisutun ceased to function solely as a geographical marker and became a metaphor for perseverance in the face of overwhelming obstacles.

Perhaps the most significant topomorphism in the poem is Mount Qaf. In Islamic and Persian cosmological traditions, Mount Qaf marks the boundary of the known universe and symbolizes the ultimate limits of existence. Navoi employs this image to evoke concepts of eternity, transcendence, and the mysterious dimensions of spiritual reality.

2. Topomorphisms in Sab'a-yi Sayyara and Layla and Majnun

In Sab'a-yi Sayyara, geographical symbolism acquires a universal dimension. The paired expression "Rum and Chin" serves as a metaphor for the totality of the world. Rum represents the western horizon, while Chin symbolizes the eastern extremity of civilization. Together they encompass the entirety of hu-

man experience and geographical space. The phrase "the light of Mecca" possesses profound spiritual significance. Mecca, as the holiest city in Islam, functions not merely as a location but as a symbol of divine guidance, purity, and spiritual enlightenment. Through this topomorphism, Navoi links physical geography with metaphysical aspiration.

Likewise, the phrase "Persia and Ajam" extends beyond geographical description and comes to signify the cultural and intellectual world of the East. It reflects a shared civilizational heritage that transcends political boundaries.

In Layla and Majnun, topomorphisms are frequently associated with emotional and psychological states. The city of Ganja acquires symbolic meaning through its phonetic connection with the Persian word ganj ("treasure"), transforming it into a metaphor for hidden spiritual wealth.

The image of Sham (Damascus) is repeatedly connected with sorrow, separation, and longing. Its poetic associations stem from classical literary traditions in which evening darkness and distant lands symbolize emotional suffering.

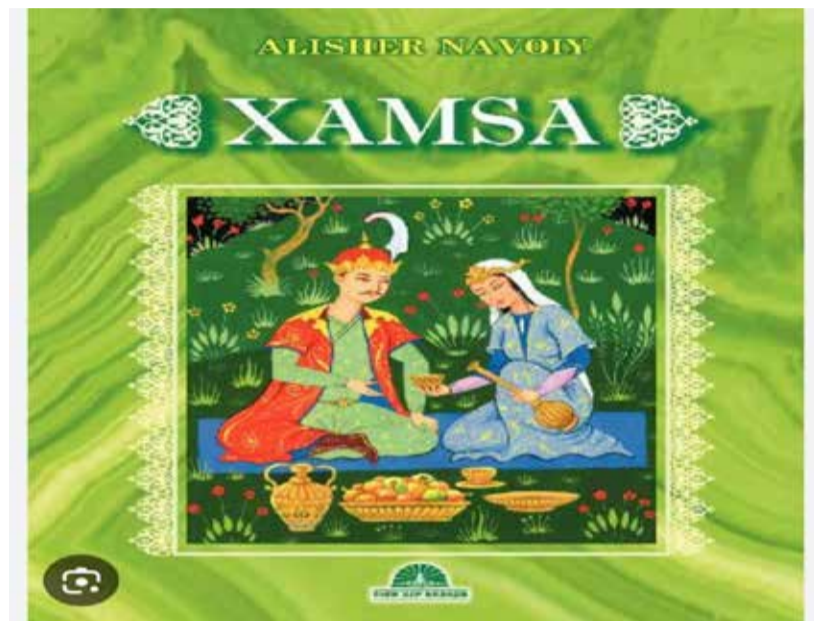
Najd, on the other hand, becomes a symbol of passionate love and yearning. Expressions involving the "horse of Najd" evoke movement, pursuit, and the burning intensity of affection. In this context, geography becomes inseparable from human emotion.

3. Topomorphisms in Saddi Iskandariy

The final poem of the Khamsa, Saddi Iskandariy, presents perhaps the most politically charged use of topomorphisms. Here geographical references reinforce themes of leadership, conquest, and civilization.

"The air of Khorasan" symbolizes an intellectual environment characterized by learning, refinement, and cultural achievement. During Navoi's lifetime, Khorasan—particularly Herat—served as one of the most important centers of science, literature, and art in the Islamic world. Consequently, references to Khorasan carry associations with enlightenment and scholarly excellence.

The expression "the Khan of Chin buckles on his sword-belt" illustrates the submission of even the most powerful rulers before Alexander. Through this topomorphism, Navoi magnifies the universal scope



of Iskandar's authority and presents conquest as a symbol of political unity and order.

Such examples demonstrate that geographical names in Saddi Iskandariy function not merely as markers of location but as instruments for expressing political ideals and historical vision.

4. Semantic Classification of Topomorphisms

A systematic examination of topomorphisms in the Khamsa reveals several major semantic categories.

The first group consists of expressions representing universality and global scope. Rum, Chin, Arab, and Ajam collectively symbolize the entirety of the known world.

The second category encompasses sacred and religious topomorphisms, including Mecca, Jerusalem, and celestial locations associated with divine presence. These expressions communicate holiness, spiritual authority, and transcendence.

A third category includes symbols of political power and dominion. Egypt, Chin, and Ctesiphon frequently signify royal authority, military success, and statehood.

The fourth group contains centers of learning and culture, such as Khorasan, Herat, Shiraz, and Tabriz. These place names evoke intellectual achievement, artistic refinement, and civilizational advancement.

The fifth category involves symbols of eternity and permanence. Mount Qaf and Bisutun exemplify this group, representing timelessness and endurance.

Finally, there are topomorphisms associated with emotional experience. Sham, Najd, and Yemen func-

tion as poetic symbols of love, longing, sorrow, and hope.

ARTISTIC FUNCTIONS OF TOPOMORPHISMS

Beyond their semantic meanings, topomorphisms perform several important artistic functions in the Khamsa. First, they enhance imagery by transforming geographical references into vivid symbolic landscapes. Second, they contribute to the musicality and stylistic elegance of poetic language. Third, they establish connections between individual narratives and broader cultural traditions. Furthermore, topomorphisms allow Navoi to compress extensive historical, mythological, and philosophical information into concise poetic expressions. A single place name can evoke centuries of cultural memory, thereby increasing the density and richness of the text.

These phraseological constructions also reveal Navoi's encyclopedic worldview. His geographical references encompass regions stretching from China to the Mediterranean, demonstrating both the geographical knowledge and the cultural interconnectedness of the fifteenth-century Islamic world.

CONCLUSION

The analysis confirms that topomorphisms constitute one of the most sophisticated artistic devices employed in Alisher Navoi's Khamsa. Far from being decorative elements, they form an essential component of the poems' semantic and philosophical structure.