



Can the IEBC lawfully postpone the OI Kalou by-election? A Constitutional analysis
The debate surrounding the OI Kalou by-election has moved beyond ordinary politics. It now raises a fundamental constitutional question

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Kindiki defends Ruto, says Kenyans are judging government too quickly
Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has defended President William Ruto's administration against growing criticism, saying Kenyans are demanding results at a pace that was never expected

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Sammy Kamau Ngotho of the Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) and Samuel Muchina Nyagah of the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) are the most visible candidates

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Kalonzo leads in call for servant leadership during Kiambu church service

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

Wiper Patriotic Front leader Kalonzo Musyoka yesterday called on leaders to embrace integrity, humility and accountability as he joined worshippers for a church service at ACK St. Andrews in Kiambu County.

Kalonzo was accompanied by Democratic Party leader Justin Bedan (JB) Muturi, Machakos Senator Agnes Kavindu, Makueni Senator Dan Maanzo, Matungulu MP Stephen Mule, Kajiado North MP Jude Njomo and former Principal Secretary Irungu Nyakera among other leaders.

During the service, Rev. David Kangara preached on stewardship, urging leaders to serve with integrity and courage while trusting in God as they discharge their responsibilities.

Drawing from the biblical story of Joshua, the preacher encouraged Christians to remain steadfast in the face of challenges and to lead with faith and purpose.

Kalonzo said the sermon underscored the need for leaders to put the interests of citizens first, citing Matthew 20:26, which teaches that greatness is achieved through service.

“May we continue to lead with faith, purpose and a deep commitment to the people we serve,” he said.

The church service comes as opposition leaders continue engaging religious institutions and wananchi across the country, with Kalonzo maintaining that faith-based values should guide leadership and public service.

After the service, the leaders addressed public meetings in the area where, like during the speeches at the church service, they reiterated their commitment to remain united and front one candidate against President William Ruto.



Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Project Management Institute (PMI) Kenya Chapter has launched its Coast Branch in Mombasa to strengthen professional project management and improve delivery of public projects across the six coastal counties. Speaking during the launch in Nyali, PMI Kenya Chapter Board President Maureen Mbithi Ochang said the Coast was selected because of its numerous development projects and the need to promote ethical, accountable project management. She cited audit findings indicating Kenya loses about Sh600 billion annually through poorly executed or abandoned projects, stressing that better project management would reduce wastage and improve service delivery. Kilifi County Chief Officer for Tourism Promotion, Culture and Heritage Herbert Tawa Mwachiro welcomed the initiative, saying it would enhance capacity in county governments and support sustainable, professionally managed development across the Coast region.



Mombasa Senator Mohamed Faki and Changamwe MP Omar Mwinyi have condemned the demolition of 170 houses at the Changamwe National Housing Estate, saying it violated a court order and warning that ODM could reconsider its support for the broad-based government if the rule of law continues to be ignored. The demolition, which affected more than 800 families, sparked protests as police dispersed residents with tear gas. Mwinyi accused authorities of failing to consult local leaders or conduct public participation, while Faki questioned why a valid court order was disregarded. Tenant leaders called for humane evictions and dialogue, saying they support redevelopment but not forced displacement.



Swaziland Ambassador to Kenya, Mirko Giulietti (left), consults with the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education for Africa (CEMASTE), Dr. Pius Mutisya, during the ongoing 9th Biennial African School of Fundamental Physics and Applications (ASP2026) last Friday,



The Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) has begun constructing and renovating classrooms in 10 primary schools in the insecurity-prone Mukogodo area of Laikipia County as part of efforts to restore lasting peace through improved education. Defence Principal Secretary Patrick Mariru said the project, directed by President William Ruto, will be completed within two months and aims to provide learners with a conducive environment. The expansion of boarding facilities is expected to boost enrolment and reduce school dropouts, helping keep young people away from crime. Mukogodo has long suffered from bandit attacks that have displaced residents and disrupted learning. Laikipia North MP Sarah Korere said the government is also drilling boreholes to improve water access in schools.

Stakeholders in the nutrition sector have launched the Food Culture Alliance (FCA) Strategy 2026–2030 to promote nutritious, sustainable and culturally relevant foods while encouraging greater consumption of indigenous diets. Led by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), the initiative includes plans by Nairobi City County to establish designated street food vending zones offering safe, affordable traditional meals. Stakeholders are also training vendors on food safety, engaging supermarkets to stock indigenous products and supporting farmers growing traditional vegetables. GAIN said Kenya's 18 per cent stunting rate underscores the need for healthier diets, while Slow Food Kenya is preserving indigenous foods through schools and youth programmes. The alliance will use digital platforms to make traditional foods more appealing, especially to young people.

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Politics Kenya must ask whether its politics is becoming a contest of ideas or a battle of intimidation

Nyahururu in the eye of the storm: Political violence casts a shadow over Kenya's democratic future

BY Hadassah Karangu
@themtkenytimes

Yesterday's events in Nyahururu have once again pulled Kenya into an uncomfortable, but necessary, national conversation. What was meant to be another political rally instead turned into scenes of confusion, fear and violence, leaving many Kenyans asking whether the country's democratic space is shrinking as political temperatures rise.

Reports indicate that a rally involving Murang'a Governor Irungu Kang'ata and leaders associated with the Linda Mwananchi movement was disrupted when chaos broke out during the gathering. Kang'ata later said his driver had been shot during the incident, and that vehicles in his convoy were damaged. Authorities had not publicly clarified the full circumstances, nor identified those responsible, by the time of reporting.

Whatever side of the political divide one stands on, violence should never become an accepted feature of Kenyan politics. Every Kenyan, regardless of political affiliation, deserves the constitutional right to assemble peacefully, campaign freely and speak their mind without fear of intimidation or attack. The images and accounts emerging from Nyahururu paint a troubling picture. Instead of conversations about policy, jobs, the cost of living

and development, headlines have once again been dominated by allegations of organised disruption, stone-throwing, security concerns and injured supporters. Scenes like these do little to build public confidence in Kenya's democracy.

The timing makes matters more delicate still. Preparations for the Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election are already underway, and political activity is intensifying across the region. Security around campaign events has increasingly become a subject of national debate, with leaders from different sides calling on authorities to guarantee safety for all participants, regardless of political affiliation.

Adding to the tension, opposition leaders have issued fresh warnings to the government following the Nyahururu incident, accusing state agencies of failing to provide adequate security during their activities. Government officials have yet to respond publicly to those allegations, which means investigations will be essential before responsibility can be fairly established.

This is precisely the crossroads at which Kenya now finds itself.

If every political meeting is met with confrontation, every rally with suspicion and every disagreement with violence, it is ordinary citizens who pay the highest price. Small traders lose business. Families avoid town centres.



Murang'a Governor Irungu Kang'ata and leaders associated with the Linda Mwananchi movement was disrupted when chaos broke out

Investors hesitate. Communities split along political lines, and fear slowly crowds out civic participation.

History has shown, time and again, that democracy is not measured by how leaders celebrate victory but by how they tolerate opposition. The strongest democracies protect the voices they disagree with most, because freedom loses its meaning the moment only one side is free to speak.

The responsibility for getting this right does not rest with politicians alone. Security agencies must remain impartial and professional, ensuring every Kenyan enjoys equal protection under the law. Where crimes have occurred, investigations should be transparent, evidence-driven and free of political interference — justice must not only be done, but be seen to be done.

Political leaders carry an enormous share of this responsibility too. Words spoken from campaign platforms can calm emotions just as

easily as they can inflame them, and supporters often take their cue from the tone their leaders set. Choosing dialogue over confrontation is not a sign of weakness — it is a mark of statesmanship.

As Kenya edges closer to its next electoral cycle, the country cannot afford to normalise political violence. Elections should be contests of ideas, manifestos and leadership — not battles decided by fear, intimidation or bloodshed.

Nyahururu should serve as a wake-up call.

Kenya deserves a politics that inspires hope rather than anxiety, unity rather than hostility, and leadership that puts the lives of citizens above political rivalry. The future of the country's democracy will not be decided at the ballot box alone, but in how well it protects the rights and safety of every citizen long before voting day arrives.

ODM to back Ruto's 2027 re-election bid



ODM leader Oburu Oginga

BY MKT REPORTER
@themtkenytimes

The Orange Democratic Movement has confirmed it will support President William Ruto's bid for a second term in the 2027 general election, ruling out fielding its own presidential candidate. Speaking in Homa Bay, ODM leader Oburu Oginga said the decision reflects the political cooperation established between the party and the Kenya Kwanza administration under the broad-based government arrangement. "ODM will not field a presidential candidate in 2027 and will instead support President Ruto for a second term," Oburu said.

The announcement formalises months of deepening ties between ODM and Kenya Kwanza, following the entry of senior ODM figures into

government roles earlier in Ruto's term. Both sides have consistently described the arrangement as a vehicle for national unity and accelerated development, rather than a conventional coalition pact.

Political analysts say the move consolidates Ruto's re-election prospects by neutralising one of his most formidable historical rivals, while raising questions about the shape of opposition politics ahead of 2027. ODM insiders maintain the party's support is conditional on continued delivery on shared development priorities, though Oburu did not elaborate on specific terms.

The announcement is likely to reshape political alignments across the country as parties begin positioning themselves for the next electoral cycle.

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Politics The IEBC does not possess a general discretion to postpone elections whenever circumstances become politically inconvenient

Can the IEBC lawfully postpone the Ol Kalou by-election? A Constitutional analysis



By: Gitile Naituli
@themkenytimes

The debate surrounding the Ol Kalou by-election has moved beyond ordinary politics. It now raises a fundamental constitutional question: Under what circumstances may the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) lawfully postpone an election?

The answer is simple.

The IEBC does not possess a general discretion to postpone elections whenever circumstances become politically inconvenient. Its authority is limited by the Constitution and the Elections Act.

The Constitution begins from a clear premise. Under Article 1, sovereign power belongs to the people. Elections are the means through which the people exercise that sovereignty. Consequently, postponement of an election is an exception, not the rule.

The people of Ol Kalou have a constitutional right to representation in the National Assembly. That right should not be delayed except where the law clearly permits it.

The Elections Act recognizes that exceptional situations may arise that make the holding of an election impossible or unsafe. These may include natural disasters, widespread insecurity, serious emergencies, or other extraordinary circumstances that genuinely prevent citizens from voting freely and safely.

However, the legal threshold is necessarily high.

The IEBC must demonstrate objective and credible reasons why the election cannot proceed. Mere apprehension, political controversy, isolated incidents, or administrative inconvenience cannot automatically justify postponement.



UDA candidate Samuel Muchina Nyagah

Equally important, the Commission bears a constitutional obligation to exhaust every reasonable measure to enable the election to proceed before considering postponement. The first duty of the State is to secure the election, not to cancel or defer it.

This obligation extends beyond the IEBC.

The National Police Service is constitutionally required to maintain peace, protect voters, candidates, election officials and polling stations, and ensure that elections take place in an atmosphere free from violence and intimidation. If violence is threatened, the primary legal response is to provide adequate security and enforce the criminal law, not necessarily to postpone the election. Otherwise, a dangerous constitutional principle would emerge. Any individual or organised group wishing to prevent an election would merely need to create sufficient disorder to force postponement.

That would reward lawlessness while punishing peaceful voters. No constitutional democracy can permit such an outcome. If, however, violence reaches a level where citizens genuinely cannot vote safely despite reasonable security measures, the Commission may have lawful grounds to consider postponement. Even then, its decision must satisfy the constitutional principles of legality, necessity, proportionality and reasonableness.

The Commission must be able to explain publicly:

- What specific circumstances made the election impossible.
- What security measures were undertaken before postponement was considered.
- Why those measures proved insufficient.
- Why postponement was the least restrictive option available.

These questions are not political.

They are constitutional.

The courts have consistently held that every constitutional power must be exercised rationally, reasonably and for the purpose for which it was granted. The IEBC is no exception.

Should the Commission postpone an election without sufficient legal justification, that decision would be subject to judicial review. The High Court would be entitled to examine whether the Commission acted within its constitutional mandate or exceeded its powers.

Public confidence in elections depends not only on the integrity of voting but also on the integrity of electoral administration. The Commission must therefore avoid even the appearance that its decisions are influenced by political pressure or partisan considerations. Its greatest institutional asset is public confidence. Once lost, that confidence becomes exceedingly difficult to restore.

The controversy surrounding Ol

Kalou should therefore remind all constitutional institutions of a simple principle. The IEBC exists to facilitate elections, not frustrate them. The National Police Service exists to protect democratic participation, not diminish it. Political parties exist to persuade voters, not intimidate them.

Ultimately, the Constitution belongs neither to the Government nor the Opposition. It belongs to the people. Every decision made during an election must therefore answer one overriding constitutional question: Does it protect, or diminish, the sovereign right of Kenyans to choose their leaders freely? That is the standard by which history, and the Constitution, will judge us.

Prof. Gitile Naituli teaches Constitutionalism and Governance at Multimedia University of Kenya and is a Fellow of the Kenya National Academy of Sciences.

Elections Almost all legislators from central have been to Ol Kalou drumming up support for DCP's Sammy Kamau Waweru or UDA's Samwel Nyaga

Could Ol-Kalau by-election be a 2027 rehearsal?

BY Charles Kinyua

[@themkenyaintimes](#)

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The parliamentary by-election is not like any other even as it stands alone unlike past ones that have been held together with civic ones.

The stakes are so high that it's being viewed as a rehearsal for next year's General Elections with President William Ruto determined to prove that he still has a firm grip on the political pulse of the mountain.

On the other hand his former deputy, Rigathi Gachagua and party leader of the highly vibrant DCP has vowed to extinguish the ruling party UDA in the area like a tin lamp in a windy night.

Conspicuously missing in action is Gachagua's successor Kithure Kindiki as the ruling party's torch is jointly born by senior presidential advisor Moses Kuria and Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri leading over four cabinet secretaries, eight PSs and a host of senior government officials.

On the other hand, Riggy G has entrusted the high octane campaigns to Nyandarua Senator John Methu who is also the DCP acting Secretary General and fiery Kipipiri MP Wanjiku Muhia who has been found guilty of alleged inciteful utterances by IEBC.

Almost all legislators from central have been to Ol Kalou drumming up support for DCP's Sammy Kamau Waweru or UDA's Samwel Nyaga with the exception of a few led by Kiharu's ever elusive Ndindi Nyoro.

Nyoro has been very vocal opposing the government's economic policies but ever absent in parliament on critical voting days including Gachagua's impeachment motion and this year's Finance bill vote.

It is worth noting that his mentor and home county governor Irungu Kang'ata is as reclusive and never declares his political stand until the very tail end of electioneering.

On Friday he received a hot tongue lashing from DCP boss after he was reportedly intended to lead the Linda Mwanachi brigade to Ol Kalou yes-



DCP Ol-Kalau candidate Sammy Kamau Waweru and Nyandarua Senator John Methu during the campaign trail over the weekend.

“

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terday though he had not liaised the parties that have candidates in the by-election.

Aside from the amorphous group he has not yet named his party of choice in defending his seat next year.

With Gachagua's deliberate absence in Ol Kalau almost all gubernatorial, senatorial and parliamentary aspirants have pitched camp in he constituency doing what all loyal soldiers should do for their general.

One conspicuous absentee is Solomon Maina Muriithi from Mathira and who was ejected from Wamun- yoro last month as the party leader hosted aspirants from the region.

Of note is that he's a blossom friend and business partner of the Kiharu legislator.

Impeccable sources intimated to the Mt Kenya Times that his companies have stalled road projects in Nyandarua and the system would not want him anywhere near the highly

charged constituency.

Other sources say that the DCP party boss had given firm instructions to the party head office not to let Solo register but some unscrupulous offices got their palms greased and allowed him in a month ago.

Gachagua is said to have been infuriated by Muriithi's betrayal and joining hands with his tormentors though he had secured him an appointment as the KTDA (MS) chairman; an appointment that expired a few months ago.

All other aspirants for the Mathira seat including the incumbent Eric Wamumbi have pitched camp in Ol Kalau. Others are DCP's Peter Githinji Tropical, Dominic Muraya and Daniel Kiige as well as their foot soldiers.

Gubernatorial aspirant Gichuki Mugambi, his senatorial counterpart King'ori Wanjohi, George Mwangi Box of Nyeri Town and Otha-

ya's Antonito Gitonga and Edmund Kimaru have constantly stamped their presence.

Legislators John Kaguchia, Geoffrey Wandeto and Kanini Kega have recently gotten temporary homes in the constituency among many other political players.

After the Thursday election, many political careers including those of president William Ruto and his former deputy Rigathi Gachagua will end either more polished or seriously dented.

The outcome though just a single constituency affair may turn out to be a dress rehearsal of the August 10, 2027 general elections.

Coffee Data from the AFA Coffee Directorate shows that between October 2025 and June 2026, direct sales moved 6,066.31 metric tonnes of clean coffee

Direct coffee sales earn farmers KSh6.35 Bbillion as premium market outperforms auction

BY DMS

@themtkenyentimes

Kenya's direct coffee sales channel delivered significantly higher returns to farmers during the 2025/2026 coffee season, reinforcing its growing importance as a premium marketing avenue alongside the Nairobi Coffee Exchange auction.

Data from the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) Coffee Directorate shows that between October 2025 and June 2026, direct sales moved 6,066.31 metric tonnes of clean coffee, generating approximately KSh6.35 billion at a weighted average price equivalent to KSh52,374 per 50-kilogram bag.

By comparison, coffee sold through the auction fetched

an average equivalent of KSh43,731 per bag, giving direct sales a premium of about KSh8,643 per bag; nearly 20 per cent higher than auction prices.

The figures underline the increasing value of direct trade arrangements, particularly for cooperatives and estates capable of meeting stringent quality standards and buyer requirements.



Direct coffee sales

The season started modestly before gathering momentum over the months. October recorded direct sales of 98,663 kilograms worth approximately KSh108.36 million. Volumes almost doubled in November to 197,978 kilograms valued at about KSh224.46 million, before climbing further in December when 485,913 kilograms earned nearly KSh549.54 million.

The upward trend continued into 2026. January registered 730,662 kilograms valued at approximately KSh783.03 million, while February saw 754,650 kilograms earn about KSh878.49 million.

March emerged as the strongest month of the season. Direct sales reached 1,952,915 kilograms; almost one-third of the total seasonal volume and generated approximately KSh2.06 billion. April maintained strong performance with 1,163,938 kilograms earning around KSh1.14 billion before activity slowed towards the end of the harvest cycle.

May recorded 348,919 kilograms valued at approximately KSh287.67 million, while June closed the period with 332,670 kilograms worth about KSh314.76 million.

Although prices remained above the equivalent of KSh51,600 per bag from October through March, February delivered the season's highest average at approxi-

mately KSh58,225 per bag.

Prices softened in May to around KSh41,288 before recovering to about KSh47,339 in June.

The United Kingdom and Switzerland dominated Kenya's direct coffee export market throughout the period.

The United Kingdom purchased 2.43 million kilograms, representing 40.05 per cent of total direct sales, with purchases valued at approximately KSh2.66 billion.

Switzerland followed closely with 2.35 million kilograms, accounting for 38.81 per cent of the volume and generating around KSh2.07 billion.

Together, the two countries absorbed nearly four-fifths of all coffee sold through the direct marketing channel.

Germany ranked third with 391,728 kilograms, followed by the United States with 237,823 kilograms, while another 29 destinations shared the remaining volumes, each accounting for less than two per cent of total exports.

Some of the smaller markets, however, paid substantially higher prices.

Jordan offered the highest average price at the equivalent of approximately KSh119,454 per 50-kilogram bag. Japan followed at around KSh88,494, Denmark at approximately KSh87,075, while Hong Kong paid about KSh83,463.

At the opposite end of the price spectrum was Somalia,

where the average price stood at approximately KSh32,121 per bag.

The figures demonstrate that while direct sales generally attract better returns than auction trading, prices continue to depend on negotiations, coffee quality and market preferences.

Industry analysts say the sustained premium offered through direct sales presents a strong case for more farmer cooperatives and estates to invest in quality improvement, certification and stronger relationships with international buyers.

They also caution that heavy dependence on the United Kingdom and Switzerland presents a concentration risk, arguing that expanding into more premium specialty markets could strengthen Kenya's resilience against changing global demand.

When combined with the auction market, Kenya marketed about 42 million kilograms of coffee during the period, earning approximately KSh37.93 billion at a blended average price of roughly KSh44,942 per 50-kilogram bag.

While the auction remains the country's principal coffee marketing platform, the latest figures show that the highest returns for growers increasingly lie in direct trade, where premium buyers continue to reward quality with significantly better prices.

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Performance Kagwe topped the rankings with an approval rating of 86.5 per cent, ahead of Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano (84.7 per cent)

Why Kagwe topped survey on cabinet performance

BY WMW

@themkenyatimes

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe was ranked Kenya's best-performing Cabinet Secretary in the latest KenyaTrack National Cabinet Performance Survey, with his stewardship of the country's agriculture sector earning widespread public approval amid ongoing reforms to boost food production, improve farmer incomes and strengthen food security.

The survey conducted across all 290 constituencies assessed Cabinet Secretaries based on service delivery, policy implementation, leadership, responsiveness to public concerns and the impact of government programmes on the lives of ordinary Kenyans.

Kagwe topped the rankings with an approval rating of 86.5 per cent, ahead of Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano (84.7 per cent), Public Service and Human Capital Development

Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku (82.7 per cent), Defence Cabinet Secretary Soipan Tuya (79.5 per cent), Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome (79.0 per cent), Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Deborah Barasa (78.3 per cent), National Treasury and Economic Planning Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi (78.0 per cent), Labour and Social Protection Cabinet Secretary Alfred Mutua (77.9 per cent), Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi (77.2 per cent), and Information, Communications and the Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary William Kabogo (76.8 per cent).

The recognition comes as the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development continues implementing reforms under the government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), which identifies agriculture as the backbone of Kenya's

economy and a key driver of employment, food security and export earnings.

Among the initiatives credited for the ministry's strong performance is the expanded fertiliser subsidy programme, which has enabled millions of farmers to access affordable fertiliser, significantly lowering production costs and increasing crop yields.

The ministry that caters for the biggest GDP in the country has also intensified the distribution of certified seeds to improve productivity while promoting local production of key food crops to reduce dependence on imports and enhance national food security.

Kagwe has overseen the strengthening of agricultural extension services through increased deployment of extension officers, farmer training programmes and the adoption of modern farming technologies to improve productivity and resilience against climate change.

The ministry has also championed climate-smart agriculture by encouraging sus-

tainable farming practices, efficient water use, conservation agriculture and improved seed varieties suited to changing weather patterns.

The coffee sector has undergone major reforms aimed at increasing farmers' earnings through improved marketing systems, enhanced direct sales and better access to premium international markets. Tea reforms have similarly focused on improving returns to growers and strengthening the competitiveness of Kenya's tea in global markets.

The dairy sector has benefited from programmes supporting better breeding, improved animal husbandry and disease control, while reforms in the sugar industry have sought to revive local factories, improve cane production and reduce reliance on imported sugar.

In horticulture, the ministry has continued supporting exporters through improved compliance with international quality standards while encouraging value addition to increase foreign exchange earnings.

The livestock subsector has also recorded significant progress through enhanced disease surveillance programmes, nationwide vaccination campaigns and improved breeding initiatives aimed at increasing meat and milk production.

The ministry has further promoted the establishment of strategic animal feed reserves



CS Mutahi Kagwe during the swearing in ceremony at State House last year. | Photo: Courtesy

and expanded livestock extension services to cushion farmers against recurring droughts and other climate-related shocks.

Other reforms undertaken under Kagwe's leadership include improving market access for farmers, promoting value addition across agricultural value chains, supporting agribusiness development and encouraging the adoption of digital technologies to link producers with markets and extension services.

The ministry has also strengthened food security systems by enhancing crop monitoring, improving early warning mechanisms and coordinating responses to weather-related emergencies to safeguard national food supplies.

Speaking after the survey results were released, Kagwe attributed the recognition to the collective efforts of staff with-

in the ministry, State agencies, county governments, development partners and millions of Kenyan farmers whose commitment continues to drive the transformation of the agriculture sector.

He reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to making agriculture more profitable, increasing food production, creating employment opportunities for young people and ensuring every Kenyan has access to affordable, safe and nutritious food.

The latest survey suggests that the ministry's reforms are resonating with the public, particularly at a time when agriculture remains central to Kenya's economic growth, supporting more than 70 per cent of rural livelihoods and contributing significantly to the country's export earnings and industrial development.

Politics The gubernatorial hopeful said the elderly deserved dignity, care and recognition for the role they have played in building society

Nyeri governor hopeful Wangai steps up grassroots campaign, aid for elderly

BY WMW

@themkenyatimes

Nyeri's Jubilee Party gubernatorial aspirant Eng. Wangai Ndirangu yesterday continued his grassroots outreach in the county, worshipping with congregations in Mukurweini Constituency and donating blankets to elderly residents as he intensified his campaign ahead of the 2027 General Election.

Eng. Wangai attended services at Wamutito Catholic Church and Faith Manifestation Church in Ichamara, Mukurweini Central Ward, where he joined worshippers in prayer and interacted with residents.

During the visits, he distributed blankets to elderly members of the community, saying the initiative was aimed at supporting vulnerable senior citizens during the current cold season.

Addressing the congregations, the gubernatorial hopeful said the elderly deserved dignity, care and recognition for the role they have played in building society.

"To every elder in Nyeri, you are seen, you are valued, and you will not be forgotten," he said.

The Sunday engagements are part of Eng. Wangai's ongoing countywide campaign that has seen him traverse different constituencies meeting resi-



Eng. Wangai Ndirangu with one of the beneficiaries. | Photo: Courtesy.

dents, religious leaders, traders, farmers and youth groups as he seeks to popularise his bid for the county's top seat on the Jubilee Party ticket.

His campaign has largely centred on listening to resi-

dents' concerns and outlining his vision for improved service delivery, economic empowerment, agricultural transformation and better support for vulnerable groups.

Supporters who accompa-

nied him said the church visits offered an opportunity for residents to interact with the aspirant and share issues affecting their communities.

The blankets donation was welcomed by beneficiaries, with local residents describing it as a timely gesture as temperatures continue to drop in parts of Nyeri County.

Eng. Wangai has maintained an active presence across the county in recent months, with his campaign focusing on community engagement and grassroots mobilisation as political activity gradually gathers momentum ahead of the next general election.

Politics “You are putting us under so much pressure, as if there was no government before President William Ruto took office,” said Kithure Kindiki

Kindiki defends Ruto, says Kenyans are judging government too quickly

BY Brian Gitonga
@themtkenyentimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has defended President William Ruto’s administration against growing criticism, saying Kenyans are demanding results at a pace that was never expected of previous governments. He argued that the Kenya Kwanza administration inherited long-standing challenges and should be given enough time to implement its development agenda.

Speaking at a thanksgiving service at the Methodist Church in Kenya, Abothuguchi Synod in Kirigara, Meru County, Kindiki said it is unfair for Kenyans to compare the current administration with governments that had been in office for decades. He maintained that the pressure being placed on President Ruto’s government is unprecedented despite it having

served for a much shorter period.

“Please give us a little time. The only problem I see is that you are judging us too quickly. You are putting us under so much pressure, as if there was no government before President William Ruto took office,” said Kithure Kindiki.

He said former presidents had considerably more time to implement their agendas before facing intense criticism. The Deputy President noted that President Daniel arap Moi served for 24 years while former President Mwai Kibaki was in office for 10 years, yet the current administration began facing demands to solve every challenge within its first year.

Kindiki urged Kenyans to allow the government to roll out its programs, insisting that development cannot be achieved overnight. He said the administration remains committed to fulfilling its election promises and asked

residents to judge it based on the progress it would make over time rather than immediate results.

In addition, the Deputy President pointed to ongoing infrastructure projects as evidence that the government is delivering on its pledges.

He said several road projects that had stalled have resumed after the government cleared huge pending bills owed to contractors.

“We had challenges with roads, but you can now see projects coming back to life because we have paid contractors about Sh177 billion that they were owed,” said Kithure Kindiki.

The second in command said more than 6,000 kilometers of roads are currently under construction nationwide. He noted that in Meru County, the government has committed about 39 billion shillings towards tarmacking roads, adding that another 2.3 billion shillings has been allocated to



Prof .Kithure Kindiki waves at the residents at Kirigara, Meru County | Photo: Courtesy

connect approximately 27,000 households to electricity.

Further, he addressed the delayed construction of the Nithi Bridge, saying the contractor has already established a site but cannot begin work until the compensation process for affected landowners was completed. He explained that the government had initially proposed allowing construction to start before compensation was paid, but consultations with residents have produced mixed responses.

The Deputy President

claimed some landowners accepted the proposal while others insisted on receiving compensation before surrendering their land. He said the government is respecting the concerns raised and will only proceed once the compensation exercise is concluded.

The Second in command however stirred controversy after suggesting that the current administration is being unfairly blamed for the long-standing dangers posed by the Nithi Bridge. He argued that the black spot has

claimed lives for decades before President Ruto came to power questioning why previous administrations had not faced similar criticism.

“Why are you putting pressure on William Ruto over Nithi Bridge? The bridge was completed in 1985, and accidents started claiming lives the next day. We cried to President Moi for 17 years before he left office, yet no one told him ‘one term’,” Kindiki said.



Residents follow Kindiki’s speech. | Photo: Brian Gitonga



Prof .Kithure Kindiki waves at the residents at Kirigara, Meru County | Photo: Brian Gitonga

Power Duncan Mbui who hails from Evurore ward said that majority of homes have gone back to use lantern lights after the transformers were removed

Over 3000 households left in the dark as wamuthende maintains the transformers were taken for maintenance

BY MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Over 3,000 households from Evurore ward in Mbeere North sub-county have been left in the dark after 14 transformers out of 25 were removed for what the Kenya Power Care says is for maintenance. The Kenya Power care states that on Thursday last week a technical team is installing a new transformer at Njarange, Mbeere North to replace a unit that was vandalised. Locals have refuted the claims stating that no transformer has been reinstalled and that they are in the dark. Duncan Mbui who hails from Evurore ward said that majority of homes have gone back to use lantern lights after the transformers were removed.

Businesses, schools in the ward were also not spared as the majority depended solely on electricity. Lawrence Mwaniki stated that the transformers were taken to Olkalao where there is a By-election on 16th July. “Approximately 14 transformers were removed from evurore ward, raising questions why such a big number” Mwaniki questioned. He also pointed out the Kanyuambora irrigation project where Cabinet secretary Public services Geoffrey Ruku launched with Deputy President Kithure Kindiki saying, it did not even start. ‘Kanyuambora irrigation project did not even start, Ruku and Kindiki just posed for photos to lie to Mbeere North residents,”Mwaniki added. Back to transformers, area MP Leonard Wamuthende said that the upgrade started early May citing that there are individuals who are never satisfied and not happy with him being the MP, and the work he is doing, who are acting without facts saying that the transformers were taken for maintenance. He said that the growing demand for electricity in the sub-county is very high and that the power provider wants to minimise outages. “The demand for electricity in Mbeere North is very high, we estimate to connect more homes and the current transformer cannot hold a big number, they have been taken for upgrade to ensure that there will be no outages in the near future some individuals that are never satisfied are just playing politics” Wamuthende stated. The MP also said that there has been an agreement in ensuring that the transformers are back within six days, a thing that is also frustrating



Transformers

his efforts. “We have agreed with the Kenya power technical team to have the transformers fixed within six days, such a delay has brought all this politics, It is very frustrating to see my own people in the dark,” he added.



Too much of anything can be harmful, even if it is good



Too much of anything is good for nothing.
Everything has a limit—food,

medicine, relationships,
friendship, care for others, advice, and many
other things.

When we go beyond the limit,
we may lose the respect of others.
Therefore, stay within your limits and earn
respect.

G. YasminSirajudheen
Secondary grade teacher
Melmalayanur block
Villupuram dt.

The golden measure



Too much of anything is good for nothing;
Even honey, though sweet, can lose its delight.
A little brings joy, a lot brings burden—
Wisdom is knowing the measure that’s right.

Kindness is noble to every creature,
Yet guard the child from a venomous bite.
Mercy should walk beside good judgment,
For love must also protect what is right.

Prayer uplifts the weary spirit,
Temples awaken the soul within.
But work is worship when done with purpose;

Idle devotion alone cannot win.

Eat to nourish the body with gratitude,
Don’t make life a feast from dawn till night.
Health grows through balance and discipline,
Not every craving deserves a bite.

Love is precious when freely given,
But hearts need room like birds in the sky.
Clinging too tightly can suffocate peace;
Trust lets relationships bloom and fly.

Knowledge, wealth, power, and even silence—
Each has a place, each shines in its turn.
Balance is life’s enduring teacher:
Too much of anything is good for nothing to learn.

V.Durgadevi
Graduate Teacher
GHS Nesal
Tiruvannamalai District

My Dad



My first hero, my forever home,
That’s my dad.

Strong in his hands,
Yet the softest at heart

He has always been

My safest place.

He taught me to stand tall,
And never let me fall.

Dad is my first word for strength.
Dad is my last word for love.

By, G. Saiprasath
VIII Std
PUMS Chinna Obulapuram
Gummidipoondi
Tiruvallur District
Tamil Nadu

My Brother, My Happiness



My brother is not just my brother,
He is my happiness every day.
When I feel sad or worried,
He helps me smile again.

We laugh and enjoy together,
And make many happy memories.
He is cute, smart, and caring,
And always stays close to me.

Sometimes brothers tease and play,
But he never hurts my feelings.
He is my best friend,
And brings joy into my life.

My brother is like a second parent,
Full of love and support.
He looks after me with kindness,
And makes me feel safe.

He is a special gift in my life,
And a precious part of my heart.
I am lucky to have a brother like him,
And I will always love him. Alternative titles:

P.Ilakkiya
8 A, GHS Nesal
Tiruvannamalai District

Imagination



I don’t say that our life is
imagination,
But we can change it by our own creation.
If you think that life is tragic,

But happiness is only the magic.
Our only goal is achieve the dream,
Not just stuck in the old cream.
Don’t say that your life is in the pain,
Enjoy every moment like that you are in the rain.
We should never say that our life is not like the
imagination,
We only make it in our own creation.

-Sadhana.
India

The world I hope for



My grandmother used to say
that the earth remembers every footprint,
whether it belongs to a king
or a child running barefoot after the rain.
I didn’t understand her then.
Now I do.
The world isn’t changed only by those
whose names fill history books.
It is changed by the woman
who shares the last piece of bread,
the neighbour who waits after an argument
just to ask, “Are you alright?”
the teacher who believes in a child
before the child believes in themselves.
These are the people
who quietly hold the world together.
We have all known days

when hope felt too heavy to carry.
Yet someone smiled,
someone listened,
someone stayed.
And somehow, that was enough.
Perhaps peace isn’t something
we will wake up and find one morning.
Perhaps it begins
every time we choose compassion
instead of pride,
understanding instead of blame,
love instead of fear.
If that is true,
then the world I hope for
is already being written—
one ordinary heart,
one quiet act of kindness,
one beautiful human being
at a time.

Sangeeta Khattar
TGT English
DAY PUBLIC SCHOOL
NH3, NIT , FARIDABAD

Value of time



We have to do our work on time,
For delay is never wise.
Time once lost will not return,
Like a bird that quickly flies.

Do not put off till tomorrow
What you can do today.
Finish today’s work today itself,

And keep worries away.
Success comes to those who try,
With effort every day.
Time respects the hardworking ones
Who never waste it away.
Dreams become true through action,
Not by wishing all day long.
Step by step, with steady work,
We grow successful and strong.
Wake up before the break of dawn,
And greet the morning light.
A disciplined and cheerful life
Will make our future bright.
D Shanmathi
9 B , GHS Nesal
Tiruvannamalai District

Violence Kenyans should embrace tolerance and divergent political views saying if the trend of hiring goons continues, Kenyans will be one of the unsafest countries in the world

Former freedom fighters and descendants caucus condemn political violence

BY DMS
@themkenyentimes

A caucus of former freedom fighters and their descendants yesterday condemned violence being witnessed in various parts of the country. Officials and members of MMV Associates CLG termed the continued tolerance of political goons as breeding grounds of making the country uncontrollable and a road map to Haiti-like state. Led by the caucus Director General James Njuguna Mahuria and chief Executive Officer Emmah Cherotich Kasis, the team called on the Kenyans, particularly the youth to shun violence and being enrolled to carry out activities that are detrimental to the well-being of their fellow cit-

izens. Speaking during a press briefing after their meeting at Blue Post hotel in Thika, Mahuria singled out the violence witnessed over the weekend in Nyandarua, Kakamega and Kisumu counties as signs of bad things to come. He said Kenyans should embrace tolerance and divergent political views saying if the trend of hiring goons continues, Kenyans will be one of the unsafest countries in the world. “We cannot allow some people to control the country through illegal means like hiring goons to attack their opponents. This must be condemned by all,” he said, adding, “When Kenyans went to the forest to fight for independence, a lot of blood was shed, we don’t want anymore blood being shed for no reason”.

He also hit out at a group of western residents who over the weekend attacked Speaker of the National Assembly Moses Wetangula by singing traditional initiation songs to him and other leaders. The move, he said, is a taboo that require cleansing adding that he was saddened by the fact that it was done due to political reasons. Leaders, he said must be respected at all times, and asked those not satisfied with their qualities to pass their verdict during the General Election. He claimed that violence in Nyandarua was for people being haunted by what former Nyandarua North MP JM Kariuki stood for. On her part, Ms Kasis urged leaders, from all political divides to embrace dialogue and shun violence saying if the current trend is not contained,

the country risked going the Rwandan way where citizens killed each other in their thousands. MMV Associates CLG members; Damaris Waithera, Michael Gituku and Munene Nderitu who spoke on behalf of their colleagues echoed their leaders sentiments. They said most Kenyans were worried that the country was, headed to the wrong direction and urged leaders to control the situation. They urged the youth not to allow politicians to misuse them for their selfish gains.



MMV Associates CLG Director General James Njuguna Mahuria addressing journalists as other members, led by CEO Emmah Cherotich Kasis (right) looks on. | Photo: Courtesy.

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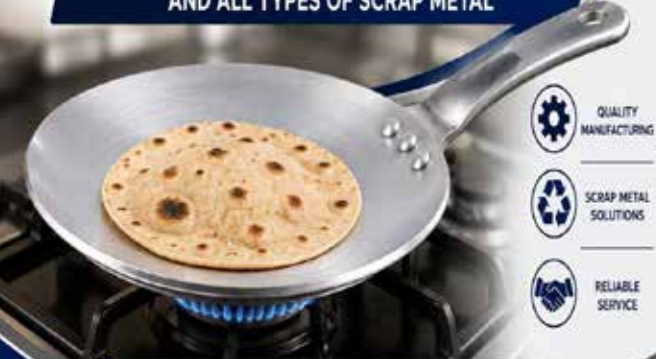
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NOTICE OF AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF KENYA MANAGEMENT STAFF UNION (KMSU)

NOTICE is hereby given to all members of KENYA MANAGEMENT STAFF UNION (KMSU) pursuant to section 27 (4) of the Labour Relations Act, 2007 that a Notice of Amendment of the Constitution and Rules (Form I) in relation to the Union has been received.

Any member who has any objection to the proposed amendments/changes to the constitution of the Union are required to submit in writing any such objection within **twenty-one days (21) days** from the date hereof.

The amendments are open for scrutiny at the Office of the undersigned during working hours.

DATED this day of 2026

Ann K. Kanake (Ms.)

Ag. REGISTRAR OF TRADE UNIONS

Politics We want to provide physical infrastructure without forgetting social infrastructure so that our learners have a good place where they can study

Dr Patrick Bucha pushes for new approach to school development in Imenti North

BY Brian Gitonga

@themkenyaintimes

Imenti North MP aspirant Dr Patrick Mwenda Bucha has emphasized the need for increased investment in education through the provision of both physical and social infrastructure, saying the two are essential in improving the quality of learning and creating an environment where learners can thrive.

Speaking at a fundraiser held at Nchaure Primary and Junior School in Imenti North Constituency, Meru County, to raise funds for the purchase of seats for learners, the parliamentary hopeful, who was accompanied by Ambassador Consolata Maina, said investing in classrooms alone is not enough. He said schools should also have facilities that nurture learners' talents and support their overall development.

Dr Bucha said quality education goes beyond putting up buildings, noting that schools should also have laboratories, multipurpose halls and other facilities that enable learners to participate in co-curricular activities while excelling academically.

"We want to provide physical infrastructure without forgetting social infrastructure so that our learners have a good place where they can study. We want them to have laboratories, a multipurpose hall where they can meet, practice their talents and also grow in other extracurricular abilities," said Dr Bucha.

The MP aspirant said his years of service in government, including in the Housing and Tourism ministries, have equipped him with the knowledge of how development resources can be mobilized.

He faulted leaders who depend solely on the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-



Dr Patrick Bucha hold a hen at the Nchaure Primary and Junior School Fundraiser. | Photo: Brian Gitonga.

CDF), arguing that effective leadership should involve lobbying for additional funding from development partners and other stakeholders.

He noted that the constituency currently receives about Sh192 million through NG-CDF, which is shared among bursaries, school infrastructure and other development projects, making it insufficient to address all the needs within the constituency. He said alumni, investors and other partners should also be engaged to support education projects.

"What North Imenti needs is someone who is able to lobby for funds from other places and not depend on CDF alone," Dr Bucha said.

In addition, the MP hopeful who also serves as the patron of Nchaure Primary and Junior School, said the ongoing construction of a multi-storey classroom block is intentionally designed to maximize the available land.

He explained that unlike the conventional horizontal classroom layout adopted by many schools, the vertical design would preserve more space for future expansion and other school activities.

He observed that many schools in Imenti North have used up large portions of their land because of sprawling classroom blocks, limiting opportunities for further development. He expressed confidence that the project would demonstrate how schools can make better use of limited land while accommodating future growth.

Nonetheless, Head of Institution Fredrick Mwitari thanked Dr Bucha for supporting the fundraiser and contributing towards the purchase of seats for learners. He said the school offers quality education despite being a relatively young institution and encouraged parents in the area to enroll their children there.

"We want to assure parents



Ndumba Kamunde. Nchaure Primary and Junior School chairperson addresses the press. | Photo: Brian Gitonga

that the quality of education in this school is good because we have qualified teachers and the necessary infrastructure. We urge parents to enroll their children here because everything needed for learning is

available," Mwitari said.

Mwitari also cited delayed capitation and inadequate funding as major challenges facing public schools, saying they continue to affect learning programs and infra-

structure development. He appealed to the government to ensure schools receive capitation funds on time to enable them to continue offering quality education.

Board of Management Chairperson Ndumba Kamunde commended Dr Bucha for initiating the construction of the new classroom block, saying the project would help consolidate learning activities and create additional space for other developments within the school.

"I thank Dr Patrick Bucha for initiating the construction of this new block so that we can consolidate the school from Grade One to Grade Eight in one area. This will help us create more space for other school activities," said Kamunde.

Kamunde said the school is also planning to introduce a boarding section alongside the existing day school program to widen its catchment area and increase enrolment.

He said the move will attract learners from beyond Nchaure and strengthen the institution's capacity to serve more students in the future.



The classroom block built following vertical design through the help of Dr Patrick Bucha. | Photo: Brian Gitonga




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Church Under education, AMDEF supports Catholic-founded schools, scholarships and school infrastructure, work that Church leaders say is central to them

Hands together, hearts giving: Bushenyi rises for AMDEF

Christians across Bushenyi Deanery raise UGX 388 million as Church leaders champion education, health and self-reliance



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
mukphix@gmail.com

There was something deeply moving about the scene at Kitabi Parish on Sunday, as Christians from across Bushenyi Deanery came together, not just in prayer, but in purpose. By the end of the day, their generosity had added up to an extraordinary UGX 388 million, raised in support of the Archdiocese of Mbarara Development Foundation (AMDEF).

The final tally, UGX 347 million in cash and a further UGX 41 million in pledges, capped off a colourful fundraising drive presided over by the Archbishop of Mbarara Archdiocese, His Grace Lambert Bainomugisha. Celebrating Holy Mass for the occasion, the Archbishop called on the faithful to embrace stewardship and work together in building a Church that can stand on its own feet, rather than lean indefinitely on outside support.

The mood throughout the day was one of quiet pride. Parishioners arrived from every corner of the deanery, some carrying cash contri-



Christians across Bushenyi Deanery fund raise

butions wrapped carefully in cloth, others bearing pledge cards representing commitments they intend to honour in the weeks ahead. For a community not accustomed to headlines, Sunday's gathering was a rare and welcome one, a reminder of what collective effort can achieve when a shared cause brings people together.

AMDEF was established to give the Archdiocese a structured, sustainable way of mobilising resources for its pastoral, social and econom-

ic mission. Rather than depending on the unpredictable rhythms of donor funding, the foundation was designed as a long-term vehicle through which the Church could generate and manage its own resources. It rests on three pillars: education, health, and income generation with infrastructure.

Under education, AMDEF supports Catholic-founded schools, scholarships and school infrastructure, work that Church leaders say is central to giving young people in the region a

genuine start in life. In health, the foundation works to strengthen the hospitals and health centres run by the Archdiocese, widening access to quality care for Catholics and the broader community alike, regardless of faith or background. The third pillar channels investment into income-generating projects, from farms to housing, designed to help parishes and the Archdiocese fund themselves over time rather than rely on periodic appeals.

At its heart, AMDEF exists to reduce reliance on external donors, empower local communities, promote self-reliance among parishes, and strengthen the Church's ability to serve everyone who turns to it, whether for education, healthcare or simple pastoral support.

In his homily, Archbishop Bainomugisha reminded the congregation that AMDEF's success rests on unity and generosity, values he described as inseparable from genuine Christian stewardship. "We are called to be stewards. The projects we undertake through AMDEF are not for the Church alone, but for the entire community. Let us give so that we can build together," he said, drawing warm applause from the gathered faithful.

The event's guest of honour, Water and Environment Minister General

Kahinda Otafiire, contributed UGX 12 million in cash and used his address to appeal for peace and social cohesion, themes he linked directly to the region's development prospects. "We should remain calm and peaceful in our day-to-day lives and protect the good things we have earned. Without peace, there can be no development," Otafiire told the congregation, urging residents to guard the stability that has allowed initiatives like AMDEF to flourish.

The fundraiser drew a wide circle of dignitaries, reflecting the scale of local investment in the cause. Among those present were the Managing Director of the National Water and Sewerage Corporation, who also chairs the Laity in Mbarara Archdiocese; Bushenyi CEC Women Representative Adrine Cohen Kyampene; Bushenyi-Ishaka Municipality MP Al-Hajj Iddi Basajabalaba; and Bushenyi District Woman MP Annet Katusiime Mugisha. Also in attendance were Bushenyi District Chairperson Twebaze Prosper, Letshego CEO Giles, and Nkozi Hospital Executive Director Dr Criscent Tumuhaise, each of whom lent their support to a day that organisers described as one of the deanery's most successful fundraising efforts in recent memory.

Christians travelled from all five parishes that make up Bushenyi Deanery, St Kaggwa, Kyamuhunga, Bitooma, Kitabi and Buhimba, to take part in the day's celebrations, filling Kitabi Parish well beyond its usual Sunday capacity.

Church leaders closed the event by thanking every contributor, from those who gave modestly to those who gave generously, and reaffirmed AMDEF's commitment to transparency and accountability in how the funds will be used. The resources raised, they said, will go directly toward advancing the foundation's work in education, health and sustainable development, for the benefit of the faithful and the wider community alike. Organisers indicated that similar fundraising drives are expected in other deaneries across the Archdiocese in the coming months, as AMDEF works to expand its reach.



Zimbabwe The chaotic execution of the Land Reform Programme in 2000 marked a decisive turning point in the decline of a once-thriving nation

What did Zimbabwe gain from the land invasions?

Two decades on, the human and economic cost of the land reform programme still outweighs its promise

BY Alice Nyamande
@themtkenyetimes

Zimbabwe was once regarded as one of Africa’s most productive agricultural nations. Commercial farming sustained food security, created employment, generated export earnings, and supported the industries that depended on agriculture.

The land reform programme sought to address historical injustices in land ownership — a legitimate national objective. However, the manner in which the land invasions were carried out had profound and lasting consequences for the country’s economy, food production, and investor confidence.

The chaotic execution of the Land Reform Programme in 2000 marked a decisive turning point in the de-



Land reform Programme

cline of a once-thriving nation. Zimbabwe, long touted as the “Jewel of Africa,” saw a mass flight of investment, triggering widespread retrenchment, poverty and hunger, while opportunists exploited the resulting crisis. Thousands of farm workers, both domestic and foreign, were displaced, leaving many homeless and unemployed, and contrib-

uting to rising crime and a broader erosion of social values.

Today, Zimbabwe continues to face recurring food shortages, declining agricultural productivity, high unemployment, and widespread poverty. Industries that once relied on a thriving agricultural sector have collapsed, millions have lost their livelihoods, and the nation has grown increasingly dependent on food imports and humanitarian assistance.

The tragedy is not simply the redistribution of land. It is what followed: corruption, political patronage, poor governance, and a failure to give beneficiaries the support, security of tenure, infrastructure and financing needed to make agriculture productive. National assets were neglected, institutions weakened, and opportunities for sustainable development squandered.

Ordinary Zimbabweans continue to pay the price. Families struggle to afford basic necessities, young people cannot find meaningful employment, and many have been forced to leave their homeland in search of opportunities elsewhere. A country once capable of feeding itself now faces persistent challenges simply securing enough food for its people.

Zimbabwe deserves an honest national conversation about where things went wrong and how to rebuild. A prosperous nation cannot be built on greed, self-interest, corruption or the betrayal of its people. Lasting progress demands accountability, respect for the rule of law, sound economic management, and policies that place the interests of all citizens above personal or political gain.

The country’s future depends not on repeating the mistakes of the past, but on learning from them — and committing to rebuilding a productive, united and prosperous nation for generations to come.

Information and Publicity Department, Action Democratic Movement

Engineers As foreign firms dominate the construction boom, a quiet revolution in engineering education aims to put local talent back at the centre

Beyond technical: Re-engineering the future for Kenyan graduate engineers

BY David Nyaga
@themtkenyetimes

Kenya’s skyline is rising at an unprecedented pace, yet behind the multi-billion-shilling mega-projects lies a quiet but telling paradox: a booming construction sector still heavily reliant on foreign firms, set against a vast pool of underused local engineering talent. Closing this gap will take more than policy shifts — it demands a genuine rethink of how professionals are prepared for the industry. While physical infrastructure understandably dominates public attention, some of the most important building work today is happening away from construction sites, inside university lecture halls and regulatory boardrooms, where the focus has shifted from simply producing graduates to developing

globally competitive, tech-enabled professionals.

At the heart of this shift is a determined push for Outcome-Based Education (OBE). For decades, engineering training in Kenya leaned heavily on theory, leaving a gap between what students learned in the classroom and what they encountered on-site. Today’s built environment calls for a different kind of practitioner — one equipped with practical, industry-ready skills and genuine digital fluency. OBE marks a clear break from traditional teaching models, focusing on what students can actually do by the time they graduate, rather than how much content they have simply absorbed. The framework is designed to ensure graduate engineers leave university with the exact, verifiable competencies that complex, modern infrastructure projects demand.

Leading this curriculum overhaul are the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK) and the Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK). Through ongoing training workshops for academic staff across institutions, the two bodies are steadily embedding the OBE model into the fabric of higher education. The aim is to pair technical excellence with hands-on technological adaptability. By modernising the syllabus, universities are preparing graduates to handle everything from advanced structural analysis to the integration of artificial intelligence in project management — equipping them to be not just users of technology, but innovators shaping how it is applied.

Even so, local capacity must match global benchmarks if Kenyan talent is to be fully absorbed into multinational projects. That need underpins Kenya’s determined push toward full



Engineers illustration

integration with the Washington Accord, the internationally recognised gold standard for engineering mobility. Having secured Provisional Signatory Status in June 2025, Kenya is now working through Tier I evaluation frameworks, with the goal of achieving Full Signatory Status by 2029. Reaching that milestone would be a watershed moment for the sector: a degree earned at a Kenyan university would carry the same professional weight and equivalence as one earned in the United Kingdom, the United States or Australia.

Ultimately, the push for Outcome-Based Education and Washington Accord recognition are not isolated academic exercises — they

form a clear roadmap for dismantling the country’s talent paradox. When educational institutions, professional bodies and regulators align their efforts to produce world-class graduates, developers and multinational contractors lose their justification for importing labour. Through digital transformation and a commitment to rigorous international standards, Kenya’s engineering fraternity is doing more than adapting to the future — it is claiming its rightful place at the helm, ensuring the next generation of the nation’s infrastructure is designed, managed and delivered by its own highly qualified experts.

Convicted The court found that the killings were neither accidental nor spontaneous, but the culmination of a carefully planned scheme

Seven-year murder mystery ends as ex-KDF officer convicted

BY MKT REPORTER

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Nearly seven years after the disappearance of a Nairobi woman and her two young children shocked the country, the High Court has found former Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) officer Peter Mwaura Mugure guilty of their murders, bringing to an end one of Kenya's most disturbing family homicide cases.

In a judgment delivered at the Milimani High Court last Friday, Justice Martin Muya ruled that the prosecution had proved beyond reasonable doubt that the former Kenya Air Force major murdered Joyce Syombua, 31, her 10-year-old daughter Shanice Maua and five-year-old son Prince Michael in October 2019 before secretly burying their bodies in a shallow grave in Thigithu, Laikipia County.

The court found that the killings were neither accidental nor spontaneous, but the culmination of a carefully planned scheme that began days before the victims travelled from Nairobi to Nanyuki.

Justice Muya said evidence presented during the trial showed Mugure had invited Joyce and their two children to visit him at the Kenya Air Force Base in Nanyuki under the guise of a family reunion.

On October 25, 2019, Joyce travelled to Nanyuki with the children after informing relatives that they were going to spend time with Mugure. The following day, the family was seen leaving the military base together before having lunch at Kilimara Springs Hotel.

That was the last time Joyce and her children were seen alive.

According to the court, the family later returned to the military base, where Mugure killed all three before embarking on an elaborate plan to conceal the crime.

Justice Muya said evidence showed the former military officer had prepared for the murders well in advance.

Three days before the killings, Mugure travelled to Thigithu accompanied by another man, a journey the court concluded was meant to identify a secluded location where the bodies would later be buried.



Peter Mwaura

"The accused had already identified a hidden and secure burial site before carrying out the murders," the judge observed, adding that the visit demonstrated clear premeditation.

The prosecution told the court that after killing Joyce and the children, Mugure placed their bodies in body bags inside his house within the military installation.

The bodies were later loaded into the boot of his vehicle after the spare wheel was removed to create additional space.

A key prosecution witness, Collins Pamba, testified that Mugure called him to assist in disposing of the bodies.

Pamba told the court he found Joyce's body inside a transparent body bag while the children's bodies had been placed in a bathtub. The bodies had been tied with ropes be-

fore being squeezed into the vehicle.

The two men then drove out of the military base without attracting suspicion and headed to Thigithu, where they buried the three bodies in a shallow grave before covering them with soil.

Months later, after investigators intensified the search for the missing family, detectives arrested Pamba, who later agreed to cooperate with the prosecution under a plea bargain agreement.

He admitted participating in the disposal of the bodies, pleaded guilty to a lesser offence and was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in exchange for becoming a state witness.

Justice Muya described Pamba's testimony as credible, noting that it was corroborated by independent forensic evidence, mobile phone data, travel records and other circumstan-

tial evidence presented during the lengthy trial.

The judge said scientific evidence played a crucial role in reconstructing the events leading to the murders and linking Mugure to the crime.

Investigators from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) had spent months piecing together the family's final movements after

Joyce's relatives reported her missing when she failed to return to Nairobi.

The disappearance initially appeared to be a missing persons case, but detectives became suspicious after establishing inconsistencies in Mugure's account of the family's visit.

Investigations later led police to the shallow grave in Thigithu, where the decomposed bodies were exhumed. DNA analysis subsequently confirmed the identities of Joyce and the two children.

Throughout the trial, prosecutors argued that Mugure had gone to extraordinary lengths to erase evidence of the killings by secretly transporting and burying the bodies far from the military base.

The defence sought to challenge the prosecution's evidence, but the court found the chain of circumstantial and forensic evidence overwhelming.

Justice Muya concluded that every piece of evidence pointed irresistibly to Mugure as the perpetrator and excluded any reasonable possibility that another person committed the murders.

"The prosecution has proved all the ingredients of the offence of murder beyond reasonable doubt," the judge ruled as he convicted the former KDF officer on all three counts of murder.

The case has drawn national attention since 2019, not only because of the brutal killing of a mother and her young children, but also because it involved a serving military officer accused of abusing the trust of his own family.

For Joyce's relatives, Friday's verdict marked the end of nearly seven years of anguish, uncertainty and court proceedings in their pursuit of justice.

Although the conviction has now been secured, the legal process is not yet over.

Justice Muya scheduled Mugure's sentencing for July 14, 2026, when the former military officer will learn the punishment he will serve for the triple murder. Under Kenyan law, murder carries a maximum sentence of death, although courts retain discretion to impose other appropriate sentences following mitigation.





Young Kenyans turn to farming as jobs run dry

By Mercy Kanini

When the jobs did not come, young Kenyans stopped waiting. Across the country, a growing number are turning to agribusiness, not as a fallback, but as a genuine career choice, and in doing so, they are quietly rewriting what farming means for their generation. From poultry keeping to horticulture, dairy farming and value addition, youth in several counties are building enterprises that create jobs rather than chase them. The shift comes as unemployment and the rising cost of living squeeze households nationwide, pushing many to look beyond white-collar ambitions for income. Agricultural experts say the change is no accident. Modern farming, powered by technology and stronger market access, has evolved into a serious business, one capable of lifting household incomes while



strengthening the country's food security. Still, the path is not smooth. Young farmers cite limited access to affordable credit, erratic weather patterns and volatile market prices as persistent barriers to growth. Stakeholders say national and county governments must respond with real investment: expanded training, better irrigation infrastructure and financing that youth can actually access. The stakes go beyond agriculture. As Kenya searches for answers to its unemployment crisis, the evidence is mounting that its next economic engine may not be built in office towers, but on farms. Empowering young people to lead that shift could prove one of the country's smartest investments yet.

Motorcycles burnt outside St Stephen's Cathedral in Kisumu



By Alex Muthui

Fire, not faith, dominated the scene outside St Stephen's Cathedral on Sunday, when several motorcycles were set ablaze during a political gathering attended by senior leaders, including Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna and former Kisumu Governor Anyang'

Nyong'o.

Witnesses said a group had assembled near the church shortly before the motorcycles caught fire, though the exact circumstances remain unclear. Police have launched investigations to establish the cause of the blaze and identify those responsible. Officers were deployed to the

scene to restore order and secure the area. No injuries had been officially confirmed by the time of publication, though the incident sparked visible tension among those gathered. The fire has drawn widespread public attention, with leaders calling for calm and urging patience as investigators work to determine what triggered it. Authorities said the inquiry is ongoing, and no arrests had been made by press time. For a city no stranger to political flashpoints, Sunday's blaze is a reminder that even a house of worship offers no guarantee of calm when politics and crowds collide. Kisumu now waits, not for answers alone, but for assurance that such scenes will not become routine.

The price of a vote



By Justine Chacha Mwita

A mattress should never come with strings attached. Yet the reported distribution of mattresses, subsidised cooking gas and other household items to residents ahead of the Ol Kalou by-election raises uncomfortable questions about the integrity of Kenya's democratic process. Helping vulnerable citizens is a legitimate role of government, but timing matters, and gifts delivered on the eve of a vote invite suspicion, whatever the intention behind them.

Essential services should never appear tethered to the electoral calendar. Citizens deserve consistent access to development, affordable living and government support, election season or not. When public resources start to look like campaign tools, public confidence in free and fair elections erodes, and with it, the principles of equality and accountability that democracy depends on. Oversight institutions must watch this by-election closely, ensuring public resources are not deployed in ways designed to sway voters. Political lead-

ers, for their part, should compete on the strength of policy, credible leadership and practical solutions, not short-term handouts dressed up as goodwill. The people of Ol Kalou deserve what every Kenyan deserves: the chance to vote freely, guided by conscience and judgment, not by the promise of a mattress or a gas cylinder. Elections should be contests of ideas. The moment they become distributions of gifts, democracy itself is the first casualty.

Keumbu violence: Traders count losses as court case stalls

By Sharlyn Kyenza

The buses have stopped stopping. Days after a violent attack on the Linda Mwananchi convoy, traders in Keumbu are counting losses as transport operators and travellers steer clear of what was once a busy stop-over centre, leaving the local economy to absorb a blow investigators have yet to fully explain. The slowdown comes as inquiries into the July 3 attack continue. Six suspects linked to the violence remain in police custody after their plea-taking was postponed when the prosecution and the investigating officer failed to appear in court. Residents and traders say long-distance buses and matatus that once stopped in Keumbu are now bypassing it altogether, and travellers who do



pass through are increasingly avoiding roadside vendors. Sellers of roasted maize, bananas, snacks and drinks say sales have dwindled sharply. Police say the investigation is ongoing, with further arrests expected as detectives review video footage and witness statements gathered at the scene. The attack claimed the life of one supporter, injured several others and damaged vehicles in the convoy, including one carrying former Chief Justice

David Maraga. The National Police Service confirmed Nyaribari Chache MP Zaheer Jhanda has recorded a statement with detectives, while the Internal Affairs Unit investigates the conduct of an officer captured in viral footage from the scene. For Keumbu's traders, justice delayed is income lost, and every empty stall is a reminder that the violence never really stopped.

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Sports >> *Chris Huka was crowned overall winner of the ninth leg of The Road to Somabay qualifier series at the Karen Country Club

Five more golfers edge closer to Somabay World Cup after excellent show at Karen

Chris Huka was crowned overall winner of the ninth leg of The Road to Somabay qualifier series at the Karen Country Club on Saturday as a highly competitive field of amateur golfers battled for coveted places at the prestigious Somabay World Grand Finale in Egypt.

Huka claimed the Overall Winner's title with an outstanding 40 Stableford points, two ahead of second-placed Nkatha Nkiiri.

While Huka's gross score of 89 suggested a challenging round, it was in fact a masterclass in Stableford golf.

He demonstrated remarkable resilience by recovering brilliantly from setbacks, finishing with two birdies, four pars and a series of valuable scoring holes that more than compensated for seven double bogeys or worse.

His inward nine of 44 included crucial birdies that maintained his momentum and ultimately secured victory.

It was a performance defined not by perfection, but by consistency, recovery and an ability to maximise scoring opportunities when they mattered most.

On her part, although her card included several costly holes, she limited the damage where it mattered, remaining firmly in contention from start to finish and earning her place among Kenya's representatives at the Somabay World Grand Finale.

Slim margins to the end Division A produced arguably the tournament's most dramatic contest, with David Murima, Hardeep Rehsi and Zacharia Koech all finishing tied on 37 Stableford points.

The title was ultimately decided on countback, with Murima emerging victorious after producing the strongest inward nine.

His superb gross score of 76 was among the best rounds of the tournament and featured three birdies, nine pars and only one double bogey.



Action at the Road to Somabay qualifiers.

After an outward nine of 39, Murima elevated his performance with a flawless inward 37 highlighted by birdies and a string of confident pars that proved decisive in the countback calculation.

Runner-up Hardeep Rehsi also returned 37 Stableford points after an excellent gross score of 80.

His round featured three birdies, nine pars, five bogeys and only one double bogey, demonstrating exceptional consistency throughout the day.

Moreover, his inward 39 kept him firmly in contention until the final calculations, with only countback denying him the Division A title.

Third-placed Zacharia Koech matched the leaders on 37 Stableford points, producing perhaps the most exciting opening nine of the tournament.

His brilliant outward score of 35, highlighted by consecutive birdies, placed him at the summit of the leaderboard for much of the day before a tougher inward nine saw him narrowly miss out on qualification after countback.

Joe Sang and Moses Cheboi followed closely behind on 36 Stableford points, underlining the remarkable strength and competitiveness of Division A.

Division B was equally compelling.

Chris Huka's winning total of 40 Stableford points stood above

the field, while Rose Mwarania, competing as a sponsor guest, produced one of the day's most courageous performances to finish on 38 Stableford points.

Her outstanding round earned her a special invitation to the Somabay World Grand Finale as the tournament's Best Performing Guest.

Nelson Ndegwa and Violet Luchendo both finished on 37 Stableford points, with countback determining the Division B honours.

Speaking after the tournament, tournament director, Collins Were, said the Karen qualifier has set a new benchmark for the competition.

"Karen Country Club delivered one of the most competitive qualifiers of the series so far. The significance of countback in determining several podium positions demonstrates just how closely matched the competitors were, with every stroke proving decisive. That is exactly what the Road to Somabay is designed to achieve - creating a fair, competitive and internationally recognised pathway that rewards excellence. We congratulate our latest qualifiers and thank CIB Bank, Karen Country Club and every player who continues to make this series one of the premier amateur golf circuits in Africa," Were said.

At the same time, Commercial International Bank (CIB Bank),

Chief Executive Officer Titus Mwithiga reaffirmed the bank's commitment to supporting initiatives that create meaningful opportunities for amateur golfers.

"At CIB Bank, we believe in investing in platforms that inspire excellence, create opportunities and empower individuals to achieve their full potential. Our partnership with the Road to Somabay Series reflects our commitment to supporting the growth of golf while providing talented Kenyan amateur golfers with a unique opportunity to compete on the international stage," he said.

Mwithiga added: "The standard of play witnessed at Karen Country Club was exceptional, and we congratulate all the competitors, particularly those who have earned the honour of representing Kenya at the Somabay World Grand Finale in Egypt. We look forward to continuing this journey as the series moves across the country."

Huka, Murima, Rehsi, Nkiiri — as well as Mwarania — will now shift their attentions to Somabay World Grand Finale for a chance to represent the country at the Somabay World Cup on October 12-17 at the Cascades Golf Resort Spa and Thalasso in Somabay, Egypt on the Red Sea coast.

The competition will pit amateur golfers from 25 countries around the world including France, Belgium, Spain as well as Kenya, among others.

The qualification series in Kenya has been presented by Michezonet in partnership with CIB Bank.

With another memorable qualifier successfully concluded, the series now heads to Eldoret Golf Club on July 23.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *England stand one win away from their first men’s World Cup final since 1966 as Jude Bellingham’s brilliant two-goal display inspired them to come from behind to beat Norway

It’s coming home? England subdue Haaland’s Norway to reach World Cup semis



Jude Bellingham celebrates his second goal against Norway. PHOTO/ENGLAND

England stand one win away from their first men’s World Cup final since 1966 as Jude Bellingham’s brilliant two-goal display inspired them to come from behind to beat Norway after extra time in Miami.

Thomas Tuchel’s side rode their luck in a quarter-final played in fierce heat and humidity, but Bellingham was once again the talisman to send England into the last four, where they will play either Argentina or Switzerland – which will be shown live on the BBC.

In a tight, tense encounter, Norway went ahead after 36 minutes when Andreas Schjelderup’s dipping effort deceived England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford to fly in.

England needed an instant response, with Bellingham inevitably providing it in first-half stoppage time when he took An-

thony Gordon’s pass perfectly in his stride to beat Norway keeper Orjan Nyland.

Tuchel was forced into half-time changes, replacing the influential Declan Rice, who has been struggling with illness and injury, as well as Noni Madueke, sending on Eberechi Eze and Bukayo Saka.

Norway threatened after the break, seeing a goal by Torbjorn Heggem ruled out for Erling Haaland’s needless shove on Elliot Anderson, while David Moller Wolfe headed against the bar.

Haaland was subdued and eventually substituted at the break in extra time, with Bellingham having already stepped up again three minutes into the added period, pouncing after Nyland could only push out a shot from substitute Morgan Rogers.

England now go into their third

World Cup semi-final since they lifted the Jules Rimet trophy 60 years ago, hoping they can change their fortunes after losses to West Germany in 1990 and Croatia in 2018.

Bellingham’s Midas touch saves tired England

England were unable to repeat the heroics of their magnificent last-16 victory against Mexico in Azteca Stadium, perhaps understandably looking jaded after their exertions there, followed by these stifling conditions in Miami.

Where there is Bellingham, however, there is hope – and once again the Real Madrid star provided the moments that define and decide big games.

Bellingham’s reaction after showing superb technique to equalise three minutes into first-

half stoppage time was remarkable, simply turning and running back to the centre circle in businesslike fashion before whipping up England’s fans.

England suffered in the sweltering second-half conditions as both teams tired, but it was Bellingham again who made the decisive contribution, reacting first to Nyland’s slip to settle a game of fine margins.

It takes Bellingham’s tally to six goals at the World Cup as he continues on what almost looks like a personal mission to bring glory to England.

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Methods of developing linguistic skills in grades 5–6

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Abstract

The development of linguistic skills in grades 5–6 plays a significant role in enhancing students' communicative competence, critical thinking, and academic achievement. At this stage, learners acquire more complex language structures and improve their ability to express ideas effectively. This article discusses effective methods for developing linguistic skills among middle school students, including interactive teaching strategies, communicative activities, reading and writing exercises, and the integration of modern educational technologies. The study emphasises the importance of learner-centred approaches in fostering language proficiency and motivation.

Keywords: linguistic skills, language development, communicative competence, interactive methods, reading, writing, speaking, listening, middle school education.

Introduction

Language is a fundamental tool for communication, learning, and personal development. In grades 5–6, students undergo a critical stage in their linguistic growth as they transition from basic language acquisition to more advanced language use. During this period, they develop the ability to analyse texts, express opinions, engage in discussions, and apply language rules across a range of contexts.

The effectiveness of language education depends largely on the teaching methods employed by educators.

Traditional approaches alone are often insufficient to meet the diverse learning needs of modern students, which is why innovative and interactive methods have become essential for developing linguistic skills and increasing learner engagement.

This article examines the methods that most effectively contribute to the development of linguistic skills in grades 5–6, and considers their significance in improving students' overall language competence.

The Importance of Linguistic Skill Development

Linguistic skills encompass listening, speaking, reading, and writing abilities. Interconnected, these skills form the foundation of successful communication. Developing linguistic competence at the middle school level helps students to:

- express thoughts clearly and accurately;
- improve comprehension and analytical ability;
- enhance vocabulary and grammatical knowledge;
- build confidence in communication; and
- achieve stronger academic performance across subjects.

Teachers should create a supportive learning environment in which students can actively participate in language-related activities.

Interactive Teaching Methods

Interactive methods encourage students to become active participants in the learning process. Such methods include the following.

Group discussions. Group discussions allow students to exchange ideas, express opinions, and develop critical thinking skills. Through collaborative learning, students improve their speaking abilities and learn to respect differing viewpoints.

Brainstorming. Brainstorming activities stimulate creativity and encourage learners to generate ideas without fear of making mistakes, helping to expand vocabulary and improve oral communication.

Role-playing. Role-playing gives students the opportunity to use lan-



Classroom

guage in realistic situations. By acting out different scenarios, learners strengthen their speaking, listening, and social interaction skills.

Reading-Based Activities

Reading is one of the most effective ways to develop linguistic competence. Teachers can draw on several reading strategies to improve students' comprehension and language awareness.

Extensive reading. Encouraging students to read books, stories, and articles outside the classroom helps to build vocabulary and improve fluency.

Guided reading. Guided reading enables teachers to support learners in understanding texts, identifying key ideas, and analysing language structures.

Reading comprehension tasks. Questions, summaries, and text analysis exercises help students develop critical reading skills and deepen their understanding of written language.

Writing Activities

Writing plays a crucial role in linguistic development. Effective writing exercises include essay writing, journal writing, creative storytelling, sentence construction activities, and paragraph development tasks. Together, these help students organise

their thoughts logically, apply grammatical rules, and express ideas coherently.

Listening and Speaking Activities

Listening and speaking are essential components of communicative competence. Teachers can develop these skills through audio and video materials, classroom presentations, debates and discussions, interviews and dialogues, and language games. Such activities improve pronunciation, listening comprehension, and confidence in oral communication.

Integration of Educational Technologies

Modern technologies offer valuable opportunities for language learning. Digital tools, educational applications, multimedia resources, and online platforms can make lessons more engaging and interactive. Technology-assisted learning allows students to access authentic language materials, practise skills independently, receive immediate feedback, and take part in collaborative online activities. Used effectively, technology enhances motivation and supports individualised learning experiences.

Learner-Centred Approach

A learner-centred approach places

students at the heart of the educational process, with teachers acting as facilitators who guide learners toward discovering knowledge independently. This approach encourages active participation, self-expression, and a sense of responsibility for one's own learning. By taking account of students' interests, abilities, and learning styles, educators can create meaningful learning experiences that foster linguistic growth and academic success.

Conclusion

The development of linguistic skills in grades 5–6 is essential to students' academic achievement and effective communication. Interactive teaching methods, reading and writing activities, speaking and listening exercises, and educational technologies all contribute significantly to language development, while learner-centred approaches promote engagement, motivation, and independent learning. Teachers should draw on a variety of instructional strategies to create a dynamic and supportive learning environment in which students can build strong linguistic competencies, helping learners become confident, proficient language users prepared for future educational challenges.