



Muhia wins reprieve as court halts IEBC fine
The High Court has temporarily suspended a KSh1.5 million fine imposed on Kipipiri MP Wanjiku Muhia by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission over remarks she made during campaigns **Page 8**



OPINION POLL: Ruto leads the 2027 race—but is Kenya already deciding its next president?
With more than a year still to go before Kenyans head to the ballot box in 2027, the political landscape is already taking shape. **Page 10**

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Goons! Police stand accused of selective blindness, sometimes colluding, other times simply melting away

When goons guard democracy

Facts stare back at us like unblinking witnesses if happenings of the recent past are anything to go by. Last Sunday, goons those shadowy enforcers of political will descended upon gatherings linked to Linda Mwananchi, opposition voices daring to question the chorus of the day. Stones flew. Meetings dissolved into chaos. Reports of armed gangs disrupting rallies have become whispers turning into roars across counties. Police stand accused of selective blindness, sometimes colluding, other times simply melting away. This is not rumor; it is the slow bleed of public order, captured in videos that spread like wildfire on Kenyan phones, from mata-tu touts to university hostels. Gooncracy, this governance by hired muscle, tightens its grip.

Chinua Achebe once warned in his unflinching prose that “things fall apart; the centre cannot hold.” How prophetic his words ring in our republic today? The centre, that fragile idea of constitutional pluralism, now hosts not statesmen but sponsors of street-level tyranny.

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GOONS

STORM KISUMU ACK CHURCH

Goons Stormed ACK Church in Kisumu attack Linda Mwananichi leaders led James Orengo and Edwin Sifuna

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Mudavadi meets Catholic Bishops ahead of regional Church assembly

BY DMS

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi has reaffirmed the government's support for faith-based institutions, saying religious leaders play a critical role in promoting peace, national unity and social cohesion.

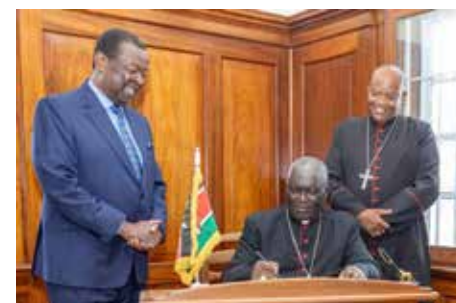
Mudavadi spoke yesterday after meeting Philip Anyolo and Anthony Muheria to discuss national issues and preparations for the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in East Africa (AMECEA) Plenary Assembly.

The regional gathering will be held from July 18 to 26 at the Catholic University for Eastern Africa in Nairobi and is expected to bring together more than 120 Catholic bishops and hundreds of delegates from nine Eastern African countries.

Mudavadi said hosting the four-yearly assembly reinforces Kenya's position as a regional centre for dialogue, diplomacy and international conferences while creating opportunities for the tourism, hospitality and other sectors of the economy.

He noted that the discussions with the church leaders also focused on matters affecting the country, and urged the Church to continue championing peace, unity and reconciliation.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary said a peaceful and united nation provides a firm foundation for sustainable development, increased investment and shared prosperity, adding that collaboration between government and faith leaders remains essential in addressing social and economic challenges facing the country.



Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



President William Ruto has reaffirmed the government’s commitment to empowering young people through investments in sports, the creative and digital economy, overseas employment, business support, affordable housing and infrastructure development. He said the initiatives are creating millions of jobs and opportunities while enabling young people to drive Kenya’s transformation. In sports, the government is building and upgrading 34 stadiums nationwide to nurture talent and expand opportunities. Ruto noted that the investments are already bearing fruit, citing Kenya’s continued global athletics success and the Junior Harambee Starlets’ historic qualification for the FIFA Under-17 Women’s World Cup. He spoke at State House, Nairobi, while hosting 2025/26 National Super League champions Migori Youth FC and handing the team a bus for league travel.



county provides blankets, mattresses, sanitary towels for vulnerable girls, adult diapers for persons with disabilities requiring specialised care, and facilitates free medical assessments to help eligible beneficiaries obtain disability certificates. Chief Officer Emily Nkoroi said the programmes aim to promote dignity, inclusion and improved livelihoods.



Tana River residents have been urged to reject tribal politics and promote peaceful coexistence following recent inter-community clashes in Bangale Sub-county that left at least six people dead. The appeal was made during a football tournament in Bura aimed at fostering unity among youths and elders. The call comes as the government conducts a security operation to recover illegal firearms, with security sources reporting that at least 30 weapons had been surrendered by July 12. Community leaders, led by Mohamed Ali, urged security agencies to arrest those behind the violence and appealed to politicians to avoid inflammatory remarks. Guracha Foundation founder Guracha Abdallah called for the prosecution of anyone inciting ethnic or religious divisions.

Kiambu County has distributed food hampers to 120 persons with disabilities in Gitothua Ward as part of its social protection programme for vulnerable residents. Led by the Directorate of Gender and Social Services, the initiative targets persons with disabilities, older persons, disaster-affected households and other vulnerable groups. Deputy Director Peter Ogallo said beneficiaries are identified through home visits to ensure fairness and accountability. Besides food aid, the



Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti has reinstated County Executive Committee Member for Finance Catherine Mutanu after a court suspended the implementation of her dismissal. Ndeti said she was served with a court order yesterday, halting her decision to remove Mutanu from office. She said she would fully comply with the order, citing her respect for the rule of law and the ongoing judicial process. The governor consequently directed Mutanu to resume her duties as CECM for Finance with immediate effect pending the hearing and determination of the case. Ndeti also wished the county finance executive success as she resumes her responsibilities.



Bungoma Governor Kenneth Lusaka has signed into law the Bungoma County Agriculture Institutions Development Corporation Act, 2025, establishing a KSh230 million corporation to modernise and finance key agricultural institutions. The corporation will manage strategic facilities, invest in agricultural value chains and strengthen service delivery to farmers. Institutions under its management will initially include the Mabanga Agricultural Training Centre, the Agricultural Mechanization Service Unit, the county soil testing laboratory and the Chwele Fish Farm, with room to add more through gazettelement. Lusaka said the law will improve agricultural production, value addition and professional management of county institutions. The corporation will develop a five-year investment strategy focusing on infrastructure, mechanisation, research, training and initiatives aimed at increasing productivity and farmers’ incomes.



Kajiado man who was found guilty of de-filing his 13-year-old step-daughter in 2024 sentenced to 20 years in jail. The daughter told court that on the fateful day as she was performing her chores, her step-father took her to the bedroom and de-filed her. The man offered her KSh1,000 to remain silent but she refused and informed her mother. The convict has now 14 days to appeal.

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Malpractices LSK said the allegations, if proven, amounted to serious violations of the Constitution

LSK raises alarm over alleged malpractices ahead of Ol Kalou by-election

BY DMS

@themtkenyetimes

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has raised concerns over what it describes as widespread electoral malpractice ahead of the forthcoming Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election, warning that failure to enforce electoral laws could undermine public confidence in Kenya's democratic processes ahead of the 2027 General Election.

In a statement issued by LSK President Charles Kanjama yesterday, the society said it had closely monitored developments surrounding the by-election and was concerned by reports of voter bribery, misuse of public resources, political intimidation and inflammatory rhetoric.

LSK said the allegations, if proven, amounted to serious violations of the Constitution, the Elections Act and the Election Offences Act, stressing that electoral offences are criminal acts that threaten constitutional governance and democratic legitimacy.

Among the issues highlighted by the lawyers' body were the alleged distribution of cash, goods and other benefits to voters under the guise of empowerment programmes during the campaign period, the use of public resources and government programmes to support political campaigns, and the participation of public officers in partisan political activities contrary to constitutional requirements of political neutrality.

The society also cited reports



LSK President Charles Kanjama (centre) addressing journalists in the past.

of violence, intimidation, organised groups and threats allegedly aimed at influencing voter behaviour or suppressing political participation, as well as conduct that could amount to voter bribery, abuse of state resources and undue influence.

LSK called on the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to discharge its constitutional mandate independently and firmly, saying the commission must demonstrate that no individual, political party, public officer or institution is above the law.

It further urged the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), the Public Service Commission (PSC), the National Police Service and other relevant agencies to investigate all reported electoral offences and take appropriate action against those found

culpable.

The society also expressed concern over suggestions that the by-election could be postponed because of campaign-related irregularities, saying postponement should only be considered under exceptional circumstances strictly permitted by the Constitution and the law.

According to LSK, voters should not be denied the opportunity to elect their representative because of alleged misconduct by candidates, political actors or public officials.

Instead, it argued, existing legal mechanisms; including investigations, prosecutions, fines, disqualification proceedings and other statutory sanctions should be used to hold offenders accountable while allowing the electoral process to proceed.

The lawyers' body described the Ol Kalou contest as an important test of Kenya's electoral governance framework and the preparedness

of institutions responsible for safeguarding electoral integrity ahead of the 2027 General Election.

It said the manner in which electoral laws are enforced during the by-election would significantly influence public confidence in future elections.

LSK also condemned all forms of violence, intimidation, incitement and lawlessness, urging all political players to uphold the constitutional rights of citizens, including freedom of assembly, association, expression and political participation, within a peaceful and lawful environment.

The society maintained that credible, transparent and accountable elections remain the cornerstone of Kenya's constitutional democracy and called on all stakeholders to protect the integrity of the Ol Kalou by-election through strict adherence to the rule of law.

8 to face charges after Kisumu church attack kills two



Goons

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyetimes

Security agencies in Kisumu have arrested 200 youths and detained eight suspects following a deadly attack outside St Stephen's ACK Cathedral in Milimani that left two people dead and several others injured.

The violence erupted on Sunday when an armed group allegedly attacked members of the Linda Mwananchi political faction, including Siaya Governor James Orengo, Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna and Embakasi East MP Babu Owino, as they arrived for a church service. Nine motorcycles were set ablaze in the confrontation.

Addressing a joint media briefing on Monday, Kisumu Governor Anyang' Nyong'o said the arrests formed part of an operation to dismantle organised criminal groups. "Two young men lost their lives as a result of that. Fam-

ilies have been plunged into mourning," he said, rejecting suggestions the attack was an isolated act of youthful indiscipline.

Nyong'o said the 200 youths were being screened, while the eight suspects directly linked to the killings were set to appear in court. He warned that authorities would pursue financiers and organisers, not only those who carried out the attack, cautioning that "there will be no sanctuary in Kisumu County."

Kisumu County Commissioner Mohamed Ramadhan Mwabudzo said intelligence pointed to youths mobilised and armed before being dispatched to the church, and cautioned politicians against hiring private security for public events.

The County Security Committee said the operation would continue until all responsible are held accountable.

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Politics The stay halts, for now, the commission's demand that Muhia pay the fine and deliver a signed public apology within 72 hours of the original ruling

Muhia wins reprieve as court halts IEBC fine

High Court suspends KSh1.5 million penalty against Kipipiri MP pending full hearing of her legal challenge

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenytimes

The High Court has temporarily suspended a KSh1.5 million fine imposed on Kipipiri MP Wanjiku Muhia by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission over remarks she made during campaigns for the Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election.

Justice Nabil Mokaya Orina issued the interim orders yesterday, staying the enforcement of a judgment delivered last week earlier by the IEBC's Electoral Code of Conduct Enforcement Committee, pending the hearing and determination of Muhia's application challenging the decision. "That in the meantime, pending the hearing and determination of the application, an order is hereby issued staying the judgment," the court ruled. The case will next be mentioned on July 20, when the court is expected to issue further directions.

The stay halts, for now, the commission's demand that Muhia pay the fine and deliver a signed public apology within 72 hours of the original ruling — a deadline that had already lapsed by the time she sought judicial review. Her lawyers argued that the IEBC's decision should not take effect until the substantive challenge to its legality has been heard in full.

The dispute traces back to a rally on June 14, when Muhia was campaigning in Ol Kalou for Democracy for Citizens Party candidate Sammy Kamau Ngotho. According to the Electoral Code of Conduct Enforcement Committee, she urged residents to organise themselves in small groups

to monitor outsiders in the constituency — remarks the committee found capable of inciting hostility against people considered non-indigenous to the area. Committee chairperson Moses Alutalala Mukhwana said the panel was satisfied the evidence presented against her was genuine. "The committee is satisfied that the evidence before it is true, not altered or forged," he said, adding that Muhia's continued defiance could expose her to tougher sanctions, including a possible bar from future IEBC-conducted elections.

Muhia's legal team has contested the process from the outset. When the committee first convened to hear the complaint, her lawyers walked out in protest, questioning both its composition and its jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter. The IEBC dismissed the objection and proceeded in her absence, delivering its ruling on July 10. It is that decision — reached without the MP present to defend herself — that now forms the core of her High Court challenge.

In the days between the fine and the court's intervention, the case took on a life of its own beyond the courtroom. Muhia went public with an appeal for financial support, sharing a paybill number and thanking supporters for what she called an outpouring of solidarity. "I am deeply overwhelmed by the incredible love and support you have shown me," she told residents of Kipipiri and Ol Kalou in a statement over the weekend. She later asked her base to pause the fundraising effort until she had consulted further with her legal team — a pause that, with Monday's court or-

der, has effectively been made moot for now.

The episode lands in the middle of one of the most closely watched by-elections on this year's political calendar. Ol Kalou has drawn national attention not only for its razor-edge contest between DCP and UDA-aligned candidates, but for a string of controversies around campaign conduct. The IEBC has separately summoned Nakuru Town East MP David Gikaria over allegations of his own Code of Conduct breaches during the same campaign period, and the commission has warned more broadly that continued violations could threaten the credibility, or even the timeline, of the vote itself. The Law Society of Kenya has cautioned against any postponement of the by-election, insisting instead on firm legal consequences for electoral offences, while Amnesty International Kenya has called for investigations into bribery and violence linked to the campaign.

For the IEBC, the Muhia case has become something of a test of how far its Code of Conduct enforcement powers can reach against sitting legislators — and how quickly those powers can be checked by the courts. For Muhia, the stay offers breathing room, but not resolution. The underlying question of whether her June 14 remarks crossed the line from robust campaigning into incitement has yet to be settled, and will now be argued out in a courtroom rather than concluded by commission fiat.

What happens next will matter well beyond Ol Kalou. Kenya heads into an increasingly charged pre-2027 politi-



Kipipiri MP Wanjiku Muhia/FILE



Committee chairperson Moses Alutalala Mukhwana

cal season in which campaign rhetoric, ethnic framing and the boundaries of acceptable political speech are already under strain. How the courts eventually rule on Muhia's case — and how firmly the IEBC's authority to police

conduct on the campaign trail is either upheld or curtailed — will send a signal to every candidate preparing for the contests still to come.

For now, the fine stands suspended, the apology undelivered, and the matter

unresolved. Muhia returns to her constituency with the immediate pressure lifted, but the case that will determine whether her words crossed a legal line is only just beginning.

Goons Reports of armed gangs disrupting rallies have become whispers turning into roars across counties. Police stand accused of selective blindness

When goons guard democracy: Kenya's ironic embrace of chaos



By: Jerameel Kevins Owuor Odhiambo

@themkenyentimes

Facts stare back at us like unblinking witnesses if happenings of the recent past are anything to go by. Last Sunday, goons those shadowy enforcers of political will descended upon gatherings linked to Linda Mwananchi, opposition voices daring to question the chorus of the day. Stones flew. Meetings dissolved into chaos. Reports of armed gangs disrupting rallies have become whispers turning into roars across counties. Police stand accused of selective blindness, sometimes colluding, other times simply melting away. This is not rumor; it is the slow bleed of public order, captured in videos that spread like wildfire on Kenyan phones, from matatu touts to university hostels. Goonocracy, this governance by hired muscle, tightens its grip.

Chinua Achebe once warned in his unflinching prose that "things fall apart; the centre cannot hold." How prophetic his words ring in our republic today? The centre, that fragile idea of constitutional pluralism, now hosts not statesmen but sponsors of street-level tyranny. Ngugi wa Thiong'o, that tireless voice against neo-colonial chains, spoke of how power devours its own children when it forgets the people's tongue. Here we are, decades after independence, still speaking the language of coercion only this time, the whips are wielded by our own, dressed in the borrowed robes of "broad-based" unity.

Observe the irony, that delicious antiphrasis dancing in plain sight: a government that claims to represent all Kenyans unleashes goons on those who simply refuse to sing its hymn. Tolerance, we are told, is the bedrock of democracy. Yet the recipients of this "tolerance" are opposition figures whose meetings are crashed with ruthless precision. Rhetorical question begs: if pluralism is our constitutional song, why does the state orchestra hire thugs to silence dissenting notes? The youths energetic, job-hungry, idealistic find



Goons in Nyahururu

themselves cast as disposable actors in a tragic script written by political masters. They block roads, hurl insults, and sometimes worse, all in the name of "defending" a regime that promises them heaven tomorrow while paying them peanuts today.

This is no isolated fever; it is a deepening infection. Political violence, once the ghost of 2007 that we swore never to summon again, now struts openly. Armed gangs do not emerge from thin air. They are fed, transported, and pointed like arrows at targets. The police, those sworn guardians of peace, face accusations of partisanship from the top organs down to the officer on the dusty beat. Some discharge their duty with honour, no doubt, but when collusion becomes pattern, the uniform loses its sanctity. One cannot help but allude to the Rwandan mirror: a nation that stared into the abyss of ethnic slaughter and chose, painfully, to build anew. Kenya, blessed with a different history, seems intent on flirting with the same precipice. We forget our own post-election nightmares at our peril. As the poet once cried in smitten verses, sometimes war must teach us the true taste of peace.

Sarcasm drips heavy here: how noble, these goons, protecting "stabil-

ty" by smashing the very gatherings meant to strengthen it. The broad-based government, that grand coalition of interests, risks being devoured by the beast it rides. Politicians who deploy these instruments of manipulation, coercion, and dominance forget Achebe's cautionary tale the hyena that laughs while digging its own grave. Goons do not retire gracefully when their utility ends. They evolve, demand more, and eventually turn on the hand that fed them. History across Africa whispers this truth: from hired militias in one republic to state-sponsored enforcers in another, the tool of intimidation becomes the master.

Even so let us analyse with cold intellectual clarity, not mere emotion. Goonocracy threatens more than rallies; it erodes national cohesion. Citizens' rights to associate, assemble, and participate the blood of Article 37 of our Constitution are violated under the guise of order. When opposition cannot meet without fear, debate dies. When debate dies, ideas stagnate. When ideas stagnate, the economy falters, investors flee uncertainty, and the youth again those same youths sink deeper into jobless despair. This is not opposition propaganda; it is cause and effect, laced with data from past cycles. Each in-

cident in Nyandarua or Kisumu is a domino. The next election, if patterns hold, risks becoming another theatre of imported chaos. Police inaction, or worse, selective action, signals to perpetrators that the state winks.

Ngugi wa Thiong'o taught us in *Petals of Blood* about the betrayal of the post-independence elite, how they replaced colonial masters only to become new ones. Are we witnessing a local variant? The allusion stings because it fits too snugly. Goons are not born; they are nurtured in poverty's soil, watered by political promises, and harvested for short-term gain. The opposition, too, must reflect: violence begets violence, and descending to the same tactics solves nothing. Balance demands this mirror. Yet the scale tips heavily when state resources and tolerance appear to enable one side. Intellectual prowess requires acknowledging that every regime faces dissent; the test of maturity is how it engages it. Not with stones and sticks, but with superior arguments and transparent governance.

Why must goonocracy be tamed, strangled fully, buried deep? Because it teeters the nation on the edge. Streets belong to citizens, not rented muscle. Political space must breathe

pluralism, not suffocate under fear. The signs are glaring: increasing boldness of armed gangs, partisan security responses, normalization of disruption. Left unchecked, it invites the very instability it claims to prevent. Youths used as pawns must awaken your future is not in another man's temporary throne. Leaders at the helm, from Cabinet to county, should remember: power is a trust, not a licence for thuggery.

In this reflective provocation, one sees the paradox unfolding. A "united" government fracturing the nation through division. Tolerance preached while intolerance practiced. Democracy guarded by its antithesis. Kenya, land of resilient citizens', has danced this dance before. We survived. We can choose better. The time to strangle this goonocracy is now through vigilant citizenry, independent institutions, and leaders with the courage to lead by example, not by enforcement.

Let the centre hold. Let things not fall apart. For in the words of our literary giants, the alternative is a darkness we have already glimpsed, and from which we must forever turn.

The writer is a social commentator

INFOTRAK Opinion poll New opinion poll sparks debate as President William Ruto emerges as frontrunner in the race to State House

Ruto leads the 2027 race—but is Kenya already deciding its next president?

BY Hadassah Karangu
@themtkenyaintimes

With more than a year still to go before Kenyans head to the ballot box in 2027, the political landscape is already taking shape. And if the latest opinion polls are anything to go by, President William Ruto has every reason to smile.

According to a new survey by Infotrak Research and Consulting, Ruto currently commands 32 percent support among likely voters, placing him well ahead of a crowded

field that includes Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka at 13 percent, Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna at 12 percent, and former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i, also at 12 percent. The poll, which surveyed 3,000 respondents between June 22 and June 26, found that 18 percent of Kenyans remain undecided.

The findings have reignited a familiar national conversation: is President Ruto steadily securing a second term, or is this simply an early snapshot of a race that remains

wide open?

For many Kenyans, the results are both surprising and expected. Surprising, because the country has weathered a difficult stretch marked by a high cost of living, unemployment concerns and public frustration over taxation. Expected, because despite these challenges, Ruto remains one of the most visible and politically active leaders in the country. His administration continues to launch development projects, engage citizens across counties and maintain



President William Ruto

a strong presence in national discourse.

Politics, after all, has always been as much a game of perception as of performance. While critics point to economic hardship and unfulfilled promises, supporters argue that the government has made significant investments in infrastructure, affordable housing, agriculture, healthcare and digital opportunities for young people. Whether these efforts have fully translated into improved livelihoods remains open to debate, but they appear to have helped keep the President politically relevant.

One of the more telling aspects of the poll is not Ruto's lead itself, but the state of the opposition. While several leaders continue to draw support, none has emerged as a dominant challenger. Support instead remains scattered among various personalities, each commanding influence in different regions and demographics.

That fragmentation may be working in Ruto's favour. History has shown that a divided opposition often struggles to present a united front capable of challenging an incumbent. As long as opposition leaders keep competing for the same political space, Ruto may find

it easier to maintain his advantage.

Still, polls do not vote. Citizens do.

Kenyan politics has repeatedly shown that public opinion can shift dramatically within a short period. Alliances change, new issues emerge, and unexpected events often reshape the electoral calculus. A candidate leading today may find themselves facing an entirely different reality tomorrow.

Young voters are likely to play a decisive role in shaping the country's future. This generation is increasingly vocal, digitally connected and eager for leaders who can offer practical solutions to unemployment, education gaps, entrepreneurship and economic instability. Their priorities may ultimately count for more in 2027 than traditional political loyalties.

The economy will be another critical factor. Across markets, towns and cities, many Kenyans continue to judge leadership through the lens of daily life: Can families afford basic necessities? Are jobs being created? Are businesses growing? Are graduates finding opportunities? These questions may carry more weight at the ballot box than any campaign slogan.

The opposition, for its part, still has room to regroup, sharpen its message and present a compelling alternative vision. Elections are won not merely by criticising those in power, but by convincing citizens that a better path exists. The months ahead will test whether opposition leaders can turn public dissatisfaction into a coordinated political movement.

For President Ruto, the poll is undoubtedly encouraging. It suggests that despite the criticism, he retains a solid base of support. Yet it would be premature for any political camp to claim victory this early. Kenya's political environment remains dynamic, unpredictable and often prone to dramatic turns.

As the countdown to 2027 continues, one thing is clear: the race has begun. Opinion polls may offer clues about the current mood of the nation, but the final verdict will belong to the millions of Kenyans who will ultimately decide the country's future at the ballot box.

For now, President Ruto may be leading the pack — but the road to 2027 remains long, competitive and full of political surprises.

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Agribusiness More than 200 local and international feed manufacturers are expected to converge in Nairobi this week for the two-day conference to discuss challenges facing the sector

AKEFEMA calls for strategic investment in quality animal feed production



Some of the AKEFEMA officials during the press briefing.

BY Wangari Ndirangu
@themkenyaintimes

The Association of Kenya Feed Manufacturers (AKEFEMA) has called for increased investment in quality animal feed production, saying it is critical to boosting livestock productivity, strengthening food security, and transforming Kenya's agricultural sector.

Speaking ahead of the AKEFEMA Feeds Exhibition and Conference (AFEC) 2026, AKEFEMA Chairman Joseph Karuri said the livestock industry must become more productive and resilient to meet rising demand for milk, meat, eggs, and fish as Kenya's population is projected to surpass 100 million by 2050.

More than 200 local and international feed manufacturers are expected to converge in Nairobi this week for the two-day conference to discuss

challenges facing the sector and explore strategies to enhance investment, innovation, and sustainability.

Karuri said a strong feed industry is the foundation of livestock production, noting that quality animal feeds improve productivity, increase farmers' incomes, create employment opportunities, enhance nutrition, and contribute to economic growth.

He, however, said the industry continues to face challenges, including shortages of key feed raw materials, climate change, global supply chain disruptions, rising production costs, and the need to strengthen quality assurance systems.

"Currently, we are unable to produce enough commercial feeds for the country's livestock largely due to shortages of key raw materials. From the available resources, we are only able to produce 2.5 million metric tons, slightly

over 60 per cent of the country's installed capacity of four million metric tons," said Karuri.

He said overcoming these challenges requires coordinated efforts among government agencies, feed manufacturers, farmers, researchers, financial institutions, development partners, and technology providers.

Karuri noted that AFEC 2026 will provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange knowledge, showcase innovations, explore investment opportunities, and recommend policy interventions to strengthen the competitiveness of Kenya's feed industry.

He noted that Kenya has the potential to become Eastern Africa's leading hub for feed manufacturing and animal nutrition through increased investment in local production of feed ingredients, modern manufacturing technologies, research, innovation, quality

assurance systems, and farmer training.

While advocating for increased domestic production of feed raw materials, Karuri said strategic regional and international sourcing would remain necessary in the short and medium terms to ensure stable supplies and affordable feeds.

He reaffirmed AKEFEMA's commitment to promoting compliance with national standards, good manufacturing practices, traceability, and industry self-regulation, saying safe animal feed is essential for safe food production and consumer confidence.

AKEFEMA Deputy Chairman David Murumba said the industry is promoting the adoption of Near Infrared (NIR) technology to enable real-time analysis of raw materials and improve feed quality, safety, and accuracy in formulation.

Murumba said wider use of

the technology, together with modern automated milling equipment, would help reduce production costs, improve livestock productivity, and detect contaminants such as mycotoxins before processing.

He called on the government to waive import duties on animal feed raw materials to address shortages and reduce production costs, noting that only about 10 percent of feed manufacturers have adopted NIR technology.

AKEFEMA Chief Executive Officer Paul Kamau said Africa's growing population, expanding middle class, and large livestock population present significant opportunities for the animal feed sector but require adoption of modern technologies and innovative approaches to production.

Kamau said improved feed manufacturing systems, intensive farming methods, and biotechnology in crop production would be critical in

increasing yields and ensuring reliable supplies of feed ingredients for both livestock and human consumption.

AKEFEMA Deputy Secretary General Dr Wilfred Kamau called for increased investment in the sector, saying access to capital was essential for small and medium-sized millers to expand operations, improve quality, and modernize their facilities.

He said investment in machinery, skilled personnel, and quality raw materials would help lower feed costs and make animal products such as eggs, milk, and pork more affordable by consumers.

AFEC 2026 will be held tomorrow and Thursday in Nairobi, bringing together stakeholders from the animal feed sector from 27 countries across six continents.

Security Karugu said Kenya was working closely with partner states to dismantle trade barriers as it works to stay competitive against rival routes

Kenya reaffirms border security push for regional trade

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatiimes

Kenya has reaffirmed its commitment to tighter border security as the foundation for deeper East African Community integration, positioning the move as central to sustaining its position as the bloc's leading exporter.

Speaking at a media engagement forum in Nairobi, Principal Secretary for East African Community Affairs Caroline Karugu said secure, efficient borders remain essential to facilitating trade and attracting investment across the region, particularly as Kenya enters an electioneering period. She noted that the country currently accounts for roughly 35 percent of total intra-EAC exports, a lead she attributed largely to its manufacturing base.

Karugu said Kenya was working closely with partner states to dismantle trade barriers as it works to



Principal Secretary for the State Department for East African Community Affairs and Regional Development, Dr. Caroline Karugu | Photo: Courtesy

stay competitive against rival routes such as the Central Corridor, which links landlocked EAC members through Tanzania. "We are one people. In the EAC there are no borders,

only bridges," she said, describing the philosophy behind the government's push for closer cross-border cooperation.

Officials at the forum said improved

infrastructure, efficient border management and stronger collaboration among member states would be critical to expanding market access for Kenyan goods and drawing fresh

investment into the region. The renewed focus comes as the EAC pushes for fuller integration through the free movement of goods, services and people, part of a broader effort to make the bloc a more competitive investment destination.

The remarks echo comments made by President William Ruto at a recent summit of EAC Heads of State in Arusha, where he emphasised the importance of building a unified African market capable of competing on the global stage.

For Kenya, the stakes extend beyond diplomacy. One-stop border posts, including at Isebania-Sirari and Taveta-Holili, have become the front line of that effort, with officials working to clear non-tariff barriers that have long slowed cargo movement along key trade corridors. The government says it will maintain close engagement with partner states to strengthen economic cooperation, tighten border security and cement Kenya's position as a leading regional trade and investment hub.

Whether that commitment translates into faster trucks, fewer delays and greater investor confidence will be the real measure of success — one written not in communiqués, but at the border posts themselves.

By-election With campaigns now closed, security agencies and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission are finalising preparations for Thursday's by-election

Miano calls for peace as Ol Kalou by-election campaign draws to a close

BY John Kariuki

@themtkenyatiimes

Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano appealed to residents of Ol Kalou Constituency to uphold peace and civility, as campaigning for the parliamentary by-election came to a close yesterday, ahead of Thursday's vote.

Miano urged political leaders, supporters and voters to stay calm and conduct themselves responsibly, saying the final phase of the campaign had been defined by issue-based politics rather than confrontation.

"With only days to go, Ol Kalou has calm heads and clear hearts. We will finish strong with a respectful campaign and a vote for stable progress. We are shining all the way," she said.

The Cabinet Secretary said the by-election offered residents a

chance to demonstrate political maturity by preserving harmony before, during and after the vote. Peaceful elections, she noted, are essential to safeguarding democracy and ensuring that development programmes continue uninterrupted regardless of political competition.

Miano encouraged residents to reject divisive politics and instead focus on electing leaders capable of working closely with the national government to accelerate development projects in the constituency. Stability, she said, remains a critical ingredient for economic growth, investment and improved service delivery, adding that the people of Ol Kalou stand to benefit from leaders who prioritise unity and development.

She expressed confidence that the constituency would set an example for the rest of the country by conducting a peaceful, transparent and

credible election, and commended residents for maintaining order throughout the campaign period despite heightened political activity. The calm environment witnessed throughout the campaign, she said, reflects the community's commitment to democracy and coexistence.

The Cabinet Secretary further appealed to young people not to allow themselves to be used to incite violence or disrupt the electoral process, urging them instead to participate peacefully and exercise their democratic right responsibly. She also called on political leaders across the divide to tone down inflammatory rhetoric and respect their opponents, saying competitive politics should never come at the expense of peace and national cohesion.

With campaigns now closed, security agencies and the Independent



Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano

Electoral and Boundaries Commission are finalising preparations for Thursday's by-election, as residents look forward to electing their next Member of Parliament.

Miano maintained that peaceful participation at the ballot would send a strong message that Ol Kalou remains committed to unity, stability and sustained development.

Politics Kagure said boda boda operators play a critical role in Nairobi’s economy by providing affordable transport, connecting communities

Agnes Kagure rolls out free fuel programme for BodaBoda riders in Nairobi

BY WMW
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya Patriots Party (KPP) leader and Nairobi gubernatorial hopeful Dr Agnes Kagure has launched a free fuel top-up initiative targeting boda boda riders in Nairobi’s Eastlands, saying the programme is aimed at easing the burden of the rising cost of living on one of the city’s key economic sectors.

The initiative, rolled out over the weekend under her Mbogi Na Mama programme, began in Embakasi East and is expected to reach riders in other parts of the capital in the coming weeks.

Kagure said boda boda operators play a critical role in Nairobi’s economy by providing affordable transport, connecting communities and

creating employment opportunities for thousands of young people.

“At a time of rising fuel prices and the high cost of living, this is our small way of saying Mama sees you, appreciates your hard work and will always stand with you,” she said.

The fuel support programme is the latest in a series of community-based initiatives championed by Kagure as she seeks to succeed Governor Johnson Sakaja in the 2027 Nairobi gubernatorial race.

Over the years, the businesswoman and philanthropist has built a reputation for supporting vulnerable groups through the Agnes Kagure Foundation, which has implemented programmes focusing on education, healthcare, youth and women empowerment, environmental conservation and humanitarian assistance.

The foundation has donated learn-

ing materials to schools, supported medical camps, provided food and relief supplies to vulnerable families, and partnered with community groups on sanitation and environmental clean-up campaigns across Nairobi.

Kagure has also been a vocal advocate for youth employment and entrepreneurship, often calling for policies that improve access to affordable credit, skills development and better working conditions for workers in the informal sector.

Political analysts view her sustained philanthropic activities and grassroots engagement as part of efforts to strengthen her political support base ahead of the next General Election.

The boda boda sector remains one of the country’s largest sources of informal employment, supporting hundreds of thousands of riders and



Some of the bodaboda operators waiting for their turn to fuel.

millions of Kenyans who rely on motorcycles for daily transport and delivery services.

Kagure said empowering the sector is essential to improving livelihoods and stimulating Nairobi’s economy.



Work hard in silence, let your success be your noise



Ants are always remembered for their hard work.
Bamboo starts to grow hardly for a long duration.
It strongly grows for years as tall as.
You never stop its growth.

Once you start to work hard as bamboo and an ant.
Nobody can stop you from your success.
The sounds of clap around you help others.
How much you have worked for that.

The garlands and shawls adorned you on the stage.
Reveals your hardwork and confidence in your aim.
When you are on the stage you should bow as a paddy stalk.
Success brings you happiness and peace.

Rajesh Kanna B N
RAJESH KANNA .B N
M.Sc.,M.A.,M.,
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TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT.
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Creative Writers.
Educationist.

In search of self



I came into this world to know my own soul,
Yet what it truly seeks, I could not comprehend.
Between illusion and life, within their secret fold,
Before I could even turn, I reached the journey's end.
What will this heart choose, which path will it

tread?
Lifetimes pass in ignorance, with sighs of "ah" and "oh".
Dreams have intoxicated this body, tightly wound,
While feet walk upon thorns and blades, step by step below.
The pen writes and writes, its own secrets it confides,
Awakening floods my mind, like birds in restless flight.
Who was I, where do I drift as time softly glides?
To merge with the Creator at last, into the final light.

By: Yulduz Kholova

The window to the world



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Am I the Cause?!



Am I the Cause?!
Translated into literary English
I was asleep.
When I woke up, I found myself in a dark room.
The place was cold and damp. Suddenly, the door creaked open. A tall man dressed in black, yet strangely pale-faced, stepped inside. Behind him came a young man carrying a laptop.
The first man spoke:
"I am an investigator. I need to question you until the truth is revealed. You are Sarvinoz Jamilova, born on November 23, 1997. You study economics, and at present you are suspected either of hiding your parents or of being responsible for their deaths. This is all the information we have about you. Now, tell us about yourself and about the day before yesterday." I was stunned. How could I possibly be involved in such a thing? Yet I had to speak.
"When I was a child," I began, "I developed a condition that caused severe episodes whenever I became frightened, anxious, or overly excited. During those attacks, I would lose awareness of myself and even fail to recognize the people closest to me.
But my mother and father always knew what to do. Whenever an episode struck, they gave me a calming medicine. Because of that, I never truly suffered from my illness. Though my mother often warned that one day it might harm someone else. Whenever an attack came, I would first hear my father's reassuring voice:
'Calm down, my daughter. Everything will be alright.'
Then I would hear the sound of water being poured.
After that came the faint rattling of my mother's trembling fingers against the medicine bottle cap as she struggled to open it.
And finally, in her soft, weary voice:
'We got through it again... but what will we do next time?'
Then I would fall asleep.
Two days ago, I returned home from university and entered the kitchen. My mother was cooking. The moment I walked in, she asked,
'Did anything happen at school?'
I smiled.
'Should something have happened? If you mean my condition, it only acts up to frighten you.'
Then I went to my room to change.
When I came back out, someone had turned the television volume up. Our yard was large, yet the noise carried into every corner. It irritated me. The kettle was whistling in the kitchen. The food simmering on the stove hissed ominously.
Each sound scraped against my nerves. Just as I was about to enter the kitchen, the telephone rang.
My anxiety began to rise.
I hurried to switch off the kettle.
As I turned back, I saw my mother lying on the floor.
Unconscious.
'Mother!' I cried.
At that moment, a sharp pain struck the back of my head.
Breathing became difficult.
My vision spun.
My hands trembled.
Behind me, I heard the familiar sound of water

being poured.
In my mind, one thought echoed:
Mother is unconscious. Father isn't home. Who is giving me my medicine?
Then I heard the medicine bottle open.
The person handling it seemed clumsy.
A man, I guessed.
As he approached, I could hear the ticking of a clock somewhere behind me.
Then darkness closed over my eyes.
That was normal during an episode.
I drank the medicine.
But this time I did not fall asleep.
I could hear everything.
The man lifted me and carried me upstairs.
As he climbed the stairs, he muttered:
'Turn off that television. It's giving me a headache. What a waste... this plan failed. At least nobody got hurt.'
Then my mother spoke.
Hearing her voice relieved me.
'What will happen when his father comes home?' she asked.
I assumed she was trying to frighten whoever had done this to us.
The front door opened.
'My daughter!' my father called.
Yet he said nothing to the man carrying me. Perhaps he was too worried about me.
The man laid me on my bed.
Then he and my father talked for a long time.
My father sighed.
'I told you not to do it. It was useless. The poor girl suffered for nothing. She hadn't had an attack in two weeks.'
The other man replied:
'Do you think I wanted this? The medicine is losing its effect. She's older now. She doesn't fall asleep anymore. She may even be listening to us right now. Let's go outside before she hears something she shouldn't.'
Just then, his phone rang.
He stepped outside and answered loudly.
'What do you mean it's burning? Explain properly! Why is it on fire? We're coming right now!'
He returned and said to my father:
'Come quickly. The factory is on fire.'
Then they both left.
After that...
I remembered nothing."
The investigator studied me carefully.
Then he spoke.
"The man who gave you the medicine was your uncle, Salohiddin Jumayev.
He and your mother were attempting to cure you by frightening you. Your father, Sa'dulla Jumayev, opposed the idea.
Your doctor, Anvar Fattohovich, believed your condition had been caused by severe childhood trauma and suggested that another powerful shock might improve it.
The plan originated with your mother. Despite your father's objections, she persuaded your uncle to help.
But things went wrong.
Your attack came sooner than expected. And during it, you struck your mother with the hot kettle.
Your uncle confirmed this in his statement. Blood belonging to your mother was found in the kitchen, as well as on the kettle used to strike her."
The investigator finished speaking.
Tears filled my eyes.
My hands shook.
But deep inside, I knew one thing:
I would never intentionally hurt my parents.
I had to prove it.
I looked at him and said,
'I need to speak with my uncle. I have questions for him. I will prove that I am innocent.'
The investigator agreed.
Half an hour later, my uncle entered the room...

Author Mutalibova Xonzodaxon, Uzbekistan

By-election Ol Kalou Constituency Returning Officer Anthony Njiraini and Deputy Returning Officer Mauren Kisiero said preparations for the July 16 poll had been completed

IEBC: All set for Ol-Kalou by-election as voters prepare to elect new MP

BY DMS
@themkenyaintimes

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has declared its preparedness for Thursday’s Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election, saying all logistical arrangements have been finalised ahead of the poll in which more than 72,000 registered voters are expected to elect a new Member of Parliament. Ol Kalou Constituency Returning Officer Anthony Njiraini and Deputy Returning Officer Mauren Kisiero said preparations for the July 16 poll had been completed, with the distribution of election materials scheduled for tomorrow. The two officials said all the 144 polling stations across

the constituency will open at 6am and close at 5pm on polling day to allow eligible registered voters to cast their ballots. According to the electoral commission, polling officials and election materials will be dispatched to polling centres a day before voting to ensure a smooth electoral exercise. The by-election whose official campaign ended yesterday was called following the death of area MP David Kiaraho in March, creating a vacancy in the National Assembly seat. A total of 72,997 registered voters are expected to participate in the exercise. The IEBC has cleared nine candidates to contest the seat, setting up a competitive race involving candidates from major political parties and smaller outfits.

The candidates include Samuel Muchina of the United Democratic Alliance (UDA), Sammy Kamau Ngotho of the Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP), and Rachel Wangui Njoroge of the People’s Democratic Party (PDP), alongside six other candidates from the Jubilee Party, People’s Renaissance Movement (PM), Federal Party of Kenya (FPK), National Liberal Party (NLP), Party of National Unity (PNU) and Kenya Moja Movement (KMM). The by-election has attracted national attention, with the country’s leading political parties mounting intensive campaigns in what is seen as an important test of political strength ahead of the 2027 General Election. In recent days, the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties trained party agents

drawn from all the participating political parties on election procedures, compliance and transparency to enhance the credibility of the poll. The commission has appealed to voters to turn out in large numbers and exercise their democratic right peacefully, while urging candidates, political parties and their supporters to observe the electoral code of conduct throughout the voting and tallying process. Results from the 144 polling stations will be transmitted and tallied at the constituency tallying centre before the Returning Officer declares the winner in accordance with the Elections Act and IEBC regulations.



Mr Anthony Njiraini and Ms Mauren Kisiero briefing journalists yesterday | Photo: Courtesy.

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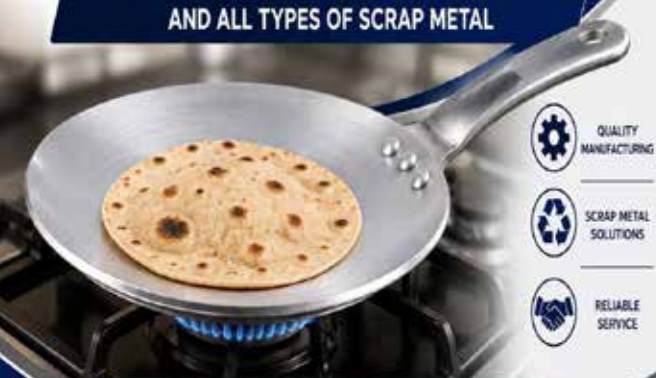
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Bill The National Assembly has released an explainer on the Bill as the Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives continues to receive public views

Proposed Sacco Bill targets pyramid schemes, strengthens protection of members' savings



The National Assembly entrance. | Photo: Courtesy

BY DMS

@themkenyaintimes

The proposed Sacco Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2025 seeks to tighten regulation of Kenya's Sacco sector, protect members' savings and strengthen the financial stability of cooperative societies through far-reaching reforms currently before the National Assembly.

The National Assembly has released an explainer on the Bill as the Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives continues to receive public views before preparing its report for debate in the House.

According to Parliament, the proposed law is intended to address long-standing weaknesses in the Sacco sector, including the proliferation of unregulated entities and pyramid schemes that have defrauded thousands of Kenyans, weak governance structures, poor liquidity management, inadequate regulatory oversight and the absence of an operational Deposit Guar-

antee Fund.

The Bill also seeks to curb the misuse of members' savings by prohibiting investments in speculative and high-risk ventures while introducing stronger prudential standards for Saccos handling members' funds.

One of the key proposals is the establishment of a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework for Secondary Saccos, also known as umbrella cooperatives, which would provide shared financial services to primary Saccos.

Under the proposed law, at least 30 licensed primary Saccos may voluntarily establish a Secondary Sacco to undertake central liquidity management, facilitate inter-Sacco lending and operate shared payment systems. Membership will remain voluntary and can only be approved by members of individual Saccos during a general meeting.

The Bill places Secondary Saccos under the supervision of the Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA),

requiring them to obtain licences, maintain minimum capital and liquidity levels, comply with governance standards and undergo regular inspections.

Directors and senior managers will also be required to meet prescribed integrity and professional qualifications, while annual audited financial statements will be subject to regulatory review.

To safeguard members' funds, the proposed law prohibits Secondary Saccos from taking deposits directly from individuals, lending to individual members, engaging in wholesale or retail trade or investing in venture capital.

Instead, they will be restricted to providing institutional financial services exclusively to member Saccos and investing surplus funds in safer assets such as government securities.

Parliament says the reforms will enable smaller Saccos to access modern payment infrastructure and liquidity support without incurring the high costs of establishing such sys-

tems independently.

The Bill further seeks to operationalise the long-awaited Deposit Guarantee Fund, which was established nearly two decades ago but has never been fully implemented.

The proposed amendments restructure the Fund's Board of Trustees by prescribing professional qualifications and independence requirements while clarifying the process through which depositors will be compensated if a Sacco loses its licence.

Eligible members of failed Saccos will be able to lodge claims directly with the Deposit Guarantee Fund, providing a safety net aimed at

restoring confidence in the cooperative movement.

Another significant proposal would allow licensed Secondary Saccos, subject to approval by the Central Bank of Kenya, to participate in Kenya's interbank market.

This would enable them to borrow and lend funds to other financial institutions to meet short-term liquidity needs, reducing reliance on expensive emergency financing and strengthening the resilience of the Sacco sector.

According to Parliament, the reforms are expected to improve liquidity management, reduce operational costs through shared services,

enhance financial stability, strengthen regulatory oversight and eliminate criminal operators who exploit unsuspecting Kenyans through fraudulent investment schemes.

The Bill also aims to promote innovation, financial inclusion and technology adoption while improving access to affordable credit and encouraging a stronger savings culture among Kenyans.

The National Assembly has urged members of the public to study the actual provisions of the Bill and disregard misleading information circulating on social media regarding the proposed law.

After the public participation exercise, the Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives will prepare a report incorporating stakeholders' views before the Bill returns to the House for consideration. If passed by the National Assembly, it will proceed to the Senate for consideration in accordance with the Constitution.




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Elections As the country gradually shifts its attention towards the 2027 General Election, the unfolding events surrounding the Ol Kalou by-election

Ol Kalou and the road to 2027 general election

BY Dennis Wendo

@themtkenyatomes

Every by-election is more than a contest for political representation.

As the country gradually shifts its attention towards the 2027 General Election, the unfolding events surrounding the Ol Kalou by-election present an opportunity to reflect on whether our electoral systems, political actors and public institutions are adequately prepared to safeguard the constitutional values that underpin our democracy.

The newly constituted Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) assumed office at a defining moment in Kenya's democratic journey. It inherits not only the constitutional mandate to conduct free, fair and credible elections but also the responsibility of rebuilding and sustaining public confidence in the electoral process. Every decision the Commission makes, from voter registration and election planning to dispute resolution and communication, is inevitably measured against the principles of transparency, impartiality and accountability.

Public confidence remains the currency upon which every electoral management body depends. It is not enough for the Commission to be impartial, it must also be seen to be impartial. In today's information environment, where perceptions spread as rapidly as facts, clear communication, timely decision-making and consistent application of the law are indispensable in strengthening public trust.

The significance of the Ol Kalou by-election therefore extends beyond the boundaries of Nyandarua County. It serves as an early indicator of Kenya's preparedness for the 2027 General Election. Every campaign activity, every security deployment, every electoral decision and every institutional response contributes to a broader national assessment of whether our democracy continues to mature or risks sliding backwards.

Equally important is the conduct of political parties and their supporters. Competitive elections are the hallmark of democratic societies, but competition should never come at the expense of constitutional order or public safety.



DCP Olkalou candidate Sammy Ngeth, after speaking to a crowd, submitted nomination papers to the IEBC | Photo: John Muhia Methu

Political leaders bear a heightened responsibility to promote peaceful campaigns, respect opposing viewpoints and discourage conduct that incites hostility or undermines public confidence in democratic institutions.

Of growing concern is the apparent resurgence of organised groups that disrupt political activities, intimidate opponents or create an atmosphere of fear during electioneering periods. Such acts, whether perpetrated by politically affiliated groups, criminal gangs or opportunistic individuals, threaten not only the integrity of elections but also the rule of law. Violence and intimidation have no legitimate place in a constitutional democracy.

The National Crime Research Centre has previously documented the growth of organised criminal groups across several counties, highlighting how unemployment, economic hard-

ship, social exclusion and political manipulation create fertile ground for their expansion. These findings underscore the need to treat electoral violence not merely as a security challenge but as a governance issue requiring long-term, preventive interventions.

Young people often find themselves at the centre of election-related unrest. Yet they should not be viewed simply as perpetrators of political violence. Many are victims of economic vulnerability, unemployment and manipulation by individuals seeking short-term political advantage. Kenya's youth constitute one of the country's greatest national assets. They deserve opportunities for meaningful civic participation, decent employment and leadership development rather than exploitation as instruments of political confrontation.

Security agencies likewise play a

pivotal role in preserving electoral integrity. Their constitutional duty is to protect every citizen equally, irrespective of political affiliation. Professionalism, restraint and impartial enforcement of the law are essential in preventing isolated incidents from escalating into broader security challenges. Public confidence in elections depends not only on credible electoral management but also on confidence that security institutions operate fairly and independently.

The media and digital platforms present both opportunities and risks. Technology has transformed political communication by enabling greater citizen engagement and faster dissemination of information. However, it has also accelerated the spread of misinformation, manipulated content, hate speech and inflammatory rhetoric capable of heightening political tensions. Political leaders, media practitioners,

technology companies and citizens all share a collective responsibility to promote factual discourse and reject communication that undermines peaceful democratic participation.

The credibility of the 2027 General Election will not be determined solely by events on polling day. It will be shaped by every decision taken between now and then, every by-election conducted professionally, every electoral dispute resolved fairly, every allegation investigated impartially, every act of political violence prevented and every citizen reassured that constitutional institutions remain stronger than partisan interests.

Kenya has made significant democratic progress over the past three decades. The promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 strengthened institutions, expanded political rights and established important safeguards for electoral justice. While challenges remain, these gains should never be taken for granted. Democratic resilience requires continuous investment in institutional integrity, civic responsibility and constitutional fidelity.

Ultimately, electoral integrity is a shared national responsibility. The IEBC must discharge its mandate with unwavering independence and professionalism. Political parties must compete responsibly and place national cohesion above partisan interests. Security agencies must remain impartial guardians of public order. Civil society, faith-based organisations, the media and ordinary citizens must continue to hold institutions accountable while promoting peaceful democratic participation.

The road to 2027 does not begin on election day. It begins with every decision, every institution and every citizen who chooses to uphold the Constitution today. The lessons drawn from Ol Kalou should therefore not divide the nation along political lines but unite us around a common commitment to credible elections, peaceful competition and accountable governance. Kenya's democratic future will ultimately be defined not by the intensity of our political contests, but by the integrity with which we choose to conduct them.

Dennis Wendo
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Politics The Cabinet Secretary said the government has financed roads, electricity connectivity and boreholes through the National Infrastructure Fund

CS Ruku hits out at Gachagua, says he does not speak for Mount Kenya

Public Service CS accuses opposition of painting a false picture of the Ruto administration's record



CS Geoffrey Ruku addresses youths during an engagement organised by the Mount Kenya East Youth Association. . | Photo: Brian Gitonga

BY Brian Gitonga
@themkenyatimes

Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Human Capital Development and Special Programmes Geoffrey Ruku has accused the opposition of painting a negative picture of President William Ruto’s administration, arguing that Kenya would be facing far greater challenges had the President not taken office.

Speaking during an engagement with youths under the Mount Kenya East Youth Association, Ruku said the country would have been in a worse economic position without Ruto’s leadership. He argued that the government has managed to shield the country from a heavier debt burden while securing a better future for young people, despite the challenges it inherited.

“If William Ruto was not the President, the government would be facing many problems today. I do not know what the future of young people would look like in the next 10 or 20 years because of the

debt burden we would have had,” Ruku said.

The Cabinet Secretary said the government has financed roads, electricity connectivity and boreholes through the National Infrastructure Fund without seeking loans from the International Monetary Fund. He maintained that the projects reflect Ruto’s vision and demonstrate the administration’s commitment to development.

Ruku also appealed to young people not to listen to what he termed opposition propaganda, saying it was meant to divide communities. Referring to his recent remarks on ethnic identity, he said there was nothing wrong with stating that the Meru, Embu, Tharaka and Kikuyu are distinct communities.

He argued that Article 11 of the Constitution recognises and protects the cultures of Kenya’s different communities, and accused the opposition of misleading the public on the matter.

“Where is my crime in saying that the Kikuyu are not Meru? Is a Kikuyu a Kalenjin, or is a Kalenjin a Luo? These are all

communities in our country, Kenya,” Ruku said.

He further criticised the opposition for claiming to speak on behalf of all Kenyans, singling out former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and saying his views did not represent all residents of Meru or the wider Mount Kenya region.

The Cabinet Secretary called on leaders allied to the government from both Mount Kenya West and Mount Kenya East to counter Gachagua’s political influence in their respective regions, saying government supporters should ensure the opposition narrative does not gain ground across the mountain counties.

“Those supporting the government in Mount Kenya West should ensure Rigathi Gachagua does not continue spreading his narrative. We in Mount Kenya East are equally ready to ensure he does not disrupt the government’s agenda in Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Embu, Isiolo and Mwea,” Ruku said.

He dismissed claims that votes from Mount Kenya East are insufficient to determine

Mwea exceed two million, making the region a decisive voting bloc.

Citing the 2013, 2017 and 2022 presidential elections, Ruku noted that former Prime Minister Raila Odinga narrowly lost each contest despite receiving limited support from the Mount Kenya region. He argued that a united Mount Kenya East vote, combined with support from other regions, could determine the country’s next president.

Ruku expressed confidence that Ruto would win re-election in 2027 and urged residents not to be intimidated by opposition leaders, whom he accused of falsely claiming to speak for the entire Mount Kenya region.

“Subtract the votes of Isiolo, Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Embu and Mwea from your calculations. Those votes, together with support from other Kenyans, are enough to form the next government,” Ruku said.



CS Geoffrey Ruku joins Imenti North MP Rahim Dawood in displaying the two-term sign. | Photo: Brian Gitonga

the outcome of a presidential election, saying the combined votes from Meru, Embu, Tharaka Nithi, Isiolo and

AIRBNB SETUP

- ▶ Apartment furnishing
- ▶ Bed and mattress setup
- ▶ Living room setup
- ▶ Curtains and blinds installation
- ▶ Lighting installation
- ▶ Wall art and decor styling
- ▶ Kitchen setup (utensils, appliances)
- ▶ Bathroom essentials setup
- ▶ Bed dressing and styling
- ▶ Final space styling for guest experience

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China Chinese EV brands have entered the East African country of 130 million people. Among them is Guangzhou Automobile Group (GAC)

Chinese EVs power Africa's green transition amid fuel crunch

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes

When fuel queues in Addis Ababa stretched beyond a day during this year's Middle East conflict, university professor Balew Demissie decided he had had enough. He traded his gasoline car for a Chinese-made BYD Song Plus electric vehicle.

"Fuel-based cars are becoming increasingly risky, especially during global crises that drive energy prices higher," Demissie said. He now spends about 500 Ethiopian birr (about 3 U.S. dollars) a month on charging -- a fraction of his previous fuel bill. His decision reflects a broader shift across Africa, where renewed tensions in the Middle East have revived concerns over fuel costs and energy security. Disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, which carried around a quarter of global seaborne oil trade, have added urgency to the search for alternatives. Electric mobility is increasingly seen as one solution. Africa's EV sales increased to about 25,000 units in 2025 from some 4,000 two years earlier, with Chinese automakers driving much of the growth and BYD accounting for 35 percent of regional sales, according to the International Energy Agency.

A continent recharges

Across Africa, countries are exploring their own paths toward a green mobility transition. Ethiopia, which relies almost entirely on imported fuel and experienced some of the longest queues during the height of the crisis, began its transition well before the disruption. In 2024, the government banned imports of gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles to fast-track the shift to electric mobility and reduce hard currency spent on fuel. Since then, Chinese EV brands have entered the East African country of 130 million people. Among them is Guangzhou Automobile Group (GAC), which debuted four new EV models in the Ethiopian market in March 2026. Zhou Li, GAC's country manager for Ethiopia, said the government's push for green mobility and growing demand for environmentally friendly vehicles prompted the launch.

Alemu Sime, Ethiopia's minister of transport and logistics, commended



Visitors learn about a BYD vehicle during the Solar and Storage Live Africa 2026 in Johannesburg, South Africa, March 25, 2026. | Photo: (Xinhua/Chen Wei)

the company for providing spare parts and after-sales services through trained local technicians. More than 140,000 EVs -- private cars, mini-buses and public buses -- are now on Ethiopian roads, according to the Ministry of Transport and Logistics. Having met its initial import target ahead of schedule, the government aims to put up to 500,000 EVs on the road under its 10-year development plan through 2030. Kenya has taken an incentive-based approach. After sharp fuel price hikes disrupted public transport nationwide, President William Ruto announced in May that the government is in the process of procuring 3,000 EVs through the Ministry of Interior for use by security and administration officials. "I am also making a declaration that the first 100,000 electric vehicles to be imported into Kenya, whether for public service or private use, will be duty-free," he said. The market was already gaining momentum: registered EVs in Kenya jumped from fewer than 1,400 in 2022 to more than 39,000 in 2025, according to Kenyan officials.

In South Africa, consumers are driving the transition. Data from

the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa showed 1,293 EVs were sold between March and May this year, surpassing the previous full-year record of 1,257 units set in 2024. Challenges remain. Charging networks are sparse outside major cities, and high upfront costs limit affordability. Nevertheless, industry observers said Chinese automakers, with their advantages in battery technology and an expanding range of affordable models, are well-positioned to help lower those barriers over time.

Wider electric wave

Beyond passenger cars, Ethiopia, a country abundant in hydropower, is pushing green transport across the board. Delivery companies are turning to electric bikes for fast and affordable services, while electric heavy-duty trucks have been deployed at construction sites for the first time.

Lodric Trading PLC, one of the fast-growing e-bike businesses in Ethiopia, has been assembling and distributing China-made Yadea-brand e-bikes over the past year.

After opening its first Yadea shop in Addis Ababa in March 2025, the company added five more outlets in major cities, including Mekelle and Hawassa, offering models with a range of 60 to 150 km. "We are glad to see a 30 percent increase in the sales of our e-bikes during the second half-year compared to the first half-year of operation," said Biruk Abiot, chief executive officer of Yadea Ethiopia, adding that public awareness of e-bikes and their advantages over motorbikes continues to grow. About 50 km southeast of the Yadea shop, electric heavy-duty dump trucks imported from China are operating around the clock at the construction site of the Bishoftu International Airport, which is set to become Africa's largest upon completion. Each truck can travel 220 km on a full charge, supported by 19 charging poles installed at the site, said Yan Shaofa, chief engineer of the airport project from China Communications Construction Company, the first to deploy electric heavy-duty trucks in Ethiopia. "By comparison, the electric dump truck's work efficiency is 1.45 times that of the diesel dump truck, while the opera-

tional cost is only one eighth of that of the diesel dump truck," Yan said.

Made in Africa

In the first half of 2026, China exported 5.096 million vehicles, up 65.3 percent year-on-year, with new energy vehicles contributing over 46 percent of the total. Rather than simply shipping cars, many Chinese automakers are building manufacturing and research facilities on the continent.

The latest example is Chery, which inaugurated its manufacturing plant in Rosslyn, north of South Africa's administrative capital Pretoria, on July 3. The facility will begin production in mid-2027 following an upgrade, with an initial output of 15,000 vehicles planned for the second half of that year. Its production line will be able to accommodate gasoline, hybrid and pure electric models. The Rosslyn plant was a historic factory that embodies the legacy of South Africa's automotive industry. Chery has pledged to retain all 692 existing employees at the plant and expects the investment to create nearly 3,000 jobs across the supply chain. Once production starts, the products will not only supply the local market in South Africa, but also be exported to countries in East and West Africa. "We have moved from being an importer to a manufacturer, and from a market participant to a long-term partner in South Africa's industrial story," Chery Chairperson Yin Tongyue said at the ceremony.

South African Deputy President Paul Mashatile said "Chery's investment will pave the way for technology transfer, automation, digitalization and advanced manufacturing systems," noting that these developments will strengthen South Africa's industrial capacity. Some 4,000 km to the northeast, Ethiopia is pursuing a similar ambition, positioning itself as a hub for automotive manufacturing and assembly in Africa, supported by its abundant energy resources, young and trainable workforce, and strategic access to the African Continental Free Trade Area. GAC said it plans to partner with local firms to sell EVs, build charging infrastructure and launch local assembly operations in the country. Back in Addis Ababa, Demissie no longer checks daily fuel prices or waits in queues. "My decision to switch to electric mobility was the right one, and I believe the future of transportation in Ethiopia will be dominated by EVs."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rising food prices keep squeezing Kenyan households

By Mercy Kanini

The cost of living keeps biting. Across markets from Mombasa's Kongowea to towns further inland, families are cutting corners just to put food on the table, as prices for vegetables, cereals and cooking oil stay stubbornly high, eating into wages that have not kept pace. Traders report that shoppers are buying smaller quantities and settling for cheaper substitutes, a clear sign of how deeply the squeeze has set in. What was once a full basket of groceries now stretches thinner by the week, leaving many households stretched to breaking point. Economists blame a familiar mix of culprits: rising transport costs, erratic weather disrupting harvests, and persistent inflationary pressure. They argue that boosting local food production and fixing supply-chain bottlenecks could ease prices in the months ahead, but only



with deliberate, coordinated action from policymakers. Analysts note that Mombasa's supply chains remain especially vulnerable to further price shocks. Consumer groups are not waiting quietly. They are pressing both national and county governments to support farmers, widen market access and roll out concrete measures to soften the cost of living for ordinary Kenyans, warning that inaction

will only deepen the hardship. For now, households are left doing the math, trimming budgets and hoping relief arrives before the next shopping trip. Until prices ease, Kenya's kitchen tables remain where the country's economic pressures are felt most keenly.

Ruto rules out declaring cancer a national disaster

By Alex Muthui

President William Ruto has slammed the door on calls to declare cancer a national disaster, arguing the label offers little beyond symbolism when the real fight demands infrastructure, funding and screening. Responding to concerns raised by activist Biez Kaviru, Ruto said his government has instead built a comprehensive policy, legal and institutional framework to strengthen prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of the disease nationwide. The President pointed to expanding cancer care access, upgraded treatment facilities and stronger early-screening programmes as proof the government is tackling the burden head-on, rather than through a symbolic declaration. Health stakeholders welcomed the continued investment but



pushed back on the President's framing, insisting a disaster declaration would unlock urgent funding and awareness that piecemeal measures cannot match. They are demanding increased funding, more affordable treatment and wider access to specialised services to move the needle on patient outcomes. The standoff captures a familiar tension in Kenyan health policy: a government pointing to frameworks and funding

lines, and a public pointing to lived experience — long queues, unaffordable bills, and diagnoses that come too late. The government reaffirmed its commitment to cutting cancer deaths and improving healthcare quality for all Kenyans. Whether that commitment translates into relief for families already exhausted by treatment costs remains the real test — one no policy paper can settle on its own.



Youth call for issue-based politics as 2027 election preparations gather pace

By Winnie Jolly

As political activity intensifies ahead of Kenya's 2027 General Election, young Kenyans have a blunt message for the country's leaders: stop the personal rivalries and start talking about the issues that actually affect people's lives. Interviews with youth across the country point to a shared frustration over unemployment, the high cost of living, and gaps in access to quality education and healthcare. Many say these are the challenges that deserve the spotlight, not political point-scoring. Rather than divisive rhetoric, they want leaders to use the run-up to the election to lay out real policies and development plans. Issue-based campaigns, they argue, would help voters make informed choices and draw more people into the democratic process.



Political analysts back the sentiment, noting that young people make up a significant share of Kenya's electorate. Parties hoping to win their confidence, analysts say, will need practical solutions, not slogans. Civil society groups are reinforcing the message, urging both leaders and citizens to uphold respect, tolerance and national unity as political competition builds. Observers say the coming months offer leaders a real opportunity to show accountability through public

dialogue, concrete policy proposals and direct engagement with citizens. The hope among many Kenyans is that the road to 2027 becomes less about tribal arithmetic and personality contests, and more about improving livelihoods and strengthening democratic institutions. As political momentum builds, the message from the country's youth is consistent and unambiguous: let the campaigns be about ideas, solutions and service delivery — not who shouts loudest.

Ruto signs law tightening CBK oversight

By Lucky Frank

President William Ruto has signed the Central Bank of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2026 into law, tightening the rules that govern how Kenya's monetary authority is run and how it responds when banks get into trouble. The most consequential change hands Parliament new teeth. Deputy Governor nominees must now be vetted and approved by the National Assembly before taking office, aligning their appointment with that of the Governor and ending what was largely an executive-controlled process. The law also gives the CBK a clear legal basis for Emergency Liquidity Assistance, allowing it to support financially distressed but viable banks facing temporary cash shortages. Support will be discretionary and time-bound,



available only to institutions that are solvent, systemically important, and not already headed for liquidation, with repayment periods running up to 12 months and extendable further under strict conditions. Beyond crisis response, the reforms elevate financial system stability and sound banking regulation to secondary objectives of the Central Bank, while price stability remains its core mandate. The law further recognises the CBK's authority to deal in gold and other precious metals as part of its reserve management strategy,

and updates outdated references to the defunct Deposit Protection Fund Board, replacing them with the Kenya Deposit Insurance Corporation. Together, the changes mark one of the most significant overhauls of the Central Bank of Kenya Act since it was first enacted in 1966 — trading executive discretion for parliamentary accountability, and improvisation for a rulebook, at a moment when Kenya's banking sector can least afford to be caught without one.

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Sports >> *New Chelsea manager Xabi Alonso was unveiled at Stamford Bridge on Monday and said he wants to keep Enzo Fernandez at the club.

Alonso wants to keep Fernandez at Chelsea

By: BBC

New Chelsea manager Xabi Alonso was unveiled at Stamford Bridge on Monday and said he wants to keep Enzo Fernandez at the club.

The 25-year-old Argentina midfielder, who is preparing to face England in the World Cup semi-finals, is open to leaving and was recently linked with Real Madrid.

However, the Spanish club denied pursuing a move for Fernandez last week, leaving him with no known alternative destination and a sizeable £120m asking price.

Alonso replied "yes" when asked whether he wanted to keep Fernandez, adding: "We have spoken. But, as you can understand, what we said will remain private."

It was part of his first wide-ranging news conference since taking charge of Chelsea following his departure from Real Madrid in January. He also said striker Nicolas Jackson will return to the squad for at least the club's pre-season tour of Australia and Asia after Bayern Munich decided against making his loan move permanent.

"Nico Jackson is joining the tour in Asia and we are looking forward to him working with us," said Alonso.

In addition, winger Alejandro Garnacho has not returned to training under Alonso, who began his role last Thursday.

Alonso said there is an agreement for Garnacho to stay away from the first-team squad while he seeks a move, with Italian club Roma among those interested.

When Alonso was appointed, Chelsea were still in contention to qualify for Europe but fell short with a final-day defeat by Sunderland.

Midfielder Andrey Santos joined Manchester United an hour before the media conference, and Alonso was asked whether a lack of European



Enzo Fernandez is on international duty with Argentina at the World Cup. Photo/COURTESY

football meant the squad needed trimming.

"[It changed] the small details for sure but the main focus about how we want to start the competition in August, it doesn't change much," Alonso said.

"We are aligned with the sporting directors on what we want to reach. The team is good and where we want to reinforce in terms of positions is clear. There are some weeks to go but we are working in a very aligned way – and this is the right way."

'Privilege and honour'

Alonso entered the Drake Suite, which celebrates Chelsea's league title-winning managers, and said it was a "privilege and honour" to lead a club with such a successful history.

He has been training a large squad, including Cole Palmer, Joao Pedro and Levi Colwill, at Cobham, with only eight Chelsea players away at the World Cup.

The 44-year-old explained his reasons for joining Chelsea after Enzo Maresca left in January, and his successor Liam Rosenior was sacked after less than four months in charge.

"The excitement is the club, the squad and the opportunity, through this ownership, to be at this great club, create a bond with the supporters, win games and be successful," he said.

"I want to enjoy it, be part of this group and work together with the sporting directors, the players and the staff here.

"We need to make important decisions – the right decisions – but I think the foundations have already been built.

"We need to keep building a mentality to be competitive on the pitch, win games and enjoy doing it."

Chelsea typically target Champions League qualification as a minimum requirement each season and, when asked whether he needed to secure European football, Alonso said: "For sure, that's a goal. But to reach that goal you have to do many things right.

"I will be part of that process. How we play, how we see ourselves and how we approach each game is my job, and that is why I am looking forward to having the whole squad available.

"We have only just started and these have been happy early days so far, but for sure we want to be there [in Europe].

"Time will tell, but we are ambitious, and at Chelsea you need to share that energy and hunger to succeed."

Alonso passes first grilling but more to come – analysis

Having seen Alonso as a player and known him from his Liv-

erpool days, you expect him to come across well.

He spoke confidently, appeared friendly and gave the impression there is still a lot left unsaid.

The Spaniard was asked difficult questions about the futures of Fernandez, Garnacho and Jackson, but provided clear answers. He offered full clarity on the situations involving the latter two and, while he could not reveal how his conversation with Fernandez went, he made it clear he wanted him to stay at Chelsea.

It is also worth mentioning that Alonso is still finding his feet back in England. He has spoken about being excited to live in London, but he has been away from the country since his Liverpool days. Since then, he has spent more than a decade in San Sebastian, Germany and Madrid, only arriving on Wednesday with little time on the training pitch.

That is why it feels as though there is more to come from Alonso before we fully understand his vision, which players he favours and whether he can stabilise what has been a helter-skelter ride for Chelsea under Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital.

It is impossible to say how it will unfold, but the likeable Alonso passed his first grilling without any hiccups.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *

Dutch referee dies weeks after being dropped from World Cup



Rob Dieperink began refereeing in the Netherlands' top flight in 2017. Photo/GETTY IMAGES

By: BBC

Dutch football referee Rob Dieperink has died weeks after he was dropped from officiating at the World Cup following a police investigation in the UK. Dieperink had been selected to be a video assistant referee (VAR) official at this summer's tournament, but was removed from Fifa's list of World Cup officials in May. The 38-year-old was arrested by the Metropolitan Police in April following a report of a sexual assault against a teenage boy, but the case was dropped because of a lack of evidence. The Netherlands' football association, the KNVB, said they

were "shocked and deeply saddened" by Dieperink's death. His cause of death has not been disclosed. "With Rob, we lose a highly valued referee, but above all a kind and dedicated colleague," the KNVB said in a statement. "Our thoughts go out to his family, friends, and everyone who held him dear. We wish them much strength and support in processing this great loss." Dieperink had refereed in the Eredivisie since 2017 and was a VAR official at Euro 2024. After he was dropped from the World Cup, Dieperink said he had been "wrongly accused" in an interview with Dutch newspaper De Telegraaf, external.

"It saddens me greatly that I have been wrongly accused," he said. "From the beginning, I have fully cooperated in the police investigation and also immediately gave full openness to Fifa, Uefa and the KNVB. "I am grateful for the support I have received from the KNVB and the way in which they have dealt with this case. It is a pity that Fifa has decided not to appoint me for the World Cup any more, of course I am disappointed about that." Dieperink was the VAR for Crystal Palace's 3-0 Europa Conference League quarter-final first-leg win over Fiorentina on 9 April.

A Metropolitan Police statement said: "On Thursday, 9 April, officers responded to a report of a sexual assault against a teenage boy, which occurred at an address on Wellesley Road, Croydon. "A man in his 30s was subsequently arrested on suspicion of sexual assault. "Officers completed a thorough investigation and reviewed all available evidence, including gathering CCTV and examining digital devices. "Following these enquiries, they concluded that the evidential threshold had not been met. No further action will be taken."

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN

Backpage



When two crowns share one throne



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
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Worth Noting:

- The era of women's emancipation introduced a fundamental shift. More than a political or social movement, it became a domestic recalibration. For the first time in many homes, a second voice was invited to the table, not as an echo, but as an equal participant. Women entered education systems, built businesses, earned incomes, and brought ideas, ambitions and perspectives into the home that extended beyond domestic duties.
- They began to ask questions, challenge assumptions, and articulate their own goals. This was not an act of rebellion. It was the recognition that a helper, as described in traditional terms, is not a subordinate. A helper is strength positioned alongside strength.

Marriage in previous generations was often portrayed in rigid, monochrome terms. The man occupied the centre of the home. He was cast as the sole provider, the final decision-maker and the public face of the family. His name appeared on documents, his word settled disputes, and his role defined the household's direction. The woman, meanwhile, was expected to stand beside him in quiet support. Her value was measured by endurance and service, and by her willingness to recede into the background so that his responsibilities and visibility could take precedence.

That arrangement was widely referred to as "order." Yet order without balance often became a burden. When one person carries the full weight of leadership, provision and authority, the structure grows fragile. Over time, that weight proves unsustainable, not only for the individual but for the relationship itself.

The era of women's emancipation introduced a fundamental shift. More than a political or social movement, it became a domestic recalibration. For the first time in many homes, a second voice was invited to the table, not as an echo, but as an equal participant. Women entered education systems, built businesses, earned incomes, and brought ideas, ambitions and perspectives into the home that extended beyond domestic duties. They began to ask questions, challenge assumptions, and articulate their own goals. This was not an act of rebellion. It was the recognition that a helper, as described in traditional terms, is not a subordinate. A helper is strength positioned alongside strength.

At the same time, men were confronted with a new expectation. For generations, masculinity was equated with carrying every burden alone. The emancipated home now asks men to become partners rather than sole proprietors of responsibility. This includes listening, sharing decisions, expressing vulnerability, and allowing leadership to rotate depending on context and competence. That transition has not been seamless. Many marriages today are experiencing tension, not because women have gained freedom or because men have become less

capable, but because couples are attempting to operate a new model of partnership using the assumptions of an old framework.

To navigate this change well, marriage must be redefined around collaboration rather than hierarchy.

First, it calls for two leaders with one shared vision. In the past, one spouse held the map. Today, both spouses must draw it together. The question is no longer who is "the head," but where the family is going and how both partners will contribute to getting there. Leadership becomes situational, with each person carrying the compass in the areas where they are strongest.

Second, power must be understood as something to be shared, not seized. Women's emancipation was never intended to masculinise women or diminish men. Its purpose was to correct an imbalance that left households divided. When a woman brings insight from her work in business, education or community, and a man brings experience from provision, protection and long-term planning, the result is not two competing halves. It is one complete and more capable unit.

Third, respect can no longer be assumed on the basis of gender. Previously, respect was often automatic for the man by virtue of his position. In contemporary marriages, respect is earned through character: faithfulness, kindness, consistency and presence. The same applies to women, who are valued not merely for domestic roles but for their capacity as builders, decision-makers and visionaries. This form of respect is more demanding, but it is also more authentic.

Fourth, the home must be treated as a covenant rather than a contract. A contractual mindset asks, "What am I getting out of this?" A covenant mindset asks, "What are we building together?" Modern marriage is not a 50/50 transaction. There are seasons when one spouse carries 90 percent of the load while the other carries 10 percent, and those roles reverse in time. It is this absence of scorekeeping that distinguishes a family from a business arrangement.

Finally, children are the ones who benefit most from this shift. They are no longer raised watching a dy-



namic of ruler and subject. Instead, they witness teamwork. Boys learn that strength can coexist with gentleness and collaboration. Girls learn that ambition and leadership are not in conflict with family life. This, perhaps, is the most enduring legacy of emancipation when it is applied with wisdom.

The previous model of marriage appeared simpler because it relied on a single voice and a single direction. But simplicity achieved through the silence of one partner is not peace. It is absence. The current model is more complex. It demands difficult conversations, mutual accountability, and the humility to defer. It requires a man secure enough to ask, "What do you think?" and a woman secure enough to say, "I trust your leadership."

Despite the complexity, this new

model offers a deeper beauty. When "we" is spoken in a marriage, it now refers to two whole individuals: two minds, two callings, and two sets of hands working toward the same purpose. Marriage was never meant to be a throne occupied by one person. It was meant to be a table where both are seated.

The task ahead is not to mourn the passing of the old pattern, but to master the new one. This is not a contest over roles or authority. It is an invitation to set pride aside so that love, respect and shared purpose can lead. When hands work together and hearts give freely, a house ceases to be merely a structure. It becomes a sanctuary.