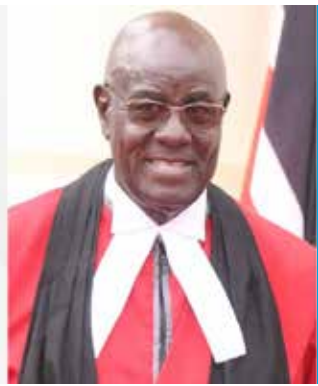




A gun in the wrong hands
A Court of Appeal judge has been drawn into a police investigation after his licensed firearm was recovered from a suspected armed robber killed in a shootout with detectives in Joska, Machakos County. Page 8



Ruto: Government Building 33 stadia
The Government is building 33 stadia across the country, including the Talanta Sports City, to unlock the huge economic opportunities in the sports sector and nurture the talents of young people, President William Ruto has said. Page 12

THANK YOU FOR ADVERTISING WITH US
For any news you would wish us to publish, email us: news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke
For Adverts & Sponsorship
email us: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

Thursday, July 16, 2026

No. 01592 KSh 60 (TSh 1,700 : USh 2,700 : RFr 900)



themtkenyatimes

Voice of the People



www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

The Mt. Kenya Times

Daily ePAPER

By-election Ruto and Gachagua face their sharpest test yet

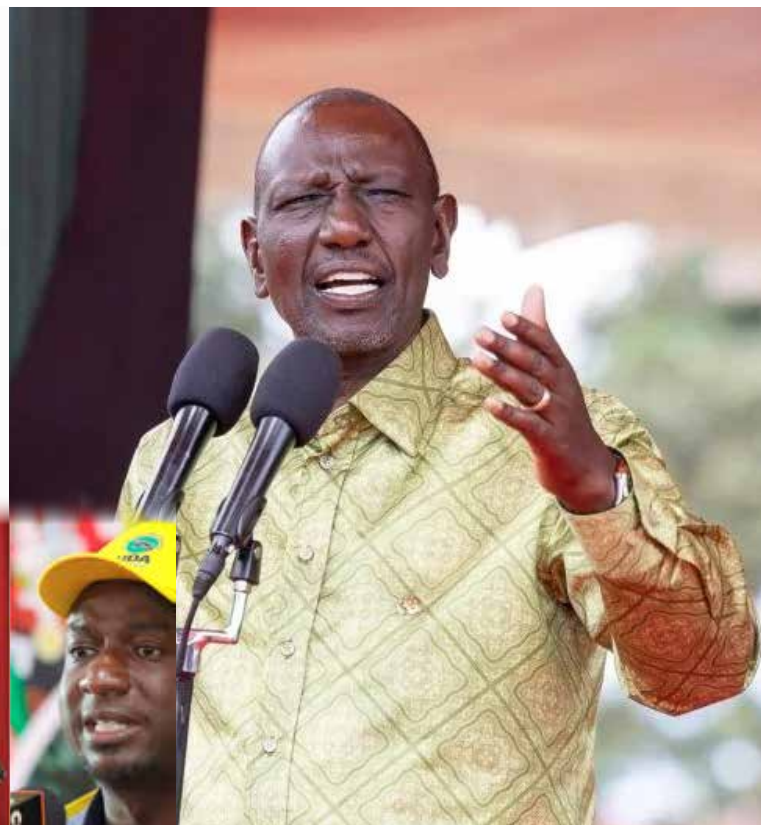
D-Day in Ol Kalou

Voters in Ol Kalou Constituency go to the polls today, in a parliamentary by-election that has evolved from a routine contest to replace a deceased MP into the most closely watched political showdown of the year between President William Ruto's United Democratic Alliance and the Democracy for the Citizens Party led by his former deputy, Rigathi Gachagua.

The seat fell vacant after the death of David Kiaraho, who had represented Ol Kalou for three terms on a Jubilee Party ticket, on March 29. What should have been a straightforward mini-poll has instead become, in the words of political observers and the candidates themselves, an early referendum on where the Mount Kenya vote will land in 2027.

Nine candidates were cleared by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, but the race has narrowed to a two-horse contest. The ruling party has fielded Samuel Muchina Nyagah, who secured the UDA ticket after garnering 3,221 votes against runner-up George Wambugu Kanuri in party nominations. The DCP has backed Sammy Kamau Ngotho, who won his party's nomination with 12,957 votes and has campaigned on a platform of direct bursary disbursement to schools, promising residents relief from what he calls bureaucratic delays. Jubilee Party's Wilson Kigwa is also in the running, seeking to retain the seat the party held under Kiaraho.

Page 9



President William Ruto and his former Deputy, Rigathi Gachagua

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"



Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438
+254 706 237 040 / +254 724 613 401

business@exponentialinternational.com

SCAN TO REGISTER

"ALL BUSINESSES
ONE PLATFORM"

Mudavadi undertakes series of diplomatic and national engagements

BY WMW

@themkenyentimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi yesterday undertook a series of high-level engagements aimed at strengthening Kenya's diplomatic relations, promoting national cohesion and advancing the country's economic and development agenda.

Mudavadi bid farewell to European Union Ambassador to Kenya Henriette Geiger, who concludes her tour of duty on July 31, commending her role in deepening Kenya-EU relations.

He hailed the implementation of the Kenya-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), saying it is opening new opportunities for Kenyan exporters, manufacturers, farmers and investors.

He also noted that this year marks the Golden Jubilee of Kenya-EU relations.

On national cohesion, Mudavadi met National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) Chairman Bishop Dr. Kepha Ombia and commissioners, urging the commission to intensify community engagement and champion peace, dialogue and inclusion ahead of the 2027 General Election.



Contd page 8

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative. It is published by **Exponential International Limited**, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

Group Executive Chairman

M. Danson

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dan-mwangi-1b47446b/>

Our Contacts

P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262

Editorial Desk: editorial@mtkenyentimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mtkenyentimes.co.ke,

News Desk: news@mtkenyentimes.co.ke, **Web:** www.mtkenyentimes.co.ke

Facebook: Mt. Kenya Times, **Instagram:** Mt. Kenya Times, **Twitter:** @themkenyentimes

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mt-kenya-times-a07999115/>



NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"



"ALL BUSINESSES
ONE PLATFORM"



SCAN TO REGISTER

FREE
REGISTRATION



Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438



+254 706 237 040 / +254 721 274 369

+254 724 613 401 / +254 100 423 971

+254 724 613 401



business@exponentialinternational.com



www.businessavaibale.com

NEWS IN BRIEF



Nigerian fintech unicorn Moniepoint has appointed Rose Muturi as Chief Executive Officer for its Kenyan operations following its acquisition of a 78 per cent stake in Sumac Microfinance Bank in March. Muturi will oversee Moniepoint's expansion strategy in Kenya, while Sumac will retain its current management. She joins from Branch, where she led the digital lender's transition into a regulated digital bank after its acquisition of Century Microfinance Bank. Muturi has also held senior positions at Tala, HF Group, TransUnion, Chase and Standard Chartered. Moniepoint is expanding its Kenyan business by offering payments, banking, lending and business management services for small enterprises, while also recruiting staff and growing its presence in the East African fintech market.



Mombasa leaders have condemned the demolition of houses in Changamwe that left about 200 families homeless, saying the evictions were carried out despite a court order stopping the exercise. Governor Abdulswamad Sharif Nassir said the county government neither approved the project nor issued demolition permits, and announced it would join a court case seeking to halt the development until legal procedures are followed. Senator Mohamed Faki said he would seek a Senate debate on the matter, while reaffirming support for the Affordable Housing Programme if implemented lawfully. Leaders also raised concerns over inadequate water supply, lack of emergency infrastructure and limited local participation, calling for dialogue instead of forced evictions.



The National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) is seeking to strengthen collaboration with the Administration Police in the fight against alcohol and drug abuse. During a meeting with Senior Assistant Inspector General of Police and Commandant of the Security of Government Buildings and VIP Protection Unit, Lazarus Opicho, NACADA Chief Executive Officer Dr. Anthony Omerikwa discussed enhancing multi-agency enforcement against drug networks, protecting critical government infrastructure from drug-related crime, improving intelligence sharing and conducting joint operations. NACADA said the partnership aligns with the national directive to dismantle drug supply chains and strengthen efforts to protect communities and families from the effects of substance abuse.

Farmers in Sambirir and Kapsowar wards are set to benefit from increased coffee production following the launch of the second phase of coffee seedling distribution by Elgeyo Marakwet Woman Representative Caroline Ngelechei. The rollout completes the programme across all coffee-growing wards in the county, promoting agricultural diversification, climate resilience and improved household incomes through commercial coffee farming. Ngelechei said the initiative has established 72 coffee nurseries across Keiyo North, Keiyo South and Marakwet West constituencies to ensure a steady supply of certified seedlings. She called for additional investment in seed multiplication to meet rising demand, noting that coffee offers a reliable alternative to maize, whose yields have declined due to erratic rainfall. She urged farmers to adopt good agricultural practices to boost productivity and quality.



The Kakamega County Government has formulated a County Childcare Facilities Policy aimed at improving the quality, safety and accessibility of childcare services for children below four years. The draft policy was validated by county officials, development partners, childcare providers and other stakeholders before adoption. County Executive Committee Member for Sports, Youth, Gender and Social Services Jackline Masicha said the policy will guide the establishment, regulation and management of childcare centres while ensuring children access safe, inclusive and affordable care. It also seeks to strengthen caregivers' skills through training in child development, safeguarding, nutrition, first aid, disability inclusion and psychosocial support to improve early childhood care across the county.

The Africa Largest eCOMMERCE



[www. gotyou.co.ke](http://www.gotyou.co.ke)

**NOW
OPEN**

Call/Text/WhatsApp: +254 714 090 155

Opinion His real undoing wasn't ODM turning against him parties turn against people every other day

The man who waited too long: How Sifuna talked himself out of ODM

BY John Nalinya

@themkenyentimes

There was a time, not too long ago, when Edwin Sifuna could walk into any town in Kenya and the crowd would part like he was Moses at the Red Sea, minus the staff, plus a microphone.

He had that rare gift: the kind of national appeal that makes ordinary politicians green with envy and party bosses nervous in equal measure.

Honestly, there were moments when it felt like the man was one good rally away from being measured for State House curtains.

But politics, like a matatu on a Friday evening, waits for no one. And Sifuna, for all his charisma, seems to have missed his stage.

His real undoing wasn't ODM turning against him parties turn against people every other day in this country.

His undoing was hesitation. He neither fought hard enough to keep his grip on the party machinery, nor did he have the nerve to walk out the door on his own terms before the door was shown to him.

Contrast that with his political cousin-in-arms, Rigathi Gachagua, who read the writing on the wall early, packed his bags, and built his own house.

Sifuna, on the other hand, dithered and now the Registrar of Political Parties has made it official: he's out as ODM Secretary-General.

Whether he now runs to a



Senator Edwin Sifuna

higher court to contest it is, frankly, beside the point. Courts can restore titles; they cannot restore momentum.

Every month spent in legal back-and-forth is a month his supporters spend wondering whether to keep the flag flying or start folding it up.

And here's the harder truth: even if his allies are right that a new outfit is coming, timing has already eaten most of the advantage.

Gachagua built his party while the iron was hot. Sifuna is talking about building his after the iron has cooled, been rained on, and started rusting.

Launching a new party is one thing; touring all forty-seven counties to sell it before

2027 is an entirely different marathon and one has to ask, plainly, does he have the legs and the war chest for it?

Perhaps the most worrying shift, though, isn't legal or logistical it's geographical.

A man who once commanded a national stage has, in recent months, been spotted retreating into distinctly Bukusu political circles, trading national headlines for local funeral podiums, occasionally jostling for the microphone with the likes of Didmus Barasa. That is not a lateral move. That is a demotion dressed up as home-coming.

Kenya has enough Bungoma funeral orators; it only occasionally produces genuine national icons, and Sifu-

na was, for a stretch, one of them.

Still, as the old men at the village barazas like to say, it is not yet Christmas. The Kibichori Oracle never wrong, rarely sober insists all is not lost for Sifuna.

What happens next hinges entirely on how quickly he can repackage himself: sharp, calculating, and willing to make the bold move he avoided the first time round. Kenyan politics has forgiven bigger stumbles than this one. But it rarely forgives a second hesitation.

The writer is director of communications Bungoma county.

Mudavadi undertakes series of diplomatic and national engagements



Group Photo

Contd from page 2

He pledged support in mobilising development partners to strengthen the commission's programmes.

In another engagement, Mudavadi visited the residence of Qatar's Ambassador to Kenya, Mutair Al Enazi, where he signed the Book of Condolence following the death of former Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. He conveyed Kenya's condolences and reaffirmed the country's commitment to expanding co-operation with Qatar in trade, investment, energy, education, labour mobility and regional affairs. Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale accompanied him.

Mudavadi also met United States Chargé d'Affaires Susan Burns to review progress on the proposed Kenya-US Trade Agreement and discuss regional peace and security in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region. He said stronger Kenya-US ties would enhance trade, investment, job creation, innovation and

healthcare cooperation.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary further received the letters of appointment of the new UN-AIDS Country Director and Country Representative, Dr. Richard Amenya. During the meeting, he reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 and commended UN-AIDS for supporting strategic leadership, resource mobilisation, evidence-based policymaking and stronger health systems.

Mudavadi concluded the series of engagements by bidding farewell to Austrian Ambassador Dr. Christian Fellner, praising his role in strengthening bilateral relations, particularly the labour and migration cooperation agreement that has enabled skilled Kenyans, including healthcare professionals, to secure employment opportunities in Austria. He said Kenya remains committed to expanding cooperation with Austria in trade, investment, education, innovation, climate action and skills development to create

The MT. KENYA TIMES

Where Investors Get Returns

To advertise in Mt. Kenya Times read by discerning Kenyan professionals and the business community contact our exclusive UK & Europe Advertising and Marketing representatives.



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF
Phone: 0330 606 1438 (44 330 606 1438)
Email: media@adlinkinternational.com
www.adlinkinternational.com
Contact: Mr Shamlal Puri

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



The Mount Kenya Times

+254 724 439 949, +254 720 918 828, +254 721 103 040, +254 713 318 438

website: <https://mountkenyentimes.co.ke>

Insecurity Justice Aggrey Muchelule told police he learned his Beretta pistol was missing only after officers informed him it had been recovered

A gun in the wrong hands: judge's missing pistol resurfaces at scene of fatal Joska shootout

A Court of Appeal judge's licensed Beretta pistol turns up in the hands of a robbery suspect shot dead by police, reviving questions about how service and personal firearms are tracked once they leave official custody

BY Hadassah Karangu

@themkenyaintimes

A Court of Appeal judge has been drawn into a police investigation after his licensed firearm was recovered from a suspected armed robber killed in a shootout with detectives in Joska, Machakos County.

Justice Aggrey Muchelule told police he learned his Beretta pistol was missing only after officers informed him it had been recovered from the scene where a suspect, identified as Vincent Ochieng, was shot dead during a raid on Monday, July 13. The call prompted the judge to check his Kitisuru residence, where he believed the firearm was stored, and confirm it was gone.

In a statement recorded at Spring Valley Police Station, Muchelule said he rarely carried the pistol and had last physically confirmed it was in his possession in October 2025, when he intended to renew its firearm licence. He said he never completed the renewal, meaning the licence had since lapsed.

Detectives say the pistol had been used earlier in an armed robbery at Chaiwali restaurant along General Mathenge Road in Spring Valley, Westlands, on July 4. Two masked gunmen entered the restaurant, robbed diners of mobile phones and a laptop, fired shots into the air and fled on a motorcycle. The attack was captured on CCTV and circulated widely online.

Ochieng was traced to a rented house in Joska, where he opened fire on detectives through a kitchen window after they identified themselves and ordered him to open the door. Officers returned fire, fatally wounding him. A woman and a child present in the house were unharmed.

At the scene, detectives recovered the Beretta pistol along with a magazine loaded with rounds of 9mm ammunition, additional live rounds, spent cartridges and three mobile phones. The firearm has been forwarded to the National Police Service Forensic Laboratory for ballistic analysis to determine whether it was used in other crimes. Investiga-



Justice Aggrey Muchelule

tors say Ochieng is linked to a series of robberies across Nairobi, Kiambu and Machakos counties, and a manhunt is under way for his accomplices.



Justice Aggrey Muchelule told police he learned his Beretta pistol was missing only after officers informed him it had been recovered from the scene where a suspect, identified as Vincent Ochieng, was shot dead during a raid on Monday, July 13. The call prompted the judge to check his Kitisuru residence, where he believed the firearm was stored, and confirm it was gone.

The case has revived a familiar and uncomfortable question for many Kenyans: if a licensed firearm belonging to a serving judge can disappear unnoticed for months, how secure are the systems meant to track weapons once they leave official hands?

For ordinary citizens, the concern rarely stays confined to one case. It touches something broader — the assumption that firearms, whether issued to police officers or licensed to private individuals, are properly monitored, securely stored and accounted for. When a weapon surfaces months later at the scene of a violent crime, that assumption takes a visible knock.

The questions that follow are uncomfortable but necessary. How

long had the pistol actually been missing before the judge realised it? Did it change hands once, or several times, before reaching Ochieng? Was there a gap in how the weapon was stored that allowed it to go unnoticed for the better part of a year? Investigators will need to establish this chain before any firm conclusions can be drawn.

There is, however, another side worth acknowledging. The pistol's recovery — even under these circumstances — shows that police pursuit of the Westlands robbery suspects was active and ultimately effective. Every firearm taken out of criminal circulation is one fewer risk on the street, and the ballistic analysis now under way may help close out other unresolved cases linked to

the same network.

Still, the broader lesson is hard to avoid. Whether a firearm belongs to a police officer or a private, licensed holder, its security cannot depend solely on the owner's memory or diligence. Lapsed licences, unchecked storage and long gaps between physical verification all create room for weapons to move without anyone noticing until, as in this case, they turn up at a crime scene.

As the investigation into Justice Muchelule's account and the ballistic examination of the recovered pistol continue, Kenyans will be watching for two things: how the weapon actually left his custody, and what, if anything, changes in how licensed firearms are tracked and audited going forward.

By-election The scale of the political investment in a single constituency has been unusual even by Kenyan by-election standards

D-Day in Ol Kalou: Ruto and Gachagua face their sharpest test yet

More than 1,000 police officers, water cannons and a constituency's worth of political capital converge on Nyandarua as voters decide a by-election both camps have turned into a referendum on 2027

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyentimes

Voters in Ol Kalou Constituency go to the polls today, in a parliamentary by-election that has evolved from a routine contest to replace a deceased MP into the most closely watched political showdown of the year between President William Ruto's United Democratic Alliance and the Democracy for the Citizens Party led by his former deputy, Rigathi Gachagua.

The seat fell vacant after the death of David Kiaraho, who had represented Ol Kalou for three terms on a Jubilee Party ticket, on March 29. What should have been a straightforward mini-poll has instead become, in the words of political observers and the candidates themselves, an early referendum on where the Mount Kenya vote will land in 2027.

Nine candidates were cleared by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, but the race has narrowed to a two-horse contest. The ruling party has fielded Samuel Muchina Nyagah, who secured the UDA ticket after garnering 3,221 votes against runner-up George Wambugu Kanuri in party nominations. The DCP has backed Sammy Kamau Ngotho, who won his party's nomination with 12,957 votes and has campaigned on a platform of direct bursary disbursement to schools, promising residents relief from what he calls bureaucratic delays. Jubilee Party's Wilson Kigwa is also in the running, seeking to retain the seat the party held under Kiaraho.

The scale of the political investment in a single constituency has been unusual even by Kenyan by-election standards. Nyandarua Senator John Methu, DCP's acting secretary-general, has led campaign messaging framing the vote as a referendum on the cost of living and the direction of governance under the current administration. On the government side, the campaign has drawn in a succession of Cabinet Secretaries, among them Rebecca Miano, Davis Chirchir, William Kabogo and Alice Wahome, alongside governors Susan Kihika, Anne Waiguru and Cecily Mbarire, and former Cabinet Secre-



DCP Sammy Kamau Ngotho and UDA Samuel Muchina Nyagah

tary Moses Kuria, who has been the most vocal government-aligned figure in the race.

Kuria has framed the by-election in explicitly national terms. "We are not just any other party, we are the ruling party," he told supporters at UDA headquarters after Muchina's nomination, arguing the party would be judged on its development record rather than rhetoric. When Gachagua alleged that the government had funnelled over KSh1 billion into bribes and roughly KSh10 billion into projects in the constituency, Kuria did not deny the spending but disputed the framing, insisting the true value of national government investment in Ol Kalou and wider Nyandarua County exceeded KSh10 billion in legitimate development, not inducement.

Gachagua, for his part, has accused the state of deploying its full machinery against his candidate. In a July 9 statement, he claimed the administration had spent heavily on both cash handouts and infrastructure projects timed to influence the

vote, and alleged a plan to have the IEBC postpone or cancel the poll should internal government assessments point to defeat for Muchina. IEBC chairperson Erastus Ethekeon had earlier warned the commission could be forced to postpone the by-election if documented breaches of the electoral code, including voter bribery and illegal night campaigning, continued unchecked.

Security preparations have matched the scale of the political stakes. Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja announced the deployment of more than 1,000 officers, backed by four platoons each of the General Service Unit and the Anti-Stock Theft Unit, four water cannons and Directorate of Criminal Investigations personnel tasked with probing electoral offences. "We have over 1,000 police officers deployed to ensure that the by-election is adequately covered," Kanja said, confirming that all 114 polling stations would each have a minimum of two officers and a standby response team of no fewer than fourteen. He also issued

a direct warning to young people against allowing themselves to be mobilised to disrupt voting.

Gachagua has questioned that same deployment. In a four-page letter to Kanja dated July 15, he described the security presence as unprecedented, put the figure at 2,000 officers rather than 1,000, and demanded that all personnel be uniformed, display service numbers and use marked vehicles, alleging that command of the police service had shifted toward government-aligned politicians. The National Police Service had not responded to the letter's contents by the time of publication.

The IEBC has confirmed logistics are complete for the constituency's 73,480 registered voters, who will cast ballots at 144 polling stations across the five wards of Rurii, Kanjuiri Ridge, Karau, Kaimbaga and Mirangine, using either a national identity card or a valid passport.

What the result means will extend far beyond Ol Kalou. A UDA win would allow the government to claim its development-first cam-

paign, anchored by big-ticket promises such as the long-delayed Ol Kalou Stadium and the proposed revival of the Nairobi-Nyahururu railway line, still resonates in a region that gave Ruto 87 percent of its vote in 2022. A decisive DCP victory would hand Gachagua tangible proof that his break with the president has not cost him Mount Kenya's loyalty, strengthening his hand heading into 2027 whether he leads the opposition ticket himself or brokers it. A narrow result on either side would settle little and likely intensify the contest for the region ahead of the general election.

For the people of Ol Kalou, caught between record police deployment, a flood of government project launches and dueling allegations of vote-buying, today's ballot is a chance to have the final word on a campaign that, for fifty days, has rarely been about them at all.

Coffee The sale realised USD 4.27 million (about KSh552 million) at the prevailing exchange rate of approximately KSh129.2 to the US dollar

Coffee auction earns farmers KSh552 million

BY MKT Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

Coffee farmers are set to earn about KSh552 million after buyers purchased nearly all the coffee offered during this week's sale at the Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE), reflecting sustained strong demand for Kenyan coffee.

During the auction held on Tuesday, buyers purchased 561,896 kilogrammes of clean coffee, with only two bulk lots presented by United Eastern failing to attract bids.

The sale realised USD 4.27 million (about KSh552 million) at the prevailing exchange rate of approximately KSh129.2 to the US dollar.

The average auction price stood at USD380 per 50-kilo-

gramme bag of clean coffee. Based on the standard conversion ratio of 6.5 kilogrammes of coffee cherry to one kilogramme of clean coffee, the returns translate to an estimated KSh151 per kilogramme of cherry at the farm gate before deductions.

Premium quality coffees continued to command the highest prices.

AA-grade coffee from Gititu Factory, marketed by Alliance Berries and certified under Rainforest Alliance and CAFÉ Practices, recorded the highest price of the day at USD439 per 50-kilogramme bag, with C. Dormans purchasing the lot.

Another Alliance Berries lot from Iyego Factory Cooperative Society, certified under

Fairtrade and CAFÉ Practices, fetched USD436, while Gakuyu Factory Cooperative Society sold at USD435, with both lots bought by Taylor Winch.

Kiganjo Factory achieved USD432, purchased by C. Dormans, while coffee from Muhugu and Kimathi factories each sold for USD430.

Meru County's best-performing lot, Gikurwa-Gikui AA, realised USD426 per bag after being purchased by Delafarm Trading.

Overall, the AA grade averaged USD416 per bag, while AB grade averaged USD403, underlining continued demand for high-quality Kenyan coffee.

Among marketing agents, Alliance Berries Limited han-



Coffee

dled the largest volume, selling 235,204 kilogrammes valued at USD1.8 million, with an average price of USD383 per bag.

However, Meru County Coffee Marketing Agency posted the highest average selling price among the major brokers, disposing of 187,921 kilogrammes worth USD1.49 million at an average of USD396 per 50-kilogramme bag.

KCCE Marketing Agency sold 44,490 kilogrammes valued at USD335,113 at an average price of USD377, while Kinya Coffee Marketing Agency marketed 46,444 kilogrammes worth USD319,889 at an average of USD344.

United Eastern sold 35,152 kilogrammes for USD243,004, while Ahadi Coffee Marketing Agency marketed 12,685 kilogrammes valued at USD81,585.

On the buying side, Ibero Kenya emerged as the largest buyer, purchasing 211,057 kilogrammes, representing 38 per cent of all coffee sold.

The company spent USD1.66 million, accounting for nearly 39 per cent of the day's total value.

C. Dormans followed after purchasing 134,943 kilogrammes valued at USD1.07 million, while Louis Dreyfus Company bought 94,963 kilogrammes worth USD685,777.

Taylor Winch acquired 71,395 kilogrammes valued at USD552,847, while Mumbi Coffee Merchants purchased 15,971 kilogrammes worth USD109,743.

The five buyers collectively

accounted for 94 per cent of the coffee traded and 95.5 per cent of the total value realised during the auction, with the top four alone purchasing about nine out of every ten bags sold.

The latest auction continues the strong performance witnessed in recent coffee sales, reflecting sustained international demand for Kenyan specialty coffee and providing encouraging returns for growers as reforms in the sector continue to take effect.



Where Moments Become Memories

Use Promo Code **TOURISM26**

Sales valid until 15th March 2026
Travel valid until 30th June 2026

ENJOY
6% OFF
DOMESTIC ROUTES

Book on: www.kenya-airways.com,
or via KQ Mobile App

www.kenya-airways.com

The Pride of Africa

Politics Rahim Dawood pushes back at critics accused of frustrating projects for political gain, as Kinoru residents raise concerns over land for proposed sub-county headquarters

Imenti North MP defends development record, urges support for Kinoru projects



Imenti North MP Rahim Dawood Listens to Residents at Kinoru during a public participation forum | Photo: Brian Gitonga

BY Brian Gitonga

@themkenyaintimes

Imenti North Member of Parliament Rahim Dawood has hit back at political rivals he accuses of frustrating development projects in the constituency for political gain, insisting he remains committed to serving the area for another five years despite the criticism.

Speaking during a public participation forum at Kinoru Stadium on the proposed construction of sub-county headquarters on a section of land belonging to Kinoru Primary School, Dawood said the project is intended to improve residents' access to government services. He alleged that some rivals wanted funds earmarked for the Kinoru project redirected elsewhere, and urged residents to resist leaders seeking to deny the area government investment for political reasons.

"I will still be here to serve for another five years. Those opposing me want the funds

allocated to Kinoru moved to Thura, but I believe the money should remain here to benefit the people," Dawood said.

He also said parents at Kinoru Primary School had been misled about the project and pledged to convene a further meeting to explain the government's plans and address their concerns. The proposed offices, he said, would be built vertically to make efficient use of the available land, in line with modern public infrastructure design.

Dawood added that a wider public participation exercise covering the entire Municipality Ward would be held on Friday to gather further resident input, with school boards, head teachers, principals and local administrators tasked with consolidating proposals for submission to relevant authorities. He cautioned, however, that not every suggestion could be adopted. Citing calls to convert Kinoru Day School into a boarding institution, he said the national government was

moving away from boarding schools in favour of strengthening day schools, noting that a similar dormitory proposal he had raised previously was rejected on the same policy grounds.

The MP warned that rejecting the proposed administrative offices and police post could see the KSh5 million allocated for the project transferred to another area.

Kinoru Primary School Board of Management chairperson Captain Paul Rukaria said the school was not opposed to development but questioned the suitability of the proposed site. He explained that after excluding land occupied by Kenya Power and the Meru Water and Sewerage Services, the school retains only 10 acres, shared among the ECDE centre, the primary school, the junior secondary school and the day secondary school, with learners across all four institutions already sharing a single playground.

"The land is already inade-



Municipality Ward MCA Caleb Kibuko Addresses Residents during the public participation exercise.

| Photo: Brian Gitonga

quate, and in future we will need more classrooms as the school expands. We are not opposed to development, but we propose that another site be identified for the administrative offices and police post," Rukaria said.

Municipality MCA Caleb Kibuko urged residents not to re-

ject development projects that would improve service delivery, while challenging the community to confront land grabbing, which he said continues to threaten public institutions in the municipality.

"We should ask ourselves how much public land has already been lost to land grab-

bers, especially within the municipality. Let us protect public land while supporting development that benefits our people," Kibuko said.



Residents follow the public participation at Kinoru | Photo: Brian Gitonga

Development President Ruto pointed out that, by scaling up investments in the sports sector, the Government is transforming it into an industry that creates jobs, wealth and global influence

Ruto: Government Building 33 stadia

BY PCS

@themkenyatiimes

The Government is building 33 stadia across the country, including the Talanta Sports City, to unlock the huge economic opportunities in the sports sector and nurture the talents of young people, President William Ruto has said.

The President said the stadia are being built in all parts of Kenya to ensure that every young person has a chance to develop their talent.

He explained that the stadia do not only have sports facilities, but also commercial spaces, with meeting rooms, studios, restaurants, and gyms, that will also support the creative economy.

President Ruto pointed out that, by scaling up investments in the sports sector, the Government is transforming it into an industry that creates jobs, wealth and global influence.

“We have great sports potential that is currently untapped because there are no spaces for young people to develop their talents,” he said.

He added: “These are the spaces we are providing, and they are not restricted to the cities alone. We will have a stadium in every part of the country.”

Speaking at State House Nairobi yesterday, when he hosted AFC Sports Club, the President said there is no better investment than the future of the young people of the nation.

The President’s meeting with AFC Sports Club comes a day after he hosted and flagged off Harambee Starlets and Junior Starlets on Tuesday and Migori Youth FC on Monday following their victory in the National Super League.

Present at the meeting with players and officials of the AFC Sports Club were Cabinet Secretaries Salim Mvurya (Sports) and Wycliffe Oparanya (Cooperatives and MSMEs), Sports Principal Secretary Elijah Mwangi, and

AFC Secretary-General Isaac Mulindi.

The President explained that the Government is strengthening the talent pipeline through schools, counties and the Kenya Academy of Sports.

He pointed out that great sporting nations do not simply build facilities “but they build people as well”.

“Talent exists in every village and our responsibility is to ensure opportunities reach every village,” he said.

He announced that the Government is reviewing the Sports Act to modernise governance, strengthen commercialisation and improve athletes’ welfare.

The goal, he noted, is to ensure that clubs of various sports are professionally managed, financially stable, commercially ambitious and globally competitive.

The President urged AFC and other football clubs in the country to run the institutions professionally, saying it will help them secure more supporters and sponsors.

“Supporters and sponsors will appreciate if clubs are run professionally,” he said.

President Ruto gave the team KSh5 million to help sign new players and another KSh5 million to empower players.

He assured the AFC Club that the Government will ensure sponsorship rises from the current KSh75 million to KSh100 million.

President Ruto explained that the future of the nation depends on what is done to empower young people so that they are able to take advantage of the opportunities Kenya offers.

“We have a huge youth population in our country. It is up to us to decide whether this huge population becomes an asset or a liability,” he said.

At the same time, the President called on Kenyans to register as voters so that they have a voice in determining how the country is run.

On his part, Mr Mvurya said the President has been deliberate in supporting the sports

sector, citing the development of infrastructure.

He said these facilities will be useful in nurturing and developing talent, adding that sports is now a source of livelihoods for the youth.

“Ours is to provide what is needed in infrastructure development as we work with teams on other areas such as training,” he said.

Mr Oparanya assured the team of Government support in addressing their challenges.

He pointed to the team’s request to develop the playground at the Kenya School for the Deaf in Karen so they can use it for training.

Mr Oparanya also highlighted the team’s request for the National Transport and Safety Authority to license their transport SACCO and operationalise it.

Mr Mulindi noted that the President has demonstrated commitment to supporting sports.

He said the AFC has 120 branches across the country that run empowerment programmes and foster talent.

AFC Captain Kacey Odhiambo thanked the President for supporting the team and



President William Ruto at State House yesterday.

assured him of victory this football season.

Speaking on behalf of the AFC professionals Mr Wafula Wabuge commended the President for the ongoing construction of the Rironi-Mau Summit road, which he noted would ease transport to Western Kenya, the team’s operations base.

“When we travel for Christmas, we are on the road for three days. We end up celebrating Christmas in Gilgil. This time round, we are confident we will celebrate Christmas at home,” he said.



Group photo with AFC Leopards Sports Club

Wildlife The calf, a hermaphrodite named Bahati, was diagnosed with atresia ani, a rare congenital condition in which an animal is born without an anal opening, preventing the normal passage of feces

Groundbreaking surgery as Kenyan veterinarians save rare White Rhino calf

BY Joseph Ng'ang'a
@themkenyaintimes

A five-day-old white rhinoceroses' calf has been given a new lease of life after a team of Kenyan wildlife veterinarians successfully performed what is believed to be the first recorded corrective surgery for atresia ani in a white rhinoceros.

The calf, a hermaphrodite named Bahati, was diagnosed with atresia ani, a rare congenital condition in which an animal is born without an anal opening, preventing the normal passage of feces. Without immediate surgical intervention, the condition is invariably fatal.

The diagnosis was made at Ol Pejeta Conservancy, prompting the rapid mobilization of a five-member veterinary team drawn from the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS),

Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy (MKWC), Ol Pejeta Conservancy (OPC), and Northern Kenya Veterinary Services (NKVS).

A statement to newsrooms indicates that the team comprised Dr. Mukami Ruoro Oundo and Dr. Mathew Mutinda Ndunda of KWS, Dr. Robert Aruho of MKWC, Dr. Joseph Mbutia of OPC, and Dr. Benjamin Oundo of NKVS.

The complex two-hour operation was carried out at Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy under full immobilization and epidural anesthesia. Using advanced veterinary techniques, the surgeons created a functional anal opening, restoring Bahati's ability to pass feces naturally.

The procedure was successful. After recovering from anesthesia, Bahati passed stool for the first time, a critical milestone that signaled the

success of the operation and significantly improved the calf's chances of survival.

Veterinarians involved in the procedure believe it is the first documented successful corrective surgery for atresia ani in a white rhinoceros, marking a significant milestone in wildlife veterinary medicine.

The achievement also highlights the importance of collaboration among Kenya's conservation institutions. Wildlife veterinarians, rangers, researchers, and conservationists routinely work together to protect endangered species, often carrying out complex interventions that are rarely seen by the public.

Kenya is home to some of the world's most iconic and threatened wildlife, and veterinary care plays a vital role in ensuring the survival of vulnerable populations. Bahati's successful surgery underscores how



The team that carried the exercise.

coordinated conservation efforts, scientific expertise, and rapid emergency response can make the difference between life and death for endangered animals.

As Bahati continues to recover, conservationists hope the young rhino will one day contribute to the long-term survival of the species, serving as a symbol of both medical innovation and Kenya's enduring commitment to wildlife conservation.



Oh, I searched for you, searched a thousand times



If only I could find Your footprint just once.
Oh, I sought You, sought a hundred times,
A lover who only wished to find Your beauty.
If only I could see Your beauty just once,
If only all my questions were answered, one by one.
If only there were no judgment or critique,
And I could live only singing of Your memory.
I missed, I worshiped Your beautiful face,
Just to catch a glimpse, I ran crying out.
I have done so much, chasing my own desires,
Yet I neglected to remember and cherish You.

By: Kholova Yulduz

The journey of life



Each chapter of my life
is filled with twists, turns, and detours.
Through every experience,
I learn, I grow, and I become stronger.

From time to time,
I pause to reflect on my journey

and remember the difficulties and struggles
I have overcome to become
the person I am today.

Whatever I face on my journey,
I choose to make the best of it.
Whoever comes into my life,
I do not let distractions hold me back.

I remain focused on my path
and continue moving toward my goal.

This is my journey.
I will live it well.

V. JAYANTHI
Graduate teacher
Creative Writer
Chengalpattu district

Homeland....



I would not have lived anywhere else but you,"
and he expressed his unwillingness to leave his
homeland (Imam Tirmidhi, hadith 3926). The
Companions of the Prophet (peace be upon them)
also lived in the land where they were born and
raised after migrating to Medina, and some of
them even found it difficult to adapt there and
became ill. So they prayed to the Prophet (peace
be upon him) to make Medina as beloved to them
as Mecca.

In addition to loving and praising the homeland
in peaceful times, it is also an important duty of
a person to protect it when various calamities
threaten the country. This is stated in the
hadith: "Ibn Umar (may Allah be pleased with
him) narrated: 'I heard the Messenger of Allah
(blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) say:
'On the Day of Resurrection, a flag will be raised
for every traitor for his betrayal in this world.'"
(Imam Bukhari, Hadith 3188).

Loving one's homeland is a divine feeling, and
Allah Almighty has bestowed upon His servants
the feeling of loving their homeland. Sheikh
Muhammad Ghazali (may Allah have mercy
on him) described the homeland as follows:
"Humanity loves its land and all that it contains,
even if it is a desert where no one lives. "The
homeland is the place where love is ingrained in
the heart, where a person feels calm when he is
there, yearns when he is far away, protects when
he is attacked, and becomes angry when he is
humiliated." People with a pure nature and healthy
nature always live with a sense of patriotism,
only unhappy people are deprived of this feeling.

The homeland is a place of great value and
sacredness that is in the heart of every person.
The homeland is a peaceful land with a touch of
the sun, a place to live under the sky, the history
and culture of our generations. The homeland
is our mother, father, friends and relatives. The
homeland is our life and future.
Bobonazarova Yulduz, 2nd year student of
Urgench State Pedagogical Institute

Homeland is one of the highest blessings that a
person has. Homeland is the place where we were
born and where we find refuge throughout our
lives. The land that unites us, our ancestors and
descendants, where our history is sealed and
where our future is built is also the homeland.

A person must work for the well-being of his
homeland, regardless of what happens in it.
Various problems and unrest cannot be a reason
to betray the homeland or abandon it, but
everyone who wants his country to be peaceful,
safe and developed must contribute to the
prosperity of the homeland. In our sacred religion,
a Muslim who sacrifices his life for his homeland
will have the status of a martyr. Sa'id ibn Zayd
(may Allah be pleased with him) narrated from
the Prophet (peace and blessings of
Allah be upon him) that: "He who is killed in the
way of protecting his wealth, life, religion, and
family is a martyr." Our Prophet Muhammad
(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is the
best example for us in terms of loving, serving,
and protecting his homeland. When he (peace and
blessings of Allah be upon him) left his homeland,
Mecca, to migrate to Medina, by the command
of Allah Almighty, in order to be safe from the
persecution of the polytheists, he said: "How
good a city you are! How beloved you are to me!
If your people had not driven me away from you,

Life is a beautiful journey



It is a precious gift from God.
A child is born from the mother's womb.
This is the first journey—from the womb to the
earth.

It brings happiness to the parents.
However, no one truly knows where this journey
will lead.
This is the first step in the child's journey

through life.

The period between birth and death is everyone's
life journey.
Every person's life begins in childhood, continues
through adulthood, and finally reaches old age.

Every moment and every person teaches us
valuable lessons.
Everything happens for a reason.
Every situation has two sides.
Life has both joy and sorrow.

The journey of life is not easy, but everything is
possible if you have confidence in yourself. So, live
your life, enjoy every moment, trust in God, and
believe in yourself.
Confidence will help you overcome every challenge.

__G.YasminSirajudheen
Secondary grade teacher
Melmalyanur block
Villupuram dt

Life is a long journey



Between birth and death.

Sometimes smooth.
Sometimes rough.
Full of ups and downs.
It's easy to say ,
"Travel with a smile."

But harder to learn how to handle
the sudden pains,
the sudden disappointments.
It takes time to heal.
But it's fine.

Sometimes our plans

don't go as planned.
Because our plans
and God's plans
are different.
Our destination
cannot be determined.

So travel with hope.
Like a train.
Keep moving forward.
Don't look back with regrets.

In the end,
life gives you
what you deserve.

J.H.Aasiya
11th std ,
Government girls higher secondary School,
Nellikuppam
CUDDALORE district.

Health The multilateral donor, in a statement today, says that up to 45 per cent of dementia cases could be prevented or delayed by addressing modifiable risk factors

WHO says up to 45 percent of dementia cases could be prevented

BY Wangari Ndirangu
@themkenyaintimes

The World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday released updated global guidelines on reducing the risk of cognitive decline and dementia.

Dementia is currently the seventh leading cause of death and one of the major causes of disability and dependency among older people globally; it affects memory, thinking and the ability to perform daily activities.

The multilateral donor, in a statement today, says that up to 45 per cent of dementia cases could be prevented or delayed by addressing modifiable risk factors.

The new guidelines provide evidence-based recommen-

dations for countries to integrate dementia prevention into health systems through healthier lifestyles, improved management of non-communicable diseases and reduced exposure to environmental risks.

According to the WHO, more than 57 million people are living with dementia globally, with nearly 10 million new cases diagnosed each year. Alzheimer’s disease accounts for an estimated 60 to 70 per cent of all dementia cases.

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the latest evidence provides countries with practical measures to protect cognitive health across the life course.

“We know more today than ever before about what drives dementia risk, and these guidelines translate

that knowledge into action. Countries now have clear, evidence-based recommendations they can put into practice immediately to protect people’s cognitive health,” he said.

The guidelines identify tobacco use, harmful alcohol consumption, physical inactivity, social isolation, air pollution, high blood pressure and diabetes among the key modifiable risk factors associated with dementia.

WHO recommends regular physical activity, healthy diets, quitting tobacco, reducing alcohol consumption, staying socially engaged and participating in cognitive training and stimulation activities.

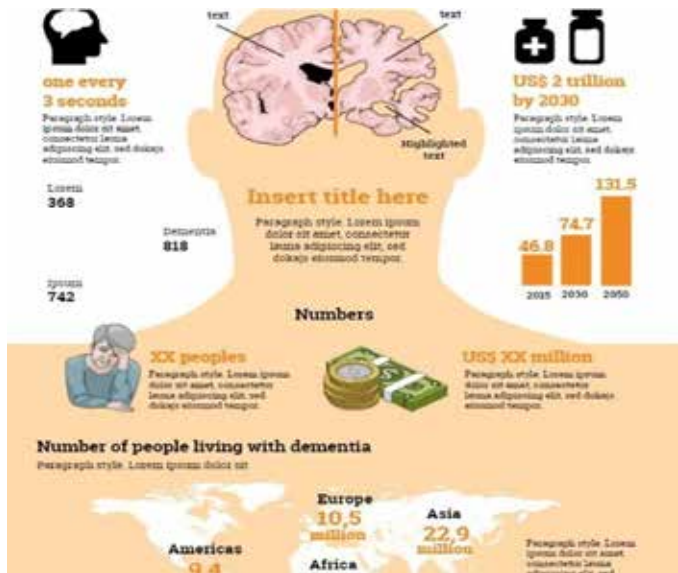
The guidelines also call for better management of hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol, while recommending measures to reduce

exposure to air pollution. Hearing aids may also be offered as part of dementia risk-reduction strategies.

However, the WHO advises against the routine use of vitamin B and E supplements, omega-3 fatty acids and multivitamins to prevent dementia in people without diagnosed deficiencies, citing insufficient evidence that the supplements provide benefits that outweigh potential risks.

The agency noted that the updated recommendations build on its 2019 dementia risk reduction guidelines and reflect growing scientific evidence linking healthy lifestyles and effective management of chronic diseases to improved brain health.

WHO estimates that dementia costs the global economy about US\$1.3 trillion annually, with nearly half of the bur-



den borne by unpaid family members and carers.

The organisation said wider adoption of the recommendations could help reduce the future burden of dementia while enabling people to live longer, healthier and more independent lives.

In Kenya, dementia is a growing, silent health crisis, with an estimated 258,000 older adults living with the condition. Care is heavily challenged by widespread stigma, misconceptions, and a lack of trained specialists, causing many patients to be diagnosed only in advanced stages.

There is no national policy on dementia in Kenya yet. However, the Ministry of Health, responsible for dementia detection and management, is actively working towards developing a National Dementia Plan for Kenya in collaboration with the World Health Organization, Alzheimer’s Dementia Organization Kenya (ADOK) and Africa Mental Health Research and Training Foundation (AMHRTF).

Tel. 0722890813 / 0720 012577

GRANFI LTD

Molds for poles, culverts, etc



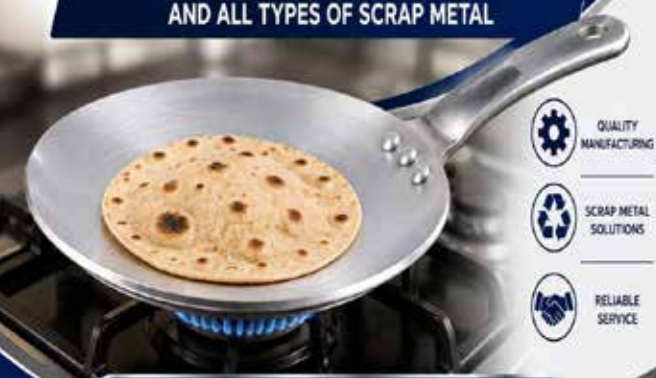
We make molds for construction works. You name it we make it

LE

LIKINE

— ENTERPRISES —

DEALERS IN MANUFACTURING ALUMINUM PANS AND ALL TYPES OF SCRAP METAL



QUALITY MANUFACTURING

SCRAP METAL SOLUTIONS

RELIABLE SERVICE

CONTACT 0721673632

GRANFI LTD

BOREHOLE SERVICES

Wondering where to start when it comes to boreholes? Talk to us today.

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

OUR SERVICES:

- Borehole cleaning
- Drilling new boreholes
- Repair of boreholes
- Pump installation and repairs
- Solarization of boreholes

REACH US TODAY:

+254 722 890 813

granfild@gmail.com



Goonism Regardless of political affiliation, such incidents undermine public confidence in democracy and erode respect for the rule of law.

Political goonism is becoming a national security threat

BY Dennis Wendo

@themkenyaintimes

Political goonism is becoming a national security threat. The resurgence of organised criminal gangs requires far more than periodic police crackdowns.

By: Dennis Wendo

Across different parts of the country, organised groups of violent youths have once again surfaced during demonstrations, political gatherings and public events. Whether acting independently or under the influence of powerful interests, their growing visibility presents a disturbing trend that should concern every Kenyan.

Recent events have demonstrated just how quickly organised violence can undermine democratic processes and public safety. The violence witnessed during the Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election campaigns, where campaign activities were disrupted, allegations of hired gangs emerged, property was destroyed and innocent citizens found themselves caught in the chaos, should serve as a stark reminder of the consequences of allowing political competition to descend into lawlessness.

Regardless of political affiliation, such incidents undermine public confidence in democracy and erode respect for the rule of law.

This is no longer merely a policing challenge. It is steadily evolving into a national security concern with far reaching implications for public safety, constitutional order, economic stability and democratic governance.

From politically instigated violence witnessed during the election periods of the 1990s, through the devastating 2007–2008 post-election crisis, to more recent attacks accompanying demonstrations, political rallies and by-election campaigns, the country has repeatedly paid a heavy price



Political goonism

whenever violence has been allowed to infiltrate democratic competition.

What often begins as isolated acts of intimidation gradually develops into organised criminal networks capable of disrupting businesses, attacking innocent citizens, intimidating political opponents and weakening confidence in state institutions.

The danger today lies not simply in the existence of these groups, but in their increasing organisation, coordination and apparent sense of impunity.

As we gradually enter the political season ahead of the 2027 General Election, all stakeholders must resist the temptation to weaponise unemployed young people for short-term political gain. Such arrangements may appear expedient during campaigns, but history consistently demonstrates that criminal networks rarely disappear once elections are over. Rather, they evolve, diversify into organised crime and eventually threaten the very individuals and institutions that once tolerated or sponsored them.

A nation cannot build democracy on intimidation. Political competition must be won through ideas, policies and the ballot, not through fear, violence or hired militias. The greatest tragedy is that the primary victims of organised political violence are often the very young people recruited to participate in it. Many are driven by unemployment,

economic hardship, hopelessness, peer influence and substance abuse. They become disposable instruments in political contests, only to be abandoned when the campaigns end, leaving them exposed to arrest, injury, life-long criminal records or even death.

As a nation we owe our youths something better. They deserve quality education, meaningful employment, entrepreneurial opportunities, mentorship and a genuine stake in the country's future, not exploitation as foot soldiers in conflicts that serve other people's ambitions.

Equally worrying is the gradual normalisation of organised violence. When citizens begin expecting criminal gangs to accompany political meetings or public demonstrations, society slowly accepts lawlessness as an ordinary feature of politics. In doing so, public confidence in the rule of law diminishes while the authority of legitimate security institutions is steadily eroded.

The solution cannot rely exclusively on arrests and police operations. Effective law enforcement remains indispensable, but sustainable peace demands a broader national strategy.

Government must strengthen intelligence gathering, early warning systems and preventive security measures. Political leaders across the divide must publicly reject the financing, mobilisation or protection of violent groups.

Independent institutions must investigate and prosecute not only those who carry out acts of violence but also those who organise, finance or incite them.

At the same time, greater national investment is needed in youth employment, vocational training, entrepreneurship, sports, mental health services and community-based peace-building initiatives. Every young person diverted from organised crime represents not merely a personal success story but a significant investment in Kenya's long-term peace and security.

Civil society, faith-based organisations, the private sector, educational institutions, community leaders and the media all have an equally important role to play. Through civic education, responsible leadership, peace messaging and active community engagement, they can help cultivate a political culture founded on dialogue rather than confrontation.

This is not a challenge that government alone can re-

solve.

Kenya has overcome profound national challenges before because its people chose dialogue over division, unity over hatred and nationhood over narrow political interests. That same spirit is needed now more than ever.

The period leading to the 2027 General Election should be defined by issue-based campaigns, peaceful engagement, respectful political competition and unwavering adherence to constitutional values—not fear, destruction and organised violence.

The resurgence of organised goons must therefore serve as a national wake-up call.

If ignored, these criminal networks risk evolving into even more sophisticated structures capable of undermining peace, discouraging investment, weakening democratic institutions and threatening national cohesion. If confronted decisively, lawfully and collectively, however, Kenya still has an opportunity to reverse this dangerous trajectory before the country

heads to the ballot in 2027.

Ultimately, the strength of our democracy will not be measured by the intensity of our political contests but by our ability to conduct them peacefully, fairly and without intimidation.

Every Kenyan deserves the freedom to campaign, vote, assemble and express their political beliefs without fear. Protecting those freedoms is not the responsibility of government alone. It is a shared national obligation that demands courage from political leaders, professionalism from our security agencies, vigilance from our institutions and active commitment from every citizen.

The decisions we make today will determine whether future generations inherit a nation governed by the rule of law or one held hostage by organised violence. Kenya still has a choice. We must choose peace. We must choose justice. Above all, we must choose the Republic over politics.

Dennis Wendo

Governance and Public Policy Analyst. Integrated Development Network (IDN–Kenya).

Web: www.idnkenya.org

Email: ids.kenya@gmail.com




DRINK . CLEAN . SANITIZE

GET STARTED WITH MAJISAFI IN 4 STEPS

- 1 Download the App from Google PlayStore
- 2 Sign up & verify your phone number
- 3 Go to services and click "Add account"
- 4 Link the account associated to your number

GET STARTED NOW!

Download Majisafi app today!

GET IT ON Google Play

0701 038 226



SCAN FOR MAJISAFI

DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

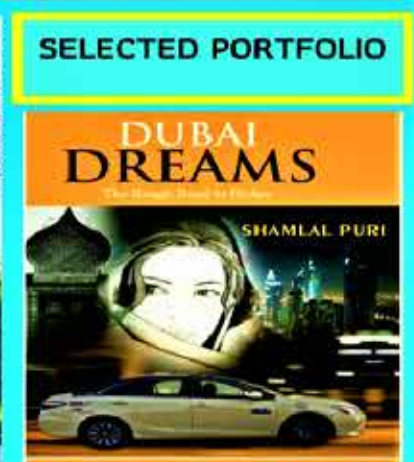
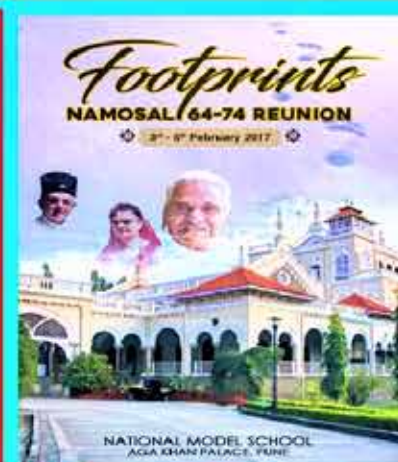
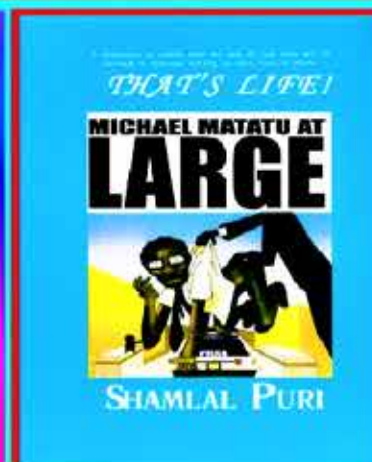
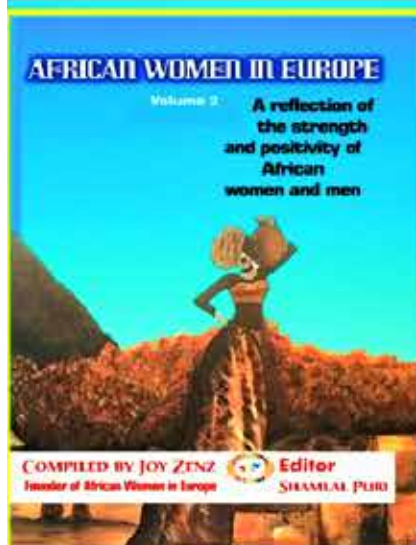
ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

Let Professional Editors and Authors turn your story into a Dream Book.

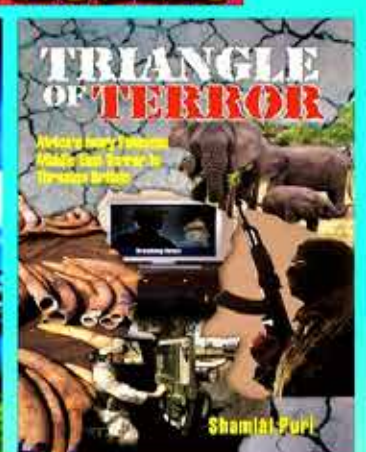
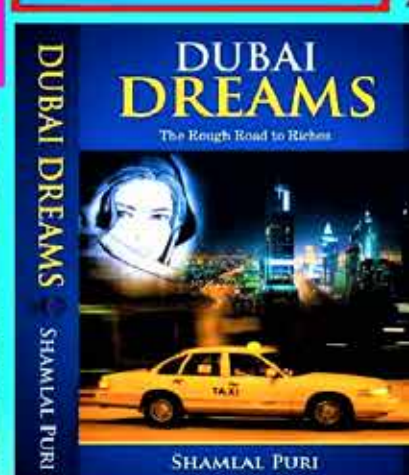
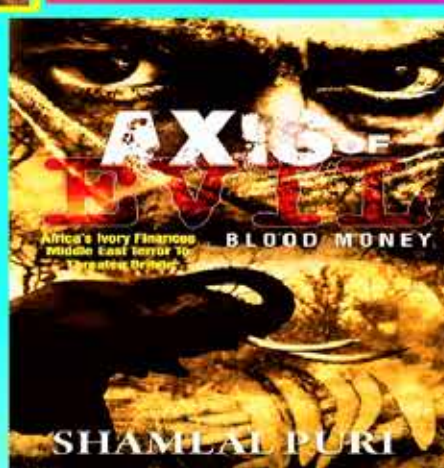
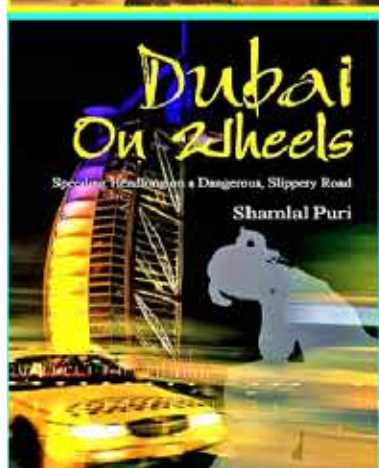
THRILLERS - FICTION - FACTION - BIOGRAPHIES - TRAVELOGUES - HUMOUR - COFFEE TABLE - BROCHURES

London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.

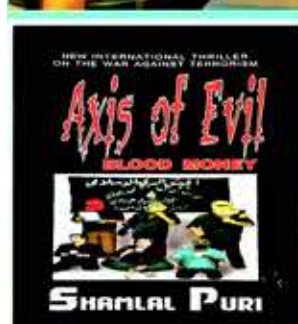
We offer one-stop top notch Editing, Expert Design, Proof Reading, Book Covers, Artwork, Digital, Litho Printing, E-Books, Corporate Brochures and UK ISBN number. Reasonable costs. We print and deliver books. Authors retain 100% sales profits.



SELECTED PORTFOLIO



BEST SELLER NOVELS



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP

Books Division

16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF (UK)

Tel: 44 330 606 1438

Email: media@adlinkinternational.com

www.adlinkinternational.com



Women On some occasions when Momanyi would be held by something and fail to report at his work, she would step in and ensure his customers were assisted by fixing their tyres

Flipping the rulebook: Women thriving in careers once reserved for men

BY Elizabeth Angira

@themkenyaintimes

At 32, Judith Moraa spends her days in a space most people dread even to view inside - the mortuary. As a licensed mortician, she prepares bodies for burial with quiet precision and deep respect. Her work blends anatomy, embalming, and grief counseling, skills she honed through years of training and apprenticeship.

In Kenya and Africa, where mortuary work has long been seen as a men's domain, Judith's presence and those of thousands of other women who have ventured into what for generation were considered "men's work", challenge the societal norms and expectations, which condemned women to remain in the background in careers like teaching, nursing or as house wives caring for children, cooking, farming and engaging in small retail businesses considered socially acceptable.

Moraa, however, did not choose the job for shock value. After watching her childhood dream career of nursing getting flooded with jobless graduates, a personal experience triggered her to venture into a profession she never imagined even in her wildest dreams.

"We went to a local mortuary pick the body of a relative who had passed on and I witnessed bodies being handled in an undignified manner. There and then I decided that this will be my career and my work would be the opposite—every person will leave any mortuary I will work for with their dignity intact," the single mother of one from Getai Village in Nyangoso, Bobasi Constituency in Kisii County, silently vowed.

She applied for and pursued a Diploma in Mortuary Science from Kisii University in 2018 and started working as a mortician in 2020, handling bodied of grieving families in a calm and dignified manner while paying attention to cultural rites.

A career just like any other

Yet, as expected, when she first started working as a mortician, some members of her family were skeptical and unsure about her choice of profession.

"Over time, most of them have changed their perception and have come to accept my career choice as any other career and greatly support-



Judith Moraa a mortician working in one of the hospital in Kisii County, she thrives into the career once reserved for men | Photo: Elizabeth Angira



Peris Kemunto Mageto runs butchery in Bosamoro ward Nyamira county selling beef to the customers, encourages women and young people not to fear venturing into professions traditionally reserved for men | Photo: Elizabeth Angira

ed me after seeing how passionate I was about my work," she explains.

Indeed, many of them have seen how it has been source of income, enabling her to purchase land and build her own home.

"I even drive my own car," she says proudly.

Walking the untrodden path

It is not just Moraa who decided to walk the untrodden path as a mortician. Tens of other women across towns and villages are breaking the invisible career barriers.

Her namesake but not related, Dorcas Moraa, 50 and a mother of four, has boldly ventured into the male-dominated profession of repairing punctured tyres for vehicles and boda bodas in Kisii town.

Her journey into the unusual trade began years ago in Olulunga, Narok County, where she operated a small hotel. A man, Paul Momanyi, operated a business of repairing tyres for motorists and boda boda riders outside her small hotel business. Curious and determined, Moraa devel-

oped a keen interest in learning the skill.

"I would stand there silently watching how he repaired the tyres. I told myself that one day I would try my hand it and become the best at fixing punctured tyres," she says.

Whenever business at her hotel was slow, she would assist Momanyi with tyre repairs.

"He would tell me that I was doing well, and that gave me confidence," she recalls.

On some occasions when Momanyi would be held by something and fail to report at his work, she would step in and ensure his customers were assisted by fixing their tyres.

One day, Momanyi handed her the tools and machine and asked her to repair a tyre on her own.

"At first, I was nervous, but I reminded myself that learning is a continuous process. Someone had given me an opportunity, and I had to make the best out of it," she says.

She successfully repaired the tyre, impressing both the boda boda owner and Momanyi.

"They told me my work was per-

fect, and that gave me the courage to continue," she says with a smile.

When Momanyi later relocated from the area, Moraa saw an opportunity. Since customers had already become familiar with her services, she purchased her own tools in 2006 and officially started the business.

According to her, the business quickly flourished because of the quality of her work and recommendations from satisfied customers.

"At first, many residents were shocked to see a woman repairing tyres because society viewed it as a man's job," she explains.

People, however, never looked down upon her despite being the only woman in the area doing the work.

Following the 2007/2008 post-election violence, Moraa relocated to Kisii town, where she continues with the business to date.

"I am the only woman in Kisii and Nyamira counties engaged in tyre repair work," she says with laughter. Many people still question her choice of a male-perceived job.

"This job pays well. I wanted to venture into a unique business that was not overcrowded. In many other businesses, competition is too high and profits are low," she says.

It has been a fulfilling career.

"This job has enabled me to pay school fees for my children and put food on the table. I am very proud of that," she says.

Meat butchery business is another area that has long been viewed as a man's trade. Of late, however, women such as Peris Kemunto Mageto, a mother of six from Bosamoro Ward in Nyamira County, are giving men a run for their money as they break free of stereotypes and redefine the operational boundaries of the trade.

What is encouraging about Kemunto is that she began her beef-selling business in 2006 after being inspired by her husband, Yuvinnalis Mageto.

"I learned the skills of running a butchery business from him," she says with a smile.

Hers was a case of stepping in when her husband was away attending to their farming activities.

"He would close the butchery whenever he was engaged elsewhere and we would lose our customers," she says, "Life was difficult and we struggled to make ends meet."

When she informed of her desire to step in for him, he was skeptical but she assured him she could

manage it and he gave in. She would prove it to him in no time.

"He soon realised that I would handle even the most difficult customers well and successfully sell meat," she says proudly, "he was impressed and became my cheer leader."

Despite the challenges, the business has transformed her family's life. Through the butchery, she has been able to feed her family, pay household bills, and educate her children.

"I am proud that our butchery has enabled us to move from a rental house to our own house we built on a one acre plot we purchased by our business proceeds," she says.

Always challenging

Moraa, whose career as a mortician looks bright, says many men fear approaching her because of her work.

"Many men are uncomfortable with my job and this has played a role in me being a single mother," she confesses.

She also notes that she has very few friends because whenever she talks about her work, many people stare at her with fear and suspicion.

"Still society expects women to do the 'right jobs,' making it difficult for people to accept women working in professions traditionally associated with men," she says.

She, however, urges members of the public to embrace and support women who have chosen any career, noting that, for instance, her being a mortician is just like being in any other profession and there is nothing to fear about her.

"Do not use my work define me," she says.

Her namesake, equally faces challenges of her own.

Despite her success, since Moraa operates in an open space, rainy seasons greatly affect her work.

"When it rains, I have to look for shelter, and that means losing customers and income. Customers also need a place to shelter from rain or scorching sun, but I do not have a shed," she explains.

She is appealing to the Kisii County Government to support the informal sector by putting sheds for them.

Like many entrepreneurs, Kemunto faces several challenges in her butchery business. One of the biggest difficulties is waking up very early to search for cows to slaughter. For, unlike in big towns where slaughterhouses supply meat to butcheries, in rural Kenya the butchery owner has to purchase animals and slaughter to get the meat to sell.

Women On some occasions when Momanyi would be held by something and fail to report at his work, she would step in and ensure his customers were assisted by fixing their tyres

Flipping the rulebook: Women thriving in careers once reserved for men

Contd from page 18

“I have to move around the market looking for someone willing to sell cows at a fair price,” she explains, “Sometimes it is very time-consuming, especially now that the prices of cows have gone up.”

Encouraging the youth not to choose jobs

Moraa encourages the youth to consider mortuary science in their career choices, noting that it offers many job opportunities.

“Mortuaries have long been run by people who were not well trained, explaining why many of them were unhygienic and their services were often not supportive to the bereaved family,” she says.

On her part, Moraa encourages women, especially the youth, to think outside the box and embrace any honest work, including sealing punctured tyres that can earn them a living.

“With the current economy, you cannot sit and wait to be fed by your parents or spouse,” she says.

She notes that even the married women should work to support their partners in reducing financial pressure in families.

“When one partner carries all the burden alone, it can even lead to mental health challenges,” she says.

She believes women should step out of their comfort zones, embrace unconventional jobs, and strive for financial independence.

Kemunto encourages women and young people not to fear venturing into professions traditionally reserved for men.

“In order to succeed, you must be willing to try and not allow fear to bring you down. With proper training and determination, anyone can succeed in the beef butchery business,” she says.

Through her dedication, expertise, and resilience, Kemunto has earned the respect of



Dorcas Moraa , repairing punctured tyres for vehicles and boda bodas in Kisii town | Photo: Elizabeth Angira

her customers and community while thriving in a profession traditionally dominated by men.

Expert opinion

According to studies on women’s work choices in Kenya, economic pressure, education, urbanization, and changing gender attitudes are among the key reasons pushing women into careers traditionally dominated by men.

Economist Dr Abel Mokoro says the rising cost of living has forced many families to rethink traditional gender roles.

“Today, a single source of income is no longer enough for many households. Women are entering every sector not because they want to compete with men, but because families must survive economically,” she says.

Mokoro explains that unemployment among the youth and the shrinking formal job market have also pushed women to venture into informal and unconventional jobs where opportunities still exist. “In the past, society taught women to wait for opportunities to come through men. Modern economic realities have changed that completely,” he adds.

According to Mokoro, in Kisii town, women repairing tyres and selling meat open-

ly challenge stereotypes that have existed for decades.

“What once attracted criticism is slowly attracting admiration. Customers now care more about quality service than gender,” he says.

Dennis Anyoka, an advocate of the High court of Kenya, believes constitutional protections and human rights awareness have empowered women to pursue careers freely.

“Our Constitution guarantees equality and freedom from discrimination. Women today understand their rights better than before. They no longer feel confined to roles assigned by culture,” he says.

Anyoka notes that exposure through education, social media, and advocacy by community-based organizations (CBOs) has encouraged women to challenge outdated beliefs.

According to Stella Achoki, the Director of Center for Community Empowerment (CECOME), several CBOs working on women empowerment across Kenya have also intensified campaigns encouraging women to pursue technical skills, entrepreneurship, and leadership opportunities.

Achoki says that, such programmes have helped women gain confidence to enter fields once feared or culturally restricted.

“This women transformation, however, is not happen-

ing without resistance,” she observes.

Within the Abagusii Community, traditional expectations have long defined what men and women should do. Men were historically associated with wealth creation and physically demanding roles while women were expected to nurture families and support domestic life.

Samwel Bosire, Abagusii Council of Elders Secretary General, says culture is slowly evolving with time.

“In our days, some jobs were seen as shameful for women. Times have, however, changed because life itself has changed. We cannot stop women from working where they can earn a living,” he says.

Still, he cautions that society should not completely abandon cultural values.

“We must find a balance. Culture gave families structure and respect. Even as women enter different careers, families should continue respecting one another and preserving unity,” Bosire says.

Bosire believes the trend is likely to continue as more women gain more education, get financial independence, and exposure to technology.

Afrobarometer findings show that most Kenyans now support gender equality in employment and property ownership, signaling chang-

ing public attitudes.

“Changing gender roles, especially among younger generations. Some celebrate women’s empowerment, while others fear traditional family structures are weakening,” says Bosire .

The UN Women says women constitute over 60 per cent of the 74 per cent of Kenyans living in rural areas, where poverty levels remain high. Prevalence of absolute poverty in rural Kenya remains at 49.1 per cent. Rural women are at a bigger disadvantage compared to their urban counterparts in terms of access to political, economic and social development opportunities

Ruth Mogaka, a Sociologist, argues that the shift could positively transform families and communities.

“When women earn stable incomes, households often experience improved education for children, better healthcare, and reduced poverty levels,” she says.

Mokoro says poverty among women shows that economic empowerment can reduce dependency and vulnerability among women.

He says empowering women economically should not be viewed as a threat to men.

“A working woman strengthens the household economy. This is not about replacing men. It is about partnership,” Mokoro explains.

Bosire warns that society must prepare for changing family dynamics.

“As women gain economic power, traditional ideas about male authority and female dependency may continue fading,” he says, “This may create tension in some homes where communities still strongly believe in rigid gender roles.”

Anyoka says open dialogue will be important.

“Families must learn to adapt. Respect in marriage should not depend on who earns more money or who performs certain jobs,” he says.

Achoki cites that, for many women now entering male-dominated professions,

the motivation is simple survival, dignity, and independence.

What was once considered impossible is now becoming visible on Kenyan streets every day: women confidently occupying spaces society once denied them.

Benefits

The World Bank says countries can only reach their full potential when everyone can contribute.

Its consultants, Tazeen Hasan, Sundas Liaqat and Kavell Joseph, observe that, globally, women’s labor force participation remains just over 50 per cent, compared to 80 per cent for men.

“Closing these employment disparities could raise average incomes of countries by nearly 20 per cent,” the trio say in an article titled Five ways evidence is unlocking women’s economic participation published on March 5, 2026.

The Bank’s economists, Precious Zikhali, Naomi Mathenge and Shubha Chakravarty, say Kenya has made strides in advancing gender equality, with a constitution that enshrines it and progressive policies in Vision 2030.

“But the reality tells a different story: Women still face barriers to equal economic participation,” they say in their blog titled Empowering Kenyan women key to unlocking inclusive growth, published on May 07, 2025.

They say gender disparities do not just hurt women, they hold Kenya back.

“Research shows that closing gaps in education and labor force participation could boost Kenya’s GDP by 10 per cent,” they say.

They observe that when women thrive, economies grow, poverty declines, and social outcomes in education and health improve for everyone.

“However, we know that economic empowerment is not just about jobs,” they say, “It is about financial independence, leadership, and breaking generations of societal expectations. It is about ensuring that our daughters (and sons) don’t just dream big, they achieve bigger.”

Ladies So now the question cuts deeper than politics ever could: with all that freedom sitting in her palms, why would a woman ever choose to submit?

She chose to kneel, not because she was weak

The radical freedom of an empowered woman who decides to submit



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
mukphix@gmail.com

There was a time when the word “submission” sounded like a prison sentence. We fought to break out of it. We forced open doors that had been nailed shut for generations, built companies with blistered hands, sat in boardrooms where we were the only woman at the table, and learned to carry both the invoice and the children’s homework in the same breath. Emancipation handed us the right to say no. Empowerment handed us the tools to say yes to ourselves.

So now the question cuts deeper than politics ever could: with all that freedom sitting in her palms, why would a woman ever choose to submit?

Because submission, properly understood, is not the opposite of power. It is power that has grown up. It is what happens when a woman who answers to no one decides, of her own will, to answer to someone anyway. Not out of fear. Out of love. Not out of lack. Out of abundance.

Emancipation means no law can own you. No culture can script your life without your consent. No one can force your hand. That is the victory an earlier generation of women bled for, and it is not one to be taken lightly or given back. But a right without a purpose has a way of curdling into restlessness. A woman who has built her own career, her own income, her own mind, eventually stops asking “Can I?” and starts asking a different, harder question: “Who will I build with?”

That is where submission enters, not as a surrender of self, but as an alignment of self. It does not whisper, “I have no voice.” It declares, “I trust you enough to let our voices sing in the same key.” A woman who could walk alone, and chooses instead to walk beside someone, is not giving her strength away. She is aiming it.

We were told we could carry every-



Kneeling illustration

thing, and for the most part, we did. Chief executive by sunrise, mother by midnight. Provider, protector, peacemaker, all housed in one body, all expected to run without maintenance. But armour that never comes off eventually cracks under its own weight. Power without partnership has a way of becoming lonely, no matter how impressive it looks from the outside.

In a healthy home, a healthy marriage, a healthy shared mission, submission is the place where a woman finally gets to breathe. It is where she says, “You take the front. I will take

the depth. I will cover you, correct you when you need correcting, and carry the parts of this life the world never sees.” That is not a loss of influence. It is a multiplication of it. Two people pulling in opposite directions burn each other out long before they reach anywhere worth going. Two people moving in one direction can move mountains neither could have shifted alone.

The world often mistakes submission for silence, but history tells a different story. The women who changed the course of nations were rarely the ones wearing the crown.

More often, they were in the room before the decree was written. They advised. They softened hard edges. They spoke truth when no one else in the room was willing to risk it. Their influence did not announce itself with a title, and that made it no less real.

An emancipated woman can walk into any room carrying education, experience and authority earned the hard way. Submission, in this sense, is her choosing to pour all of that into one shared legacy rather than into two competing kingdoms operating under a single roof. It is the differ-

ence between a duet and two soloists shouting over one another. Both may be gifted. Only one of them makes music worth listening to.

There is protection in this choice too. Women fought for the right to own property, to vote, to speak freely, to walk away from what no longer served them. What we do with those hard-won rights is now entirely up to us. A woman who chooses submission within a relationship she trusts is, in a real sense, protecting her own peace. She refuses to waste her power fighting the person meant to be her teammate. Instead, she invests that same energy into building something that will outlast any single argument: a home, a family, a name that means something.

Rebellion is easy. Walking away is often the easier road. Staying, bending without breaking, trusting when experience has given you every reason not to, that takes a woman who is deeply rooted in who she is. That kind of quiet strength rarely trends on any platform. But it is the kind that builds everything meant to last.

At the heart of all this is love, and love has always asked for a measure of surrender. Parents surrender sleep for their children without a second thought. Friends surrender time for one another. Leaders, the good ones, surrender ego for the sake of the people they serve. When a woman who could manage entirely on her own chooses instead to surrender her preference, her timeline, her need to always be right, she is not making herself smaller. She is becoming larger than the argument in front of her. She is demonstrating a strength that does not need to win every room to know its own worth, because she already knows it. That certainty is precisely what allows her to lay it down when it matters.

So let it be said plainly. Emancipation means you can. Empowerment means you do. Submission means you choose, deliberately, when not to, because something bigger than winning is at stake.

A submissive woman, understood this way, is not a small woman. She is very often the strongest person in the room, strong enough to lead herself, and wise enough to follow for the sake of love, legacy and peace. She is not less free for having made this choice. She is free enough to choose surrender on her own terms. And in that choice, she becomes whole.



Kenya braces for another flood season

By Jesse Mumo Kiema

Kenya is bracing for another punishing rainy season, and the government says it is ready. Whether that confidence is warranted remains an open question.

The Kenya Meteorological Department has forecast above-normal rainfall beginning in October, reviving memories of the 2024 floods that killed hundreds, displaced thousands and destroyed roads, bridges, schools and homes nationwide. The Mai Mahiu tragedy in Nakuru County, where flash floods swept through villages overnight, remains the starkest reminder of what unpreparedness costs in human lives.

Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Human Capital Development and Special Programmes Geoffrey Ruku has sought to reassure the public, saying the government has in-



tensified disaster preparedness through the National Disaster Operations Centre and other emergency response agencies, while also supporting communities still recovering from prolonged drought.

Those assurances will be tested against a poor record. In 2024, rivers burst their banks in Nairobi and other urban centres, exposing chronic weaknesses in drainage, urban planning and emergency response. Disaster management experts are now urging both national and county governments to act ahead of

the rains, not after them: clearing blocked drainage channels, strengthening early warning systems, mapping high-risk areas and pre-positioning emergency supplies.

Residents in flood-prone areas have been urged to heed weather advisories and cooperate with evacuation orders when issued.

Preparedness cannot be measured in press statements. It will be measured in drains cleared, warnings heeded and lives saved when the rains finally come.

Why small businesses need more than a listing

By James Kilonzo Bwire

Kenya's small businesses have never lacked ambition. What they lack is visibility, and BuyKenya's multi-platform model is a timely answer to that gap.

A directory gives an address. A marketplace processes transactions. A training portal builds skills. Alone, each is limited, a filing cabinet, a sterile exchange, a certificate with no job attached. Combined into one pathway, verified listings, transaction infrastructure, market intelligence and workforce certification, they could move enterprises from anonymity to real market participation.

That ambition is also the risk. Building four interlinked products at once demands rigorous execution: credible listings need verification and active buyer engagement, not just profiles; a marketplace needs



logistics and trust, not just checkout; intelligence must be timely and independent, not marketing dressed as data; training must lead to real jobs. History suggests successful platforms often start narrow and expand once product-market fit is proven. BuyKenya is betting that breadth itself builds momentum.

Sustainability will hinge on incentives. Listings only matter once buyers habitually use the platform, and monetisation must fund quality without excluding the informal enterprises it exists to serve. Partnerships with government and county bodies can lend

credibility, provided BuyKenya remains neutral infrastructure rather than a competitor to existing trade networks.

The platform must also guard against the digital divide, offering low-data design and offline onboarding, or risk serving only the already-connected.

Co-founder and chairman Daniel Juma Omondi brings relevant trade-promotion experience to this vision. But visibility is not a marketing problem; it is infrastructure. Executed with discipline, BuyKenya could meaningfully expand market access for Kenya's MSMEs.

Keeping our environment clean

Litter is quietly overwhelming our community, and it is time we said so plainly.

Plastic bottles, paper and assorted waste now line roads that should be clear, piling up wherever a dustbin is absent or ignored. Beyond the eyesore, this is a public health hazard: blocked drains, breeding grounds for disease, and a visible sign of a community not caring for itself.

The blame does not rest with residents alone. Local authorities have been slow to provide adequate waste bins, and organised clean-up activities remain too rare to make a lasting dent. Without accessible bins and a consistent collection system,

even the most conscientious resident is left with nowhere responsible to put their rubbish. That said, responsibility cuts both ways. Authorities must invest in more bins and regular clean-up drives, but residents must also stop treating the roadside as a dumping ground. Simple habits, disposing of



waste properly and recycling where possible, cost nothing and change everything.

A clean environment is not a favour we do the council; it is a basic standard we owe each other and the next generation who will inherit these streets. Litter is a choice, and so is picking up after ourselves.

The community that tolerates

dirt today will struggle to attract investment, protect its children's health, or take pride in its own streets tomorrow. Change starts with the next person who chooses the bin over the roadside.

Yours faithfully,
Cecil Makenaah Kenya Coast
National Polytechnic

Middle East on edge as Iran-US ceasefire unravels

By Alfred Mutua

The fragile truce holding the Middle East together has collapsed, and the region is once again bracing for war.

The interim ceasefire between the United States and Iran, agreed in June after five weeks of fighting, broke down on July 8 following fresh attacks from both sides. Since then, Tehran has struck back hard: missiles and drones targeted US embassies, military installations and oil infrastructure across the Gulf, including sites in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Oman and Jordan. Washington responded by reimposing its naval blockade on Iran on July 14, escalating a standoff that has already disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, the artery through which roughly a fifth of the world's oil passes.

Gulf governments have raised



their alert levels, intercepting incoming fire and reinforcing air defences, while global oil markets remain jittery over the prospect of prolonged disruption to supply.

The United Nations and several world leaders have renewed calls for restraint and a return to negotiations, warning that continued hostilities carry steep humanitarian and economic costs for a region already exhausted by war.

What happens next hinges

on whether Washington and Tehran can salvage diplomacy from the wreckage of a truce that lasted barely a month. Analysts caution that a failure to de-escalate could send energy prices spiralling and unsettle trade routes far beyond the Gulf.

For now, the guns have not fallen silent, and neither side appears ready to blink first.

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



Sports >> *A dominant Spanish defence and a stunning late Argentine comeback have set up a mouth-watering 2026 World Cup final in New Jersey on Sunday

World Cup final set: Spain and Argentina book their place

By **Martin Weche**

Spain and Argentina will contest the 2026 FIFA World Cup final after both sides won bruising semi-final encounters this week, setting up a heavyweight showdown at New York New Jersey Stadium on Sunday, July 19.

Spain booked their place first, beating France 2-0 in Dallas on Tuesday in a performance built on defensive discipline and clinical finishing. Mikel Oyarzabal opened the scoring from the penalty spot in the 22nd minute after teenage winger Lamine Yamal was fouled inside the box by Lucas Digne. Pedro Porro doubled the lead in the 58th minute, finishing off a one-two with Dani Olmo to put the result beyond doubt.

The victory extended Spain's remarkable defensive record at this tournament. La Roja have conceded only once in seven matches, a run that included shutting out a French attacking trio of Kylian Mbappé, Ousmane Dembélé and Michael Olise that had troubled every other opponent. It is the first time Spain have reached a World Cup final since they lifted the trophy in 2010, and manager Luis de la Fuente's side arrive at the final unbeaten in 37 matches stretching back two years.

Argentina's path to the final was considerably more dramatic. Lionel Messi's side trailed England 1-0 for much of the second half in Atlanta on Wednesday, after Anthony Gordon finished a low cross from Morgan Rogers in the 55th minute to put the Three Lions ahead. England held that lead deep into stoppage time, appearing set to reach their first World Cup final since 1966.

Argentina had other ideas. Enzo Fernández levelled matters in the 85th minute, and Lautaro Martínez struck in the second minute of added time, both goals created by Messi, to complete



Lamine Yamal and Lionel Messi

a 2-1 comeback win that sent Argentina through to a second successive World Cup final. It is a familiar script for the defending champions, who have now staged late comebacks in several of their biggest matches over the past two tournament cycles.

Sunday's final pits two contrasting styles against one another. Spain have built their run on possession, patience and a defence that has proved almost impossible to break down, while Argentina have shown a capacity to grind out results even when matches slip away from them, relying on individual brilliance from Messi and a settled core of players who won the trophy in Qatar in 2022.

For Argentina, victory would mean a second consecutive World Cup title, a feat no nation

has managed in seventy years. For Spain, it would be a second star on the shirt following their 2010 triumph, achieved by a squad that blends senior figures with the emerging talent of Yamal, who turned 19 the day before the semi-final and has been one of the standout performers of the tournament.

England, meanwhile, will have to settle for a shot at third place. Thomas Tuchel's side face France in the third-place playoff in Atlanta on Saturday, a repeat of Spain's semi-final opponents, with both teams looking to end the tournament on a positive note after falling agonisingly short of the final.

The two semi-finals produced contrasting theatre: a clinical, low-event Spanish masterclass against France, and a match be-

tween England and Argentina defined by physical duels, 19 first-half fouls and a grandstand finish that turned on two moments of Messi-inspired quality. Both results have reopened old rivalries — Spain have waited sixteen years to return to this stage, while Argentina and England renewed a fixture that carries decades of history both on and off the pitch.

Attention now turns fully to Sunday's final, where Spain's watertight defence will be tested against an Argentina side that has repeatedly shown it can find a way to win, however the match unfolds. Whichever side lifts the trophy, the 2026 tournament will end with a champion that has earned it the hard way.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Kenya’s veteran rally driver adds a continental nomination to a growing list of honours after another season flying the flag at the WRC Safari Rally

Motorsport queen Pauline Shegu nominated for top international award



Pauline Sheghu

By **Martin Weche**

Kenyan rally driver Pauline Shegu has been nominated for the Outstanding Sports Personality award at the third edition of the International Women Parliament, set to take place in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on September 18. Confirming the nomination, Shegu described the recognition as both a privilege and validation of years of persistence in a sport where she remains one of the few women competing at the top level. “I am especially honoured that my profile was recommended at a continental level. This recognition is both a privilege and a reminder that hard work, dedication, and service never go unnoticed,” she said. She framed the nomination as bigger than her own career, presenting it as part of a wider story about women’s leadership in spaces historically dominated by men. “This nomination is not just a personal achievement; it is a celebration of the power

of women’s leadership, resilience, and the impact we can create when we dare to dream and serve with purpose,” Shegu said, adding that she was honoured to represent Kenya and the African continent “on a global platform where women leaders exchange ideas and inspire positive change.” The International Women Parliament recognises women who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and impact in their respective fields, drawing nominees from across the continent for consideration each year. The Dhaka nomination extends what has already been a decorated period for Shegu, whose profile has grown steadily since she first entered motorsport competition in 2006. In recent months, she has picked up the AWISI Women of Impact in Sports Award, Sports Personality of the Year at the Thamani Africa Awards, and Best Sports Trailblazer Woman in Kenya at the East Africa Superwoman

Awards, honours that reflect both her performances on the track and her advocacy for greater representation of women in rallying. The recognition also comes on the back of another season behind the wheel. Shegu made her fourth consecutive appearance at the WRC Safari Rally this year, having competed at every edition since the event returned to the World Rally Championship calendar in 2021. She remains, by some distance, the most consistent female presence in Kenya’s flagship motorsport event, often competing as the only woman in the WRC category alongside her regular co-driver, Linet Ayuko. Her rally career has not been without setbacks. Funding constraints have repeatedly forced her to scale back preparation ahead of race weekends, and she was among the drivers forced to retire mid-rally this year after her windscreen was damaged during competition. Despite these obstacles, she has continued to use her platform to call for greater

investment in women’s motorsport, arguing that sponsorship directed at female drivers pays dividends well beyond the podium by inspiring the next generation to take up the sport. Shegu’s dual identity as both a competitive rally driver and a veteran broadcaster and public relations professional has made her a recognisable figure well beyond motorsport circles in Kenya, and her growing list of continental honours reflects that broader reach. Whether or not the Dhaka nomination converts into a win, it cements her position among the country’s most decorated female sporting figures of the year. The International Women Parliament’s third edition is expected to bring together women leaders from government, business, sport and civil society for a series of engagements culminating in the September 18 awards ceremony.

SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS





Syeda Ayesha Talib: A Global Catalyst for Youth-Led Social Change



By: Eileen Moynihan
@themtkenyatimes

Syeda Ayesha Talib is a pioneering author, activist, and philanthropist whose work is driven by the mission to bridge the gender gap in education and leadership. As the founder of Global Women Youth Leaders (GWYL), Ayesha has spent years building a platform that provides young women and girls with the tools, mentorship, and resources to take control of their own futures.

Evidence of Scalable Impact

Ayesha's influence is grounded in tangible, large-scale results. Her Galactic Explorers STEM Program stands as a hallmark of her commitment to educational equity, having reached over 10,000 students to date. By sparking a sustained interest in science and technology, Ayesha has successfully helped thousands of girls envision careers in fields where they have historically been underrepresented.

Her reach is truly international, with projects implemented across diverse regions. Through strategic partnerships with visionary educators such as Adelia Maria Muntean in Romania and Suzana Kelesoska in North Macedonia—Ayesha has integrated leadership and confidence-building workshops into formal school curricula. These initiatives are not isolated events but structured efforts to create a lasting shift in the confidence and independence of the next generation.

Formal Recognition and Leadership



Ayesha's leadership is validated by rigorous national and international scrutiny. Her work has been recognized with the prestigious Pakistani National Youth Conference Talent Hunt Award. Most recently, she was named a top winner of the "Women Changing the World Award," a global recognition supported by the Duchess of York, which acknowledges her role alongside other internationally recognized leaders, such as Dr. Tererai Trent, in fostering global empowerment.

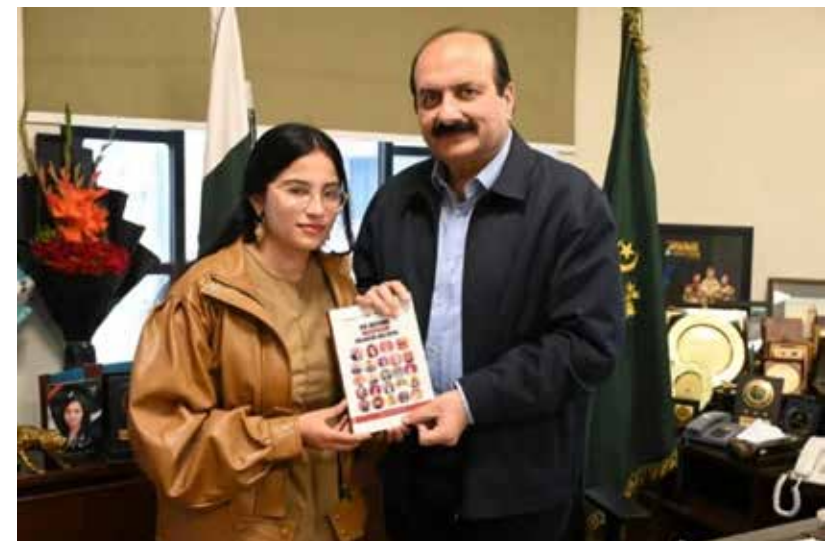
Endorsement of Impact

The effectiveness of Ayesha's leadership is perhaps best evidenced by the testimonials of those who work alongside her. Global entrepreneurs and contributors such as Nataša Pitra-Grbić have publicly credited Ayesha's leadership for making women's entrepreneurial stories visible in classrooms and communities where they matter most. These testimonies highlight that Ayesha does not just work for her own recognition; she builds infrastructure that elevates others.

As Nataša Pitra-Grbić noted, the impact of Ayesha's platforms is profound: "I am deeply grateful to Ayesha Talib for her leadership and for creating platforms that make women's entrepreneurial stories visible where they matter most: in classrooms, in communities, and in the imaginations of the next generation".

Commitment to Sustained Action

Ayesha's approach is defined by her ability to connect grassroots action with institutional credibility. By engaging with government officials and youth program directors, she ensures that youth-led initiatives are supported by robust, long-term policy frameworks. From her curation of the anthology 100 Inspiring Tales of Dreamers and Doers to her ongoing advocacy, Ayesha has maintained a consistent, multi-year dedication to social change. For Ayesha, these



Syeda Ayesha Talib (L)

achievements are not the end goal they are the foundation for a global movement aimed at ensuring every girl has the chance to learn, grow, and lead.



Worth Noting:

Ayesha's influence is grounded in tangible, large-scale results. Her Galactic Explorers STEM Program stands as a hallmark of her commitment to educational equity, having reached over 10,000 students to date. By sparking a sustained interest in science and technology, Ayesha has successfully helped thousands of girls envision careers in fields where they have historically been underrepresented.

• Her reach is truly international, with projects implemented across diverse regions. Through strategic partnerships with visionary educators such as Adelia Maria Muntean in Romania and Suzana Kelesoska in North Macedonia—Ayesha has integrated leadership and confidence-building workshops into formal school curricula. These initiatives are not isolated events but structured efforts to create a lasting shift in the confidence and independence of the next generation.