



Jubilee Chair Kemosi petitions IEBC Over alleged cross-border voter transfers
Jubilee National Party Chairman Vincent Kemosi has called on the IEBC to investigate allegations of cross-border voter transfers

Page 6



Sifuna loses whip role as Kingi confirms Oketch
An eleventh-hour bid by the Azimio la Umoja-One Kenya Coalition to block the removal of Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna as Senate Deputy Minority Whip has failed, after Senate Speaker Amason Kingi confirmed leadership changes

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

Friday, July 17, 2026

No. 01593 KSh 60 (TSh 1,700 : USh 2,700 : RFr 900)

[f](#) [ig](#) [tw](#) themtkenyatimes

Voice of the People



www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

The Mt. Kenya Times

Daily ePAPER

Politics DCP's landslide Ol Kalou win crowns Gachagua the mountain's new kingpin and rattles UDA's grip on the region

Gachagua floors Ruto

Rigathi Gachagua's Democracy for the Citizens Party has crushed President William Ruto's United Democratic Alliance in the Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election, with DCP's Sammy Kamau Ngotho garnering 35,228 votes against UDA's Muchina Nyagah's 5,402 in final results from all 144 polling stations.

Moments after the win was confirmed, DCP party leader Rigathi Gachagua issued a lengthy statement claiming the victory as a defining moment for his party and for Mt Kenya politics.

"Congratulations, Hon. Sammy Douglas Kamau Waweru, on your historic election as the Member of Parliament for OlKalou Constituency. You have won by a resounding margin, reflecting the unmistakable voice of the people. We thank the Almighty God for this great victory," Gachagua said.

"To the great people of OlKalou, thank you for giving our party, DCP, its first Member of the National Assembly. Thank you, my great people, for refusing to sell your birthright and for being wise enough not to fall for the deception of development projects. Thank you a million times for guarding your vote and for standing firm despite the actions of rogue police officers armed with guns and tear gas."



President William Ruto and his former Deputy Rigathi Gachagua

Page 9

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY
"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"



SCAN TO REGISTER



"ALL BUSINESSES
ONE PLATFORM"

Contact Us:

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

business@exponentialinternational.com

Ol-Kalou by-election in pictures



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@mtkenyatimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mtkenyatimes.co.ke,

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

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

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



The National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) has demonstrated its new Bodaboda Management System (BMS) to boda boda SACCO officials in Uasin Gishu as part of preparations for the registration of riders. The digital platform will register, regulate and monitor motorcycle taxi operations, helping curb motorcycle theft, crime and unsafe practices while improving accountability and compliance. NTSA said the system supports the National Road Safety Action Plan (2024–2028) and has already been introduced in more than 20 counties. Boda boda operators welcomed the initiative but urged further sensitisation at the grassroots and alignment with existing SACCO structures. Eldoret City officials said the system would improve order, safety and traffic discipline.



Residents of Kipkelion East and Ainamoi constituencies in Kericho County have been invited to public participation forums to identify and prioritise projects for funding under the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) in the 2026/2027 financial year. Kipkelion East MP Joseph Cherorot said ward meetings will be held on July 16 and 17, while Ainamoi MP Benjamin Langat announced similar forums running from July 15 to 20. Residents, community leaders and stakeholders have been urged to submit development proposals to guide equitable allocation of funds. The NG-CDF has supported classrooms, laboratories, bursaries, water projects and other infrastructure, with the law requiring projects to be identified through public participation before approval.

Machakos County Commissioner Jackson Ole Chuta (middle) and members of County Implementation Coordination Management Committee being led by Engineer David Otieno (right) from TANATHI on a site inspection of Ksh 1billion Machakos Sewerage Project that is at 90% and to be completed by 31st August 2026.



Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) hosted the International Kids' Conference, bringing together secondary school students from Kenya and abroad to showcase innovative projects and exchange ideas. Organised by the College of Engineering and Technology with support from the Australian Globally Engaged Learners Programme, the hybrid event featured participants from 13 schools, including virtual presentations from Australia, Singapore, South Africa, the UK and Egypt. Students presented innovations in financial literacy, water conservation, food safety, mental health, AI and secure election technology, with Kabare Girls High School unveiling a robotic wheelchair prototype. Organisers said the conference nurtures creativity, research, critical thinking and problem-solving while preparing young innovators to address global challenges.



Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of the Kenya Police Service Eliud Lagat (centre) cuts the ribbon to officially commission the new Moi's Bridge Police Station in Soy Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County, on Wednesday. Looking on are Soy MP David Kiplagat (right, in red), senior National Police Service officers and other leaders.



Governor Kimani Wamatangi today conducted the final inspection of the Kahawa Sukari Level Three Hospital in Kahawa Sukari Ward, Githurai Municipality.

Wamatangi confirms that the facility is complete and ready for equipping and operationalization, with the procurement process for the required medical equipment already finalized through a completed tender

The Africa Largest eCOMMERCE



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

**NOW
OPEN**

Call/Text/WhatsApp: +254 714 090 155

Politics Speaking outside the IEBC offices Kemosi termed the alleged practice illegal and a direct threat to democratic principles

Jubilee Chair Kemosi petitions IEBC Over alleged cross-border voter transfers

BY Elizabeth Angira
@themkenyatimes

Jubilee National Party Chairman Vincent Kemosi has called on the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to investigate allegations of cross-border voter transfers, warning that any attempts to manipulate the voter registration process could undermine the credibility of the 2027 General Election.

Kemosi, accompanied by residents from West Mugirango and Kitutu Chache North constituencies, visited the IEBC offices in Marani, Kitutu Chache North, where they formally lodged a complaint over claims that some residents from West Mugirango were allegedly being ferried into Kitutu Chache North to register as voters.

Speaking outside the IEBC offices Kemosi termed the alleged practice illegal and a direct threat to democratic principles, saying the integrity of the electoral process must be protected at all costs. "We have come to present our concerns to the IEBC because we have received reports that some people are allegedly being transported from one constituency to another for the purpose of voter registration. If these allegations are true, then this is against the law and must be stopped immediately," he said.

Kemosi maintained that every Kenyan has a constitutional right to register as a voter, but only in the consti-



Jubilee National Party Chairman Vincent Kemosi addressing the press outside IEBC office in Marani Kisii County. | Photo: Elizabeth Angira

tuency where they are legally eligible to vote.

He argued that inducing or facilitating the transfer of voters to influence electoral outcomes compromises free and fair elections and erodes public confidence in the country's democratic institutions.

"The voter register must reflect genuine residents of every constituency. Elections should be decided by legitimate voters, not through manipulation of the registration process," he added.

The Jubilee chairman urged the electoral commission to thoroughly investigate the allegations and take appropriate action against anyone found violating electoral laws.

He further appealed to the commission to enhance surveillance in areas bordering the two constituencies to ensure the ongoing voter

registration exercise remains transparent, credible, and free from any form of interference.

Kemosi also called on residents, particularly young people living along the constituency boundaries, to remain vigilant and cooperate with authorities by reporting any suspected cases of illegal voter transfers.

"Youths have an important role to play in safeguarding democracy. If they witness any suspicious movement of people intended to manipulate voter registration, they should report it immediately to the IEBC and the relevant security agencies," he said.

According to a section of residents who accompanied Kemosi expressed concern that the alleged voter transfers, if left unchecked, could affect the will of genuine voters during future elections.

They urged the electoral

body to reassure the public that the voter registration exercise would be conducted in accordance with the law.

The allegations come as the country continues with voter registration activities ahead of the 2027 General Election, with political parties intensifying grassroots mobilization across various regions.

The IEBC has consistently maintained that the voter registration process is governed by the Constitution and electoral laws, and has previously warned against any attempts to interfere with or manipulate the exercise.

Kemosi said safeguarding the integrity of the voters' register is essential to ensuring that future elections reflect the genuine will of the people and preserve public trust in Kenya's democratic process.

OI Kalou records over 50% turnout, IEBC says



Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission officials

BY Grace Wanja
@themkenyatimes

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission has confirmed that yesterday's OI Kalou parliamentary by-election recorded a voter turnout of 50.8 percent, one of the strongest showings for a Kenyan by-election in recent years and well above the 38.2 percent recorded by midday.

Speaking at the constituency tallying centre shortly before polls closed, IEBC Commissioner Hassan Noor Hassan commended voters across the constituency's 144 polling stations for a largely peaceful exercise, even as he appealed for calm during the critical counting and tallying process. "The most important thing is to have this exercise concluded in a peaceful manner, and we are appealing to all political actors in the field to secure and maintain peace and order up to the end of the exercise," he said.

Hassan added that results were expected by midnight, and urged Kenyans to trust the process. "We expect that

around midnight we will be able to tell Kenyans who the elected member of parliament is. The wishes of the people will be respected. IEBC is an impartial arbiter," he said.

Addressing concerns raised over calls by some political leaders for supporters to guard polling stations during counting, Commissioner Ann Nderitu firmly dismissed the need for such action. "We ask all citizens and political players to allow electoral officials to count the votes peacefully in the presence of accredited agents, observers, and media only. The rest of the people are advised to go home and wait for the results," she said, adding that results are "protected not only by security officers but also by law, which requires the IEBC to conduct elections in an open and transparent manner."

The commission thanked voters for braving the cold morning weather to queue early, and urged all sides to await the outcome with patience rather than pressure.

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://mountkenyatimes.co.ke>

Politics To the great people of OlKalou, thank you for giving our party, DCP, its first Member of the National Assembly

Statement by Rigathi Gachagua on Ol-Kalou victory

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

Congratulations, Hon. Sammy Douglas Kamau Waweru, on your historic election as the Member of Parliament for OlKalou Constituency.

You have won by a resounding margin, reflecting the unmistakable voice of the people.

We thank the Almighty God for this great victory.

To the great people of OlKalou, thank you for giving our party, DCP, its first Member of the National Assembly.

Thank you, my great people, for refusing to sell your birthright and for being wise enough not to fall for the deception of development projects.

Thank you a million times for guarding your vote and for standing firm despite the actions of rogue police officers armed with guns and tear gas.

Once again, I am grateful to the people of Olkalou for accepting to add



DCP party leader Rigathi Gachagua with new Ol-Kalou MP Sammy Douglas Kamau Waweru in a past photo

me an extra soldier to join the great army that I lead in Defence of Kenyans. I have been struggling with 18 soldiers but with great results; now I have 19, things will be much better.

On behalf of our community and the people of Kenya, kindly accept my heartfelt appreciation for restoring the dignity of our community and our nation.

I feel proud and elated to be the leader of such patriotic people who remain loyal to their rights and dignity.

I salute our campaign leaders, Hon. John Methu Gitungati and Hon. Wanjiku Muhia Ngatha, for their outstanding leadership and guidance throughout the three-month campaign. I was deeply impressed by the way you organized and led us.

To our allied Senators, Members of the National Assembly, MCAs, campaign teams, aspirants, volunteers, our staff, thank you for your unwavering commitment and sacrifice.

Tomorrow morning, I will visit all the five wards to personally thank the people of OlKalou.

I have been so directed by the community.

Hon. Kamau, please go and serve your people diligently, and represent them well.

God bless OlKalou, and God bless Kenya!

Violence In a statement issued Thursday, MCK said the assaults and confiscation of equipment by armed men were not isolated incidents

Journalists under fire in Ol Kalou

BY Grace Wanja

@themkenyatimes

The Media Council of Kenya has condemned targeted attacks on journalists covering Thursday's Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election, accusing security agencies of failing to protect media workers and demanding immediate action against those responsible.

In a statement issued Thursday, MCK said the assaults and confiscation of equipment by armed men were not isolated incidents but part of a troubling pattern aimed at intimidating journalists. "The Council views these continued attacks as more than isolated press freedom violations, but deliberately orchestrated security actions aimed at intimidating media workers into cen-

sorship and fear," the statement said, calling the incidents "a direct attack on press freedom, an obstruction of the public's right to information and an affront to Kenya's constitutional order."

Among those attacked was Star photojournalist Enos Teche, who was covering unrest outside Ol Kalou Comprehensive School when masked, armed men arrived in a convoy of vehicles, fired shots into the air and lobbed teargas canisters to disperse the crowd before turning on him. The men demanded his camera before assaulting him, twisting his hand and striking his leg with a teargas canister. He later recorded a statement at the DCI offices in Ol Kalou.

In a separate incident, Nation Media Group journalist Brygettes Ngana and her cameraperson were allegedly

assaulted by suspected plainclothes police officers, who confiscated their camera without explanation.

The Kenya Editors Guild and the Kenya Union of Journalists issued similar condemnations. Guild president Zubeidah Kananu called the violence "shocking and deeply disturbing," insisting journalists "must be allowed to carry out their professional duties without intimidation, harassment or violence." KUJ warned starkly that unchecked attacks on the press "will come to haunt us as people when armed gangs take control of our country."

MCK has called on the local police command to halt the attacks, identify all officers involved, secure the unconditional return of seized equipment, and cooperate fully with investigations. It has also urged Inspector-General of Police Doug-



MCK CEO David Omwoyo

las Kanja to take swift disciplinary and legal action, and said it would engage the DCI, the IG and, where necessary, the ODPP to pursue justice for the affected journalists.

The attacks unfolded amid broader unrest that marred the by-election, raising fresh concern over press

safety ahead of Kenya's 2027 General Election.

Press freedom cannot be optional when the cameras are rolling hard-est.

Politics DCP's Sammy Kamau Ngotho garnering 35,228 votes against UDA's Muchina Nyagah's 5,402 in final results from all 144 polling stations

Gachagua floors Ruto

DCP's landslide Ol Kalou win crowns Gachagua the mountain's new kingpin and rattles UDA's grip on the region

BY David Kimani

@themkenyaintimes

Rigathi Gachagua's Democracy for the Citizens Party has crushed President William Ruto's United Democratic Alliance in the Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election, with DCP's Sammy Kamau Ngotho garnering 35,228 votes against UDA's Muchina Nyagah's 5,402 in final results from all 144 polling stations.

Moments after the win was confirmed, DCP party leader Rigathi Gachagua issued a lengthy statement claiming the victory as a defining moment for his party and for Mt Kenya politics.

"Congratulations, Hon. Sammy Douglas Kamau Waweru, on your historic election as the Member of Parliament for OlKalou Constituency. You have won by a resounding margin, reflecting the unmistakable voice of the people. We thank the Almighty God for this great victory," Gachagua said.

"To the great people of OlKalou, thank you for giving our party, DCP, its first Member of the National Assembly. Thank you, my great people, for refusing to sell your birthright and for being wise enough not to fall for the deception of development projects. Thank you a million times for guarding your vote and for standing firm despite the actions of rogue police officers armed with guns and tear gas."

He went on to describe the win in characteristically martial terms. "Once again, I am grateful to the people of Olkalou for accepting to add me an extra soldier to join the great army that I lead in Defence of Kenyans. I have been struggling with 18 soldiers but with great results; now I have 19, things will be much better."

Gachagua singled out his campaign lieutenants for praise. "I salute our campaign leaders, Hon. John Methu Gitungati and Hon. Wanjiku Muhia Ngatha, for their outstanding leadership and guidance throughout the three-month campaign. I was deeply impressed by the way you organized and led us. To our allied Senators, Members of the National Assembly, MCAs, campaign teams, aspirants, volunteers, our staff, thank you for

your unwavering commitment and sacrifice."

He said he would travel to the constituency in person to thank voters. "Tomorrow morning, I will visit all the five wards to personally thank the people of OlKalou. I have been so directed by the community. Hon. Kamau, please go and serve your people diligently, and represent them well. God bless OlKalou, and God bless Kenya!"

The scale of the defeat for UDA was staggering. Nyagah, the late David Kiaraho's former aide and UDA's handpicked candidate, could not even muster a sixth of Kamau's tally, finishing a distant second in a field that also included Jubilee's Eng. Wilson Kigwa (164 votes), the National Liberal Party's Stephen Wan-yoike (85) and the People's Movement's Timothy Kariuki (45). For a seat the government had poured enormous resources into, and one it needed to hold to prove its writ still runs in Mt Kenya, the arithmetic was unforgiving.

This was never simply a contest for one parliamentary seat in Nyandarua County. It was billed, correctly, as a referendum on who now commands the political heart of Mt Kenya, President Ruto or his estranged former deputy. On that question, Ol Kalou has delivered an emphatic answer. The mountain is slippery for Ruto, and it is Gachagua who is standing steadiest on it.

The result vindicates a strategy that many in his own camp questioned. Gachagua defied pressure from the Jubilee Party to step aside and let a united opposition candidate face UDA, insisting instead that DCP field its own man to test its popularity in the region. It was a gamble that could have exposed him. Instead, DCP's superior organisation on the ground, from a slicker vote-tallying operation to disciplined ward-level mobilisation, outclassed UDA's state-backed machine at every turn.

As the results trickled in, congratulations poured in from across the political divide, an unusual show of consensus that underscored how decisively the outcome had been read. Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, who had spent months mocking Gachagua's "kingpin" ambitions and vowing to "deal with him squarely"

in Ol Kalou, was gracious in defeat. "Congratulations Sammy Douglas Waweru Kamau on your imminent victory in the by-election held today for the MP seat for Ol Kalou constituency. Unite the residents and serve them all without distinction," Kindiki wrote, adding a nod to the UDA candidate: "You may not have succeeded today, but your star shines bright into the future."

Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka struck a sharper tone in his message, framing the result as a rebuke of the government rather than simply a party triumph. "Your victory is decisive. It is the clear voice of the people that refused to be silenced by violence, intimidation, thuggery or the machinery of Mr Ruto's rogue regime," Musyoka said in a statement, adding: "Wananchi have spoken." His congratulations, issued under the Wiper Patriotic Front's banner and the hashtag Komboa Kenya, underscored the deepening alignment between Gachagua and fellow opposition principals ahead of 2027.

From Siaya, Governor James Oren-go led further tributes from Gachagua's Linda Mwananchi allies, framing the win as a signal of shifting national political fortunes ahead of 2027.

Within DCP itself, the celebration carried the weight of vindication. Nyandarua Senator John Methu, appointed the party's secretary general designate in May with explicit instructions to deliver Ol Kalou, had staked his political credibility on the outcome. Working alongside Kipipiri MP Wanjiku Muhia, whom Gachagua tasked to co-lead the ground campaign, Methu spent weeks countering what DCP described as an aggressive government charm offensive involving cash inducements to voters. "The people of Ol Kalou have proved resilient, and many of them are telling us that the government has pressed them hard with money, but they have sworn not to be swayed," Methu said in the weeks before the vote. Ol Kalou's result suggests he was right, and his standing within DCP, already elevated by his defection from UDA ranks, now looks unassailable.

The victory also burnished the credentials of a wider bench of DCP-affiliated leaders who campaigned



Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka struck a sharper tone in his message, framing the result as a rebuke of the government rather than simply a party triumph

hard for Kamau: Kiambu Senator Karungo Thang'wa, Murang'a Senator Joe Nyutu, Kirinyaga Senator Kamau Murango, Kirinyaga Women Representative Njeri Maina, Naivasha MP Jayne Kihara, Gatanga MP Edward Muriu, Mukurweini MP John Kaguchia, Tetu MP Wanjohi Wandeto and Nyeri senatorial aspirant Kabando wa Kabando. For each of them, Ol Kalou is fresh proof that alignment with Gachagua is no longer a political liability in Mt Kenya, but an asset.

The same cannot be said for UDA's standard-bearers in the region. Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri, Kimani Ichung'wah, Anne Wamuratha, Betty Maina, Eric Wamumbi, the Kiambaa MP and Nyeri Senator Wahome Wamatinga all campaigned for Nyagah, betting their own political capital on a UDA win. Instead they inherit a defeat so lopsided it borders on humiliating, one that will invite uncomfortable questions from

a State House already anxious about its standing in a region it cannot afford to lose ahead of 2027.

Jubilee, the party that once owned this seat through the late Kiaraho, has been the quiet casualty of the night, reduced to a rump of 164 votes and further evidence that its grip on Mt Kenya has all but evaporated, squeezed between a resurgent DCP and an incumbent UDA.

Gachagua has long insisted, sometimes disingenuously, that he has no interest in being crowned Mt Kenya's kingpin. Ol Kalou has made the disclaimer moot. With DCP's first parliamentary seat secured and its dominance in the mountain freshly demonstrated at the ballot box, Gachagua is, in practice if not in title, the region's new kingpin, and the road to 2027 now runs unmistakably through him.

Education Promises, pressure and panic as Kenya's university students brace for a heavier burden

Helb at the crossroads: As government promises more funding, students fear an uncertain tomorrow

BY Hadassah Karangu

@themtkenyatimes

As thousands of young Kenyans wait for admission into universities and colleges, another journey has already begun long before they step into lecture halls. It is not a journey of learning, but one of uncertainty, anxiety and unanswered questions. Across campuses and in homes, one issue dominates conversations: Will Helb be enough?

The government maintains that it is not abandoning university students. The Treasury has pointed to increased allocations for higher education,

saying that billions of shillings have been set aside for loans and scholarships under the student-centred funding model. Officials have repeatedly assured parents and students that support will continue and that access to higher education remains a national priority.

Yet despite these assurances, fear continues to spread among university students. The reason is simple. The number of students seeking higher education rises every year, while demand for financial support is growing even faster. Budget documents and education stakeholders have

highlighted significant gaps between what is required and what has been allocated, leaving many students wondering whether everyone who qualifies will receive adequate support.

For many families, Helb is not just another government programme. It is the bridge between hope and dropping out of school. It pays part of tuition fees, supports accommodation, buys books, provides transport money and helps students afford daily meals. Without it, university life becomes an uphill battle that many households simply cannot finance.



Helb illustration

The greatest fear today is not whether Helb will exist. The real fear is whether the amount disbursed will be enough to meet students' actual needs. If funding is reduced or delayed, thousands of students could struggle to pay fees, face registration challenges, miss examinations or even defer their studies. Others may be forced to spend more time looking for casual jobs than attending lectures.

The pressure extends far beyond university gates. Parents are equally affected. Kenya continues to face a difficult economic environment in which many households are already battling the rising cost of food, rent, transport and healthcare. Asking parents to fill an even bigger financial gap may simply be impossible for many families. Some will borrow, others will sell assets, while the most vulnerable may have no option but to watch their children postpone their dreams.

The concern is growing as another cohort prepares to join universities under an evolving education system. Every new intake increases demand for scholarships and loans. Unless funding grows at the same pace, competition for limited resources will become even more intense,

creating uncertainty for both first-year and continuing students.

Recent figures illustrate the challenge. Budget estimates indicate that the amount allocated to Helb remains well below what is required to support all eligible students under the current funding model, leaving a substantial shortfall. At the same time, government leaders insist that allocations have increased compared with previous years and that reforms are intended to ensure resources reach those with the greatest financial need.

This debate has become much bigger than numbers on a budget sheet. It is about trust. Students want certainty before reporting to campus. Parents want clear answers before making financial commitments. Universities need predictable funding to continue offering quality education without constant disruption.

No student should begin an academic year unsure whether they will afford the next semester. Education works best when learners concentrate on books, assignments and innovation—not on whether they will have enough money for lunch, accommodation or examination fees.

The government deserves recognition for acknowledg-

ing the importance of higher education and continuing to invest KSh billions in student financing. However, the concerns raised by students cannot simply be dismissed as unnecessary panic. They reflect genuine fears experienced by thousands of young Kenyans whose future depends on reliable financial support.

Ultimately, Kenya's greatest resource is not found underground or in government revenue collections. It is found in its young people. Every university student represents future doctors, journalists, engineers, teachers, lawyers, entrepreneurs and innovators. Investing in them is not an expense; it is an investment in the country's future prosperity.

As the new academic year approaches, one question remains unanswered: Will the government bridge the funding gap and restore confidence among students, or will parents and learners once again shoulder the burden of uncertainty?

The answer will determine not only who enters university, but also who manages to stay there until graduation.

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

Kenya Airways The Pride of Africa

Tharaka Nithi The bridge is expected to ease transportation of agricultural produce, improve access to social amenities and stimulate commerce

Njuki launches Kwa-Gaicu bridge, commissions Kilifi bridge as he vows to prioritize development over early politics

BY Alex Njeru

@themkenyentimes

Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki yesterday intensified his countywide infrastructure development agenda by launching the construction of Kwa Gaicu Bridge in Tharaka Constituency before later commissioning the newly completed Kilifi Bridge in Chogoria Ward, Maara Constituency.

The two projects are expected to significantly improve connectivity, facilitate trade and enhance access to essential services for thousands of residents.

The day's activities began at Nthinkuru and Karuguru areas where Governor Njuki flagged off the construction of the long-awaited Kwa Gaicu Bridge across the Thanantu River.

The bridge will connect Marimanti and Gatunga wards, bringing to an end decade of challenges faced by residents who have relied on the crossing since the early 1930s.

During the rainy season, the swollen river has routinely cut off the route, forcing residents to travel several kilometres through Gatunga and Kaarwa bridges to access essential services, schools, markets and health facilities.

Governor Njuki said the bridge is part of the county government's broader infrastructure programme aimed at unlocking the economic potential of Tharaka Constituency.

"For generations, our people have endured dangerous river crossings and long detours whenever the Thanantu River flooded. Kwa Gaicu Bridge will restore dignity, improve mobility and stimulate eco-



Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki launching construction of Gaicu bridge along Thanantu River in Tharaka constituency and commissioning newly constructed Kilifi Bridge in Chogoria ward. | Photo: Alex Njeru.

nomie growth. Development is about solving the real problems that affect our people every day," he said.

He noted that Kwa Gaicu joins other ongoing bridge projects in the constituency, including Kwa Magata, Gacugini, Mpuku and Kanthatu, all of which are designed to strengthen transport networks and accelerate development.

"We are systematically connecting every part of our county because no community should be left behind. Better infrastructure means better business, easier access to schools and hospitals and

faster economic transformation," the governor added.

Governor Njuki was accompanied by Deputy Governor H.E. Nyaga Muisrael, County Executive Committee Member for Administration Muthini Karangi, Chief Officer for Culture and Education Mwitini Mono and Kawira Munge, who is seeking the Tharaka Nithi Woman Representative seat.

The governor used the occasion to reaffirm his commitment to service delivery, saying his administration would not be distracted by premature political campaigns.

"The people of Tharaka Nithi

entrusted us with leadership so that we can work for them. It would be irresponsible for us to abandon development and begin campaigning years before elections. This is the time to build roads, bridges, markets and hospitals—not to hold endless political rallies." He said leaders would have an opportunity to seek fresh mandates when the election period arrives.

"When the campaign season comes, we shall return to the people with our scorecards. It is our work—not propaganda or empty rhetoric—that will determine whether wananchi grant us another opportunity

to serve."

Governor Njuki also criticized attempts by some opposition Members of the County Assembly to interfere with ongoing road works in their wards despite voting against the county budget.

"It is unfortunate that some leaders who opposed the development budget are now attempting to stop tractors from working on our roads while claiming there are no projects in their wards. Development cannot be sabotaged for political convenience. Every ward deserves services, and we shall continue implementing projects for all residents re-

gardless of politics."

Later, the governor proceeded to Chogoria Ward in Maara Constituency where he officially commissioned the newly constructed Kilifi Bridge linking Chogoria Town to Kimuchia.

The bridge is expected to ease transportation of agricultural produce, improve access to social amenities and stimulate commerce between the two areas.

"Kilifi Bridge is more than a crossing; it is an economic lifeline. By connecting Chogoria Town with Kimuchia, we are opening new opportunities for trade, investment and faster movement of people and goods."

He was accompanied by Deputy Governor Nyaga Muisrael, Chogoria Ward MCA Gatiria Mbae (Ganga) and Nominated MCA Purity Wanja.

Leaders who addressed the gatherings praised Governor Njuki's development record, describing his administration as one focused on delivering tangible projects across all parts of the county.

They dismissed claims that political differences over the 2027 gubernatorial race should derail development, saying residents were more interested in improved infrastructure and better services than succession politics.

Some leaders from Tharaka observed that several MCAs had been misled into opposing county programmes on claims that Governor Njuki was not supporting Tharaka MP Gitonga Murugara's reported gubernatorial ambitions.

They urged elected leaders to put the interests of residents ahead of political alignments, noting that development should unite rather than divide the county.

The twin events underscored the county government's continued investment in infrastructure as a catalyst for economic growth, improved accessibility and inclusive development across Tharaka Nithi County.

Politics In a letter dated July 16, the coalition accused a section of senators of pushing through an irregular process to oust Sifuna

Sifuna loses whip role as Kingi confirms Oketch

BY Joyce Mwangi
@themkenyatiimes

An eleventh-hour bid by the Azimio la Umoja–One Kenya Coalition to block the removal of Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna as Senate Deputy Minority Whip has failed, after Senate Speaker Amason Kingi confirmed leadership changes replacing him with Migori Senator Eddy Oketch. The changes, communicated by Kingi during Thursday's afternoon plenary sitting, came despite a formal protest from the Kalonzo Musyoka-led Azimio Coalition Council, which had urged the Speaker to hold off acting on any resolution from a disputed Parliamentary Group meeting until an internal coalition dispute was resolved. The protest arrived too late to change the outcome, but it has laid bare just how fractured the opposition's internal structures have become, barely a year after Azimio and Kenya Kwanza traded barbs over which side truly represented the country's opposition voice.

In a letter dated July 16, the coalition accused a section of senators of pushing through an irregular process to oust Sifuna, arguing that the meeting convened by Minority Whip Ledama Ole Kina breached both the coalition agreement and Senate Standing Orders.

Signed by Azimio Coalition Council Chairperson Philip Kisia, the letter said the council had received formal complaints from member parties and senators over what they described as attempts to interfere with the coalition's leadership in the Senate. According to the coalition, senators were summoned to Wednesday evening's meeting without being told its agenda, only to learn on arrival that the real purpose was to remove Sifuna from his post. Azimio said the meeting descended into con-

fusion after what it termed a "purported vote" backed by just eleven senators, insisting Senate Standing Orders require such a decision to carry the support of a majority of all coalition members, not a fraction of those present in the room.

Azimio maintained that any changes to the coalition's parliamentary leadership can only be made by the Coalition Council, under Article 5D(3) of the coalition agreement. It further argued that since ODM had already resolved earlier this year to exit the coalition, the attempted leadership changes were all the more contentious, given that ODM senators reportedly formed the bulk of those pushing for Sifuna's removal. Citing an ongoing dispute under Article 16 of the coalition agreement, Azimio asked Kingi to hold off implementing any changes until its dispute resolution panel had ruled on the matter. It was, in essence, a plea for procedural patience in a process that had already moved with striking speed.

Kingi nonetheless proceeded to communicate the changes to the House, confirming Oketch as the new Deputy Minority Whip and bringing Sifuna's tenure in the role to an end. The Speaker was careful to lay out the procedural basis for his decision, mindful, it seemed, of the controversy that was sure to follow. "By a letter dated July 16, 2026, I received correspondence from the Senate Minority Leader, Senator Stewart Madzayo, regarding the removal of Senator Edwin Sifuna as the Deputy Senate Minority Whip and the election of Senator Eddy Gicheru Oketch to replace him," Kingi told the House. He added that he had satisfied himself the process complied with Standing Order 23(4), which allows Minority Party senators to remove an office hold-

er through a majority vote, and Standing Order 23(6), which requires that decision be formally communicated to the Speaker. "I have verified the correspondence received and hereby communicate that the Minority Party has effected a change in the office of the Deputy Senate Minority Whip," he said, closing the door firmly on Azimio's request for delay.

Sifuna, for his part, took the news in stride. Speaking shortly after the announcement, he thanked the minority leadership and fellow senators for their support during his time in the role, and extended warm words to his successor. "I thank the leadership and members for the cooperation they have given me during my time as the Deputy Senate Minority Whip," he said. "I congratulate my young brother, Senator Eddy Oketch, on his new role." He struck a light note about the responsibilities now falling on Oketch's shoulders, remarking, "It is now going to be his job to whip members so that we can raise quorum." It was a display of composure that many observers noted stood in sharp contrast to the turbulence surrounding his exit.

The graciousness of his response belied what has been a bruising few months for the Nairobi senator. Sifuna, who also serves as ODM Secretary-General, has in recent months emerged as one of the party's most vocal critics of the rapprochement between ODM and the Kenya Kwanza administration, a stance that has put him increasingly at odds with colleagues who favour closer cooperation with President Ruto's government. His removal from the whip position follows an earlier setback in which he was dropped from the Senate Committee on Energy, with Homa Bay Senator Moses Kajwang' taking his place. Taken together,



Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna

the two moves paint a picture of a senator being steadily edged out of formal influence within structures he once helped shape.

Thursday's leadership shake-up followed a dramatic Parliamentary Group meeting that descended into chaos, with senators clashing openly over the legality of the process. Sources familiar with the meeting said tensions escalated sharply after disagreements over the vote to remove Sifuna, culminating in pushing and shoving among lawmakers. It is alleged that Ole Kina injured his hand attempting to punch Vihiga Senator Godfrey Otsi during the confrontation, though these claims have not been independently verified. Accounts from senators present suggest the meeting itself was far from straightforward, with some participants indicating that a majority in the room had initially backed Sifuna's retention, only for a smaller but more organised faction to carry the process through regardless. Senators aligned with the Linda Mwananchi faction, including Kitui Senator Enock Wambua and Busia Senator Okiya Omtatah, reportedly questioned the legality of the gathering from the outset, citing inadequate notice and the absence of a circulated agenda. The meeting proceeded regardless, after Ole Kina ruled

that quorum had been met, a ruling that has itself become a point of contention among those who felt sidelined by the process.

The timing of the meeting has also drawn scrutiny. It took place just hours after a section of ODM senators held talks with President Ruto at State House, under the leadership of Siaya Senator Oburu Oginga. Sources close to the discussions suggest they preceded, and possibly influenced, the move to reorganise the Senate's minority leadership. Among those said to have attended the State House meeting were Oginga, Tom Ojienda, Eddy Oketch, Hamida Kibwana, Betty Montet, Johnes Mwaruma, Mohamed Faki, Stewart Madzayo, Issa Juma Boy and Moses Kajwang', a line-up that reads almost identically to the senators who would go on to back Sifuna's removal later that evening, fuelling suspicions that the reshuffle was choreographed well before the Parliamentary Group meeting was even convened.

The episode adds another layer to what has become a running rivalry between Sifuna and Oketch. The Migori senator had, earlier this year, filed a petition seeking Sifuna's removal as ODM Secretary-General altogether, accusing him of gross misconduct and sabotaging the party, partly over a widely

publicised meeting between Sifuna and former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua at a funeral in Murang'a. That petition was later withdrawn, but the underlying tensions it exposed appear to have resurfaced, this time with Oketch emerging as the direct beneficiary of Sifuna's diminished standing.

Even so, opinion polling suggests Sifuna retains considerable goodwill among grassroots ODM supporters. A recent survey by TIFA Research found that a majority of ODM supporters favour the Sifuna-led Linda Mwananchi movement over the party's current direction, a finding that complicates the narrative of a clean, uncontested leadership transition. Whether that grassroots sympathy translates into any formal pushback within ODM's structures remains to be seen, but it ensures Thursday's Senate reshuffle is unlikely to be the final word on the simmering divisions within the party.

For now, though, the formal record is settled. Oketch assumes the office of Deputy Senate Minority Whip with immediate effect, and Sifuna's tenure in the role has come to a close, not with the drama that surrounded his removal, but with a measured handshake across the aisle.

Housing The deal, signed between the government and KCB Bank Kenya, brings KDF officers into the Civil Servants Housing Mortgage Scheme

KDF officers to access decent housing after signing 4 percentage mortgage deal

BY Grace Wanja
@themkenyaintimes

Good news is on the way for Kenya's soldiers. More than 50,000 Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) personnel can now buy homes under the Affordable Housing Programme, thanks to a new partnership that gives them access to subsidised mortgages at a four percent interest rate.

The deal, signed between the government and KCB Bank Kenya, brings KDF officers into the Civil Servants Housing Mortgage Scheme, a facility that was previously reserved mainly for senior officers.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Charles Hinga, Principal Secretary at the State Department for Housing and Urban Development, said the move was designed to give army personnel one less thing to worry

about so they can stay focused on their duties.

"We have unlocked homeownership for army personnel whose selfless service continues to make us proud," Hinga said. "The Civil Servants Mortgage Scheme is no longer for senior officers only, but for eligible army personnel."

Under the facility, soldiers can buy completed houses, acquire residential plots, construct new homes, complete ongoing housing projects, combine plot purchase with construction, release equity, or transfer mortgages from other financial institutions. Officers of the Islamic faith can access the same benefits through Shariah-compliant financing under KCB's Sahl product.

Principal Secretary for Defence Patrick Mariru described the partnership as timely, noting the sacrifices servicemen and women make in the line of duty. "Provision of

decent housing is a fundamental basic right enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya," he said. "Today, we celebrate our officers by opening a homeownership pathway for them."

KCB Bank Kenya Managing Director Anastacia Kimtai called the programme a major milestone in expanding affordable housing finance to one of the country's largest public-sector workforces. "The onboarding of more than 50,000 active KDF personnel presents a significant milestone in broadening access to affordable housing finance," she said.

Chief of the Defence Forces General Charles Kahariri said the initiative gives troops a practical way to own homes beyond service accommodation. "By widening access to mortgage financing, we are strengthening the welfare of our officers and their families, giving them greater security and confidence as they plan for the future," he said. "When our people



From Left to Right: Defence PS Dr Patrick Mariru, Chief of the Defence Forces General Charles Kahariri, Housing PS Charles Hinga, and KCB Bank Kenya MD Annastacia Kimtai display the signed MOU allowing KDF officers to buy units under the Affordable Housing Programme under the Civil servants' mortgage scheme at 4% interest.

know that their families are secure, greater focus and commitment." they can serve the nation with even



Journey of life



Our journey of life is not always smooth or easy.
There are obstacles and issues along the way.
Ups and downs are common in life.

Take it all in an easy way.
Don't be too happy with any achievement,
Nor feel too sad about any failure
Because all of these are like passing clouds.
Everything will come our way.

Great leaders know this, and act accordingly.

Rain and sun are both common.
When you fall just rise.
That is the best answer.

Life will teach many bitter truths.
Be ready to learn from others experience
Be ready to learn from all.
Sometimes laughter can turn into disaster.

So keep walking courageously.
Don't be worried about anything.
Gradually the mist on your path will clear,
And the way ahead will become visible.

Brinda. D
Creative writers
Ghs Melpattampakkam Cuddalore dist Tamilnadu
India

When you burn, ignite the world with your creation



Just as you eagerly await the break of dawn.
The mark of echoes triumphs over arrows,
Just like finding the key to pure delight.
A step taken toward a mysterious world,
Sometimes seems so far away.
But the moment you feel the warmth of pleasure,
I swear, your longing will be put to rest.

By: Kholova Yulduz

A calm after the storm



The dark clouds slowly went away.
The bright sun smiled at the day.
The birds began to sing again.

Flowers bloomed after the rain.
The trees danced in the gentle breeze.
The river flowed with quiet ease.
Children laughed and ran to play.
Hope and joy filled every day.
After every storm comes light.
Peace makes everything feel right.

S. Yasir shihan
VII STD
government high school
sakkarakkottai

The journey of life



We walk with weight upon our backs,
not just a bag, but hopes and cracks.
Some days the path is steep and slow,
yet sunrise paints the doubts we know.

There are flowers where we thought was

stone,
and rivers winding, not alone.
We stumble, breathe, and learn to see
that every climb is part of me.

So keep going, even when you're tired,
for every step is something sired.
Life isn't where we end the climb,
it's in the walking, one step at a time.

-K. A. Santhoshi
9th std
GMGHSS,
Komarapalayam, Namakkal district,
Tamilnadu, India

Mother's love



Mother is one of the concepts that has hidden so many meanings and content in these three letters.

Our mothers are the most important part of our lives, a symbol of kindness, patience, and love. Mother's love is one of the symbolic qualities that is carried out without any benefits or thanks. The love they give us is one of the important issues that plays an important role in our lives. Through them, we can become an example for a circle of strong and fully happy people. Let's appreciate our mothers in time. Among all the blessings in the world, a mother, who is considered the greatest and most reliable, is equally valuable to everyone in any era and at any time.

Mother.... since the creation of humanity, the cradle of life - the mother, I want to say the most dear, most attractive words about life. However, the joy and joy of both words and life begin with the mother. The words my mother used to say when I was a child still ring in my ears. A little sad, but hopeful, in some cases, a kind of joy and delight mixed with sadness, tenderness, and a kind of joy, the voice of a happy mother sounded incredibly sweet. Perhaps the sound of kindness and compassion was created from sadness. My mother's voice was very sweet, mysterious, and refined. I felt with my dry heart that there was some heavenly power in her voice that could move a person's heart. When she spoke, I would involuntarily, without knowing it, run to my mother's lap. I wanted to put my head on her knee and cry. Something would get stuck in my throat. My flesh would tingle and my heart would burst from the magic of the melody. It was not

just a song, but also a wave of inexpressible love. It was an inexplicable sound of love for family, life, and children. Alla's melodies were incredibly mysterious, sophisticated, and despite my very young age, they seemed to awaken a shiver in my whole body, calling me to goodness that I had never understood. It was the cry of a mother's heart, a plea that merged with her dreams. At the same time, at the heart of the melody lay an indescribable level of love, passion, trust, and courage. Mother is the support, the foundation of the nation. She is the never-fading, stainless gold. A priceless gem of national values and identity, a treasure trove of high morality and virtues. The nation lives forever thanks to her. The lineage of generations continues thanks to her. She is the embodiment of the nation's honor, dignity, and pride. The mother's breath embodies the melody of the world, the music of existence, and her warm, pleasant voice contains life-giving power. Through her, and only through her, we discover the world, reveal its layers. We live in a world within a world. We cannot be separated from it even for a moment. Then, brave, courageous, courageous boys - sharp eagles, kind, kind, beautiful girls with a heart full of love - reliable mothers who devote their lives to giving birth to a glorious, honorable, perfect generation are born. Maternal love is the life of a child, the source of salvation for a child's needs, its inexhaustible power. Already, a newborn baby is, first of all, inclined to affection, love, and caresses. He feels his mother through his inner sense before anyone else. Although he cannot express his longing and aspirations to her, he waits with longing. He finds comfort in her warm, comforting warmth, her pleasant and soulful scent. An invisible connection, a relationship, is formed between mother and child, connected by heart and soul.

Our mothers are the greatest blessing of life, the joy and pleasure of the whole world, embodied in one person. Their love is a boundless complex. So let's appreciate our mothers in every way.

Bobonazarova Yulduz, 2nd year student of Urgench State Pedagogical Institute

If everything around you seems dark , look again you may be the light



As a little start in the night ,
The sky seems swallowed by the darkness,
Feeling insignificant,
I complained myself for being too small,
After sometime I wonder ,

I am being a map for the travellers ,
As a seed ,
I worried that I was lost in dark soil ,
I thought that I was buried inside the soil ,
After a longtime of self realisation,
I wonder that ,
I will be a strong root ,
For the steady tree in the future,
Try to find the light inside you,
Which makes the darkness fade away .

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

KFS The proposed project will fence approximately 25 kilometres around the 618-hectare forest reserve, enclosing about 661.6 hectares

KFS seeks views on proposed fencing of Ooloolua forest reserve

BY Peter Muteti
@themkenyatiimes

The Kenya Forest Service (KFS) has conducted a public participation forum on the proposed fencing of Ooloolua Forest Reserve in Kajiado North.

This is part of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process ahead of the project's implementation.

The project, being undertaken by the State Department for Forestry through KFS in partnership with the Green Connect Foundation, proposes the installation of a solar-powered electric perimeter fence around Ooloolua Forest,

which is managed under the Ngong Hills Forest Station.

Speaking during the meeting, KFS environmental expert Benedict Omondi said the fencing is intended to curb illegal logging, forest encroachment and other unlawful activities while protecting the forest's ecological, recreational and cultural value for present and future generations.

"The purpose of the fence is to safeguard the forest, not to deny the local community access. Designated access gates will be established in consultation with residents," said Omondi.

The proposed project will fence approximately 25 kilometres around the 618-hectare forest reserve, enclosing

about 661.6 hectares.

Residents from Ooloolua, Olkeri, Karen/Empakasi and Embul-Bul, as well as members of the Community Forest Association (CFA), welcomed the initiative, saying it would enhance security and improve conservation of the forest.

CFA Deputy Chairperson, Jane Wambui, said the forest has long been affected by illegal dumping, logging and criminal activities, with suspects often using it as a hideout.

Ooloolua Officer Commanding Station (OCS), Munene Musau, said the project would significantly improve security in the area.

"The fencing will help eliminate cases where criminals use the forest as a hideout. It



Some of the stakeholders during the meeting. | Photo: Courtesy.

will make the area safer for residents and support law enforcement efforts," he said.

Regional Forest Conservator for Nairobi, Joyce Thuku, urged residents to support the project, noting that the primary beneficiaries would be the surrounding communities through improved security and better conservation of the forest.

During the forum, residents sought clarification on whether they would be charged to access the forest after fencing.

KFS assured them that local residents would continue

accessing the forest for approved activities such as grazing, collecting firewood and beekeeping, provided they are registered members of Community Forest Associations.

Concerns were also raised about possible disruption of wildlife movement, and KFS said it would work closely with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to identify wildlife corridors and ensure the fence does not interfere with animal migration routes.

The KFS further announced that forest rangers and scouts would be deployed to patrol and maintain the fence, with

ranger housing to be constructed within the forest.

Residents pledged to support the project and welcomed KFS's commitment to involve local youth in construction and related activities to create employment opportunities.

Implementation of the project will commence after the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) approves the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report and issues the necessary licences.

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

granfilt@gmail.com

Labour Kenya accelerates labour export, one question deserves just as much attention: are we doing enough to protect the very citizens we encourage to seek opportunities abroad?

Exporting labour should never mean exporting vulnerability

BY Dennis Wendo

@themtkenyatimes

For generations, Kenyans have looked beyond our borders in search of better opportunities. Today, overseas employment has become a central pillar of the Government's strategy to tackle unemployment, empower young people, and position Kenya as a competitive source of skilled labour in the global economy. Through bilateral labour agreements and structured recruitment programmes, thousands of Kenyans are finding work abroad, lifting household incomes and contributing meaningfully to the country's economic growth.

Labour migration has, without question, become one of Kenya's most valuable economic assets. Every year, Kenyans working overseas remit billions of shillings that support families, finance education, stimulate investment, and strengthen the national economy. These remittances now rank among the country's leading sources of foreign exchange, a clear testament to the diaspora's contribution to national development.

Yet as Kenya accelerates labour export, one question deserves just as much attention: are we doing enough to protect the very citizens we encourage to seek opportunities abroad?

Success should never be measured solely by how many Kenyans are deployed overseas. It should also be judged by whether they secure decent employment, earn fair wages, work under safe conditions, enjoy effective legal protection, and return home with their dignity intact.

The experiences of many Kenyan migrant workers, particularly in parts of the Gulf Cooperation Council region, are a sobering reminder that overseas employment can expose workers to serious risks. While many Kenyans



Export processing zone

have built successful careers abroad, others have faced contract substitution, unpaid wages, passport confiscation, excessive working hours, physical and psychological abuse, sexual exploitation, arbitrary detention, and, in some tragic cases, death under circumstances that remain unresolved.

Many workers finance their journeys through costly loans, hoping overseas employment will transform their lives. When recruitment promises turn out to be false, or working conditions differ sharply from what was contracted, debt becomes another form of captivity, trapping workers in exploitative situations simply to repay what they owe.

Labour migration, then, must never be treated as merely an employment programme. It is equally a matter of human rights, good governance, and national responsibility.

The Government's commitment to expanding overseas employment opportunities is commendable, as are the ongoing reforms to strengthen labour migration governance. But these efforts must keep evolving alongside emerging risks and shifting labour markets.

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs carries a crucial responsibility to safeguard Kenyan workers abroad. Kenyan embassies and diplomatic missions should be properly equipped to provide timely consular assistance, legal support, and emergency intervention whenever citizens find them-

selves in distress. Safe houses, responsive reporting channels, and stronger engagement with host governments should become standard features of Kenya's diplomatic protection framework.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection must continue strengthening bilateral labour agreements to guarantee minimum employment standards, fair remuneration, insurance coverage, accessible dispute-resolution mechanisms, and effective enforcement of workers' contractual rights. Equally important is rigorous oversight of recruitment agencies, to root out fraudulent and exploitative practices.

The National Employment Authority should continue tightening regulation of private recruitment agencies while expanding pre-departure orientation programmes. Every Kenyan leaving the country for work should understand the contract they are signing, the laws of their destination country, the support mechanisms available to them, and their rights as migrant workers.

The Central Organization of Trade Unions also has an important role to play, extending labour rights advocacy beyond Kenya's borders through partnerships with international trade unions and workers' organisations. Labour rights should not end the moment a Kenyan boards an international flight.

Technology, too, should become part of migrant worker protection. A coordinated dig-

ital system linking relevant government agencies with Kenyan diplomatic missions would improve worker registration, emergency communication, and timely government intervention during crises.

Recruitment agencies must be held to the highest standards of accountability. Those engaged in fraud, illegal recruitment, contract substitution, human trafficking, or worker exploitation should face swift deregistration, criminal prosecution, and meaningful penalties. Such operators do not only exploit vulnerable citizens; they damage Kenya's international reputation.

Prospective migrant workers also carry responsibility. They should verify the licensing status of recruitment agencies,

carefully review employment contracts, attend pre-departure training, and ensure that close family members hold copies of all essential documents. Informed migration is safer migration.

As Kenya continues positioning itself as a reliable source of skilled and disciplined labour, protecting migrant workers must remain a national priority. Economic opportunity should never come at the expense of human dignity.

Ultimately, the success of Kenya's labour migration programme will not be measured simply by how many citizens work abroad, or how much they remit home. It will be measured by whether every Kenyan who leaves in search of a better future does so safely, works under fair and

dignified conditions, enjoys meaningful protection from their government, and returns home with hope rather than hardship.

As Kenya expands opportunities for its citizens across the global labour market, it must also strengthen the systems that protect them. Overseas employment should be a pathway to prosperity, not vulnerability. The promise of greener pastures should never become a journey into exploitation or despair. By placing the dignity, rights and welfare of migrant workers at the heart of labour migration policy, Kenya will not only strengthen its international standing but also fulfil its enduring duty to protect its citizens, wherever they may be.

Dennis Wendo is a Governance and Public Policy Analyst at the Integrated Development Network-Kenya (IDN-Kenya).

Email: idsn.kenya@gmail.com | Website: www.idnkenya.org




WUWASCO
WATER & SANITATION CO. LTD.
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

The Crownbird Publishers logo and imprint owned by Adlink International (1989) Media Group London

Copies of some books available for sale: hard copy/digital. Contact us: media@adlinkinternational.com Email Subject: Crownbird Books

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



Cult. Fundamentalism is not simply “taking religion seriously,” and it is not synonymous with devotion, discipline, or even literalism on its own

In heaven’s name, we buried our own reasoning



By: Jerameel Kevins Owuor Odhiambo

@themkenyatimes

The year of the Lord is 2023 and the setting is in Kilifi County, a husband walks into a police station because his wife and daughter have not returned from a forest. What the officers find when they follow him is not a missing-persons case. It is a nation’s reckoning with itself, dug up one shallow grave at a time. By the time the exhumations slowed, more than four hundred bodies had been pulled from the red soil of Shakahola, and autopsies would show that most of them had starved, some strangled, some suffocated, some beaten all in pursuit of a heaven their pastor promised was only reachable through hunger. That is not metaphor. That is inquest.

We must resist the temptation to file Shakahola under the folder marked “cult,” seal it, and walk away relieved that madness has an address far from our own pews. To do that is to misdiagnose the disease by staring only at its most advanced tumor. What killed those four hundred people did not arrive as a foreign thing. It walked in wearing the same vestments it wears on any ordinary day of worship, carrying the same book, singing the same hymns. The forest was not an aberration. It was an amplification of something that already lives, quietly and respectably, in a thousand congregations across this country.

So let us name the thing properly, because a wound you cannot name is a wound you cannot dress. Fundamentalism is not simply “taking religion seriously,” and it is not synonymous with devotion, discipline, or even literalism on its own. It is a particular architecture of the mind, built on three load-bearing walls. The first is certainty without appeal: a conviction so total that no fact, however documented, is permitted to modify it only to be reinterpreted, explained away, or declared a test sent to try the faithful. The second is a single, unquestionable source of authority, be it a text or a man claiming direct line



Shakahola

to God, whose word requires no corroboration and tolerates no cross-examination. The third is the collapse of the world into two camps only the saved and the damned, the obedient and the cursed so that anyone counselling caution, whether a doctor, a journalist, or a frightened relative, is not a second opinion but an enemy of the faith. Strip away the theology and what remains is a closed epistemological system: a way of knowing that has sealed its own exits.

That is why a mother who withholds antimalarials from a feverish child in favour of fasting and prayer is not practising an extreme version of faith. She is executing the same operating system that built the graves at Shakahola, just running a gentler subroutine of it not yet asked to walk the doctrine’s last, lethal mile. Evidence-based medicine survives on falsifiability: a claim is only as good as our willingness to test it against the world and discard it when it fails. Fundamentalist reasoning inverts this completely. The conclusion is fixed in advance, sacred, non-negotiable, and any inconvenient fact a rising temperature, a starving child, a positive HIV test is not data to be reckoned with but a trial of obedience to be endured. Once a mind has been trained to treat contradiction as temptation rather than information, it has lost the one tool that lets a person distinguish a good idea from a fatal

one. That is not spiritual devotion. That is the deliberate disarming of a population’s critical faculty, congregation by congregation, sermon by sermon.

Kenya has watched this arithmetic play out before Shakahola and since. Investigators and human rights bodies who examined the case concluded that the tragedy was not simply the work of one deranged preacher but a failure the state had been warned about and declined to stop, with security officers in the area faulted for negligence long before the graves were found. That finding matters, because it tells us fundamentalism does not kill alone. It kills with the complicity of institutions too polite, too electorally cautious, or too theologically deferential to intervene while a “man of God” is still merely eccentric rather than yet a murderer. The four thousand-odd registered churches operating in this country at the time were not evidence of a spiritually rich nation. They were evidence of a regulatory vacuum wide enough to bury four hundred people in, and no one thought it strange enough to close.

And it is never only the dead we should count. Under the same architecture of certainty, girls have been married off before their bodies were ready for it, women have been told a husband’s violence is a cross to bear rather than a crime to re-

port, children born with correctable conditions have been presented to congregations as demons to be exorcised rather than patients to be treated, and queer Kenyans have been catalogued as abominations rather than citizens. Each of these is fundamentalism doing precisely what its architecture is built to do: convert a human rights violation into a religious observance, so the perpetrator feels obedient rather than guilty, and the victim is taught to feel deserving rather than wronged. The erosion is slow enough that no single sermon looks like a crime scene. But add up enough sermons, enough closed epistemologies, enough unquestionable men, and you get Shakahola. You get a father calmly denying his starving children food and calling it faith.

None of this indicts belief itself, and it would be intellectually dishonest and strategically self-defeating to pretend otherwise. Kenya’s churches have buried the state’s failures more often than they have caused them: feeding programmes, hospices, schools in counties the government forgot, moral courage during years when courage of any other kind was scarce. The problem this essay names is not faith. It is faith stripped of its humility, faith that has stopped asking questions of itself, faith weaponised by men who discovered that “God told me” is a sentence no

magistrate wants to be first to challenge. There is a difference between a congregation that prays over a sick child on the way to hospital and one that prays instead of going. The first walls of fundamentalism certainty, singular authority, closed camps are absent from the first congregation and load-bearing in the second.

The task in front of us, then, is not to choose between the sanctuary and the clinic. It is to insist, without apology, that no pulpit in this republic sits above the Constitution, and that a doctrine which cannot survive contact with a blood test or a court of law has no business shaping the lives of children who never consented to it. Regulate the unregistered churches. Prosecute the men who dress predation in prophecy. Teach reasoning, not merely recitation, in the Sunday school and the public school alike. Protect the believer’s right to worship exactly as fiercely as we protect the child’s right not to be starved for it.

Shakahola’s graves have mostly been closed now. The question this country has not yet closed is whether it will keep manufacturing the architecture that filled them.

The writer is a social commentator

Zimbabwe Millions of citizens have left the country over the years in search of work, security, and better opportunities elsewhere

Term extension must be justified by results, not promises

BY Alice Nyamande
@themtkenyentimes

Zimbabwe deserves better than promises. It deserves proof. President Emmerson Mnangagwa’s decision to remain in office until 2030, following the enactment of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment Act No. 3 of 2026, continues to spark heated public debate. At the heart of it lies a fundamental constitutional question: should a change that extends the tenure of elected leaders be put to a national referendum, so citizens can express their will directly?

For many Zimbabweans, though, this debate goes beyond legal technicalities. It is about governance, accountability, and whether extending political office is justified by real improvements in ordinary people’s lives.

Zimbabwe continues to face deep economic and social challenges. Millions of citizens have left the



President Emmerson Mnangagwa

country over the years in search of work, security, and better opportunities elsewhere. This exodus reflects hard truths about the difficulties many families face, and raises serious questions about the country’s

ability to sustain its own people at home.

The healthcare system remains under enormous strain. Public hospitals regularly run short of medicines, equipment, and essential supplies, while many citizens struggle to afford consultation fees, treatment, or even transport to the nearest clinic. Maternal healthcare and other critical services continue to fall short, leaving vulnerable communities exposed.

The broader economy has also failed to deliver the growth and job creation many had hoped for. High unemployment, a swelling informal sector, rising living costs, and shrinking purchasing power have left households struggling to meet basic needs. Despite repeated promises of economic transformation, many Zimbabweans feel meaningful change has yet to arrive.

Against this backdrop, extending a presidential term naturally invites scrutiny. Citizens have every right to ask what exceptional national in-

terest is served by prolonging an administration’s tenure while so many long-standing challenges remain unresolved. These are not hostile questions. They are democracy doing what it is meant to do.

Democracy asks those entrusted with public office to keep demonstrating, in real and measurable ways, that their leadership is improving people’s lives. Extending political power should come with clear evidence of progress in healthcare, education, employment, infrastructure, economic stability, and public service delivery, not more rhetoric.

Zimbabwe’s future depends not on how long any one leader stays in office, but on the quality of governance delivered while they are there. History will ultimately judge this administration, as it judges every administration, by the lives it improved, the institutions it strengthened, and the opportunities it created for its citizens.

Issued by: Alice Nyamande, President, Action Democratic Movement (ADM)

Celebrating life I knew him as Kasule, Muzukulu wa Kassujija — a man with a gentle name and an even gentler heart.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF REV. FR. CHRISPINE OKELLO, IMC

BY Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
@themtkenyentimes

Kasule, Muzukulu wa Kassujija
16th July, 2026
By Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza

My heart is heavy at this hour...

I never imagined I would be writing these words.

But today, heaven welcomed home a man who spent his whole life pointing others there — Rev. Fr. Chripine Okello, IMC.

I knew him as Father.

I knew him as a friend.

I knew him as Kasule, Muzukulu wa Kassujija — a man with a gentle name and an even gentler heart.

At the time of his passing, he was serving as Parish Priest of Our Lady Consolata Kapeeka Parish. Before that, from April 2008 to April 2011, he served at Our Lady Consolata Bweyogerere Parish. That’s where many of us, including me, first encountered his kind of priesthood —

not loud, not showy, but deeply real.

He ministered with dedication, humility, and compassion.

He didn’t just preach from the altar. He walked into homes. He sat on verandas. He listened longer than was comfortable. He prayed when no one was watching.

Fr. Chripine taught me that priesthood is not about standing above people.

It’s about kneeling with them.

In the confessional, he was mercy without judgment.

At the bedside of the sick, he was peace in a cassock.

To the youth, he was a reminder that God still believes in us.

To children, he was that warm smile that said, “You matter to God.”

He had a way of planting things.

Faith in families that were breaking.

Hope in young people who felt forgotten.

The Consolata spirit — to comfort the afflicted — right into the everyday lives of ordinary people.

He never chased titles. He chased souls.

He never counted hours. He counted people.

And every quiet act of kindness he did, the kind that never made it to announcements, I believe heaven was writing it down.

Today the Church is quieter.

Kapeeka has lost a shepherd.

Bweyogerere has lost a father who once walked its lanes.

And I have lost a priest whose words and example will keep forming me long after he is gone.

I do not mourn as one without hope.

I mourn as one who was blessed to be loved and led by a holy man.

Thank you, Fr. Chripine, for every Mass.

Thank you for every counsel.

Thank you for every time you chose people over position.

Thank you for showing us what a servant of God looks like.

Now the Lord you served so faithfully has called you home.

I pray He grants you eternal rest and



REV. FR. CHRISPINE OKELLO, IMC

the reward promised to His faithful servants.

Eternal rest grant unto you, O Lord,

and let perpetual light shine upon you.

May your soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed,

through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Rest well, Father.

Teach us now from where you are.

Pray for us. We will miss you until we meet again at the table of the Lord.

May your soul rest in eternal peace

BOOKS & LITERATURE

with Hajra Sarwar

Book Review:

Book Review:

Author: Charles Dicken

Book: Great Expectations

Reviewer: Hajra Sarwar

Expectations make a person emotionally timid and insecure and psychologically invested in depending on other's perceptions. Individuals under this influence continuously striving to fit in what society wants them to be.

Charles Dickens is one of the most prolific novelists of the Victorian age. As a keen observer of his society, he exposed various malpractices going on in the Victorian era like poor education system social and legal injustices, class stratification, ever increasing greed of money and nourishment of wrong notions among people. His novel Great Expectations is finest in the exhibition of such vices.

Charles Dickens has artistically elaborated these social flaws and exposed the society that comes under the difference of class. This so-called segregation of status and class made an orphan child Pip, an insecure person. He was quite satisfied with his job until he visited Miss Havisham's house and Estella calls him "a common laboring boy". He feels ashamed of his job as black smith. He tries to hide his dirty hands from Estella thinking she "might despise" him because he wanted to be friends with her, but their class difference was against their friendship.

He aspires to rise above his position and become a part of upper-class family. Joe Garjery, Pip's brother-in-law, is a father like figure for Pip. He wanted to raise Pip under love and care. Whereas Miss Havisham represents the elite

class. She brought up Estella in a very tense environment. She uses Estella as a bait for all young men. Estella is inculcated with this idea "break their hearts and have no mercy".

As Pip grew older, he is attracted towards Estella and wanted to have her but she rejects him. This shows how bad upbringing with wrong notions effects the generation and stigmatizes the society.

The novel elaborates how gentlemanliness is judged through wealth and appearance. People like Drummle, are regarded as gentleman because of their appearance whereas a morally good person like Joe is disregarded because of his poverty.

Dickens through this novel, brings to light how large-scale commercialization affected the notions of the masses. He satirizes the excessive greed for money. Its money that corrupts human beings and ruins relations. Pip, the protagonist of the novel becomes a snob under this crucial influence of monetary considerations. He starts regarding money and prosperity superior to human relations. His attitude towards his nearest and dearest ones undergoes a severe change. The work of blacksmith which he used to like once as a child now seems coarse and inferior to him. Here Dickens instructs the readers to regard relations as superior to every other consideration.

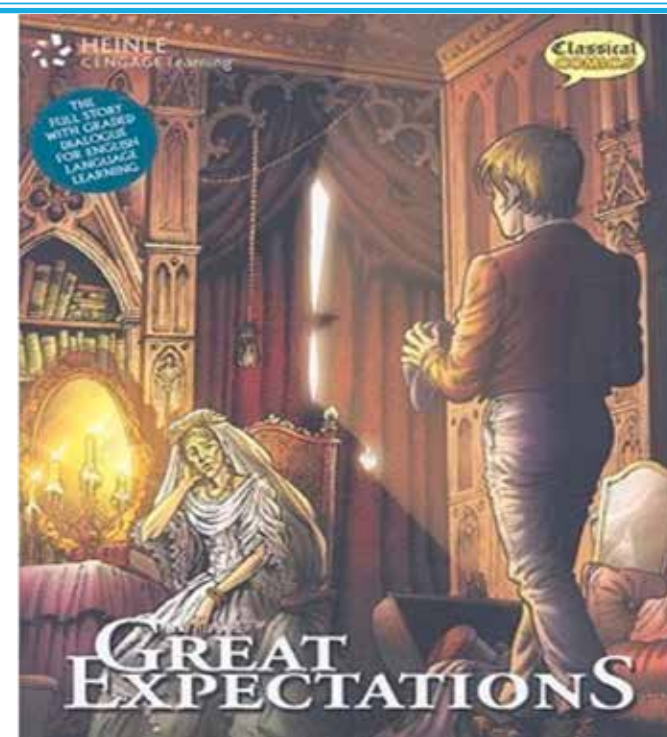
The title of the novel possesses the major theme of the novel as most of the characters have aspirations, though

they prove mere illusions and are shattered in the long run. Pip has great expectations of marrying Estella for this very thing he goes to London, gets education, grooms himself but his dream shatters at the end when Estella disregards him.

As for the novel, it is a bildungsroman novel. The novel tells the story of a person's growth from childhood to maturity. the protagonist of the novel grows from child to adult through the course of the novel. The novel also elaborates the growth in a way that how an innocent child who is confident feels secure in whatever he has whether its family or job or whatever the social status he has eventually becomes insecure and dissatisfied with his position. it shows how a person develops from simplicity to sinful youth but finally realizes that goodness comes from within a person.

Dickens' style his way of painting a true picture of society is commendable. He is indeed a true social commentator. He sees things and provides a suitable alternative for malpractices of his era that are common in almost every society even nowadays. He employs technique of satire to reform society. He does not simply aim to eradicate all social vices but also prescribes a better alternative and his works are evident in this way.

Through the encapsulating illustration of this novel, we can conclude in this way that if a person wants to take part in social reform, he can at least use his insightful thoughts and delineate it in his works. The society can be a better place to live in if there must be a just legal system. And by putting an end to all type of class stratification. If there will be equality, there will not be any inferiority complex.



GREAT EXPECTATIONS.



"WELL, PIP, YOU KNOW, . . . YOU YOURSELF SEE ME PUT 'EM IN MY 'AT, AND THEREFORE YOU KNOW AS THEY ARE HERE."



AI should support teachers, not replace them

By Lucky Frank

Artificial intelligence is no longer a distant promise for Kenyan schools. It is already here, and how the country manages it now will shape a generation of learners.

Education stakeholders have urged schools to adopt AI responsibly, insisting the technology should support teachers, not replace them. The call came during discussions on AI's growing footprint in Kenya's education sector, as institutions grapple with how far to let machines into the classroom.

Used well, AI can lighten teachers' workloads. It can assist with lesson planning, assessment, personalised learning, and administrative tasks, freeing educators to spend more time mentoring and engaging students directly. That is the promise: less paperwork, more teaching.

But the warning is just as ur-



gent. Overreliance on AI risks eroding critical thinking, creativity, and independent learning, the very qualities education is meant to build. A generation that outsources its thinking to algorithms will struggle to reason for itself.

The solution is not to reject AI, but to govern it. Stakeholders have rightly called on the Ministry of Education, schools, and other institutions to develop clear policies, train teach-

ers adequately, and set ethical guidelines for AI use in learning spaces.

Kenya cannot afford to sit out this transition, nor can it afford to sleepwalk into it. Handled with foresight, AI can strengthen outcomes without hollowing out the profession it is meant to assist.

Technology should sharpen the teacher's craft, not substitute for it.

OI Kalou and the democratic imperative of transparency

By Levis Wangamati

Roads can close. Trust cannot afford to.

The OI Kalou parliamentary by-election is more than a contest for a vacant seat. It is a test of whether Kenya's democratic institutions can match security with transparency.

Heightened security and road closures are now familiar features of election day. The State has a constitutional duty to protect voters, officials and electoral materials, and citizens generally accept the inconvenience that comes with it. But security without communication breeds suspicion. When roads close and movement is restricted without timely public information, rumour fills the silence, and in the digital age, speculation travels faster than facts.

This is where institutions must rise above politics. Transparency is not a courte-



sy; it is an obligation. Electoral agencies, security officers and political leaders all share a duty to communicate clearly and consistently throughout the process, not only after results are declared.

An election's legitimacy does not end at the vote count. It rests on whether citizens believe every stage, from security operations to tallying, was open to scrutiny. That belief

takes years to build and moments to destroy.

OI Kalou should be remembered not just for who wins, but for how transparently the process was run. Elections pass; institutions and public trust endure.

The roads into OI Kalou may close for security. The road to truth must stay open.

Government steps up climate-smart farming to boost food security

By Alfred Mutua

Kenya's farms are on the front line of climate change, and the government says it is finally arming them for the fight.

Authorities have intensified efforts to promote climate-smart agriculture, part of a wider push to strengthen food security and shield farmers from worsening climate shocks.

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said the government is partnering with county administrations, research institutions and development partners to equip farmers with modern techniques that raise crop yields while building resilience against drought, floods and erratic rainfall.

The initiative includes expanding farmer training, pro-



moting water conservation, supporting drought-tolerant crop varieties, and improving access to agricultural extension services. Officials say the measures target both smallholder and large-scale farmers struggling to maintain output amid shifting weather patterns.

The government has also committed substantial funding to agriculture in the 2026/27 financial year, aimed at boost-

ing productivity, strengthening value chains and reinforcing national food security.

Experts say the stakes could not be higher. Sustained investment in climate-resilient farming, they argue, will be decisive in keeping food supplies stable and protecting farmers' livelihoods in the years ahead.

The message from Nairobi is clear: adapt now, or pay later at the harvest.

Kenya needs better disaster preparedness

By Cynthia Jemutai

The water always comes back. So does the grief.

Recent floods have claimed lives, displaced families, and destroyed homes and infrastructure across the country. Each time, the images are the same: submerged homesteads, stranded families, and a nation caught off guard by a crisis it has seen before. These tragedies are not just natural disasters; they are failures of planning.

Kenya cannot keep treating floods as unforeseeable acts of nature when the warning signs are, more often than not, visible well in advance. What the country lacks is not information but the systems to act on it.

County and national governments must invest seriously in proper drainage systems, reliable early warning mechanisms, and sustained public



awareness campaigns. Communities in flood-prone areas need timely, accurate information and adequate support well before disaster strikes, not emergency relief after the damage is done.

This requires coordination, not improvisation. Drainage infrastructure must be built and maintained with flooding patterns in mind. Early warning systems must reach the people who need them, in language and format they understand.

And public education must be continuous, not confined to the aftermath of tragedy.

Preparedness saves lives. It is cheaper than recovery, and far kinder than mourning.

Kenya must stop reacting to disasters and start preventing their devastating effects. The next flood is not a matter of if, but when. The only real question is whether the country will be ready.

SPORTS
NEWSPHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *New Gor Mahia signing Hansel Ochieng' has declared his minimum target for the season: winning the league title with his new club.

New Gor hitman eyes Premier League, CAF glory



New Gor Mahia signing Hansel Ochieng' (right) signs his contract along with club chair Ambrose Rachier. PHOTO/GOR MAHIA FC

By **Martin Weche**

New Gor Mahia signing Hansel Ochieng' has declared his minimum target for the season: winning the league title with his new club.

The striker is aiming to become an FKF Premier League champion by the end of the 2026/27 season, while also hoping to steer K'Ogalo deep into the CAF Champions League.

"I think it is a special feeling, a good feeling. Any player should be happy to be part of this team. First, I'd want us to defend the Premier League title, and secondly, go as far as possible in the CAF Champions League," Ochieng' said.

The forward completed a move to the record 21-time Kenyan champions on Wednesday, penning a two-year deal after a standout season with topflight newcomers APS Bomet. He finished the 2025/26 campaign with six league goals, playing a key role as APS Bomet secured a

respectable 10th-place finish and retained their place in the top flight in their debut season.

Ochieng', who has also turned out for AFC Leopards, Kakamega Homeboyz, Nzoia Sugar, Sofapaka and Nairobi City Stars, had long been linked with a switch to Gor Mahia following the conclusion of last season. His performances also attracted interest from a Zambian Super League side, but it is Gor Mahia who won the race for his signature as the club continues strengthening its squad ahead of a season that will include continental assignments.

The forward has promised to repay the faith shown in him by the club's management with strong performances on the pitch.

"I think the best way to show appreciation is just by performing," he said.

Ochieng' is a name that will be all too familiar to the Green Army. The striker has built a fearsome reputation against Gor Mahia over the past year, scor-

ing five goals against the record champions across multiple meetings. The most memorable came last November, when he scored twice and set up two more goals as APS Bomet stunned Charles Akonnor's side 4-1 at Nyayo Stadium. He struck again in February, netting a brace in a 4-1 win over K'Ogalo, who were league leaders at the time.

Ochieng' will now get the chance to win over the very fans who once dreaded facing him, starting with the CECAFA Kagame Cup in Rwanda, which runs from July 24 to August 7. Gor Mahia have been drawn in Group A alongside Rwandan hosts APR FC, Ugandan champions Vipers SC, and Djibouti's Garde Républicaine FC, with K'Ogalo opening their campaign against APR FC on the tournament's first day.

The regional championship will double as preparation for clubs ahead of their 2026/27 CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup campaigns,

which begin in September, making Ochieng's early performances in Kigali a useful gauge of how quickly he can settle into his new surroundings.

Ochieng' joins a growing list of new faces at K'Ogalo this off-season, with the club also bringing in goalkeepers Michael Onyango and Humphrey Katasi, midfielder Enock Machaka, defender Daniel Sakari, and winger David Okoth Odhiambo, among others, as Gor Mahia intensify their recruitment drive ahead of a season in which they will defend their league crown and push for continental success.

For a striker who has made a career out of punishing Gor Mahia, the challenge now shifts. Ochieng' will have to convert the instincts that once tormented K'Ogalo into goals for them, starting on a stage that will test his new side against some of East and Central Africa's best.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *A star-studded field of 96 golfers is set to headline the NCBA Limuru Open & Brackenhurst Trophy at Limuru Country Club this weekend (July 17-19)

Star-Studded field set for NCBA Limuru Open & Brackenhurst Trophy



NCBA Kabete Open 2026 Champion John Kamaisi in action during the final round of the NCBA Kabete Open at VetLab Sports Club

By: Capital Sport

A star-studded field of 96 golfers is set to headline the NCBA Limuru Open & Brackenhurst Trophy at Limuru Country Club this weekend (July 17-19) with the event expected to deliver one of the most competitive amateur showdowns of the season.

The 2026 Kenya Amateur Golf Championship Series leader, John Kamaisi, headlines the line-up that also has second placed Jay Sandhu and third-placed Elvis Muigua alongside Rwanda’s Jean D’Amour Hitayezu who comes to this leg on the back of his win at the NCBA Coast Open ‘Barry Cup’ last weekend.

Teenage sensations Kanana Muthomi and Cherono Kipkorir lead the list of women golf-

ers set for the Limuru showdown alongside Kellie Gachaga, Maryam Mwakitawa, and Nancy Wairimu.

The field features players from Rwanda, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, Burundi, Uganda, India, Ghana, China, and Serbia, adding strong regional and international appeal as they compete for a share of the KES 700,000 prize pool.

Kamaisi leads the standings on 809.20 points, extending his advantage at the top despite the second-place finish in Mombasa. Muthaiga Golf Club’s Jay Sandhu sits second on 640.00 points, Elvis Muigua remains third with 495.26 points, Eugene Wafula is fourth on 472.26 points, and William Odek rounds out the top five on 409.56 points.

The Limuru Open & Brackenhurst Trophy remains an important stop on the KAGC pathway, offering players a chance to earn ranking points, sharpen competitive form, and test themselves against some of the region’s best amateurs.

The strength of the entry list also reflects the continued appeal of Limuru Country Club as a venue capable of attracting elite fields and delivering high-quality championship golf.

At the same time, more golfers will be hoping to secure their NCBA Golf Series Grand Finale slots this weekend during the Nyanza Golf Club Monthly Mug, a mini-qualifier of the series.

Qualification to the Grand Finale, set to be held at the pres-

tigious Karen Country Club on November 28, will be earned by the Overall Gross Winner, Men’s Gross Winner, Lady Gross Winner, Division 2 Men Winner, Division 2 Lady Winner, Division 3 Winner, and the leading Junior.

Elsewhere, the fifth leg of the 2026 PGK Equator Tour teed off at Ruiru Sports Club on Thursday, July 16 and will run through to Sunday, July 19.

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



When the beat outlived the message

How Uganda's Secular Music Traded Prophets for Popularity — and Left a Generation Searching for Meaning



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
mukphix@gmail.com



Worth Noting:

- In 2026, the music industry runs on a different currency: attention. Three seconds to hook a listener. Fifteen seconds to start a trend. A scandal to stay relevant. In boardrooms and studios, the conversation has shifted. "Sound first. Message later. If there's time," a Kampala producer admitted, requesting anonymity. "If verse 2 doesn't go viral, it doesn't matter what it says." The algorithm does not reward depth. It rewards repetition.
- It rewards provocation. As a result, lyrics that glorify drug abuse, materialism, and the exploitation of women can become "hits" overnight, not because they are true, but because they are trending. Even within some gospel spaces, critics note the same drift: a pursuit of stadium sound over soul conviction.

There was a time in this country when a song did more than make you dance. It made you think. It made you repent. It made you call home. In living rooms across Kampala, Gulu, and Mbale in the 1980s, 90s, and early 2000s, the radio was not background noise. It was a pulpit without walls. A verse could confront a corrupt official. A chorus could tell a teenager to stay in school. A bridge could hold a grieving nation together. Today, that same radio plays louder. The production is cleaner. The artists have millions of followers. But the silence after the song is heavier than ever. Because when you ask, "What did that song say?" — there is often nothing left to answer.

Secular music once carried moral weight. It was not called "gospel," but it preached nonetheless. Bob Marley sang of redemption and resistance. Lucky Dube sang of war, AIDS, and the dignity of the poor. At home, Philly Bongoley Lutaaya released *Alone And Frightened* not to top charts, but to dismantle stigma at the height of the HIV crisis. The song saved lives because it told the truth. Artists wrote about teenage pregnancy, domestic violence, tribalism, and the cost of greed. They risked being banned because popularity was never the point. Healing was. "You would hear a song and go home and look at your father differently," says Josephine Nambi, 52, a teacher in Kampala. "Now you hear a song and you only remember the dance."

In 2026, the music industry runs on a different currency: attention. Three seconds to hook a listener. Fifteen seconds to start a trend. A scandal to stay relevant. In boardrooms and studios, the conversation has shifted. "Sound first. Message later. If there's time," a Kampala producer admitted, requesting anonymity. "If verse 2 doesn't go viral, it doesn't matter what it says." The algorithm does not reward depth. It rewards repetition. It rewards provocation. As a result, lyrics that glorify drug abuse, materialism, and the exploitation of women can become "hits" overnight, not because they are true,



but because they are trending. Even within some gospel spaces, critics note the same drift: a pursuit of stadium sound over soul conviction.

This is not a rejection of evolution. Music must grow. Sound must change. But in the pursuit of metrics, something essential is being quietly eroded. The old music gave society language for pain — poverty, corruption, disease. Today's music often avoids discomfort because discomfort does not get shared. Songs used to be archives of who we were. Now most are disposable, forgotten in two weeks by the next trend. Families once gathered around one record. Today we listen in silos, performing for strangers instead of communing with each other. Dr. Sar-

ah Kiguli, cultural critic at Makerere University, frames it plainly: "When music stops educating, society entertains itself to death. We are not being moved. We are being distracted."

This is not an indictment of young artists. Many are trapped in a system that pays for noise and punishes nuance. Across studios in Kampala, Jinja, and Gulu, songwriters are still writing about mental health, unemployment, broken families, and climate. They simply do not get the same push. They do not buy bots. They do not manufacture scandals. So they remain underground. The question is whether audiences, media houses, and promoters will meet them there.

Perhaps the recovery begins with

the listener. Before we stream. Before we share. Before we make it trend: What is this song teaching my brother, my sister, my child? Before we book an artist: What are they planting in our community? Music was never meant to be only entertainment. It is formation. It forms character. It forms values. It forms a people. The beat will always be there. But without meaning, the beat is just noise. And a generation raised on noise may never learn how to listen.

Do you believe secular music has lost its moral voice, or are we in a new season? Tag an artist you think is still "preaching through sound."