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What next for UDA political leaders from the mountain?



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Gachagua visits Ol-Kalou after DCP's maiden parliamentary victory

Some of the moment moments as captured in pictures

Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP) leader Rigathi Gachagua on Friday visited Ol Kalou Constituency, a day after the party clinched its first parliamentary seat through Sammy Kamau Waweru in the hotly contested by-election.

Gachagua toured parts of the constituency to thank residents for what he described as a courageous decision to elect Waweru, saying the outcome would remain a significant chapter in Kenya's political history. The former Deputy President was received by jubilant supporters who celebrated the victory, with Gachagua praising voters for standing firm and exercising their democratic right.

The visit came after Gachagua issued a statement congratulating Waweru and thanking the people of Ol Kalou for their resilience during the electoral contest.

In the statement, the DCP leader said Ol Kalou had restored Waweru's "true heroism" and praised him for his courage and determination.



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Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



vegetables for both Kenyan and export markets. Collection centres will aggregate produce, provide quality assurance and connect farmers to premium buyers, including Greenspoon.

A three-year Kenya–Netherlands initiative, the GreenLinks Project, will support 300 small-holder farmers in Kajiado, Kiambu and Thika to improve food safety and access premium local and international markets. Funded by the Dutch government and private partners, the programme will train farmers in good agricultural practices, integrated pest management, post-harvest handling and sustainable production while providing biological crop protection, improved seeds and precision irrigation support. Speaking at the launch in Kajiado, Netherlands Agricultural Counsellor Bart Pauwels said the project aims to reduce pesticide use and promote safe, traceable



Six people have been arrested in Marsabit County after authorities recovered government relief food suspected to have been diverted from intended beneficiaries. Acting on a public tip-off, police raided a homestead in Majengo, Saku Constituency, and recovered 74 bags of rice and 10 bags of beans marked as Kenya Government relief supplies, alongside an Isuzu truck believed to have been used in the operation. County Commissioner Stanley Kamande said investigations are underway to establish how the food, meant for distribution in Kachacha Location, ended up at a private residence. He urged the public to report any suspected diversion of relief food.



The Turkana County Government has handed over the Nabeye–Kalemngorok Water Supply Scheme to the Turkana Rural Water and Sanitation Company (TURWASCO) and the local community, marking a major step in improving access to clean water in Turkana South. The project, implemented by the Departments of Water Services and Environment, will benefit residents of Kalemngorok, Katilu and Lokichar, who have long faced water shortages. It includes two boreholes, elevated storage tanks and community water points. Water Executive Willy Lopeyok urged residents to support the scheme through metering and payment for services to ensure sustainable operation, maintenance and future expansion.



ICS Technical College has launched a free three-month Russian language programme in partnership with the Path to Russia Foundation and Moscow Polytechnic University to enhance students' access to international education, scholarships and employment opportunities. The virtual course, taught by instructors from Moscow Polytechnic University, will introduce learners to the Russian language and culture and award participants university certificates upon completion. Registrar Reinhard Amunga said the initiative will improve graduates' competitiveness in the global job market. Regional Coordinator Erick Ochieng' said top-performing students could qualify for scholarships to study in Russia, with a specialised IT programme also planned. The pilot programme targets 40 students, with plans to introduce physical classes after accreditation and growing demand.



Kenya has launched the Animal Identification and Traceability System (ANITRAC), a digital platform that uses RFID ear tags to register and track livestock, with the aim of opening access to global markets and improving disease surveillance. Speaking at the launch in Tana River, Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said the system will enable farmers to export traceable livestock, access better prices and use animals as bankable assets. He added that the technology will also help curb livestock theft and banditry through real-time tracking. Tana River livestock officials said the system will improve planning for vaccinations, disease control and livestock management, while local farmers welcomed it as a solution to cattle rustling.



Busia County will roll out the second phase of its Mpox vaccination campaign from July 17 to July 26, targeting high-risk populations in Matayos and Teso North sub-counties, which have recorded the highest number of infections due to increased cross-border movement with Uganda. Speaking during a stakeholders' sensitization forum, Matayos Health Promotion Officer Kennedy Odhiambo said the county has recorded 105 confirmed Mpox cases, indicating ongoing community transmission. Infectious Diseases Officer Joan Anyanga said Matayos has reported 47 cases and Teso North 29, making them priority areas for vaccination. Authorities have intensified surveillance and screening while urging residents to observe preventive measures. Busia Municipality Assistant County Commissioner Calvin Monare called on residents to embrace vaccination and ignore misinformation, while beneficiary George Luhoma assured the public that the vaccine is safe and effective.

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Agri-Parks The Agri-Parks that we have established will consolidate all KALRO's past research and developed technologies

KALRO establishes Agri-Parks to bridge technology gap and boost farmers' productivity

BY KNA

@themkenyaintimes

The Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) has announced plans to establish Agri-Parks across the country to bring research innovations and modern agricultural technologies closer to farmers.

The initiative is aimed at consolidating years of research on improved livestock breeds, seed varieties, animal feeds and climate-smart crops under one platform where farmers can easily access information, technologies and solutions to improve production.

KALRO Board Chairman Dr Thuo Mathenge said the establishment of Agri-Parks would address a long-standing challenge where farmers have struggled to access technologies developed through years of research by the organisation.

Speaking during the groundbreaking ceremony for an Agri-Park at the KALRO research centre in Naivasha, Dr Mathenge said the centres would serve as a link between researchers, farmers and other stakeholders in the agricultural sector.

He said the parks would accelerate the adoption of new technologies, improve food production and help the country reduce reliance on imported agricultural products.

"The Agri-Parks that we have established will consolidate all KALRO's past



KALRO chairman Dr Thuo Mathenge (right) with institution's Director General Dr Patrick Ketiem during the launching of Agri-Parks, Naivasha.

research and developed technologies under one roof for easy access by farmers, scaling their use to boost production and mitigate against emerging crop diseases," said Dr Mathenge.

KALRO currently operates 53 research centres across the country, each specialising in different areas of crop and livestock research. However, the organisation has lacked a central platform where farmers can access a wide range of innovations developed across its facilities.

To bridge this gap, KALRO has been holding farmers' exhibitions at its research centres to showcase newly developed technologies and encourage their adoption.

Dr Mathenge said the Agri-

Parks would provide farmers with practical solutions to challenges affecting agriculture, including climate change, emerging pests and diseases, declining productivity and changing weather patterns.

He noted that many farmers continue to experience losses due to drought and pests such as fall armyworms, despite the availability of technologies that can help address these challenges.

According to KALRO, the organisation has already developed crop varieties and seeds that are more resistant to pests and harsh climatic conditions, but many farmers remain unaware of their availability.

The board chairman said

improved access to such technologies would enable farmers to increase yields, strengthen food security and build resilience against climate-related shocks.

KALRO Director-General Dr Patrick Ketiem said the Agri-Parks would play a major role in scaling up adoption of innovations in crop production, livestock management and animal feeds.

He said the organisation was working closely with farmers through capacity-building programmes, promoting drought-resistant crops, encouraging irrigation and creating awareness on modern

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Gachagua visits Ol-Kalou after DCP's maiden parliamentary victory



Rigathi Gachagua, Sammy Kamau and Cleophas Malala

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"Ol Kalou Town proudly made Sammy Kamau Waweru regain true heroism. We thank you for your courage and resilience. History will be kind to you in the liberation cause," Gachagua said.

He also praised residents of WaKiongo in Mirangine Ward, claiming they rejected attempts to influence their decision and upheld the dignity of their vote.

"Nothing worked! Not violence, not guns or teargas. Money failed completely," Gachagua said, while accusing unnamed actors of trying

to sway voters through various means.

He further thanked Ol Kalou residents for electing Waweru, whom he said represented the people's choice, and described the victory as a demonstration of the power of voters.

During his tour, Gachagua reiterated his call for Kenyans to protect the sanctity of their votes, saying democratic choices must be respected.

The Ol Kalou by-election marked a major political milestone for DCP, giving the party its first elected Member of Parliament and strengthening its presence in the political arena.



Rigathi Gachagua, John Methu and Cleophas Malala

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Tribute Family members thanked Orengo for taking time to visit them and honour Kago's contribution to the country's democratic struggle.

Orengo pays tribute to Saba Saba hero Julius Maina Kago, calls for opposition unity in Karatina

BY James Gatama

@themkenyaintimes

Siaya Governor and Linda Mananichi Party leader James Orengo on Thursday visited the family of the late Julius Maina Kago in Mathira, Nyeri County, where he paid tribute to the man he described as one of the unsung heroes of Kenya's Second Liberation struggle.

Orengo visited Kago's home at Kienjaini Village in Mwanda area accompanied by a delegation of aides and supporters from Siaya County. He was received by members of the bereaved family and local leaders before joining them for prayers inside the family home.

Addressing the family, Orengo recalled Kago's role during the historic Saba Saba movement of 1990, describing him as a fearless and highly skilled driver who played a critical role in the pro-democracy campaign.

He recounted how Kago, who was buried on Tuesday expertly drove the now-famous mobile podium pickup truck through Nairobi streets, evading police roadblocks and security dragnet operations before successfully reaching Kamukunji Grounds.

According to Orengo, the vehicle enabled opposition leaders, including the late Martin Shikuku, the late Masinde Muliro, himself and political activist Philip Gachoka, to



James and his team paying their last respect.

address thousands of Kenyans who had defied government restrictions to demand political reforms.

Family members thanked Orengo for taking time to visit them and honour Kago's contribution to the country's democratic struggle.

Kago died on July 7 at 73 years.

After the prayers, the mourners proceeded to Kago's graveside where he paid his last respect.

At the gravesite, Orengo delivered a brief but emotional tribute before

laying a wreath and placing the Kenyan national flag on the grave in honour of the departed hero.

Holding the flag, the Siaya governor praised Nyeri County for producing some of Kenya's most celebrated freedom fighters and national icons.

He mentioned Dedan Kimathi, Stanley Mathenge, Prof. Wangari Maathai, Waruru Kanja, JM Kariuki and former Mukurweini MP Kaban-do wa Kabando among those whose contributions have shaped the country's history.

Orengo also reflected on his personal connection to Nyeri, saying he was born at the National Police Training College in Kiganjo, where his father worked, and lived there during his early childhood.

"Nyeri has always been my second home," he said.

The governor also presented the family with assorted food supplies and other household items as a gesture of support and solidarity.

After the memorial visit, Orengo and his entourage were hosted for a traditional lunch that included mukimo and roasted goat before departing for Karatina Town.

Escorted by local grassroots leaders and boda boda riders, his convoy attracted large crowds as it entered the town centre.

Residents urged him to address them, prompting an impromptu roadside rally where he called for unity among opposition leaders ahead of the next General Election.

Orengo said a united opposition



The late Maina Kago



The late Kago driving second liberation heroes in July 1990.

would provide the strongest platform for challenging the current administration through the ballot.

He also conveyed goodwill messages from Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna, Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osotsi and Embakasi East MP Babu Owino, drawing applause from the crowd.

The visit served as both a tribute to one of the lesser-known figures of Kenya's democratic struggle and an opportunity for the veteran politician to rally support for greater opposition cooperation ahead of the country's next electoral contest.



James Orengo addressing an impromptu rally in Karatina town.

Politics City lawyer Ahmednasir Abdullahi wasted no time sounding the alarm, warning that Ruto risks losing the 2027 election unless he makes bold decisions.

What next for UDA political leaders from the mountain?

The Ol Kalou landslide has upended the political mathematics of the Mt Kenya region, leaving President Ruto’s allies scrambling for survival and Rigathi Gachagua marching triumphantly through five wards.

BY Dan Mwangi
@themkenyatimes

The Democracy for the Citizens Party’s landslide victory in the Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election has delivered the most damaging electoral verdict yet against President William Ruto’s administration in the vote-rich Mt Kenya region, with DCP candidate Sammy Douglas Kamau Waweru garnering more than 35,440 votes against approximately 5,450 for UDA’s Samuel Muchina Nyagah — a margin of nearly seven to one.

The numbers tell a story that no spin can soften. The Mt Kenya region delivered about 3.5 million votes to Ruto in 2022, accounting for nearly half of his 7.17 million total. Much of that support was linked to his alliance with Gachagua, who served as his running mate. On Thursday, UDA managed a mere 13 per cent of cast votes in a constituency the government had carpet-bombed with infrastructure projects and cash. The message could not have been louder had it been broadcast from the summit of Mount Kenya itself.

“I am grateful to the people of Ol Kalou for accepting to add me an extra soldier to join the great army that I lead in defence of Kenyans,” Rigathi Gachagua said as he prepared to lead a thanksgiving tour through all five wards of the constituency — Ndundori Gwa Kiongo, Ngorika, Tumaini, Ol Kalou Town and Miharati — accompanied by Nyandarua Senator John Methu, Kipipiri MP Wanjiku Muhia and a battalion of DCP-allied leaders.

The president, for his part, struck a conciliatory tone. “Elections are not a matter of life and death. There will be Kenya after the election and we must live together as brothers and sisters of one nation,” Ruto said. It was the language of a man absorbing a painful result and reaching for the longer game. But the longer game is precisely what has been disrupted.

For Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, who had projected quiet confidence as polling closed, the reckoning arrived swiftly. Hours after the IEBC declared the results, Kindiki posted a four-word message that became the defining reaction from the ruling party: “Back to the drawing

board.” He also observed that it was “a good time to reengineer the game altogether.” Those are not the words of a man who believes his position is secure.

City lawyer Ahmednasir Abdullahi wasted no time sounding the alarm, warning that Ruto risks losing the 2027 election unless he makes bold decisions. “Stick with Prof Kithure Kindiki and believe their false narrative that he will get 40% of the Mt Kenya vote and know that a humiliating defeat is certain. Or act the political fox you always have been, pick a Luo or Luhya running mate and hit the road running,” Ahmednasir wrote.

It is a calculation that will haunt State House. UDA secured about 87 per cent of the Mt Kenya vote in the 2022 election, sweeping nearly all elective seats in both national and county governments. If Ol Kalou is any guide, that figure will collapse dramatically in 2027. The arithmetic of a Ruto re-election bid without a credible Mt Kenya anchor is daunting — and replacing Kindiki with a running mate from Western or Nyanza, while arithmetically logical, carries its own political landmines, not least the signal it would send to a region that still holds the largest concentration of registered voters outside Nairobi.

The UDA standard-bearers who built their careers on the Ruto wave now face a reckoning of their own. National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung’wah, the Kikuyu MP who has been among the most vocal defenders of the Kenya Kwanza administration, must contend with a constituency that voted in large numbers against the very government he champions. Anne Wamuratha, the Kiambu County Women Representative, finds herself in a region where the political winds have sharply shifted. Betty Maina the Murang’a County Women Representative, Laikipia East’s Mwangi Kiunjuri, Nyeri Senator Wahome Wamatinga, Mathira MP Eric Wamumbi and Kiambaa MP John Njuguna Kwanjiku — each faces the same uncomfortable question: do they remain tethered to a presidential project that Mt Kenya voters appear to be abandoning, or do they seek new political shelter before 2027?



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki

The options are awkward and narrowing. Gachagua has declared that DCP will field candidates in all 47 counties for gubernatorial, senatorial, National Assembly and county assembly seats in 2027, positioning the party as a national alternative. “To any aspirant considering DCP, we welcome you,” Gachagua said in Nyahururu. But the welcome mat comes with an asterisk. UDA diehards who spent months denouncing Gachagua as a troublemaker and a threat to national unity will find it difficult to walk through that door without a significant loss of credibility — and without the former Deputy President extracting a political price. Edwin Sifuna’s Linda Mwananchi movement offers another theoretical landing zone, but carries its own complications. Sifuna has been unsparing in his criticism of the Broad-Based Government and those who participated in it. UDA legislators seeking refuge there risk being branded collaborators, absorbing attacks from both flanks simultaneously.

The personal conduct of some UDA campaigners in Ol Kalou may narrow those options further still. Murang’a Senator Joe Nyutu publicly condemned remarks made by former Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria, who referred to DCP’s Sammy Kamau as

a “chokora” — a street urchin. “Even if someone were a chokora, they are still a human being born of a woman and deserve respect,” Nyutu stated. Kuria, who championed government investment in the constituency as proof of Ruto’s commitment to the region, instead became the face of UDA’s arrogance — and the result on Thursday night was his answer. For Kuria, who has long positioned himself as a kingmaker in the mountain region, the slur and the loss together may prove a defining political miscalculation.

Maragwa MP Mary Wamaua faces similarly uncomfortable questions. Her alleged description of Sammy Kamau as a “very poor pauper” during the campaign — mocking a candidate who went on to win with 85 per cent of the vote — is the kind of remark that voters remember. In a constituency culture where dignity and respect are taken seriously, such language has a cost that arrives not immediately but on polling day.

The new MP-elect himself set the tone for what Gachagua’s movement is now claiming. “Today you have made a statement as the King of the Mountain, the party of choice and the man who will lead our country in 2027,” Kamau told Gachagua moments before the official declaration, promising voters: “I will work for

you diligently. My prayer has always been that God gives me not only this seat but also the wisdom to serve and represent you well.”

Kipipiri MP Wanjiku Muhia, one of the campaign’s most energetic voices, captured the mood of the DCP faithful: “Congratulations on your victory! Ol Kalou has spoken loudly and clearly. This success belongs to God, demonstrating that He is our Mighty Father; if God says YES, no one can say no.” Senator Methu, singled out by both Gachagua and Kamau for leading what they described as a disciplined three-month ground campaign, is now the operational architect of a machine that will be replicated across the mountain and beyond.

DCP built its campaign around the high cost of living, economic hardship and calls for political change — a platform that resonated far more powerfully than KSh10 billion worth of government projects rushed into the constituency during the campaign period, which critics labelled naked voter bribery. When money fails to move voters, it means something has broken in the relationship between a government and

Politics City lawyer Ahmednasir Abdullahi wasted no time sounding the alarm, warning that Ruto risks losing the 2027 election unless he makes bold decisions.

What next for UDA political leaders from the mountain?

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its people that development pledges alone cannot repair.

For Ruto, the road back is not impossible but it is steep. It requires a substantive economic turnaround that working-class Mt Kenya families can feel in their pockets, a credible engagement with Gachagua's supporters rather than continued confrontation, and a recalibration of his 2027 ticket that honestly acknowledges the ground that has shifted beneath him. His reconciliatory tone after Ol Kalou was a start — but words unaccompanied by structural

change will not move a region that has already moved.

For UDA's elected leaders from the mountain, the calculation is even more immediate. They must decide, soon, whether loyalty to a presidential project that is haemorrhaging regional support serves them or destroys them. Some will attempt to quietly reposition, cultivating relationships with DCP without formally crossing. Others will read their own constituency data, calculate their survival odds and make the leap. A few will stay the course and trust that the political tide turns before August 2027.

History suggests that is a

gamble. In Kenyan politics, as in most, the electorate rarely gives a second warning.

For now, the biggest winner is Gachagua, who has secured both a parliamentary seat and a psychological victory. For Ruto and Kindiki, the message from Ol Kalou is unmistakable: the race for Mt Kenya is far from settled, and the countdown to 2027 has entered a new phase.

The mountain has spoken. Whether those at the top of the ruling party were listening is the question that will define the next twelve months of Kenyan politics.



Sammy Douglas Kamau Waweru Ol Kalou MP-elect




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Politics Kenya's political landscape is shifting beneath our feet. Alliances are breaking and reforming, coalitions are being negotiated and leaders everywhere

DCP eyes parliamentary dominance after Ol Kalou by-election win

The Ol Kalou by-election was not just a victory — it was a declaration that Kenyan voters are ready for something different.

BY Peter Mwathi

@themtkenyatimes

The Democracy for the Citizens Party's victory in the Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election has done more than add a seat to our ranks. It has fired the starting gun on what I believe will be one of the most consequential political contests in Kenya's democratic history — the 2027 General Election.

Ol Kalou was not supposed to be easy. We went up against established political formations with deeper pockets and longer histories. Yet voters chose us. That tells me something important: Kenyans are no longer voting out of habit. They are weighing credibility, local development agendas and ideology. They want leaders who will actually show up — not just at election time, but every single day in between.

For a growing party like DCP, by-elections are stress tests. They reveal whether you can mobilise supporters, protect your vote, field competent agents and sustain a campaign when the pressure is at its highest. I am proud to say we passed that test in Ol Kalou. Now the question is whether we can pass it across the country — and I believe we can.

Kenya's political landscape is shifting beneath our feet. Alliances are breaking and reforming, coalitions are being negotiated and leaders everywhere are looking for viable platforms ahead of 2027. A by-election win in this environment is not just a local result. It is a signal to aspirants that DCP is a serious vehicle, and a reassurance to

our supporters that we have the organisational muscle to compete nationally.

What gives me the greatest confidence, however, is not the victory itself — it is what drove it. Grassroots engagement. Consistent, patient, unglamorous work at the community level. We did not win Ol Kalou through headline rallies alone. We won it by staying connected to what people actually care about: employment, agriculture, healthcare, infrastructure, education and the grinding pressure of a rising cost of living. That is the DCP way, and it is the only way that delivers lasting electoral success.

I expect 2027 to be fiercely competitive. Parliamentary contests will be closely fought in every county. Parties that build strong local networks now — not six months before polling day — will have a decisive advantage. DCP is doing exactly that: recruiting credible leaders at every level, strengthening branch structures and planting our flag in areas beyond our traditional strongholds. It is less visible than a big political rally, but it is far more important.

The Ol Kalou win will also, I believe, attract serious candidates who want a realistic path to victory. Success breeds success in politics. When aspirants see a party that can win in a tough fight, they come. When talent joins, resources follow. That cycle is beginning for DCP, and we intend to sustain it.

I will not pretend the road ahead is simple. General elections are an entirely different scale — hundreds of parliamentary and county races running simultaneously along-

side the presidential contest. They demand financial discipline, coherent national messaging, fair nominations and iron-clad internal unity.

Nominations, in particular, will be a defining test for us. Kenya's political history is full of winnable seats lost to disputed party primaries, defections and internal feuds. DCP must — and will — run transparent nomination processes that give every aspirant confidence while keeping the party united behind our candidates.

We must also speak clearly to the national issues that cut across every constituency: economic recovery, youth employment, food security, healthcare and public accountability. Local concerns will always matter in parliamentary races, but voters in 2027 will also be asking which party has a credible plan for the country. We are building that plan.

Coalition politics will play a role too. Kenya's electoral history leaves no doubt that alliances shape outcomes. DCP will approach that question strategically, with our values and our voters' interests as the non-negotiable starting point.

And we will not win 2027 without Kenya's youth. Our country is young, and its young people are demanding something specific: practical solutions, transparency and leaders who engage with them as equals — not just as votes to be harvested during campaign season. Women and first-time voters will equally shape the balance of power in the next Parliament. Inclusive leadership is not a slogan for DCP; it is a strategic imperative.



Peter Mwathi

Ol Kalou has strengthened our credibility and raised our expectations. Both are welcome. The victory shows we can compete and win in the toughest conditions. The expectations remind us that one seat is only the beginning.

I believe the Democracy for the Citizens Party is steadily becoming a formidable national force. The work we are doing today — in the constituencies, in the counties, at the grassroots — will determine whether that belief becomes a parliamentary majority in 2027. I am confident it will.

The contest for Kenya's future has already begun. Ol Kalou was our opening statement.

Peter Mwathi is a former Member of Parliament for Limuru and constituency leader of the Democracy for the Citizens Party.



Politics That is not an ordinary electoral loss. It is a political statement. It is the kind of result that forces every government to stop, reflect and honestly ask whether it is still listening to its citizens

O! Kalou was more than a by-election. It was a national wake-up call



By: Gitile Naituli
@themkenyaintimes

Politics has its moments of symbolism. Then there are moments that fundamentally alter the national conversation. The O! Kalou parliamentary by-election belongs to the latter category.

The opposition candidate, Sammy Kamau Ngotho of the Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP), secured approximately 85 per cent of the vote, while the ruling United Democratic Alliance (UDA) managed only about 13 per cent.

That is not an ordinary electoral loss. It is a political statement. It is the kind of result that forces every government to stop, reflect and honestly ask whether it is still listening to its citizens.

For weeks, O! Kalou became the centre of national politics. Senior government officials, Cabinet Secretaries, Members of Parliament and party leaders campaigned vigorously for the ruling party's candidate. Government development projects featured prominently in campaign speeches. Public reports also described the distribution of various items during the campaign, while opposition leaders alleged that public resources were being deployed to influence the outcome. Those allegations should continue to be addressed through the institutions established under the Constitution.

Yet when polling day arrived,

none of that proved sufficient. The voters had the final word. The scale of the defeat matters as much as the defeat itself. An 85 per cent to 13 per cent result against a ruling party is not simply a rejection of a candidate. It suggests a profound disconnect between those in power and a significant portion of the electorate in that constituency.

The lesson extends far beyond O! Kalou. Governments often assume that incumbency is an advantage. It certainly provides visibility, resources and the opportunity to showcase achievements. But democratic legitimacy cannot be manufactured through state power alone. It must continually be renewed through public confidence.

The ballot box remains the one place where every Kenyan stands equal. Inside the polling booth, there are no Cabinet Secretaries, no governors, no billionaires and no ordinary wananchi. There are only citizens exercising one vote each. That is democracy at its purest. For many Kenyans, the concerns driving political opinion today are remarkably consistent.

The cost of living continues to dominate household conversations. Workers watch their disposable income shrink as living expenses rise. Parents struggle to pay school fees. Small businesses speak of declining purchasing power. Manufacturers continue to raise concerns about production costs. Farmers seek better returns for their labour. Young graduates leave universities and colleges only to encounter an economy unable to provide sufficient employment opportunities. Hospitals continue to face challenges in delivering quality healthcare to all citizens.

These are not abstract poli-

icy debates. They are lived realities. Governments are ultimately judged not by the elegance of their manifestos but by whether citizens experience meaningful improvement in their daily lives.

That is why reducing every political contest to personalities or ethnic arithmetic risks missing the central issue. The economy remains the defining political question of our time.

History shows that electorates can be remarkably patient. They understand that governing is difficult and that complex economic problems require time to solve. What they rarely forgive, however, is the perception that their struggles are being ignored or minimised.

O! Kalou also delivered another important democratic lesson. Kenyan voters are far more politically independent than many politicians assume. Campaigns may feature promises, rallies, endorsements and the distribution of lawful campaign materials or gifts. Yet once voters enter the polling booth, they exercise independent judgment. The secrecy of the ballot remains one of the greatest protections of democratic freedom.

That reality should humble every political party. No government should assume victory because it controls the instruments of the state. No opposition should assume victory merely because citizens are dissatisfied. Ultimately, elections are won by earning public trust.

The broader significance of O! Kalou lies in what it may signal for 2027. By-elections do not automatically predict general election outcomes. National elections involve different issues, different turnout patterns and a much broader electorate.

However, they often serve as



DCP leader Rigathi Gachagua and Sammy Douglas Kamau Waweru O! Kalou MP

early warning systems. Wise governments pay attention to such warnings. They ask difficult questions. What message are citizens sending? What needs to change? Which policies require urgent review? How can public confidence be restored? Ignoring those questions has rarely served governments well.

Above all, however, we must remember what is truly at stake. We owe it to the next generation. A nation is not inherited by accident; it is preserved by the courage of those willing to defend it when it matters most.

That courage is demonstrated not through violence or intimidation but through peaceful democratic participation, constitutional fidelity and responsible citizenship.

The 2027 General Election will almost certainly become one of the most consequential elections since the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution. It will not simply determine who occupies public office. It will ask a much larger question. Has Kenya moved closer to the aspirations contained in its Constitution? Have economic opportunities expanded? Have public institutions become stronger? Has governance improved? Those questions will not be answered by commentators or politicians. They will be answered by mil-



DCP leader Rigathi Gachagua

lions of Kenyans casting their ballots.

O! Kalou has already spoken. Whether the country chooses to listen may well determine the course of the next General Election. History rarely changes direction overnight. More often, it begins with one unmistakable signal. O! Kalou may prove to have been

exactly that.

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

Agri-Parks The Agri-Parks that we have established will consolidate all KALRO’s past research and developed technologies

KALRO establishes Agri-Parks to bridge technology gap and boost farmers’ productivity

Contd from page 6

agricultural practices.

Dr Ketiem noted that climate change had become one of the biggest threats facing agriculture in Kenya, with declining rainfall affecting maize and other major food crops in several regions.

“We are finding that despite the technology, the issue of climate change is becoming very serious, and across the country maize has performed poorly due to depressed rainfall,” he said.

He added that KALRO was planning to establish more Agri-Parks in Thika, Kipkelion and Nyeri to expand access to research services and agricultural innovations.

The Director-General said the parks would provide a common platform

where researchers, farmers, private sector players and development partners could interact, share knowledge and promote the use of new technologies.

“The research Agri-Park is designed to bring researchers, farmers and other partners into one space, and to scale up some of the technologies and innovations we have developed over time,” he said.

Naivasha Deputy County Commissioner Josiah Odongo said land ownership challenges had affected some of KALRO’s operations, noting that the government had started reclaiming land belonging to the research organisation.

Odongo said many parts of Naivasha had experienced crop failures due to changing weather patterns, adding that access to improved technologies would help farmers overcome production challenges.

The Naivasha KALRO centre has continued to support farmers through research on livestock breeds suitable for different climatic conditions, including Sahiwal cattle for arid and semi-arid areas, improved pig breeds and kienyeji chicken varieties.

The centre has also expanded fodder production, growing highly nutritious and protein-rich animal feeds that are supplied to farmers at affordable prices to improve livestock productivity.

KALRO said the Agri-Parks would complement existing efforts to promote climate-smart agriculture and empower farmers with knowledge and technologies capable of transforming food production.

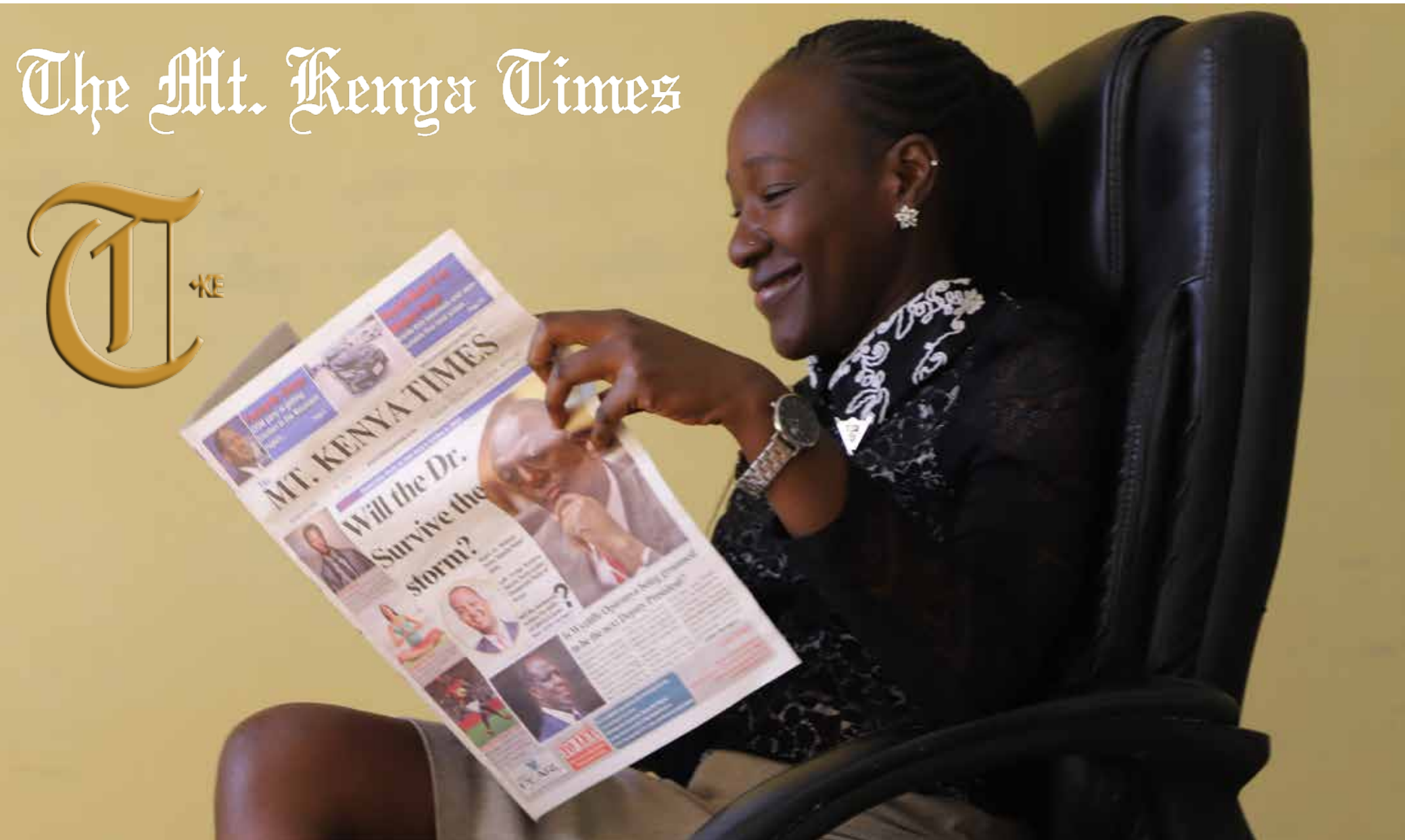
The initiative comes at a time when Kenya is seeking sustainable solutions to address food insecurity, climate change effects and rising production costs.



KALRO chairman and other officials being taken through some of products. |

Photo: Courtesy.

Through improved access to research-based innovations, KALRO hopes to enable farmers to adopt better farming practices, increase incomes and contribute to national food security.



Situation will teach you the real meaning of life



Situation will teach you the real meaning of life.
situation teaches life lessons for everyone.
the life is filled with miracles.
every situation bring you valuable experience.
experience makes you perfect.
if you know the habit of others , you will live safe.

conversation move on next step depend upon the
opposite person.
you must say the answer bravely and wisely.
the world is wide and big.
you should know humans habits.
some are friendly and some are cunningly.
you do not able to change some people’s true
nature .
so, you must beware to others.
so, situation will teach you the real meaning of
life.

__G.YasminSirajudheen
Secondary grade teacher
Melmalayanur block
Villupuram dt.

Shine after struggle



In the depths of struggle, seeds are sown,
For growth and strength, a heart is shown.
The fire that refines, the soul that stays,
Forges resilience in countless ways.

Through trials and tribulations, we’re refined,
Like gold in crucibles, our hearts aligned.
The pain of struggle teaches us to rise,
To lift our spirit beyond the skies.

So hold on to hope, and don’t give in,
For after struggle, brighter days begin.
Your story is written with every test,
And in the end, you’ll find your best.

V. JAYANTHI
Graduate teacher
Creative Writer
Chengalpattu district

Wound teaches Resilience



I had a friend, of all spice and nice
He had a sarcastic look in his eyes
Whenever he talked, he pricked here and there,
One day his knife fell on my heart in despair.

Excruciating pain, a pool of blood I had,
He pulled it out, and left me for dead,
Gasping for breath, I let out a groan,
His eyes stared, ready to mourn

He left me alone and sad,
I waited for help, I am mad.

Days passed, the wound heals
The heart feels, the scar peels

Whenever I touch the wound,
Blood rushes in, not to the physical heart,
Resilience pulls me apart
Patience survives, strength abounds.

Mind pumps the pain,
Life in vain, nothing to gain
The wound is the inspiring teacher,
Listen to that silent preacher

And now I walk with the scar I keep,
Not as a burden, but a vow I reap.
What broke me once now makes me strong,
For resilience was my song all along.

RAJITHA D
BT Assistant English
GGHSS PADAPPAI
KANCHIPURAM
TAMIL NADU

The language we all know



This morning,
the sun rose without asking
who we were.

It touched the rooftops of Nairobi,
slipped through the windows of Delhi,
kissed the waves of distant shores,
and reminded the world
that light belongs to everyone.

A little girl held her mother’s hand
a little tighter on her way to school.
An old man smiled at a stranger.
A tired nurse finished another long shift.
A farmer looked at the sky,
hoping today the clouds would keep their
promise.

Different lives.
Different stories.
The same quiet hope.

We spend so much time
learning new languages,
yet the ones that matter most
are already within us—

kindness,
patience,

forgiveness,
love.

No dictionary can fully explain them,
but every heart knows their meaning.

Perhaps the world isn’t waiting
for another miracle.

Perhaps it is waiting
for ordinary people
to be a little gentler,
a little braver,
and a little quicker
to choose compassion.

Because long after our names are forgotten,
no one will remember
how loudly we spoke.

They will remember
how safe they felt beside us,
how we made them smile,
how we made them believe
that even in a complicated world,
goodness still had a home.

And maybe,
that is the most beautiful language
we will ever speak.

Sangeeta Khattar
TGT English
DAY PUBLIC SCHOOL
NH 3, NIT
Faridabad

I walked today, walked far and long,



I walked today, walked far and long,
Is it a torment to my own soul?
Though I walked much, I pushed along,
Can my weary body bear it whole?

I aimed for a destination so far,

Are my heels bruised and worn?
Which path did I choose to follow?
Oh, is this life of mine a pledge, torn?

Even if these roads break me down,
Is the thrill in the trials they send?
Is this tiny, faint line of light
The one that guides to the very end?

My heart beats hard with heavy thumps,
The dance of feelings reaches its height.
Amidst this wave of angels’ grace,
Is my own life a mistake in sight?

By Yulduz Kholova

The candle of my life



My candle shines so bright,
It gives me happy light.
It helps me every day,
And shows me the right way.

It fills my heart with love,
Like stars that shine above.
I keep my candle bright,
With joy and what is right.
It gives me hope to see,
A happy life for me.

S. Yasir shihan
VII STD
government high school
sakkarakkottai

Politics Sifuna, the party argues, repeatedly contradicted party resolutions, made unauthorised public statements and undermined collective decisions

Sifuna's political shake-up: Punishment, power play or a warning to dissenters?

As ODM systematically strips Edwin Sifuna of every leadership role within its gift, Kenya's opposition is being forced to confront an uncomfortable question about itself.

BY Hadassah Karangu
@themkenyatimes

ODM has drawn blood — and it has done so methodically. On Thursday, Senate Speaker Amason Kingi announced that Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna had been removed as Deputy Senate Minority Whip, with Migori Senator Eddy Oketch stepping into the role with immediate effect. The decision was procedurally immaculate — backed by a signed senator list and minutes from a July 15 minority party meeting that complied fully with Senate Standing Orders. Politically, it is anything but clean.

The architecture of this purge is worth examining carefully. First came Sifuna's removal from the Senate Energy Committee, where Homa Bay Senator Moses Kajwang was installed in his place — a committee, notably, chaired by Oburu Odinga, Raila's own brother. Then the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties formally approved his removal as ODM Secretary-General, updating official party records on July 9. Now the whip role is gone. Each move has been surgical, sequential and deniable as routine party administration. Together, they read as a deliberate campaign to reduce one of Kenya's most recognisable opposition voices to a backbencher.



Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna

ODM's official position is insubordination. Sifuna, the party argues, repeatedly contradicted party resolutions, made unauthorised public statements and undermined collective decisions. He rejects the charge entirely, arguing he has remained faithful to the principles ODM once championed — chief among them a principled refusal to cosy up to the Kenya Kwanza administration that his own party has grown increasingly

comfortable accommodating. That tension is the real fault line. This is not a dispute about parliamentary procedure or party housekeeping. It is a reckoning over what ODM stands for in 2026 — whether it remains a genuine opposition force or has drifted into the transactional politics it once claimed to oppose. Sifuna has been one of the loudest voices insisting on the former. His party's leadership appears to have decided that

ty, Intelligence and Foreign Relations Committee. For a senator of Sifuna's combative temperament, those are not insignificant platforms. He is diminished, not silenced.

His response has been characteristically measured in public and aggressive in the courts. He has challenged the Secretary-General removal through litigation, accusing the ORPP of acting in bad faith and rubber-stamping a flawed process. The courts have yet to deliver a definitive verdict. Sifuna is clearly betting that the law will give him back what his party has taken away.

The deeper danger for ODM, however, is not Edwin Sifuna. It is the message his treatment sends to every other member who might consider speaking inconvenient truths. Political parties that punish dissent loudly enough eventually stop hearing it altogether — and parties that stop hearing internal criticism are poorly equipped to hear the electorate either.

Kenya's opposition politics sits at a pivotal moment. With 2027 approaching and political realignments accelerating, voters are watching to see whether the parties that claim to represent them can

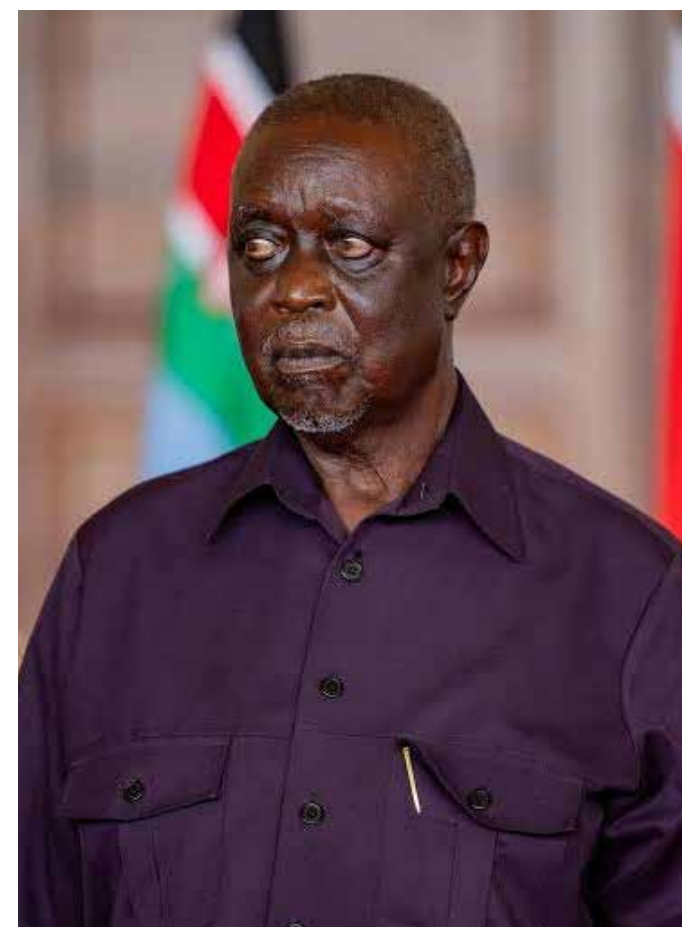
model the accountability they demand from government. A party that sidelines its most outspoken member for refusing to toe a line that many supporters themselves reject is not projecting strength. It is advertising insecurity.

Sifuna, for his part, shook Oketch's hand in the Senate chamber moments after the announcement. Gracious in defeat — for now. But those who have watched him over the years know that equanimity is rarely where his story ends.

Political history is littered with leaders who were stripped of titles only to return with something more durable: moral authority. Whether this moment breaks Sifuna or becomes the foundation of his next act will depend on choices still to be made — by him, by ODM, and ultimately by the Nairobi voters who put him there and whose verdict will matter most of all.

ODM may have won the week. The reckoning is still coming.

Hadassah Karangu is a political commentator and contributor to the Mt Kenya Times.



ODM Party Leader Oburu Odinga

loudness is no longer an asset.

The personal cost is real but bounded. Losing the whip position and a committee seat strips Sifuna of institutional leverage and the informal networks that come with leadership titles. Yet his constitutional mandate — his Nairobi Senate seat, won in 2022 — remains untouched. He retains membership of the Senate County Public Accounts Committee and the Senate National Security

Peace The ambassador commended government institutions for promoting national cohesion and acknowledged the role played by security agencies

Peace envoy Eugene Nzabonimba calls for united front ahead of National Peace Conference

BY William Muchiri

@themkenyatiimes

Global Union for Peace and Development (GUPD) founder and Chief Executive Officer Amb. Eugene Kavune Nzabonimba has called for a united national effort to promote peace, justice, human rights and sustainable development, saying lasting stability can only be achieved through dialogue, responsible leadership and inclusive partnerships.

Speaking on Friday during a peace planning meeting held at Ofafa Jericho in Nairobi's Makadara Constituency, Amb. Nzabonimba urged leaders from across the country to work together in preparing for a major national peace conference that will bring together key stakeholders to chart Kenya's path towards unity and development.

Addressing religious leaders, government representatives, development partners, civil society organisations, the business community, youth and women leaders, as well as delegates from all 47 counties, the peace advocate said the planning meeting marked the beginning of a collective journey to build a more peaceful and prosperous nation.

He said peace should never be taken for granted, noting that it is achieved through justice, mutual respect, active citizen participation and accountable leadership.

"This planning meeting demonstrates our shared commitment to creating a peaceful, secure and prosperous society where every person is respected, every community has a voice and every generation has the opportunity to thrive," he said.

Nzabonimba said the planned conference set for September seeks to unite leaders from government, religious institutions, academia, civil society, humanitarian organisations, development partners, the



Amb. Eugene Kavune Nzabonimba addressing the delegates.

private sector, youth groups and community organisations around a common national agenda.

He said the conference planning process would focus on developing a clear vision, defining objectives, identifying strategic partners, mobilising resources, assigning responsibilities and agreeing on an implementation roadmap.

The conference will address key national priorities including peacebuilding, national unity, good governance, constitutionalism, human rights, youth empowerment, women's leadership, economic growth, environmental sustainability, education, health-care, digital innovation, food security and community resilience.

He also stressed the need for dialogue across political, ethnic and religious divides, saying unity remains one of Kenya's greatest strengths.

The ambassador commended government institutions for promoting national cohesion and acknowledged the role played by security agencies in maintaining law and order.

He also praised religious leaders for championing reconciliation and moral values,

while thanking development partners and humanitarian organisations for supporting sustainable development initiatives across the country.

Turning to the youth, Nzabonimba challenged them to become ambassadors of peace and innovation, saying their leadership and creativity would shape Kenya's future.

He equally recognised the contribution of women to families, communities and national development, describing their leadership as indispensable in building an inclusive society.

The GUPD founder further urged members of the organising committee to uphold transparency, accountability and professionalism throughout the preparations, saying the success of the conference would not be measured by attendance alone but by the partnerships forged, resolutions adopted and positive impact achieved in communities.

"Our success will not be measured simply by the number of delegates who attend. It will be measured by the lasting partnerships we establish, the practical resolutions we adopt and the positive impact



Some of the delegates who attended the meeting | Photo: Courtesy

we create in our communities," he said, as he disclosed that they had invited among others, international and national leaders.

Calling on all participants to embrace shared responsibility, Nzabonimba said the country has an opportunity to strengthen peace, unite com-

munities, empower future generations and build a stronger Kenya.

GUPD is an organisation that promotes peacebuilding, leadership development, human rights advocacy and sustainable development through partnerships involving governments, civil society, religious institutions, development agencies and local communities. Amb. Nzabonimba has been at the forefront of initiatives aimed at fostering dialogue, strengthening social cohesion and encouraging collaborative solutions to national and regional development challenges. His organisation continues to advocate for inclusive leadership, citizen participation and cross-sector cooperation as key pillars for achieving lasting peace and sustainable development in Kenya and beyond.




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Democracy An election is often described as the heartbeat of democracy. That description, though familiar, barely captures its true weight.

When silence speaks loudest, democracy forgets its own voice



By: Jerameel Kevins Owuor Odhiambo
@themkenyatimes

More than 1,700 journalists have been killed worldwide since 2006. In many of those cases, no one has been held accountable. Closer home, election seasons across Africa have repeatedly been accompanied by attacks on reporters, confiscation of equipment, arbitrary arrests, digital harassment and physical intimidation. These incidents rarely dominate headlines for long. Yet each assault on a journalist quietly redraws the boundaries of what citizens are allowed to know. Long before the first ballot is counted, the story of an election is already being written—not only in polling stations, but also in newsrooms, streets and courtrooms where truth itself is put on trial.

An election is often described as the heartbeat of democracy. That description, though familiar, barely captures its true weight. Elections are not simply exercises in choosing leaders. They are moments when citizens temporarily reclaim the authority they delegated to those who govern. They are occasions when public power returns to its rightful owners. That return can only be meaningful when voters make choices illuminated by facts rather than rumours, evidence rather than propaganda, and accountability rather than fear.

This is where the media becomes indispensable. The Fourth Estate is not merely another institution standing alongside the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary. It is the bridge connecting power with the people from whom that power originates. It watches, questions, investigates, explains and remembers. It follows campaign promises beyond podiums, traces public resources beyond budgets, and records events beyond official statements. Where governments narrate, journalism interrogates. Where politicians persuade, journalism verifies. Where institutions become comfortable in silence, journalism asks the question every-



Democracy

one else has stopped asking.

An election without a free press resembles a courtroom where only one side is permitted to speak. The procedure may appear orderly. The outcome may even be accepted by some. Yet justice remains absent because scrutiny has been denied its rightful place.

Violence against journalists therefore extends far beyond bruises on individual reporters or shattered camera lenses. Every confiscated notebook erases testimony. Every broken microphone silences questions the public deserved to hear. Every frightened reporter leaves behind stories that may never be told. Citizens rarely notice these absences because silence leaves no visible wreckage. But democracies slowly weaken not only through dramatic constitutional crises; they also erode through countless truths that never reach the public square.

Fear has an extraordinary ability to travel faster than facts. One assaulted journalist unsettles hundreds more. Editors begin weighing headlines against possible retaliation. Reporters reconsider difficult assignments. Sources retreat into anonymity or disappear altogether. Whistleblowers decide that remaining silent is safer than speaking. Eventually, self-censorship succeeds where censorship itself would have failed. The result is not necessarily the absence of news. It is the presence of carefully filtered information just enough to create the appearance of openness

while concealing what most needs public attention.

That is perhaps the most dangerous form of suppression because it wears the disguise of normalcy. Democracy does not collapse only when newspapers are shut down or broadcasting stations switched off. Sometimes it fades while newspapers continue printing and television stations remain on air. The difference lies in whether journalists are genuinely free to pursue uncomfortable truths without calculating the personal cost of doing so.

The health of an election should therefore never be measured solely by peaceful queues outside polling stations or impressive voter turnout. Those are important indicators, but they tell only part of the story. Equally important is whether journalists could move freely across constituencies, question every candidate without intimidation, investigate allegations without obstruction, and publish findings without fear of reprisals. Elections derive legitimacy not simply from counting votes accurately, but from ensuring citizens voted with access to credible information.

Information itself is a public good. Like clean water flowing through a city, truthful information sustains democratic life. Once polluted by fear, manipulation or deliberate falsehoods, everyone eventually drinks from the same contaminated source. Citizens become suspicious of institutions. Institutions become

defensive before citizens. Rumours begin competing with evidence. Conspiracy overtakes conversation. Public trust, painstakingly built over decades, quietly dissolves.

Trust is difficult to quantify but remarkably easy to lose. This explains why attacks on journalists should concern even those who disagree with particular media houses or individual reporters. Journalism is not protected because journalists are infallible. They are protected because societies cannot afford governance that escapes independent observation. Mistakes by the press can be corrected through ethical standards, public accountability and the law. Violence, however, corrects nothing. It merely replaces disagreement with intimidation and substitutes evidence with fear.

There is another uncomfortable reality worth confronting. Sometimes the greatest threat to press freedom does not arrive wearing uniforms or carrying weapons. It arrives wrapped in economic pressure, strategic advertising withdrawals, online harassment campaigns, coordinated disinformation, surveillance technologies and subtle political patronage. These methods rarely leave visible scars. Yet they steadily reshape editorial choices until newsrooms begin asking not whether a story is true, but whether publishing it is worth the consequences.

A democracy should never force that calculation. Public officials, political actors, security agencies and

citizens alike share responsibility for protecting the environment within which journalism flourishes. The constitutional promise of freedom of expression cannot remain an elegant phrase confined to legal texts while reporters navigate intimidation in practice. Rights become meaningful only when exercised without fear. Otherwise, constitutions risk becoming beautifully written documents describing freedoms that exist only on paper.

Equally, journalists themselves shoulder a profound obligation. Credibility remains their greatest currency. Accuracy must outrank speed. Verification must defeat sensationalism. Fairness must prevail over personal preference. The defence of media freedom gains moral force when journalism consistently honours the ethical responsibilities accompanying that freedom. Public confidence grows where independence is matched by integrity.

As another electoral cycle approaches, conversations will naturally focus on manifestos, coalitions, campaign rallies and polling statistics. These discussions matter. Yet beneath them lies a quieter question whose answer may ultimately determine the quality of the democratic journey: can those entrusted with telling the nation's story do so freely?

History seldom remembers societies for the speeches politicians delivered during elections. It remembers whether truth survived those elections. It remembers whether institutions protected the vulnerable when pressure mounted. It remembers whether citizens insisted that public power remain answerable to public scrutiny.

A nation confident in its democracy does not fear questions. It welcomes them. It does not regard cameras as enemies or notebooks as weapons. It understands that scrutiny is not sabotage but stewardship; not hostility but hygiene. Elections are strongest where journalists walk freely, ask boldly and publish honestly. When their safety becomes negotiable, democracy itself enters the bargaining room. And when truth must first seek permission before it can speak, the loudest victory declared after any election may conceal the deepest defeat suffered before it.

The writer is a social commentator

Education Thirty-one graduates from Kiambu National Polytechnic are bound for Germany under a dual vocational training programme

Kenyan students head to Germany in first labour mobility cohort

BY John Kariuki
@themkenyaintimes

Roseline Kathure Njogu, Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs, had a clear message for the 31 young Kenyans who graduated from Kiambu National Polytechnic on Thursday and are set to begin a new chapter in Germany: go out there, work hard, and make Kenya proud.

Speaking at their graduation ceremony, Njogu described the milestone as tangible proof that Kenya's labour mobility agenda is delivering real results — opening doors for young people to access international training and employment rather than waiting for opportunities at home.

The graduates will take part in a dual vocational training programme in Germany, gaining internationally recognised qualifications while addressing Germany's well-documented demand for skilled workers. It is, as Njogu put it, a partnership built on



PSs Roseline Kathure Njogu and Dr. Esther Thaara Muoria

mutual benefit.

“Carry the Kenyan flag with pride. Uphold professionalism, integrity, discipline, respect and hard work — because you are not only pursuing your dreams but also representing Kenya on the global stage,” she told the graduates.

Njogu pointed to the Kenya-Germany Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership, signed in 2024, as the cornerstone of the relationship, providing a structured framework for safe and legal migration that protects Kenyan workers

while meeting Germany's labour needs.

She outlined a broad coalition driving the initiative, including AHK Services Eastern Africa, the State Department for Labour and Skills Development, the National Employment Authority, the Kenya National Qualifications Authority, TVET institutions and development partners — all working in concert to create structured overseas employment pathways for Kenyan youth.

The government, Njogu said, is sharpening Kenya's competitiveness in the global labour market on several fronts: aligning TVET curricula with international standards, scaling up German language training, securing wider recognition of Kenyan qualifications abroad, and deepening ties between local training institutions and overseas employers.

She commended the German government, KfW, GIZ, Kiambu National Polytechnic and other stakeholders for backing the initiative, and reaffirmed the State Department for Diaspora Affairs' commitment to expanding labour mobility programmes that create decent, dignified employment for Kenya's youth.

Loneliness True friendship is not measured by algorithms. It has its own characteristics: A virtual friendship can end with the click of a button (unfriend)

Virtual friends and real loneliness: Loneliness behind the screen



BY Xudayberganova Diana Vladimirovna
@themkenyaintimes

Today, we all have hundreds, if not thousands, of “friends” on social networks. Within a few minutes, our photos on the page receive hundreds of “likes,” and “comments” tell us that we are happy. Outwardly, we are in touch with the world every second. But in the sharp turns of life, when our hearts are tired and we want to grieve over a cup of tea, we sometimes fail to find a single living face or a listening ear behind those



for hours. You can find comfort just by sitting quietly next to a true friend. Because he values your conversation and your presence, not your words.

With a true friend, you don't have to play the role of a “lucky person.” You cry when you want to cry, admit defeat, and he accepts you with all your flaws.

We don't need a thousand virtual “fans”, but just one loyal “live” person who will hold our hand in the storms of life. We are deceived by the illusions of the online world and appreciate those who are next to us Show me.

Put your phone aside and call that person who really cares about you. Invite them to tea. Because life is not lived on a screen, but in the living encounter of eyes.

thousands of profiles.

This is the greatest paradox of the modern world: technology was supposed to bring us closer to each other, but it has separated us more than ever.

Social networks are not life itself, but a beautifully edited exhibition of it. We share with it only our laughter, our successes, and our most beautiful moments.

True friendship is not numbers or “statuses” on the Internet No. He is not the one who applauds your everything, but the one who can stand by you silently when you turn your back on him.

True friendship is not measured by algorithms. It has its own characteristics:

A virtual friendship can end with the click of a button (unfriend). Real friendship is made up of years, disagreements, and sifting.

Sometimes you don't have to talk

Farming ¶The industry currently produces about 2.5 million metric tonnes of animal feed annually, slightly above 60 per cent of the country's installed capacity

Government to roll out bold strategies to boost livestock feed manufacturing

.....with manufacturers agreeing to sign contracts with farmers

BY Nicholas Waitathu

@themtkenyaintimes

Government in conjunction with agriculture stakeholders is fast-tracking new strategies to stimulate production of more and affordable animal feed to increase livestock productivity and income to farmers.

¶At the same time feed manufacturers have expressed the need to sign contracts with farmers as part of ensuring their mills enjoy security of supply of raw materials and seeking for strategic investments.

¶During the just concluded two day Association of Kenya Feed Manufacturers (AKEFEMA) Feeds Exhibition and Conference (AFEC) Nairobi 2026 at a Nairobi hotel, the Government confirmed that the commercial feed deficit in the country currently stands at 60 per cent against an annual demand production of four million metric tonnes.

¶The industry currently produces about 2.5 million metric tonnes of animal feed annually, slightly above 60 per cent of the country's installed capacity of four million metric tonnes, largely due to inadequate raw material supplies.

¶Head of Animal Feed and Nutrition section at state department of livestock Newton Kariuki Nyaga said local livestock farmers are struggling with acute shortage of feed as scarcity of raw materials escalates.

¶"As Government and other value chain players we are at different stages of discussion and implementation of various initiatives to spur high production of animal feed. The initiatives include the Sh460 billion 10 year National Feed Strategy, Livestock Master Plan, National Strategic Feed Reserve and subsidies," said Mr. Kariuki.

¶Over 200 local and international feed manufacturers are in Nairobi for a two day conference to discuss current challenges facing the industry in addition to recommending new strategies to enhance investment.

¶The national feed strategy he explained targets 14 value chains with a view to increasing fodder and pasture production. Key value chains include sunflower, cotton maize, soybean, canola, sorghum and edible oils. To stir high feed production, Kariuki encouraged the manufacturers to adopt new technologies



House Farm Chief Executive Officer John Muhia (Left), AKEFEMA Chairman Joseph Karuri (Centre) and Newton Kariuki (Right) who is head of Animal Feed and Nutrition Section at State Department of Livestock.

and stronger quality assurance in addition to ensuring the workforce is highly skilled. Further the Government is fast tracking one ward one fodder initiative targeting production of 300,000 metric tonnes of dry matter annually, by 2028 in 1450 electoral wards.

¶AKEFEMA National Chairman Joseph Karuri acknowledged the industry potential though the same is threatened by a myriad of challenges including multiple taxes, regulatory charges, and lack of finance, climate change and supply chain resilience and narrow range of available materials. "The industry's fastest growing segments include poultry, dairy, pig production and aquaculture. Poultry is Kenya largest feed market accounting 60 per cent and dairy subsector at 29 per cent," said Mr. Karuri.

¶He welcomed government plans to allow duty-free importation of feed ingredients under the Duty Remission Scheme (DRS), saying the move is expected to lower production costs and eventually reduce feed prices for farmers.

¶"If we produce these raw materials locally, feed prices will reduce significantly because raw materials account for between 70 and 80 per cent of production costs. Going forward, value chain players need to adopt artificial intelligence and digital for-

mulation, undertaking automation and smarter feed mills and real time quality monitoring and rapid laboratory diagnostics," he added.

¶House Farm Chief Executive Officer John Muhia said technological innovations are helping manufacturers detect aflatoxins and other mycotoxins before the same reaches the market thus improving safety and protecting livestock health.

¶AFEC being held in Nairobi for the second time has attracted more than 200 local and international feed companies, government representatives from 27 countries, researchers and development partners.

¶**Contract farming**

¶The animal feed manufacturers Karuri confirmed are exploring sealing contract farming with maize growers to address shortages of key raw materials that continue to limit production capacity.

¶The feed processors plan to work with farmers through structured supply agreements to improve access to locally produced inputs for commercial animal feed production.

¶"Currently, we are not able to produce enough commercial feed for the country's livestock largely due to lack of key raw materials," said Karuri.

¶The proposed contract farming

model will target maize farmers by providing a more predictable market for their produce while helping feed manufacturers secure reliable supplies.

¶Key concern by the feed value chain players is how to increase production of commercial animal feeds and more so the need to tackle challenges hindering investment.

¶The millers further plan to take advantage of Government efforts to lease idle land held by various corporations, for example, Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC).

¶**Adoption of GMO**

¶During the conference scientists urged the Kenyan government to allow the use of biotechnology-derived feed ingredients, saying the move would ease chronic shortages of raw materials, lower feed production costs and improve livestock productivity.

¶International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) AfriCenter, Director, Dr. Margaret Karembu said reliance on imported feed ingredients was undermining the competitiveness of the livestock sector.

¶Countries with competitive livestock industries she added rely heavily on genetically modified (GM) maize and soybean for feed.

¶"For a long time, we have had challenges accessing raw materials to produce animal feed. More than 80% of feed ingredients traded globally are now biotech products," said Dr. Karembu.

¶"Further, we are seeking support from researchers to enable farmers to grow yellow maize which is a key component of raw materials. We are optimistic that undertaking by the Government in various agriculture sub-sectors like edible oil, cotton and soybean farming will help in producing other ingredients like cotton cake and sunflower to boost proteins in the feeds," Karuri added.

¶AKEFEMA chief executive officer Paul Kamau said during the upcoming conference stakeholders will seek to deepen value chain actors learning from leading international experts in the feed and food industries.

¶"The conference will help us discover global trends shaping animal nutrition, feed manufacturing and food systems. Build strategic partnerships with industry leaders from around the world and explore innovative products, technologies and solutions from exhibitors and experience Kenya's renowned hospitality, culture and business environment," said Mr. Kamau.



ASK Mamboleo show opens July 24

By Victor Ochieng

The Agricultural Society of Kenya Show at Mamboleo Stadium, Kisumu, opens on July 24, with organisers promising a broader, more inclusive edition anchored on innovation and agribusiness.

ASK Chairperson Rose Omondi said the event welcomes farmers, exhibitors, researchers, students and especially young people, who will receive hands-on agribusiness training. President William Ruto is expected to officiate the opening, or appoint a representative should he be unavailable. This year's theme — Promoting Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Strong Economic Growth — signals a deliberate shift towards modern farming as a driver of national development.

County Commissioner Mohamed Mwabudzo urged youth to treat agriculture not as a fall-



back but as a genuine career. He cited China's four-decade transformation from widespread poverty through sustained agricultural investment as a model Kenya could replicate.

Government financing programmes, including the NYOTA Fund and Uwezo Fund, remain available to young people seeking capital to enter agribusiness — tools that leaders say could reduce youth unemployment and deter involve-

ment in crime if fully utilised.

The message from organisers is unambiguous: farming feeds families, builds economies and keeps communities stable. The Mamboleo Show is not merely an exhibition — it is a marketplace of ideas, networks and practical skills that young Kenyans can take home and put to work.

Show up, learn something, and grow.

Victor Ochieng is a student at Laikipia University.

Gender-based violence

By Cynthia Jemutai

Gender-based violence is not a women's issue, a rural issue or a private matter. It is a national crisis hiding in plain sight — in homes, schools, workplaces and places of worship across every county in Kenya.

Behind every reported case are real people: a mother too frightened to speak, a child carrying wounds no classroom can address, a man suffering in silence because society tells him victims don't look like him. The emotional, physical and psychological scars run deep and last long after the bruises heal.

Yet reporting rates remain devastatingly low. Victims stay silent because they fear retribution, disbelief or a justice system that moves too slowly to protect them. That must change. Communities must actively reject the culture of silence that shields perpetrators and abandons survivors. Neighbours, relatives



and colleagues who witness abuse have a responsibility to act — not to look away.

Law enforcement agencies must investigate cases swiftly and pursue prosecutions with the seriousness this crime demands. Delayed justice is no justice at all. Schools, religious institutions and community organisations must go further than awareness campaigns — they must embed education on healthy relationships, consent and conflict resolution into everyday life from an early age.

Gender-based violence thrives where silence is mistaken for peace. It ends when every Kenyan — man, woman, young and old — decides that what happens behind closed doors is everyone's business.

Speak up. Act. Protect each other.

Cynthia Jemutai is a student at Kenya Coast National Polytechnic

Accountability in public universities

By Sheila Juliet

Parliament's call for greater accountability in how public universities manage public funds is not just welcome — it is long overdue.

For too long, institutions entrusted with shaping Kenya's next generation have operated with insufficient scrutiny. Students sit in crumbling lecture halls, libraries lack basic resources and welfare services are stretched — yet questions about where the money goes rarely receive satisfactory answers.

Transparency in public spending is not a bureaucratic nicety. It is the foundation on which public trust is built. When universities demonstrate that every shilling is tracked, justified and directed towards learning, they earn something no legislation can manufacture: genuine public confidence. Confidence from students, parents, employers and the taxpayers who



fund these institutions year after year.

Parliament's intervention signals that the era of unchecked budget management in higher education must end. Boards of management, vice-chancellors and finance officers must understand that stewardship of public resources carries real consequences. Accountability is not optional.

Universities should see this moment not as a threat but as an opportunity. Institutions that embrace transparency proac-

tively will attract more funding, stronger partnerships and greater public goodwill. Those that resist will invite deeper scrutiny and erode the very credibility that makes a degree worth holding.

Kenya's students deserve institutions that spend as carefully as they teach. Parliament has spoken.

Now the universities must act.

Sheila Juliet is a student at Kenya Coast National Polytechnic

Rising cost of living

By Chemweno Cynthia

The cost of living in Kenya is not rising — it is crushing. For millions of low- and middle-income families, the daily arithmetic of survival has become impossible. Food, fuel, electricity and basic commodities have all surged in price while wages have stood still. The gap between what things cost and what people earn has never felt wider.

The human toll is visible everywhere. Parents skipping meals so children can eat. School fees going unpaid. Hospital visits deferred until a manageable illness becomes a crisis. Small businesses that once anchored local economies are closing quietly, strangled by operating costs their customers can no longer help them bear.

This is not a natural disaster. It is the cumulative consequence of policy decisions — and policy decisions can be changed. The government must move beyond rhetoric and act. Sta-



bilising the prices of essential commodities, investing seriously in local food production, and creating targeted relief for the most vulnerable households are not radical demands. They are basic obligations of governance.

Equally important is transparency. Kenyans deserve honest, clear communication about the economic choices being made in their name and a credible account of when — and how — conditions will improve. Trust cannot be rebuilt through

press briefings alone. It is earned through results.

A nation's strength is measured not by its GDP figures but by whether its people can afford to eat, learn and heal.

The time for urgent, practical action is now.

Chemweno Cynthia is a student at Kenya Coast National Polytechnic.

SPORTS
NEWSPHOTOS
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OPINIONS
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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *Altat Ganatra has been elected as the inaugural president of the Motorsport Kenya Federation (MKF) in elections held on Friday at a Nairobi hotel.

Ganatra Elected As Inaugural President Of Motorsport Kenya Federation



Altat Ganatra congratulated by his colleagues after being declared the new president of Motorsport Kenya Federation in elections held on Friday, July 17, 2026 at a Nairobi Hotel.

By: Capital Sport

Altat Ganatra has been elected as the inaugural president of the Motorsport Kenya Federation (MKF) in elections held on Friday at a Nairobi hotel.

Ganatra will oversee the affairs of the new federation for the next four years as Kenyan Motorsport turns over a new leaf.

In the elections that were overseen by Sports Registrar Rose Wasike, veteran rally driver and legendary Carl "Flash" Tundo was elected vice president.

Seasoned rally driver Erick Bengi takes up the pivotal role of Secretary General, charged with the day-to-day administration of the federation, while Sangita Gohil was elected Treasurer to oversee its financial stewardship.

In accepting the presidency, Ganatra set out a vision anchored on durable institutions and youth.

"We have just held our inaugural election for the Motorsport Kenya Federation, and we hope to push motorsport in the right direction," he said.

"We are looking forward to putting up structures that are strong and will withstand the test of time. We also want to focus on youth development as we go forward, and ensure that the youth get a chance in motorsport," he added.

Vice President Tundo, whose competitive pedigree lends the new leadership immediate credibility within the racing community, hailed a milestone day for the sport.

"It's been a fantastic day. I can't believe we are in a position where the federation has held its first election," he said.

"We have a team that can drive motorsport for the future, and for the next generation to have a structure and a system that works for everyone."

The elections formally establish MKF as the National Sporting Organisation, the Autorité Sportive Nationale (ASN), mandated to regulate, promote and develop motorsport across the country.

As the recognised ASN, the federation becomes the sole custodi-

an of the sport's national framework, responsible for competitor and official licensing, safety and technical standards, event sanctioning, dispute resolution, and Kenya's formal relationship with the global governing bodies of the sport.

The creation of MKF is widely seen as a modernising step, consolidating the governance of a discipline that has grown rapidly in profile since the return of the World Rally Championship (WRC) Safari Rally to the international calendar.

The incoming leadership faces a substantial in-tray. Priorities are expected to include strengthening event safety and marshalling capacity, expanding the domestic calendar beyond rallying into circuit racing, autocross, karting and emerging disciplines, and deepening the commercial base of the sport through structured sponsorship and broadcast partnerships.

Grassroots development, regional expansion outside Nairobi, and the nurturing of officials

and technical personnel are also likely to feature prominently in the federation's four-year road-map.

Secretary General Bengi is expected to spearhead the establishment of a robust administrative secretariat, while Treasurer Gohil will be tasked with instituting sound financial controls and reporting.

Industry observers welcomed both the outcome and the transparent, well-supervised manner of the election, noting that a unified, professionally run national body positions Kenya to consolidate its standing as one of Africa's premier motorsport destinations.

With the WRC Safari Rally continuing to draw global audiences to the country, the newly elected MKF leadership begins its term carrying considerable expectation, along with the goodwill of a fraternity eager to see the sport reach new heights over the next four years.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Zambia's Gilbert Chalwe produced a brilliant closing nine to card a three-under-par 69 and seize the outright lead after the opening round of the Limuru Open & Brackenhurst Trophy on Friday.

Zambia's Chalwe Fires 69 to Lead Limuru Open After Round One



Gilbert Chalwe in action at NCBA Limuru Open

By: Capital Sport

Zambia's Gilbert Chalwe produced a brilliant closing nine to card a three-under-par 69 and seize the outright lead after the opening round of the Limuru Open & Brackenhurst Trophy on Friday.

Chalwe overcame a slow start that saw him turn in one-over-par 37 before producing a flawless back nine of four-under-par 32.

His back-nine charge featured four birdies on holes 11,12,15 and 18 without a single dropped shot, enough to separate himself from the chasing pack on a demanding course.

"I wanted to have a strong start on the first day so that I have a chance in the competition. I was

not expecting much today, but there is a lot of golf to be played now. As things stand, anyone can win it, especially when you are being chased by so many good players. I will focus on what I can control, try to be more focused mentally because that is what will decide the winner," Chalwe said.

Muthaiga Golf Club's Jay Sandhu finished Round One in second place after returning a two-under-par 70, surrendering the lead he held for the better part of the day after shooting a bogey on the 17th. However, Sandhu remains within striking distance and will head into the second day just one shot behind the leader.

"I did not have many expectations today. My goal was to find the fairways as much as possible,

which worked well, although I missed a few straight putts, but I am happy with where I am. I think putting will be very decisive here," Sandhu said.

Teenage sensation Kanana Muthomi of Windsor Golf Hotel & Country Club played even par to finish day one tied at third with Junaid Ayaz Manji (Sigona Golf Club) and Rwanda's Byiringiro Jacques (Kigali Golf Resort & Villas).

Kanana's round started with difficulty, with double bogeys on the 12th and 14th, and a bogey on the 13th. However, she raced to a three-under-par 33 after the turn, picking up birdies on the second, third and fourth holes to settle for an even-par 72.

"Today was a bit difficult, especially in the first nine, where

I was overshooting everything. I changed my strategy in the second nine, and I played a bit better to finish level par. I hope tomorrow will be much better off the tee, and the putts will be dropping," Kanana said.

Home players Mbachio Kimani, Felix Dusabe, Josphat Rona, and Kapur Pranay all played one over par 73 and are tied at sixth ahead of the second round on Saturday.

Kamaisi leads the series player rankings on 809.20 points while 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.

SPORTS NEWS



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BREAKING NEWS



SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The role of Artificial Intelligence in journalism



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Introduction

Many people believe that artificial intelligence became popular only with the emergence of ChatGPT. In reality, however, we have been interacting with AI for much longer. From the earliest computing machines to the characters that respond to us in video games, many systems have operated automatically. However, these systems were not considered artificial intelligence in the modern sense. Early computers were designed to solve complex mathematical problems through pre-programmed instructions, such as performing calculations and processing large numbers. Since they worked only according to fixed algorithms, they were more accurately described as “automated systems.”

Today’s neural networks have reached a completely different level. They are no longer limited to fixed commands; instead, they are adaptive. They can communicate with users, adjust to their preferences, and provide responses in different styles depending on the user’s needs. More importantly, they continuously analyze conversations and generate new information in real time, much like the human brain processes information and responds quickly. This is why modern AI is often compared to human intelligence.

The emergence of such advanced technology naturally caused concern among many people. Some feared that artificial intelligence might eventually replace or even dominate humans. These concerns have also been reinforced by numerous science fiction films.

Main Part

Today, artificial intelligence is becoming increasingly common in journalism. We have heard about AI news anchors in China, and some sports websites are already devel-



AI in journalism.



Worth Noting:

- Today’s neural networks have reached a completely different level. They are no longer limited to fixed commands; instead, they are adaptive. They can communicate with users, adjust to their preferences, and provide responses in different styles depending on the user’s needs. More importantly, they continuously analyze conversations and generate new information in real time, much like the human brain processes information and responds quickly. This is why modern AI is often compared to human intelligence.
- The emergence of such advanced technology naturally caused concern among many people. Some feared that artificial intelligence might eventually replace or even dominate humans. These concerns have also been reinforced by numerous science fiction films.

oping AI systems capable of writing and publishing news articles automatically. At first glance, this may seem as if AI is taking over journalism. However, this does not mean that journalism can be entirely carried out by artificial intelligence.

For example, AI still cannot fully understand or express human emotions. It can deliver information efficiently, but it cannot communicate the emotional depth or human perspective that journalists provide. Therefore, artificial intelligence still depends on human involvement, and it is essential for journalists to use it appropriately. AI can be effectively applied in several important areas.

First, it can rapidly analyze large volumes of information. AI can

process archives and extensive databases within seconds, identify key points, and summarize the main content. This allows journalists to save significant amounts of time.

Second, AI is highly useful in combating the growing spread of fake news. When journalists receive new information, AI can quickly analyze its source and help determine whether it is reliable or false. Many modern fact-checking platforms already use artificial intelligence for this purpose, making the verification process much faster.

Third, AI can recreate historical events and personalities through advanced technologies such as 3D animation. For example, realistic digital representations of Amir Temur and

other historical figures have become popular on social media. Such technologies help journalists visualize historical events and present audiences with approximate reconstructions of scenes that were never recorded.

Conclusion

In conclusion, artificial intelligence should not be viewed as a technology that will replace journalists. Instead, it should be regarded as a powerful tool that assists them in their work. At present, no artificial intelligence system can fully replace the human factor in journalism.