



Waiguru calls out IPOA for failing to rein in police involved in abductions
Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru has rushed out at the IPOA for failing to rein in police officers alleged to be involved in abductions of innocent Kenyans.

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Mudavadi urges faster implementation of Nairobi Rising Programme
Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has called for tightened coordination, reviewed delivery timelines and accelerated pace of implementation of critical city services

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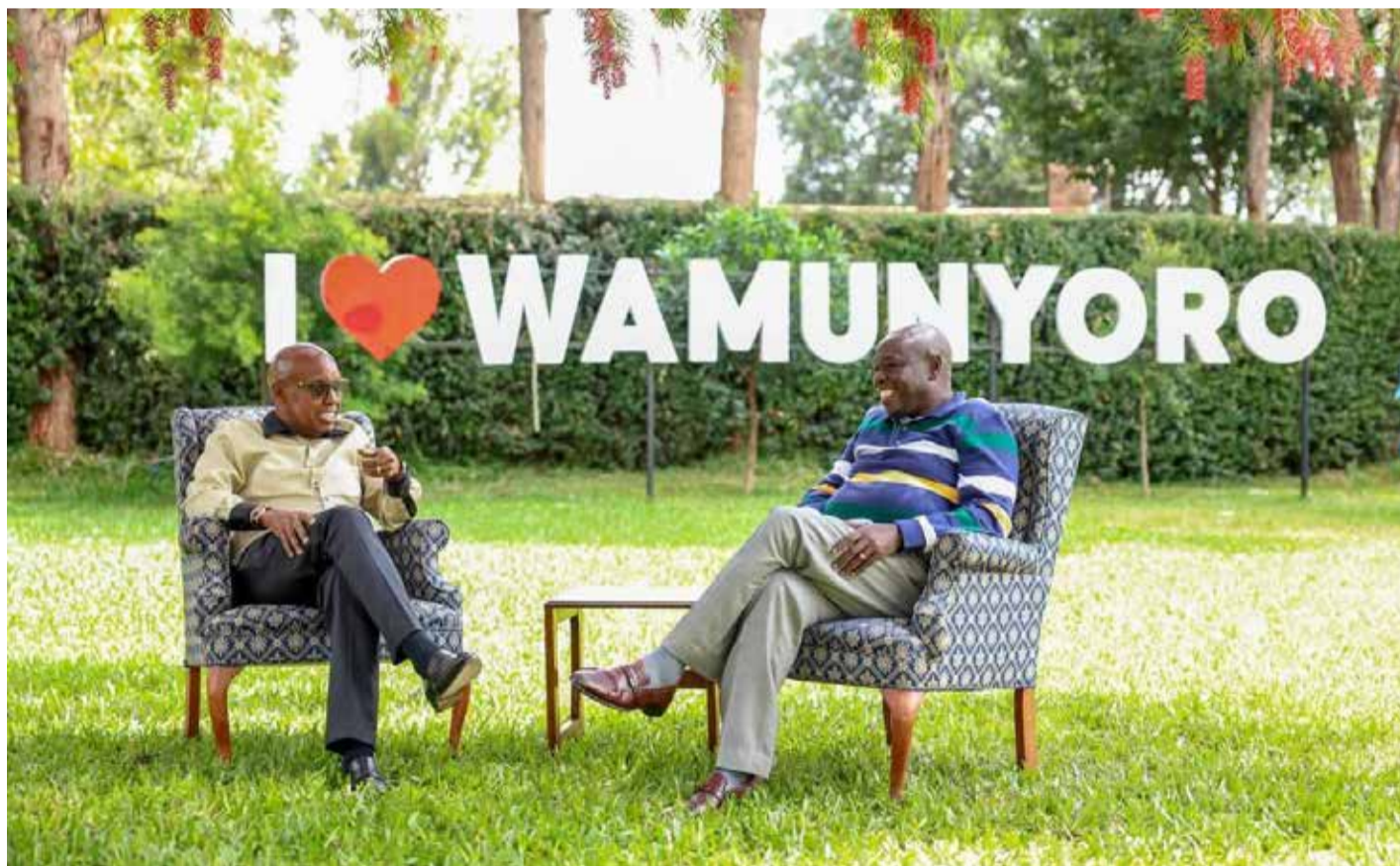
Daily ePAPER

Politics Wamunoro consultations widen as opposition leaders seek the coalition needed to challenge Ruto's incumbency

Gachagua, Wanjigi deepen 2027 talks

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua hosted Safina Party leader Jimi Wanjigi at his Wamunoro residence in Nyeri County this week, bringing together two men whose political value to any opposition coalition rests on strikingly different assets: one built his name mobilising the Mt Kenya vote that helped put William Ruto in State House, the other has spent two decades as one of Kenyan politics' most consequential — and most controversial — financiers.

The meeting is the latest in a 45-day consultation programme Gachagua launched on 16 June, during which he has stepped back from public rallies to hold structured talks at his rural home under the banner of what he calls the “liberation cause” and the formation of a “6th Administration.” “Pleased to have held consultations with businessman Jimi Wanjigi who called on me at the Wamunoro residence,” Gachagua said afterward. “I have greatly benefited from his insights and experience in formation of governments.”



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Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with Safina Party leader Jimi at his Wamunoro residence in Nyeri County.

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Gachagua steps up opposition talks as Wanjigi, former MPs visit Wamunyoro

BY WMW
@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

Former Deputy President and Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP) leader Rigathi Gachagua has intensified consultations aimed at building a united opposition ahead of the 2027 General Election.

Yesterday, he hosted businessman and Safina Party leader Jimi Wanjigi and a delegation of former Members of Parliament at his Wamunyoro residence in Nyeri County.

The meetings form part of Gachagua's ongoing consultations, which he says are intended to gather views from political leaders, professionals, opinion shapers and other stakeholders on what he describes as the country's "liberation cause" and the formation of a "Sixth Administration."

The engagements are part of a broader 45-day consultation programme he announced last month following the conclusion of his political mobilisation campaign.

After meeting Wanjigi, Gachagua said the country's future required inclusive consultations. "The liberation cause of our country and the formation of the Sixth Administration is so critical that we must get views from all. I have greatly benefited from his insights and experience in the formation of governments," Gachagua said in a statement.



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Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Nakuru County has confirmed 308 healthcare workers on permanent and pensionable terms in a move aimed at strengthening service delivery across public health facilities. Governor Susan Kihika said the absorption of nurses, clinical officers, laboratory technologists, pharmacists, nutritionists and dietitians reflects her administration's commitment to improving quality, affordable and timely healthcare. The move is expected to enhance staffing stability, reduce turnover and improve patient care in hospitals, health centres, laboratories and maternity units. Kihika said the county has already promoted 1,367 healthcare workers and plans to recruit more staff this year to meet growing demand. She noted that investment in health infrastructure must be supported by adequate and motivated personnel. County officials said the reforms will improve deployment in critical service areas and expand access to quality healthcare across Nakuru's sub-counties.



Digital entrepreneurship is transforming youth livelihoods in Migori Town, where young people are increasingly using smartphones and social media platforms like WhatsApp, TikTok and Facebook to run businesses. One example is 24-year-old Brian Otieno, who started selling clothes online with Sh8,000 and now serves customers across Migori and beyond using digital marketing and boda boda deliveries. The trend has reduced costs, expanded markets and created jobs in delivery and content creation. However, challenges such as high internet costs, poor network coverage, cyber fraud and limited digital skills persist. Stakeholders are calling for digital innovation centres, training and better internet access to support youth enterprises and reduce unemployment.



Kilifi County has attracted KSh9 billion in export processing zone (EPZ) investments over the past three years, with 14 new firms creating more than 14,000 jobs, according to Investment Promotion Principal Secretary Abubakar Hassan. Speaking during the commissioning of the KSh343 million Mily Fruit Processing Factory in Magarini, he said the county now hosts 24 EPZ enterprises, up from 10, attributing the growth to collaboration between the national and county governments. The new factory is expected to create over 4,000 jobs, provide a market for thousands of fruit farmers and boost exports. Supported by the UK-funded SUED programme and FSD Kenya, the project aims to strengthen value addition, reduce post-harvest losses and promote industrial growth.



The National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) has conducted an alcohol and drug abuse prevention and sensitization session for 69 officers from the Anti-Narcotics Police Unit at the National Criminal Investigations Academy in South C, Nairobi. The officers were trained on identifying commonly abused substances, emerging drug trends, the effects of substance abuse, and strategies for addressing related challenges in law enforcement, community engagement and personal wellbeing. NACADA said the training aims to strengthen officers' capacity to combat drug trafficking and substance abuse, while commending the National Police Service for its continued partnership in promoting a drug-free Kenya.



The Ministry of Roads and Transport has introduced the Draft Engineering Technology (Registration, Licensing and Compliance) Rules, 2026 aimed at regulating engineering technology professionals, enhancing accountability and ensuring public safety. Presented during a public participation forum in Kakamega, the proposed framework outlines registration, licensing, competence examinations and mandatory annual renewal with continuous professional development. It also strengthens ethical standards, disciplinary mechanisms and empowers the Kenya Engineering Technology Registration Board to act against misconduct. Stakeholders, including students and professionals, raised concerns over licensing penalties, recognition of earlier qualifications, and high fees, and proposed reforms such as lower costs for new graduates and anonymous complaint systems. The ministry said public views will be considered before final approval.

Kirinyaga County has launched one of its largest grassroots economic empowerment programmes, led by Governor Anne Waiguru, through the distribution of 13 milk coolers with a combined capacity of 35,000 litres to dairy cooperatives. The KSh90 million investment is expected to benefit over 17,000 dairy farmers by reducing post-harvest losses and improving milk quality. The county also distributed water infrastructure materials for 29 community projects, 25,000 Ruiru 11 coffee seedlings, KSh20 million to 20 ward-based Saccos, and a fully equipped tractor to boost agricultural mechanization. Additional empowerment items included wheelchairs, motorbikes, catering equipment, tents, chairs, water storage drums and youth enterprise tools. Livestock Development Principal Secretary Jonathan Mueke said the milk coolers were delivered following Waiguru's request to President William Ruto and announced plans to equip every dairy cooperative in the county with a cooler.



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Economy We must create conducive environments for investments and believe in our continent - Kindiki

Kindiki challenges African countries to develop long-term economic policies to attract billions in investments

BY DPCS

@themkenyatimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has challenged African countries to develop forward-looking economic policies that will attract long-term investments and build investor-confidence across the continent.

The DP said policy disruption common in Africa weakens investors' trust and confidence making the continent unattractive for huge investments needed to uplift the region's development.

Speaking yesterday when he opened the 26th Annual General Meeting of the African Trade and Investment Development Insurance (ATIDI) in Nairobi, Prof. Kindiki said Africa must focus on long-term economic stability to ascertain continuity in investment.

"We must create conducive environments for investments and believe in our continent. We must ensure long-term stability and policy continuity because in the past we have witnessed frequent disruption in policies and investments," DP noted.

The Deputy President affirmed Kenya's support for ATIDI saying it is one of the institutions supporting efforts towards nurturing a better environment for investment and socio-economic transformation.

"The future belongs to a continent that believes in itself, invests in its institutions and



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki with other officials during yesterday's forum.

creates an enabling environment for enterprise to flourish. ATIDI embodies these values and demonstrates that African institutions can deliver world-class solutions to African challenges," Prof. Kindiki stated.

Twenty-five years ago, Kenya, together with other COMESA Member States, joined hands to establish the African Trade and Investment Development Insurance, then called African Trade Insurance Agency, as an Africa-grown institution cushioning investments and unlocking the continent's immense economic potential.

Yesterday's event was also to celebrate its Silver Jubilee. Over the last 25 years, the institution has facilitated billions of dollars in trade and investment across the continent supporting governments

and businesses to navigate political, commercial and sovereign risks.

"ATIDI has evolved into one of the continent's most credible multilateral financial institutions, providing innovative risk mitigation solutions that strengthen investor confidence, facilitate trade and catalyse sustainable development," DP said.

In Kenya, ATIDI has supported investments to a tune of over 7 billion dollars across energy, transport, manufacturing, financial services, agriculture and infrastructure sectors. Flagship projects that have benefitted include the Lake Turkana Wind Power Project, Kipeto Wind Power Project and Menengai Geothermal Development.

The DP called on African nations to look beyond the present but leverage its eco-

nomie potential to build enduring institutions that target empowering its people and cultivating a better future for its young and coming generations.

"As we look into the future we must carry the people of Africa. We must be deliberately inclusive, carrying along the young, women and all the people of our continent as we look for solutions to transform the critical sectors of our economies. We must believe in ourselves before we ask anyone else to believe in us," he emphasized.

He highlighted the Kenyan government's focus on establishing long-term economic instruments such as the National Infrastructure Fund that aims to consolidate finances for the nation's economic transformation.

Gachagua steps up opposition talks as Wanjigi, former MPs visit Wamunyoro



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with Safina Party leader Jimi at his Wamunyoro residence in Nyeri County.

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He added that the consultations would continue.

Wanjigi, who is also the Safina party Presidential candidate described the meeting as productive, thanking Gachagua and his wife, Pastor Dorcas Rigathi, for their hospitality.

"Consultations with my brother continue. Ruto must go is non-negotiable," Wanji-gi said in a brief statement on his Social Media platforms, reaffirming his opposition to President William Ruto's administration.

Earlier, Gachagua hosted a delegation of former legislators comprising former Kirinyaga Central MP Munene Wambugu, former Mwea MP Kabinga Wathayu, former Kiambu Town MP Jude Njomo, former Mukurweini MP Anthony Kiai, former Tetu MP and Speaker of Nyeri County Assembly, Gichuhi Mwangi and former Kieni MP and East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) member Kanini Kega.

According to Gachagua, there discussions focused on national issues and the country's future.

"We discussed a raft of matters concerning the 55 million Kenyans and the future of our beloved country. The progress we make as a people has little to do with us as leaders but with the common good of all of us," he said.

The Wamunyoro meetings come as political realignments gather momentum ahead of the 2027 elections, with opposition leaders seeking to forge a united front against President Ruto.

Gachagua has maintained that the consultations will help shape a consensus on leadership and governance while identifying a single opposition presidential candidate.

Since launching the consultation process, Gachagua has hosted various delegations at his Nyeri residence, saying the engagements are meant to collect views from different sectors of society before the opposition settles on its next political steps.

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Nyoro accuses gov't of slashing school capitation

Kiharu MP says schools are getting half the promised Sh22,000 per learner, as government insists no cuts have been made



Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro

BY MKT REPORTER
@themtkenyentimes

Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro has accused the government of quietly abandoning Kenya's free education programme, claiming public schools have received only Sh11,000 of the promised Sh22,000 per learner by the end of the second term.

Speaking yesterday, Nyoro challenged officials to stop defending the figures publicly and instead release the money directly. "I want those people in government to come out in the open," he said. "They should stop hiding and tell Kenyans they have failed to sustain President Mwai Kibaki's free education programme."

The MP, who says he has been engaging school principals nationwide since December over funding shortfalls, argued that the gap between promised and disbursed capitation is straining schools' ability to operate. "Money is something you count," he said. "Sh22,000 is Sh22,000. Sh15,000 is Sh15,000. You cannot change those numbers."

This is not the first time Nyoro has raised the alarm. In January, he said senior secondary schools received

as little as Sh109 per learner for the first term once arrears were factored in, prompting President William Ruto to publicly reject the claim as "propaganda," insisting capitation remained fixed at Sh22,244 per learner and that Sh44.2 billion had already been disbursed ahead of schools reopening. Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba has similarly maintained that fees and funding levels are unchanged. The dispute over what schools are actually receiving, as opposed to what has been officially released, has run for months without resolution.

Nyoro warned that continued underfunding would undermine the country's long-term development, regardless of progress elsewhere. "If we play with education, even if we build roads and pave towns, we will still be destroying Kenya's future if students are learning in fear because schools do not have enough money," he said.

He called on the government to release full capitation without further delay, and to be honest with Kenyans if it can no longer sustain the programme at its promised levels.

For now, principals are left balancing school budgets against two competing sets of figures — one from Nairobi, another from their own accounts.



Governor Ann Waiguru

Waiguru calls out IPOA for failing to rein in police involved in abductions

BY MKT REPORTER
@themtkenyentimes

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru has rushed out at the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) for failing to rein in police officers alleged to be involved in abductions of innocent Kenyans.

Waiguru said recent wave of abductions allegedly being undertaken by people suspected to be police officers was giving the government a very bad image and therefore making it hard for leaders supporting the current administration to defend it.

The Governor claimed IPOA had failed in its mission to promote accountability and professionalism in the National Police Service (NPS) by allegedly allowing rogue police officers to continue perpetuating acts of abductions.

"I have said this several times and even the President has called for

a stop to these abductions. IPOA must do its work, because you are making our work very difficult to defend the government if abduction becomes the news every day," she said on Tuesday.

She said the agency must investigate and bring to book, police alleged to be involved in abductions and enforced disappearance of innocent Kenyans so as to arrest the situation.

Waiguru said IPOA must be held to account for allegedly failing in its duty of providing for civilian oversight over the work of the police in the country.

She said abductions and other acts of indiscipline have no place in our society and must stop because they were hurting families.

"As a mother, I can never be on the side of abductions, I can never be and there is no one in this Government who can support abductions," she said.

The Governor said IPOA has all

necessary tools to help investigate and bring to book, police alleged to be involved in abduction and enforced disappearance of Kenyans.

Terming abduction as unlawful, violation of human rights and inhumane, Waiguru warned that the issue of abductions was providing a campaign fodder to the opposition and called for a stop to the acts of lawlessness.

"IPOA, do your job, abductions are not part of this government and I can never be party to abductions. There are those who want to use this issue of abductions as a campaign tool, on our part, we are campaigning for this Government peacefully and we know people will listen to us," she added.

Gachagua, Wanjigi deepen opposition talks as 2027 alliance-building intensifies

Wamunyoros consultations widen to include Safina's Jimi Wanjigi as former deputy president works to unite a fractured opposition field

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua hosted Safina Party leader Jimi Wanjigi at his Wamunyoros residence in Nyeri County this week, bringing together two men whose political value to any opposition coalition rests on strikingly different assets: one built his name mobilising the Mt Kenya vote that helped put William Ruto in State House, the other has spent two decades as one of Kenyan politics' most consequential — and most controversial — financiers.

The meeting is the latest in a 45-day consultation programme Gachagua launched on 16 June, during which he has stepped back from public rallies to hold structured talks at his rural home under the banner of what he calls the “liberation cause” and the formation of a “6th Administration.” “Pleased to have held consultations with businessman Jimi Wanjigi who called on me at the Wamunyoros residence,” Gachagua said afterward. “I have greatly benefited from his insights and experience in formation of governments.”

Wanjigi, doubling as Safina's presidential candidate, was similarly warm in response. “The liberation of Kenya demands that we all discuss ideas that put Kenya first,” he said. “Great catching up with my brother Rigathi in his Wamunyoros residence.” He added: “We must ensure Kenya becomes a sovereign state and economically liberated. It is good for kinsmen to gather. There is hope for Kenya.”

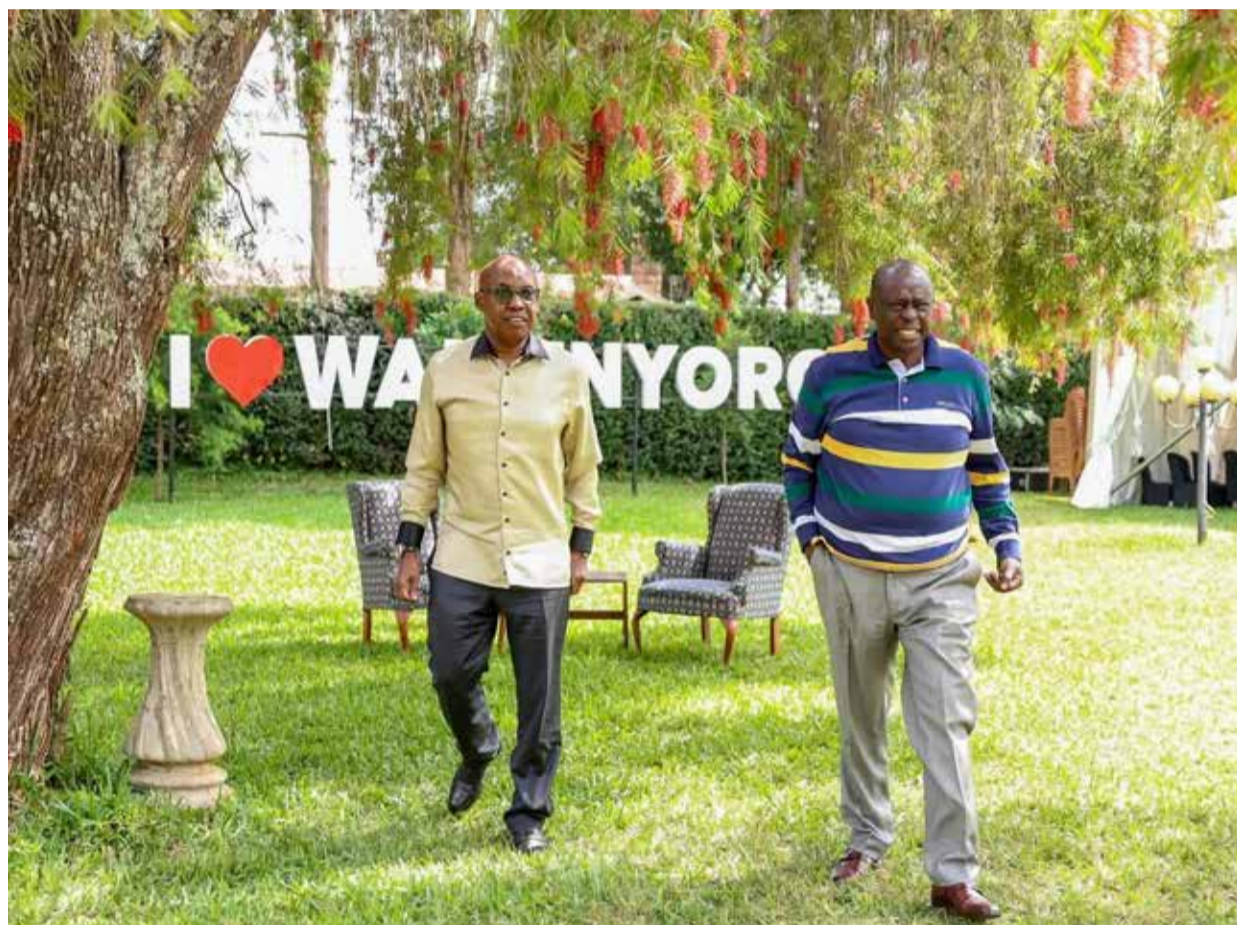
The pairing is notable precisely because of what each man brings — and the history behind it. Gachagua was Ruto's running mate in 2022 and a central figure in mobilising the Mt Kenya bloc that carried Kenya Kwanza to victory, before his 2024 impeachment turned him into one of the administration's fiercest critics. Since then, he has rebuilt a network of Mt Kenya legislators, county officials and grassroots structures that has proven difficult for Kenya Kwanza to dislodge, despite repeat-

ed efforts to court the region back.

Wanjigi's capital is financial and strategic rather than electoral. Multiple accounts describe him as having helped bankroll Mwai Kibaki's 2002 campaign, and he has said he led a group of businesspeople who financed the 2013 Jubilee coalition that carried Uhuru Kenyatta and Ruto to power — a campaign he later broke with. By 2017, he had shifted his support and strategic input to Raila Odinga's presidential bid, a move that preceded a public falling-out with the Kenyatta government and a police raid on his Muthaiga home over alleged illegal firearms, charges that were later dropped by the courts.

That history shapes how this meeting is being read. Wanjigi has built a reputation — one he disputes in parts — as a financier who moves late but decisively, and whose backing has coincided with successive presidential campaigns before he fell out with each administration he helped install. He has also denied more serious allegations levelled against him in recent years, including government claims that he financed anti-government protests, calling the accusations a pattern of the state targeting him once he becomes politically inconvenient. His renewed engagement with the opposition, after Safina spent much of the past two years operating independently, is being read in Nairobi political circles as a sign that even Kenya's most self-contained political operators feel pressure to build coalitions ahead of 2027.

Just how large that opposition task is depends on whose numbers one trusts. A recent Infotrak survey put President Ruto's “broad-based” arrangement with the ODM wing led by Oburu Oginga at 32 percent support, against 22 percent for the Gachagua-led bloc — figures opposition strategists cite as evidence that unity, not fragmentation, will decide 2027. But Infotrak's numbers are routinely disputed by politicians on both sides of the aisle. Kenya Kwanza figures, including Senate Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot and Murang'a Governor Irungu



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with Safina Party leader Jimi at his Wamunyoros residence in Nyeri County.

Kang'ata, have previously dismissed Infotrak findings as “erroneous” and methodologically flawed, arguing their own grassroots polling tells a different story — criticism that has surfaced even when Infotrak's numbers favoured Ruto, suggesting the dispute is less about which side the pollster favours than about broader distrust of media-commissioned surveys in Kenyan politics. Infotrak's leadership has defended its methodology as scientific and consistent with global standards. The upshot is that no publicly available polling should be read as settled fact this far from the vote — a caution that applies equally to numbers favouring the government and those favouring the opposition.

The wider opposition field, in any case, remains crowded. Wiper's Kalonzo Musyoka, Jubilee's Fred Matiang'i, DAP-K's Eugene Wamalwa and People's Liberation Party's Martha Karua all carry regional bases

and presidential ambitions of their own, and Musyoka has said the coalition intends to settle on a single flagbearer, though the mechanism for doing so remains unresolved. Gachagua has repeatedly signalled he is willing to step aside for the sake of unity — “I'm more than ready to forfeit my presidential bid if that is all it takes to have President Ruto out of power,” he told supporters earlier in the retreat — though whether that pledge survives an actual selection process, which has undone past opposition efforts, is untested.

There is also an unresolved legal cloud over Gachagua's own candidacy. Article 75(3) of the constitution bars a state officer removed from office for constitutional violations from holding future public office unless cleared by the courts — a provision his impeachment may trigger, and which he disputes on the basis that his appeals are not exhausted.

The government has not stayed

silent on the opposition's manoeuvring. Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, who succeeded Gachagua, has urged Mt Kenya voters not to abandon Kenya Kwanza for opposition leadership he described as “clueless with no development agenda,” while Ruto has pursued his own consolidation strategy, absorbing Kenya Kwanza-affiliated parties directly into UDA.

For now, the Wamunyoros meeting confirms direction rather than destination. The man who helped mobilise Ruto's 2022 win and the man who has helped finance and later broken with three separate administrations are, for the moment, talking. Whether that conversation hardens into something durable, or joins a long list of opposition alliances undone by the question of who ultimately leads them, will be settled far from any single meeting — at the ballot box, in 2027.

Men Dr. Eddyson Nyale urged men to view seeking help as a sign of courage rather than weakness, noting that many continue to battle stress

Men urged to break silence on mental health to curb rising crisis

BY DMS

@themtkenyaintimes

Men have been encouraged to speak openly about emotional and psychological challenges and seek professional support instead of suffering in silence, as stakeholders warn that stigma surrounding mental health is fuelling rising cases of depression, substance abuse and suicide.

The call was made during the climax of the Men's Mental Health Awareness Month campaign held in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County, under the theme, "Partners in Care: Advancing Men's Mental Health through Connection, Education, and Advocacy for Better Lifespans."

The forum, organised by SERI (Speak Encourage Respect Inspire) Consultancy Africa at the County Commissioner's office, brought together regional administrators, healthcare professionals, mental health advocates, political leaders, representatives from education-



Some of those who attended the forum.

al institutions and members of the business community to discuss practical interventions for addressing the growing mental health burden among men.

Speaking at the event, Uasin Gishu County Commissioner Dr. Eddyson

Nyale urged men to view seeking help as a sign of courage rather than weakness, noting that many continue to battle stress, anxiety, depression, financial pressures, family conflicts and addiction without seeking assistance.

He warned that untreated mental health conditions often lead to broken families, domestic violence, crime, reduced productivity and suicide, with far-reaching consequences for communities and national development.

"This directly affects the peace, safety and development of our communities. It is a pertinent issue that has escalated to the point of becoming a security threat," Dr. Nyale said.

He noted that the government has strengthened mental health services by recruiting psychologists and counsellors across various departments, including the National Police Service, where officers have also faced increasing cases of mental health challenges and substance abuse.

Mental health advocate and author Ambassador Moseti Douglas of SERI Consultancy Africa described mental wellness as a shared responsibility requiring sustained commitment from families, employers, educational institutions, faith-based

organisations, government agencies, civil society and the private sector.

Moseti said men account for a disproportionately high number of mental health-related fatalities, highlighting the urgent need to dismantle stigma and encourage early intervention through counselling and peer support.

He noted that the organisation marked World Mental Health Day on June 15 with a "Champions for Mental Health Walk" under the theme "Break the Stigma," aimed at encouraging open conversations on mental wellbeing.

"While the awareness month comes to an end, our commitment does not. Mental health is not a seasonal campaign; it is a daily responsibility," he said.

Moseti also called on employers to prioritise workplace mental health programmes, saying a healthy workforce enhances productivity, innovation and overall organisational performance.

He commended the National Government, the County Commissioner and the Uasin Gishu County Government for expanding access to mental health services and promoting policies that support the wellbeing of individuals and communities.

Crime Conflicting police reports and a fresh 'self-defence' claim leave key questions unanswered in fatal PS convoy shooting

How did warning shots end in death?

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyaintimes

A young man is dead and detectives are examining two firearms recovered from bodyguards attached to Youth Affairs Principal Secretary Fikirini Jacobs, after a Nairobi shooting that police reports have so far failed to fully explain.

The first report, filed at Pangani Police Station, says the PS's convoy was surrounded by around 100 youths demanding handouts as it left a youth forum at Kariokor Social Hall on Tuesday evening, and that bodyguards fired warning shots into the air to disperse the crowd. A second report, filed hours later, records only that a man with gunshot wounds had died at Park Road Nursing Home. Neither report explains how the two accounts connect.

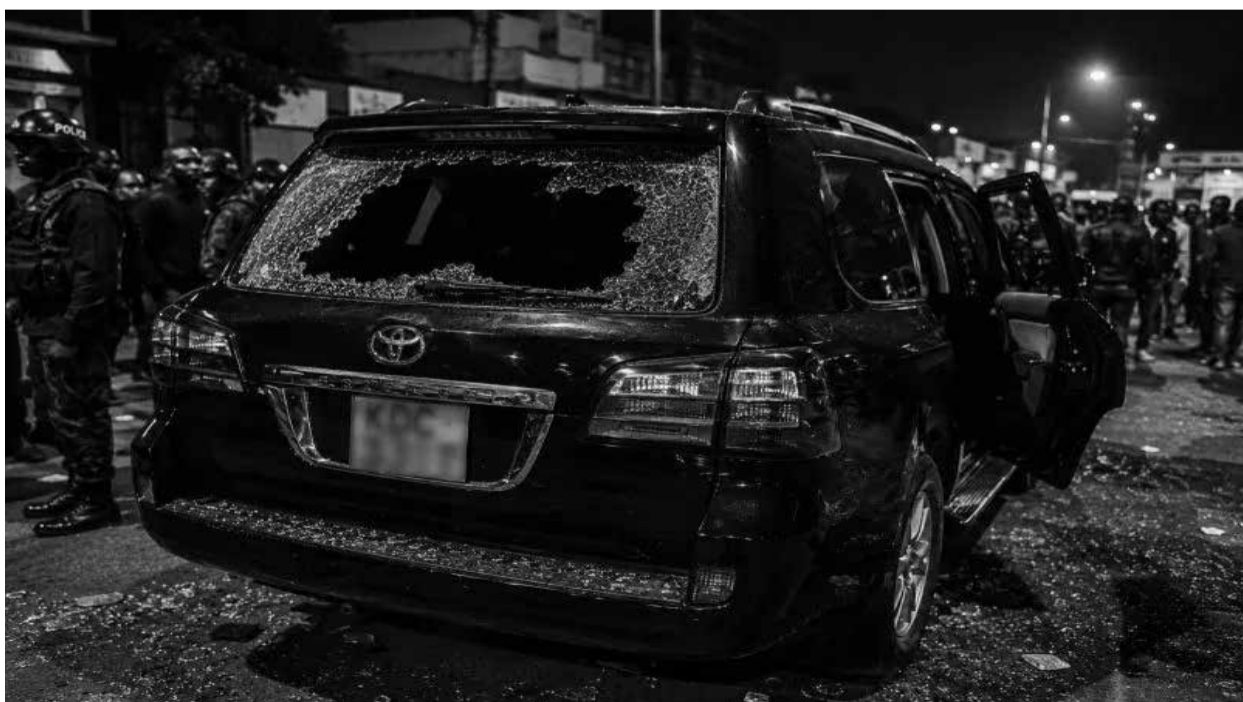
Witnesses offer a more direct version. They say Ouma, 28, was sent into the PS's vehicle to return a

Ksh10,000 handout that attendees considered too little to split among roughly 60 people, and was shot inside the car before being pushed out onto the road. His brother, Jeff Otieno, said he died from blood loss before reaching hospital.

Investigators have since recovered two firearms from the PS's security detail for ballistic testing, and seven people, including two bodyguards and a ministry director who was travelling with the PS, have recorded statements. The Principal Secretary's camp has disputed the family's account, describing the shooting as self-defence.

Legal scholar Makau Mutua has called for a full, independent probe, writing that the case "must be investigated thoroughly." An MP who attended the event went further, telling reporters plainly: "No one has a right to kill the youth of our party because of politics," and calling for Fikirini's resignation.

Ouma's family says only that they



Damaged car

want answers. "There is no way you can call people to a function and then shoot them," a relative said.

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations has taken over the case. Until ballistic results and witness

statements are reconciled, the central question — how a warning shot became a fatal one — remains open.

Human Society Laws serve as both inducement and deterrent, channeling these rebellious instincts toward productive ends

The Imperative of Law: Anchoring Human Society Against Chaos



By: Jerameel Kevins Owuor
Odhiambo
@themkenyatimes

From the earliest recorded civilizations, the presence of codified rules has distinguished ordered societies from those descending into disorder. Archaeological evidence from ancient Mesopotamia reveals the Code of Hammurabi, etched around 1750 BCE, which regulated trade, family disputes, and punishments with remarkable specificity. Similarly, the Roman Twelve Tables and later Justinian Code provided frameworks that influenced legal systems for millennia. In modern times, data from the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index consistently shows that countries scoring high on factors like constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, and effective regulatory enforcement enjoy higher GDP per capita, lower violence rates, and greater social trust. Conversely, nations ranking low often plagued by weak institutions experience persistent instability. These patterns underscore a fundamental truth: human beings require laws to regulate their affairs. Absent such structures, societies risk devolving into banana republics characterized by arbitrary power, systemic corruption, and eroded public welfare.

Human nature lies at the heart of this necessity. Philosophers across eras have observed an inherent tension in people: a drive for freedom paired with self-interested impulses that can undermine collective harmony. Thomas Hobbes famously described life in a state of nature as "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short," where unchecked individualism leads to perpetual conflict. While Jean-Jacques Rousseau romanticized the noble savage, empirical history largely validates Hobbesian realism. Psychological studies, including those on the "Stanford Prison Experiment" and Milgram's obedience research (with ethical caveats), reveal how ordinary individuals can rapidly adopt abusive



The Imperative of Law

or compliant behaviors when norms weaken. Evolutionary biology further suggests that traits favoring survival competition for resources, status-seeking, and tribal loyalty persist even in advanced societies. Humans are, in essence, rebels against restraint. Without external and internalized mechanisms of self-control, these tendencies manifest as petty corruption, violent crime, or large-scale exploitation.

Laws serve as both inducement and deterrent, channeling these rebellious instincts toward productive ends. They establish clear boundaries for acceptable conduct, enabling predictable interactions essential for commerce, family life, and governance. Property rights, contract enforcement, and criminal statutes create incentives for cooperation: individuals invest, innovate, and plan long-term when they trust that gains will not be arbitrarily seized. Economists like Douglass North have argued that effective institutions, particularly legal ones, reduce transaction costs and foster economic growth. In well-regulated societies, laws also promote justice by providing impartial dispute resolution, mitigating the raw power imbalances that favor the strong over the weak. This objectivity is crucial; when laws are perceived as fair, they cultivate voluntary compliance, reinforcing social cohesion.

Even so, the article's premise demands balance. Laws are not an unalloyed good. Overly intrusive

regulation can stifle individual liberty, creativity, and personal responsibility the very dynamism that drives progress. Authoritarian regimes, from historical empires to modern examples, have weaponized legal systems to suppress dissent, entrench elites, or enforce ideological conformity, leading to stagnation or revolt. Excessive bureaucracy in democratic states can similarly breed inefficiency, as seen in critiques of regulatory capture where industries influence rules to their advantage. A truly balanced approach recognizes that laws must be minimal yet sufficient, rooted in principles like equality before the law and proportionality of punishment. The goal is not to eradicate human rebellion but to harness it channeling entrepreneurial defiance into innovation while curbing destructive impulses.

Without robust legal frameworks, the slide toward a banana republic becomes almost inevitable. The term, originating from early 20th-century U.S. critiques of unstable Central American states, evokes governments marked by nominal democracy, rampant corruption, favoritism, and weak rule of law. In such environments, powerful actors whether political leaders, oligarchs, or criminal networks operate above accountability. Public resources are plundered, judicial independence collapses, and ordinary citizens face extortion or indifference from institutions meant to protect them. Historical cases abound: post-colo-

nial Africa and Latin America offer examples where fragile legal orders gave way to coups, hyperinflation, and social breakdown. Contemporary failed or fragile states, as ranked by indices like the Fund for Peace's Fragile States Index, demonstrate how impunity fuels cycles of violence and poverty. When laws are unenforced or selectively applied, self-control erodes. Citizens observe that rule-breakers prosper, normalizing deviance. Petty infractions escalate; trust evaporates. The result is not freedom but a Hobbesian arena where the cunning and ruthless dominate.

Enforcement mechanisms are indispensable. Laws without consequences are mere suggestions. Deterrence theory, supported by criminological research, posits that swift, certain, and proportionate sanctions discourage violations more effectively than severity alone. This includes not only criminal penalties but social and economic repercussions—reputational damage, loss of opportunities, or civil liabilities. Societies that consistently apply these foster cultures of accountability. Singapore's transformation from a post-independence backwater to a global hub illustrates the point: strict laws on corruption, public order, and even minor infractions, paired with meritocratic governance, built self-discipline and prosperity. Critics rightly note cultural and contextual differences, but the core lesson holds: consequences must follow contraventions to rein-

force behavioral norms.

Critics of strong legalism sometimes argue for greater reliance on moral education, religion, or community norms as alternatives to state coercion. These elements undeniably play vital roles in cultivating internal self-control. Ethical upbringing and civic education can internalize values like honesty and empathy, reducing the need for external enforcement. However, they are insufficient alone, particularly in diverse, large-scale societies where consensus on morals frays. History shows that voluntary restraint often falters under pressure during economic crises, resource scarcity, or political polarization. Laws provide the necessary backbone, while complementary institutions (families, schools, civil society) nurture the self-regulation that makes legal systems sustainable.

A balanced perspective also acknowledges evolving challenges. In the digital age, issues like data privacy, cybercrime, and algorithmic bias demand adaptive laws that keep pace with technology without overreach. Globalization complicates enforcement across borders, highlighting needs for international cooperation on issues like climate regulation or financial transparency. Moreover, laws must guard against their own abuse. Independent judiciaries, transparent legislative processes, and mechanisms for reform such as constitutional amendments or judicial review prevent rigidity or tyranny. Objective analysis reveals that the best systems blend firmness with flexibility, authority with accountability.

Ultimately, the human condition necessitates laws as a civilizing force. Our rebellious nature, while source of creativity and resilience, requires structured inducements toward self-control and collective order. A world without effective regulation is not a libertarian paradise but a banana republic writ large: chaotic, unjust, and self-defeating. By starting from empirical facts the correlation between rule of law and societal flourishing and examining both necessities and pitfalls, we see that well-crafted laws do not oppress humanity but liberate it. They enable individuals to pursue aspirations within a stable framework, where consequences for transgressions maintain equilibrium. Sustaining this balance demands vigilant citizenship, ethical leadership, and ongoing refinement. Only then can societies avoid the abyss of lawlessness and realize their potential for ordered liberty and shared progress.

The writer is a social commentator

Nairobi Part of the report highlighted progress made on solid waste management, and Nairobi River regeneration programmes which are at an advanced stage

Mudavadi urges faster implementation of Nairobi Rising Programme

BY OPCS PRESS SERVICE
@themtkenyatimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has called for tightened coordination, reviewed delivery timelines and accelerated pace of implementation of critical city services under the Nairobi rising programme.

Presiding over the third Joint Steering Committee meeting under the National Government-Nairobi City County Cooperation Agreement, Mudavadi said tangible deliverables must be met.

“We have to ensure what is to be achieved within the set timeline is done. In the next

13 months, Nairobians will have an opportunity to interrogate what we have done for them from the promises we made.” noted the Prime CS.

He said the programme, with an investment portfolio of KSh80 billion, is ambitious but necessary since it speaks directly to the aspirations of both National and County governments leadership and the broader vision of sustainable urban transformation.

“Our strategic interventions in water and sanitation are intended to guarantee reliable access to clean water and modern sewerage systems for millions of Nairobi residents across all boroughs. Our investments in security, roads,

street lighting, markets, drainage and urban connectivity are designed to enhance mobility, improve security and support economic productivity.” noted Mudavadi

The implementation committee chaired by Nairobi County Governor Johnson Sakaja presented a progress report arising from the 2nd joint steering committee held on 7th April 2026.

Part of the report highlighted progress made on solid waste management, and Nairobi River regeneration programmes which are at an advanced stage.

The report stated that Regeneration Projects Phase 1 is at 77% completion, Bitumen



PCS Musalia Mudavadi with Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja yesterday.

Standards Roads of which about 17.1km identified; 6 roads are active and a further rollout is awaiting pending technical work and clearances.

Under the street Lighting program for 40,000 solar street lights the process is underway with the initial batch of 5,000 leaving production to be shipped mid-July, with site preparations ongoing and further meetings expected before the end of this week to align with KURA, MCCG, and Rivers Commission.

Construction of markets gave over 60% completion status; 8 markets ongoing and another 7 at planning stage await funding.

The Nairobi City Water and Sewerage last mile connectivity programme works are underway with the intervention expected to significantly improve access to safe water and sanitation services through laying of 450 km water distribution lines and 110 km of sewer lines across key urban areas.

According to Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Erick Muriithi, progress has also been made in the construction of the 54 km twin trunk sewer along the Nairobi River corridor aimed at improving waste water management and restoring the river ecosystem.

“This is a critical environ-

mental and sanitation project and it has achieved progress with a total of 3.5 km laid.” said the Cabinet Secretary. “Other proposed interventions aim to reduce non-revenue water are also planned. These include pipeline reinforcement, replacing of aging asbestos pipes, installation of smart and bulk meters and modernization of system monitoring infrastructure.” added CS Muriithi.

The Prime CS directed the committees to make good use of public money to produce public value.

It was reported that the Communications sub-committee has begun working on an elaborative communications plan to guide the process of availing information to the public for scrutiny and accountability.

“We promised Nairobians

that we would communicate with them regularly on the implementation of the Nairobi Rising Programme. I promised the Senate and National Assembly that we would take them on guided tours of the County to witness what we are doing on roads, Nairobi River Regeneration project, Housing and Non-Motorized Transport, among others.” said Mudavadi.

Governor Sakaja said the sub-committee on communication is working on areas that will ensure clarity in progress reporting.

It was agreed that ahead of the next sitting the joint steering committee through its secretariat must be ready with a detailed and up to date Presidential Report that comprehensively captures the action points and addresses areas of further intervention.



PCS Musalia Mudavadi chairing yesterday's meeting.




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Mining The government recognises that mining has immense potential to accelerate economic growth, and this policy provides the roadmap for unlocking that potential

New mining policy targets 10 per cent GDP contribution by 2030

BY MKT Correspondent

@themkenyaintimes

The government has unveiled the draft Minerals, Mining and Beneficiation Policy 2026, setting an ambitious target of increasing the mining sector's contribution to Kenya's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from the current one per cent to 10 per cent by 2030.

The proposed policy, developed by the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, seeks to transform the sector into a major driver of industrialisation, employment creation and export earnings through sustainable mineral exploitation and value addition.

Speaking during a stakeholders' consultative meeting at Magharibi Hall in Kakamega, Mines Inspector Philip Kirui said the policy builds on the Mining Act 2016 while introducing reforms aimed at addressing emerging opportunities and challenges in the industry.

"The government recognises that mining has immense potential to accelerate economic growth, and this policy provides the roadmap for unlocking that potential," said Kirui.

The draft policy, themed Transforming Livelihoods through Sustainable Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources, outlines eight priority areas, including mineral resource management, value addition, artisanal and small-scale mining, mineral marketing, sustainability and governance.

A key pillar of the policy is promoting local processing and beneficiation to ensure Kenya derives greater value from its mineral resources. Mines Inspector Jeff Muchiri noted that the country has for years exported raw minerals, limiting economic returns.

"We must move away from exporting raw minerals and instead invest in local processing to create jobs, increase earnings and strengthen our industrial base," he said.

The policy also seeks to formalise

artisanal and small-scale mining by establishing county artisanal mining committees, promoting cooperatives, developing a national miners' database and setting up value addition centres in mineral-producing regions. Gold refineries and gemstone processing facilities are also proposed to improve returns for miners.

Among the policy's highlights is the gazettment of 14 strategic minerals considered vital for renewable energy, electric vehicle manufacturing and advanced technology industries. The government also announced that a nationwide airborne geophysical survey has identified 970 mineral anomalies that will undergo further assessment to guide exploration and attract investment.

Stakeholders welcomed the proposals but called for greater transparency in benefit sharing, improved access to geological data and increased support for small-scale miners. Investor Henry Shikanga urged the government to make geological information accessible to reduce in-



A miner preparing to enter a mine.

vestment risks, while artisanal miner Kennedy Masika called for affordable technology, financing and training to help miners benefit from the reforms.

The draft policy proposes the establishment of a Mineral Sovereign Fund, a Mineral Development Levy Fund, Community Development Agreements and Community Royalty Sharing Committees to ensure

equitable distribution of mining benefits among national and county governments and host communities.

Officials said the policy also integrates gender equality, environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation, including the adoption of cleaner energy technologies in mining operations, as Kenya positions the sector as a key pillar of national economic transformation by 2030.

The Mt. Kenya Times



Sometimes the best medicine for all pain is to spend some time with special person



Many times we don't realize that he is the best person.

We never realise the value of our well wishers
Until they are away from us.
Time teaches us to realise their value.
Loads of worries and pains filled in our life
We hesitate and deny the hands of well-wishers.

We never admit them to know about us and our problems.
We never allow them to show concern on us.
When there is no vision of hopes,
We search our well wishers.
It's too late, they are away from us.

Rajesh Kanna B N

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India.
Creative Writers.
Educationist.

Teamwork makes the dream work



Teamwork is a great strength.
It develops leadership qualities and tolerance.

It strengthens confidence and patience.
It leads to success more easily because of the contributions made by each team member.
When people share responsibilities and motivate one another,
the team becomes stronger.
A team is not just a concept; it is an important aspect of life.
As the saying goes, "A single tree doesn't make an orchard."
Likewise, teamwork brings abundant benefits, success, and support.
Therefore, teamwork truly makes the dream work.

G.YasminSirajudheen
Secondary grade teacher
Melmalayanur block
Villupuram dt

A dance in the rain



Rain drops danced upon the ground,
Making soft and happy sound.
Cool winds sang a gentle tune,
Flowers swayed all afternoon.
Children laughed and danced with joy,
Every girl and every boy.
Nature smiled in fresh delight,
Rainy days are pure and bright.
Poem written by M.Samiha Hajra from
9th c.
GGHSS PATTUKKOTTAI

Cards Rich, Cash Poor



The Reality of Modern Money Habits

The quilt is short, yet farther we stride,
Chasing glittering wants with borrowed pride.
A card in the wallet, a smile on the face,
Yet silent debts gather, quickening their pace.

Plastic promises whisper sweet and low,
"Buy today, let tomorrow's money flow."
Like honey on a hook, the lure seems fair,
Till interest spins its unseen snare.

Money is a master when wisely led,
A tyrant when desire runs ahead.
The loan that enters with an open door,
May leave us poorer than before.

A feast on credit may sparkle tonight,

But unpaid dues steal tomorrow's light.
Peace grows not where endless payments creep,
Nor does health thrive where worries never sleep.

The Bhagavad Gita gently shows the way-
"Yuktahara-viharasya yukta-cheshtasya
karmasu"—
Moderation in all things brings balance and strength.

The Bible wisely cautions:
"The borrower is servant to the lender."
(Proverbs 22:7)

And the Quran reminds:
"Eat and drink, but do not be excessive."
(Surah Al-A'raf 7:31)

So earn with honour, spend with care,
Let wisdom guide each coin you share.
For wealth is not the things we store,
But living with content
Cards rich, yet never cash poor.

Nandini Anandkumar
Educator, Writer, Motivator Freelancer
(In Service of education)

Cards rich, cash poor - the reality



Cards rich, cash poor - the reality
The updated digital reality
The value of money doesn't realised
When handled with mobile doesn't valued
Handling cash increased a quest for Money

Just a click or swipe, if need any
Time is valued more
Encouraging the laziness and bore
I'm fortunate to receive cash salary
Felt as the happiest person
These days, To celebrate has no reason
Bane or boon, no one to judge
Accept the technological change without any grudge
N. SIVASANKARI
CREATIVE WRITER
MADURAI DISTRICT TAMILNADU

My teacher is my candle



My teacher is my shining candle,
Helping me every task to handle.
Her gentle voice makes my fears fly,
With her support, I touch the sky.
My teacher is a bright light,
Helping my dreams take flight.
She helps me reach my goal,
Guiding me to play my role.
She teaches me day by day,
And shows me the proper way.
When I face a difficult test,
She helps me do my best.
By : C. P. Shashvinisri
Class : 7-A
School : GGHSS Pattukkottai

Projects She identified the Sh594 million Mjanaheri–Ngomeni Road project, launched by President William Ruto in May this year

PS Karugu rallies stakeholders to fast-track completion of key CDA projects in Kilifi

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyaintimes

Principal Secretary for ASALs and Regional Development Dr. Caroline Karugu has reaffirmed the government's commitment to fast-tracking the completion of key development projects being implemented by the Coast Development Authority (CDA) in Kilifi County, saying the investments are critical to improving healthcare, transport infrastructure and livelihoods across the region.

Speaking during the Seventh National Programme Steering Committee meeting for the Malindi Integrated Social and Health Development Programme Phase II (MISHDP II), Dr. Karugu said the



PS Caroline Karugu with other officials in Kilifi.

government remains focused on ensuring that all ongoing projects are completed within the stipulated timelines to maximise the benefits of public investment.

She identified the Sh594

million Mjanaheri–Ngomeni Road project, launched by President William Ruto in May this year, as one of the priority projects under the programme. The road is expected to improve connecti-

ty, facilitate trade and enhance access to essential services for residents of Malindi and Magarini sub-counties.

While acknowledging the progress made under MISHDP II, the Principal Secretary

urged implementing agencies, development partners and government institutions to strengthen coordination to address the remaining challenges and ensure the successful completion of the programme. "While we celebrate these achievements, we must remain focused on addressing the outstanding challenges that could affect the timely implementation and completion of the programme," she said.

The MISHDP II programme is jointly funded by the Governments of Kenya and Italy and is among the flagship development initiatives in the Coast region. It supports investments in healthcare, education, transport infrastructure and community development.

Coast Development Authority Acting Managing Director Mwanasiti Bendera said the programme has entered its final implementation phase, with only two major components remaining before its expected completion next year.

She said construction of the Mjanaheri–Ngomeni Road is progressing well and is scheduled for completion by December 2026.

Bendera added that the Authority will also focus on

operationalising the newly constructed 80-bed Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and High Dependency Unit (HDU) block at Malindi Sub-County Hospital. The facility will be equipped with modern medical equipment, including four fully functional ICU beds, significantly boosting the hospital's capacity to provide specialised critical care services.

According to CDA, the majority of projects under MISHDP II have already been completed and handed over to beneficiaries. These include the construction and equipping of classrooms in schools across Malindi and Magarini sub-counties, renovation of health facilities and implementation of capacity-building programmes for teachers, parents, students and local communities.

Officials expressed confidence that once the remaining road and health projects are completed, the programme will significantly enhance access to quality healthcare, improve transport networks and contribute to the socio-economic development of Kilifi County.



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BOOK REVIEW: John Hologo's memoir of Kenya's 2007–08 violence is less a book about grief than a manual for surviving it

A father's testimony: reviewing "Never Again"

Book Review:

Author: John Hologo

Book: Never Again

Reviewer: Danson

There is a particular kind of courage required to turn private devastation into public testimony, and John Hologo's "Never Again: A Survivor's Plea for Peace in Kenya" is built entirely from that courage. This is not a polished literary memoir reaching for craft or ambiguity. It is something plainer and, in its own way, more urgent: a father's direct address to his children, to fellow survivors, and to a country he still believes in, despite everything it took from him.

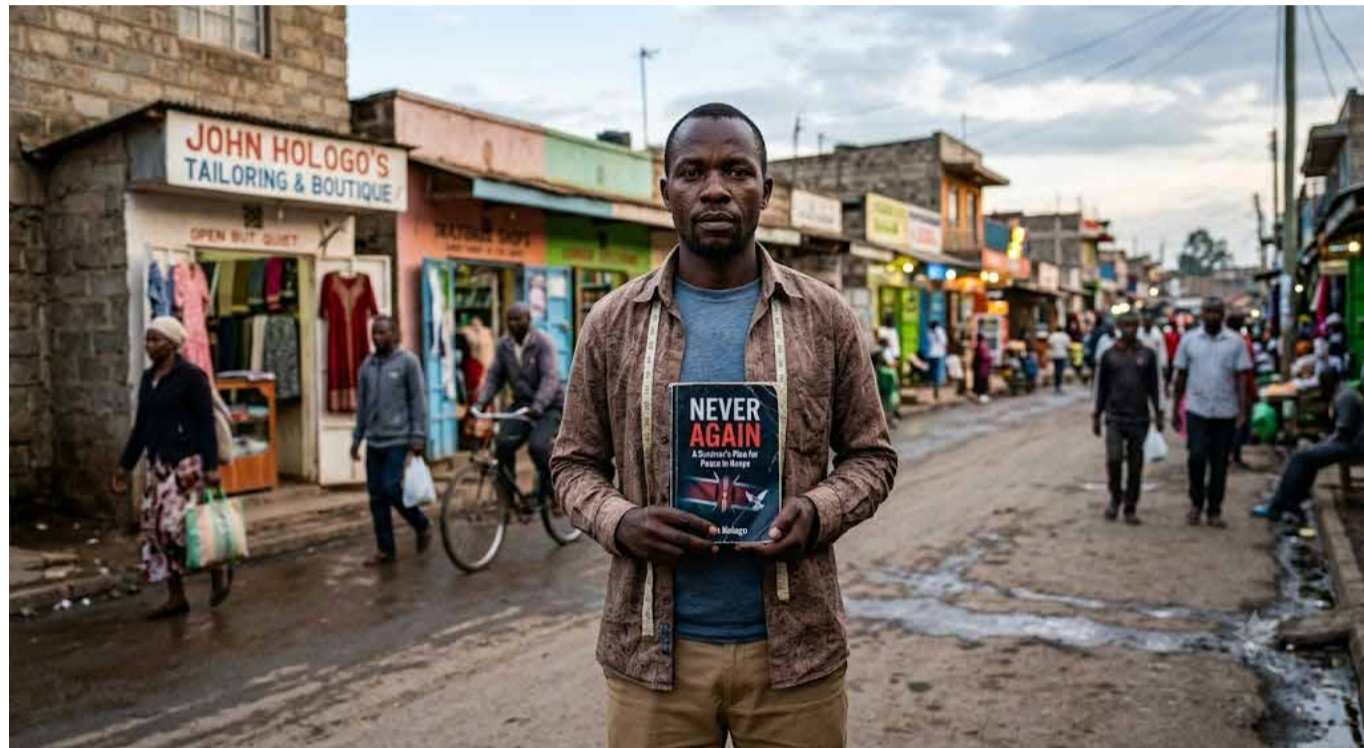
The book opens in Karagita, where Hologo describes an unremarkable, hopeful life — a tailoring business, a boutique, ordinary dreams built on ordinary labour. That normalcy matters, because the violence that follows the 2007 General Election doesn't just destroy property; it destroys the plausibility of an ordinary future. Hologo captures the speed of that collapse well. "Rumours spread faster than facts," he writes, and within pages, neighbours who once traded in the same markets become strangers to fear. The night he hides his family with a neighbour and runs alone to Karagita Police Station is the book's most viscerally written passage — the only chapter where narrative tension genuinely builds, because Hologo lets the reader sit inside his uncertainty rather than resolving it too quickly.

From there, the memoir follows a familiar but no less affecting arc: displacement to Kedong Ranch, the indignity of KSh 50,000 in government compensation set against a lifetime's accumulated work, the daily grind of rebuilding with nothing. Hologo is at his strongest when he stays concrete — the KSh 50,000 figure

lands harder than any abstract statement about loss, because it forces the reader to do the arithmetic themselves. Two decades of labour, a business and a boutique, reduced to a sum that wouldn't cover a month's rent today. That's effective, restrained writing, and the book would benefit from more of it.

Where "Never Again" becomes more uneven is in its back half, once Hologo shifts from narrating events to delivering lessons. Chapters on forgiveness, faith, and single fatherhood are sincere and clearly hard-won, but they arrive in short, aphoristic bursts — "Hope is a decision to believe in tomorrow," "Success is not what you own, but how many times you rise" — that read more like inscriptions than developed reflection. Individually, these lines carry real feeling. Accumulated across a dozen chapters, they start to flatten the book's emotional register, turning what should be a deepening argument into a repeated one. The reader is told, many times, that Hologo chose hope over despair and forgiveness over bitterness; we are told this more often than we are shown it happening.

The book's most distinctive material is also its most underused: Hologo's account of raising five children alone — Livingston, Brian, Belinda, Bernard, and Titus — after losing both his marriage of circumstance and his livelihood in the same catastrophe. Single fatherhood in the aftermath of political violence is a story rarely told in Kenyan public memory of 2007–08, which tends to centre displacement statistics and reconciliation politics rather than the domestic, daily labour



Never Again: A Survivor's Plea for Peace in Kenya

of raising children through it. The chapters on missed school fees, on teaching his sons and daughter "wealth is character," on refusing to let his children see him give up — these are the book's real spine, and they deserve more room than the surrounding chapters on faith and forgiveness, however heartfelt those are.

Structurally, the memoir's decision to close with a direct letter to his children (Chapter Seventeen) and a "final appeal to Kenya" (Chapter Eighteen) is its smartest move. It clarifies, retroactively, who this book was always written for — not primarily a general readership seeking a definitive account of the Kenyan post-election crisis, but Hologo's own family, and by extension, families like his. Read that way, the book's repetitions and its plainness stop being weaknesses and start looking more like intention: this is testimony meant to be returned to, not consumed once. The refrain "Never Again," repeated chapter after chapter, functions less as literary device than as a vow being re-sworn.

Where the book is thinner is in political and historical con-

text. Readers unfamiliar with the 2007–08 post-election violence will get almost none of the wider picture here — the disputed results, the scale of displacement nationally, the political actors involved — because Hologo deliberately keeps his lens personal and local to Karagita. That is a legitimate authorial choice for a survivor's memoir, but it does mean the book works best as a companion to, rather than a substitute for, the historical record. Readers wanting Hologo's testimony as one voice among many, set against Kenya's broader

reckoning with that period, will need to bring that context themselves.

As prose, "Never Again" is unpolished in places — sentences are often short to the point of terseness, and transitions between chapters can feel abrupt. But that plainness also strips away any sense of performance. Nothing here reads as written for effect. Hologo is not trying to impress; he is trying to be believed, and largely succeeds.

This is, ultimately, a book better judged by what it accomplishes than by conventional literary standards. It

gives voice to a category of survivor — the displaced single father, rebuilding without institutional support, raising five children on rebuilt confidence and repeated conviction — who rarely narrates their own story in Kenya's public memory. For readers seeking that specific, underrepresented testimony, "Never Again" is a valuable, moving document. For readers seeking a shaped literary memoir, it will feel repetitive. Both readings are fair; the book was clearly written for the first kind of reader, and on those terms, it succeeds.



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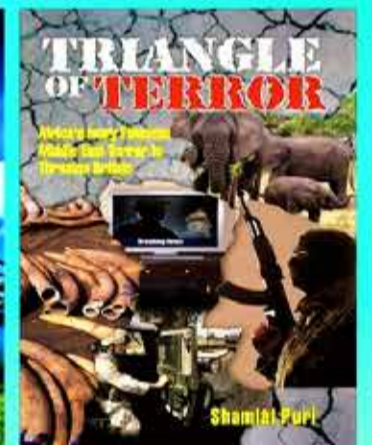
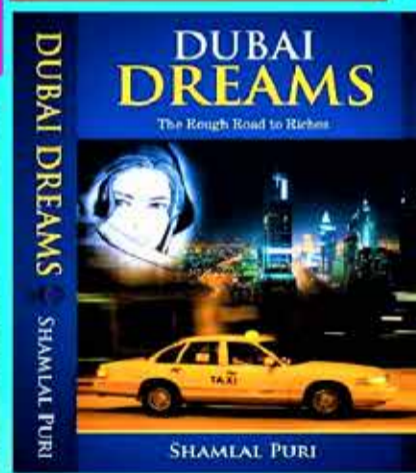
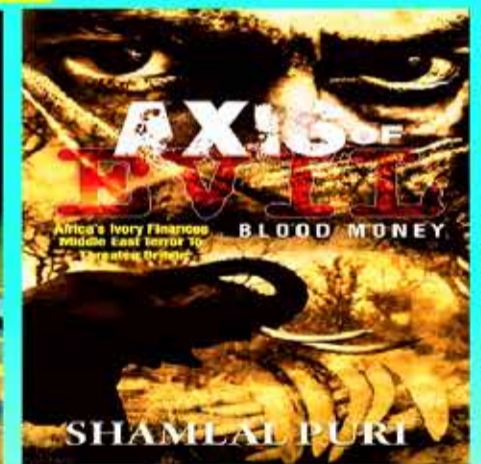
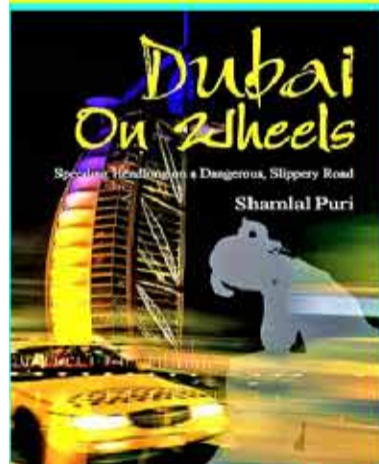
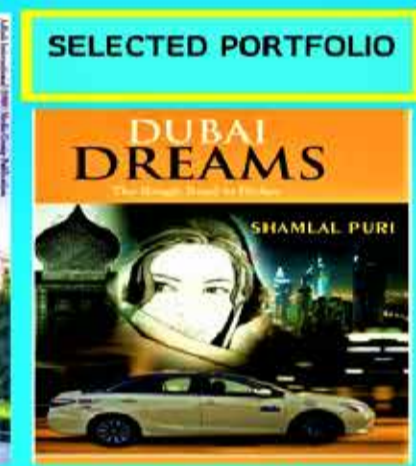
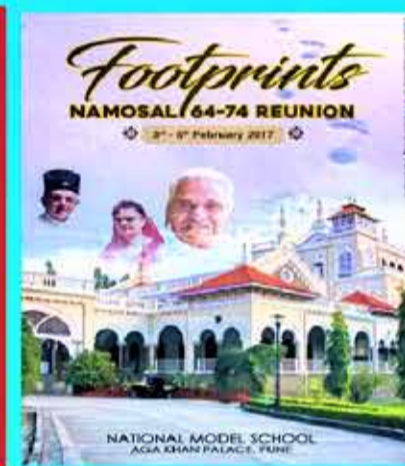
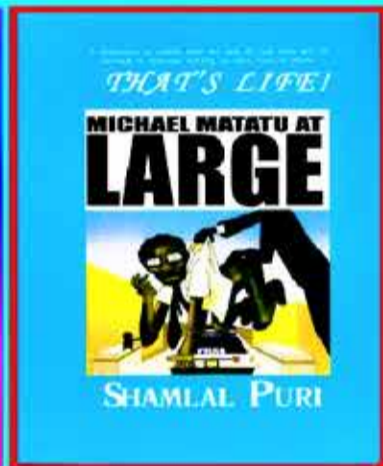
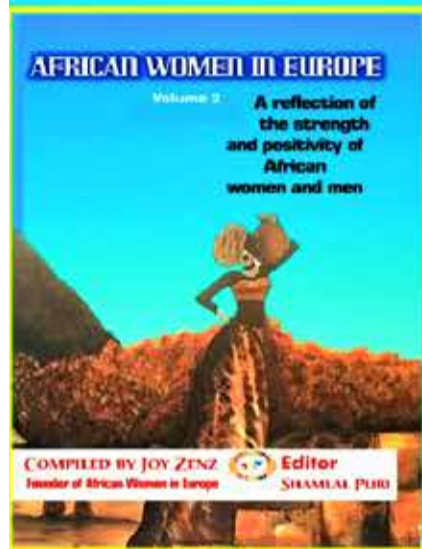
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News Our vision is to ensure that every county, constituency and ward has an opportunity to showcase its progress, discuss its challenges, celebrate innovation

Where leadership meets the people: Why Mt. Kenya Times is Kenya's trusted home for political dialogue and informed democracy



BY Fredrick Chelimo
@themtkenyatimes

Every election is about people. It is about the hopes of young graduates searching for employment, the dreams of farmers seeking better markets, aspirations of traders for a better infrastructure, persons with disabilities yearning for inclusion, the expectations of parents striving for quality affordable education and the determination of every Kenyan to live in a nation that is secure, prosperous, inclusive and just. Likewise, every leader has a story and a dream worth telling. Behind every policy, every legislative proposal, and every promise lie a vision of what Kenyans can become. Yet meaningful dialogue has not been forthcoming. MT. Kenya Times believes in the conviction that democracy deserves better, that relationships between those who seek to lead and those who choose their leaders should never be reduced to campaign slogans or occasional rallies, but a continuous conversation built on facts, accountability, ideas, respect and shared responsibility for Kenya's future.

Democratic flourishes when information flows freely, truthfully, and responsibly. Every election marks such ultimate time for conversation between those who seek to lead and those who entrust them with that responsibility. For this conversation to produce informed choices rather than emotional reactions, it requires a credible, independent, and accessible platform where ideas, policies, achievements, aspirations, and public concerns can be exchanged openly. It is this responsibility that MT. Kenya Times proudly embraces.

As Kenya's democratic space continues to evolve, political leadership can no longer be measured solely by campaign rallies, logans or social media popularity. Citizens increasingly demand evidence of performance, practical solutions to development challenges, and leaders who articulate a clear vision for



The Mt. Kenya Times

the future. Equally aspiring leaders deserve an opportunity to present themselves fairly and comprehensively before the electorate. Democracy is strongest when every voice can be heard and every citizen has access to balanced, factual, and con-



Democratic flourishes when information flows freely, truthfully, and responsibly. Every election marks such ultimate time for conversation between those who seek to lead and those who entrust them with that responsibility. For this conversation to produce informed choices rather than emotional reactions, it requires a credible, independent, and accessible platform where ideas, policies, achievements, aspirations, and public concerns can be exchanged openly. It is this responsibility that MT. Kenya Times proudly embraces

textual information.

The MT. Kenya Times is committed to becoming the trusted forum where leaders tell their stories and citizens tell leaders what matters most to them. We believe that leadership is not merely about winning elections; it is about building enduring relationships founded on accountability, transparency, participation and mutual respect. Through our print newspaper, digital platforms, and e-paper editions, we seek to facilitate a continuous national conversation that extends far beyond election periods.

Our vision is to ensure that every county, constituency and ward has an opportunity to showcase its progress, discuss its challenges, celebrate innovation, and explore practical solutions to local and national issues. Whether highlighting successful development projects, examining policy proposals, profiling emerging leaders, or amplifying citizen's voices, MT. Kenya Times remains committed to presenting information that empowers rather than divides.

Political information should not be reduced to propaganda or personality contests, but should be an opportunity for leaders to explain their development agenda, demonstrate stewardship of public resources,

respond to public concerns and account for promises made. Likewise, citizens should have an avenue to express their expectations, question public decision, celebrate progress, and contribute constructively to policy discussions. MT. Kenya Times aspires to nurture this healthy exchange by providing a professional platform where dialogue replaces confrontation and evidence replaces speculation.

Our editorial philosophy is anchored on fairness, accuracy, balance, and integrity. We recognize that public confidence in the media depends upon independence and adherence to the highest ethical standards. According to our reporting, analysis, and commercial engagements shall be conducted in strict compliance with the constitution of Kenya, applicable electoral laws, media regulations, advertising standards, and professional journalism ethics. Sponsored political communication will be clearly distinguished from independent editorial content, preserving the credibility upon which meaningful public discourse depends.

Beyond the politics, Mt Kenya Times acknowledges that sustainable leadership is measured by the quality of development it delivers. Our pages will therefore continue to feature comprehensive reporting on economic transformation, agriculture, healthcare, education, infrastructure, environmental conservation, entrepreneurship, innovation, science, technology, security, governance, social inclusion and any topical issues concerning our society. We believe that informed citizens are empowered citizens, capable of participating meaningfully in shaping the future of their communities and their nation.

Science and innovation will equally occupy a prominent place within our publication as key engines of development. As the world undergoes unprecedented technological transformation, societies require reliable information to understand emerging opportunities and challenges. This paper is committed to translating complex scientific and technological developments into accessible knowledge that supports evidence-based policymaking, responsible innovation, and sustainable national development.

The paper offers more than visibility to political leaders, it offers an opportunity to build trust, document evidence, articulate vision, engage constructively with constituents, and leave a lasting legacy grounded in public service. For aspiring leaders, it provides respected platform through which ideas, competence, and character can be presented to the electorate with dignity and fairness. For citizens, it offers a reliable information that supports informed participation in democratic process and strengthens accountability at every level of government.

The commitment of this paper is extended to everyone of Kenya's forty-seven counties, recognizing that national progress begins with local communities. Every county possesses unique opportunities, challenges, innovators, and leaders whose stories deserve national attention. Through dedicated county coverage, the paper will bring local development conversations into national spotlight, encourage the exchange of ideas, replication of successful initiatives, and ensure greater public participation in governance.

At its center, the paper is founded on a simple but powerful conviction; democracy succeeds when citizens are informed, leaders are accountable, institutions are transparent, and public dialogue is conducted with civility, respect, and integrity. We aspire to be the newspaper that not only reports history but also contributes to shaping a more informed, inclusive, prosperous, and united Kenya.

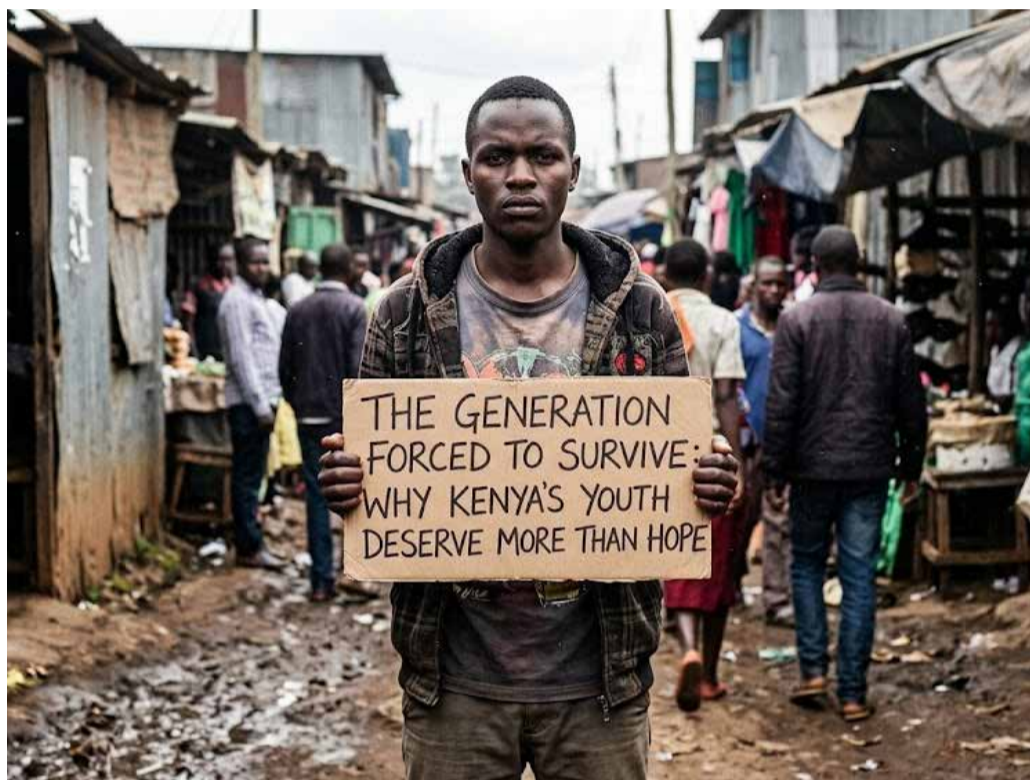
As our nation continues to one of the most eventful democratic journey, MT. Kenya Times invites leaders, policy makers, professionals, development partners, researchers and every citizen to participate in this shared mission. Together we can cultivate a unique culture where ideas triumph over misinformation, service prevails over self-interest, and informed public discourse becomes the foundation upon which stronger communities and stronger nations are built.

At MT. Kenya Times, citizens are informed, citizens are empowered, leaders are accorded the forum to navigate their visions through credible journalism, responsible political dialogue and knowledge that informs today and future generations. It is where leaders listen, citizens speak, ideas flourish and democracy find the strongest voice.

"The strength of democracy is not measured by the volume of its politics, but by the quality of conversation between its leaders and its people"

Generation This isn't because young people have become less ambitious. It's because the environment around them has become far more difficult to navigate

The generation forced to survive: Why Kenya's youth deserve more than hope



The generation forced to survive illustration

BY Hadassah Karangu
@themkenyatimes

There was a time when young people were encouraged to dream without limits. They dreamed of becoming doctors, teachers, engineers, journalists, pilots, entrepreneurs, and leaders. They imagined a future where hard work would open doors and education would create opportunities. They believed that if they studied diligently and followed the right path, success would eventually follow.

Today, that confidence is slowly fading.

Across Kenya, many young people are no longer focused on building the lives they once dreamed of. Instead, they are focused on surviving one day at a time. The conversation has shifted — from ambition to affordability, from planning for the future to worrying about the next meal, the next rent payment, or the next

source of income.

This isn't because young people have become less ambitious. It's because the environment around them has become far more difficult to navigate.

A university graduate leaves campus carrying years of education, hope, and sacrifice. Yet months, sometimes years, later, many are still searching for employment. Some move from one interview to the next without success. Others take jobs unrelated to their training simply to make ends meet. Many start small businesses — not because entrepreneurship was their first choice, but because there are few alternatives left.

Meanwhile, the cost of living keeps climbing. Food prices fluctuate. Housing costs rise. Transport eats up a growing share of household budgets. For many young people, financial independence feels further away than it has ever been.

And the pressure doesn't stop

there.

Social media has created a culture where success looks instant and effortless. Every day, young people scroll past images of luxury lifestyles, business milestones, expensive holidays, and seemingly perfect lives. Some of these stories are genuine, but together they create unrealistic expectations. A young person still finding their footing can end up feeling left behind, even while making real, honest progress.

The result is a generation carrying an extraordinary weight: pressure to succeed quickly, to support their families, to meet society's expectations, to prove that their education and sacrifices meant something.

And yet, despite all this, Kenya's youth continue to show remarkable resilience.

They are building businesses from small amounts of capital. Learning new skills online. Embracing technology and innovation. Volunteering,

mentoring one another, and finding creative ways to earn a living. Refusing to give up, even when the odds feel stacked against them.

That resilience deserves to be celebrated. But resilience alone cannot become national policy.

Young people shouldn't have to rely solely on grit to overcome every obstacle in their way. They need opportunities that match their energy and talent. An economy that rewards hard work. Institutions that back innovation and leadership. Affordable access to

education, training, and employment.

Most of all, they need a reason to believe their future can be better than their present.

A nation cannot thrive when its youth are trapped in survival mode. The dreams of young people aren't personal ambitions alone — they are investments in the country's future. When a young entrepreneur succeeds, communities benefit. When a graduate finds meaningful work, families are lifted up. When a young innovator gets the support they need, the whole

nation moves forward.

The question facing Kenya today isn't whether its youth are capable — they've already proven that they are. The real question is whether the country is doing enough to help them turn their dreams into reality.

Kenya's youth don't need endless promises. They don't need lectures about patience. They don't need reminders to work harder when many are already doing everything they possibly can.

What they need is opportunity. Trust. Support.

Above all, they need a future that offers more than survival.

For a generation still carrying the hopes of a nation, hope alone is no longer enough.

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China What makes the CPC capable of leading the nation to achieve sustained development outcomes? The answer lies in its defining qualities, namely its people-centered mission

At 105, the CPC embodies a mission of resilience, innovation and leadership

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themkenyatimes

As the Communist Party of China (CPC) marks its 105th anniversary, its journey represents a mission of resilience, innovation and strong leadership. Staying true to its founding aspiration, the CPC has led one of the most far-reaching modernization transformations in human history.

Against the backdrop of a weak country that suffered from foreign humiliation, poverty, and failed attempts to save the nation, the CPC was founded in 1921 with a mission to seek happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation. The CPC united and led the Chinese people of all ethnic groups in working tirelessly to achieve national independence and the people's liberation. In the following decades, the CPC has continued to lead China's journey toward prosperity, strength and a better life for its people.

Under the leadership of the CPC, China has grown into the world's second-largest economy, made major advances in science and technology, significantly improved people's living standards, and become an important force of stability and certainty in a turbulent world. As the world's largest developing country, China is pushing ahead on all fronts toward basically achieving socialist modernization by 2035.

What makes the CPC capable of leading the nation to achieve sustained development outcomes? The answer lies in its defining qualities, namely its people-centered mission, its organizational, mobilization and executive capacities, its learning and innovation ability, its openness and vitality, and its commitment to self-reform. Together, these qualities help explain the underlying logic of China's rise.

Unlike parties that primarily represent particular groups or interests, the CPC has always put the people first, responded to their concerns and needs, and worked to improve their well-being. These deep-rooted, inseparable flesh-and-blood ties with the masses provide the CPC with an inexhaustible source of strength. As a service-oriented political party, the CPC makes decisions and sets policies based on the fundamental inter-



Celebrations

ests of the people.

Through decades of continuous efforts, especially eight years of targeted poverty alleviation, China has achieved the historic feat of eradicating absolute poverty and building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. Public well-being is also reflected in the establishment of the world's largest education, social security and healthcare systems. Both urban and rural residents in China enjoy a life much more convenient than ever before, thanks to remarkable infrastructural improvements in transport, power and telecommunications.

Unlike Western political systems that are often plagued by partisan gridlock and the pursuit of electoral gains, the CPC maintains a long-term perspective and carries a blueprint through to the end. The five-year plans, which have guided national development since 1953, stand as a testament to this strategic consistency -- a key reason for China's rapid development and a sharp contrast to the policy volatility often observed in Western democracies.

The CPC's strength lies in its institutional architecture, which features the centralized, unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee, its local committees, over 5.43 million primary-level organizations, and over 101 million members nation-

wide. This system gives the Party a formidable capacity to mobilize and unite the 1.4 billion Chinese people to work toward a common goal. It also ensures an effective mechanism for cultivating high-caliber cadres through local and grassroots work experience, so as to advance the cause of the CPC.

The CPC is a dynamic organization that constantly adapts to changing times. It is not bound by rigid dogma, but has developed as a learning and innovative party that integrates the basic tenets of Marxism with China's specific realities and fine traditional culture. Scientific political theories enable the CPC to grasp

the overarching trends of human development and always stand at the forefront of the times. The CPC's innovation-driven strategy has accelerated the country's industrial upgrade and fostered new growth drivers for the high-quality development of the Chinese economy.

Just as it requires a skilled blacksmith to forge good steel, the CPC's leadership ability is inextricably tied to its continuous self-reform. The CPC is clear-minded about the dangers and risks it faces, such as detachment from the people and corruption. With a zero-tolerance approach to corruption, the CPC has pursued full and rigorous self-gov-

ernance. In 2025 alone, disciplinary watchdogs launched investigations into 181 officials registered at and supervised by the CPC Central Committee. Nationwide, they handed disciplinary or administrative penalties to 983,000 individuals involved in corruption. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC in late 2012, the Party has carried out a series of study and education campaigns to maintain its advanced nature and purity.

The CPC is open-minded and has a global vision, making China's development increasingly integrated with the rest of the world. The Party has championed the building of a community with a shared future for humanity. In an era marked by geopolitical tensions and global challenges, China firmly pursues true multilateralism and adheres to the path of peaceful development. Through its global initiatives on development, security, civilization and governance, the CPC has contributed significantly to global peace, stability and prosperity.

The CPC's 105th anniversary coincides with the 90th anniversary of the victory of the Long March of the CPC-led Red Army. The spirit demonstrated by that epic military maneuver, including a firm belief that a just cause will surely prevail, fearlessness in the face of any difficulties, a commitment to seeking truth from facts, and a steadfast reliance on the masses, will continue to empower the CPC to march forward and navigate any challenges.

With a clear sense of mission, a strong executive capacity and a commitment to shared development, the CPC is certainly capable of leading China to achieve new victories on today's Long March: advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization, and working with the rest of the world for a better future.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The new generation of hustlers

By Jaisy Mumo

Before most cities stir, Kenya's youngest workforce is already on the move. Streets fill before dawn — shop shutters rattling open, boda bodas lining up, phones lighting up with the day's first orders. This is not idle hustle. This is survival, sharpened into strategy.

The traditional script — school, job, stability — has quietly stopped working for many young Kenyans. Job competition is fierce, and the cost of living keeps climbing. So they've written a new one: build it yourself.

Kenya's informal economy now sustains millions. Traders, boda boda riders, online sellers, photographers, content creators — a generation earning outside the formal system, often out of necessity, sometimes out of ambition. For some, hustling was meant to be temporary, a bridge to a "real job." For others, it has become the destination: a brand, a business, a livelihood built on their own terms.



Technology has rewritten the rules. A phone and an idea are now enough to reach customers beyond any single neighbourhood — no shopfront required. But the grind behind the grind is real. Capital is scarce, loans are costly, and income swings unpredictably. Long hours don't always add up to a living wage. For every trader by the roadside, uncertainty is the only guarantee — yet giving up rarely is an option.

This generation isn't just surviving hard times; it's redefining what work looks like inside

them. What they're asking for is straightforward: affordable financing, real skills training, mentorship, and policy that treats small business as infrastructure, not an afterthought.

Behind every hustle is a bet on tomorrow. The real question is whether Kenya will finally bet on them too.

The cost of betrayal



By John Muraya Wanjeri

Trust is the currency of every real relationship — and once spent carelessly, it rarely returns at face value.

We build our closest bonds on trust, respect, and sincerity, especially in moments of need. When someone is vulnerable, they hand us something precious: belief. Belief that we will guide them, protect them, stand beside them when it matters. That belief is not given lightly, and it should never be treated lightly.

Yet too often, it is. Some exploit that trust, steering

vulnerable people toward decisions that serve no one but themselves. What starts as intimacy curdles into betrayal — and betrayal doesn't announce itself loudly. It settles quietly, carried for hours, days, months, replaying in the mind of the person who was hurt long after the one who hurt them has moved on.

The cruelty of betrayal is in its timing. Life has a way of circling back — we need people again, sometimes the very people we wronged. And when trust has already been broken once, they may simply choose to walk away. No confronta-

tion, no explanation. Just absence, where support used to be.

Rebuilding what betrayal breaks is not achieved through apology alone. It demands honesty about what was done, ownership without excuse, and a sustained commitment — through humility, consistency, and genuine love — to becoming trustworthy again.

Trust, once broken, is not repaired by words. It is repaired by who we choose to become afterward.

John Muraya Wanjeri
(Laikipia University media student)

Ukraine-Russia war: latest update

By David Mwaniki

Five years in, and the war shows no sign of slowing down. This week brought fresh missile and drone strikes, hardened rhetoric, and yet another year of sanctions — but still no ceasefire.

Russian missiles and drones tore through Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, and Sumy this week, killing at least nine people, with the toll climbing through the day, and wounding dozens more, Ukrainian officials say. It is a grim, familiar pattern: strikes on civilian areas, rescue crews digging through rubble, and a death count that keeps rising long after the headlines move on.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy insists Ukraine will keep striking Russian military infrastructure deep behind enemy lines, and he is pressing Western allies harder than ever to bolster Kyiv's air defences. His



warning is blunt: leave Ukraine exposed to missiles, and the attacks will not stop.

Moscow, for its part, has floated a different kind of deal. President Vladimir Putin has pointed to a Ukrainian proposal for a mutual halt on long-range strikes — one tied to confining the fighting to four Ukrainian regions Russia claims as its own. Kyiv calls that an unlawful land grab, not a peace plan.

No ceasefire has followed. Meanwhile, the European Council has renewed its economic sanctions on Russia for another 12 months, pushing them out to July 2027 — a signal that Brussels, at least, is playing a long game.

None of this adds up to peace. It adds up to endurance: strikes met with strikes, sanctions met with defiance, and a war that refuses to run out of road.

Digital technology changing the way Kenyans do business

By Winfred Mumo

The market has moved online, and Kenya's entrepreneurs are moving with it.

Across the country, digital technology is reshaping how business gets done. From roadside traders to established SMEs, more entrepreneurs are turning to online platforms to market products, close sales, and reach customers who once lay far beyond their physical reach.

The shift isn't cosmetic — it's operational. Business owners increasingly rely on digital tools not just for marketing, but for managing transactions, tracking inventory, and streamlining the everyday mechanics of running a company. Many describe the change bluntly: technology hasn't just added convenience, it's opened doors that traditional business models kept shut.

Experts see this as more than



a passing trend. As Kenya's economy tilts further toward digital infrastructure, they argue, digital literacy is becoming as fundamental as any traditional business skill. Their message to young people and entrepreneurs is direct — build these skills now, or risk being priced out of competitiveness later.

But the transformation isn't frictionless. Unequal internet access still locks out entrepreneurs in underserved areas, and rising digital security concerns — from fraud to data

breaches — remain real threats to businesses still learning to navigate this new terrain. Progress here has not been evenly distributed.

Still, the trajectory is unmistakable. As adoption deepens, digital technology is set to play an increasingly central role in shaping the next chapter of Kenyan enterprise.

The question is no longer whether Kenyan business goes digital. It's who gets left behind while it does.

SPORTS
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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *Belgium beat Senegal 3-2 after extra time in their World Cup Round of 32 tie at Seattle Stadium yesterday, with Youri Tielemans converting a 125th-minute penalty to complete one of the tournament's great comebacks

Tielemans' 125th-minute penalty sends Belgium past Senegal in World Cup thriller

By **Martin Weche**

Belgium beat Senegal 3-2 after extra time in their World Cup Round of 32 tie at Seattle Stadium on Wednesday, with Youri Tielemans converting a 125th-minute penalty to complete one of the tournament's great comebacks.

For long stretches, this looked like the night Belgium's golden generation ran out of road. Senegal, sharper and hungrier from the first whistle, took the lead through Habib Diarra in the 24th minute, latching onto a loose ball after sustained pressure that Belgium simply couldn't contain. They doubled it just after the hour through Ismaïla Sarr, who chested down a long diagonal from Moussa Niakhaté and finished clinically past a static Belgian defence — his fourth goal of the tournament, matching the record held by Cameroon's Roger Milla since 1990. At 2-0 down with the clock running out, Rudi Garcia's side looked headed for an early flight home.

Then came the twist that will define this World Cup's opening knockout round. Substitute Romelu Lukaku, on for barely twenty minutes, pulled one back in the 86th minute, finishing coolly after Thomas Meunier's hooked pass found him at the near post. Three minutes later, Belgium were level: Leandro Trossard's looping cross picked out Tielemans, who rose above a hesitant Pape Diaw — caught badly out of position — to head home. Seattle Stadium, quiet for most of the evening, erupted.

Extra time settled into a wary, exhausted stalemate until the very last kick of it. A VAR review flagged a foul by Senegal substitute Lamine Camara on Tielemans, and the referee pointed to the spot. Tielemans, who



had already dragged his team level once, stepped up again and sent Diaw the wrong way, his shot nestling in the top corner at 124 minutes and 44 seconds — among the latest winning goals in World Cup history.

There's a human note running through Belgium's night, too. Amadou Onana, introduced from the bench during extra time, was born in Senegal before representing the country of his upbringing at international level — a quiet reminder, on a heart-breaking evening for the Lions of Teranga, of how tightly the two footballing nations are woven together.

For Senegal, the pain will linger. Pape Thiaw's side had outplayed Belgium for the better

part of ninety minutes, generating more than double their opponents' expected goals in normal time and looking, for long periods, like the more complete team on the pitch. Diaw's positioning for Tielemans' equalising header will be replayed and picked apart in Dakar for weeks, but it would be unfair to reduce a gutsy, attacking campaign to a single mistake. Senegal leave the tournament with their heads high and Sarr's name etched alongside football royalty.

For Belgium, survival came at a cost. Thibaut Courtois and Kevin De Bruyne, playing what may be their final World Cup together, were made to work harder than anyone in Brussels would have liked for a team many still

consider genuine contenders. Garcia's substitutions — Lukaku and Trossard chief among them — proved the difference between an early exit and a place in the last 16, where Belgium will now meet the winner of USA's clash with Bosnia and Herzegovina, back at Seattle Stadium next Tuesday.

Football has a habit of punishing the team that plays better for longer, and rewarding the one that holds its nerve when it matters most. Wednesday night in Seattle was a brutal lesson in that arithmetic — for Senegal, a campaign built on real quality, undone in six second-half minutes; for Belgium, a golden generation given one more night to prove it isn't finished yet.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Harry Kane's second-half double rescued England as the Three Lions came from behind to beat DR Congo 2-1 in the Round of 32 at Atlanta Stadium yesterday, ending the Leopards' first-ever World Cup knockout

Kane's late brace sends England into last 16 as DR Congo bow out

By Norman Mwale

Harry Kane's second-half double rescued England as the Three Lions came from behind to beat DR Congo 2-1 in the Round of 32 at Atlanta Stadium yesterday, ending the Leopards' first-ever World Cup knockout campaign.

DR Congo stunned England inside seven minutes. Brian Cipenga was left unmarked on the right of the box and drilled a low, right-footed strike past Jordan Pickford at his near post to give the Leopards a shock 1-0 lead — the first time England had trailed at this tournament.

England dominated possession but found Lionel Mpsi in inspired form. The Congolese goalkeeper denied Jude Bellingham twice, once with a low save to his right and again batting away a deflected header, before beating out a close-range volley from Kane at the back post. At the other end, Aaron Wan-Bissaka cleared a goalbound Marcus Rashford effort off the line, and Yoane Wissa struck the post from inside the six-yard box in the closing stages of the first half to remind England the tie was far from settled.

Thomas Tuchel's side pressed after the restart and got their reward in the 75th minute, when Anthony Gordon swung a cross to the back post and Kane rose above his marker to head home and level the score. The captain then won it in the 86th minute, latching onto another Gordon delivery before rifling home to complete the turnaround — his 12th and 13th World Cup goals, moving him one clear of Pelé on the all-time list.

Kane reflected on a hard-fought win: "It feels amazing, to be honest — what a crazy game," he said, adding that the team had to stay patient against a well-organised opponent before their moments arrived. Tuchel echoed that sentiment, praising his side's



mentality: "The reaction and belief is one of a kind. We found a way to win. Well deserved."

DR Congo coach Sébastien Desabre has spoken throughout the tournament about the scale of his side's achievement in reaching the knockout stage for the first time since returning to the World Cup after a 52-year absence, and Wednesday's display — matching England for long

spells and rattling the crossbar through Wissa — will only add to that pride. Cipenga's early strike, meanwhile, will be remembered as one of the standout individual moments of the Leopards' campaign.

England now advance to face co-hosts Mexico in the last 16 at the Azteca Stadium on Sunday, while DR Congo depart the tournament as the highest-ranked

third-placed team to reach the knockout stage — and the first Congolese side to do so since the country competed as Zaire in 1974.

SPORTS NEWS



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The degree on the wall, the cash in their hands

When the least schooled learn the rules of money, and the most schooled learn to take orders



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
mukphix@gmail.com



Worth Noting:

- Musa never sat for Economics Paper 2. But he sat with customers. He learned what sells on Monday and what rots by Friday. He borrowed 200,000 UGX, lost it on bad stock, and borrowed again, smarter this time. He mastered investment the way some of us mastered exams — by failing, adjusting, repeating. He reinvested his profit before buying comfort. He hired people who could write better reports than him, because reports don't move tomatoes. Movement does.

- James can analyse a balance sheet. He can quote the theories. In the office, he's brilliant. But outside the office, he waited for permission — permission from a system that told him, "First get qualified, then you'll earn." Musa never waited. He started small, unglamorous, and real.



I remember the day James hung his bachelor's degree on the wall. Three years of night classes, two stacks of textbooks, one loan he's still paying off. The frame went up above his desk in Kampala, right where clients could see it. It was proof — proof that he'd "made it" the way he'd always been told he should.

Across the street, Musa opened a kiosk. No degree. He left school at S.4 to help his uncle sell tomatoes. People called it unfortunate. A wasteful future, they said.

Five years later, James is still sending out CVs. Musa now owns three kiosks, a delivery boda, and the very shop James walks past every morning. These days, James stocks Musa's shelves before heading off to his 9 a.m. interview.

It hurts to write that. We were taught a contract: study hard, collect your certificates, and the money will follow. We treated education like a guarantee. But money doesn't answer to certificates. It answers to risk, to timing, to understanding how it moves.

Musa never sat for Economics Paper 2. But he sat with customers. He learned what sells on Monday and

what rots by Friday. He borrowed 200,000 UGX, lost it on bad stock, and borrowed again, smarter this time. He mastered investment the way some of us mastered exams — by failing, adjusting, repeating. He reinvested his profit before buying comfort. He hired people who could write better reports than him, because reports don't move tomatoes. Movement does.

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This isn't an attack on school. Education gives us language, structure, and tools. A doctor must study. An engineer must study. I'm not saying burn the books. I'm saying: don't worship the paper while ignoring the game.

The game of money is an apprenticeship, not just an academic exercise. It means watching cash flow the way you'd watch a child's fever. Knowing when to hold your capital and when to put it to work. Selling

before you feel ready, and learning as you go. The least educated among us didn't wait to feel ready — they started with what they had and stayed close to the market until the market taught them.

That's why the story keeps repeating. The graduate becomes the manager. The dropout becomes the owner. Not because the classroom lacks brains, but because courage and cash discipline were practised out on the street.

I think of my sister — first-class honours, unemployed for fourteen months. And I think of her neighbour, who never finished A-Level but now pays her to do his book-keeping at the end of every month. She cries in private and smiles at work. Both women are dignified. Both are skilled. But only one understood early that a certificate is a tool, not an employer.

So what now?

If you're highly educated, don't look down on the "unschooled" investor. Learn from him. Ask him how he turns 50,000 UGX into 150,000. Sit in his shop for an afternoon. Trade your theory for his practice. Combine the two, and that combination

becomes dangerous — in the best possible way.

If you feel behind because you left school early, don't confuse schooling with intelligence. You've already mastered something many graduates fear: starting without a safety net. Keep learning. Read, count, track every shilling. Investment is a skill, and skills can be learned.

Education and money are related, but they aren't the same thing. One gives you capacity. The other requires capacity plus action. A degree can open the door — but someone still has to build the house.

Tonight, James is still looking at his framed certificate. Musa is still counting stock at closing time. Both men are working. But only one of them is signing the payslips.

That's the part that stings. And it's the part that can change — if we stop treating education as a destination and start treating it as fuel for the real journey: building, selling, investing, and employing the very brilliance we once thought would employ us.