



Ex-TNA officials launch new party for 2027
Former senior officials of retired President Uhuru Kenyatta's The National Alliance (TNA) have unveiled a new political outfit, setting the stage for a fresh presidential bid in next year's General Election. **Page 6**



Archbishop warns youth against political exploitation and violent gangs
The Archbishop of Nairobi, Philip Anyolo, has warned young people against being manipulated by unscrupulous leaders to participate in violence. **Page 10**

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The Mt. Kenya Times

Daily ePAPER

Political violence Away from the cameras and the victory speeches, some families were nursing injuries, counting losses...

Ol Kalou's Human Toll

The celebrations were loud. Songs filled the air, supporters danced in the streets, and party leaders beamed as they addressed the crowds that gathered to mark the outcome of the Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election. For Democracy for the Citizens Party, the win was far more than a parliamentary seat. It was a political statement, a show of strength and, to many supporters, a sign that the winds of change are blowing through the region.

Yet even as the ululations echoed, another story was quietly unfolding in homes across the constituency.

Away from the cameras and the victory speeches, some families were nursing injuries, counting losses and sitting with difficult questions that no one seemed in any hurry to answer. While politicians embraced and congratulated each other, there were ordinary citizens still struggling to make sense of the violence that had shadowed the election period. For them, the by-election will not be remembered through songs and celebrations. It will be remembered through hospital visits, sleepless nights, fear and a grief that does not simply disappear when the results are announced.

Page 9



Hooded men in Ol Kalou

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New party courts Mt Kenya support ahead of 2027

BY MKT REPORTER

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Some of the moments as captured in pictures

A new political party seeking to climb the Mt Kenya political mountain has appealed for support from the region as it prepares to challenge for power in the 2027 General Election.

The Freedom and Opportunity Party (FOP), founded by former senior officials of retired President Uhuru Kenyatta's The National Alliance (TNA), launched its Mt Kenya regional office in Sagana, Kirinyaga County, where it unveiled its presidential ticket.

Former TNA Secretary General Onyango Oloo will carry the party's presidential flag, with former TNA and KANU Executive Director Joseph Mathai as his running mate.

Oloo asked residents of Mt Kenya to back his bid, saying the region should reciprocate the political support he has previously offered its leaders. He said a renewed partnership between the Kikuyu and Luo communities would strengthen national unity and promote effective leadership.

He pledged that an FOP government would focus on reducing inequality, creating opportunities and ending tribal politics.

Mathai said the party had joined the "one-term" campaign aimed at removing the Kenya Kwanza administration, which he accused of failing to meet Kenyans' expectations. He added that FOP would field candidates in all elective positions.

The party's leadership includes Antony Kaara as National Chairman, George Oketch as Secretary General, Magdalene Nzuuma as Treasurer and Dean Anindo as Executive Director. FOP says it is founded on inclusive capitalism, meritocracy and national unity.

The party opened a regional office for Mt Kenya at Sagana, Kirinyaga county on Saturday.



Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Farmers in Teso North have been urged to retain enough of their newly harvested maize for household consumption before selling any surplus to safeguard food security. MP Olu Kaunya warned that selling maize at between KSh50 and KSh60 per gorogoro, below prevailing market prices, could leave families without adequate food reserves or fair returns. He encouraged diversification into crops such as cassava and groundnuts. The appeal comes as Busia and Uasin Gishu counties assess maize production following dry weather that affected crops. Agricultural Officer Gertrude Wambia advised farmers to market produce collectively through Farmer Producer Organisations, cooperatives and Common Interest Groups to improve bargaining power, secure better prices and access reliable markets.



Thika Municipality is a step closer to becoming Kenya's sixth city after the Senate Devolution Committee approved its elevation and recommended that the resolution be forwarded to the President for the signing of a city charter under the Urban Areas and Cities Act. The committee said Thika met the legal requirements, citing its infrastructure, healthcare, disaster preparedness and economic potential. It, however, called for timelines to establish a public museum and complete other civic amenities. Kiambu County has pledged to improve roads, drainage, water supply and smart waste management, including upgrading the Kang'oki dumpsite into a sanitary landfill. The committee also praised Thika's strong healthcare network, transport links, education institutions and revenue capacity, saying city status would accelerate development and improve service delivery.



A multi-agency team has intensified the crackdown on drug trafficking in Kiambu County after arresting a 27-year-old suspect in Ruiru over alleged sale of cannabis and cannabis-infused products. Acting on intelligence, officers raided two residences in Kahawa Wendani and Kahawa Sukari, recovering suspected cannabis, cannabis-infused cookies, rolls of dry plant material and sachets believed to contain the drug. Consumer Protection Organization legal officer Edward Tito said the operation involved NACADA, the National Police Service, NGAO and public health officials. The suspect has been charged in court as investigations continue, while similar operations have shifted to Makongeni in Thika. Tito also warned of traders repackaging expired food and drugs for resale and urged the public to report such activities.



Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale has reaffirmed the government's commitment to improving cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment through expanded investments, advanced technologies and wider access to oncology services. Speaking at the 11th African Radiation Oncology Group (AFROG) Annual Scientific Conference in Kisumu, Duale said reforms under the Social Health Authority have broadened cancer benefits and strengthened specialised care. He noted that the National Cancer Control Strategy 2023–2027 is guiding efforts in prevention, screening, treatment, palliative care and research. Kenya records nearly 44,000 new cancer cases annually, making early detection a priority through Primary Care Networks and Community Health Promoters. The government has expanded regional cancer centres and invested in technologies such as CyberKnife and PET-CT imaging, positioning Kenya as a regional oncology referral hub.

The revised Micro and Small Enterprises (MSMEs) Policy 2026 is expected to accelerate enterprise growth, create jobs and promote inclusive economic transformation, according to MSEA Senior Assistant Director Tabitha Gicheru. Speaking during a business awareness forum in Nakuru, she said the policy



will improve access to finance, markets, innovation and technology while strengthening coordination across institutions. It also supports formalisation of informal businesses and proposes a National Credit Score to expand lending beyond traditional collateral. Gicheru noted MSMEs account for 98 per cent of businesses, over 90 per cent of non-farm jobs and more than 40 per cent of GDP. She highlighted initiatives such as NYOTA and KJET, while Nakuru County showcased its Sh100 million Wezesha Fund supporting small businesses and farmers through affordable loans.



Raila Odinga Junior yesterday confirmed that he is laying the groundwork to contest the Embakasi South parliamentary seat in the 2027 General Election. He said he had informed ODM leader his uncle, Dr Oburu Oginga, of his political ambitions during their meeting held yesterday at the party leader's residence. The discussions also focused on preparations for the construction of the mausoleum of the late opposition leader Jaramogi Oginga Odinga at Kang'o ka Jaramogi in Bondo, Siaya County. Embakasi South is currently represented in the National Assembly by Julius Musili Mawathe, who was elected on a Wiper Democratic Movement ticket.

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Politics The launch attracted hundreds of supporters and party officials

Ex-TNA officials launch new party for 2027

BY Wilfred Muchire

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Former senior officials of retired President Uhuru Kenyatta's The National Alliance (TNA) have unveiled a new political outfit, setting the stage for a fresh presidential bid in next year's General Election.

Former TNA Secretary General Onyango Oloo and the party's former Executive Director Joseph Mathai on Saturday launched the Freedom and Opportunity Party (FOP) regional office in Sagana, Kirinyaga County, where they announced that Oloo will fly the party's presidential flag while Mathai will be his running mate.

The launch attracted hundreds of supporters and party officials, with the leaders presenting FOP as an alternative political movement that they said would champion the interests of ordinary Kenyans.

Oloo appealed to the Mt Kenya region to support his presidential bid, saying the region should reciprocate the political support he had previously extended to its leaders. He argued that a renewed partnership between the Luo and Kikuyu communities would strengthen national unity and provide stable leadership for the country.

He said a government led by FOP would focus on reducing inequality, eliminating tribal politics and creating opportunities for all Kenyans.

"Unlike others, our government will establish a system that transforms lives and bridges the gap between the poor and the rich," Oloo said after he was ceremonially installed as a Kikuyu elder during the event.

He maintained that tribal politics had held the country back for decades and pledged to promote merit-based leadership and inclusive economic growth if elected.

Mathai, who also previously served as



Freedom and Opportunity Party (FOP) Presidential aspirant Onyango Oloo (left) and his running mate Joseph Mathai (center) after he was installed a Kikuyu elder in Sagana, Kirinyaga County on Saturday. | Photo: Courtesy.

Executive Director of KANU before joining TNA, said his political experience would help steer the country towards economic transformation and improved livelihoods.

He declared that FOP had joined the growing "one-term" campaign aimed at unseating the Kenya Kwanza administration, accusing the current leadership of failing to meet the expectations of Kenyans.

"We are offering Kenyans a fresh beginning. Our party will field candidates in all elective positions across the country," Mathai said.

He added that the party was steadily building grassroots support, in all parts of the country and expressed confidence that Oloo's candidacy would attract national backing.

"Our presidential candidate from Kisumu County will continue the journey that Raila Odinga began in climbing the mountain," Mathai said, in reference to efforts to strengthen political ties between the Luo and Kikuyu communities.

Some of the party's national leadership include Antony Kaara who is the National Chairman, George Oketch Secretary General, Magdalene Nzuuma National Treasurer and Dean Anindo as Executive Director.

FOP, whose slogan is "Together we rise, together we prosper," and a Compass as its symbol says it is founded on the principles of inclusive capitalism, meritocracy and national unity, with a focus on expanding economic opportunities while reducing inequality.

Kindiki preaches humility as UDA counts the cost of Ol Kalou



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki

BY Jack King'ori

@themtkenyaintimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki struck a markedly conciliatory tone yesterday as he addressed worshippers at the ACK Diocese of Embu's 36th Anniversary Thanksgiving service at Kigari Teachers Training College, days after UDA's heavy defeat to Democracy for the Citizens Party in the Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election.

The shift in register was hard to miss. Kindiki, who has spent much of the past year earning the nickname "fireman" for his combative defence of President William Ruto's administration, delivered a sermon-like address centred on humility, patience and the transience of political power — without once mentioning Ol Kalou by name. That omission, in its own way, said as much as anything he chose to say.

"There are people we see speaking with pride that starts here and stretches all the way to the Indian Ocean," he told the congregation. "This world belongs to no one; the owner is Almighty God. Relax, relax." The words drew quiet approval from the pews, but their political audience extended well beyond Kigari.

The timing was pointed. UDA's candidate, Samuel Muchina Nyaga, had been routed in Ol Kalou just days earlier, receiving 5,450 votes against DCP's Sammy Douglas Kamau Waweru's 35,440 — a margin so wide it has sharpened questions about the government's standing in the Mt Kenya region and, more pointedly, about Kindiki's own political future. Several observers have begun questioning openly whether Ruto will retain him as running

Contd page 8

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Kindiki preaches humility as UDA counts the cost of Ol Kalou



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki

Contd from page 6

mate in 2027, a conversation that lends particular weight to a Deputy President seen choosing a church pulpit over a campaign platform in the immediate aftermath of that result.

Kindiki did not engage those questions directly. Instead, he reached for history. He recalled the 2013 General Election, when both Ruto and former President Uhuru Kenyatta were facing charges at the International Criminal Court in The Hague and were widely written off by opponents and analysts alike. They won regardless. “Many people told us, ‘You are finished.’ But God surprised everybody. Those who were beating their chests were humbled, and Kenyans elected them,” he said. The parallel to his present circumstances required no elaboration, and he offered none.

He returned repeatedly to the theme of performance over rhetoric — a framing that, in the current political climate, reads less like pastoral wisdom and more like a pointed response to those questioning his relevance within Kenya Kwanza. “What will save a President, what will save a Deputy President, what will save a Governor, MPs and all leaders is the work they have done for the citizens, not the noise they have made,” he said. “Is anyone going to be saved by the number of people they have insulted? It’s not possible, so relax.”

The remarks were a studied departure from the register that has defined his public persona over the past year. Kindiki built a repu-

tation as the administration’s most reliable attack dog — the voice deployed when the government needed to push back hard against critics and opposition leaders. That role earned him visibility within Kenya Kwanza circles, but it also made him a polarising figure in regions where the government is already on the defensive.

On regional unity, Kindiki was direct. Addressing the Mt Kenya community explicitly, he urged residents not to allow political competition to fracture bonds that predate the current electoral cycle. “I don’t want this community of ours to be divided. We are one people. We have a long history together, and nothing should separate us.” Given that DCP’s Rigathi Gachagua has spent recent weeks framing 2027 as a straight contest between President Ruto and the Mt Kenya community, the appeal to unity carried an unmistakable subtext — a counter-narrative to the opposition’s most potent regional message.

He closed with deliberate calm. “God humbles the proud and raises those who are humble. There is no problem at all. Kenya is our home and we must protect it, love it and live in peace.”

It was the closing line of a man who has been in politics long enough to know that the worst thing to do after a significant defeat is to appear rattled. On Sunday, Kindiki performed composure convincingly — but Ol Kalou’s seven-to-one verdict is not the kind of result that political messaging alone can quietly undo.



Family demands justice after man dies from election attack in Ol Kalou

BY Grace Wanja
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A family in Rurii Ward, Ol Kalou Constituency, is demanding justice after their 45-year-old relative, Zacharia Gakinya, died from injuries sustained when armed men attacked him near a polling station during last Thursday’s parliamentary by-election.

According to the family, Gakinya had travelled to his home area specifically to exercise his democratic right to vote when he was set upon by a group of armed men travelling in high-end vehicles. He was rushed to a nearby private facility before being transferred to Nakuru for specialist treatment after sustaining severe head injuries. He did not survive.

His wife, Mary Wanjiru, said she learned of the attack through a phone call while she was at work in her salon. “My husband usually votes in Huhoi-ini and I vote in Rurii. Everyone went to vote. I cast my vote and returned to work. Around 4pm, I called him to check on how he was doing, but a neighbour answered and said they were at Pine Hospital,” she said. When Wanjiru arrived, her husband was conscious but in severe distress. “He was cry-

ing in severe pain, saying, ‘I don’t know these people, and I don’t know what they were questioning me about.’” Those were among the last coherent words he spoke to her.

A local resident, Gitui Muchiri, said Gakinya was one of three people targeted in the same attack. “Two managed to escape, but he was thrown down because he had a backpack on his back. He was hit with the butt of a gun, which cracked his skull and caused internal bleeding,” Muchiri said. The clinical detail of that account — a weapon used not to threaten but to incapacitate — points to an assault that was neither opportunistic nor impulsive.

Residents describe the morning’s voting as largely orderly. Violence erupted in the afternoon when the armed group arrived and began assaulting people without apparent discrimination. John Kariuki, an Ol Kalou resident, said the presence of security personnel, including Anti-Stock Theft Unit officers deployed to the area, offered no protection when it mattered most. “On election day, when we were at peace, we don’t know where the violence came from. People were being beaten indiscriminately. They didn’t care whether we had voted for them or not,” he said, his

frustration directed as much at the security failure as at the attackers themselves.

The community is also pointing to a second fatal incident in Kwa Mumbi, Kiambaga Ward, where a man was reportedly shot dead in a similar attack during the same election period. The parallel accounts raise serious concerns that the violence was neither isolated nor spontaneous, but co-ordinated — a calculated effort to terrorise a constituency on one of the most consequential days in its recent political history.

Residents are now calling for thorough, transparent investigations and the prosecution of those responsible regardless of political affiliation, warning that without firm accountability, the cycle of electoral violence will only intensify as Kenya approaches the 2027 General Election.

A man went to vote and did not come home. That simple fact demands an answer — and it demands one now.

Political violence As Democracy for the Citizens Party celebrates a landmark victory, the constituency's injured and bereaved ask a harder question — who is speaking for us?

When the songs fade, the wounds remain: The human cost of Ol Kalou's by-election

BY Hadassah Karangu

@themtkenyetimes

The celebrations were loud. Songs filled the air, supporters danced in the streets, and party leaders beamed as they addressed the crowds that gathered to mark the outcome of the Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election. For Democracy for the Citizens Party, the win was far more than a parliamentary seat. It was a political statement, a show of strength and, to many supporters, a sign that the winds of change are blowing through the region.

Yet even as the ululations echoed, another story was quietly unfolding in homes across the constituency.

Away from the cameras and the victory speeches, some families were nursing injuries, counting losses and sitting with difficult questions that no one seemed in any hurry to answer. While politicians embraced and congratulated each other, there were ordinary citizens still struggling to make sense of the violence that had shadowed the election period. For them, the by-election will not be remembered through songs and celebrations. It will be remembered through hospital visits, sleepless nights, fear and a grief that does not simply disappear when the results are announced.

Every election produces winners and losers. That is the nature of democracy, and there is nothing inherently wrong with that. But violence produces something far more troubling. It produces victims — people who often have no political power, no platform and no microphone through which to tell their story.

When reports emerged of clashes, injuries and attacks during the election period, many Kenyans were understandably disturbed. Elections are supposed to be the moments when citizens peacefully exercise their democratic rights. They are meant to bring communities together, not drive them apart. Yet once again, violence threatened to overshadow the very principles that democracy exists to protect.

Now, as the political dust begins to settle, one question hangs in the air over Ol Kalou: who is speaking for those who suffered?

It is easy to celebrate a victory. It is easy to count votes and analyse political winners and losers. What is considerably harder is looking into



Hooded men with guns in Ol Kalou

the eyes of a family whose loved one was injured and trying to explain why their experience of this election was defined by pain rather than pride. What do we say to the mother whose son came home bruised after being caught up in election-related chaos? What do we say to the small business owner whose property was damaged? What do we say to the families who spent nights awake, waiting anxiously for relatives caught in the unrest to walk through the door safely?

These are not political questions. They are human ones.

Kenya has, unfortunately, developed a troubling pattern in the aftermath of electoral violence. Public attention gravitates towards the political outcome. News moves on. Politicians move on. The country moves on. But the victims remain, carrying wounds — physical and

emotional — that can take months or even years to heal. The danger of this silence is the message it sends: that suffering matters less than political success; that elections are ultimately about leaders and parties, not



The greatest question is a simple one: as politicians move on to the next battle, will the cries from Ol Kalou be heard — or will they fall, once again, on deaf ears?

about the people they claim to serve. Democracy should never work that way.

A genuine democratic victory cannot be measured solely by vote tallies. It must also be measured by whether citizens felt safe enough to participate freely, whether voters returned home without fear and whether human dignity was protected throughout the process. Where people were left injured or grieving, there is cause for serious reflection — regardless of who won.

The events in Ol Kalou ought to serve as a warning, not only to the parties involved but to the country as a whole. Kenya is heading towards the 2027 General Election. If violence can surface during a by-election, what confidence do citizens have that larger national contests will be any different?

The answer cannot lie in political

statements alone. It must lie in accountability. Those responsible for violence, regardless of their party affiliation, must face the law. Investigations must be thorough, transparent and free from political interference. Justice cannot be distributed according to which side a person voted for. It must follow the truth, wherever that leads.

Affected families also deserve more than sympathy. They deserve recognition, practical support and the clear assurance that what happened to them will not simply be absorbed into the background noise of Kenyan political history.

There is a lesson here for leaders, too. Leadership is not demonstrated only in moments of triumph. It is demonstrated in moments of difficulty. The leaders who will be remembered well are those who celebrate with humility while also acknowledging the pain of others — those who understand that political success means very little if it is built on the suffering of the very people they seek to represent.

As the parties plan their next moves and begin positioning for 2027, residents in Ol Kalou are watching. They are asking whether their leaders will address the violence with the same energy and conviction they brought to the campaign trail. Will there be justice? Will there be accountability? Will the families who suffered receive support? Or will they quietly become another forgotten chapter in Kenya's long and painful history of election-related unrest?

History will record who won the Ol Kalou by-election. Analysts will write about voting patterns and political momentum. Supporters will remember the celebrations. But there is another history being written simultaneously — in hospital wards, in grieving households and in the hearts of families whose lives were upended by violence.

Long after the campaign posters have faded and the victory songs have gone quiet, those families will still carry what happened to them. They will remember the fear. They will remember the injuries. They will remember the uncertainty.

The greatest question is a simple one: as politicians move on to the next battle, will the cries from Ol Kalou be heard — or will they fall, once again, on deaf ears?

Politics He challenged the youth to reject the identity associated with criminal gangs, saying being referred to as a goon should not be considered a source of pride

Archbishop warns youth against political exploitation and violent gangs

BY Patrick Nyakundi
@themtkenyatimes

The Archbishop of Nairobi, Philip Anyolo, has warned young people against being manipulated by unscrupulous leaders to participate in violence, saying such actions threaten the country's peace and future.

Archbishop Anyolo discouraged the youth from being lured by financial handouts, saying temporary gains can-

not provide meaningful solutions to their challenges or help them improve their lives.

He cautioned against the growing trend of recruiting young people into violent groups, noting that involvement in criminal activities destroys their future and damages the country's reputation.

"I call upon every young person to be attentive to what is happening in the country. Don't allow yourselves to be misused. Refuse to be bought

and don't be drafted into harmful groups that spread violence and destruction," Anyolo said.

The Archbishop was speaking on Saturday during the installation of Bishop Peter Kamomoe as the new Bishop of Wote Diocese at Unoa Sports Ground in Wote town, Makueni Sub-County.

He challenged the youth to reject the identity associated with criminal gangs, saying being referred to as a goon



Archbi Philip Anyolo with Bishop Peter Kamomoe on Saturday. | Photo: Courtesy.

should not be considered a source of pride.

"It is not very beautiful to be called a goon. Do not value the title goonism. It is not a title anybody can treasure; it is a shameful thing. So don't allow it," he said.

Anyolo called on leaders to provide proper guidance and mentorship to young people to enable them to become responsible citizens who promote peace and peaceful co-existence.

He also urged political leaders to be mindful of their public utterances, especially as the country approaches the 2027 General Election, warning that inflammatory statements could trigger violence. "We are heading towards this political situation. I want our politicians to avoid uttering words that can trigger violence," he said.

The Archbishop encouraged young people to embrace integrity, respect for others and lawful conduct while contributing positively to society.

He accused some leaders of

exploiting vulnerable youth for personal political interests, saying those who encourage violence do not have the welfare of young people or the country at heart.

"We appeal to our young people not to allow themselves to be used, misused and abused by unscrupulous leaders who do not mean well for them or for the country we all love," he said.

Anyolo further encouraged participants attending activities at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa to reflect on the value and potential of young people instead of allowing themselves to become instruments of destruction.

"Our young people have enormous value. Let them reflect on the good they can do for society instead of the evil they may be forced to inflict on others," he added.

Bishop Kamomoe succeeds Bishop Paul Kariuki, who retired on medical grounds.

Speaking during the occasion, Makueni Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jr expressed

concern over recent political events, including the violence witnessed during the Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election. Mutula said the emerging trend of political violence was worrying and should be addressed immediately to protect Kenya's democratic space.

He called on Kenyans to respect the right of citizens to freely participate in elections without intimidation or coercion.

"We are in a difficult moment. If the photos I saw from Ol Kalou are true, I urge all believers to pray for this country. People need to be allowed to vote without being influenced," said Mutula.

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Roosevelt Williams III Williams' journey began in San Diego, California, where his passion for service emerged early in life.

From San Diego to the Global Stage: Roosevelt Williams III's journey of leadership, service and lasting impact

BY Elizabeth Angira

@themtkenyatimes

On August 7, 2026, the spotlight will shine on Nairobi, Kenya, where one of America's most influential community leaders and motivational speakers will receive international recognition for a lifetime dedicated to empowering others.

Roosevelt Williams III, an internationally acclaimed motivational speaker, entrepreneur and community leader, has been named the recipient of the prestigious Global African Impact Award at the SMEGAfrica Excellence Awards 2026. The award will be presented during the 2nd Annual International Scholar Media Africa Conference, celebrating individuals whose leadership transcends borders and whose work is shaping communities across Africa and the global African diaspora.

For Williams, the honor is more than another accolade on an already distinguished résumé. It is a powerful affirmation of a life built on service, leadership and the belief that success carries with it the responsibility to lift others.

For more than two decades, Williams has dedicated himself to inspiring people to discover their potential, transform obstacles into opportunities and become leaders within their own communities. Whether addressing corporate executives, entrepreneurs, students, nonprofit organizations or emerging business leaders, his message remains remarkably consistent: real leadership is measured not by titles or personal wealth, but by the number of lives positively transformed.

That philosophy has carried him across continents, making him one of the most sought-after motivational speakers and leadership trainers of his generation.

Known for his energetic presentations and engaging



Roosevelt Williams III interacting with learners in Kenya. |

Photo: courtesy

storytelling, Williams has delivered keynote speeches, leadership seminars and business development programs to audiences around the world. His ability to connect with people from diverse backgrounds has earned him international respect, not only as a speaker but also as a mentor who challenges people to think beyond limitations and pursue excellence with purpose.

Yet behind the standing ovations and international recognition lies a deeper mission.

Williams believes leadership should create opportunities where few previously existed. Throughout his career, he has championed entrepreneurship, economic empowerment and community development as pathways to sustainable change. His work consistently encourages individuals to build businesses, strengthen communities and invest in future generations.

That vision is perhaps most evident in his role as Chief Executive Officer and President of Young Black & N' Business (YB&NB), the community organization he

has transformed into a thriving platform for mentorship, networking and entrepreneurship.

Founded with the belief that economic opportunity has the power to transform lives, Young Black & N' Business was created to provide what Williams describes as "a ladder for upward mobility." His ambition extends far beyond helping individuals escape economic hardship; it is about dismantling the mental barriers created by generations of systemic marginalization and replacing them with confidence, knowledge and opportunity.

Since taking the helm in 2018, Williams has expanded the organization's reach and influence throughout California and beyond.

Under his leadership, YB&NB has hosted quarterly networking events, entrepreneurial conferences, business development seminars and community festivals that connect aspiring entrepreneurs with experienced professionals. Through its annual Soulful Christmas initiative, the organization has distributed more than 2,000 toys to children from underserved families, while business clin-

ics have equipped countless entrepreneurs with practical skills in public speaking, consulting, event planning and leadership.

His commitment to celebrating excellence also inspired the creation of Black Faces in High Places, a widely respected recognition campaign that is now entering its fourth year. The initiative highlights outstanding Black professionals, entrepreneurs and community leaders whose contributions are helping shape San Diego's future.

When the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted communities across the United States, Williams once again demonstrated leadership through action.

Young Black & N' Business organized free personal protective equipment (PPE) and food distribution drives while offering virtual COVID-19 education sessions, STEAM workshops and technology training to help businesses transition from traditional storefronts to online commerce. The organization also supported Census awareness campaigns, ensuring underserved communities remained informed and represented.

These initiatives reflect a leadership philosophy grounded not in words alone, but in practical solutions that respond to the evolving needs of the community.

According to Scholar Media Group Africa, the Global African Impact Award recognizes individuals whose work has created lasting influence while strengthening partnerships between Africa, the African diaspora and the international community.

Williams embodies those ideals.

Throughout his career, he has worked tirelessly to build bridges between Africa and the global business community, creating networks that promote entrepreneurship, leadership development and international collaboration.

His engagements in Kenya and other international forums have further strengthened these connections, opening new opportunities for dialogue, innovation and shared prosperity.

Receiving the 2026 Global African Impact Award therefore represents more than personal achievement. It recognizes years of unwavering commitment to empowering communities, advancing entrepreneurship and fostering global partnerships capable of transforming lives across continents.

Williams' journey began in San Diego, California, where his passion for service emerged early in life.

He served as President of the San Diego Urban League's 21st Century Youth Leadership Team from 2000 to 2004 before leading the Urban League College Career Club between 2005 and 2007. Those formative leadership roles laid the foundation for a career devoted to mentoring others and creating pathways for young people to succeed.

Over the years, his influence has continued to grow.

Among his many honors are the NAACP Image Award (2023), the President's Lifetime Achievement Award (2024), the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award (2025) presented by the Los Angeles Tribune, the Better Business Bureau Torch Award for Ethics (2025), the Businessman and Innovation Leader of the Year Award (2025), and numerous Community Hero and Leadership awards recognizing his impact across education, business and civic engagement.

He has also been recognized as a San Diego icon with a public mural on Ocean View Boulevard, received a San Diego County Proclamation, rung the ceremonial bell for the San Diego Padres in honor of baseball legend Tony Gwynn, and acquired the San

Diego Weekly digital publication and podcast, further expanding his commitment to community storytelling and engagement.

In 2026, Williams continued to broaden his influence by launching the Four Corner Craving Food Cart, leading Mother's Day food giveaways, delivering keynote addresses at national conferences and Rotary Club meetings, and receiving international recognition through the Global African Impact Award.

Despite the accolades, Williams remains firmly focused on the mission that first inspired him.

His vision is not merely to develop successful entrepreneurs but to cultivate leaders who will, in turn, empower others. Through mentorship, education and strategic partnerships, Young Black & N' Business continues to provide aspiring entrepreneurs with the networks, knowledge and confidence needed to thrive in an increasingly competitive world.

As Roosevelt Williams III prepares to receive one of Africa's most distinguished honors, his story serves as a reminder that true leadership is measured not by the awards displayed on a shelf, but by the opportunities created for others.

From the neighborhoods of San Diego to international stages across the world, Williams has built more than an organization or a career. He has built a movement rooted in service, driven by purpose and sustained by an unwavering belief that when one person rises, entire communities can rise with them.

It is this enduring legacy of leadership, empowerment and global impact that the Global African Impact Award seeks to celebrate and one that Roosevelt Williams III continues to write with every life he inspires.

Politics “Our tourists are not safe in our country. There are too many goons. Tourists should suspend their visits until next year,” Gachagua said.

Gachagua tells tourists and investors to stay away from Kenya

Fresh from a commanding by-election victory in Ol Kalou, the DCP leader sharpens his challenge to President Ruto and frames 2027 as a straight fight between the presidency and the Mt Kenya community

BY David Kimani
@themtkenyaintimes

Democracy for the Citizens Party leader Rigathi Gachagua yesterday urged tourists and investors to avoid Kenya, blaming rising insecurity on the government and calling on visitors to suspend travel plans until next year.

Speaking during a church service at ACK St. Thomas Cathedral in Kerugoya, Kirinyaga Central Constituency, Gachagua was unambiguous. “Our tourists are not safe in our country. There are too many goons. Tourists should suspend their visits until next year,” he told the congregation. “Investors should keep away from Kenya. We are telling investors to stay away until next year.” The remarks, delivered from a pulpit rather than a political platform, carried the deliberate weight of a man who understood exactly where they would land.

The address came days after DCP’s commanding victory in the Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election, a result that Gachagua wasted no time weaponising. He thanked Nyandarua residents for what he described as defending the dignity of the Mt Kenya people, and declared the outcome a preview of a far larger contest. “Hiyo ilikuwa rehearsal,” he said. “Uchaguzi ya Ol Kalou ilikuwa mashindano ya William Ruto na community. 2027 will be a contest between William Ruto and the community.” The framing was deliberate: not a multi-party election, but a binary reckoning between a president and a region.

Gachagua was withering in his assessment of the resource-

es he claimed the government deployed in Ol Kalou. He alleged that President William Ruto launched development projects worth KSh1.4 billion in the constituency ahead of the vote, and that a further KSh1.2 billion had been channelled into swaying voters. He claimed one woman told him she personally received KSh90,000 in campaign handouts, and by his own arithmetic, each vote secured by Ruto’s side cost approximately KSh3 million. “Despite all those goodies, they voted for the right candidate,” he said, drawing audible approval from the congregation.

The numbers, while unverified independently, point to an election that even opposition-neutral observers described as among the most expensive parliamentary contests in recent Kenyan political history. On July 16, 2026, voters turned out at 57 per cent — an unusually high figure for a by-election — and DCP’s candidate, Sammy Douglas Kamau Waweru, won by a margin that left little room for ambiguity. Waweru, a former agricultural economist and Nyandarua County Assembly member for Karau Ward, received 35,440 votes against UDA’s Samuel Muchina Nyaga’s 5,450 — a margin of nearly seven to one.

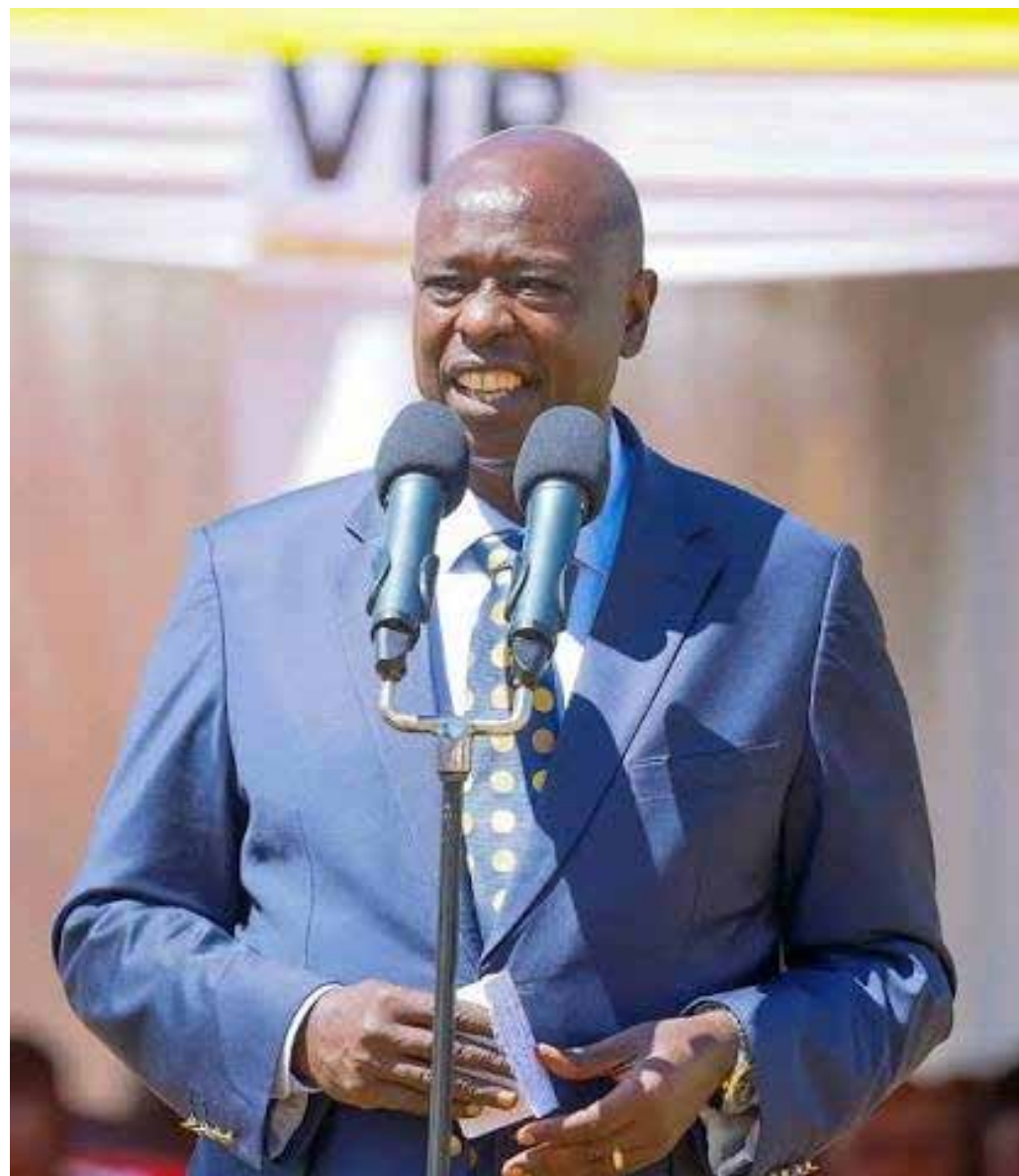
The campaign itself was tense. DCP supporters mounted civilian roadblocks on major roads into the constituency, stopping and inspecting vehicles including police cars in an effort to guard against what they feared would be last-minute interference. Hooded armed men travelling in Toyota Land Cruisers

and Prado vehicles were reported across several areas of the constituency, and pockets of violence disrupted what was otherwise a high-turnout exercise. Supporters tracked polling station results in real time via social media, feeding tallies through to coordinated monitoring networks, a degree of civic organisation rarely seen in a by-election.

Back at the cathedral, Gachagua returned to his central political thesis: that unity within the Mt Kenya region was the only path to displacing Ruto in 2027. He claimed the President’s sole strategy was to fracture that unity, and named Public Service Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku as one of those enlisted to drive division within the mountain. “The only way William Ruto comes to power is by dividing the mountain. Once we are united as a community, our votes added to other Kenyans, ataenda nyumbani,” he said. “We cannot divide this mountain. If we are divided, huyu jamaa atarudi.”

He accused Ruto of betrayal, alleging that young people had been dismissed from employment and that hired groups had been deployed to intimidate communities. Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen, he charged without offering evidence, was the architect of that operation. “Murkomen ndiye anapanga goons,” he said.

Gachagua also used the occasion to appeal for party loyalty, telling the congregation that a committed core of members would be sufficient to carry DCP’s cause. “Chama ni DCP. Mkinipea wajumbe 100 wale loyal, mtaakuwa



Democracy for the Citizens Party leader Rigathi Gachagua

mmentisaidia,” he said. He announced plans to extend his mobilisation tour to Meru and Embu within days of concluding current engagements, signalling that the Ol Kalou momentum was to be carried immediately into the broader Mt Kenya heartland.

Before leaving the altar to politics, Gachagua urged the church to be selective about the money it accepted. Harambee contributions, he

said, should come from clean sources — not from Social Health Authority funds or school capitation grants. “Sisi tumekuja kuchangia kaniisa na pesa ambazo tumeuza ng’ombe, sio kutoka kwa SHA au capitation,” he said.

Waweru’s victory is now widely read as the most significant indicator yet of DCP’s growing organisational reach in the Mt Kenya region. For a party barely out of

its founding phase, delivering a seven-to-one margin against a well-resourced incumbent machinery is a statement that opposition strategists and State House alike will be studying carefully.

Eighteen months before the 2027 General Election, the mountain has spoken — and Gachagua is making sure nobody missed it.



Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen

Power A 5.8-megawatt run-of-river plant in Nyeri County is cutting costs, slashing emissions and rewriting what rural energy can look like

How the Gura river is powering Kenya’s tea belt

BY David Nyaga
@themkenyatimes

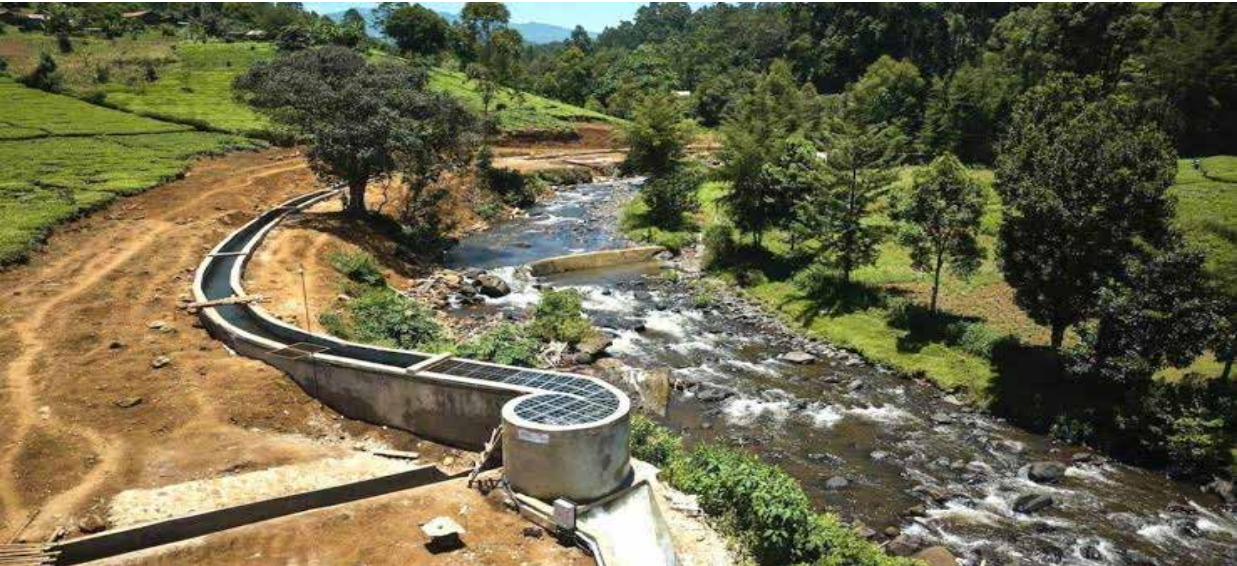
Deep in the Munyange area of Mahiga Ward, Nyeri County, the Gura River is doing more than flowing downhill. It is keeping four tea factories running, shielding smallholder farmers from volatile grid tariffs and quietly demonstrating what thoughtful renewable energy development can achieve.

The Gura Hydropower Plant, developed by the Kenya Tea Development Agency Power Company, generates 5.8 megawatts using a run-of-river design — meaning no large dam, no flooded forest, no displaced community. Instead, engineers harnessed the Aberdare Ranges’ steep gradients and fast-flowing river to create something remarkably efficient from what nature already provided.

The mechanics are elegant. Water is diverted into an intake structure, then channelled through a desilting basin where sediment settles before the clarified water plunges down a high-pressure penstock. At the base, the force of the falling water strikes precisely machined turbine buckets, converting kinetic energy into rotation, and rotation into electricity.

The four beneficiary factories — Iria-ini, Gathuthi, Chinga and Gitugi — run energy-intensive processes around the clock. When the plant produces more than they need, surplus power is exported to the national grid, turning a cooperative asset into a revenue stream.

Environmentally, the gains are significant. By replacing diesel generators and wood-fuel dryers, the plant has materially reduced the carbon footprint of the region’s tea production — a quiet but consequen-



Gura Hydro Power pictorials

tial contribution to Kenya’s climate commitments.

The Gura plant is not merely an infrastructure project. It is a working model — proof that civil, mechanical and electrical engineering, applied with care, can deliver lasting economic and environmental returns for rural communities.



Respect your journey



Every step is building something beautiful.
Life is a beautiful journey.
It brings valuable lessons and helps us grow.
Every journey introduces us to new experiences.
It teaches us how to respond to different situations,

how to communicate with others,
how to think positively,
how to reduce negativity,
and, most importantly,
how to face life's struggles with courage.
Every step of the journey has a purpose.
Each experience shapes your character and
builds a beautiful life.
So, respect your journey,
because every step is building something beautiful.

G. YasminSirajudheen
Secondary grade teacher
Melmalayanur block
Villupuram dt

In the long, confusing journey, there is one thing that matters



your next step
Will my financial source satisfy? Am I qualified to dignify?
Will there be a break in my journey?

Who will guide to reach my destiny?
This long journey confuses me
But I keep moving whatever be
Trusting myself to focus ahead
Alerting my brain not to be tired
So I carefully plan for successive step
With the inspirations of Successors help
Our journey is long
So I learnt to hold my hope strong
And I always step up for long term application
With courage believing basic foundation
That never go wrong
Which leads victory to prolong
The secret of success is only LOVE
Whatever we do with love
Mutually the hardship engroove
Carrying us to the sky above...
G.SARALA.
Creative Writers

Take the Next Step



On every confusing journey, there is one thing that matters most your next step.
The Earth rotates on its axis, creating day and night. Imagine if the Earth became confused and stopped its journey. We cannot even predict what would happen. Life as we know it would be thrown into chaos.
Likewise, our own journey is the same. If we become confused and stop moving forward, everything around us begins to collapse. We lose focus, delay our actions, and struggle to move

ahead. A confused mind becomes dull, and an entire day can be wasted without meaningful progress.
Nature teaches us countless lessons. God's creation is the greatest teacher. The sun rises every morning without fail. The moon follows its course faithfully. The stars shine in their appointed places. None of them hesitate or abandon their purpose.
Let us learn from nature. Even when the path is unclear, take the next step with faith and confidence. Every small step moves you closer to your destination.
Don't let confusion stop your journey. Let courage guide your next step.

V. Jayanthi
Graduate teacher
Creative Writer
Chengalpattu district

People Learn, People Change



Do not hold someone to yesterday's mistakes.
The heart can grow beyond its deepest pain.
A wiser path appears with every dawn,
And hope begins where courage lights the way.
The weight of guilt can bend a weary soul.
Yet every step can lead to better days.
The past may whisper, but it cannot rule
A mind that chooses kindness over fear.
A single chance can change a human life.

A gentle word can heal what time has scarred.
The seed of trust, once planted with great care,
Can bloom into a tree of strength and peace.
We all have roads that wander through the dark.
We all have dreams that call us toward the light.
The one who falls can rise with stronger feet,
And walk with hope where sorrow used to stay.
So judge with grace instead of looking back.
See who they are, not only who they were.
For people learn, and every heart can change;
The future shines beyond the fading past.
V.Durgadevi
Graduate Teacher
GHS Nesal
Tiruvannamalai District

Situations Will Teach You the Real Meaning of Life



Situations will teach you the real meaning of life.
They will not check your strength;
they will check your capacity.
Sometimes, they will try to defeat you.
They may even try to make you weak.
But they will not make you quit.
Instead, they will give you opportunities to showcase your talents.
So, make use of every opportunity.
It will definitely help you succeed in life.
V. S. NITHIYASRI
VIII-D
JOHN DEWEY MAT. HR. SEC. SCHOOL, PANRUTI,
TAMIL NADU.

Those Who Are Happiest Do the Most for Others



We are born into this world with the precious gift of life. Yet our minds often drift toward countless worries about the past and the future.
The happiest people are those who live in the present. They do not allow yesterday's regrets or tomorrow's fears to steal today's peace.

When we make others smile, we fill our own hearts with joy. As Lord Krishna teaches, true happiness begins with faith, compassion, and selfless love.
Believe in yourself. Believe in others. Every person is born with a unique purpose and has something valuable to offer the world.
Let us all remember this simple lesson:- Try to live happily.
Try to make others happy.- Live your life with kindness and purpose.- Leave behind a legacy of love that lives forever.
V. JAYANTHI
Graduate teacher
Creative Writer
Chengalpattu district

Mau Mau The veterans said successive governments have acknowledged the role played by the Mau Mau movement in securing independence

Mau Mau veterans seek united compensation push

BY MKT REPORTER
@themtkenyatimes

Mau Mau veterans and descendants of Kenya’s freedom fighters have renewed calls for unity among the country’s numerous Mau Mau associations, saying a common front is the only way to secure long-awaited recognition, justice and compensation from the government.

The appeal was made during a meeting in Thika convened by MMV Associates CLG, where veterans lamented that more than six decades after independence, many of those who fought against colonial rule continue to live in poverty while others have died without receiving any meaningful support from the State. Led by the organisation’s Di-

rector General James Njuguna Mahuria, the veterans said internal divisions among various Mau Mau groups have weakened efforts to push for compensation and recognition, urging all associations to come together under one umbrella.

Mahuria said time was running out for surviving freedom fighters, many of whom are now elderly and in poor health, making it imperative for the government to expedite compensation and welfare programmes.

He noted that many veterans suffered torture, detention, permanent disabilities and loss of property during the liberation struggle, while thousands lost their lives in the fight for Kenya’s independence.

“It is unfortunate that many of our colleagues have died

before receiving justice or recognition for the sacrifices they made. Those still alive deserve to live with dignity during their remaining years,” Mahuria said.

The veterans said successive governments have acknowledged the role played by the Mau Mau movement in securing independence, but argued that many former fighters and their families have yet to benefit from comprehensive compensation and social protection programmes.

They appealed to the government to establish a structured framework for identifying surviving freedom fighters and the families of deceased veterans to facilitate compensation, medical care and other forms of support.

The group also urged younger generations to preserve the history of the liberation



MMV Associates CLG Director General James Mahuria addressing members over the weekend. | Photo: Courtesy.

struggle, saying the sacrifices made by freedom fighters should remain part of Kenya’s national heritage.

MMV Associates CLG Chief Executive Officer Emma Kassis said unity among Mau Mau organisations would strengthen their engagement with the government and eliminate the rivalry that has for years undermined their collective voice.

She called on all associations representing veterans and their descendants to set aside differences and pursue a shared agenda focused on justice, recognition and improved welfare.

“Our strength lies in speaking with one voice. When we are united, our call for compensation and recognition becomes stronger and more difficult to ignore,” Kassis said.

The renewed appeal comes amid growing concern that the population of surviving Mau Mau veterans continues to decline with age, raising fears that many may never

live to see the compensation and recognition they have sought for decades.

While some Mau Mau veterans previously benefited from compensation awarded by the British government following legal action over abuses committed during the colonial era, many others continue to seek broader recognition and support from the Kenyan government for their role in the country’s liberation struggle.

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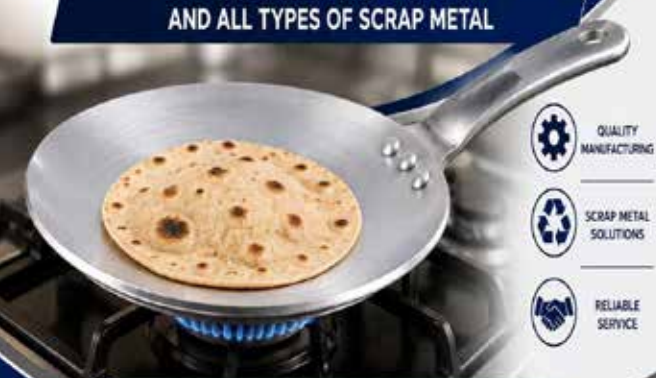
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Politics The twin rallies represent the final leg of a regional mobilisation sweep that has already taken the movement through Kakamega, Vihiga and Busia

Sifuna takes Linda Mwananchi campaign into Western Kenya heartland

With rallies in Trans Nzoia and Bungoma this weekend, the Nairobi Senator and his allies intensify their bid to reshape the region's political landscape ahead of 2027

BY Victor Were

@themkenyaintimes

The Linda Mwananchi Movement will hold back-to-back rallies in Trans Nzoia on Saturday and Bungoma yesterday, escalating a grassroots campaign that Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna and his allies are using to build an independent political base in Western Kenya ahead of the 2027 General Election.

The twin rallies represent the final leg of a regional mobilisation sweep that has already taken the movement through Kakamega, Vihiga and Busia, as well as parts of Mt Kenya, the Rift Valley, Nyanza and the Coast. Trans Nzoia Governor George Nantembeya, who has emerged as one of the movement's most prominent regional anchors, confirmed that only these two counties remain before the Western Kenya programme is complete. "We have already held engagements across most counties in this region," Nantembeya said, signalling that what began as a loose political association is now operating with the discipline and sequencing of a structured national campaign.

Sifuna will lead the weekend delegations alongside Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osotsi, Bumula MP Jack Wamboka and Kabuchai MP Majimbo Kalasinga — a lineup that reflects both the movement's parliamentary reach and its deliberate effort to present a broad coalition rather than a vehicle for a single individual's ambitions. Yet it is Sifuna himself who has increasingly become the face of what the movement represents: a pointed challenge to the direction of the Orange Democratic Movement under its current leadership, and a bid to position an alternative political



Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna

voice ahead of what promises to be a fiercely contested general election.

The movement's message in Western Kenya is layered. On the surface, the rallies address bread-and-butter concerns that resonate deeply in a region that has historically been underserved despite its electoral loyalty to opposition politics: the rising cost of living, perceived governance failures and demands for greater accountability from the Kenya Kwanza administration. Linda Mwananchi has made these themes the spine of its national campaign, consistently faulting the Ruto government on economic management while rallying ordinary citizens around a platform of political independence.

Beneath that surface, however, the Western Kenya tour carries unmistakable internal ODM significance. The Mulembe region — encompassing Bungoma, Vihiga, Kakamega and surrounding areas — has long been regarded as a component of the broader western bloc that ODM has relied on to anchor its national numbers. For Sifuna's movement to arrive with this degree of organi-

sation, resource and allied leadership sends a message that the ground beneath that assumption is shifting.

The fault line within ODM has been widening for months. Sifuna and his faction have argued with increasing urgency that the party must remain a genuinely independent opposition force — one capable of holding the government to account without being drawn into the orbit of the very administration it was built to challenge. That position has placed them in direct tension with another ODM constituency that favours deeper cooperation with President William Ruto's United Democratic Alliance, an alignment that critics within the party argue has blurred ODM's identity and diminished its credibility as an opposition vehicle.

That internal contest is now being waged, in part, through geography. Every rally the Linda Mwananchi team holds in a traditionally ODM-aligned county is both a mobilisation exercise and a statement of intent — that the movement intends to compete for the political loyalty of voters who have historically given that loyalty to the par-

ty's establishment, not to its internal dissenters.

The Bungoma rally on Sunday has attracted particular attention. Allies of Sifuna have indicated, without explicit confirmation, that the gathering could mark a significant moment in his national

positioning — a step toward formalising what many already treat as an open secret: that Sifuna is preparing for a leadership contest of consequence in 2027, whether within ODM, beyond it, or in the space between the two.

Sifuna himself has been characteristically measured in his public statements, neither confirming a specific electoral target nor deflecting questions about his ambitions with the usual political vagueness. His approach has been to let the movement's momentum speak, and for the moment, it is speaking with growing volume. A national tour spanning eight regions, a lineup of governors and lawmakers, and a message disciplined enough to hold across very different political terrains — these are not the hallmarks of a tentative political experiment.

What distinguishes Linda Mwananchi from previous intra-party movements in Ken-

ya is its insistence on maintaining a coherent ideological thread rather than simply aggregating grievances. The focus on accountability, on the cost of living, and on what the movement frames as the betrayal of the ordinary citizen by a political class preoccupied with elite deal-making, gives the campaign a consistency that resonates with voters across ethnic and regional lines.

Whether that resonance translates into durable political power will depend on what happens between now and August 2027. Western Kenya remains contested terrain. Ford Kenya, DAP-K and ODM's mainstream all have footholds in different parts of the region, and the calculations of local voters — shaped by decades of navigating between national alliances and local interests — are never straightforward.

But for now, the Linda Mwananchi movement is doing what effective political campaigns do in their early stages: showing up, speaking clearly and daring people to imagine a different arrangement of power.

Trans Nzoia this Saturday, Bungoma on Sunday — and after that, the question of what exactly Sifuna is building will be impossible to defer much longer.




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Feature Every time dark clouds gathered over the hills of Nyaribari Chache in Kisii County, Beatrice Kemunto Bosire a widow, prayed the rain would pass her home.

From sleepless nights to new beginnings: How community kindness restores hope and dignity to widows

BY Elizabeth Angira

@themtkenyatimes

Every time dark clouds gathered over the hills of Nyaribari Chache in Kisii County, Beatrice Kemunto Bosire a widow, prayed the rain would pass her home.

It rarely did.

Instead, rainwater poured through the holes in her ageing roof, soaking her bedding and forcing her to spend long, sleepless nights moving from one corner of the house to another in search of a dry place. What should have been a sanctuary had become a source of fear.

For years, the widow lived in a crumbling house that could no longer shield her from the elements. With no stable income and the responsibility of caring for her family, repairing the house remained an impossible dream.

Like many widows in rural Kenya, Kemunto survived by doing casual manual jobs whenever they were available. Some days she earned enough to put food on the table. On many others, she returned home empty-handed, unsure of how she would provide for her family.

Yet despite the hardships, she refused to give up hope.

That hope became reality when Nyaribari Chache parliamentary aspirant Okeng'o Nyambane handed over a newly constructed house, replacing the dilapidated structure that had stood for years as a painful reminder of poverty and neglect.

As neighbours gathered to witness the handover ceremony, Kemunto struggled to contain her emotions. Tears streamed down her face as she stepped into her new home for the first time.

"I never imagined that one day I would own such a beautiful house," Kemunto says, her voice trembling. "For many years I prayed for a safe place where I could sleep peacefully without worrying whenever it rained. Today, God has answered my prayers."

Where rusty iron sheets once leaked with every downpour now stood a strong roof. Solid walls had replaced the fragile structure that barely protected the family from cold nights and heavy rains.

For many, it was simply a new



Beatrice Kemunto says she never imagine if she would have that nice house. | Photo: Elizabeth Angira

house.

For Kemunto, it was the restoration of dignity.

Residents who attended the ceremony said they had watched the widow endure years of hardship.

Fred Osoro neighbor says, Kemunto had lived in extreme poverty and often struggled to afford even the most basic necessities.

"This is more than building a house," he said. "It is restoring hope to someone who had almost given up."

Pacificah Nyabwengi neighbor recalled how Kemunto survived through manual labour while sharing

the leaking house with her children and her elderly mother-in-law.

"It was heartbreaking to see the family endure such conditions, especially during the rainy season," she said.

Jane Gesare said neighbours had tried to help whenever they could, but their efforts were limited by their own financial struggles.

"We reached a point where we almost gave up," she said. "With the current economic situation, raising enough money to build a house was beyond us."

Kemunto's story is not unique.

Across Kenya, thousands of wid-

ows face similar struggles after losing their spouses. For many, widowhood brings not only emotional pain but also financial hardship, insecure housing and social exclusion.

Linet Nyanchama Nyangweso, a widow, Nyamage village, Kisii Central, recalled the painful years she spent living in a dilapidated, leaking house that robbed her of sleep and dignity.

Nyanchama says every rainy season brought fear instead of comfort as water poured through the roof, forcing her to spend sleepless nights trying to protect her few belongings.

Beyond the physical hardship, she

says poverty left her socially isolated.

"I had no friends who visited my home because I didn't have a decent place to welcome them," she says.

She recalls a particularly painful moment when she overheard someone, she considered a close friend speaking ill of her.

"I was deeply depressed. I heard a friend I trusted saying, 'How can I be friends with someone who doesn't even have a place where we can sit?' From that day, I felt completely demoralized," Nyanchama says.

According to Nyanchama, the stigma extended beyond friendships. Some neighbours avoided her altogether, believing that greeting her might lead to requests for food or financial help.

"Some people would simply pass by without even saying hello. They thought that if they greeted me, I would ask them for food or assistance. It was very painful," she says.

To survive, Nyanchama said she walked long distances in search of casual labour, taking any manual job she could find just to earn enough money for a meal.

Her life changed after a well-wisher stepped in and built her a new house, restoring not only her shelter but also her dignity and hope.

"I thank the well-wisher who came into my life and built me this beautiful home. I now believe that even those who isolated me will come back, greet me, and visit my home," she says with a smile.

Nyanchama says poverty exposes widows to discrimination, ridicule and loneliness, despite the fact that losing a spouse is never a choice.

"When a widow is poor, people call her all sorts of names and isolate her. If it were up to me, no widow would ever suffer this kind of pain. It is not our wish to live like this."

She appeals to the government and other well-wishers to support vulnerable widows, saying many continue to endure extreme poverty, social exclusion and emotional suffering without anyone to turn to.

"I urge the government to remember widows because we are among the most vulnerable people in society. We need support and opportunities to rebuild our lives with dignity," she says.

According to UN Women, 48.3 percent of widows in Kenya live below the national poverty line, significantly higher than the country's overall poverty rate of 36.1 percent. For many women, the loss of a spouse also means losing access to family



Linet Nyanchama says poverty exposes widows to discrimination, ridicule and loneliness, despite the fact that losing a spouse is never a choice. | Photo: Elizabeth Angira

Feature Every time dark clouds gathered over the hills of Nyaribari Chache in Kisii County, Beatrice Kemunto Bosire a widow, prayed the rain would pass her home.

From sleepless nights to new beginnings: How community kindness restores hope and dignity to widows

Contd from page 18

income, productive assets, land and inheritance.

In some communities, widows are disinherited or evicted from their matrimonial homes, leaving them to rebuild their lives with little or no support while raising children and caring for elderly relatives.

The challenge extends far beyond Kenya. Worldwide, there are an estimated 258 million widows caring for approximately 585 million children, while 38 million widows live in extreme poverty.

Experts call for lasting solutions

Ruth Mogaka Gender expert say widowhood should never condemn women to a lifetime of poverty.

Mogaka says many widows experience what she describes as “secondary loss” after the death of a spouse. “The death of a husband should never mean the death of a woman’s economic future,” she says. “Many widows lose income, property and social protection at the very moment they need support the most. Empowering widows is not charity; it is a matter of justice and human rights.” She says governments and development partners should invest in livelihood programmes, vocational training, financial literacy, affordable credit and stronger protection of women’s land and inheritance rights. Policy analyst Dennis Anyoka believes Kenya already has laws that protect women’s property and inheritance rights, but enforcement remains weak.

“The challenge is not always the absence of laws,” Anyoka says. “Many widows are unaware of their rights, while others face cultural practices that override legal protections. Strengthening legal aid services and enforcing existing laws would go a long way in protecting vulnerable women.”

He also calls on county governments to expand social protection programmes and invest in economic empowerment initiatives targeting widows and other vulnerable households.

Restoring dignity beyond shelter



Okeng’o Nyambane, a leader and philanthropist that seeing vulnerable families regain their dignity, children return to school, and widows’ move into safe and decent homes is the greatest reward for his efforts. | Photo: Elizabeth Angira

Community organisations are equally stepping in to support widows.

The Centre for Community Mobilization and Empowerment (CE-COME) Chief Executive Officer Stella Achoki, says decent housing is often the first step towards helping vulnerable women rebuild their lives.

According to Achoki , many widows live in unsafe and deteriorating houses that expose them to illness, insecurity and emotional distress.

“A safe home restores much more than shelter,” Achoki says. “It restores dignity, confidence and hope. Once a widow has secure housing, she can focus on earning a living, caring for her family and participating fully in community life.”

Achoki says lasting change requires integrated support that combines housing, economic

Nyambane, a leader and philanthropist, says true leadership should not be measured solely by the number of roads built or infrastructure projects completed, but by the positive impact leaders make in the lives of the most vulnerable members of society.

According to Nyambane, leaders have a moral responsibility to restore hope and dignity to people living in

extreme poverty.

“Leadership should be measured not only by roads and infrastructure but also by the ability to uplift vulnerable members of society,” he says

Through his community initiative, Nyambane has supported hundreds of vulnerable families by constructing decent homes for widows and disadvantaged households, settling

hospital bills for patients unable to afford treatment, paying school fees for needy children, and clearing morgue bills for bereaved families.

He says these acts of compassion have transformed lives and restored hope to many families who had lost faith in the future.

Nyambane calls on fellow leaders, well-wishers and members of the

community to join hands in supporting families living in desperate conditions, noting that even a single act of kindness can make a lasting difference.

“When you help a vulnerable person, you change their life forever. I cannot stand by and watch people continue living in such painful conditions when there is something we can do to help,” he says.

He adds that seeing vulnerable families regain their dignity, children return to school, and widows move into safe and decent homes is the greatest reward for his efforts and motivates him to continue serving the community.

As villagers admired Kemunto and Nyanchama new home, the mood shifted from sympathy to celebration.

Children laughed as they played in the compound. Neighbours smiled and congratulated the widow. For the first time in many years, the sound of approaching rain no longer filled her with fear.

The walls of her new home offer more than protection from the weather. They represent security, dignity and the promise of a better tomorrow.

Kemunto and Nyanchama their journey reminds us that while statistics reveal the scale of widow poverty, they cannot fully capture the human stories behind the numbers.

Sometimes, the most meaningful change begins with a simple act of kindness.

For Kemunto, a house is no longer just a building made of bricks and iron sheets.

It is a symbol of hope restored, dignity reclaimed and the power of a community that refused to let one of its own be forgotten.



..... | Photo: Elizabeth Angira

China China is a global leader in AI development. In 2025, its core AI industries were worth over 1.2 trillion yuan (about 176.6 billion U.S. dollars)

President Xi calls for equitable global AI governance, unveils new cooperation body

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themkenyatimes

Chinese President Xi Jinping has announced the creation of the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization (WAICO) and called for joint efforts to build a just and equitable system for global AI governance.

"All countries should take a people-centered approach and develop AI for the positive and for good. We should ensure that AI is an important driver for shared prosperity and common security," Xi said while addressing the opening ceremony of the 2026 World AI Conference (WAIC) and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance in Shanghai last Friday.

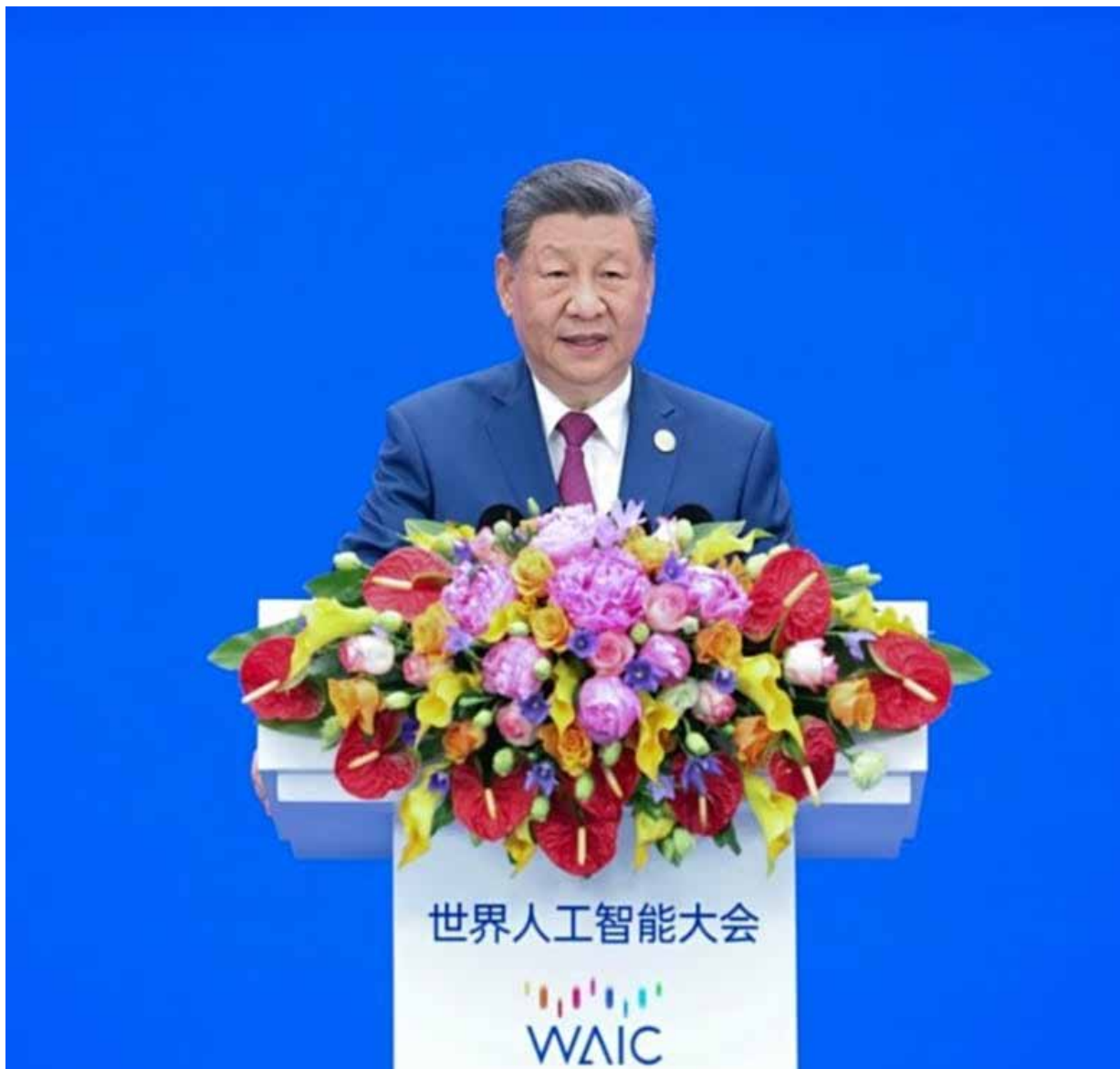
China is a global leader in AI development. In 2025, its core AI industries were worth over 1.2 trillion yuan (about 176.6 billion U.S. dollars), while the number of AI enterprises nationwide exceeded 6,200.

The country's open-source large AI models have been downloaded more than 10 billion times in total, continuing to create new and broader opportunities for global cooperation in AI innovation.

The world has entered an unprecedented period of active innovation on AI technologies, Xi said in his keynote address. He raised questions about how humans can get along with thinking machines, how security can be ensured when algorithm is part of decision-making, how ethical challenges by technologies can be tackled through adaptive governance, and how AI for all can be realized when the divide keeps widening.

"These questions demand serious consideration and real answers from the whole international community," he said.

Xi stressed the need for adhering to the principles of openness and win-win and boosting innovation-driven development, strengthening risk-awareness and ensuring that AI is secure and controllable, encouraging inclusiveness and promoting mutual learning between civilizations, and advocating solidarity and improving global governance.



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the 2026 World AI Conference and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance in Shanghai, east China last Friday. | Photo: Xinhua/Huang Jingwen

"We should jointly oppose overstretching the national security concept in the field of AI and placing one country's security over that of others," he said.

The important role of the United Nations should be recognized in global AI governance, Xi noted, calling for enhancing alignment and coordination on AI development strategies, governance rules and technical standards.

"We must carry out extensive international cooperation and help Global South countries with capacity building to bridge the AI and digital divides, promote sustainable development, and prevent creating new historical injustice in AI," he said.

As a responsible major country, China is always committed to pro-

viding international public goods relating to AI, said Xi, who proposed the Global AI Governance Initiative in 2023.

The country has also provided Chinese solutions for global AI governance through various efforts, including the launch of the AI Capacity-Building Action Plan for Good and for All and the AI Plus International Cooperation Initiative.

"AI development should not be a solo performance by a single country, but a symphony of international cooperation," said the Chinese president.

The establishment of the WAICO, Xi said, is a major move by China to answer the call of the Global South and unite the international community together to promote vigorously

AI development and governance. "It will be an important milestone in the history of AI development," he said. Twenty-nine countries have signed the agreement on the organization's creation as its founding members.

To further advance global AI capacity building, China will provide developing countries with 5,000 opportunities in AI training and seminar programs in the next five years, Xi pledged.

China will develop international AI application cooperation centers with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the League of Arab States, the African Union, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS. It will also enable 30 countries to use the AI-powered meteorological warning system, known as MAZU, to safeguard homes around the world, Xi said.

China has hosted the WAIC annually since 2018 as a key platform to forge global AI partnerships to unlock AI's benefits for all. Themed "AI Partnership for a Brighter Future," this year's event includes more than 140 forums, bringing together 1,400 guests from home and abroad.

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet, Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul and Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres delivered speeches at the opening ceremony.

Speaking highly of China's contribution to advancing global AI governance, they said the opportunities and challenges brought by AI know no borders and should be seized and addressed by all parties.

They expressed confidence that the WAICO will play an important role to this



Robots are seen at the Shanghai World Expo Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai, east China, last Thursday | Photo: Xinhua/Ding Ting.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



King David school bus tragedy demands action, not just tears

Twenty pupils and one adult are dead. They were coming home from a school trip when their bus lost control and overturned near Kapchorwa, Uganda. They never made it back.

The King David Junior School tragedy is not simply a moment for grief, though grief is entirely warranted. It is a moment for reckoning. Across East Africa, school transport remains dangerously under-regulated. Buses carry children in vehicles that would fail basic roadworthiness checks. Drivers operate without adequate training. Regulations exist on paper but collapse at the point of enforcement.

The result is predictable and recurring: children die.

Authorities in Uganda and across the region must act with urgency. Every school bus should be certified roadworthy before a single child boards it. Every driver should hold the appropriate licence and under-



go regular safety training. Inspections must be routine, not reactive. Accountability must follow failure.

To the families of King David Junior School — in Kapchorwa and beyond — this newspaper extends its deepest condolences. No parent should send a child to school and receive a coffin in return.

But condolences, however sincere, are not enough. The only tribute that truly honours these twenty children is a system reformed so thoroughly that another school never faces this day.

Sheila Juliet writes from Kenya Coast National Polytechnic.

Kenya's youth deserve jobs, not just hope

By Cynthia Jemutai

Every year, Kenya produces thousands of graduates. Every year, most of them wait. They have the certificates, the skills and the ambition — but the jobs are not there. What greets them instead is a labour market that is overcrowded, underfunded and largely indifferent to their potential.

This is not a new problem. It is a deepening one.

Youth unemployment feeds directly into poverty, crime and a corrosive sense of hopelessness that no nation can afford to ignore. When a country consistently fails its young people, it does not simply waste talent — it stores up consequences that eventually arrive at everyone's door.

The solutions are neither secret nor complicated. The government must scale up entrepreneurship support and ensure that youth-friendly fi-



nancing is genuinely accessible, not buried in bureaucratic conditions that few can navigate. Vocational and technical training must be treated as seriously as university education — a skilled artisan is as valuable as a graduate. The private sector must move beyond rhetoric and open real pathways: structured internships, apprenticeships and entry-level programmes that give young

people the foothold they need. Kenya's youth are not a problem to be managed. They are the country's single greatest asset — entrepreneurial, connected and ready to build.

The question is whether those in power are ready to meet them halfway.

Cynthia Jemutai writes from Kenya Coast National Polytechnic.

Housing the frontline: Kenya moves to shelter its police, soldiers and teachers

By David Nyaga

Kenya's State Department for Housing and Urban Development is constructing thousands of homes for police officers, Kenya Defence Forces personnel and teachers, in a targeted institutional housing drive that is reshaping living conditions for the nation's frontline workers far from the glare of public debate.

If the wider Affordable Housing Programme is defined, in the public imagination, by payslip deductions and the Boma Yangu portal, this particular strand of it operates on different ground entirely — behind the gates of military barracks, police lines and university campuses. And for the men and women who live and work in those spaces, the change is not abstract. It is the difference between dignity and squalor.

For decades, the image of a junior police officer or military recruit in Kenya carried an uncomfortable shadow: cramped tin structures, shared rooms divided by curtains, facilities that spoke less of a grateful nation than of institutional neglect. The problem was never simply administrative. It was a moral failure — the state asking people to risk their lives while offering them living conditions unworthy of that sacrifice. In the university sector, the same logic applied in a different register: students pushed into unsafe, exploitative off-campus accommodation because institutions could not provide enough beds.

The current approach addresses both realities at once. More than 10,000 housing units are under construction across strategic military installations — Lang'ata, Kahawa, Embakasi and Moi Air Base among them. But the government has gone further than simply upgrading barracks. In mid-July 2026, the Ministry of Defence formalised a partnership with KCB Bank, granting eligible KDF personnel access to the Civil Servants Housing Mortgage Scheme at a subsi-



dised interest rate of four per cent. Under this arrangement, military officers can purchase completed homes, acquire plots or build their own properties within the broader Affordable Housing Programme framework. The practical significance is considerable: a soldier's family can remain housed and financially stable long after active service ends.

Critics of the housing levy have raised legitimate concerns about the burden it places on ordinary taxpayers, and that debate is far from settled. But the case against the institutional housing component is considerably harder to make. An officer who returns from a gruelling shift to a crumbling, overcrowded room is not simply uncomfortable — they are a compromised asset. Morale, focus and integrity do not exist in isolation from living conditions. Operational readiness begins at home, and a state that ignores this connection is not being fiscally prudent; it is being strategically negligent.

The same principle holds for teachers deployed to remote postings, and for students navigating a higher education system stretched beyond its accommodation capacity. Modern student villages and targeted teacher housing in underserved areas are not luxuries. They are stabilisers — for communities, for institutions, and for the long-term quality of public service.

There is also a local economic dimension worth noting. Construction at this scale requires materials and labour in significant volumes. By directing procurement of basic fixtures — doors, windows, hinges — toward the Jua Kali sector, the State Department is channelling capital directly into the hands of artisans and small manufacturers in the surrounding counties. It is a dual-purpose strategy: shelter the frontline while stimulating the grassroots economy that sustains the communities around it.

The Affordable Housing Programme will remain contested for years. The politics are complicated, the financing is debated and public trust is not easily won. But within that contested landscape, the specific mission to provide decent homes for Kenya's police, military and educators represents something more durable than policy rhetoric. A nation is only as resilient as the people who guard its borders, keep order on its streets and shape the minds of its next generation. Housing them properly is not a concession to sentiment. It is a strategic imperative — and one that is quietly, steadily being delivered.

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



Sports >> *A substitute's extra-time strike at MetLife Stadium ends Argentina's reign and gives Spain their second World Cup title, sixteen years after the first

Spain are world champions again as Torres shatters Messi's farewell dream

By Martin Weche

Spain defeated defending champions Argentina 1-0 in extra time at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey on Sunday, winning the 2026 FIFA World Cup when substitute Ferran Torres buried a rebound in the 106th minute to claim the sport's greatest prize for the second time in the nation's history.

The goal — Torres pouncing on a bouncing ball inside the box before driving his left foot through it and into the roof of the net — came in the opening moments of the second period of extra time, and it proved to be the only moment of the 120 minutes that separated the two sides. It was, by any measure, a goal that Argentina's goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez had no answer for — though he had denied Spain repeatedly across a match in which Spain was in control throughout, not allowing a single shot on goal by Argentina.

The victory marked Spain's 38th consecutive match without defeat, a run that includes their triumph at the 2024 European Championship. It is, by any statistical measure, one of the most dominant sustained periods in the history of international football. Spain also became the first World Cup champion in history to concede only one goal throughout an entire tournament.

Torres, who had entered the field as a second-half substitute and had gone the entire tournament without finding the net before Sunday, was understandably emotional at the final whistle. "I think in the end the goal belongs to 47 million people, not to me," he told reporters. "Destiny was written, it was made for us to win. All finals are difficult, but when you have Messi on the opposing team, that nervousness always sets in — but we depended on ourselves and we proved it once again."



Spain are world champions again

The night belonged to Spain, but the stadium's gaze kept returning to Argentina's Lionel Messi. A star-studded crowd of 80,663, including United States President Donald Trump, had packed MetLife Stadium in hope of seeing Messi crown his career with a second World Cup title. At 39, Messi has confirmed this would be his final World Cup, as he will be 43 years old by the time the 2030 tournament arrives. When the final whistle sounded, the Argentine captain, who had carried his country through sixteen extraordinary years on the world stage, wept openly on the pitch.

The match itself was a study in frustrated dominance. Spain outshooting Argentina 20-3 across the contest, yet found themselves unable to convert chance after chance through ninety minutes of regulation. Martínez finished with 11 saves — the most ever

recorded by a goalkeeper in a men's World Cup final. The pivotal disciplinary moment arrived late in regulation when Argentine midfielder Enzo Fernández was dismissed after picking up his second yellow card, leaving Argentina to defend extra time with ten men. Spain exploited the numerical advantage within minutes.

The individual awards confirmed Spain's collective supremacy. Rodri claimed the Golden Ball as the tournament's outstanding player, Unai Simón took the Golden Glove, and defender Pau Cubarsí was named best young player. France's Kylian Mbappé, tournament top scorer, claimed the Golden Boot — becoming the first player in history to win the award twice.

The tournament, the first to feature 48 nations across 104 matches, brought an estimated

1.2 million international visitors to the United States, Canada and Mexico, with approximately 1.5 billion people watching the final globally. It was football at its most expansive — and Spain, disciplined, inventive and utterly relentless, were its worthy masters.

Sixteen years ago, Andrés Iniesta's extra-time winner in Johannesburg gave Spain the World Cup for the first time. On Sunday in New Jersey, it was Torres who inherited that moment. Different man, same eternity.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *David Wakhu’s commanding four-round performance at Ruiru Sports Club sends a clear message to rivals as the season’s Order of Merit battle intensifies

Wakhu seizes Ruiru glory to stake his claim on PGK Equator Tour title race



David Wakhu of Golf Park displays his gong after emerging victorious at the fifth leg of the PGK Equator Tour, held at Ruiru Sports Club on Sunday July 19, 2026. Photo/Handout

By **Martin Weche**

David Wakhu of Golf Park produced a composed and authoritative display to claim victory at the fifth leg of the PGK Equator Tour at Ruiru Sports Club on Sunday, carding a four-round aggregate of 274, ten under par, to finish a shot clear of a competitive 50-man field.

The win adds fresh momentum to what has been a breakout season for Wakhu, who now sits fifth on the Order of Merit standings with 1,800 points — a position that underscores his growing stature on the professional circuit.

“Compared to last season, this year has been much better for me,” Wakhu said. “I have continued to work hard and stay focused on competing at the highest level. The Ruiru leg was quite challenging because everyone was fighting for the top spot, but

I am really happy to come away with the win.”

Wakhu, who attributed his performance to diligent preparation in the weeks before the tournament, was also keen to acknowledge those around him. “I put a lot of work into my game in preparation for this tournament, and I am glad it paid off. I would like to thank my team for their unwavering support, and I hope to maintain this momentum throughout the rest of the season,” he added.

Greg Snow of Muthaiga Golf Club mounted the most credible challenge, finishing second with a four-round total of 275, nine under par, and will know he was within striking distance for much of the week. The battle for third was settled in a share, with Samuel Chege — who plays under Safaricom sponsorship — and John Lejirma both posting 277, seven under, to divide the hon-

ours.

Dismas Indiza, one of the most experienced campaigners on the circuit, ended the week fifth on 279, five under par, showing glimpses of the form that has made him a perennial contender. Mohit Mediratta and Malik Taimur were locked together in sixth place on 280, four under, while Mutahi Kibugu came in alone in eighth on 283, one under par.

Completing the top ten, Michael Karanga and Jastas Madoya shared ninth place after both finishing the four rounds at 284, level par — a result that leaves them with work to do as the season enters its crucial second half.

The Ruiru result reshapes the Order of Merit picture with the campaign now past its midway point. Every placing carries weight: the top performers on the standings earn coveted invitations to the Magical Kenya

Open, while the longer-term prize for the tour’s elite is qualification for the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

The sixth leg moves to Nakuru Golf Club in a fortnight, where the field will reassemble on a course known for its demanding fairways and unpredictable winds. For Wakhu, the target is simple — protect his momentum and keep the pressure on those above him on the standings.

For his rivals, Sunday’s result at Ruiru served as a timely reminder that the Golf Park man is among the most dangerous players on the circuit this season. The road to Los Angeles runs through Nakuru, and beyond — and Wakhu, for now, appears to be finding his stride at precisely the right moment.

SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



A voice of compassion, service, and hope



By: Anila Bukhari
@themkenyatimes

Chido Maxine Mandizvidza is a 35-year-old Zimbabwean humanitarian, author, journalist, linguist, customer experience professional, and advocate whose life is defined by service, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to advancing social justice, women's empowerment, disability inclusion, and community development. Her journey reflects the remarkable power of resilience, purpose, and the belief that meaningful change begins with serving others.

Holding a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Languages and Linguistics, Chido has built a professional career grounded in communication, public service, and advocacy. Her educational foundation has enabled her to connect with diverse communities while using language as a bridge to understanding, inclusion, and equal opportunity. Throughout her career, she has embraced every opportunity to serve with integrity, professionalism, and empathy.

One of her earliest professional roles was serving as a Court Interpreter within Zimbabwe's justice system, where she provided essential language support to ensure effective communication within legal proceedings. This experience strengthened her appreciation for justice, equality, and the importance of making public services accessible to all, regardless of language barriers.

Her professional journey also includes several years in customer service and retail, experiences that further developed her communication skills, customer relations expertise, and ability to resolve challenges with patience and understanding. These roles shaped her people-centered approach and reinforced her passion for delivering excellence through service.

Since 2022, Chido has been serving in a Call Centre within the Judicial Service Commission of Zimbabwe. In this role, she assists members of

the public by providing information, guidance, and customer support that helps individuals access justice. Through daily engagement with diverse stakeholders, she has strengthened her expertise in communication, stakeholder engagement, conflict resolution, problem-solving, and public service excellence, consistently demonstrating professionalism and dedication in every interaction.

Alongside her professional career, Chido has established herself as a freelance journalist and contributor to iShah Magazine. Through her writing, she highlights stories of resilience, women's leadership, humanitarian work, and social impact. Believing that every individual has a story worth telling, she uses journalism as a platform to amplify voices that are often overlooked, celebrate individuals making a positive difference, inspire hope, and encourage meaningful conversations surrounding women and vulnerable communities.

Driven by a desire to create lasting impact, Chido founded the Kudakadza Foundation, a community-based initiative committed to uplifting vulnerable individuals and families through humanitarian interventions. The foundation supports women, children, persons with disabilities, and underserved communities by providing food assistance, educational support, dignity initiatives, and advocacy programmes. Through this work, she continues to demonstrate that compassion, dignity, and service are powerful forces capable of transforming lives and strengthening communities.

As an author, Chido recently published *God, Why?*, a deeply personal reflection born from seasons of pain, grief, trauma, unanswered questions, and unwavering faith. Through this heartfelt work, she explores the difficult moments when life challenges understanding and raises questions about God's presence during suffering. Her book offers encouragement to readers experiencing loss, disappointment, mental and emotional struggles, or uncertainty, reminding them that hope remains possible even when answers are delayed. Above all, she seeks to reassure readers that they are never alone and that healing can be found through



Chido Maxine Mandizvidza.

faith and perseverance.

Chido's dedication to humanitarian service and community leadership has been recognised through several local and international honours. She is the recipient of the Women Changing the World Awards Regional Silver Award for Humanitarian Impact, an Eve Vision 2026 Awardee, and a Global Peace Chain Ambassador. She is also a graduate of the Women Ascension Fellowship in Community Outreach – Women's Health and Hygiene and has been recognised as a finalist in various international leadership and humanitarian recognition programmes.

Beyond professional achievements and international recognition, Chido remains passionate about creating opportunities for others, advocating for justice and equality, mentoring women, promoting menstrual health awareness, supporting persons with disabilities, and using every available platform to inspire positive social change. Her work continues to reflect a deep commitment to empowering individuals while building stronger, more compassionate communities.

For Chido Maxine Mandizvidza, leadership is measured not by position but by service. Guided by em-

pathy, faith, and a genuine desire to uplift others, she remains committed to leaving every community better than she found it. Through her humanitarian work, journalism, advocacy, public service, and authorship, she continues to remind the world that hope, compassion, and even the smallest act of kindness possess the extraordinary power to transform lives.