



Split the Mountain: Is CS Ruku DP Kindiki's errand boy?
Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki's declaration in Embu that he opposes efforts to divide the Mt Kenya region into Mt Kenya East and Mt Kenya West raises an important political question **Page 10**



CCTV technician tells court footage linked to Albert Ojwang death was erased after police station request
A CCTV technician told the High Court in Kibera that surveillance footage recorded at Central Police Station on the days detainee Albert Ojwang died was erased after he was instructed to delete **Page 12**

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

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

No. 01595 KSh 60 (TSh 1,700 : USh 2,700 : RFr 900)

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

Voice of the People

The Mt. Kenya Times

www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke **Daily ePAPER**

UNITY “Kindiki made a statement which made me happy,” Gachagua said. “Yesterday, he said the mountain was one and should not be divided

Gachagua backs Kindiki

Rigathi Gachagua has jolted Mt Kenya politics with a surprising endorsement of Deputy President Kithure Kindiki's unity call — but only on his own terms. In a rare moment of convergence between two bitter rivals, Gachagua applauded Kindiki's declaration that “the mountain is one,” while warning that division would hand President Ruto a path back to power. He urged residents to treat Kindiki as “one of our own,” citing his restraint during the 2024 protests, even as analysts flagged Kindiki's heavy focus on Mt Kenya East as contradictory to his unity message.

The stakes are immense: Mt Kenya's projected seven million voters and \$21.5 billion economy make it the single most decisive bloc in Kenya's political and economic landscape. Gachagua's conditional embrace is both olive branch and warning shot, signaling opportunity for Kindiki but underscoring the contested meaning of unity. For now, both leaders echo the same word — unity — yet their interpretations diverge sharply. The mountain's sons may be speaking in unison, but the political dictionaries they use remain worlds apart.

Page 9



Rigathi Gachagua and his successor Deputy President Kithure Kindiki in past

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY
“ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY”



SCAN TO REGISTER



“ALL BUSINESSES
ONE PLATFORM”

Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438
+254 706 237 040 / +254 724 613 401
business@exponentialinternational.com

Mudavadi calls for stronger regional peace efforts as Catholic bishops open East Africa assembly in Nairobi

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyetimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi has called for greater investment in peacebuilding, youth empowerment and good governance, saying the three are essential to securing lasting stability and prosperity across Eastern Africa.

Mudavadi, who represented President William Ruto at the opening of the 21st Plenary Assembly of the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA) at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) in Nairobi, said peace should be viewed as the foundation upon which nations develop and future generations thrive.

“Peace is not merely the absence of conflict; it is the foundation upon which nations grow, economies thrive and future generations realise their full potential,” he said.

The week-long assembly has brought together Catholic bishops and church leaders from across Eastern Africa under the theme “AMECEA’s Synodal Journey with Young People: Building Bridges of Communion, Hope, Justice and Good Governance.” Delegates are expected to deliberate on youth mentorship, governance, social cohesion and the Church’s role in addressing emerging regional challenges.

Mudavadi said the region was at a defining moment, noting that persistent conflicts continued to claim lives, displace



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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

Group Executive Chairman

M. Danson

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

Our Contacts

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

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

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

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

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



NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"



"ALL BUSINESSES
ONE PLATFORM"



SCAN TO REGISTER

FREE
REGISTRATION



Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438



+254 706 237 040 / +254 721 274 369

+254 724 613 401 / +254 100 423 971

+254 724 613 401



business@exponentialinternational.com



www.businessavaibale.com

NEWS IN BRIEF



Twenty-eight-year-old Nelly Chelangat has built a thriving food business at Koita Food Market in Kericho Town after years of searching for formal employment. The mother of two sells meals including ugali, rice, meat, chapati and tea, serving about 30 customers daily and earning up to Sh2,500 on good days. She saves Sh300 every day, enabling her to educate her children and invest in sheep farming. After unsuccessfully seeking jobs following a catering course, Chelangat ventured into farming, poultry keeping, clothes sales and later worked as an M-Pesa agent before starting her food stall in October 2023. She wants improved security, drainage and market facilities and hopes to establish a hotel and expand her livestock business.



ODM leaders in Kericho County have reaffirmed their support for the broad-based government, saying the co-operation between President William Ruto and former Prime Minister Raila Odinga is meant to promote national unity, accelerate development and improve livelihoods. Speaking during the funeral of renowned dairy farmer Ann Chebochok at Kericho Golf Club, ODM County Chairperson Ann Chepkwony said the partnership should focus

on agriculture, healthcare, education and economic empowerment rather than politics. She called for increased investment in dairy farming through better markets, affordable inputs, irrigation, extension services and value addition. Leaders at the funeral praised Chebochok's contribution to commercial dairy farming and community development.



A free vocational training programme by the 360 Climate Institute in Mathioya, Murang'a County, is transforming the lives of young people by equipping them with practical skills for employment and self-employment. The institute has trained more than 400 youths in courses including plumbing, solar installation, catering, carpentry and photography, with graduates securing jobs or starting businesses. Beneficiaries such as Josephine Wanjiku, Winrose Wacera and Morris Ngarega say the programme gave them a second chance after financial challenges disrupted their education. The institute also trains over 600 farmers in smart agriculture and partners with the National Industrial Training Authority to offer nationally recognised certificates. Local

leaders say the initiative has reduced crime, drug abuse and unemployment among youth.



Residents of Tinderet Sub-county are set to benefit from expanded technical training following the completion of a one-storey tuition block and a modern Electrical and Electronics Workshop at Tinderet Technical and Vocational Training College in Sigoria. Area MP Julius Melly said the investment aims to improve access to quality TVET education, equip youth with market-driven skills and promote self-employment. The new facilities will increase student capacity, ease classroom congestion and enhance practical training. Education stakeholders, students and residents welcomed the projects, saying they will improve learning, attract more enrolment and stimulate local economic growth. The Electrical and Electronics Workshop is scheduled for commissioning later this week.

As prolonged dry spells reduce maize yields in the North Rift, 71-year-old Uasin Gishu farmer David Kwambai has turned to coffee, avocado and macadamia farming, earning nearly KSh1 million annually. The Moiben farmer expanded from 100 to about 2,000 coffee trees, expecting over 1,000 kilograms this season, while his 500 avocado trees and macadamia crop provide additional income. He also keeps bees, dairy cows and goats to diversify earnings and improve soil fertility through composting. Kwambai cited pests, diseases, limited irrigation and poor marketing as key challenges, urging governments to subsidize farm inputs, improve extension services and support cooperative marketing as farmers embrace climate-smart agriculture.



Mandera Deputy Governor Dr. Ali Maalim has urged residents of Northern Kenya to register as voters during the ongoing Enhanced Continuous Voter Registration (ECVR) exercise, saying higher voter turnout will strengthen the region's political influence ahead of the 2027 General Election. Speaking at a school annual general meeting in Mandera, he appealed to eligible voters in Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Marsabit, Isiolo, Tana River and Turkana counties to register in large numbers. Maalim also reaffirmed his support for President William Ruto. According to IEBC figures, 97,859 new voters have been registered in the North Eastern region, while 2,612,725 have been registered nationally since continuous voter registration resumed in September 2025.



The Africa Largest eCOMMERCE



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

**NOW
OPEN**

Call/Text/WhatsApp: +254 714 090 155

Charity The number of participants we have seen today is encouraging - Jibril said.

More than 1,000 join Karura charity run to support vulnerable senior citizens

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatiimes

More than 1,000 people turned up at Karura Forest on Sunday for the second edition of the Run 4 Seniors charity event, raising funds and awareness to support vulnerable older persons across the country.

The event, organised by Mama Ibado Charity, brought together families, fitness enthusiasts, corporate organisations and community groups in support of programmes that provide food, healthcare and social welfare services to elderly people, particularly in Isiolo and Kakamega counties.

Speaking during the event, Mama Ibado Charity President Ahmed Jibril said the large turnout reflected growing public awareness of the need to support older persons and safeguard their dignity.

"The number of participants we have seen today is encouraging. It shows that more Kenyans appreciate the importance of standing with our senior citizens and ensuring they live dignified lives," Jibril said.

He noted that every participant had contributed to improving the welfare of elderly people who had spent their lives serving their families and helping build the nation.

Run 4 Seniors Chairman Moses Mwangi praised participants, sponsors and partners for supporting the initiative, saying the event had



Mama Ibado Charity President Ahmed Jibril briefing journalists after the event. | Photo: Courtesy.

continued to grow since its inception.

"Our senior citizens deserve our appreciation and care. Through this event, we are mobilising resources to ensure they have access to food, healthcare and other basic needs," Mwangi said.

The charity run featured 5-kilometre, 10-kilometre and 15-kilometre races, attracting participants of different ages in a campaign promoting healthy ageing, community solidarity and social inclusion.

Corporate partners also reaffirmed their commitment to supporting programmes targeting older persons.

Sidian Bank Chief Executive Officer John Okulo said the institution's partnership with the event was aimed at creating greater awareness

of challenges facing elderly people while supporting initiatives that improve their quality of life.

"Run 4 Seniors is not only about fundraising but also about advocating better access to healthcare, nutrition, psychosocial support and other essential services for senior citizens," he said.

KCB Foundation Director Mendi Njonjo said the foundation would continue working with Mama Ibado Charity to expand programmes that protect and improve the welfare of older persons.

Fly748.com Head of Scheduled Services George Oduor said businesses have a responsibility to support initiatives that create lasting social impact.

"The growing participation demonstrates that more Ken-

yans are embracing the responsibility of caring for older members of society, and we are proud to support that effort," Oduor said.

Mama Ibado Charity currently supports about 1,000 vulnerable senior citizens in Isiolo and Kakamega counties through feeding, healthcare and other social welfare programmes. The organisation said it hopes to expand its reach through partnerships with corporate organisations, development agencies and individual well-wishers.

Organisers said the success of this year's event demonstrated growing national commitment to improving the welfare and dignity of older persons through collective action and sustained community support.

Jubilee cautions leaders against remarks that could hurt tourism and investment

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatiimes

The Jubilee Party has urged political leaders to exercise restraint in their public statements, warning that calls discouraging tourists and foreign investors from engaging with Kenya risk damaging the economy and hurting the livelihoods of millions of ordinary citizens.

In a statement issued yesterday, party Secretary General Moitalel Ole Kenta said that while Jubilee shared public concerns over governance, insecurity, shrinking democratic space and the use of violence in politics, leaders must avoid rhetoric that undermines confidence in Kenya as an investment and tourism destination. "We fully appreciate the frustrations being expressed regarding governance, insecurity, shrinking democratic space and the growing concerns over the use of violence and criminal elements in our politics," Ole Kenta said. "However, communication made in pursuit of political change must equally safeguard the national interest."

The statement arrives amid heightened political activity ahead of the 2027 General Election, with some opposition figures urging foreign governments, investors and tourists to reconsider engage-

ment with Kenya until its political environment improves. Government leaders have sharply criticised such remarks, arguing they paint the country negatively and risk deterring tourism, investment and international business at a moment when the economy can ill afford it.

Jubilee's position is pointed precisely because it comes from the opposition benches. The party acknowledged the genuine concerns driving such statements but argued that discouraging tourism and foreign investment would disproportionately harm ordinary Kenyans rather than the political class responsible for the conditions being protested.

"The greatest cost of declining tourist arrivals or reduced investment is borne by the hotel worker, tour guide, farmer, taxi operator, artisan and thousands of young entrepreneurs whose livelihoods depend on a vibrant economy," the statement said.

Tourism remains one of Kenya's largest foreign exchange earners, sustaining hundreds of thousands of jobs across hotels, transport, tour operations, wildlife conservation and the informal sector. Foreign direct investment, equal-

Contd page 13

The MT. KENYA TIMES

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



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

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



The Mount Kenya Times

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

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

Mudavadi calls for stronger regional peace efforts as Catholic bishops open East Africa assembly in Nairobi



Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi

Contd from page 2

families and deny millions of young people access to education and economic opportunities.

He stressed that peace, good governance and development are closely intertwined, arguing that peaceful societies attract investment, while accountable governance builds public confidence and supports sustainable development.

“As Kenya continues to invest in education, skills development, entrepreneurship and job creation, we must deepen regional cooperation so that our young people become drivers of innovation, enterprise and peace,” he said.

He added that governments, faith institutions and development partners must work together to create opportunities for young people while promoting inclusion, protecting human dignity and preventing violence and discrimination. Mudavadi also praised faith-based organisations for their continued contribution to peacebuilding, ethical leadership and social transformation across the region, saying they remain important partners in promoting national cohesion and regional integration.

Archbishop Anthony Muheria of the Archdiocese of Nyeri, who chairs the local organising committee and serves as Vice Chairman of the Kenya

Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB), said the assembly seeks to respond to the aspirations and concerns of young people by helping them become responsible leaders in both the Church and society.

Muheria said the bishops would examine practical ways of accompanying young people, nurturing their talents and addressing challenges such as unemployment, uncertainty and the search for hope.

He noted that the gathering also provides an opportunity to strengthen young people’s leadership within the Church and in wider society through values-based mentorship and formation.

The archbishop said hosting the plenary was a privilege for Kenya and would strengthen collaboration among the Catholic Church in Eastern Africa while inspiring hope among young people across the region.

The AMECEA assembly, running from July 19 to July 26, has attracted bishops, clergy, religious leaders and lay delegates from member countries including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and South Sudan. The conference is expected to conclude with resolutions aimed at strengthening youth participation, good governance, justice and peaceful coexistence across the region.

Government announces fiscal measures, health milestones and disaster preparedness plans

BY Lilian Gichohi
@themtkenyatimes

The Government has reaffirmed its commitment to economic stability, universal health coverage and disaster preparedness through a series of fiscal interventions, health sector reforms and emergency response measures aimed at strengthening national resilience.

Speaking during a press briefing in Nairobi yesterday, Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura outlined progress in the health, financial, agriculture and energy sectors, saying the measures are intended to protect households, sustain economic growth and improve service delivery.

Dr Mwaura dismissed claims that Kenya’s economy was under threat, saying the country remains stable and attractive for investment despite attempts by some political leaders and foreign commentators to portray it negatively.

“You cannot claim national leadership while at the same time trying to sabotage the economy on the basis of segregation. Kenya remains stable and secure for business,” he said, noting that international tourist arrivals had increased from 1.48 million to 2.7 million.

He also criticised misinformation circulated on social media about Kenya.

“Someone came here called Skai Jackson and misrepresented our country. How can you come here and say that Kenyans do not even have mirrors? Kenya is a great country,” he said.

Dr Mwaura said Kenya remains the third-largest economy in Africa and continues to serve as the economic hub of East and Central Africa.

On healthcare, the Government announced the signing of a Strategic Objective Agreement (SOAG) between Kenya and the United States to support Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Under the agreement, the United States will provide USD 1.686 billion over the 2026–2032 period, while the Kenyan Government will co-invest USD 850 million to strengthen health systems and improve access to quality healthcare services.

Dr Mwaura said the funding would be channelled through a Government-to-Government mechanism to enhance transparency and accountability by utilising Kenyan public institutions.

He further announced that 7,414 Universal Health Coverage workers had been transitioned from contract terms to permanent and pensionable employment, a move expected to strengthen health service delivery across the country.

Responding to concerns over the management of the Social Health Authority (SHA) digital claims system valued at KSh1.4 billion, the spokesperson dismissed reports suggesting that private firms controlled the platform.

He clarified that SHA alone has the legal authority to approve and disburse health insurance claims, while the two percent deduction from approved claims is a statutory service fee provided for under the Digital Health Act, 2023, to facilitate electronic processing.

To cushion consumers from fluctuations in global fuel prices and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, the Government has extended the reduced eight percent Value Added Tax (VAT) on petroleum products for a further three months until October 14, 2026.

In addition, the Government has released Sh945 million from the Petroleum Development Levy to stabilise fuel prices during the July-August 2026 pricing cycle.

Dr Mwaura said the Government-to-Government oil import framework continues to guarantee adequate fuel



Dr Isaac Maigwa Mwaura

supplies while easing pressure on the country’s foreign exchange reserves.

On tax administration, he announced that the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) had launched the third phase of its tax amnesty programme, running from July 1 to December 31, 2026.

The programme offers taxpayers a 100 percent waiver on penalties and interest for tax debts accrued up to December 31, 2025, with the Government encouraging eligible taxpayers to regularise their tax records.

Dr Mwaura attributed the Government’s continued fiscal interventions to improved economic performance, noting that Kenya’s economy grew by 5.3 percent in the first quarter of 2026 compared to 4.9 percent during the corresponding period in 2025.

On disaster preparedness, he said the Government was implementing coordinated multi-agency interventions in readiness for the anticipated El Niño rains while sustaining drought response programmes in affected parts of the country.

He noted that the World Meteorological Organization had projected an intensification of weather patterns, prompting the Government to strengthen preparedness measures to minimise the impact of possible floods.

To support vulnerable households affected by drought, the Government

has disbursed Sh1.8 billion through the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) for the February-June 2026 payment cycle, benefiting 133,484 households across eight Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) counties.

Under the programme, each household receives Sh2,700 every month through Equity Bank and Kenya Commercial Bank, with Turkana County receiving the largest allocation of Sh537.9 million to support nearly 40,000 households.

Dr Mwaura also dismissed misinformation surrounding the Sacco Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2025, saying the proposed law seeks to strengthen the co-operative movement by lowering operational costs for smaller Saccos rather than creating a monopoly.

He said management committees of Saccos would continue to be elected by members without Government interference, while secondary Saccos would remain prohibited from lending directly to individual members.

“When a Bill is proposed, don’t tell people it has already been passed. Kenya is a democracy and citizens should be allowed to give their views because nobody has a monopoly of knowledge,” he said.

Politics “Kindiki made a statement which made me happy,” Gachagua said. “Yesterday, he said the mountain was one and should not be divided.

Gachagua backs Kindiki on Mt Kenya unity — but with a catch

In a rare moment of agreement between two bitter rivals, the former deputy president says his successor is right about one thing — though their reasons for wanting a united mountain could not be further apart.

BY Dan Mwangi

@themkenyatimes

Democracy for the Citizens Party leader Rigathi Gachagua has publicly backed Deputy President Kithure Kindiki’s call for the unity of the Mt Kenya region, while making clear that the two men want the same outcome for entirely different reasons.

The statement, striking in its rarity given the prolonged and often acrimonious rivalry between the two leaders since Gachagua’s impeachment in 2024, drew immediate attention across the political landscape. Gachagua, who has built his post-impeachment strategy on the architecture of opposition unity and the singular goal of removing President William Ruto from office, told supporters that Kindiki had, for once, arrived at the right conclusion — even if by the wrong route.

“Kindiki made a statement which made me happy,” Gachagua said. “Yesterday, he said the mountain was one and should not be divided. For what it’s worth, you are right — because the only way Ruto can come back as president is if the mountain is divided.”

The former deputy president went further, urging Mt Kenya residents not to be hostile towards Kindiki, describing him as “one of our own” despite their differences. He recalled that during Kindiki’s tenure as Interior Cabinet Secretary, he had exercised restraint during the 2024 anti-government protests — a gesture Gachagua contrasted pointedly with the conduct of other senior government figures. “Kindiki, as bad as he is, is a ‘yes sir’ kind of leader and one who is not self-aware,” Gachagua said. “He never sent goons to harm the people during protests when he was Interior CS, unlike Kipchumba Murkomen.”

The remarks landed a day after Kindiki publicly condemned efforts to fracture the region along East-West lines — a scheme attributed to allies of President Ruto, most notably Public Service Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku, who has advocated for carving out a “mini-mountain” of approximately 1.5 million voters



Rigathi Gachagua and his successor Deputy President Kithure Kindiki

from Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Embu and parts of Kirinyaga, positioning Kindiki as its kingpin. Kindiki himself has rejected that framing in public, even as his ground activities told a more complicated story. Between March and late April this year, the deputy president held 15 planned engagements within the Mt Kenya East orbit and none independently in the West — a pattern that political analysts said contradicted his unity message.

“I don’t want our community divided, or speaking in different languages,” Kindiki said during one of his public addresses. “We are one people. We are one community, and even in terms of politics, we have done a lot together, and we have a history. There is nothing that can divide us.”

What gives these declarations — from both men — their weight is not rhetorical but arithmetic. The Mt Kenya region, spanning ten counties including Kiambu, Nyeri, Meru, Murang’a, Nakuru and Embu, is projected to hold more than seven million registered voters by 2027, accounting for over a quarter of the

national voter roll, according to data from the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission. In 2022, the region delivered approximately 2.9 million of Ruto’s 7.17 million votes — roughly 41 per cent of his total tally — making it the single most decisive bloc in his victory. The IEBC is targeting to register a further 1.7 million new voters from the region, representing nearly 27 per cent of its national new-voter target.

The economic dimension amplifies the political stakes considerably. The Mt Kenya region, with a population estimated at nearly 12 million people, recorded a GDP of approximately \$21.57 billion (KSh2.79 trillion) in nominal terms in 2024 — a figure that reflects the concentration of agricultural, commercial and industrial activity across its counties. The region anchors Kenya’s tea and coffee sectors, dominates dairy farming, and houses significant manufacturing corridors along the Thika-Nairobi axis. The 2026 KNBS Economic Survey identified Murang’a County as the fastest-growing economy within the region, underlining a broader trend of expanding econom-

ic influence that gives Mt Kenya not merely votes but leverage — the kind that any serious presidential contender must negotiate rather than dismiss.

It is precisely this leverage that shapes the significance of Gachagua’s remarks about Kindiki. Political analyst Prof Gitile Naituli of Multimedia University has argued that Kindiki’s tonal shift towards conciliation reflects an acute awareness of his own vulnerability. “Gachagua is taking command of the public in Mt Kenya, so Kindiki’s move is wise and intelligent. If Kindiki

recognises that his position could be at threat, you start creating a space to land,” Naituli said.

That landing space is precisely what Gachagua’s statement may have quietly offered. Should President Ruto choose to replace Kindiki as deputy president ahead of 2027 — a scenario that political insiders have not ruled out, given the turbulence of recent months — Kindiki would need a regional base from which to operate as an independent force. Gachagua’s implicit extension of goodwill, conditional and qualified as it is, represents the outline of such a base. The message to Kindiki is unspoken but legible: the mountain does not abandon its sons entirely, even those who chose the wrong side.

The rivalry between the two men has already spilled into direct political confrontation, with parallel rallies, shadow tours and competing appeals to the same electorate. Yet beneath the contest runs a current of shared identity that neither man can fully disown. Mt Kenya’s political culture has historically rewarded solidarity at moments of collective threat — it is a region that has produced three of Kenya’s five presidents precisely because, when it moves as one, no coalition can ignore it.

Gachagua has renewed his pledge to cap Ruto’s support in the region at two per cent of votes cast. Whether that target is achievable will depend on whether the mountain ultimately unites — and under whose banner.

For now, both rivals are saying the same word. Unity. They simply mean very different things by it.



Politics For decades, the Mt Kenya region has voted largely as a political bloc. That unity has given the region significant bargaining power in national politics

Split the Mountain: Is CS Ruku DP Kindiki's errand boy?

BY Alex Njeru
@themtkenyatimes

Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki's declaration in Embu that he opposes efforts to divide the Mt Kenya region into Mt Kenya East and Mt Kenya West raises an important political question: if he is genuinely against the idea, why has the campaign continued to gather momentum from leaders associated with the Kenya Kwanza administration?

For decades, the Mt Kenya region has voted largely as a political bloc. That unity has given the region significant

bargaining power in national politics, enabling it to influence presidential elections and negotiate for government positions and development.

However, following the impeachment of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Prof. Kindiki's appointment as his successor, political fault lines have become increasingly visible.

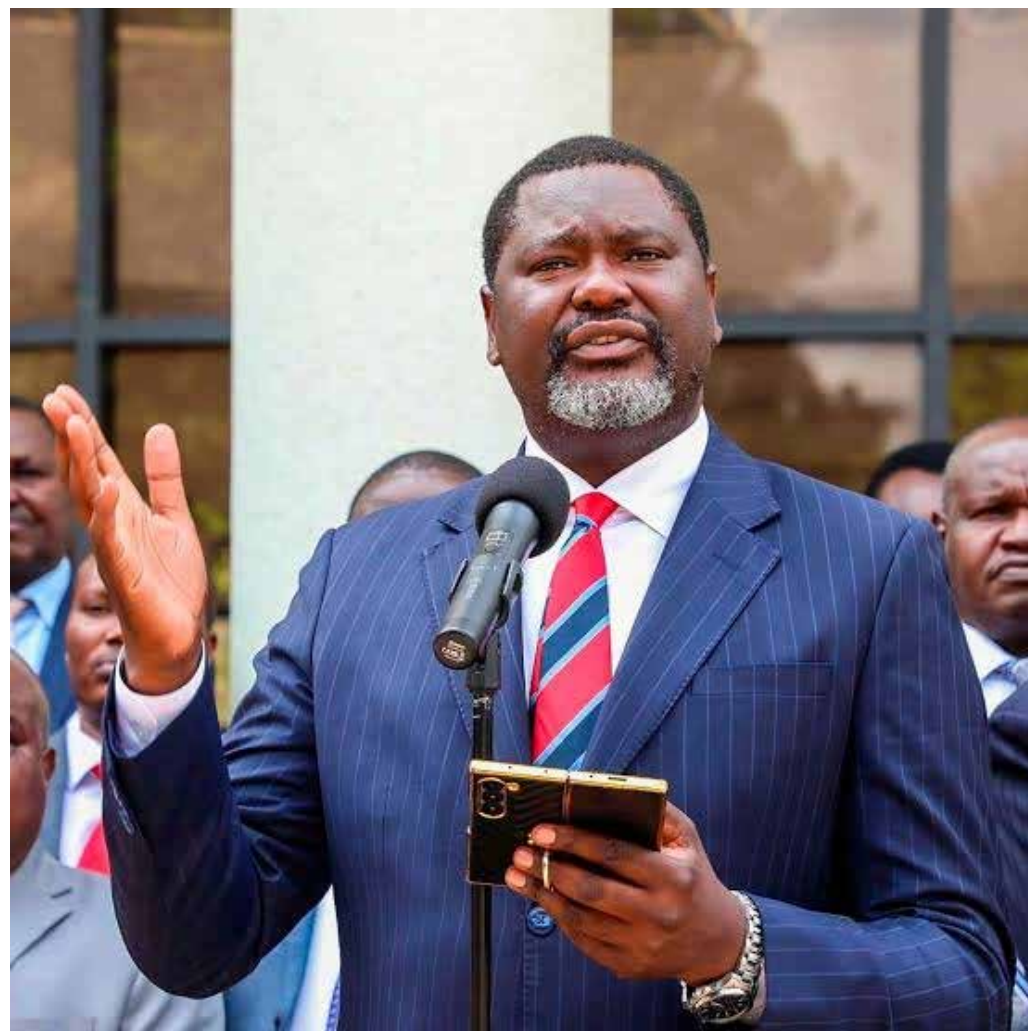
One of the most vocal proponents of distinguishing Mt Kenya East from Mt Kenya West has been Public Service Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku. For months, he has publicly argued that Mt Kenya East deserves its own political identity.

His remarks have sparked debate over whether they represent his personal political position or reflect a broader strategy within the ruling coalition.

If the Deputy President truly opposes the regional split, many Kenyans may reasonably ask why there has been no firm and sustained effort by senior government leadership to distance itself from or discourage such messaging.

In politics, silence or inconsistent messaging can sometimes be interpreted as tacit approval, even when direct evidence is lacking.

The timing of the debate is also politically significant.



Public Service Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku

After UDA's defeat in the Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election, won by a candidate allied to Rigathi Gachagua's political camp, discussions about separating Mt Kenya into eastern and western political blocs appeared to intensify.

Whether this is coincidence or strategy remains open to interpretation, but it has inevitably fueled public speculation.

One possible reading is that Kenya Kwanza recognizes that winning overwhelming support across the entire Mt Kenya region in the 2027 General Election may prove difficult. If political support in parts of Mt Kenya West continues to shift away from President William Ruto, consolidating support in Mt Kenya East could become an important electoral objective.

Such a strategy would not necessarily require openly advocating regional division; it could simply involve nurturing a distinct political identity for the eastern counties.

Yet this approach carries risks. Historically, the people of Mt Kenya East have consistently supported presidential candidates whose political

base was largely in Mt Kenya West—from Mzee Jomo Kenyatta to President Mwai Kibaki and President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Even Rigathi Gachagua enjoyed substantial support across the eastern counties. This history suggests that the region has traditionally prioritised broader Mt Kenya unity over internal divisions.

Today, however, the political landscape is more complex. While Tharaka Nithi has shown relatively stronger support for Prof. Kindiki, political opinion in Meru and Embu remains diverse, with many leaders and voters continuing to emphasise the importance of a united Mt Kenya political voice.

Ultimately, Prof. Kindiki's

statement opposing the split will be judged not merely by his words but by the political actions that follow. If leaders allied to the government continue championing a separate Mt Kenya East identity without meaningful rebuke, many voters are likely to question whether the public message of unity matches the political strategy on the ground.

As the 2027 elections approach, Kenyans will watch closely to determine whether the calls for unity are genuine or whether competing political interests will continue reshaping one of Kenya's most influential voting blocs.

Alex Njeru is an independent journalist who writes on topical issues

Where Moments Become Memories

Use Promo Code **TOURISM26**

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

ENJOY **6% OFF** DOMESTIC ROUTES

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

www.kenya-airways.com

[@KenyaAirways](#) [KQ mobile](#)

Kenya Airways
The Pride of Africa



Farming The initiative is part of Governor Anne Waiguru's ongoing Masomo Mkulima Mashinani programme, an agricultural extension initiative

Kirinyaga farmers trained on high-yielding maize ahead of the expected El-Nino rains

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyentimes

The County Government of Kirinyaga has trained more than 2,000 farmers on high-yielding maize varieties as part of efforts to increase maize production, strengthen dairy farming and prepare farmers for the anticipated El Niño rains.

The farmers were equipped with knowledge on selecting suitable maize seed varieties for different ecological zones and seasons, climate-smart farming practices and available market opportunities to help them increase yields, improve productivity and boost incomes.

The training being undertaken in partnership with Bayer East Africa Limited, introduced farmers to improved maize varieties including DK777, DK8031, DKC8033, DKC9089 and the newly promoted DK7500, a yellow maize variety recommended for both grain production and silage to support dairy farming.

The initiative is part of Governor Anne Waiguru's ongoing Masomo Mkulima Mashinani programme, an agricultural extension initiative that takes training and advisory services directly to farmers across the county.

Through the programme, Governor Waiguru said extension officers conduct practical field demonstrations on crop and livestock value chains to promote the adoption of modern farming technologies and improve productivity.

"This support is part of the 'Wezesha Kirinyaga' programme which aims rewriting the story of the smallholder farmer by supporting households engaged in multiple agricultural value chains to increase production and market their produce," she said.

She added that the County will continue investing in supporting smallholder farmers in value addition, post-harvest

handling, and access to stable markets to protect farmers from price fluctuations and middlemen exploitation.

"Our next phase is about sustainability ensuring every farmer continues to grow their income and every village becomes part of the agricultural success story," she said.

The County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Dr. John Gachara, said that the programme is supported by 147 extension officers deployed across every sub-location to provide technical support, monitor crop performance and collect field data that informs extension services. Similar trainings are being conducted on other crop enterprises to help farmers improve production and profitability.

Speaking during the training, Dr. John Gachara pointed out that the county introduced Masomo Mkulima Mashinani after realizing many farmers were unable to travel to the county's Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) Centre at Kamweti, Karumandi Ward for agricultural training.

He noted that the Kangai Tomato Propagation Centre was established as an extension of the Kamweti facility to ensure farmers receive practical training closer to their homes.

Dr. Gachara added that the county remains committed to ensuring farmers access quality seed, practical training and reliable markets to improve agricultural productivity, noting that the partnership with Bayer had enabled farmers to learn about improved maize varieties, while the county had secured a ready market for the produce.

He added that the county was monitoring maize performance across different parts of Kirinyaga to assess crop progress and identify the most suitable varieties and production practices for different ecological zones. The findings, he said, would help

strengthen future extension services and support better decision-making by farmers.

Bayer East Africa trainer Peter Kibure said the training was designed to help farmers understand the characteristics of different maize varieties and select the most suitable seed depending on the season and intended use.

He said farmers were introduced to DK7500, a high-yielding yellow maize variety containing about 12 percent protein, making it ideal for silage for dairy cattle while also supporting grain production. The variety also contains beta-carotene and has demonstrated strong performance under favorable rainfall conditions.

Kibure said the anticipated El Niño rains present a good opportunity for farmers to maximize production by planting



County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Dr. John Gachara.

suitable maize varieties that perform well under such conditions.

Farmers who attended the training welcomed the initiative, saying it had equipped them with practical knowledge to improve maize production.

Christopher Wanjohi said the

programme had given farmers valuable skills that would help them increase yields, earn more income and improve their livelihoods.

Jane Wambui from Kerugoya Ward said county agricultural trainings had transformed her maize farming since 2022 by helping her adopt

improved seed varieties that deliver higher yields. She said she had previously planted low-performing varieties but had since recorded better harvests after adopting the recommended seeds, expressing confidence that the newly introduced DK7500 would also benefit many farmers.



An agricultural officer taking farmers through various maize varieties.

Court The testimony emerged during the hearing of the murder case against six police officers and other suspects accused of killing Ojwang while in custody

CCTV technician tells court footage linked to Albert Ojwang death was erased after police station request

BY MKT Correspondent
@themkenyaintimes

A CCTV technician told the High Court in Kibera that surveillance footage recorded at Central Police Station on the days detainee Albert Ojwang died was erased after he was instructed to delete the recordings.

The testimony emerged during the hearing of the murder case against six police officers and other suspects accused of killing Ojwang while in custody.

The accused persons are former Central Police Station Officer Commanding Station (OCS) Samson Kiprotich Talaam, James Mukhwana, Peter Kimani, John Ngige Gitau, Gin Ammitou Abwao and Brian Mwaniki Njue.

The prosecution, led by Senior Assistant Directors of Public Prosecutions Jalso Makori and Wangui Gichuhi, alongside Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions Duncan Ondimu, presented three witnesses before Justice Diana Kavedza as the State continued presenting evidence.

A protected witness identified as DAN told the court that he installed the CCTV surveillance system at Central Police Station in 2024 and was later contacted by a records officer on June 8, 2025, and asked to go to the station.

He said upon arrival, he was escorted to the OCS's office, where he was instructed to erase CCTV footage captured on June 6 and 7, 2025.

DAN told the court that the request could not be achieved by deleting only the specified dates because the system did not allow selective removal of footage. He said the Digital Video Recorder (DVR) had to be formatted instead.

The witness said he accessed the system using credentials provided by the records office after receiving approval from the OCS, confirmed that recordings from the two dates

existed and proceeded to format the DVR without viewing the footage.

He further testified that he was paid KSh3,000 by Talaam after completing the task.

The technician also told the court that he was later asked to return to the station with two hard disks but was subsequently informed that they were no longer needed.

He said he had already bought the devices and was later paid KSh20,000 in cash. He told the court that the records officer later informed him that his contacts had been shared with the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA).

DAN said he was arrested on June 13, 2025, before recording a statement with IPOA investigators. During his testimony, he identified the first accused, the DVR and two sealed hard disks produced as exhibits.

Another prosecution witness, Aaron Okwako, a CCTV installation technician, told the court that he was contacted on June 9, 2025, to assist with a CCTV-related matter at Central Police Station.

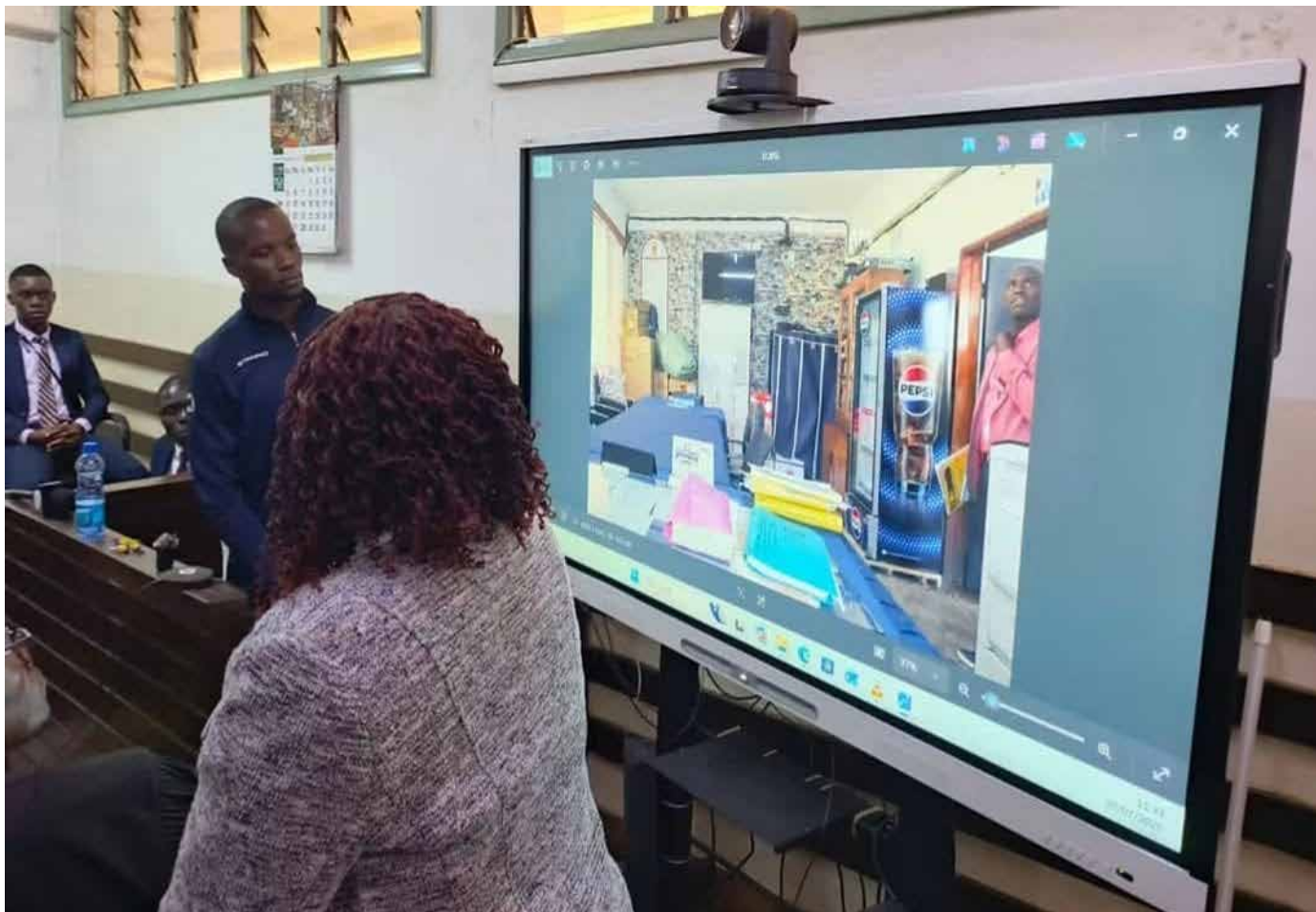
Okwako said he arrived at the station and found IPOA officers who requested him to examine the DVR located in the OCS's office.

He told the court that the DVR had been disconnected from power and only resumed recording after it was reconnected.

After examining the equipment, Okwako said the footage investigators were looking for was unavailable. He testified that his technical assessment indicated that the DVR had likely been formatted rather than having specific recordings edited or removed.

The witness also identified photographs of the OCS's office, the DVR and the CCTV monitoring system that were presented as exhibits.

A third witness, a protected records officer identified as AA, told the court that they reported to work on the morn-



One of the witness giving his testimony yesterday. Photos/Courtesy.

ing of June 8, 2025, and were informed by the OCS that a detainee had died inside the police cells.

AA testified that they later reviewed CCTV footage together with the Deputy OCS and observed Police Constable Kimani in the company of

two unidentified individuals near the cells.

According to the witness, the footage showed the three people moving towards the last cell before later emerging while carrying what appeared to be a heavy object back towards the same cell.

The witness, however, told the court that they could not identify the object being carried.

The prosecution is expected to continue presenting evidence when the matter resumes today.

Ojwang, a teacher and blog-

ger, died while in police custody at Central Police Station in June 2025, leading to investigations by IPOA and subsequent charges against the six accused persons.



The suspects in court yesterday.

Politics The party reiterated its longstanding criticism of the infiltration of criminal gangs and hired goons into political activities

Jubilee cautions leaders against remarks that could hurt tourism and investment

Contd from page 6

ly, is critical to employment creation, industrial growth and innovation — sectors that cannot absorb prolonged reputational damage without consequence reaching far beyond the boardroom.

Jubilee was careful, however, not to let the government off the hook. Ole Kenta challenged the Kenya Kwanza administration to address the very conditions that have prompted opposition leaders to speak as they have. Investor confidence, the party argued, cannot be rebuilt through public relations campaigns alone but through genuine reforms that guarantee constitutional rights, protect life and property and deliver a stable political environment.

“Our disagreements with the current

administration are political and policy-based,” Ole Kenta said. “They should never diminish confidence in the Republic of Kenya itself or the immense potential of its people.”

President William Ruto has repeatedly maintained that Kenya remains stable and open for business. Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has similarly urged leaders to protect the country’s international image, noting that diplomacy and investor confidence depend on Kenya’s reputation as a peaceful democracy. The Orange Democratic Movement, operating within the broad-based government arrangement, has called for dialogue and peaceful engagement, insisting that national development must take precedence over divisive politics.

Opposition leaders, for their part, maintain that durable investor confidence can only be achieved by

addressing governance failures, protecting civil liberties and ensuring accountability — arguments Jubilee does not dismiss, even as it urges greater care in how they are made.

“Our words carry weight,” the party said. “They shape perceptions, influence markets, affect livelihoods and ultimately determine how the world views our nation.”

“Kenya is bigger than any political party, any individual or any election cycle. Even as we vigorously compete for leadership, let us remain united in protecting the economic interests of our people and preserving the dignity and reputation of our country.”



Moitalel Ole Kenta



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



The next step is more important than your past.
Small steps build a big life.
Do not worry about your past,
but be careful about your next step.
It brings success and fame.
Remember one thing:
don't forget that barriers will come in your path.
Just overcome them; don't fear them.
So, think positively,
take a step bravely,
and it will bring a better life for you.

—G.YasminSirajudheen
Secondary grade teacher
Melmalayanur block
Villupuram dt

Your next step.
Life is full of turning points.
No one knows when the miracle will happen.
But you know what your next step is.

Five golden rules



Accept life's sunshine and its rain,
Every loss brings hidden gain.
Use your time with wisdom's art,
Each new moment is a fresh new start.

Be punctual in all you do,
Let discipline shine through you.
Respect will bloom, success will stay,
And happiness will light your way.

These five golden rules, simple yet bright,
Will guide your steps with hope and light.
Live them daily, strong and true,
A beautiful life is waiting for you.

V. JAYANTHI
Graduate teacher
Creative Writer
Chengalpattu district

Believe in yourself, stand up tall,
Your dreams are waiting—answer the call.
“I am the best, I am a winner,” say,
With God beside you every day.

Trust the journey, trust each mile,
Face the world with hope and smile.
Goodness grows where faith is sown,
Trust will help your spirit grow.

Love your body, kind and true,
Every part is precious too.
Treat it gently, day by day,
Health and joy will light your way.

The journey of life



But loved this golden age
Blindly admired everything beautiful at this stage
Then to build the Career flowed as river with bends
Then wandered joyfully with friends
Later was paired with responsibility in delight
But stood erect though beared stressful weight
Life compelled to swirl with the hands of the clock
Then time pushed with three legs to walk
Now weak heart yearned for peaceful talk
Feared a dreadful dream
Carried by eight legs – unable to scream
And life taught time never ever blooms
Showing the way to be laid in unsecured doom.
Thus the journey of life is based upon the different walks
Until breath ceases to rock.

G.Sarala.
Creative Writers.

Securely felt floating in Mom's womb
Unwillingly with the cry on land bloomed
The journey of life started
Close to lovable hearts nurtured
Slowly raised head to crawl
Then struggled to balance feet as it was small
Smashed food helped to move in walker
Though stammered excited all as best talker
Later walked to school for basic knowledge
And for social exploration ran to college

Report on poetry seminar

Poetry seminar



A Poetry Writing Seminar and Creative Writing Workshop was conducted at John Dewey International School Senior Secondary CBSE. On 18th July 2026 10:00 am to 1:00 pm by Mrs. Brinda, Creative Writer & Teacher

The session was led by Mrs. Brinda, a Creative Writer and teacher, she herself is a renowned poet having composed more than 3000 poems, published many poems in different magazines, journals and anthologies. She has created many poets and authors.

The seminar began at 10:00 AM with a warm welcome address by the principal Mrs. Vijaya. And introduction by the chairman Mr. Veeradhas. Around 150 students from Grade 6 to Grade 12 participated with great enthusiasm.

Mrs. Brinda began the session with an introduction of poetry by William Wordsworth. Poetry is spontaneous overflow of powerful feeling emotions recollected in tranquility. She started the session with the aim of inspiring students to explore their imagination and enhance their writing skills. She encouraged motivated kindled the spirit of creative writing in the children. She gave an interactive talk on the power of words and how poetry can express feelings. She introduced simple poetry techniques such as imagery, simile, satire metaphors, and rhythm, using relatable examples. She narrated a lot of anecdotes to motivate children.

She asked them not to suppress their thoughts, feelings and emotions. They should be expressed in words. Their happiness, grief, anger, everything can be expressed in words. She said many of her experience to motivate the children. She showed how other students have written poems.

The highlight of the workshop was the on-the-spot writing activity. Mrs. Brinda motivated and

encouraged the students to write poems during the session itself. She gave prompts and guided them to turn their thoughts and emotions into verses. Her words inspired confidence in all the students.

Throughout the session, she motivated, encouraged, and inspired the children to believe in their creativity. Students were actively involved, asking questions and sharing ideas.

The seminar concluded at 1:00 PM, just before the lunch break.

After listening to the session, students came up with many original poems. The workshop created a positive impact by helping students overcome the fear of writing and discover joy in self-expression. Many students expressed interest in continuing to write and in participating in future literary activities.

She gave many tips to the children how to start a poem how to evoke interest in the readers. It was an interactive session. And a red letter day.

The poetry seminar by Mrs. Brinda was an inspiring and enriching experience for the students of John Dewey International School Senior Secondary CBSE

It successfully nurtured creativity, boosted confidence, and promoted a love for poetry and creative writing among the participants. All the scripts are collected by her to edit. Later it will be typed and transformed into poetry anthologies. That is the sole aim of this poetry seminar.

She praised the students for showing good interest in creative writing.

The school extends its sincere gratitude to Mrs. Brinda for her valuable time, guidance, and inspiration.

Students are eagerly waiting to see their poems in print soon.

Education Festus Mwenda Kilatya will pursue a Certificate in Business Management at the university after his request for educational support was granted

Ex-prisoner secures university admission after magistrate fulfils promise to support his education

BY Jane Wangechi
@themkenyaintimes

An ex-prisoner who appealed to the magistrate who sentenced him for a chance to rebuild his life through education has secured admission to Africa Nazarene University, marking a remarkable turnaround after serving his jail term.

Festus Mwenda Kilatya will pursue a Certificate in Business Management at the university after his request for educational support was granted by Senior Resident Magistrate Eugene Pascal Nabwana, who had presided over his case years earlier while serving at the Mpeketoni Law Courts.

Kilatya was convicted of stock theft at a time when the offence had become rampant in Mpeketoni. According to Magistrate Nabwana, the case



Festus Kilatya and Wamunyu Law Court Senior Resident Magistrate Eugene Pascal Nabwana receive a commemorative gift from Dr. Faith Mwenda, Africa Nazarene University's vice chancellor when they visited the institution for the enrollment of an ex-inmate he sentenced for a course at the institution. | Photo: Jane Mugambi

initially appeared routine until he noticed an elderly woman in the courtroom who broke down in tears when Kilatya's name was called.

Recalling the proceedings, Nabwana said Kilatya pleaded guilty when the charges were read. The magistrate postponed the matter until

the afternoon to give him an opportunity to reconsider his plea, but when the case resumed, he maintained his guilty plea.

"The offence carried a maximum sentence of 14 years imprisonment. However, because he pleaded guilty at the earliest opportunity, I reduced the sentence to four years," Nabwana said.

While serving at Mpeketoni, the magistrate said he initiated rehabilitation efforts for inmates through the Court Users Committee, bringing together non-governmental organisations and professionals to offer counselling, medical services and educational support.

He said organisations including Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI), Action Life and WICODEP partnered with the judiciary in the programme, while counsellor Andrew Masama provided professional psychosocial support to inmates.

Action Life also donated a laptop, printers for prison paralegals and airtime to enable inmates to communicate with their families.

During one of his visits to the prison, Nabwana encouraged inmates to use their time behind bars productively by embracing education.

"I reminded them that life can seem to move slowly when one is idle, but education makes time meaningful. I encouraged them to read and, where possible, enrol for

studies," he said. Unknown to him, Kilatya took the advice seriously.

After completing his four-year sentence in March 2026, Kilatya sought out the magistrate to thank him and requested assistance in pursuing further education.

"I was deeply touched. Many judicial officers positively impact people's lives, but those stories often go unnoticed. We are human beings with emotions, even though we must remain impartial in the course of our duties," Nabwana said.

Following the request, Nabwana accompanied Kilatya to Africa Nazarene University, where he successfully applied for admission.

An admission letter seen by this publication shows that Kilatya has been admitted to pursue a Certificate in Business Management. The programme is scheduled to run from the end of August 2026 to August 2027 after his admission was received by the university's Vice-Chancellor, Dr Faith Mwenda.

The development marks a fresh chapter for Kilatya, whose journey from prison to the classroom highlights the role rehabilitation and education can play in giving former offenders a second chance at life.

Tel. 0722890813 / 0720 012577

GRANFI LTD

Molds for poles, culverts, etc



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

LE

LIKINE

ENTERPRISES

DEALERS IN MANUFACTURING ALUMINUM PANS AND ALL TYPES OF SCRAP METAL



QUALITY MANUFACTURING

SCRAP METAL SOLUTIONS

RELIABLE SERVICE

CONTACT 0721673632

GRANFI LTD

BOREHOLE SERVICES

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

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

OUR SERVICES:

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

REACH US TODAY:

+254 722 890 813

granfild@gmail.com



Tourism or politics When a former deputy president tells the world to stay away, the damage rarely stops at the border.

Tourism or politics? The storm over Gachagua's remarks and the high stakes for Kenya's image



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

BY Hadassah Karangu
@themkenyatimes

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has drawn sharp criticism from government officials and tourism industry leaders after urging foreign tourists and investors to postpone visits to Kenya until next year, citing the country's current political climate.

The Ministry of Tourism responded swiftly, warning that statements capable of generating fear among international visitors risk undoing years of investment, diplomatic effort and carefully constructed global marketing campaigns. The ministry reiterated that Kenya remains open, safe and committed to delivering world-class experiences — a message it has been at pains to amplify as the country aggressively pursues its target of attracting more than five million tourists annually.

Tourism is not a peripheral industry in Kenya. It is one of the country's largest foreign exchange earners, sustaining

hundreds of thousands of jobs across hotels, safari operators, transport companies, conservation projects, coastal businesses and the vast informal economy that orbits them. When international arrivals decline, the consequences travel swiftly down the chain — from lodge managers in the Maasai Mara to curio sellers in Mombasa, from park rangers in Amboseli to boat operators on Lake Victoria. The industry does not absorb political shocks quietly.

That is what makes Gachagua's remarks so contentious. International travellers, planning itineraries from London, Tokyo or New York, do not parse the internal dynamics of Kenyan opposition politics. What they encounter — on news platforms, social media feeds and travel advisory pages — is a message about Kenya as a country. A former deputy president advising the world to wait before coming is not a nuanced political statement in those contexts. It is a red flag.

Kenya has spent decades

earning its reputation as one of the world's most compelling travel destinations. The wildebeest migration across the Maasai Mara remains one of the great wildlife spectacles on earth. The Indian Ocean coastline, the dramatic landscapes of the Rift Valley, the biodiversity of its national parks and the richness of its many cultures have made Kenya a reference point in global tourism. That reputation was not built overnight, and it cannot be defended by any single ministry press release. It is built — and damaged — incrementally, by the accumulation of signals the country sends to the world.

Gachagua's supporters counter that his remarks deserve a more generous reading. They argue that security, constitutional order and political stability are legitimate public interests, and that raising concerns about the country's direction is a democratic right, not an act of economic sabotage. In their framing, the problem is not what Gachagua said but what prompted

him to say it — and that durable tourist confidence can only be built on a foundation of genuine peace and transparent governance, not ministerial reassurances alone. It is a point that carries some weight. No marketing campaign has ever fully compensated for genuine instability.

But the distinction between principled political critique and language that damages national economic interests is one that experienced leaders are expected to navigate carefully. Words do not stay within borders in the digital age. A single statement from a prominent figure can be shared across international platforms

within minutes, recalibrating risk assessments among tour operators, insurance underwriters and individual travellers who may never follow Kenyan politics closely but will notice a warning from a former deputy president.

The episode raises a question that resurfaces with each election cycle: where should political competition yield, if anywhere, to shared national interest? Democracy is not served by enforced silence, and opposition leaders who see genuine threats to public welfare should be free to say so. Yet leadership also carries an obligation to weigh consequences — particularly when

the people most vulnerable to those consequences are not politicians but the Kenyan families whose incomes rise and fall with the tourist season.

Kenya competes in a global marketplace where perception carries weight that is disproportionate to its fairness. A country can be entirely safe while being perceived as dangerous, and that perception, once lodged in the international imagination, is expensive to dislodge.

As the 2027 election cycle draws closer and political temperatures rise, the challenge for leaders on all sides will be the same: to contest fiercely for power without weakening the confidence that tourists, investors and international partners place in the country itself.

When tourism thrives, it is not politicians who benefit first. It is the Kenyan whose livelihood depends, quietly and entirely, on the world continuing to believe in Kenya.




DRINK . CLEAN . SANITIZE

GET STARTED WITH MAJISAFI IN 4 STEPS

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

GET STARTED NOW!

Download Majisafi app today!

GET IT ON Google Play

0701 038 226



SCAN FOR MAJISAFI

DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

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

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

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

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

SELECTED PORTFOLIO

BEST SELLER NOVELS

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

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

Crownbird Publishers
ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP BOOKS IMPRINT
INTERNATIONAL BOOKS & MAGAZINES PUBLISHERS

ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
Books Division
16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF (UK)
Tel: 44 330 606 1438
Email: media@adlinkinternational.com
www.adlinkinternational.com

Police brutality These are not rogue elements operating in a vacuum; they are the regime's outsourced enforcers, proxies who settle political scores

The betrayal of the badge: How a captured police force breeds anarchy in Kenya



By: Jerameel Kevins Owuor
Odhiambo
@themkenyatomes

A darker reality is now festering in the alleys of our republic. Hooded men, emboldened and armed, descend like specters upon journalists seeking truth, opposition leaders rallying for accountability, and ordinary citizens daring to voice dissent. They wield not mere sticks and stones, but the instruments of state power: tear gas canisters, firearms brandished without shame. This is not random thuggery. It is the symptom of a deeper malignancy: the complicity of the regime and, most damningly, its police force in nurturing a culture of impunity that threatens to unravel the very fabric of our nation.

To understand this rot is to confront the monopoly on legitimate violence that defines the modern state. Max Weber taught us that the state claims the exclusive right to the legitimate use of physical force. In Kenya, that monopoly has been perverted. When hooded assailants in Ol Kalou lob tear gas equipment strictly controlled and issued by state security organs and wave guns with the casual menace of those who fear no consequence, it is not a mystery to be "investigated." It is evidence of collusion. The state does not outsource its arsenal to civilians without intent or oversight. These are not rogue elements operating in a vacuum; they are the regime's outsourced enforcers, proxies who settle political scores while the uniformed guardians of order stand aside, or worse, facilitate.

The emotional weight of this betrayal is crushing. Imagine the journalist, notebook in hand, camera rolling, capturing the raw pulse of a rally only to be set upon by goons who know the police will arrive late, if at all. Picture the mother in the crowd, shielding her child as tear gas burns lungs and eyes, realizing that the very institution meant to protect her has chosen sides. This is not abstract policy failure. It is the desecration of trust, the theft of safety from those who dare exercise their consti-



Hooded police

tutional rights. It breeds a simmering rage, a profound disillusionment that whispers: If the state attacks its own people through shadows, who then defends the republic?

The pattern is unmistakable and intellectually damning. Across rallies and events, attacks on opposition figures and independent voices have become ritualistic. Goons thrive not despite police presence, but because of it. They operate with the arrogance of those assured protection, impunity granted from above. This complicity is not mere negligence; it is strategic. A captured police force serves as both shield and sword for a regime insecure in its legitimacy. By allowing or enabling violence against dissenters, the state discourages mobilization, silences scrutiny, and normalizes intimidation as political currency. It transforms public spaces meant for debate and assembly into arenas of fear.

Consider the intellectual bankruptcy of the response. The Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) issues statements about "ongoing investigations" into the Ol Kalou incident. Seriously? What is there to investigate when the tools of violence scream state involvement? Tear gas canisters do not materialize from thin

air. Firearms are not souvenirs handed out at political rallies. This performative theater announcing probes while the perpetrators roam free is an insult to the intelligence of every Kenyan. It treats citizens as children, easily placated by bureaucratic platitudes, while the wounds fester. Such statements do not seek truth; they buy time, deflect outrage, and erode public faith further. Shame on an institution that has traded its oath for obedience to partisan masters.

Deeper insight reveals this as a crisis of institutional capture. Police independence is not a luxury; it is the bedrock of any functioning democracy. When the force becomes an extension of the regime roped in through patronage, promotions tied to loyalty, or fear of reprisal it ceases to serve the Constitution and begins to serve power. History offers stark warnings. Regimes that weaponize security apparatus against their people sow the seeds of their own instability. From Latin American death squads to African post-colonial strongmen, the pattern repeats: short-term control through violence begets long-term anarchy. Citizens, stripped of peaceful avenues for redress, eventually turn to extralegal means. We flirt with that precipice

today.

The emotional toll compounds the intellectual indictment. Families torn apart by fear. Young people radicalized by witnessed hypocrisy. Journalists self-censoring, opposition retreating, civil society shrinking. This is the human cost, a nation psychologically scarred, where trust in the state evaporates like morning mist under the harsh sun of reality. Parents hesitate to let children attend public events. Elders recall the struggles of the independence era, only to weep at how the freedoms won with blood are now eroded by those sworn to uphold them. There is a profound moral injury here: the betrayal by those in uniform, who should embody courage and impartiality, instead embodying cowardice and capture.

Why does this persist? Power, unchecked, corrupts absolutely. A regime that views opposition not as legitimate competitors but as existential threats will inevitably corrupt the instruments of enforcement. Police officers, many of whom joined with honorable intent, find themselves in an impossible bind: pressured to look the other way, to prioritize regime stability over constitutional duty. The few who re-

sist face professional suicide. This creates a culture of complicity that permeates ranks, from street constables to top brass. The result? Goons operate with near impunity, knowing the system will shield them. Investigations become kabuki theater: arrests of minor players, if any, while masterminds evade scrutiny.

This state of affairs is untenable. It invites anarchy not through the actions of the goons alone, but through the vacuum of legitimate authority. When the monopoly on violence is abused or selectively withdrawn, citizens lose faith. Vigilantism rises. Underground networks form. The social contract frays. We cannot afford to normalize hooded attackers as a feature of political life. Urgent action is imperative: genuine police reforms that insulate the force from executive interference, transparent investigations with timelines and accountability, prosecution of enablers regardless of political affiliation, and a national dialogue that reaffirms the primacy of the rule of law over partisan survival.

The police must reclaim their independence and behave big time as the moment demands. Execute duties devoid of regime directives that pervert justice. Investigate with vigor, not theater. Protect all citizens equally, not just the connected. Failure here is not an option; it is a fast track to chaos. Kenya's youth, its professionals, its diaspora watch with mounting frustration. The middle class, the backbone of stability, grows weary of ducking violence at every turn of the political wheel.

In the final analysis, this complicity reveals a regime more invested in retaining power than in building a nation. It exposes a police service at risk of becoming an anachronism once a symbol of order, now an accessory to disorder. But hope resides in the Kenyan spirit: resilient, demanding better. Citizens must hold the line through courts, media, civil action, and the ballot. The words spoken here are not mere critique; they are a clarion call born of love for country. For if the guardians of peace become agents of fear, the republic itself stands imperiled.

We stand at a crossroads. Choose capture and complicity, and anarchy beckons. Choose independence and impartiality, and Kenya reclaims its promise. The hooded men in Ol Kalou were no accident. They were a symptom. The cure demands courage from those sworn to serve not the regime, but the people. Anything less is a betrayal too grave to bear.

The writer is a social commentator

Health Trained riders will transport patient specimens safely and securely, completely sparing vulnerable patients from travelling long distances to high-level facilities

Motorcycle riders to transport patients' specimens under new referral system

BY Jane Ngugi and Caroline Nyakio

@themtkenyatomes

Patients seeking laboratory services in Kuresoi North and Kuresoi South sub-counties will no longer be required to travel to referral hospitals after the Nakuru County Government introduced an Integrated Specimen Referral System (ISRS) that uses trained motorcycle riders to transport medical specimens.

Under the new system, specimens collected at dispensaries and health centres will be transported safely to the nearest referral hospital with laboratory facilities, while test results will be transmitted electronically back to the originating health facility, enabling patients to receive treatment closer to their homes.

County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Health Care Services Roselyn Mungai said the initiative is aimed at improving access to diagnostic services, reducing patient travel costs and ensuring timely medical interventions.

She said the County Health Department is strengthening its logistics network by restoring grounded motorcycles, training riders and stream-



County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Health Care Services Roselyn Mungai with Kuresoi health stakeholders.

lining fleet management to fully operationalise the Integrated Specimen Referral System.

"Trained riders will transport patient specimens safely and securely, completely sparing vulnerable patients from travelling long distances to high-level facilities for basic laboratory tests. By strengthening local delivery systems and minimizing avoidable clinical errors, the County Government is ensuring that every citizen receives safe, timely and patient-centred healthcare," said Ms Mungai.

She spoke during a strategy meet-

ing with regional health team leaders from Kuresoi North and Kuresoi South sub-counties convened to review implementation plans and strengthen service delivery.

The CECM said riders enlisted under the programme will undergo refresher training before full implementation of the system.

She noted that the referral model has already undergone a pilot phase, which demonstrated improved patient management, reduced turnaround time for laboratory results and lower transport costs for patients.

According to Ms Mungai, the trained and equipped riders will transport sensitive medical specimens from dispensaries, health centres and community health units to sub-county and county referral laboratories for specialised testing.

She added that licensed boda boda riders may also be engaged whenever additional transport capacity is required, with the county facilitating the service to ensure uninterrupted movement of specimens.

The CECM described specimen referral as a critical component of an efficient healthcare system, saying timely transportation of samples enhances diagnosis and treatment while improving overall patient outcomes.

She said the initiative will expand access to specialised laboratory services regardless of where patients seek treatment, ensuring that residents in remote areas benefit from the same quality of diagnostic services available in major hospitals.

The Integrated Specimen Referral System is among several initiatives being implemented by Governor Susan Kihika's administration to improve healthcare delivery across Nakuru County.

Ms Mungai said the programme is also expected to strengthen disease surveillance, facilitate faster clinical decision-making and promote equitable access to healthcare by reducing travel burdens and out-of-pocket expenses for patients.

"This is a sustainable intervention that should be integrated with Primary Health Care to strengthen Universal Health Coverage and ensure long-term improvements in healthcare delivery," she said.

Implementation activities will include dissemination of the ISRS work plan, training of sub-county coordinators, sensitisation of healthcare workers and periodic performance reviews in the pilot sub-counties before wider rollout.

Beyond improving logistics, Ms Mungai said the county government is promoting a culture of accountability among healthcare workers by encouraging staff to identify and resolve operational challenges before they affect service delivery.

She urged health officers to take ownership of their facilities and work collaboratively to sustain quality healthcare services.

The CECM said the success of the Integrated Specimen Referral System will depend on innovation, teamwork and professionalism, adding that the reforms are intended to ensure quality healthcare remains accessible to all residents as a fundamental right rather than a privilege.

Green Economy Solar and wind energy, waste recycling, water-saving irrigation systems, organic farming — all of these serve one purpose

Green Economy: Not tomorrow's idea, but today's necessity



BY Mamatkhonova Madinabonu Kamol

@themtkenyatomes

The world is speaking a different language today. Development used to mean factory smoke, power plants, and production volumes. Now the word carries another question behind it: will there be clean air to breathe, water to drink, and land to farm tomorrow? It is precisely this question that has led humanity toward the green economy.

For Uzbekistan, this is not a distant theory. The dust storms rising from

the dried bed of the Aral Sea, the worsening air quality in the Fergana Valley, the shrinking of land resources — all of this is happening in our own courtyard. This is why the shift to a green economy is no longer a choice but a survival strategy.

In simple terms, a green economy is the art of creating wealth without harming nature. Solar and wind energy, waste recycling, water-saving irrigation systems, organic farming — all of these serve one purpose: meeting today's needs without borrowing from tomorrow's generation.

Our country has already taken the first steps in this direction. Solar power plants are being built, green bonds are being issued, and entrepreneurs are being offered incentives to adopt environmentally friendly technologies. Yet these steps alone are not enough. A green economy

is shaped not only by government programs but by the daily choices of every enterprise, every farmer, and every family.

Imagine if every entrepreneur chose energy-saving equipment for production, if every farmer switched from wasteful irrigation to drip systems, if every city resident preferred recyclable materials over plastic — these small decisions, added together, would become a great transformation. That is exactly what a green economy is: a great idea built from a chain of small, practical steps.

Young people must stand at the center of this process, because they are the ones who will build tomorrow, and they are the ones who will live in the world they build. Teaching ecological economics at universities, supporting green startups, and encouraging investment in green



technologies all begin with understanding that today's choices shape tomorrow's life.

A green economy is not merely the work of economists or ecologists. It is the work of every one of us. And if we do not begin this work today, tomorrow may be too late.

Mamatkhonova Madinabonu Ka-

mol
3rd-Year Student, Department of Economics
Faculty of Tourism and Economics
Kokand University
Email: mamatxonovamadinabonu60@gmail.com

KEBS The appeal has landed at a sensitive moment. Kenya is a country searching — for stability, for honesty from its leaders, and for voices it can still trust.

KEBS strengthens Africa's quality infrastructure under Ngari's leadership

Kenya's standards body is quietly becoming one of the continent's most influential voices on trade, metrology and industrial competitiveness.

BY John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

The Kenya Bureau of Standards is cementing its position as a regional leader in quality infrastructure, with Director of Metrology and Testing Henry Rotich representing the country at the 5th Specialised Technical Committee Meeting on Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Rotich is attending the high-level five-day forum in his dual capacity as Chairman of the Pan African Quality Infrastructure and President of the Intra-Africa Metrology System, known respectively as PAQI and AFRIMETS. The meeting has brought together African policymakers and technical experts to chart strategies for accelerating trade, industrialisation and economic integration across the continent — conversations in which Kenya has increasingly moved from participant to agenda-setter.

His presence in Abidjan reflects a broader shift in KEBS' continental standing, one driven in large part by the strategic direction set by Managing Director Esther Ngari, who leads the institution's work across standards development, quality assurance, metrology, testing and trade facilitation.

Since taking the helm at KEBS, Ngari has made quality infrastructure a serious national conversation rather

than a technical afterthought. Her tenure has been defined by a push towards excellence and modernisation — strengthening laboratory services, promoting conformity assessment, and embedding a quality-conscious culture among manufacturers and consumers alike. The results are tangible. Kenyan exporters operating under KEBS certification are finding it easier to access regional and international markets, precisely because the institution has worked to align local standards with internationally recognised benchmarks.

"Quality is not a bureaucratic requirement — it is a competitive advantage," Ngari has said, a phrase that has come to characterise her approach to an institution that underpins the credibility of virtually everything Kenya makes and sells.

Under her stewardship, KEBS has supported government efforts to expand Kenya's export footprint by ensuring locally manufactured products meet global safety and quality thresholds. The institution's work in standardisation, certification, inspection and testing has enhanced confidence in Kenyan goods, reduced technical barriers to trade, and helped open doors in markets that demand rigorous compliance before a product reaches the shelf.

Ngari has also prioritised the adoption of technology and more efficient systems to modernise service delivery

— a recognition that an institution responsible for the integrity of trade cannot afford to operate on outdated processes. Her vision dovetails neatly with Kenya's broader industrialisation agenda and with the ambitions of the African Continental Free Trade Area, where harmonised standards are not a courtesy but a prerequisite for unlocking the \$3.4 trillion intra-African market.

At the continental level, Rotich's leadership roles within PAQI and AFRIMETS give Kenya a seat at the table where Africa's measurement and standards architecture is being designed. His engagement in Abidjan is not merely representational — it is substantive. Kenya brings genuine technical depth to these forums, and Rotich's participation signals the country's readiness to share that expertise, promote harmonised standards and strengthen the measurement systems that underpin fair trade and industrial competitiveness across the continent.

The Abidjan discussions are expected to deepen collaboration among member states, promote the exchange of best practices and reinforce the institutions responsible for standards, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment. For a continent where non-tariff barriers — including divergent standards — remain among the most stubborn obstacles to trade, that work carries real economic



Director of Metrology and Testing Henry Rotich

consequence.

As Africa accelerates its integration agenda, KEBS is well-positioned to help shape the quality infrastructure on which that ambition depends.

It is the kind of institutional influence that rarely makes headlines but quietly determines whether a product gets across a border — or does not. Behind that influence, for

now, stands a director general who has decided that standards are worth fighting for.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Behind the curtain of police negligence

By Charity Mwangi

Kenya’s police service carries a solemn mandate — to protect lives, uphold order and deliver justice without fear or favour. Increasingly, that mandate is being dishonoured.

The motto *Utumishi kwa Wote* — Service to All — sounds hollow to citizens who have watched unarmed protesters shot in the street, or seen defilement victims turned away from police posts with advice instead of action. These are not isolated failures. They are symptoms of a service in institutional decline.

The use of lethal force against demonstrators is among the gravest concerns. Each such incident demands a transparent, independent investigation. Without accountability, excessive force becomes normalised — and impunity takes root.

Away from public view, the failures are quieter but no less



damaging. When victims of serious crimes leave a police post without so much as a recorded statement, the law has already failed them. Justice delayed at the desk is justice denied entirely.

The corrosive effect of this negligence is predictable: eroded public trust, rising mob justice, and a population that learns to fear, rather than rely on, those sworn to protect it.

Restoring confidence requires more than retraining pro-

grammes or public relations campaigns. It demands equal, impartial enforcement of the law — for the connected and the powerless alike.

Utumishi kwa Wote must cease to be a motto on a crest. It must become a standard by which every officer is measured and held to account.

Charity Mwangi is a student at Laikipia University.

Venezuela’s earthquake demands a world that shows up

By Sheila Juliet

On 24 June 2026, twin earthquakes measuring 7.5 and 7.2 in magnitude tore through northern Venezuela. More than 5,200 people are confirmed dead, over 16,700 injured, and tens of thousands remain missing beneath the rubble of a country that was already struggling to stand.

The scale of destruction is staggering. In La Guaira, 80 per cent of buildings collapsed. Hospitals, schools and roads — the arteries of any functioning society — lie in ruin. Nearly 18,000 people have been displaced, many sheltering in makeshift camps with dwindling supplies.

Venezuela did not enter this disaster on solid ground. Years of economic collapse and political instability had already hollowed out its public institutions. The earthquakes have



not merely damaged infrastructure; they have overwhelmed a healthcare system that had little reserve left to give.

International response has begun — US urban search and rescue teams are on the ground, and the United Nations is scaling up coordination — but the pace must accelerate. Search and rescue windows close fast. Medical emergencies do not wait for bureaucratic clearance.

Crucially, relief must be managed with full transparency. In

a country with a restricted media environment and a history of aid politicisation, independent oversight is not optional — it is the difference between help reaching the desperate and help disappearing into the machinery of the state.

Venezuela is asking the world to show up. The world must answer.

Sheila Juliet is a student at Kenya Coast National Polytechnic.

Beyond the portal: Why the Boma Yangu vision needs a grassroots push



By David Nyaga

Kenya’s affordable housing programme is rapidly transforming the national landscape. From urban centres to rural constituencies, construction sites hum with activity as the government races to deliver thousands of units across all 47 counties. The physical progress is undeniable. Yet as bricks are laid and structures rise, a silent but critical barrier threatens to lock out the very citizens this initiative was designed to uplift: the digital divide.

The gateway to owning one of these homes is the Boma Yangu platform — a portal designed to centralise registration, track savings and manage allocations. For a tech-savvy professional with a smartphone and stable Wi-Fi, navigating it takes minutes. But the true test of any public utility is

not how well it serves the privileged; it is how accessible it is to the vulnerable.

Speak to residents living beside these massive projects, and a common narrative emerges: awe mixed with alienation. Many villagers believe these houses “are not meant for us.” USSD codes that time out, forgotten passwords, and web pages that drain limited data bundles all deepen that suspicion. A significant portion of rural Kenyans still rely on basic feature phones. For an elder, a small-scale farmer, or a mama mboga trying to secure a future home, formal digital menus in English are a wall, not a window.

The solutions are straightforward. Chiefs, sub-chiefs and Nyumba Kumi leaders — the most trusted voices at grassroots level — should be trained to walk communities through

Boma Yangu registration at weekly barazas. Construction sites should host permanent help desks where dedicated officers with tablets guide visitors through the process face to face. And communication strategies must go where the people already are: short-form video guides, translated into local dialects and shared via WhatsApp and community radio, can turn a daunting digital process into something manageable and familiar.

Kenya’s housing boom is a historic opportunity to deliver dignity through shelter. But a home is only accessible if the door is open to everyone.

Until the villager navigates Boma Yangu as effortlessly as the city dweller, the foundation — however solid the concrete — remains incomplete.

SPORTS
NEWSPHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *A two-time Ballon d'Or winner who embodied an era of passionate, attacking football, Keegan leaves behind a legacy that transcends trophies.

Kevin Keegan, football giant and England manager, dies at 75

By Martin Weche

Kevin Keegan, one of English football's most celebrated players and managers, died on Monday at the age of 75 after a battle with stage four cancer, his family announced.

The statement, released on behalf of his wife and daughters, who were at his side in his final moments, was brief and dignified. "It is with immense sadness that we announce that Kevin Keegan has passed away at the age of 75," it read. "The former England player and manager had been battling cancer and was surrounded by his wife and daughters in his final moments." The family, noting that Keegan had undergone treatment since his diagnosis in January, asked for privacy during what it described as "a hugely difficult time."

The tributes that followed were immediate and global — a measure of the reach of a career that spanned three decades, two continents and every level of the English game.

Keegan was born in Armthorpe, South Yorkshire, in 1951, the son of a coal miner, and rose through the lower divisions before Bill Shankly signed him for Liverpool in 1971. What followed was the making of a legend. At Anfield, Keegan won four English top-flight titles, two UEFA Cups and the European Cup, becoming the heartbeat of one of the most formidable club sides the continent had seen. He was compact, relentless and irrepressible — a striker who compensated for every inch he lacked in height with an almost reckless force of will. The nickname "Mighty Mouse" was not merely affectionate; it was accurate.

In 1977, at the height of his powers, Keegan made the surprising decision to join Hamburg in West Germany, a move that raised eyebrows in England but



Newcastle United manager Kevin Keegan

proved his quality on the grandest stage. He won the Bundesliga and, in 1978 and 1979, claimed back-to-back Ballon d'Or awards — European football's highest individual honour — becoming only the second Englishman to win it. The achievement placed him in company with the game's immortals, and it was earned in a foreign league, under foreign conditions, without the comfort of familiar surroundings.

He returned to England to play for Southampton and then Newcastle United before hanging up his boots in 1984. Management called almost immediately, and it was at Newcastle where Keegan's second act proved as dramatic as his first. Taking charge of a club that had fallen into the First Division, he led them to promotion in 1993 and proceeded to build one of the most exhilarating sides English football has produced. "The Entertain-

ers," as they were known, played with a freedom and ambition that captured the imagination of a sport being remade by the newly formed Premier League. They finished runners-up to Manchester United in the 1995-96 season — blowing a twelve-point lead in one of the most dramatic title races in the competition's history — but the football they produced that year remains a reference point for attacking purists.

Keegan managed Fulham before accepting the England job in 1999, succeeding Glenn Hoddle. His tenure was short and turbulent. He resigned in the Wembley changing rooms following a 1-0 home defeat to Germany in October 2000 — a moment of raw honesty that surprised many in football's image-conscious corridors. "I'm not good enough," he told waiting journalists. It was a line that endeared him to the public even as it closed his

international chapter.

Spells at Manchester City and a brief, ill-fated return to Newcastle in 2008 followed before he stepped away from the dugout for good.

The Football Association paid tribute on Monday, calling Keegan "an inspiration to generations of players and supporters alike." Liverpool described him as "a true legend of this football club." At Hamburg, where a street near the Volksparkstadion bears his name, the club lowered its flag to half-mast.

Kevin Keegan was not simply a footballer who became famous. He was a working-class boy who became a European icon through talent, determination and an unshakeable belief that the game was meant to be played with joy. Football will not see his like again.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *A nation that once stopped for its champions finds itself navigating the quieter geography of defeat.

Without Messi, Argentina’s World Cup runners-up return home to a muted reception

By Martin Weche

Argentina returned home on Monday without several of their most prominent players following Sunday’s 1-0 World Cup final defeat to Spain, with captain Lionel Messi, midfielder Rodrigo de Paul and coach Lionel Scaloni all absent from the flight back to Buenos Aires.

The Argentine Football Association confirmed overnight that certain squad members would travel directly from the United States to other destinations — either to rejoin their clubs or begin rest periods — though it stopped short of naming individuals. Argentine media filled the gap, reporting that Messi and de Paul, teammates at Inter Miami, were among those who would not board the homeward flight. Scaloni, the coach who has guided the Albiceleste through two World Cup campaigns, was similarly reported to have remained abroad.

Aerolineas Argentinas told AFP the returning contingent was expected to touch down at approximately 6.30pm local time — 9.30pm GMT — and added pointedly that “no media call or special reception” had been arranged. The contrast with December 2022 could scarcely be more stark. When Argentina arrived home as world champions from Qatar, millions lined a 30-kilometre parade route to greet them. The open-top bus was eventually brought to a standstill by the sheer weight of the crowd, the procession abandoned for security reasons, and several players, including Messi, completed the celebration by helicopter above the city.

Monday offered no such scenes. The defeat to Spain — a single goal settling the final — left a country that wears football like a second skin searching for the



Argentina forward Lionel Messi cries during the trophy ceremony at the end of the 2026 World Cup football tournament final match between Spain and Argentina at the New York

appropriate emotional register. Grief and pride, as so often in Argentine life, arrived together.

Thousands nonetheless gathered at the Obelisk in central Buenos Aires on Sunday evening, the traditional rallying point for football celebrations, to pay tribute to their team. Fireworks lit the sky. Supporters sang and embraced for hours. Yet late in the night, the mood shifted. Brief clashes broke out near the monument and police deployed water cannons, tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the crowds. Fifteen people were detained, according to police sources.

The scenes underscored the complicated emotional arithmetic of a near-miss. Argentina had arrived at this tournament as one of the favourites, buoyed by Messi’s continued brilliance and the experience of a squad that lifted the Copa América in 2024. A final appearance was cause for pride; a final defeat, cause for mourning.

President Javier Milei sought to strike a conciliatory note in the aftermath. Speaking after the final whistle, he announced that a public holiday would be declared on a future date agreed with the squad, in recognition of their performance throughout the tournament. No date has yet been confirmed, and the gesture — a holiday for runners-up — drew a mixed public response, with some Argentines welcoming the acknowledgement and others questioning whether second place warranted the honour.

The absence of Messi from the homecoming flight will attract the most scrutiny. At 38, the Paris Saint-Germain legend — now playing his club football in the United States with Inter Miami — has given no public indication of whether this World Cup was his last. His silence since the final whistle has been deafening, and Argentine supporters know better than most how to read the pauses between a man’s words.

Scaloni, whose tactical acumen transformed Argentina from a talented but inconsistent side into back-to-back champions and now World Cup finalists, will face questions about his future in the role. His contract situation has not been publicly clarified, and the AFA has not yet commented on his continuation as head coach.

What is clear is that Argentina’s relationship with this World Cup will take time to process. The 2022 triumph in Qatar set a standard that bordered on the mythological. Sunday’s defeat does not erase that legacy — but it does remind a nation accustomed to sporting miracles that the margin between immortality and heart-break is, sometimes, just one goal.

The Obelisk was quieter by yesterday morning. The fireworks had faded. But the flags were still there.

SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN

Backpage



One curve, a thousand solutions: The power and significance of a smile



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
mukphix@gmail.com



Worth Noting:

- Science, for once, agrees with what common sense has always suspected. When a person smiles — even deliberately, even when the mood does not initially warrant it — the brain responds by releasing dopamine, serotonin, and endorphins. These neurotransmitters reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and support immune function. The effect is not merely cosmetic or psychological. It is physiological. The body, it turns out, does not always wait for the heart to catch up. Sometimes it responds to the gesture first and lets the feeling follow.
- What makes a smile particularly remarkable, however, is that its benefits are not contained within the person offering it. A smile is one of the few human expressions that functions as a mirror.

There is a gesture so simple, so universally understood, that it requires no language, no translation, and no shared history to communicate. It appears on the face of a mother greeting her newborn, on a stranger holding a door open in the rain, on a nurse entering a ward where fear already occupies every chair. It costs nothing to give and yet, in the right moment, it can change everything. A smile is one of the most fundamental and most underestimated forces in human life.

We tend to think of a smile as a social reflex — a polite formality exchanged between people who may or may not mean it. But that reading undersells what is actually happening. A genuine smile, the kind that moves from the mouth to the eyes and briefly reorganises an entire face, communicates something language rarely achieves with such economy. It says: you are seen. You are welcome. You are not alone. In moments of uncertainty, stress, or quiet despair, a single sincere smile can provide the kind of reassurance that paragraphs of consolation sometimes fail to deliver.

Science, for once, agrees with what common sense has always suspected. When a person smiles — even deliberately, even when the mood does not initially warrant it — the brain responds by releasing dopamine, serotonin, and endorphins. These neurotransmitters reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and support immune function. The effect is not merely cosmetic or psychological. It is physiological. The body, it turns out, does not always wait for the heart to catch up. Sometimes it responds to the gesture first and lets the feeling follow.

What makes a smile particularly remarkable, however, is that its benefits are not contained within the person offering it. A smile is one of the few human expressions that functions as a mirror. When one person smiles at another, the brain of the recipient activates the same neural pathways, often producing an involuntary smile in return. This is not a social nicety. It is neurological reciprocity. In healthcare set-

tings, professionals who lead with warmth rather than clinical distance consistently report stronger patient trust and better treatment outcomes. In education, teachers whose classrooms carry a sense of safety and welcome produce students who are more willing to take intellectual risks. In leadership, approachability is not a weakness — it is often the invisible architecture behind a team that actually functions.

There is also something quietly courageous about choosing to smile during adversity. It is important to say clearly what that is not: it is not denial, not performance, and not the suppression of legitimate pain. Smiling in the face of grief, financial pressure, or personal setback is, at its best, an act of agency. It is a decision — conscious or cultivated over time — to respond to difficulty without surrendering dignity or hope. Consider the person who maintains warmth and compassion despite being consistently overlooked or misunderstood. Their smile, offered freely to a colleague or a stranger, may be the only encouragement that person receives all day. That is not a small thing. In a world where people frequently move through their hours feeling invisible, being genuinely acknowledged can alter the entire texture of a day.

There is a reciprocal benefit here that is often overlooked. Expressing kindness outwardly — and a smile is one of its most natural expressions — reduces internal bitterness and quietly reinforces self-worth. Unlike material resources, a smile is not depleted through use. It does not run out at the end of a long week or diminish because it has been given generously. If anything, it multiplies. Each time it is offered with intention, it reinforces empathy and patience — in the giver as much as the receiver.

In the long run, people rarely recall titles, salaries, or professional accomplishments with the same clarity and warmth that they remember how another person made them feel. Those memories tend to be anchored not in grand gestures but in small, human ones. A smile offered in the



middle of a difficult day. A face that lit up upon your arrival. A moment of recognition that cost the other person nothing but that you have never quite forgotten.

The implications for professional and personal life are not abstract. A smile is a tool of leadership, of healing, of quiet influence. It requires no budget, no training programme, and no ideal set of circumstances. It requires only intention — and perhaps the understanding that in choosing to offer it, we are doing something more significant than we realise.

In a world that relentlessly prizes

productivity and performance, that is a principle worth pausing for.

A smile opens doors. It mends what has quietly come apart. It restores, in the most ordinary of moments, something that looks very much like hope.

Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza is a Ugandan social commentator and writer.