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Tharaka University lecturer honored after guiding to historic Huawei ICT global victory
Tharaka University's Director of Open, Distance and e-Learning (ODEL), Kevin Twei has been honored by President William Samoei Ruto for his outstanding role in mentoring Kenya's Grand Prize-winning team

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Daily ePAPER

Politics The Senate purge is the most visible chapter yet in a systematic campaign that began the moment Raila Odinga died

ODM's purge of Sifuna

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The changes, pending approval by the Senate House Business Committee, would see Sifuna ejected from the Senate County Public Accounts Committee — one of the legislature's most powerful oversight bodies, with authority to scrutinise how county governments spend public funds — and reassigned to the comparatively low-profile Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee. Kilifi Senator and Senate Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo is expected to fill his vacancy. Osotsi was removed from the Senate County Public Investments and Special Funds Committee through a vote of no confidence and will be moved to the Trade, Industrialisation and Tourism Committee, with Taita Taveta Senator Johannes Mwaruma stepping in.



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Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna

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Gachagua steps up consultations as DCP intensifies recruitment drive

BY Diplomatic Media Services

@themkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

Former Deputy President and Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) leader Rigathi Gachagua has intensified his political consultations at his Wamunoro residence in Nyeri County, hosting a series of delegations from across the country as he seeks to strengthen the opposition and expand his party's grassroots network ahead of the 2027 General Election. The meetings, which he has branded as part of a national "liberation" agenda, have brought together Members of Parliament, governors, Members of County Assembly (MCAs), aspiring politicians and community leaders from different regions. Yesterday, started the day by hosting Gichugu parliamentary aspirant James Muchiri Gachoki and Kikuyu Ward MCA aspirant Simon Maina Chege, with discussions centering on what he described as cross-cutting issues affecting their constituents and the country's political future. He also received Kinangop constituency aspiring MP Wan-



Contd page 8

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe on Tuesday held bilateral talks with Lesotho's Minister for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, Selibe Mochoboroane, to strengthen cooperation in agriculture through knowledge sharing, innovation and institutional partnerships. The discussions focused on enhancing collaboration in seed systems, horticulture, livestock development, climate-smart agriculture, research and innovation to promote sustainable agricultural transformation and improve food and nutrition security in both countries. The two leaders also agreed on the need to fast-track the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize the partnership, enhance technical cooperation, facilitate the exchange of expertise and best practices, and strengthen long-term collaboration between their agricultural institutions.



The government has said major infrastructure projects in Nairobi are progressing as planned and are expected to be completed within their scheduled timelines, with some likely to be finished ahead of schedule. Nairobi Regional Commissioner Rhoda Onyancha made the remarks after inspecting the Green Park Pedestrian Underpass, Talanta Sports City, and the Bomas International Convention Centre (BICC). She said the projects face no major implementation challenges, with emerging issues having been resolved promptly. Onyancha noted that the developments have created nearly 5,000 jobs for young people, including more than 2,500 at the BICC. She also praised security agencies for ensuring uninterrupted round-the-clock construction, adding that plans are in place to protect the completed facilities from vandalism and safeguard government investments after commissioning.



Tens of employees of HBM flowers Kenya Ltd., a horticultural farm in Nanyuki, Laikipia, protested on Tuesday over claims of poor working conditions in the company. They paralysed normal activities in the company, which remained closed for the better part of the day. "Those working in the flower park house stay long hours without any allowances, no dust coats or even time to rest. When you miss work, you're threatened with being dismissed; it's stressful," claimed Mary King'au, one of the protesters and an employee of HBM flower farm.



Elders from the Kikuyu community have urged political leaders to abandon divisive rhetoric and instead focus on issue-based campaigns as the country prepares for the 2027 General Election. Speaking during a media briefing in Molo, Nakuru County, the elders called on Kenyans to reject ethnic politics, saying national unity and peaceful coexistence should take precedence over political differences. They revealed that they are working closely with Kalenjin elders through grassroots dialogue, reconciliation forums and community engagement initiatives aimed at rebuilding trust between the two communities. The elders said the joint efforts are intended to promote lasting peace, prevent election-related violence and ensure the country remains united before, during and after the 2027 polls.



Some of the sheep and goats recovered by police are being kept at Nyahururu Police Station as authorities await their identification and collection by their rightful owners. The livestock were recovered during an intelligence-led operation in Kaposor Village near Chamenek Forest, where officers rescued more than 70 sheep and goats suspected to have been stolen. Police have urged livestock owners who may have lost animals to visit the station and assist in the identification process. Meanwhile, security agencies have intensified operations targeting livestock theft syndicates in Nyahururu and surrounding areas as part of ongoing efforts to curb the crime.



At least 2,700 people in Garissa town have benefited from a free medical camp organized by the M-Pesa foundation at the sidelines of the 2026 devolution week. Speaking after examining the progress of the medical camp, M-Pesa Foundation Trustee Amb. Eng. Mahboub Maalim called for prioritization of the Kenyans' health, noting that it was only when we had healthy people that we could talk about nation building. He further revealed that the Foundation had spent about Sh 1.1 billion for various projects in Garissa county, out of which Sh 169 million was spent in the county's health sector.

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Tea The centres are the first collection points where freshly harvested tea leaves are delivered, weighed and recorded before being transported to factories for processing

Waiguru builds four tea collection centres to cut farmers' losses

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyaintimes

Kirinyaga County Government is constructing four new tea-collection centres in Inoi and Kerugoya wards to reduce post-harvest losses, lower transport costs and improve access to markets for small-holder tea farmers.

Two of the centres, Mubethu and Icere in Inoi Ward, are nearing completion, while Githunguri and Kimuri in Kerugoya Ward are under construction. Once complete, the facilities will serve about 1,800 tea farmers, with approximately 800 farmers benefiting in Inoi and another 1,000 in Kerugoya.

The centres are the first collection points where freshly harvested tea leaves are delivered, weighed and recorded before being transported to factories for processing.

The county says bringing these facilities closer to farmers will help preserve the quality of green leaf by reducing exposure to adverse weather and shortening the distance farmers travel to deliver their produce.

Governor Anne Waiguru said the project is part of the county's broader strategy to strengthen agricultural value chains and improve farmers' incomes through better infrastructure and extension services.

She said the county had prioritised key agricultural value chains and invested in extension services that have helped farmers increase production

and earn higher returns.

"We identified all our value chains, and it was important to support our farmers with extension services, which have been a major boost. Farmers have increased production, and the money they are getting now is more than what they had previously," Waiguru said.

County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Dr. John Gachara said tea remains one of Kirinyaga's leading cash crops, supporting thousands of households and making a significant contribution to the county's economy.

He noted that many farmers had for years been forced to transport green leaf over long distances to dilapidated centres, often hiring boda bodas at high cost, which reduced their earnings.

Gachara said improving tea-collection infrastructure was therefore essential in lowering production costs and improving efficiency within the tea value chain.

He revealed that tea farmers earned more than KSh7.6 billion during the last financial year, demonstrating the importance of continued investment in the sector. Besides constructing the centres, the county has also supported farmers through subsidised fertiliser programmes and by introducing improved tea varieties in partnership with the Tea Research Institute at Kangai.

Inoi Ward MCA Fredrick Maina said the construction of the centres was informed



Farmers picking tea in a farm within Kirinyaga county.

by public participation forums where residents identified the facilities as a priority.

He said the new centres would address challenges including long walking distances, inadequate storage space and exposure of harvested tea leaves to rain before collection by factory vehicles. He added that farmers had been unable to raise enough money to build the facilities on their own, prompting the county government to step in.

Farmers welcomed the initiative, saying it would significantly reduce transport costs, save time and minimise post-harvest losses.

David Wanjohi, secretary of Mubethu Tea-Collection Centre, said farmers had purchased land for the facility but lacked the financial resources to put up the structure until the county government intervened.

He said the centre had brought tea collection services closer to farmers, making it easier to deliver green leaf when collection lorries arrive while reducing the burden of carrying heavy baskets over long distances.

Wanjohi added that the new building would protect harvested tea leaves from rain and excessive heat, preserv-

ing quality and reducing losses before transportation to factories.

Nancy Muthoni, a tea farmer at Mubethu, said the facility had particularly eased the burden on women who previously carried heavy loads or paid for motorcycle transport to distant collection centres.

She noted that the savings in time and transport costs would enable farmers to attend to other responsibilities, including caring for their families and livestock.

At Icere Tea-collection Centre, farmers also welcomed the project, saying it had reduced the distance they travel

to deliver their produce.

The centre's secretary, Peter Mugaa, said farmers previously transported tea leaves about three kilometres to Mubethu Tea Centre, increasing both costs and time. He said the new facility would allow households to redirect money previously spent on transport towards school fees and other family needs.

Mugaa noted that tea remains the main source of livelihood for many families in the area, making investments in collection infrastructure critical to sustaining incomes and improving the efficiency of the county's tea sector.

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Joho suspends Tata Chemicals Magadi mining operations over compliance breaches



CS Ali Hassan Joho

BY William Muchiri

@themtkenyatimes

The government has ordered the immediate suspension of all mining operations by Tata Chemicals Magadi Limited, citing persistent non-compliance with Kenya's mining laws and regulatory requirements.

Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs Cabinet Secretary Hassan Ali Joho announced the suspension yesterday directing the company to halt all mining activities until it fully complies with the Mining Act, its accompanying regulations and other applicable laws governing the country's extractives sector.

The move follows what the Ministry described as years of engagement with the company over its statutory obligations without satisfactory resolution of several key compliance issues.

According to the Ministry, Tata Chemicals Magadi has been directed to submit comprehensive documentation demonstrating full compliance with the law and clear all outstanding obligations before operations can resume.

Among the issues raised by the Ministry are the absence of a clear mineral beneficiation and value-addition strategy, outstanding royalty reconciliation and payment obligations, inadequate export reporting and reconciliation, weak implementation of Community Development Agreements (CDAs), insufficient employment and skills transfer plans for Kenyan citizens, limited procurement of locally sourced goods and services, and

shortcomings in environmental compliance.

Joho said the government would not compromise on enforcement of the law, adding that all mining companies operating in Kenya must meet their legal obligations and ensure that the country's mineral wealth delivers tangible benefits to citizens.

"The Ministry remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring that Kenya's mineral resources are exploited responsibly, sustainably and in a manner that delivers maximum economic value to the country while safeguarding the environment and protecting the interests of host communities," the Cabinet Secretary said.

Tata Chemicals Magadi is one of Kenya's oldest mining companies, having operated at Lake Magadi in Kajiado County since 1911. The company extracts trona, a naturally occurring mineral, which is processed into soda ash used in the manufacture of glass, detergents and industrial chemicals.

It is Africa's largest natural soda ash producer and one of Kenya's leading exporters, with more than 95 per cent of its production destined for international markets.

The suspension marks one of the strongest regulatory actions taken against a major mining operator under the current administration and underscores the government's push to strengthen compliance, increase local value addition, improve royalty collection and ensure mining activities contribute more directly to community development and national economic growth.

Gachagua steps up consultations as DCP intensifies recruitment drive

Contd from page 2

where he said they exchanged views on the country's political direction and the need for what he termed national liberation.

Another high-profile meeting brought together a Nyandarua delegation led by Kinangop MP Wanjiku Muhia, Nyandarua Senator John Methu and Governor Kiarie Badilisha.

The consultations culminated in Gachagua announcing that Governor Badilisha and the entire Nyandarua County Assembly had resolved to join DCP.

At the meeting, the governor and county assembly members pledged to defend their seats on DCP tickets in the 2027 elections and participate in the party's nomination exercise.

He assured the leaders that DCP would conduct free, fair and credible nominations, saying transparent primaries would strengthen the party ahead of the polls.

"The people of Nyandarua have brought a message of goodwill and are answering the call for the liberation of Kenya," Gachagua said. The former Deputy President further noted that the ruling United Democratic Alliance (UDA) and other parties allied to the Kenya Kwanza administration were steadily losing members to DCP.

He described the movement as a "mass exodus" and predicted that by December, UDA, The Service Party (TSP) and other parties associated with the Kenya Kwanza coalition would become "mere shells." As evidence of the growing support, Gachagua received 24 sitting MCAs from Laikipia and Nakuru counties, alongside another political aspirant, who had visited him at Wamunoro.

The delegation included ward representatives from Mukogodo East, Tigithi, Igwamiti, Ngobit, Umande, Marmanet, Salama, Thingithu, Nanyuki, Ol-Moran and Githiga wards in Laikipia, as well as elected and nominated MCAs from several wards in Nakuru County.

He interpreted the visits as further confirmation that DCP was gaining momentum in regions previously considered strongholds of Kenya



DCP leader Rigathi Gachagua with team from Northern Kenya

Kwanza.

Gachagua also met a delegation from Northern Kenya who raised concerns over marginalisation, underdevelopment and what they viewed as failure by both national and county leadership to address their challenges despite devolution. He said Northern Kenya remained economically disadvantaged and promised that his movement would champion the region's interests.

"I will stand by the people of the North. Their potential must be realised," he said while urging communities in the region to unite against intimidation and poor leadership. He further observed that Northern Kenya would play a key role in what he called Kenya's liberation during the 2027 elections.

The consultations also extended to his home county of Nyeri where he met DCP parliamentary, gubernatorial, senatorial, woman representative, MCA and other aspirants. He urged them to intensify grassroots mobilisation, saying the party was steadily strengthening its structures across the county.

He revealed that reports presented by local leaders indicated that DCP continued to attract growing support in Nyeri and other parts of the Mt Kenya region.

He reiterated that all party nominations would be conducted fairly, insisting that credible primaries were essential in building confidence among aspirants and supporters. He made it clear that he was not supporting any aspirant for any

elective position.

Throughout the meetings, Gachagua repeatedly used the party's slogan, "Green is Wealth, Green is the Future," as he sought to rally supporters around DCP's green party colours and message.

The Wamunoro engagements are part of a wider consultation programme Gachagua launched after announcing a 45-day political retreat aimed at engaging grassroots leaders, professionals, religious leaders and opinion shapers as the opposition prepares for the 2027 General Election.

He has maintained that the consultations are intended to shape both the opposition's governance agenda and coalition-building efforts before the country heads to the polls.

Gachagua has in recent weeks hosted numerous delegations from different counties at his Wamunoro residence, portraying the meetings as part of a sustained campaign to build a united opposition while expanding DCP's national footprint ahead of the next General Election. At the weekend, he is expected to hold public meetings in parts of Nyeri county.

Politics Madzayo defended the reshuffle as procedural and unrelated to the party's internal political tensions. Few observers took that argument seriously.

ODM's purge of Sifuna

As Oburu Oginga tightens his grip, Edwin Sifuna keeps rising — and the party's war on dissent may be backfiring

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyentimes

The Orange Democratic Movement has stripped Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna and Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osotsi of their Senate committee seats, the latest in a series of moves by acting party leader Oburu Oginga's establishment to silence dissenting voices and consolidate control ahead of the 2027 General Election.

The changes, pending approval by the Senate House Business Committee, would see Sifuna ejected from the Senate County Public Accounts Committee — one of the legislature's most powerful oversight bodies, with authority to scrutinise how county governments spend public funds — and reassigned to the comparatively low-profile Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee. Kilifi Senator and Senate Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo is expected to fill his vacancy. Osotsi was removed from the Senate County Public Investments and Special Funds Committee through a vote of no confidence and will be moved to the Trade, Industrialisation and Tourism Committee, with Taita Taveta Senator Johannes Mwaruma stepping in.

Madzayo defended the reshuffle as procedural and unrelated to the party's internal political tensions. Few observers took that argument seriously.

The Senate purge is the most visible chapter yet in a systematic campaign that began the moment Raila Odinga died. When the former Prime Minister succumbed to a heart attack in India on 15 October 2025, ODM lost the one figure whose authority had kept its competing factions in disciplined coexistence for two decades. Into that vacuum stepped Oginga, Raila's elder brother, appointed by the National Executive Council as interim party leader. What followed was a swift and methodical effort to reshape ODM in the image of its new leadership — and to remove those who refused to fall in line.

Sifuna was the most prominent target. As secretary-general for nearly nine years, he had positioned himself as the custodian of Raila's opposition legacy, and he made no secret



Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna and Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osotsi

of his contempt for ODM's accommodation of President William Ruto's broad-based government. He questioned the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Ruto and Raila in March 2025, demanded that ODM field its own presidential candidate in 2027 and repeatedly embarrassed the establishment with public broadsides against the cooperation deal. The party's response was to charge him with indiscipline.

On 11 February 2026, ODM's National Executive Committee removed Sifuna as secretary-general with immediate effect at a meeting in Mombasa, citing indiscipline and violations of party protocol. Busia Woman Representative Catherine Omanywa was appointed to act in the role. Sifuna refused to accept the decision. "I have taken note of the announcement made by a section of the ODM NEC purporting to remove me from the position of secretary-general," he said the following day. "This month marks the beginning of my ninth year as secretary-general of ODM — the longest-serving individual in that position. I have served

this party with loyalty, diligence and unwavering commitment." He described the removal as unlawful and said he had never been informed of any disciplinary proceedings against him.

The senior voices who had warned against such a move were ignored. Siaya Governor James Orengo had cautioned as early as January 2026 that ODM would not survive if some members succeeded in pushing Sifuna out, accusing unnamed factions of undermining the party for personal gain and warning against betrayal of ODM's founding principles. The establishment pressed ahead regardless, calculating that institutional control would ultimately trump popular sentiment.

That calculation has not aged well. Rather than diminishing Sifuna, each act of exclusion has amplified him. Linda Mwananchi — the citizen-funded movement he championed, built on small public donations from ordinary Kenyans — grew into a genuine political force with a speed that caught ODM's hierarchy off guard. A May 2026 TIFA Research

survey found 73 percent of ODM supporters backing Sifuna's Linda Mwananchi faction, against just 24 percent for the rival Linda Ground camp aligned with Oginga. Among ODM supporters who oppose the government cooperation deal, the split ran even sharper — 90 percent backing Sifuna's camp.

The numbers tell a story the committee reshuffles cannot change. ODM's establishment controls the party machinery. Sifuna controls the party's base. That is a dangerous gap for any political organisation to sustain heading into an election year, and some within ODM are beginning to say so privately. Several senior figures now concede that firing Sifuna as secretary-general was a miscalculation — that it freed him from the constraints of party office and gave him the moral authority of a man punished for his principles.

Stripping him of his Senate committee seat follows the same logic that produced that miscalculation. By removing Sifuna from the County Public Accounts Committee, the establishment eliminates a plat-

form from which he could generate high-profile oversight battles and accountability headlines — precisely the kind of political oxygen that has powered his rise. The move is tactically coherent. Whether it is strategically wise is another matter entirely. Kenya's political history offers a clear lesson: leaders who grow stronger the more they are pushed to the margins are the most dangerous opponents of all. Oginga's ODM has spent the better part of nine months pushing Sifuna. The polling, the fundraising momentum and the crowds at Linda Mwananchi rallies suggest the pushing has not had the intended effect.

The committee changes must still clear the Senate House Business Committee before taking effect. Sifuna has given no indication he intends to accept them quietly. And if the trajectory of the past nine months is any guide, ODM's next move against him may only make him stronger.

Goonism Among the most troubling trends in recent years has been the rise of organised groups commonly known as goons — hired hands accused of breaking up peaceful gatherings

DPP's warning against political goonism should jolt Kenya into action ahead of 2027

BY Hadassah Karangu
@themtkenyentimes

With the 2027 General Election drawing closer, Kenya is already feeling the heat. Campaign rhetoric is sharpening, public rallies are growing more charged, and the spectre of politically sponsored violence is once again creeping into the national conversation. It is against this backdrop that Director of Public Prosecutions Renson Ingonga issued a stern warning to politicians and individuals accused of

fuelling tension and goonism, declaring that anyone found breaking the law will face its full force.

Speaking at the 38th National Council on the Administration of Justice Conference in Mombasa, Ingonga expressed alarm at the growing use of inflammatory statements and acts of violence threatening national peace. His message was straightforward but weighty: no political ambition should come before the safety of Kenyans or the rule of law.

Kenya's political history has demonstrated that election

periods can either unite the country through democratic competition or fracture it through fear, intimidation and bloodshed. Too often, ordinary citizens bear the cost of clashes they neither planned nor desired. Businesses are destroyed, livelihoods disrupted, families displaced and communities left carrying emotional scars long after the campaigns have ended.

Among the most troubling trends in recent years has been the rise of organised groups commonly known as goons — hired hands ac-



Director of Public Prosecutions Renson Ingonga

cused of breaking up peaceful gatherings, intimidating opponents, destroying property and spreading fear. Whether politically motivated or simply opportunistic, their actions corrode democracy and strip citizens of their constitutional right to participate freely in political life.

The DPP's warning therefore arrives at a pivotal moment. It signals that the justice system is watching and that political status cannot become a shield against accountability. The law must apply equally to all, regardless of affiliation, influence or position.

But warnings alone will not be enough. Kenyans have heard strong statements before, yet many perpetrators of election-related violence have slipped through the net. That pattern has bred a culture of impunity in which some believe they can incite chaos without consequence. Breaking that cycle demands more than speeches. It requires swift investigations, credible prosecutions and fair trials that prove justice is neither selective nor delayed.

Political leaders, too, carry a heavy responsibility. Words have weight. A single statement at a rally can inspire calm or ignite conflict. Leadership is measured not only by the crowds one draws but by the capacity for restraint, respect for opponents and willingness to place the nation above personal ambition.

Young Kenyans deserve particular attention in this conversation. Many are energetic, ambitious and eager to shape

the country's future. Sadly, some are manipulated into becoming instruments of violence — recruited for small payments or hollow promises, then abandoned after polling day to face arrest, injury or worse, while those who mobilised them carry on with their political careers.

Every young person drawn into that world must ask a hard question: is any politician worth your freedom, your future or your life? Democracy is strongest when citizens vote, debate and engage peacefully — not when they are turned into tools of intimidation.

The road to 2027 should be an opportunity for Kenyans to weigh ideas, policies and leadership — not to witness spectacles of violence and hatred. Political competition is healthy in any democracy, but it must remain peaceful, respectful and anchored in the Constitution.

Ingonga's remarks should not be read as a threat to political participation. They should be understood as a commitment to protecting the democratic space where every Kenyan can speak without fear. Peace-

ful elections do not happen by accident. They are built through responsible leadership, impartial law enforcement and a citizenry that refuses to tolerate violence in the name of politics.

As the 2027 contest takes shape, every institution has a part to play. Politicians must choose measured language over incitement. Law enforcement must act without bias. The judiciary must uphold justice without fear or favour. And citizens must reject leaders who trade in division rather than unity.

Kenya has paid dearly for political violence before. The country cannot afford another such chapter. If the DPP's warning is matched with decisive action, it could mark the beginning of a political culture in which elections are decided at the ballot box — not through fear.

The future of Kenya's democracy will not hinge solely on who wins in 2027. It will hinge on whether the country can protect peace, uphold justice and prove, convincingly, that no one stands above the law.

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Send-off The group said it had worked closely with Githui since 2023, particularly during the visit to Kenya by King Charles III

State asked to accord Mau Mau hero Karue Githui a befitting send-off

BY Wilfred Muchire
@themkenyaintimes

The family of the late Mau Mau veteran Joseph Karue Githui, together with Mau Mau Veterans (MMV) Associates CLG, has appealed to the government to support funeral arrangements and accord the freedom fighter a befitting send-off in recognition of his contribution to Kenya's liberation struggle.

In a letter addressed to the Central Region Regional Commissioner, the organization said Githui, who died on July 22, was a distinguished Mau Mau veteran whose decades-long advocacy played a significant role in the recognition of Mau Mau veterans and their quest for justice.

The letter, signed by the Mau Mau caucus, Chief Executive Officer Emmah Kasis, described Githui as a dedicated campaigner for the welfare of Mau Mau veterans and their descendants, noting that he remained actively involved in championing their rights until his death.

According to the organization, Githui authored a landmark letter to then opposition leader Mwai Kibaki on November 29, 1993, urging recognition of the Mau Mau movement and restoration of the dignity of its members. The organization says those efforts contributed to the eventual recognition of the Mau Mau movement during Kibaki's presidency in 2003, paving the way for veterans and their descendants to pursue justice and reparations.

The group said it had worked closely with Githui since 2023, particularly during the visit to Kenya by King Charles III, when renewed attention was drawn to the



MMV Associates CLG Director General James Njuguna Mahuria (left) and CEO Emmah Kasis (right) briefing journalists on July 12. | Photo: Courtesy.

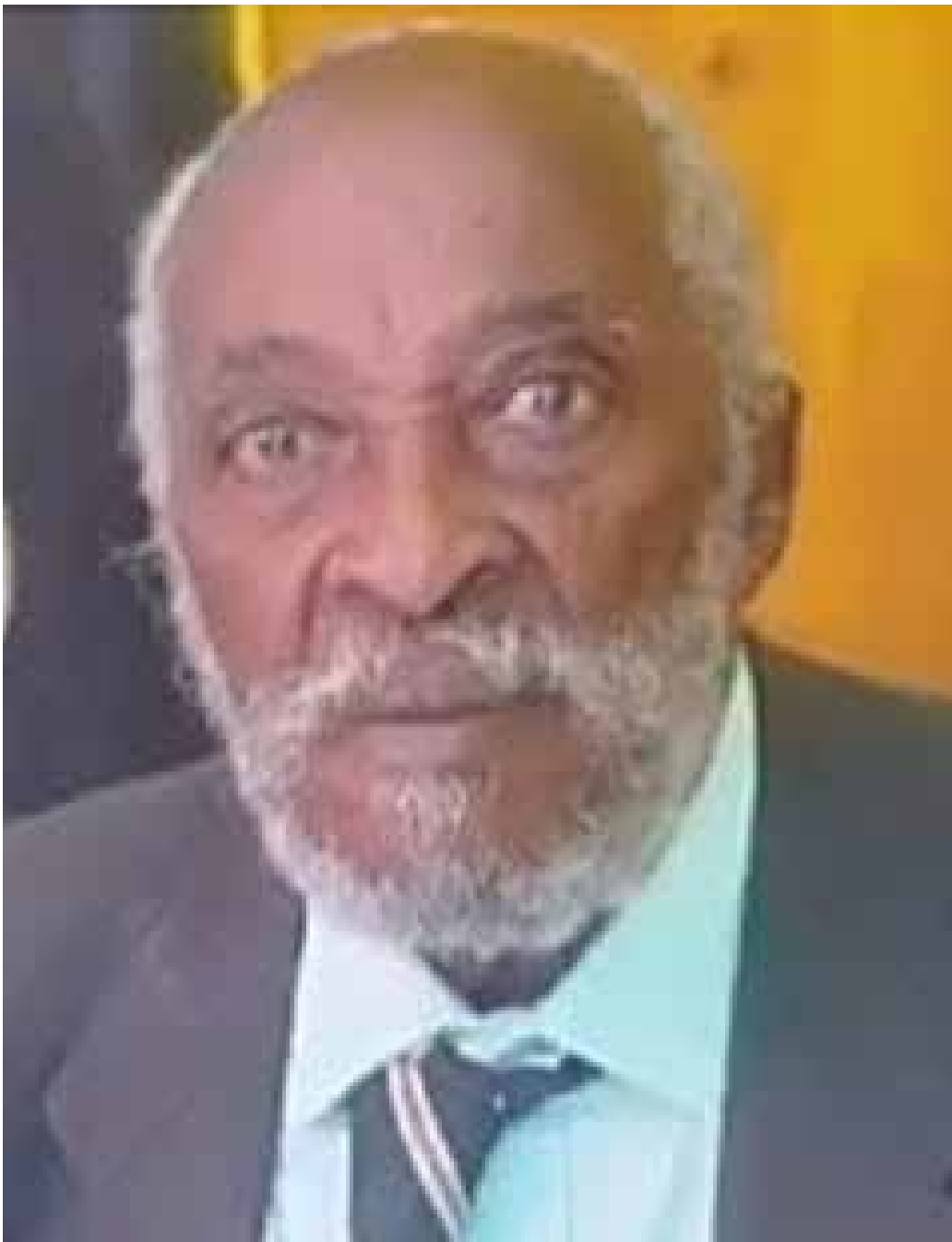
historical injustices suffered by Mau Mau veterans under British colonial rule.

It said Githui was also instrumental in public awareness campaigns through interviews on Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC), Voice of America and community forums, where he advocated for the recognition, welfare and historical legacy of the Mau Mau movement.

The organization has pledged

to support the bereaved family financially and morally, saying the late veteran's contribution to the struggle for justice deserves national recognition.

Funeral arrangements are underway, with the burial scheduled for Wednesday next week at his home in Kagaati Village, Hombe Location, Mathira West Sub-county, Nyeri County, near Sagana State Lodge.



The late Githui Karue

The organization has appealed to the Regional Commissioner and other government agencies, including security and administrative officials in Nyeri County, to support the funeral and join the family in honouring

The letter, signed by the Mau Mau caucus, Chief Executive Officer Emmah Kasis, described Githui as a dedicated campaigner for the welfare of Mau Mau veterans and their descendants, noting that he remained actively involved in championing their rights until his death.

Githui's legacy.

The appeal has also been copied to the Regional Police Commander, Regional Criminal Investigations Officer, Nyeri County Commissioner, County Police Commander, County Criminal Investigations Officer, Deputy County Commissioner for Mathira West, Sub-County Police Commander, the Area Chief of Hombe Location and members of the deceased's family.

Githui had become widely known in recent years for his unwavering activism on behalf of Mau Mau veterans. He also attracted national attention during the 2024 anti-government protests after symbolically entering the parliamentary precincts to express solidarity with young protesters, an act that many viewed as reflecting his lifelong commitment to justice and accountable leadership.

Out of that, he earned the name Gen-Z grandfather.

The Mau Mau uprising, fought between 1952 and 1960, played a pivotal role in Kenya's struggle for independence from British colonial rule. Although many veterans lived for decades without official recognition, successive legal and political developments; including compensation awarded by the British government to some survivors in 2013 have renewed efforts to preserve the movement's history and honour those who participated in the liberation struggle.

MMV Associates said Githui's death marks the loss of one of the remaining voices of the independence generation and called on both the government and the public to celebrate his legacy and contributions to the country's freedom.

University During the ceremony, President Ruto commended Tharaka University under the leadership of Prof. Muriungi for its impressive growth

Tharaka University lecturer honored after guiding to historic Huawei ICT global victory



President Dr William Ruto awards Tharaka University lecturer Mr Kevin Tuei for mentoring Kenya's Grand Prize-winning team at the Huawei ICT Competition Global Finals in China.

BY Alex Njeru

[@themkenyaintimes](#)

Tharaka University's Director of Open, Distance and e-Learning (ODEL), Kevin Tuei has been honored by President William Samoei Ruto for his outstanding role in mentoring Kenya's Grand Prize-winning team at the prestigious Huawei ICT Competition Global Finals held in Shenzhen, China.

Mr. Tuei, accompanied by the University's Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer, Prof. Peter K. Muriungi, joined Team Kenya during a ceremony at State House, Nairobi in which President Ruto recognized the country's exceptional performance on the global ICT stage after Kenya emerged as the Overall Grand Prize winner for the first time in the com-

petition's history.

During the ceremony, President Ruto also commended Tharaka University under the leadership of Prof. Muriungi for its impressive growth and exemplary management despite being one of Kenya's youngest public universities.

He noted that the institution has distinguished itself through prudent management, accountability in the utilization of public resources, and its commitment to producing highly skilled graduates who are making a significant impact in the job market.

"Tharaka University demonstrates that strong leadership, accountability and a commitment to excellence can enable even a young institution to compete with the very best," President Ruto said as he applauded the university's achievements.

Mr. Tuei played a central role in

mentoring the victorious Cloud Track Team, guiding the students to outperform competitors from leading universities across the world. The historic victory highlights Kenya's growing strength in digital innovation and underscores the value of mentorship, research, and investment in ICT skills.

Speaking after the recognition, Prof. Muriungi congratulated Mr. Tuei and Team Kenya for bringing honor to both the university and the nation.

"This recognition belongs not only to Mr. Tuei and the students but also to the entire Tharaka University fraternity that continues to believe in excellence, innovation and transformative education. We remain committed to nurturing globally competitive graduates through quality teaching, research, innovation and strategic partnerships," Prof. Muri-

ungi said.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the latest achievement reflects the university's deliberate investment in digital learning, research, and industry collaborations that prepare graduates for the evolving global workforce.

For the past several years, Tharaka University has consistently been recognized among Kenya's top-performing public universities in governance, financial accountability, and prudent management of public resources.

The institution has also built a reputation for producing graduates who are highly sought after by employers due to their competence, innovation, and practical skills.

"Our vision is to continue producing graduates who not only excel academically but also provide solu-

tions to real-world challenges and drive Kenya's socio-economic transformation," Prof. Muriungi added.

The Huawei ICT Competition is among the world's largest and most competitive ICT talent contests, bringing together outstanding university students from across the globe to demonstrate expertise in Cloud, Network and Computing technologies.

Mr. Tuei's recognition at State House marks yet another milestone for Tharaka University, reinforcing its emergence as one of Kenya's fastest-rising institutions of higher learning and a leading center of excellence in ICT education, innovation and digital transformation.

Health Duale reaffirmed that government-private sector partnerships are central to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC),

Duale rallies private sector behind health reforms at KHF quarterly meeting

BY John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale yesterday convened the Quarterly Ministerial Health Sector Stakeholders Meeting with the Kenya Healthcare Federation (KHF), bringing together government and private sector leaders to take stock of health reforms and deepen public-private collaboration.

KHF was represented by its Chairperson Kanyenje Gakombe.

Duale reaffirmed that government-private sector partnerships are central to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), saying collaboration remains the surest path to expanding equitable access to quality, affordable and people-centred healthcare.

The meeting reviewed progress on

priority reforms covering sustainable health financing, digital health, medical supply chains and the response to non-communicable diseases. Discussions zeroed in on strengthening prevention, early detection, treatment and continuity of care for conditions including cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

On pharmaceutical regulation, Duale said reforms at the Pharmacy and Poisons Board have improved transparency, efficiency and oversight. More than 2,596 counterfeit and substandard medical products have been pulled from the market, and permits for parallel importation have been scrapped to protect the integrity of Kenya's pharmaceutical supply chain.

He also called on the private sector to back the Local Manufacturing Strategy by expanding domestic production of pharmaceuticals and med-

ical products, promoting technology transfer, attracting investment and driving innovation to bolster national health security.

Duale further underscored the importance of the proposed Quality of Care Healthcare Bill, saying it would establish a comprehensive framework to improve patient safety, strengthen service delivery and enhance accountability across public and private health facilities alike.

He invited KHF to participate in the Kenya Health Summit 2026, which will spotlight the country's health reforms, strengthen partnerships and accelerate progress toward UHC.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni, Director of Public Health and Sanitation Stephen Muleshe, Kenya Medical Supplies Authority Chief Executive Officer Waqo Ejer-



Health CS Aden Duale

sa, Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council Chief Executive Officer David Kariuki, senior Ministry of Health officials and represen-

tatives from the private healthcare sector.



To Grandfather Ogahiy



Your noble pen would never bend to power,
Nor trade the truth for fortune's fleeting hour.
You named the truth as truth, the false as lies,
So history lifts your name above the skies.

Your verses keep the voice of ages bright,

Each line a lesson, filled with wisdom's light.
Though countless years may silently go by,
Your name shall live, your spirit never die.

Your name still guides the young to seek the light,
To walk with knowledge, courage, truth, and right.
With deepest pride we bow our heads today
For without Ogahiy, we'd lose our way.

Bardiyeva Dilnura is a student of the 10th grade of the creative school named after Ogahi. She was born on January 11, 2011 in Kosmabad, Khiva. She is a participant of the Hippo Olympiad and various Olympiads. At the same time, she is the author of several poems mainly Synchronized chaos, Raven cage and other magazines Participant of the "Young Reader" competition, as well as a participant in IT communication and Ibrat Debate.

Happy Guru Purnima



Not every guru stands upon a stage,
Some walk beside us for only a page.
Every soul we meet leaves a lesson behind—
A kinder heart, a stronger mind.

Some teach us love, some teach us strength,
Some show us patience at life's full length.
On this Guru Purnima, I bow with gratitude to every heart I have crossed,
For each one has shaped the person I am today.

Regards,
Dr. Daksha ♥

As you think, you feel. As you feel, you radiate. As you radiate, you create



Life: Living I dealistic F ocussing E motions
With positive vibrations
In varied stages formulated by ages.
Infancy is the early stage
Just acts as moth engaged Toddler is the development stage
Learn skill & language
Then toddles to teenage
Gravitates parental care to manage

Adolescence is as the bird out of stage
Aware of do's & don'ts acting strange
Stepping into the adulthood is an advantage
To gain knowledge
And finally oldàge is the result of all the life stages
Impressive leaving the message
But pitiable as life transforms into initial stage
Yearning for love & caring bondage
Thus it's a
Love, Intelligent, Faith & Experience
in collage.

G.Sarala.
Creative writers
Indus



Think good every day,
Kind thoughts lead the way.
Happy thoughts bring light,
And make your future bright.

Good feelings softly grow,

Like sunshine's gentle glow.
Share your smile with all,
Help others when they call.

Your heart can always create,
A life that becomes great.
Start with a simple thought,
And become all you sought.

R. SRIPRIYA
BT ENGLISH
(Creative Writer)
GHSS KOLAPAKKAM
Kanchipuram District
Tamilnadu
India

True beauty is seen in the positivity of life



A girl asks the god "what is true beauty ?
Is it decided by colors ?
Is it decided by dollars?
Is it meant only for actors?"

The god tells her
Appearance can't determine one's beauty
As one grows older ,the beautiful skin gets folder.
If so what decides one's true beauty is
Only loving and kind heart of his.

He continues the true beauty lies

On usefulness not gracefulness
For a thirsty man the sea seems to be uselessness
But a drop of honey can add more sweetness.

He then tells her if one does his duty
He is the man of beauty
Though he doesn't have a fair skin,
His great deeds win our hearts and make him a close kin.

Now the girl has realized only the true eyes
Can make his thoughts wise.
Only the positive insights help him rise
In his life, that will be a surprising prize.

...

Penned by
RANGANATHAN E ,B.T asst(Eng)
Marwar Govt Boys Hss,Acharapakkam.

My Journey in Life



My body asks
for a good rest.

My mind says,
"Work hard."

My heart whispers,
"Success is waiting."

My teacher says,
"Keep improving."

My parents say,
"You are better than before."

My friends say,
"Leave it."

But my thoughts say,
"You can do it."

I do not know
which voice to follow.

It is not easy
to satisfy everyone.

So, I choose
to believe in myself,
keep improving every day,
and continue my journey
towards success.

V. S. NITHIYA SRI
VIII-D
JOHN DEWEY MAT HR SEC SCHOOL

Politics The event brought together parents, teachers, students and local leaders to celebrate outstanding academic achievement and recognize learners who excelled in various fields

Othaya MP awards scholarship to student from top sub-county school in Nyeri

BY MKT REPORTER
@themtkenyentimes

Othaya constituency Member of Parliament Wambugu Wainaina has praised the role of parents, teachers and school administrators in improving academic performance. He spoke yesterday during the annual prize-giving ceremony at Ihuririo Secondary School in his constituency after it was named the best sub-county secondary school as per last year’s KCSE results in Nyeri County.

The event brought together parents, teachers, students and local leaders to celebrate outstanding academic achievement and recognize learners who excelled in various fields. The school emerged as the top-performing in the sub-county secondary schools



Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina presenting a gift to Charles Wanjohi | Photo: Courtesy

category after posting a mean grade of C (Plain). Addressing the gathering, Wainaina said the school’s performance demonstrated the value of strong collaboration between parents and the school administration. He noted that continued cooperation among all stakeholders remains critical in creating a conducive learning environment and sustaining academic improvement. The legislator encouraged students to remain focused on their studies and challenged them to strive for even greater achievements in future national examinations.

Nyeri County Assembly nominated MCA representing Gender, Ms Agnes Wachira who attended the colourful event urged parents to strengthen their relationship with their children, saying



Nyeri County Assembly nominated MCA Agnes Wachira with one of the students.

close parental guidance plays a vital role in shaping responsible and disciplined learners. She also called on students to uphold discipline both in school and at home, describing good conduct as an essential ingredient for academic success.

The ceremony’s highlight was the presentation of a fully funded scholarship by the Wambugu Wainaina Foundation to Charles Wanjohi, a member of the school’s 2025 KCSE class. The scholarship was awarded in recognition of his impressive academic performance and is expected to support his pursuit of higher education.

School leaders expressed gratitude for the support from leaders, parents and education stakeholders, saying such partnerships continue to motivate students and contribute to improved learning outcomes. They reaffirmed the school’s commitment to maintaining high academic standards while nurturing discipline, character and holistic development among learners.

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Irrigation “So, sustainability is key, and this sustainability is maintained by the fact that the farmer is able to pay for the operation and maintenance,” said Kimotho.

Government to scale up smallholder irrigation model nationwide

BY Mutai Leonard

@themkenyaintimes

The government is set to expand smallholder irrigation programme to more parts of the country following the success initial projects that have boosted agricultural productivity and improved farmers' incomes.

Speaking during a visit to the Kandeki Irrigation Scheme in Kirinyaga County, Irrigation Principal Secretary (PS) Ephantus Kimotho said the blended financing model, which combines farmer contributions, government grants and bank loans has proven sustainable and is set to be rolled out to other regions, including Western Kenya.

Under the financing arrangement, farmers contribute 10 per cent of the project cost, the government provides a 40 per cent grant, while financial institutions finance the remaining 50 per cent through loans guaranteed by development partners.

The PS noted uniqueness of the programme lies in the ownership by farmers because they contribute financially and repay the loans they take responsibility for maintaining the infrastructure, making the projects sustainable.

“So, sustainability is key, and this sustainability is maintained by the fact that the farmer is able to pay for the operation and maintenance,” said Kimotho.

The Kandeki Irrigation Scheme comprises about 245 farmers cultivating approximately 225 acres. The farmers have established management structures, including hiring a manager, marketers and technical staff to oversee operations and maintenance of the project. Kimotho noted that unlike fully government-funded projects, the mixed financing model encourages farmers to embrace agriculture as a business rather than merely a source of food for household consumption.

He said the State Depart-



Farmer harvesting tomatoes in irrigated farm in Kandeki

ment for Irrigation is working closely with county governments, financial institutions and development partners to ensure farmers receive quality inputs, extension services and access to markets. He observed the CAIPs as one of the avenues where investors will give farmers a market that enables them pay operational, maintenance and also get additional funds to even employ more farm employees and make maximum use of the land.

“Our focus is not just on providing water but also connecting farmers to reliable markets through aggregators, contract farming and partnerships with agro-industrial parks,” he said.

According to the PS, the programme has recorded impressive loan repayment rates, with about 95 per cent of participating farmers servicing their loans successfully, some completing repayment in just three years despite repayment periods of up to seven years.

The government has invested approximately Sh1.3 billion in the last five years in irrigation projects in the Mount Kenya region. Plans are also underway to expand the programme in Western Kenya after securing grants worth about Sh. 3 billion to support irrigation infrastructure and farmer capacity building.

Kimotho said the government in collaboration counties normally conduct public participation and hydrological assessments before introduc-

ing the programme to new regions to ensure communities embrace the model and that adequate water resources are available.

“We first of all map the hydrology of the area. After we engage the county government and also the people in the region, just to see whether they'll be able to accept the model.” He added.

Kimotho said the department of irrigation has had a number of engagements with all the governors in the Western region about the possibility of introducing the program. Some are willing to pay 30, 70 by the farmer pays while other 80:20. The devolved units play key role in ensuring farmers are producing the right quality through provision of the extension officers and the quality seeds.

The expansion forms part of the government's broader target of placing 2.5 million acres under irrigation. Currently, about 772,000 acres are under irrigation across the country.

The PS said the government intends to achieve the target through a combination of large-scale irrigation projects, including Galana-Kulalu and Bura schemes, as well as medium-sized dams that will support the expansion of community irrigation projects.

He cited the transformation of Mwea Irrigation Scheme as evidence of irrigation's economic impact, noting that increased water availability has enabled double-season rice



PS Kimotho speaks to a farmer on his tour to Gichugu.

production and significantly boosted the local economy.

“Mwea now contributes nearly half of Kenya's rice production, currently we are producing 305,000 metric tons, and Mwea is giving us approximately 155 metric

tons, and has become a major economic hub. We want to replicate such success stories across the country,” Kimotho said.

He said benchmarking visits by farmers from different regions have played a critical

role in encouraging adoption of modern irrigation technologies and commercial farming practices.

“And now, on this smallholder, we're also going to use this as a benchmark. And that works a lot. Farmers get inspired by other farmers.”

The PS revealed also the government is also developing water harvesting projects in semi-arid areas to capture floodwaters for irrigation during dry seasons, further strengthening food security and climate resilience.

“In the semi-arid regions, we're also putting efforts where we actually don't have permanent rivers. We are coming up with a program where we are doing water pants, and these water pants are going to help us in water harvesting, we're able to utilize that water to do production,” He concluded.




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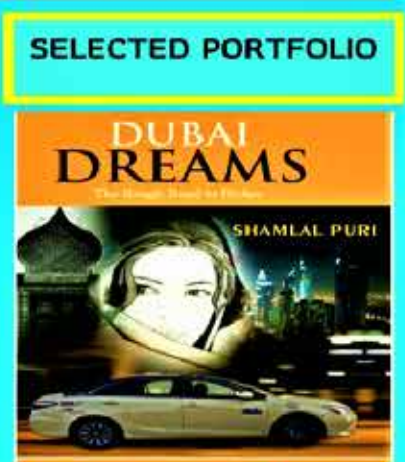
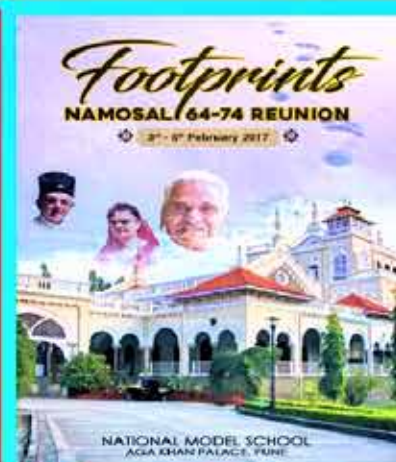
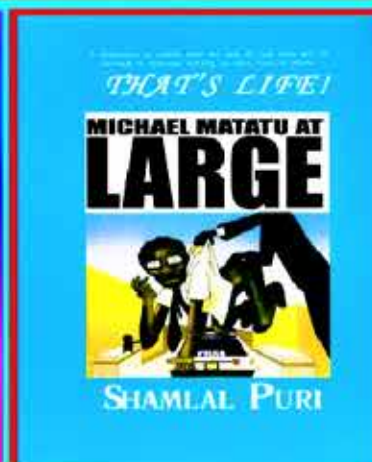
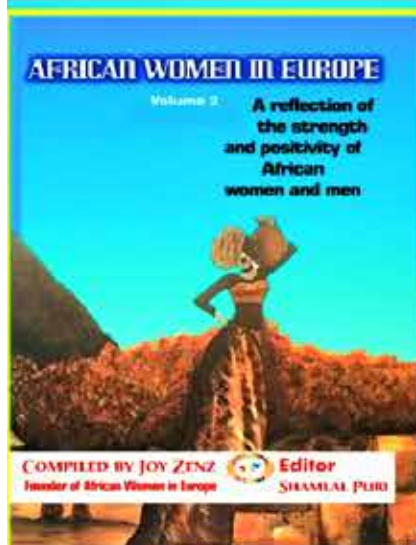
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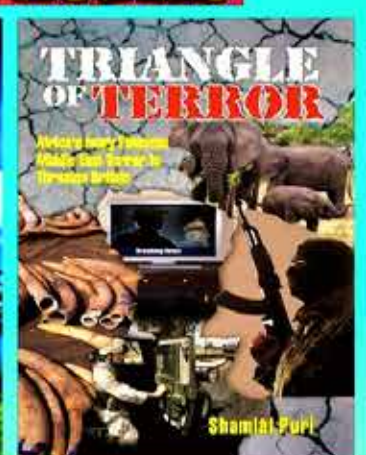
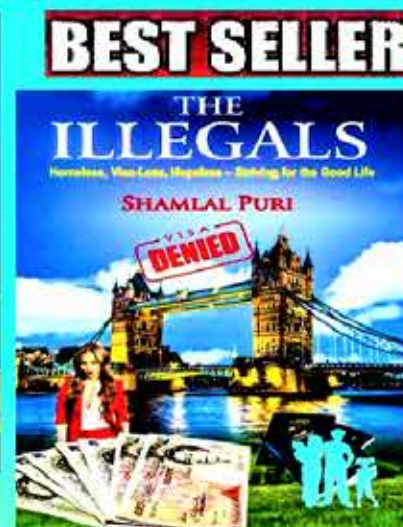
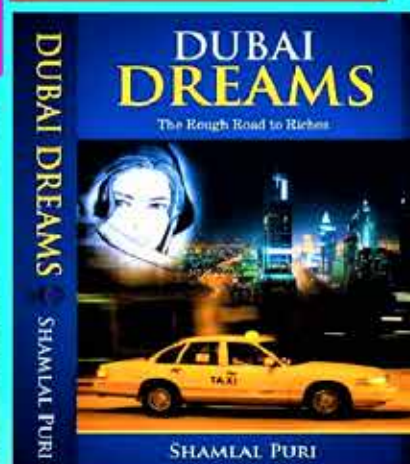
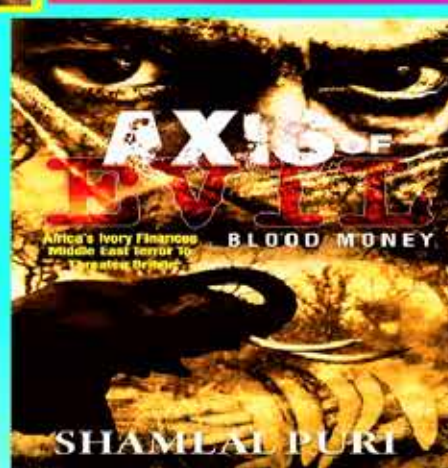
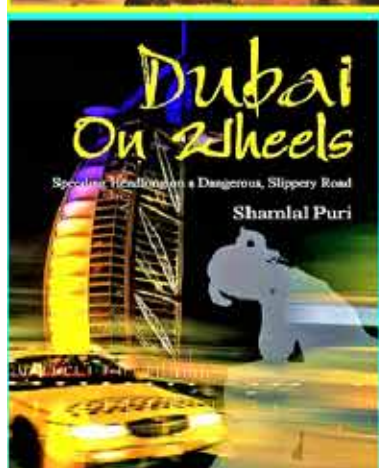
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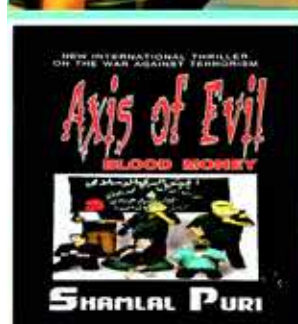
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Principle Moral relativism does not merely disagree with fixed standards; it dissolves the very possibility of them

The acid of anything goes: How moral relativism devours the marrow of principle



By: Jerameel Kevins Owuor
Odhiambo
@themkenyatiimes

In 2025, the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University reported that two out of three American adults reject or doubt the existence of absolute moral truth. Nearly two-thirds lean toward some form of relativism whether individual, cultural, or emotive when asked to ground right and wrong. This is not a fringe academic posture. It is the majority climate. And it is the quiet catastrophe of our age.

Moral relativism does not merely disagree with fixed standards; it dissolves the very possibility of them. It whispers that every culture's code is equally valid, that every personal "truth" deserves equal standing, that judgment itself is the only remaining sin. What begins as a plea for tolerance ends as a solvent poured over the bones of duty, honesty, courage, and fidelity. The result is not liberation. It is a slow, systematic hollowing.

Consider the experimental evidence. In controlled studies published in the *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, participants exposed to relativist arguments those that framed morality as subjective and culture-bound were significantly more likely to cheat on a subsequent task and more willing to consider petty theft. Those given absolutist framings showed the opposite restraint. The mere suggestion that right and wrong are negotiable lowered the internal barrier. The mind, once told that the line is movable, moves it.

This is not abstract philosophy. It is the lived weather of contemporary life. When 55 percent of Americans tell Pew researchers that whether something is right or wrong "often depends on the situation," they are not describing careful contextual reasoning. They are describing a worldview in which the situation always has the final vote. Situations, after all, are infinitely elastic. Need becomes justification. Desire becomes right. Power becomes the



only remaining metric.

The cost appears in the texture of ordinary existence. Trust erodes because trust requires shared expectation that certain acts are simply off-limits, regardless of convenience. Promises thin. Integrity becomes a lifestyle choice rather than a non-negotiable. The person who still insists that some things remain wrong lying under oath, abandoning the vulnerable, treating another human as disposable is increasingly cast as the rigid one, the judgmental one, the problem. Relativism does not merely permit moral failure; it pathologizes moral clarity.

I have watched this solvent work. I have watched communities once held together by unspoken agreements about honesty and mutual obligation fracture into competing narratives, each claiming equal legitimacy. I have watched young people raised on the gospel of "your truth" discover, too late, that a society of competing truths cannot sustain the institutions that once protected the

weak. And I have felt the personal weight of it: the long adherence to standards that the surrounding culture no longer honors, the quiet fidelity that receives no applause and often invites quiet contempt. All through, nothing has been forthcoming for me in the currency the age prizes recognition, ease, the reward of going along. The principles held, and the ledger stayed empty of the expected dividends.

Even so emptiness of reward does not empty the principle. That is the precise point relativism cannot grasp. A principle that requires external payoff is not a principle; it is a transaction. The moral law, if it is real, does not consult the market of personal advantage. It stands whether the standing costs or pays. The relativist imagines that by making morality contingent, we free the individual. In truth we free the predator. When every boundary is provisional, the person with the greatest appetite or the sharpest rhetoric redraws the map for everyone else.

History offers no comfort to the relativist's optimism. Societies that treated moral claims as mere local custom have not flourished in sustained justice; they have oscillated between soft anomie and hard coercion. When shared standards collapse, power fills the vacuum. The language of tolerance becomes the language of the strong, who redefine harm and redefine truth to suit the moment. The weak discover that "your truth" offers no shield once the stronger party decides otherwise.

Intellectual honesty requires us to name the contradiction at the heart of the relativist position. The claim "there are no absolute moral truths" is itself advanced as an absolute. The demand that we must not judge is itself a judgment. The insistence that every culture's morality is equally valid collapses the moment one culture practices systemic cruelty and another practices restraint; the relativist must either pretend the two are indistinguishable or smuggle in a non-relative standard to condemn the cruelty. In practice, most do the latter while denying they are doing it. The result is not consistency but selective absolutism absolutes for the preferred causes, relativism for everything that inconveniences them.

Deep insight arrives when we notice what relativism actually protects. It does not protect the marginalized so much as it protects the uncommitted. It offers a permission structure for those who wish to keep their options open, who prefer the comfort of never being finally accountable to a standard larger than themselves. It flatters the modern self by placing that self at the center of the moral universe. And it exacts its price in the currency of character. Character is formed by the repeated choice to honor the harder right over the easier wrong. When the harder right is redefined as optional, character thins. Over a generation, the thinning becomes cultural.

The data on moral perception already registers the damage. In a 25-country Pew survey, the United States stood alone as the place where a majority of adults judged their fellow citizens to have bad morals and ethics. That finding is not proof of American exceptionalism in vice; it is evidence of a society that has lost confidence in the very category of moral evaluation. When the measuring rod itself is declared relative,

people stop trusting the measurements and stop trusting one another.

What, then, is the alternative? Not a brittle legalism that ignores circumstance, but a recognition that circumstance does not create the standard; it only tests our fidelity to it. Courage remains courage whether convenient or not. Honesty remains honesty when it costs. Loyalty remains loyalty when it is difficult. These are not cultural artifacts. They are the conditions under which human beings of any culture can live without constant fear of predation by the clever and the strong.

The relativist will object that such language is imperial, that it imposes one vision on others. The objection confuses the existence of a standard with the right to enforce it by force. One can hold that certain acts are wrong in every culture without claiming the right to conquer those cultures. The alternative pretending that cruelty becomes kindness when the local consensus says so is not humility. It is moral abdication dressed as sophistication.

I write this not from the safe high ground of someone who has never failed the standard. I write as one who has felt the temptation to lower the bar precisely because the bar has offered no personal dividend. The temptation is real. The age makes it elegant. Yet the moment one yields, the acid begins its work. Principles that survive only when rewarded are not principles. They are preferences with better marketing.

Moral relativism will continue to eat. It will eat the language of obligation until only the language of preference remains. It will eat the capacity for shame until only the capacity for offense remains. It will eat the possibility of shared moral education until each generation must reinvent the wheel of decency from the rubble of the last. And it will do so while congratulating itself on its enlightenment.

The refusal to join the feast is not nostalgia. It is the quiet, stubborn insistence that some things remain true even when the majority votes otherwise, even when the ledger stays empty, even when nothing is forthcoming. That insistence is not popular. It is not rewarded. It is simply necessary. Without it, the word "good" itself becomes a hollow sound, and the human project collapses into the endless negotiation of appetites. The relativist calls that freedom. The rest of us, if we still have the courage, call it by its older and truer name: the slow death of the soul.

The writer is a social commentator

Business Where are we going as a cooperative, and are we prepared for the future that is already knocking at our door?

The call for change is knocking: Kimoning must rise to the occasion



BY Fredrick Chelimo

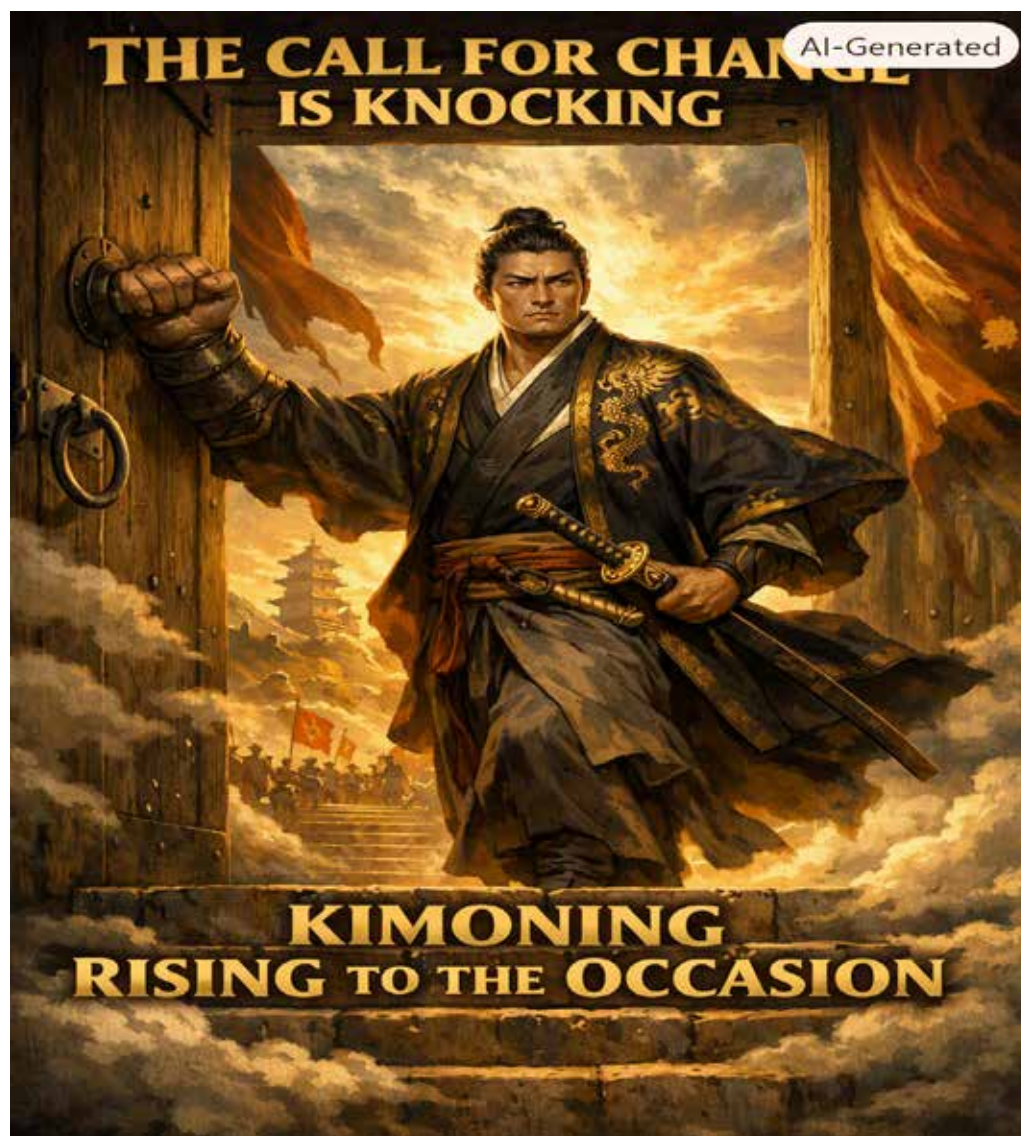
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As Kimoning Farmers' Cooperative Society holds its Annual General Meeting, members are meeting at a time when the world around them is changing faster than ever before. The challenges facing farmers, families and rural communities are no longer the same as they were a few years ago. At the same time, new opportunities are emerging—opportunities that could transform our communities if we are prepared to recognise them, organise ourselves and act decisively.

This AGM, therefore, should be more than a meeting to approve accounts, receive reports or elect leaders. It should be a moment of reflection and a turning point. It should challenge every member to ask: Where are we going as a cooperative, and are we prepared for the future that is already knocking at our door?

The cooperative movement itself is changing. Legal and regulatory reforms are demanding stronger governance, greater accountability, better records and more professional management. Government and development partners are increasingly looking for credible local institutions through which investments and development programmes can be delivered. This presents an enormous opportunity for cooperatives such as Kimoning—but only those that are well organised, transparent, accountable and capable of demonstrating results will be ready to benefit. The message is simple: the era when a cooperative could survive by doing business as usual is coming to an end.

Kimoning cannot afford to be an island. Across our com-



munities, programmes such as FLOCCA, NAVCDP and the emerging Integrated Natural Resource Management Programme are creating new possibilities for investment, agricultural development, climate resilience and improved livelihoods. These initiatives demonstrate that resources are available and that government and development partners are willing to work with organised communities. But there is a critical question we must ask ourselves: Are our members and institutions adequately prepared to take advantage of these opportunities?

Too often, communities have received projects without building the institutional capacity necessary to sustain them. We celebrate the arrival of funding, hold meetings, launch activities and produce reports, but when the project ends, the structures created

begin to weaken. The real challenge, therefore, is not simply attracting projects. It is building institutions that can continue delivering results long after external funding has ended. This is where Kimoning must think differently.

Our region is blessed with resources that many communities can only dream of. Several dams and water reservoirs hold enormous quantities of water. Yet farmers continue to struggle with unreliable rainfall, declining productivity and rising production costs. The irony is painful: we can see water in our reservoirs while our farms remain vulnerable to drought.

Climate change is making this challenge even more urgent. The traditional agricultural calendar is becoming less predictable. Rainfall patterns are changing, dry spells are becoming more disruptive

and farmers are increasingly exposed to crop failures, livestock losses and declining incomes.

The solution, however, is not simply to complain about climate change. We must organise ourselves to respond to it. Water must be converted into productive opportunity. We must think about irrigation, fodder production, livestock development, food security and diversified agricultural enterprises. We must ask how our dams can support farmers throughout the year, how water can increase milk production, how increased production can strengthen the cooperative and how the cooperative can create value beyond simply collecting and marketing raw products. This requires leadership with vision.

A modern cooperative cannot operate only as a milk collection centre. It must be-

come an economic institution that creates opportunities for its members. It must explore value addition, strengthen its Agrovet services, improve access to inputs and extension, embrace ICT and digital record-keeping, and consider diversification into enterprises such as avocado, coffee and maize. The future belongs to institutions that are willing to innovate.

But innovation must be accompanied by good governance. As the cooperative environment becomes more regulated and development partners become more demanding, Kimoning must strengthen its management systems. Strategic plans, annual work plans, budgets, procurement procedures, financial controls, risk management, monitoring and evaluation and transparent reporting are no longer optional extras. They are essential tools for building trust and attracting investment. Good governance is not about satisfying regulators alone. It is about protecting the interests of members and meeting competitive donor conditions.

Members have a right to know how their cooperative is performing. They deserve accurate information about income, expenditure, milk volumes, transport costs, assets and investments. They need to understand the decisions being made on their behalf. Equally, members must accept their responsibility to participate actively, invest in their cooperative and hold leadership accountable. An informed membership is the foundation of a strong cooperative.

This is why member education must become a priority. Farmers must understand the opportunities emerging around them and the responsibilities that come with them. They must be equipped with knowledge about climate-smart agriculture, financial management, markets, value addition, digital technologies and collective investment.

The cooperative must also deliberately create space for young people, women and persons with disabilities to participate in economic opportunities. No community can achieve sustainable development by leaving sections of its population behind. The Kimoning AGM therefore presents an important opportunity to make a bold decision: to embrace change before change forces itself upon us.

We must move from waiting for government and donors to bring solutions to building partnerships with them. We must move from being passive beneficiaries of projects to becoming active participants and solution providers. We must move from short-term interventions to long-term sustainability. The resources are available. The farmers are here. The cooperative is here. The opportunities are emerging. What is required now is the vision, leadership, unity and determination to bring these pieces together.

The real measure of Kimoning Farmers Cooperative Society should not only be the litres of milk collected or the money recorded in its books. It should be the improvement it brings to the lives of its members—the farmer who can educate a child, the family that can afford nutritious food, the young person who finds meaningful employment, the household that can withstand a prolonged dry season and the community that no longer waits helplessly for the next donor project. The call for change is knocking, and it is knocking faster.

This AGM should be the moment when Kimoning opens the door. Let us embrace stronger governance. Let us invest in our members. Let us use our natural resources wisely. Let us prepare for climate change. Let us build partnerships. Let us diversify our economy. Let us turn available water into productive opportunity and available resources into sustainable wealth.

Above all, let us build a cooperative that does not merely survive from year to year, but one that leads, innovates and transforms.

The opportunity is before us. The challenges are real. The time for bold and determined action is now.

Health The hospital, which was formerly known as Nakuru Provincial General Hospital, said it serves more than 2,000 outpatients and at least 300 inpatients every day

Nakuru Referral Hospital denies claims patients are left unattended on benches

BY Suleiman Mbatiah

@themkenyatomes

The management of Nakuru County Referral and Teaching Hospital has dismissed claims circulating on social media that admitted patients are being abandoned on benches, insisting that the people seen in widely shared photographs were relatives and caregivers waiting within designated hospital areas.

In a statement, the hospital said no admitted patient is left unattended on a bench, adding that the benches shown in the images are located in waiting bays used by family members during visiting hours and by people awaiting consultations or other hospital services.

The hospital, which was formerly known as Nakuru Provincial General Hospital, said it serves more than 2,000 outpatients and at least 300 inpatients every day. It explained that structured visiting hours are necessary to protect patient privacy, reduce the risk of infections and enable healthcare workers to provide quality care. As a result, caregivers are generally not allowed to remain inside the wards.

Management acknowledged that some relatives stay within the hospital compound after visiting hours because they have travelled long distances, face financial challenges or simply wish to remain close to their loved ones. However, it emphasized that the waiting benches are intended for temporary use and not as overnight accommodation.

The hospital said it is taking steps to improve communication with patients' families while enhancing security and lighting in waiting areas. It is also working with the Nakuru County departments of Health and Social Services to connect vulnerable families with available assistance. The hospital's Social Work Department will continue offering counselling and referrals where necessary.

At the same time, the management accused unnamed bloggers and politicians of spreading misleading information about public health facilities for political gain. It warned that healthcare institutions should not become platforms for political agen-

das or sensational reporting that undermines public confidence in health workers.

The hospital urged members of the public, bloggers and journalists to verify information before publishing or sharing it, saying misinformation unfairly discredits healthcare professionals and erodes trust in public health services. It did not identify those it accused, and the individuals behind the online posts had not responded to the allegations by the time of publication.

The controversy comes as Governor Susan Kihika's administration continues to highlight significant investments in the county's healthcare sector. The county allocated Sh8.571 billion to health in the 2025/26 financial year, representing about 38 per cent of its total budget, making health the largest-funded sector.

Among the major projects are the construction of Level Four hospitals in Rongai and Kuresoi North as part of a plan to establish a fully operational Level Four facility in every sub-county and ease pressure on the county referral hospital. The county has also completed and operationalized health facilities initiated by previous administrations in Maai Mahiu, Molo, Njoro and Subukia, alongside new maternity units in Gilgil and Elburgon.

Additional investments include the expansion of services at Githioro Health Centre, Barut Maternity and several dispensaries across the county. At the referral hospital itself, construction of a trauma centre that had stalled since 2012 has resumed. The county also reports establishing a neonatal intensive care unit, reopening the hospital's high-dependency

unit and acquiring a CT scanner with support from the national government.

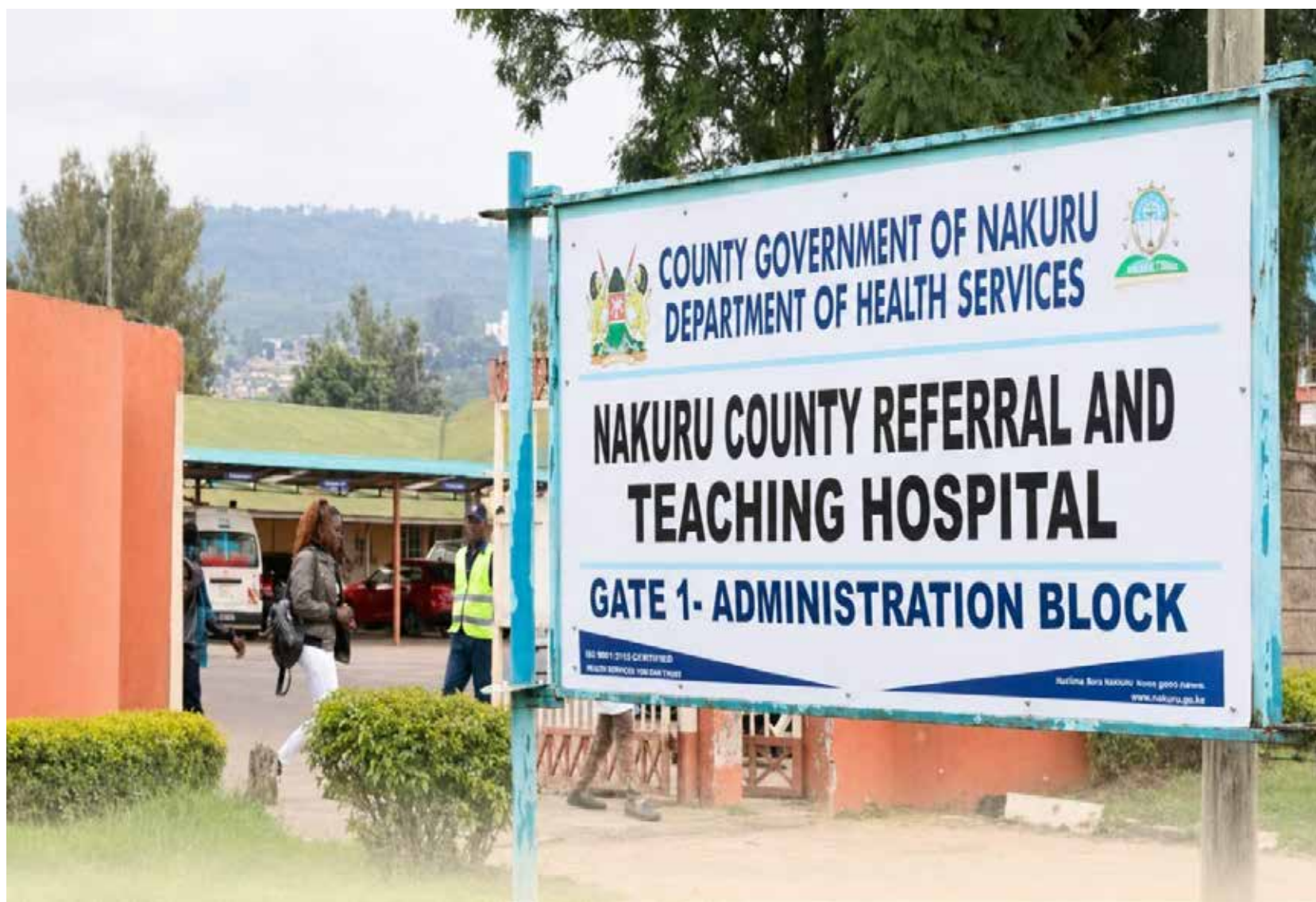
Future plans include expanding theatre services, strengthening laboratory and X-ray facilities, improving renal care services and procuring more medical equipment. The county's medium-term health plan has earmarked Sh785.96 million for health development projects in the 2026/27 financial year, including funding to operationalize the trauma centre, establish a county medical warehouse and procure 30 dental chairs.

The county has also invested in strengthening its health workforce. Between the 2022/23 and 2025/26 financial years, Nakuru recruited 2,420 health workers, promoted more than 3,000 employees, confirmed over 1,200 staff in their appointments, converted hundreds to

permanent and pensionable terms and redesignated others. The beneficiaries include nurses, clinical officers, pharmacists, laboratory technologists, nutritionists and dietitians.

To improve the availability of medicines, the county says it has strengthened pharmaceutical procurement through the Kenya Medical Supplies Authority and the Mission for Essential Drugs and Supplies while improving accountability, forecasting and management of medical supplies.

The hospital maintained that the online controversy should not overshadow the work of its healthcare personnel, reiterating that no patient under its care is neglected and reaffirming its commitment to providing compassionate, dignified and timely healthcare to all residents.

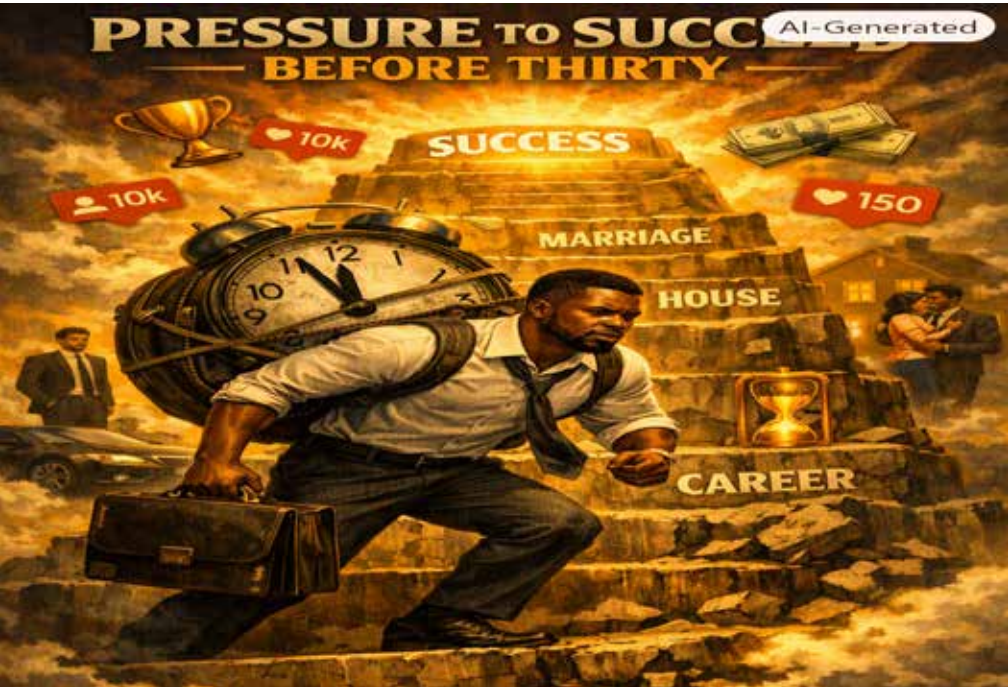


The entrance to Nakuru Referral hospital.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The pressure to succeed before thirty



By Levis Wangamati

Somewhere along the way, turning thirty stopped being a birthday and became a verdict. It is the age by which society quietly expects you to have figured everything out. A respectable career. A thriving business. A home. A car. A family. Financial independence. A life polished enough to impress strangers on social media. And if those boxes remain unchecked, the world has a way of making you feel as though you have arrived late to a race that never had the same starting line for everyone. But who wrote these rules? Success has become one of the most misunderstood words of our generation. It is no longer measured by purpose or progress — it is measured by speed. We celebrate those who arrive first while forgetting that every journey is shaped by entirely different circumstances. We have mistaken early achievement for lasting success and, in doing so, turned age into a scoreboard. Social media has only deepened the illusion. Every scroll serves up another graduation, another promotion, another wedding, another luxury car, another entrepreneur posing beside a gleaming new office. What stays hidden are the sleepless nights, the failed ventures, the rejected applications, the debts, the sacrifices and the moments when giving up felt easier than carrying on.

We measure our unedited lives against someone else's highlight reel and wonder why we seem to be falling behind. For many young people, the pressure is compounded by realities entirely beyond their control. They graduate into an economy where jobs are scarce, the cost of living keeps climbing and opportunity often depends on circumstances they cannot change. Talent exists. Determination exists. Dreams certainly exist. What is frequently missing is the bridge between potential and opportunity. Yet society keeps asking the wrong question. Rather than asking why opportunities remain so limited, it asks why young people have not succeeded quickly enough. Rather than examining the systems that slow progress, it places the burden squarely on individuals. It is easier to label a generation impatient than to confront the barriers standing in its way. That is not a case for complacency. Young people must keep learning, adapting, creating openings where none seem to exist and refusing to surrender to hopelessness. Discipline, resilience and consistency remain timeless virtues. Success rarely belongs to those who simply wait — it belongs to those who prepare even when every door appears closed. But preparation should never be mistaken for panic. Life has never respected a universal timetable. Some people

find their purpose at twenty-two. Others at forty-five. Some build thriving businesses after multiple failures. Others find deep fulfilment in careers they never anticipated. History reminds us, repeatedly, that greatness is not reserved for those who arrive early — it belongs to those who refuse to stop moving. Perhaps the greatest danger of this obsession with age is not the competition it creates. It is that it convinces people they are running out of time when, in truth, they may only just be getting started. Dreams are abandoned, passions buried and potential wasted simply because the calendar suggests they are behind. But life is not an examination where everyone receives the same paper, sits in the same room or begins at the same hour. It is a journey of different roads, different storms and different seasons. Comparing timelines is like comparing sunrises from different horizons — each arrives exactly when it is meant to. The measure of a life is not what you have accumulated before thirty. It is whether you keep growing after thirty, keep learning after failure, keep standing after disappointment and keep believing after rejection. A birthday should never become a deadline. The clock measures time. It has never once measured potential.

Sifuna hails public response as Linda Mwananchi paybill pulls in millions

By Pascal Okoth

Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna has praised Kenyans for throwing their weight behind a people-driven fundraising initiative, saying the response demonstrates growing confidence in citizen-powered political engagement. Speaking after thousands of supporters contributed to the Linda Mwananchi paybill, Sifuna said the drive had raised millions of shillings within days through small donations from ordinary citizens, with contributions starting as low as KSh 10. He described the achievement as proof that credible political campaigns can be sustained without depending on wealthy financiers. Sifuna argued that grassroots fundraising strengthens democracy by keeping leaders



accountable to the electorate rather than to individuals who may expect favours in return. He warned that accepting large sums from a handful of donors often creates conflicts of interest, particularly when those donors later seek government contracts or political influence. He pledged full accountability, assuring supporters that every shilling collected would be

documented and its use made public, saying the funds belong to Kenyans and must be managed with the highest level of integrity. The initiative has sparked broad debate on the future of political financing in Kenya, with observers watching closely to see whether citizen-funded campaigns can reshape the country's electoral landscape.

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Sports >> *Kenya need all three points in Rabat tonight after opening 4-0 loss to Morocco, with World Cup qualification hanging in the balance

Harambee Starlets face must-win Senegal clash to keep WAFCON hopes alive

By **Martin Weche**

Harambee Starlets face Senegal tonight in Rabat in a must-win 2026 Women's Africa Cup of Nations Group A fixture, four days after suffering a 4-0 opening defeat to hosts Morocco.

The match at the Olympic Stadium, with kick-off at 8pm local time, pits two sides desperately in need of a turnaround. Senegal's Teranga Lionesses also stumbled in their opener, falling 2-0 to Algeria, meaning both nations arrive tonight knowing that another defeat would effectively end their tournament ambitions before the group stage is done.

The stakes could hardly be higher. Beyond the continental title, WAFCON doubles as the qualification pathway for the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup in Brazil, with the four semi-finalists earning automatic berths. For Kenya, that dream remains alive tonight — but only just.

Harambee Starlets head coach Beldine Odemba said yesterday she has spent the days since the Morocco defeat rebuilding her players from the inside out. "The main area has been working on the players mentally to ensure they are ready in the right frame of mind," she said. "They are technically and tactically prepared, so we want them to be motivated, confident and ready to face the next opponent."

Odemba was candid about where Kenya fell short against Morocco — and where they must do better tonight. "We created two clear opportunities early in the match and failed to capitalise on them," she said. "We are looking for a composed performance. If we concede first, how will we react? Concentration will be key. We want to create more chances and be able to capitalise." She acknowledged that Senegal present a distinct physical challenge but insisted her side are ready to meet it. "We have ana-



Harambee Starlets pose for a photo before taking on hosts Morocco at WAFCON on Sunday, July 26 2026 at the Olympic Stadium in Rabat.

lysed how they played their first match. They are a physical side, but we are ready and capable of matching them. Senegal are also looking for their first win, so it won't be an easy game."

Left-back Enez Mango echoed her coach's resolve. "Tomorrow is the most important game for us. We need all three points. We have prepared mentally, we are more confident, and tactically we have to be very smart because they are a physical side. We are ready and hungry for the match," she said.

Crucially, Senegal are not underestimating the task either. Teranga Lionesses head coach Serigne Mousse offered a measured assessment of Kenya's quality. "We need to be more competitive and make the best of this opportunity," he said. "Kenya has players with strong abilities. They are aggressive and possess talented individuals." His words suggest tonight's

fixture will be tighter and more contested than Kenya's opening loss might imply.

Tactically, Odemba faces decisions that will define Kenya's tournament. The defensive structure that unravelled against Morocco — with a disconnected midfield leaving the backline exposed and contributing to costly errors — must be tightened considerably. Kenya showed enough in their early exchanges against Morocco to suggest attacking threat exists, but the failure to convert when opportunities arose proved fatal. Converting pressure into goals tonight is not optional; it is existential.

The expanded 16-team WAFCON format has raised the overall quality of the competition, compressing the margin for error and ensuring that no fixture can be treated as anything less than decisive. For Kenya, a nation still building its women's football infrastructure and inter-

national pedigree, reaching this stage was itself an achievement. But the group stage is where reputations are tested, not celebrated.

A Starlets victory tonight would reignite their World Cup qualification hopes and set up a defining final group game against Algeria on 3 August at the same venue. Defeat, however, would extinguish them entirely — reducing that final match to little more than a formality.

Tonight's other Group A fixture sees Morocco host Senegal at the Moulay El Hassan Stadium, also at 8pm.

Kenya have never faced Senegal before. Tonight, that changes — and for Odemba's side, history must wait. Right now, only the result matters.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Kyiv argues the reinstatement of the Russian Olympic Committee is premature, legally flawed and sets a dangerous precedent for the entire Olympic movement

Ukraine takes IOC to sport’s highest court over Russia’s Olympic return



By **Martin Weche**

Ukraine filed an appeal yesterday with the Court of Arbitration for Sport challenging the International Olympic Committee’s decision to reinstate the Russian Olympic Committee, arguing the move contradicts the Olympic Charter and was made without proper verification that the original grounds for suspension had been resolved.

Ukraine’s National Olympic Committee lodged the statement of appeal with CAS on Monday, requesting that the IOC decision be annulled. The filing marks the most direct legal challenge yet to Russia’s creeping return to international sport and throws fresh uncertainty over Moscow’s ambitions to compete under its own flag at the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

The IOC suspended the Russian Olympic Committee in 2023 following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, but lifted the ban on 7 July this year, declaring the reasons for suspension were “no longer applicable.” That decision immediately opened the door for Russian athletes to compete in team events and Olympic qualifying competitions, though the

IOC stopped short of confirming whether Russia’s flag and anthem would be restored.

Ukraine’s response was swift and unequivocal. In its appeal, the NOC of Ukraine argues the IOC’s decision contradicts the provisions of the Olympic Charter regarding the territorial jurisdiction of national Olympic committees, and that the circumstances which led to Russia’s suspension in 2023 were not, in fact, eliminated before the ban was lifted.

Ukraine’s NOC also pointed to a 2024 CAS ruling that had confirmed the legality of Russia’s original suspension, recognising that the inclusion of sports organisations from temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories violated Ukraine’s territorial integrity and the provisions of the Olympic Charter. Kyiv’s legal team argued that restoring Russia’s Olympic rights without first correcting those violations was incompatible with international sports law and risked setting what they called a dangerous precedent for the entire Olympic movement.

Ukrainian tennis player Marta Kostyuk was among the athletes who condemned the IOC’s

decision, describing it as “terrible.” Speaking at Wimbledon shortly after missiles struck near her family home, Kostyuk said: “I just want to go out there and hopefully beat every single Russian I play in the Olympics, and that’s it.” Her words captured the raw emotion of a sporting community watching geopolitical wounds reopen on the world stage.

Neither the IOC nor Russia commented on the appeal yesterday.

The case arrives against a backdrop of fragmented and inconsistent decisions across international sport. Russian and Belarusian athletes competed as neutrals at the 2024 Paris Olympics and the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan-Cortina. Russia remains suspended by FIFA from international football, while World Athletics rejected an IOC recommendation in May to lift the ban on Belarusian athletes and teams. The picture is one of governing bodies pulling in different directions, with no unified standard on how to handle the participation of athletes from a country engaged in an active war.

Some federations have moved further and faster than others.

World Gymnastics lifted all restrictions on Russian and Belarusian athletes in May, and the European Fencing Federation reinstated Russia in June. On Monday, Russian fencer Pavel Graudyn won gold at the World Fencing Championships in Hong Kong — the first time Russia had competed under its own flag in the sport since being readmitted.

CAS now holds the decisive card. Its ruling will not only determine Russia’s immediate Olympic future but will test whether the integrity of the Olympic Charter can withstand pressure from a body as powerful as the IOC itself. For Ukraine, a country fighting on two fronts — on the battlefield and in the corridors of international sport — the appeal is both a legal argument and a moral statement: that the rules must mean something, and that war cannot simply be waited out until the world moves on.

The clock is ticking toward Los Angeles 2028. How CAS rules in the weeks and months ahead will define what the Olympic movement stands for when the stakes extend well beyond the track, the pool or the arena.

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The most dangerous gamble: Playing it safe



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
mukphix@gmail.com



Worth Noting:

- But there is another kind of pain — quieter, slower and far more lethal. It is the risk of waking up ten years from now in the exact same place. It is the risk of watching someone else live the life you were too frightened to start. It is the risk of regret, that heavy, permanent weight that asks: what if I had tried?
- When you choose not to take risks, you do not simply lose money — you lose time. You do not lose a job — you lose purpose. You do not lose a relationship — you lose the chance to be truly known. You do not lose a business — you lose the version of yourself that could have built one.



We are taught to fear risk.

From childhood, the warnings follow us everywhere: be careful, do not fail, take the safe job, stay in your lane. We build walls around our lives — jobs with pensions, relationships without conflict, dreams quietly filed away for someday. We call it wisdom. We call it maturity. We call it protecting ourselves.

But what if the safest choice is, in fact, the riskiest one of all?

Let us be honest with each other. Taking risks is genuinely dangerous, and it hurts. You can start a business and lose your savings. You can open your heart and have it broken. You can walk away from a stable job and spend nights wondering whether you made a terrible mistake. You can speak the truth and lose friends. You can believe in something larger than yourself and be called a fool.

Risk exposes you. It strips away the comforting illusion of control and puts your name, your money, your reputation and your pride on the line. And sometimes, you fall. The bruises are real. The late nights are real. The rejection letters and empty bank accounts are real. Anyone who tells you there is no downside has never actually jumped.

That is why so many of us stop at the edge. Pain is immediate, and

pain is loud.

But there is another kind of pain — quieter, slower and far more lethal. It is the risk of waking up ten years from now in the exact same place. It is the risk of watching someone else live the life you were too frightened to start. It is the risk of regret, that heavy, permanent weight that asks: what if I had tried?

When you choose not to take risks, you do not simply lose money — you lose time. You do not lose a job — you lose purpose. You do not lose a relationship — you lose the chance to be truly known. You do not lose a business — you lose the version of yourself that could have built one.

Playing it safe feels comfortable in the moment. But over a lifetime, it compounds like interest in reverse. Your skills grow stale. Your courage shrinks. Your world gets smaller. You become a spectator in your own story.

The economy will shift whether you adapt or not. Industries will be disrupted. People will grow or drift apart. Standing still is not neutrality — it is moving backwards, because the world does not pause to wait. That is the uncomfortable arithmetic: the risk of action is temporary, but the risk of inaction is permanent.

Risk, however, is not recklessness.

Recklessness is leaping without a parachute. Risk is checking the parachute carefully, saying a quiet prayer and jumping anyway. Risk is faith with a plan. It is sending the application even when two hundred others have done the same. It is having the hard conversation because silence is slowly killing the relationship. It is investing in yourself when nobody else will. It is choosing growth over comfort, again and again.

The people we admire most — the founders, the artists, the leaders, the parents who broke painful cycles — were not fearless. They were terrified. They simply decided that remaining the same was more terrifying than changing.

I will not pretend that every risk pays off precisely as we hope. But I believe that what we are promised is not a guaranteed outcome — it is companionship in the attempt. Psalm 23 speaks of fearing no evil not because the path is smooth, but because of the presence that walks alongside. Scripture is full of people who left familiar shores, stepped out of boats and walked into unknown cities. Their safety was never in the location. It was in the presence that accompanied them.

And here is something worth holding onto: even when a risk appears

to fail, it rarely wastes you. The failed business teaches resilience. The rejected pitch teaches you how to communicate more clearly. The relationship that did not last teaches you how to love more wisely next time. You do not lose when you risk — you become. But when you never risk, you never become anything new.

Life will demand discomfort either way. You can be uncomfortable chasing a dream or uncomfortable regretting that you never tried. You can be uncomfortable in a difficult conversation or uncomfortable watching a relationship quietly die. You can be uncomfortable building something or uncomfortable watching others build. The choice, then, is simply which discomfort you are willing to carry.

The road of risk has potholes. It has detours. It will frighten you. But the road of safety has something far worse at the end of it: a dead end.

Do not let fear write the story of your one wild and precious life. Take the risk. Start the thing. Say the words. Make the move.

Because the most dangerous gamble you will ever make is betting that tomorrow will hand you another chance to begin.

It might not.